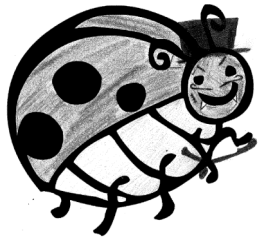


Rumor Has It

DISCOVERING DRENNEN

By: Andrew Stanfill



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You may have seen the guitar teacher, Mr. Drennen, around the building, but do you know the story behind the smile? We were fortunate enough to be able to ask him a few questions and were so impressed with his answers that we decided to make him our lead story.

Q: How old were you when you first started playing guitar?

A: Six

Q: Who first taught you to play the guitar?

A: My father

Q: What is your favorite genre of music to play on the guitar?

A: Rock and jazz - I like the energy and the simplicity of rock and I like the complicated sounds of jazz.

Q: What is the first song you learned to play?

A: "You Are My Sunshine"

Q: What inspired you to play guitar?

A: I was first pressured by



Mr. Drennen

my dad to play guitar. After he asked me if I wanted to, of course I said yes. What kind of six year old would say no? When I was ten my mother told me she would buy me a bike that I wanted if I practiced guitar for 100 hours within three months. I did it in two months. After completing it, I found that I loved playing the guitar so much, I rarely rode my new

bike.

Q: Why did you become a teacher?

I became a high school music teacher because I thought I could do it well. It also allowed me to spend time with my son. Playing

guitar has had such a positive impact on my life; I believe that it can do the same for others. I believe education provides a person more opportunities in life. I want to make the high school experience better for others than it was for me.

Let me explain in detail:

I didn't like high school. I didn't have a lot of common interests with my classmates. I also thought that at least half of the teachers in my school didn't like teaching. It seemed like it wasn't what they thought it would be, but they were too afraid to quit the job and try something else. I knew my parents would not allow me to drop out. I hated the classes so much. I was determined not to repeat a class, so I didn't get bad grades because if I flunked a class I would have to take it again. I had friends who flunked classes and had to take them again. I knew they were smart enough to pass the classes. I asked them why they got an F in a class, and they would say it was because they didn't like the class. I still don't understand their way of thinking. If you don't like something, do what you have to do to get away from it. I didn't get great grades, but I never had to take a class over again.

(Continued on page 3)

LGBT HUMAN RIGHTS

An Editorial By: Briah Page

When I am asked how I feel about equality for LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transsexual) rights I get emotional because it hits home for me. In my mind I believe that love is love for everyone, from interracial couples to same sex couples. I feel like it is harsh and unlawful to deny LGBT people their right to get married and be happy just like everyone else.

One organization that I am pleased with that fights tirelessly for LGBT rights is the HRC (Human Rights Campaign). It is the largest civil rights organization to ever suc-

cessfully fight for the equality of LGBT Americans. Founded in 1980, the HRC has worked tirelessly to ensure equal rights for our LGBT citizens. With a force of over 1.5 million members, the organization is expanding quickly and doing great things.

Another campaign I am pleased with is the NOH8 campaign. This organization works hard to achieve marriage, gender, and human equality rights through education, advocacy, social media, and visual protest. NOH8 was created in California in reaction to the

2008 same-sex marriage ban, which became a part of the state constitution. Outraged, celebrity photographer Adam Bouska and his partner Jeff Parshley started a campaign which features images of people with their mouth taped shut and NOH8 painted on their faces. The tape stands for their voices being silenced by proposition 8.

These movements often motivate me to try and be a voice for people who cannot speak for themselves. Most of the LGBT students who attend

CVPA are not "out" because they are afraid that they will be judged or bullied because of their sexual orientation. It is outrageous that people cannot live their lives because of the ignorance of other people who are around them. As a whole we should make strides towards making this a better place for people who want to express themselves and live the way that they want to live without the fear of being an outcast. I do believe we can strive for LGBT Equality at CVPA.



Xanielle Rodgers

UNDISCOVERED ARTISTS

By: Xanielle Rodgers

This month we have a very unique and kind individual for our Undiscovered Artists article. His name is Daniel Hamilton and he is a visual arts major. We asked him a few questions and recorded his responses:

Q: Do you like your major, visual arts?

A: Yes I do, because art lets me express my creativity.

Q: What do you plan on doing in the future?

A: [I plan on] going to college - probably an art college - you know like an

art institute.

Q: Do you plan on doing art in the future? Why?

A: Yes, my dream is my art being debuted when I'm older so people can see it and enjoy it.

Q: What is your favorite subject/class? Why?

A: Communication Arts, because umm...all the figurative language in poetry is amazing. It's like being in another world; it's very interesting.

Q: What is your favorite thing about CVPA?

A: CVPA is a great place. I love that we can express ourselves. I also like see-



Daniel Hamilton

ing all the different artwork on the walls. It's like seeing a different thing every day. You know you see something new on the walls all the time.

Q: Do you feel like an undiscovered artist?

A: Do I feel like one? Yeah I do. I feel like no one really knows me except my friends.

Q: What activities or hobbies do you do?

A: I love playing video games. Why? Because it's my outlet, because when I'm angry I can play my favorite game.

My favorite game is Tekken Tag Tournament. I also like to sing, oh, and play tennis.

Q: How do you feel about your artwork?

A: I feel very happy about my artwork, because I put my all into it. I try new things every day to better myself.

That was this month's undiscovered artist, Daniel Hamilton. Hope you enjoyed meeting him!

MUSIC

By: Andrew Stanfill

The only classes I did really well in were music classes because I liked music. I was lucky that my high school grades were good enough to get into college. I went to college for music performance, not music education.

After graduating from college I started teaching guitar part-time at a music store just to make some extra money. My students improved at playing music and they enjoyed it. It went so well that I had to turn students away. To my surprise teaching also seemed easy to me. After some very small tours with my band at the time, I realized that I didn't like to be away from home. I quit the band and became a full-time private guitar teacher at the music store. I would occasionally run into my guitar teacher from college and tell him that I was teaching and I loved it. Sometimes friends would suggest that I work at a high school. I said, "no way" because I hated going



Mr. Drennen teaching Ashleigh Eubinger
to high school.

My son was born 17 years ago. I realized

since most private lessons are taught after school and on Saturdays, that I would not see him much after he started going to school. In 2000 the principal of CVPA called me. He offered me a job based on the reference he was given by my former college guitar teacher. Since I would be teaching in a public school I did had to take evening college classes in music education while teaching at CVPA. Teaching in a school allowed my schedule to be the same as my son's when he started going to school. I also figured that if I really didn't like it, I would quit. I found out that I liked teaching in a high school even more than a music store.

We were pleased to hear this inspiring story of a teacher we see every day, whose mission is "to make the high school experience better for others than it was for [him]." Now you know a bit more about the story behind the smile.

ART NEWS

By: Cierra Morgan

You may have noticed a change in some of the lockers on the second floor. Lately a few of Mr.



Reanna Peterson and Kelly Sykes painting lockers

Perry's students have been painting the lockers near the office. They recently finished the first set of lockers based on the painting *Starry Night* by Vincent van Gogh. The next project that they are working on is *Les Elephants* (The Elephants) by Salvador Dali.

"The lockers are a sign of our creativity and it

lets our artists be known," says senior, Reanna Peterson.

"The lockers are really fun to paint. We are more than just quiet weirdoes...and what she said," added Kelly Sykes.

If you pass by the office check out the new student art beautifying the school.



Starry Night

FASHION

By: Xanielle Rodgers

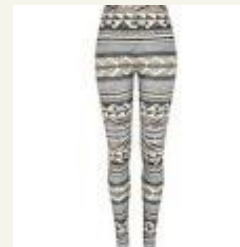
Spring is here, and it's time to put away those bulky coats and take out those light jackets! Spring is about wearing bright colors and happy things in order to brighten up your day and also the people around you. Bright colors like yellow, orange, green (lots of green), pink, and blue (lighter shades of course) all are good spring color choices.



Alondra Cornejo being fashionable



You can mix and match these with cool patterns or very bold accessories like shoes, blazers, hats, etc. For example, you can wear a nice bright turquoise shirt or tunic with some Aztec print leggings with a pretty flower necklace or rainbow bangles. When it's a little warmer out, the young ladies can strut around in a nice sundress (on the weekends of course).



LISTEN TO LA'SHEY

Dear La'Shey,

So listen, summer is almost here - and that's cool and all - but over the past few years, summer has sucked because after one month of just watching TV I get bored with *everything*! What can I do to make this summer more fun?

-Summer Bummer

Dear Summer Bummer,

It sounds like you need one of my favorite things: a boredom busters list! It's simply a list of ideas for people to do when it seems like there aren't any options of things to do. These ideas are normally unique and non-electronic. Here are some suggestions:

1. **Go geocaching!** For those of you who don't know, geocaching is a world-wide treasure hunt with over 2 million chests. To participate, go online to www.geocaching.com to search for caches (the small boxes hidden around the world that you're looking for) that are near you. This site gives you clues and coordinates so you can go out and find caches. It's a lot of fun to search for them, but remember be a good hunter and don't take what's in the cache unless you can replace it with something of equal or greater value.

2. **Call an old friend.** Chances are you haven't talked with someone who you know in quite a while, and it's good to reconnect from time to time! Make sure you keep up with those old friends.
3. **Write a letter to your grandparents** (or any relative who lives far away) and send it via snail mail. Have you ever gotten a letter in the mail that wasn't a bill? Doesn't it make you feel special? Imagine how great it would make your grandparents feel to get a letter. It might be worth your time when your birthday comes around.
4. **Take a trip down memory lane.** Watch your favorite childhood movie while snacking on something you haven't had in quite a while.
5. **Make a time capsule** for the year and bury it. Make sure to include a way to contact you if anyone finds it.

If none of these suggestions pique your interest then do an internet search for "boredom busters" and a thousand ideas will present themselves. Have a terrific summer break!

Sincerely,

La'Shey

Sedrick Leonard acting bored



CUTEST COUPLE

By: Alondra Cornejo

This month's cutest couple makes the perfect team, and this perfect team "can get through anything," as the couple likes to say. They have been dating for two years and three months! Two years ago Adrienne was saved by her Superman, a guy who she refers to as different from the rest. Their relationship isn't a fairytale or anything absolutely perfect, but it's real and true. This couple is just so cute. For example, they have custom-made hoodies which they wear on the sixteenth of every month to commemorate the establishment of their relationship, which began on November 16, 2011. Antonio is very thankful for an amazing girl like his "Woobie". In case you were wondering "Woobie" and her "Bae-ball" fight through whatever battle that is thrown at them just like a team - a real one.

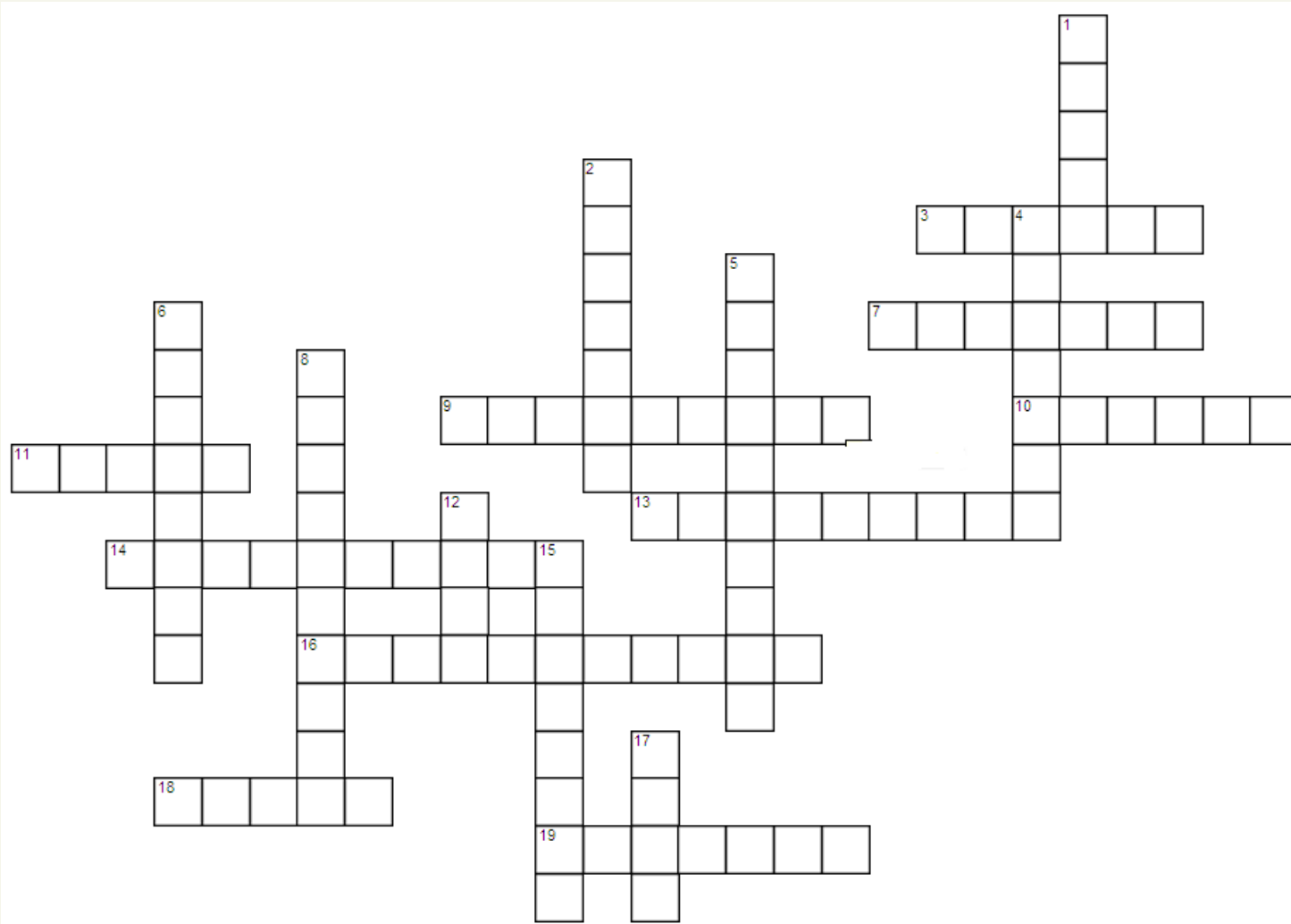


Antonio Morgan

&

Adrienne Lemons

SPRING INTO FUN



Down

1. In what Disney movie is the main character a deer?
2. You collect Easter eggs in these.
4. This insect has a feminine name.
5. What do April showers bring?
6. What sport starts in the spring?
8. A small green creature that causes mischief.
12. This long, thin bug is good for gardens.
15. This type of dress is named after the closest star to Earth.
17. What disappears in the spring?

Across 3. A spring flower that sounds like part of the face.

7. What type of shoes can be worn in the warmer weather of spring?

9. This animal emerges from a chrysalis.

10. At Easter baby girls wear these on their heads.

11. The color of spring.

13. What animal can predict a late winter?

14. What flowers do you make wishes on?

16. The only bird that can hover.

18. This animal lays eggs during Easter.

19. It's raining! It's Pouring! The old man is ___!



Zodiac Attack



Capricorn - Being loyal will get you far in life. Use it wisely.

Aquarius - This month you will begin to lighten up and relax as the forces that have been constraining you go away. Take advantage of this much needed respite!

Pisces - Two new relationships have developed between you and two friends, like a love triangle. One is exciting and tender-hearted, the other one is an unpredictable adventure, pick the one you are most compassionate about.

Aries - Run free in the fields. Spring brings love.

Taurus - You know the bull from the horns. Don't be confrontational. Be a friend.

Gemini - This month use your imaginative and energetic personality to create something beautiful with someone else.

Cancer - Everything is warming up. Don't get boiled. Chill out and where it's not so hot.

Leo - Help encourage people to be ambitious and confident this month.

Virgo - Do not be skeptical about helping somebody else. Help may be coming back to you.

Libra - You're stuck in a bit of a funk this month, but keep going and your efforts will be rewarded.

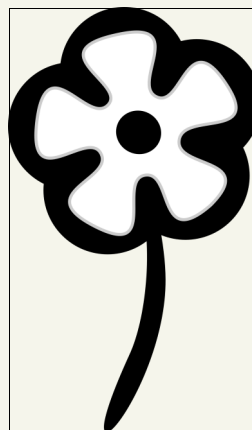
Scorpio - Water is important. It makes the flowers grow. Allow good things to let you grow.

Sagittarius - You have begun catching feelings from an old flame. Sometimes you aren't good about expressing your feelings, but show those feelings this month. Let it out or put it behind you and move on!

Jokes

Why is the math book always upset?

Because it has a lot of problems.



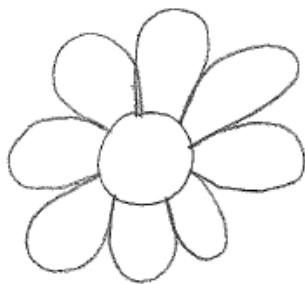
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COMICS

By: Cierra Morgan

The Showdown with Life #2 "Spring or now?"



Cierra
Morgan
~ Panda