



THE BISHOP BULLETIN



Original Artwork by Linus Greeve

From the Berlin Bureau...

By Mila Rockedal

In the countryside in Western Germany, there is a charming, quaint village. Today, with the original residents long gone, the village has been filled with environmental protesters from all over the world. For almost six years now, climate activists have been camping out in trees and fields, protesting the German government's plans to mine the coal located underneath the small town of Lützerath. Doing this would destroy the town, but despite this and all the negative climate implications, the government has decided it is the best thing to do.

The controversy about Lützerath is part of a larger debate about climate policy in Germany. One of the largest ways Germany is working to lower Co2 emissions is by slowly eliminating their use of coal. Coal is the most harmful fossil fuel, contributing over 0.3°C (32.54°F) to the 1°C (33.8°F) global temperature increase. By 2030, Germany plans to completely replace coal heating with other, more eco-friendly options. However, in light of the recent EU embargo on Russian oil, the German government has temporarily agreed to revert back to coal as their main source of heating. Even Germany's green party, called Die Grünen, has agreed to the mining of coal due to the current situation.

Although re-promoting the use of coal has been the largest issue for most of the country, many are outraged over the loss of Lützerath. Lützerath is a small former farming town, 2 hours west of Frankfurt. Although the decision to mine near the town was only recently approved, the idea has been in rotation for a long time. Due to this, the town hasn't been fully populated since 2017, as there was a mandatory evacuation. For all of the media attention Lützerath has received, one important voice is missing. The press has not taken many comments from the actual villagers, and the outrage at the village being destroyed has largely become symbolic of a bigger climate justice movement.

No matter the reason for indignation, almost 300 activists have built temporary homes within the village. Since Lützerath was evacuated, activists have been camping out in treehouses, living in apartments of former residents, and even living in ditches or tunnels surrounding the town. Their hope is that by occupying the space, RWE, the mining company, will not be able to commence mining. With so many people living in the town, there is also attention drawn to the issue, which might inspire the government to rescind its decision. Since the decision to begin mining was finalized this month, even more activists have flocked to the town. Perhaps the most famous of these activists is Greta Thunberg. Thunberg began her activism career in 2018, at the young age of 15, when she began skipping school to call attention to our world's climate crisis. Since then, she has made monumental work and won many awards, including the Time Magazine 2019 Person of the Year Award and the Nobel Peace Prize. January 15th, 2023, Thunberg was arrested along with other activists protesting the mine, but not before expressing her disgust towards the German government and RWE at their decision. Thunberg stated that the mine is a "betrayal of present and future generations," and that "Germany is one of the biggest polluters in the world and needs to be held accountable." The arrest of Thunberg has sparked even more conflict between the police and the protesters. Several days ago, as police stood around in the muddy fields surrounding the mines, protesters took action. One protester in particular took drastic measures in an attempt to fight back. Dressed in a wizard suit, a man was seen throwing mud and pushing police. This brought more online attention to the movement, as it soon became a meme.

The protests in Lützerath are not the first time German citizens have been at the forefront of climate activism. In fact, Berlin is home to one of the largest climate activism organizations, called Fridays for Future. For example, in September of 2022, almost 20,000 people called upon the German government to start a 100 billion Euro fund that would help deal with the climate crisis. Then, in October of the same year, German activists glued themselves to runways, to protest the burning of fossil fuels. This poses the question of how long the attention will stay on Lützerath, or if activists will move on to the next crisis the minute it happens.

Food Recycling Program

By Lindsay Whicker

On January 20th, here at Nathan Bishop Middle School, there was an award ceremony held to celebrate the success of the Food Recycling Program. Attending were an impressive list of VIP's from around the city, including Superintendent Javier Montanez, Deputy Commissioner Lisa Odom-Villella, and Chairwoman of the Environmental Council Education Fund of R.I. State Rep. Rebecca Kislak.

They were all celebrating an important milestone: Nathan Bishop had successfully diverted over 4 tons of waste from the Landfill! What used to be thrown away has become our shared table food, the recyclables, and the food that has gone to compost. The more we keep from the landfill, the longer our landfill will last. Big change can come from small habits; this program has demonstrated this wonderfully.

The recycling program is run by the Environmental Science Elective Students. This class has been a combination of curriculum and hands-on activities around the school. The curriculum focuses on human impact on the world around us. Students have learned about long term and short term environmental impacts, renewable energy, non-renewable energy sources, and climate change. The hands-on part of the class allows the students to see that one person really can make a difference in their community and even the world. The class has been working hard to make sure that our recycling and composting bins stay sorted and that all students in the building know how to recycle both their foods and materials from lunch each day.

Thank you very much Emlyn Addison and Warren Heyman for making this all possible. This has been an amazing adventure for all of us involved. A special "Thank You" goes out to the custodial and kitchen staff for their tremendous support in this endeavor. Without their help, this would not have been possible.



Photograph of the Environmental Science Elective Students celebrating the success of the Food Recycling Program alongside a few special guests.

The Diverse Ecosystems of Split Oak Environmental Area

By Khalil Garcia-Llorens

Recently, during a routine visit to Orlando to see my grandmother, my mother and I sought to escape the seemingly endless concrete boulevards, highways, stripmalls, new constructions, and business parks that so enthusiastically spread their presence all over the city. During a spur of research, I found a place that seemed to have the capacity to ease my mind of the stresses of human presence in Florida. It was called Split Oak Environmental Area, named for a grand live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) that was split straight down the middle and yet remained alive.

On a nice, cool, sixty-degree day, my mother and I made the trek from my grandmother's condo complex to a recreation area sixteen miles south of Orlando called Moss Park, which had an entrance into the Split Oak trails. We wove our car through the various curving paths, all under a canopy of towering longleaf and loblolly pines (*Pinus palustris* and *Pinus taeda*), and bicentennial live oaks, whose extensive, low hanging, and curving branches were laced with the namesake for Moss Park– Spanish Moss, or *Tillandsia usneoides*.

The way to enter Split Oak was through a swamp. On the edge of this swamp were two specimens of another southern oak species: *Quercus nigra*, or water oak. However, both were gnarled by fungal infection and shaded by the expansive live oaks. Along the trail through the swampland, another bushy oak species grew– *Quercus laurifolia*, or laurel oak. As we got further from dry land, we could spot brightly flowering pickerelweed, or *Pontederia cordata*, along the muddy pathside. Looking at the flowering pickerelweed, I got a glance of a rare bumblebee species pollinating the plant. The American Bumblebee (*Bombus pennsylvanicus*) was once a common bumblebee species in the eastern half of the U.S. However, since the 1990’s, it has suffered a great population decline. The specimen I saw in the swamp was large, as it was a queen. It had two, stark and beautiful gold stripes, which contrasted greatly against the dark black on the rest of its coat.

The swamp came to an end, and a forest of almost identical longleaf pine suddenly appeared. For a moment, the forest was dense and moist, but as we continued along, we came to a fork in the path. On the right side was a large, open field, where all sorts of yellow flowers could be seen pockmarking the otherwise beige grasses. It was here, on the right side trail, that the Split Oak laid. The 200-year-old oak was very large, and, true to the tales, split straight down the middle. This tree, unlike the common form of live oaks, acted as a massive and wide bush; an understory adapted to its shrubby form. However, I took the left trail. Immediately, I came to a great scrubland, packed with thriving big scrub on one side, and speckled with a few tall pines. On the other side of the path was a thriving pine and live oak forest. Right next to a dense patch of young live oaks, growing in a small, shrubby tree form, another oak species– *Quercus minima*, or dwarf live oak.

While we continued on, the sandy pine-scrubland slowly turned into a less dense shrubland of young pines, tolerant grasses, and yellow wildflowers. In the distance, there was an abundant sound of loud chirping from birds. We walked across the bright silica sand and came across a diverted creek that was shaded with different green reed grasses. After passing the creek, we were in a recently burned field, in which a long, black corn snake, *Elaphe obsoleta*, slithered by, hoping to escape whatever upheaval us hikers could create in its habitat. Continuing, we saw the open pine savannah of younger trees that also had been recently burned. Between the stumps of the trees that had succumbed to the fire stood the remaining saw palmettos, or *Serenoa repens*, which were covered in ash and bore darkened scars on their trunks. On the other side of the path, a wetland bordered by thick scrub trickled. Birds such as cranes, herons and egrets could all be heard wading through the moist land, fishing, catching bugs, and communicating with one another in the hot sun. There, spindly goldenrod grew in the shade of sparse live oaks, as did the bright *Liatris chapmanii*, coastal plains liatris, and rushweed, *Lygodesmia aphylla*, which had a blushing, beautiful flower. Happily and openly twittering, a congregation of 40 or 50 wintering goldfinches (*Spinus tristis*) nursing their young dodged and weaved around us.

As seemed to be the trend in the great, expansive, showy environmental area, we passed through another open forest of old growth live oak and were almost immediately presented with another great and diverse ecosystem. Here was an open plain, long and wide, composed almost entirely of grass-like plants, with one notable exception. Inspecting the ground by a small scrub of some sort, I caught sight of many small cacti, each with large spines. Walking along further, a few older specimens greeted the ever-present sun with their sectioned green body. This species was *Opuntia humifusa*, or prickly pear cactus. Miraculously, this species of cactus can also be found north along the east coast, reaching as far as Massachusetts. Scientists theorize that this wide range might be due to human involvement long ago. This species, like all Florida native cactus species, is an ecological vestige of a time when Florida was part of a vast desert.

As the path came to an end, we were presented with one more iconic beauty of the American southeast, a swamp of baldcypress (*Taxodium distichum*) which all bore no leaves during this time of year. Echoing between the dense trees, we could hear the iconic taps of woodpeckers. Small squirrels daringly jumped from tree to tree, braving the possibility that they could very well fall into the five-inch-deep waters of the swamp below.

My mother and I tiredly trudged back past the large Split Oak and again walked across the elevated path through the swamp. In total, we spent four hours hiking at Split Oak, through fifteen miles of flat land and varying ecosystems. Each represented a unique and different part of the natural wonder that is Florida. Satisfied, we entered our stagnant white rental car and hurried back, past tired asphalt strip malls and “Land for Development” signs, all the way back to my grandmother's modern, urban condo.

Book Report: The Running Dream

By Chloe Rourke

Wendelin Van Draanen’s book *Running Dream* focuses on a highschool girl named Jessica Carlise. Recently, Jessica got into a bus accident on the way to run for a cross country meet and lost her leg. Except for a new recruit and friend Lucy, everyone survived the accident, but with Lucy's life, it also took Jessica’s leg. Running was Jessica’s life, and she lived and breathed it, so when her doctor told her she will never be able to run again, she lost all hope. She starts to give up on all the schoolwork she missed, and doesn’t seem to care about anything anymore, until her best friend, Fiona, has had enough of her moping. She forces Jessica up and out of the house, and Jessica dares to get some hope back. When Jessica goes back to school, she feels pulled under, but then in math class she meets a girl named Rosa who also has a disability. She had never noticed her before, but when they start passing notes and becoming friends, Rosa helps her with her math work and Jessica starts to feel bad. All Jessica can think about anymore is getting a prosthetic leg that might allow her to run again, but the leg is more than her family can afford. When her team and coach start to raise money for her leg, things get dicey between her family and her running team and things get upturned with the boy she likes. She wishes she could run away with the wind and brisk air in her face, but how can she run with one leg?

Haikus

By the Seventh Graders in Mr. Thangkeo’s Class

While we may be in a cold, seemingly lifeless winter, we must remember that spring is around the corner. Here are some haikus to remind us of the beautiful nature that awaits.

“Spring” - Nick Sullivan

Branches reaching out
Buds grow into tiny leaves
The tree wakes for spring

“River” - James

The flowing water
Lovely beautiful river
How satisfying

“Deep Blue” - Autumn Speaks

Beautiful Ocean
What mysteries lie beneath
Blue and filled with life

“Moon” - Samantha Brightman

Moon shimmers, sparkles
At night it lights up the sky
The stars dance in space

January Word Search

By Lucy Schneider



| | | | | | |
|--------|---------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| Coat | Hot Chocolate | January | New Years | Polar Bear | Skiing |
| Winter | Night Time | Mittens | Reindeer | Cold | Penguin |
| Sleds | Ice Skating | Fireplace | Scarf | Moon | Snowflake |

The Boston Bruins

By Jibreel Reda Frayn

As of January 22nd, the Boston Bruins are 36-5-4 (win-loss-OT loss) with an NHL best of 76 points. They are twelve points ahead of the Maple Leafs, who are second in the division, and ten points ahead of the Carolina Hurricanes, who are second in the Eastern Conference. This means that the Bruins are leading the entire NHL over the Hurricanes.

The Bruins are currently on track to blow past the previous record for most points in a season. They are led by top goalscorer (35, second in NHL) and top assister (28) David Pasternak. Hampus Lindholm, who is second in the league, is also very important for the team, with the highest plus/minus. Despite losing longtime franchise cornerstone goaltender Tuka Rask in the offseason due to retirement, the Bruins have had a brick wall in the net all season. Linus Ullmark is leading the NHL in goals against average (1.89), save percentage (.937), and wins (24). He is also 8th in clean sheets this season.

After a Stanley Cup finals loss in 2019, and nothing but playoff disappointment since then, the Bruins performance this season has been completely unprecedented. If there is not a terrible disaster through the next half of the season, the Bruins are well on their way to having the first spot going into the playoffs, though continuing this performance in the playoffs is another question. However, based on how dominant they have been over the past few months, they are clear Stanley Cup favorites.

<https://www.espn.com> Accessed January 2023

Providence and RI Government Update


By Simon Kislak Brown

As the new year of 2023 arrived, new political leadership was integrated into local and state governments. The inaugurations of the newly elected officials were held on January 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. Rhode Island’s new local officials include Lieutenant Governor Sabina Matos, Mayor Brett Smiley, and Secretary of State Gregg Amore. Their inauguration was held in the Rhode Island Convention Center, and the members of The Rhode Island House of Representatives were sworn in on the floor of the State House. Normally the inaugurations of this sort are held on the lawn of the State House, but this year the elected officials along with a crowd of nearly 1,000 moved indoors. At the inauguration, Governor Dan McKee set his goals for his new term, promising to “get Rhode Islanders back to work, get teachers and students fully back in the classroom, and get our economy moving again.”

Local government is very important and directly affects you. There are 76 members of the Rhode Island House of Representatives and 15 Providence City Council members, each representing their own district or ward. To find out more about your city and state leadership, visit vote.ri.gov.

Anderson, Patrick. “Rhode Island Gov. Dan Mckee sworn in for first full term in office.” The Providence Journal. 4 January, 2023. <https://www.providencejournal.com/story/news/state/2023/01/03/dan-mckee-sworn-in-ri-gov-ernor-rhode-island-convention-center/69772871007/> Accessed January 2023.

Jump Into Jobs: Young Workers

 Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training
INTENTION TO EMPLOY MINOR
Print in Ink, or Type, or on-line (except signature) (Adobe Reader 5.0 and above)

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Check one: <input type="checkbox"/> 14-15 Years of Age SPECIAL LIMITED PERMIT TO WORK (Mandatory under law) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 16-17 Years of Age CERTIFICATE OF AGE (Advisable for Employer's Protection) | Employer's Affidavit THIS ESTABLISHMENT WILL EMPLOY THE MINOR NAMED HEREIN SUBJECT TO ALL PERTINENT LAWS & REGULATIONS. EMPLOYER ASSUMES RESPONSIBILITY TO ASCERTAIN THAT THE MINOR IS OF LEGAL AGE FOR ANY OCCUPATION ASSIGNED. 8. Signature of Employer: _____ Date: _____ 9. Print Signer's Name and Title: _____ PARENT'S APPROVAL I HEREBY GIVE PERMISSIONS FOR THE MINOR NAMED AT LEFT TO ENTER EMPLOYMENT AS HEREIN DESCRIBED 10. Signature of Parent or Guardian (in ink) _____ X 11. Address of Parent or Guardian: _____ |
| 1. Full Name of Minor first middle last 2. Address of Minor 3. Business Name of Employer 4. Business Address of Employer 5. Address where minor will perform work (if different from above) 6. Nature of Employer's Business 7. Minor to be employed as | | |

DL-L-77 (Rev. 11/2000) CL-1-12/96

RESTRICTIONS -- Hours of Work

MINORS 14-15 years of age:
Maximum hours - RI 8 hours per day, 40 hours per week.
Federal - 3 hours per day (school day), 8 hours non school day, 18 hours per week (school week - 40 hours, non school work)
Curfew - RI Employment permitted between the hours of 6 A.M. and 7 P.M. (except 9 P.M. during school vacations)
Federal - Employment between the hours of 7 A.M. and 7 P.M. (except 9 P.M. from June 1st through Labor Day)

THE MORE RESTRICTIVE STANDARD APPLIES WHENEVER THERE IS COVERAGE BY BOTH STATE AND FEDERAL LAW.
Work is prohibited in factories, mechanical, manufacturing, or processing establishments. **NO WORK WHEN SCHOOL IS IN SESSION**

MINORS 16-17 years of age:
Maximum hours - RI 9 hours per day (9:35 per day in a 5 day work week,) 48 hours per week.
Curfew - **STUDENT** Employment permitted between the hours of 6 A.M. and 11:30 P.M. (if no classes are scheduled on the following day, minor may be employed until 1:30 A.M.)

NONSTUDENT No Curfew
Certain Occupations have been declared hazardous for 16 and 17 year old workers through the provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

For information regarding Federal Restrictions contact the area office:
Employment Standards Administration
United States Dept. of Labor
380 Westminster Street, Providence, RI 02903
(401) 328-1431

For information regarding the provisions of Rhode Island laws contact:
Labor Standards Division
RI Department of Labor and Training
P.O. Box 20360, Cranston, RI 02920-0360
(401) 662-8550

This application is for employment to take place within the state of Rhode Island. When completed, it is to be presented by MINOR, IN PERSON, to the issuing officer as designated by the School Committee in the city/town of minor's residence. A minor who is not a Rhode Island resident must present this form to the Issuing Officer, as designated, in the city or town where the work is being performed.

All applications must be accompanied by an acceptable proof of age, such as a (1) Birth Certificate, (2) Baptismal Certificate, (3) Bible Records, (4) Passport, (5) Insurance policy (at least 1 year old), (6) Physician's Certificate of Age, accompanied by school records of age and parent affidavit, (7) Rhode Island Motor Vehicle Operator's license with photograph.

Minors 14-15 may not start work until employer has been issued the necessary permit;
Minors 16-17 may not be employed beyond the curfew until the employer has been issued a certificate of age verifying the non-student status.

Image of RI Working Papers

By Aiden Romero

Discussing when someone should start working a job is a hard topic to tackle, as it involves an abundance of opinions and bias via family members, friends, and sometimes even strangers. It can be very overwhelming!

However, to get a job at 14 years old is not particularly difficult. First, you get the paperwork from your school counselor. Then you need to be hired for the position. Once you have the position, deliver the papers to the Student Affairs Office in person, and then you are done.

Working at a young age can be very beneficial by instilling additional responsibilities and time management to prepare one for future jobs. Although the job type differs due to the teenagers' age, even at 14 —the youngest age you can legally work— you can still have jobs in fields such as food service and retail. Currently these fields which include a large variety of shops and restaurants often have help wanted signs posted. So begin exploring before you turn 14 and speak with the management and employees to see if this is a good fit for you.

Even though jobs can be a good way to help teenagers and young adults, they can also harm them. Working can give the person less time to focus on school work, and it can harm their mental health because of how many things they need to do in one day. It may give people less time to do the things they enjoy, like playing sports and video games. Teenage workers can also harm the community by giving jobs that others need to students. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, 33% of 14 year olds are employed in the U.S.

In the end, it's always the person's choice whether to get a job or not. However, if it sounds right for you, make sure to talk to your parents about it and go to the Providence Student Affairs office.

Whyte, Angus. “The Pros and Cons of Teenage Jobs.” Treatment Centers. <https://evolveteatment.com/blog/pros-cons-teenage-jobs/> Accessed 8 December 2022.

“Child Labor Brochure.” RI Government. <https://dlt.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur571/files/documents/pdf/ls/childlaborBrochure.pdf> Accessed 8 December 2022.

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. <https://www.bls.gov/> Accessed 8 December 2022.

This Month in History: The Emancipation Proclamation

By Jibreel Reda Frayn

The signing of the Emancipation Proclamation is one of the most important events in United States history. The Emancipation Proclamation was issued by Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863. Most notably, it declared that all slaves held in the country, including in the rebellious confederate states, would be free.

Slavery has been prominent in North America for a long time, upon the first English settlement. In 1619, the first enslaved Africans were brought to Jamestown, Virginia. Slavery grew rapidly, as convenient free labor. The slave trade became a massive market throughout the Colonies and Europe with triangular trade. Europe would trade textiles and manufactured goods to Africa, then send slaves to the American Colonies, who would send crops and raw goods to Europe.

Slaves were used on large farms called plantations, which grew cash crops such as cotton and tobacco in large amounts. Eventually, the Southern Colonies’ economy was completely built off of the incredibly profitable market of slavery. In the North, slavery was not practiced because the economy was not largely agricultural. However, the slave trade was run almost completely through the Northern ports and harbors. Even so, there was a large abolitionist movement in almost every northern colony. Notable abolitionists include Benjamin Franklin and Alexander Hamilton. The abolition of slavery was not included in the Constitution after the Revolutionary war even though the abolitionist movement grew when people began to relate the oppression of African people to their own oppression from the British. In fact, new laws were put in place that helped slavery continue, such as the 3/5 Compromise which counted slaves as 3⁄5 of a person, meaning that the state was allowed to count the slave population for their own power, while continuing to not represent enslaved people.

In the late 1700s the South was facing an economic crisis. The tobacco market had lost value, and in the North, with the start of mechanized textile factories, the demand for cotton became too high for the South’s production capacity. However, in 1793, Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin. The cotton gin is a machine used to efficiently remove the seed from cotton mechanically. The harvesting of cotton instantly became less intensive, and the market skyrocketed.

By this time, most Northern states had officially abolished slavery, and some had even began to abolish the slave trade completely. In 1808 the federal government outlawed the African slave trade. The Northern abolition movement continued to grow and become more active. The underground railroad picked up momentum as well during the 1830s with conductors such as Harriet Tubman helping an estimated 40,000-100,000 slaves escape the South and become free.

As westward expansion started, tensions between slave and free states grew. The Missouri Compromise was an important event in that stretch. The compromise admitted Missouri to the union as a slave state and admitted Maine as a free state. It also declared that all new states northwest of Missouri from then on would be free states. The compromise was meant to settle growing disputes over slavery, but ultimately only raised tensions. Afterwards with the Kansas-Nebraska act, which declared that whether Kansas would be a free or slave state would depend on what the population wanted, the door was opened for fighting between the two groups, and caused more outrage for both sides. After the Dred Scott supreme court decision in 1857, which ruled that africans are not citizens even after going into free territory, repealed the Missouri Compromise by ruling that all states and territories could have slavery. The South reached their breaking point when Republican Abraham Lincoln was elected president. Within three months, seven states succeeded into the Confederacy, and four more would follow at the start of the Civil War. Lincoln was publically anti-slavery, but his and the government’s priority was to save the Union. Eventually abolishing slavery became a necessity as well, to cement the law and to settle disputes over how much power the states got in their decisions.

The Emancipation Proclamation was issued on September 22 1862, and declared that by January 1, 1863 “...slaves within any State, or designated part of a State...in rebellion,...shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free.” This effectively abolished slavery in a legal sense. On June 19, now known as Juneteenth, the confederacy fell, freeing all slaves still in the captivity of their former masters. Emancipation helped end the Civil War and ceased the horrible practice of slavery. It was a very important event in our country’s history and path to our modern standards of Civil Rights.

History.com Editors. “Slavery in America.” History. <https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/slavery> Accessed January 2023.

“Transcript of the Proclamation.” National Archives. <https://www.archives.gov/exhibits/featured-documents/emancipation-proclamation/transcript.html> Accessed January 2023.

NB Sports Report

By Eliya Brody

The start of 2023 comes with the beginning of basketball season. In late December the tryouts were held for both boys and girls. Though all who tried out did wonderfully, the teams only had so much room. The boys team is made up of Celio Landim, Andre Otero, Khepren Davis, Illijah Gomes, Shaun Almeida, Luke Nguyen, Izaiah Benzant, Jemel Blyden, Emmanuel Adelakun, Alan Matos, Janeek Blecher, Dereck Ferrer Beltran, Richaud Wilhelm, Yenual Welazquez Mustafa. As for the girls, we have Katherine Amado, Veronica Furtado, Lucie Weber, Evanescence Franco, Eliya Brody, Jude Brody, Nyree-Simone Lafortune, Jorday Johnson, Gabriela Garcia Gerardo, Faith Zweh, Olaya Watson, Analia Cepeda, Heily Silverio, Kate Howlett, and Fiona Hughes representing our Nathan Bishop girls. The games for February are on 6th, 7th, 16th, 27th at Neutaconkanut Recreation Center. The games for March are on the 6th at Neut, the 9th at Vincent Brown Rec center, and the 16th at Neut. Please come out and support our school!

The History of Flexilis Anatis, The Rubber Duck

By Theodore Anderson



Photography of Rubber Ducks by Kelsey Corrigan

National Rubber Ducky Day takes place on January 13th. On this day we celebrate the history of the bath toy and the symbolism behind it.

The History of the Rubber Duck:

The rubber duck dates back all the way to the 1800s. The toy was first manufactured out of vulcanized rubber, which was invented by Charles Goodyear. At the time, they were intended to be chew toys, and not meant for the bath. They were only converted into floating water toys in 1931, by a woman named Eleanor Shannahan. Later in the 1930s, Disney partnered with Seiberling Latex Products to create rubber ducks of their own. This was the first appearance of Donald and Daisy Duck (who was known at the time as Donna Duck).

In the 1940s, the rubber duck we know today appeared. It was created by sculptor Peter Ganine and included the bright yellow coloring and the squeaker we know today. In 1970, the song “Rubber Duckie” appeared on the popular children’s television program Sesame Street. The character who sings the song, Ernie, has a rubber duck who’s birthday is January 13th, which is the entire reason for the date of Rubber Ducky Day.

The Incident of 1992:

The year was 1992. It was a stormy night as a cargo ship moved slowly through the rough Pacific waters. This particular vessel happened to be carrying over 28,000 rubber ducks in a shipping container. As the ship moved through the ocean, the container started to tip and, eventually, fell off. There was a large splash as the thousands of bath toys toppled into the middle of the North Pacific. Now, the ducks drift around the ocean freely, with some even washing up on Atlantic shores.

The World is Her Bathtub:

In 2007, the “Rubber Duck” sculpture appeared for the first time. This giant yellow duck was created by Dutch sculptor Florentijn Hofman and originally appeared in Saint-Nazaire, France. This duck quickly became world famous as it traveled to different harbors around the globe. Hofman states that “By making huge sculptures, you downsize the human,” and that this helps us communicate by taking away our ego. Many criticize this meaning by claiming that the ubiquity of the sculpture takes away from the meaning as it doesn’t relate to the setting around it. These criticisms were taken even farther when it was stabbed 42 times in Belgium by a disapproving vandal. Now, after many deflations, the duck is stopped in Detroit, Michigan with her new baby duck, carrying a dream and a legacy with her.

“Rubber Duck.” The National Museum of Play. <https://www.museumofplay.org/toys/rubber-duck/> Accessed January 2023.

“”Moby Duck”: When 28,000 Bath Toys are Lost at Sea.” NPR. 29 March, 2023. <https://www.npr.org/2011/03/29/134923863/moby-duck-when-28-800-bath-toys-are-lost-at-sea> Accessed January 2023.

“The history of the rubber duck.” St. Neots Museum. 13 January 2021. <https://www.stneotsmuseum.org.uk/articles/the-history-of-the-rubber-duck/#> Accessed January 2023.

Gaiimo, Cara. “Meet the World’s Most Controversial Inflatable Yellow Duck.” Atlas Obscura. 29 July, 2015. [https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/meet-the-worlds-most-controversial-inflatable-yellow-duck#:~:text=](https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/meet-the-worlds-most-controversial-inflatable-yellow-duck#:~:text= Accessed January 2023.) Accessed January 2023.

