

# New Moon

The Magazine for Girls and Their Dreams  
July/August 1999 • USA \$5.50 • CAN \$7.00

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DISPLAY UNTIL SEPT. 10

# New Moon®

July/August 1999 • Volume VI • Issue 6 • Humor & Happiness

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## New Moon

New Moon is a girl's voice,  
Floating out on a silent night.  
Telling her dreams to who will listen.  
New Moon is a girl's spirit,  
Soaring on the night's shore.  
Paying attention to her dream,  
Not someone telling her how to act  
Or feel.

Let the New Moon Girl Fly!

—Amanda Sarette

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## Design and Type

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Hanna Erpestad

## Photographer

Sherry Boyce

## Cover Art

Carolyn Watson-Dubisch

## Contributing Artists

Nina Cameron, Courtney Fiske, Crystal Ho,  
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**New Moon: The Magazine for Girls and Their Dreams** is an international magazine for every girl who wants her voice heard and her dreams taken seriously. With girl editors ages 8 to 14 and girl contributors from all over the world, New Moon celebrates girls, explores the passage from girl to woman, and builds healthy resistance to gender inequities. The New Moon girl is true to herself, and New Moon helps her as she pursues her unique path in life, moving confidently out into the world.

Six issues **New Moon** (one year) \$29; **New Moon Network: For Adults Who Care About Girls** (ISSN: 1083-5970), supplement to **New Moon**, six issues (one year) \$25. Add \$5 postage to Canada and \$12 postage to all other countries. Six issues each (one year) of both **New Moon** and **New Moon Network** \$49. Add \$5 postage to Canada and \$15 postage to all other countries. Remit in U.S. currency only. For subscriptions, make check (U.S. bank) or money order (U.S. funds) payable to **New Moon** and send to **New Moon**, P.O. Box 3587, Duluth, MN 55803-3587, U.S.A. MC/Visa orders, call: **800-381-4743** or **218-728-5507**.

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**Thanks to:** Tony Antolini, Duluth Public Library Reference Desk, Dr. Ahmad Fatehi, Susan Gossling, Goucher College, Peter Kondrat, Sharon Kemp, Loretta LaRoche, Kiah Luke, Amy Miller, ReBAR Management, and Michael Reck.

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**New Moon: The Magazine For Girls And Their Dreams** (ISSN: 1069-238X) is published bimonthly. Volume VI Issue 6.

Office of publication is New Moon Publishing, 2127 Columbus Ave., P.O. Box 3620, Duluth, Minnesota 55803-3620. Periodicals postage paid at Duluth, Minnesota, and at additional mailing offices. E-mail: [newmoon@newmoon.org](mailto:newmoon@newmoon.org) Internet: [www.newmoon.org](http://www.newmoon.org)

**Postmaster:** Send change of address to New Moon: The Magazine for Girls and Their Dreams, P.O. Box 3587, Duluth, MN 55803-3587.

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Printed in Duluth, Minnesota, U.S.A. by Davidson Printing Company with soy ink on recycled paper containing 50% paper waste, 15% post-consumer fiber.

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# humor & happiness

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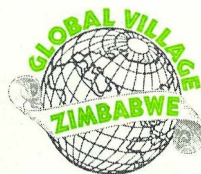
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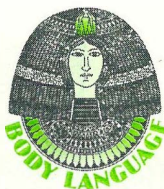
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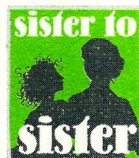
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**Find these ten Luna Tics hidden in this issue!**



This issue's Luna Tics are drawn by Mary, 12, of Houston, Texas, Jessa, 10, of Brier, Washington, and Anne, 12, of Winona, Minnesota. Send us your Tics! Draw them in dark ink and on white, unlined paper, and send them to Luna Tics, New Moon, P.O. Box 3620, Duluth, MN 55803-3620.

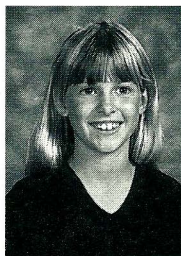
# Girl Talk

by **Katie Hutchinson and Kellen Sheedy**

People all over the world love to feel happy and laugh. We picked this theme because we love to be happy at New Moon, and we hope that you love to be happy, too. In this issue, we have a really interesting "Science Side Effects" article about the muscles that make you smile. In "Global Village," travel to Zimbabwe and meet a really cool girl! Our favorite feature is "The Wizard of OZma," because it is a great spin-off of *The Wizard of Oz*. Read the tongue twisters last because they will totally tie you in a knot.



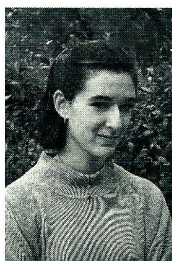
Nina Kelly



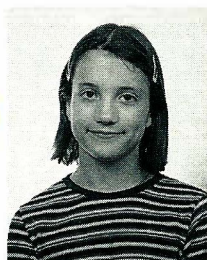
Ten-year-old **Andrea Peres** lives in Kansas with her mom, dad, younger sister, older brother, and Freckles (her dog). She likes to play soccer and football, sing, write, and draw. She hopes to be an author, artist, singer, and professional soccer player when she grows up. Read about her talent for cartooning on page 42.



**Nina Cameron**, 9, lives in Massachusetts with her mom, dad, sister, dog, and two cats. Nina likes to read, ride horses, camp, and do gymnastics. She hopes to be a gymnast when she grows up. On page 26, you can read a story Nina wrote with her friend Courtney.



Thirteen-year-old **Rachel Smith** lives in Texas with her parents and her dog, Nell. She wants to be an interior designer or a fashion designer. Rachel likes to travel and hang out with her friends, play the piano, and collect postcards and antique buttons. She gives her view of fairy tales on page 22.



**Courtney Fiske**, 9, lives in Massachusetts with her mom, dad, brother, and dog. She likes to dance, skate, camp, and play with her friends. Courtney hopes to be an author someday. For a really good laugh, read "The Wizard of OZma," which she wrote with her friend Nina (page 26).



**Katy Kondrat**, 11, lives in New York with her two sisters and her mother. She is the director of her school's Drama Club. In 1998, she went with her father to a Buddhist retreat at the Rocky Mountain Shambhala Center. Read her article about the lighter side of Buddhism on page 38.

# Luna Asks: <sup>The</sup> Middle Ages

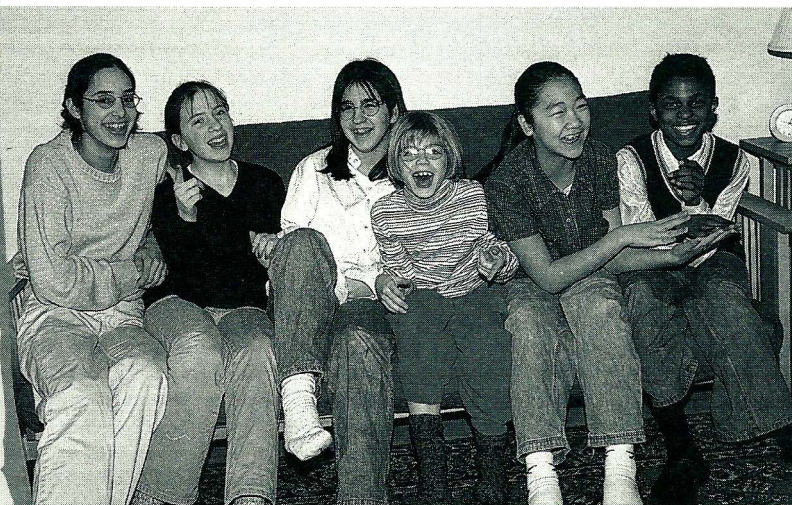
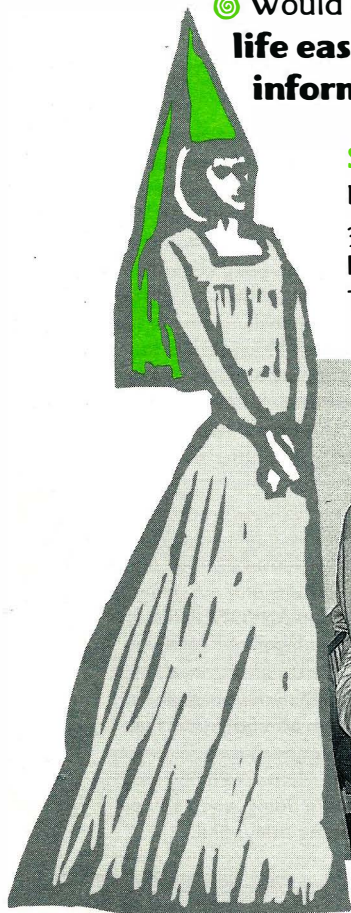
Isn't it fascinating to learn about other times and places? We think so—that's why the March/April 2000 issue of *New Moon* will be all about Medieval Times! The Girls Editorial Board and I can't wait to fill the magazine with your ideas about the Middle Ages. Love, Luna.

Here are some questions to get you started, but don't be afraid to go in your own direction!

- ⊗ What do you **know** about medieval times?
- ⊗ What **books** have you read set in the Middle Ages?
- ⊗ Would you **recommend** them to other readers?
- ⊗ Who are some **great medieval women** and what did they accomplish?
- ⊗ What do you find **most interesting** about the Middle Ages?
- ⊗ Do you **wish** you had lived in medieval times?
- ⊗ If you could go back in time to the Middle Ages, what would your **life be like**?
- ⊗ Who would you **want to meet**?
- ⊗ What would you **change**?
- ⊗ Would you take something from the present with you to **make life easier**?
- ⊗ What books, resources, and websites have **good information** about medieval times?

## Send your poems, stories, artwork, and letters

before September 1, 1999 to Luna Listens, *New Moon*, P.O. Box 3620, Duluth, MN 55803-3620, or e-mail us at [girl@newmoon.org](mailto:girl@newmoon.org). Remember to include your whole name, age, and whole address. Then look for your contribution in March/April 2000!



Sherry Boyce

The Girls Editorial Board busts a gut over the Humor & Happiness issue.

# DEAR LUNA

Dear New Moon,

I LOVE your magazine! It helps me be myself and realize I'm not the only girl who thinks there is more to life than boys and makeup. Could you please, please consider making it a monthly magazine? Two months is way too long to wait for the next issue. Thanks for listening!

**Christina, 13  
Grangeville, Idaho**

Dear New Moon,

I have very important news. I got some free cards with wolf paintings on them in the mail. But with them came shocking news—a federal judge decided that all of the wolves in Yellowstone National Park should be removed! He is mistaking these wonderful animals for the ferocious creatures of fable.

If you want to help our furry friends, write to: Defenders of Wildlife, 1101 14th St. NW, Ste. 1400, Washington, DC 20005.

**Diane, 11  
Wilmington, Delaware**

Dear Diane: Judge William Downes ruled in December 1997 that reintroducing wolves into Yellowstone National Park was illegal. His ruling is being appealed, so for now, the wolves are safe. You can make a difference by joining a letter-writing campaign. The Defenders of Wildlife will help you figure out how to help. Write to them at the above address, call them at (202) 682-9400, or visit their website at [www.defenders.org](http://www.defenders.org) Love, Luna.

Dear Luna,

I am tired of reading letters from vegetarians who say meat-eaters are evil barbarians. These veggie fanatics give normal vegetarians a bad name! I'm a vegetarian, and I really don't care if someone sits down across from me and eats a ham sandwich. I don't think I'm saving the world by being a vegetarian. I became a vegetarian because I just feel better mentally and physically if I don't eat meat. I would really appreciate it if people gave me some respect instead of labeling me a crazed zealot when I mention that I don't eat meat. People do this because of the vegetarians or vegans who preach that vegetarianism is the only right way to live. These people are the only vegetarians who are

heard in magazines, on TV, or in books, so a lot of meat-eaters assume that all vegetarians are this way. They aren't! I live in a place where there are a lot of vegetarians, and 99 percent of them just want to live without being discriminated against. Believe it or not—when I say I'm a vegetarian, people sometimes give me rude looks and edge away. I know that this is nothing compared to the discrimination that others face every day, but it still makes me sad and angry.

I also want to say that I really enjoy New Moon. Girls have written letters saying that New Moon pressures girls to shun makeup, boys, and fashion, but that is not true. New Moon just doesn't focus on those things. New Moon encourages girls to follow their dreams and be whatever they want to be, whether it's a fashion model or President of the United States.

**Umeko, 11  
Vashon, Washington**

Dear Luna,

I don't think it's bad to be a vegetarian, but it's not bad to eat meat either. I am Jewish, and we are supposed to keep kosher, which means that we cannot eat certain foods and can only eat certain kinds of animals. When you keep kosher, you know that the meat you are eating comes from animals that have been killed humanely. The Jews have lots of respect for animals.

I am not going against New Moon (I love this magazine), but talking about how boys are always so sexist and getting mad at them is being sexist, too. Also, the word "female" does not necessarily come from "male"; it could be the other way around. Thanks for listening!

**Carly, 11  
Virginia Beach, Virginia**

Dear New Moon,

I am writing in response to ANYONE who wrote to New Moon complaining about girls who eat meat. Do you mind?? I don't care if you don't want to eat meat! Go ahead! It's your body, and you're in charge! But don't go around saying that you're protecting living things because you're not. You're actually eating them! Plants are living things, too! Guess what you're doing when you eat a bowl of salad? You're ripping things like

Romaine lettuce, tomatoes, peppers, celery, and carrots out of the ground, off of their roots, so that they can't get sun, air, and water to make food! They die!! I don't see any difference between killing plants and killing animals! It's called the food chain!! So leave us meat-eaters alone!! We can eat what we want, and so can you. Thanks a bundle for listening.

**Amanda, 9**  
**Toronto, Ontario, Canada**

Dear Luna,

Your magazine is totally awesome! I am writing in response to Ream Jazzar (November/December 1998). She wrote about people killing dolphins to get tuna. I was concerned and told my mom not to buy tuna the next time we bought groceries. Then she told me that on the side of tuna cans there is a little picture of two dolphins. Under the dolphins, it says, "dolphin safe." That means they don't injure dolphins when catching tuna. I hope you will publish this for girls (like me) who like tuna. Thanks for listening.

**Allison, 10**  
**South Lake Tahoe, California**

Dear Allison: Thanks for sharing your information with other girls. I'm glad you're concerned about the welfare of animals. Find out what other readers think about animal rights in this issue's "Voice Box" (page 25). Love, Luna.

Dear Luna,

I really like your magazine, even though I don't subscribe. I asked for a subscription for Christmas, but my mom said it was too expensive. I don't blame you for the higher-than-most-magazines price, though, because your magazine's better and isn't half ads. My school gets this magazine, and since they let us check out magazines from the library, I've read every single issue that they have.

I'm working on starting a newspaper/magazine. It is like yours, only it focuses on educational things, how we can improve ourselves and the environment, and (like you!) feminism. It's called *La Femme* (French for "the woman"). I hope other people out there will start magazines for gender equity.

Thank you for the article on Anne Frank ("Spicy Girl," January/February 1999). It came just at the time when I was reading her diary and the book that her friend Miep Gies wrote. I think Anne was a cool person because she was like her name with her diary—frank. Keep up the good work.

**Reed, 11**  
**St. Paul, Minnesota**

Dear Luna,

I love New Moon magazine. It is better than all the magazines I get. The reason I am writing to you is because I want to be more involved in the environment and helping animals, but I don't have the time to go to care centers and places like that. So I was wondering if you could help me by telling me of a way I could get involved without having to go to care centers. Please help!!!

**Alex, 10**  
**St. Paul, Minnesota**

Dear Alex: To find out what you can do for animals, contact People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), 501 Front St., Norfolk, VA 23510, (757) 622-7382, or visit their website's special section for kids at <http://peta.net/kids/>. There are lots of kids' environmental programs, too. A couple of them are: Kids For Saving Earth, P.O. Box 42118, Plymouth, MN 55442. (612) 559-1234, [www.kidsforsavingearth.org](http://www.kidsforsavingearth.org) and Earth Kids, P.O. Box 2900, Wilsonville, OR 97070. (503) 682-7080. Have fun getting involved! Love, Luna.

Dear Luna,

I just started getting New Moon. So far, I love it. I want to tell you something—I have pet rats, and a lot of girls are grossed out. There is nothing wrong with having rats. They are just like small squirrels. I want to get the word out that they are great pets.

**Mira, 11**  
**Elizabeth, Illinois**

Dear Luna,

A couple days ago, my friends and I were playing. My friend, who is a boy, wanted to read New Moon. My girl friend said, "You can't read that; you're a boy." It took some effort, but she finally let him read it. I don't think the cover should say "FOR GIRLS ONLY"! That way, boys will feel compelled to read it. My boy friend thinks that it's a great magazine, even though it's filled to the brim with things about periods and girl things. I guess guys need to know about girls to understand some of what we feel.

**Moreah, 10**  
**Newburyport, Massachusetts**

Dear Moreah: New Moon magazine is for girls and by girls. That's why the cover says "The Magazine for Girls and Their Dreams." If your

friend wants to read it, great! You're right—it's important for all people to try to understand each other. Love, Luna.

Dear Luna,

This is my first time writing to you. I just love your magazine, especially "Dear Luna" and "How Aggravating!" I think it would be cool if you would put a "Most Embarrassing Moment" section in your magazine! I'd love it, and I think a lot of other girls would, too! Thanks for listening!!

**Laura, 10  
Winfield, British Columbia  
Canada**

Dear Laura: Great idea! We thought an article like that would fit perfectly in this issue about Humor & Happiness, but when we asked some readers to share their embarrassing moments with us, they were too embarrassed to respond! Love, Luna.

Dear Luna,

I am writing in response to Anonymous, who wrote in the January/February 1999 issue about how she doesn't like your magazine. She says she wants articles about popular culture, fashion, music, and superstars. She says that she wants surveys, like in other magazines. She should subscribe to *YM* or *Seventeen* and drop *New Moon* if it bothers her so much. *New Moon* is unique—it is not exactly your mainstream girls' magazine. *New Moon* is for girls who are annoyed by the female image in many fashion ads or for girls who just want to be different. I, for example, enjoy reading commercial teen magazines every once in awhile. But the reason I subscribe to *New Moon* is that I want to feed another side of myself.

To change the subject, I got an e-mail that I would like to share: A professor wrote an unpunctuated sentence on the blackboard. It read, "Woman without her man is nothing." He then picked a male student and a female student from the class and asked each of them to punctuate the sentence. The male student's sentence read, "Woman, without her man, is nothing." The female student's sentence said, "Woman: without her, man is nothing"! I hope you enjoy the e-mail. Keep up the good work!

**Shira, 12  
Minneapolis, Minnesota**

Dear Luna,

I agree with Katherine Wallat (January/February 1999). I don't think that girls should complain about *New Moon*. Instead, they should give helpful suggestions about how it could be improved, as did Anonymous. I would like to applaud Anonymous because she wasn't afraid to share her opinion. Isn't that what this magazine is about? The right to freedom of speech, without being pounced on by people who contradict what you say?

I agree with Anonymous. I like this magazine, but the girls who write to it should not give the impression that they think it is a crime to care about boys, clothes, makeup, and how you look—unless that is truly their opinion. I care about all of those things. And no matter what anybody says, I care about being popular. I also happen to be a straight "A" student who has high self-esteem and total control of her life.

Honestly, I don't think that the problems in society that readers make such a big deal out of are all that serious. I played with Barbie a lot as a little kid, but I have enough self-respect and brains not to try to look like her.

I am not complaining about *New Moon* magazine, which I think is a wonderful place for girls to voice their opinion. I am talking to the readers, who I feel often overreact. From experience, I know that the minute they read this, thousands of girls will write to Luna about how incredibly revolting my letter was. I appreciate that I have been allowed to express my feelings.

**Another Anonymous, 11  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina**

Dear Luna,

I love this magazine and think it's one of the best. *New Moon* is like a refuge where someone will listen and care if you speak up. Everyone who reads *New Moon* is different, yet we're all the same, too.

I would like to comment on Anonymous's letter from the January/February 1999 issue. She says she doesn't like *New Moon* for not having the latest fashions and songs. Every other magazine has that, though. That's why I like *New Moon*. Everyone is cool no matter what she's like. I would hate to see *New Moon* become like every other magazine for girls.

Also, I don't agree with Suzy Smith's letter in the same issue. She feels *New Moon* has created a

sexist environment and discriminates against boys. When a girl writes about sexism here, I'm sure at least one reader can relate. That is what New Moon is about—sharing, caring, and understanding. She said she has never run into sexism. That's great. But not everyone is lucky enough to say that. That's why New Moon lets girls express their feelings. When I see sexism, towards me or anyone, I feel a kind of anger to which nothing can compare. I still like boys, though. It's not like I get mad at every guy I see. I never said and never will say women are better than men. But I most definitely will not say men are better than women. We are equal. But since it is apparent not everyone sees this, for now, we can lean on each other and New Moon.

**Caitlin, 13**  
**Overland Park, Kansas**

Dear Luna,

I noticed that in "Draw Luna," no one has drawn you with glasses. Luna doesn't have to have 20/20 vision! I also agree that we should include some fashion in New Moon. Not all girls who want to change the world don't like makeup. But you should not, under any circumstances, get hung up if you don't look like a supermodel! Most people do get hung up, and that can be unhealthy. By the way, I LOVE your magazine and hate when people put it down. Keep up the good work, New Moon!

**Riona**  
**Brooklyn, New York**

Dear Readers: We got lots of letters from you about the topics of homosexuality and prejudice. Although we got too many to fit in the magazine, we appreciated reading all of them. Here are just two of the letters that respectfully discuss this issue:

Dear Luna,

My brother is a WEBELO in Boy Scouts. Last year, he got an award that churches give out through the Boy Scouts of America. We belong to a Unitarian Universalist church, and awhile ago, the Boy Scouts found out that the U.U. churches don't find anything wrong with being homosexual. When they found this out, they discontinued the awards, but only for the U.U. church. The Boy Scouts obviously think certain natural human behaviors are wrong. I think that this is one of the biggest discrimination problems in today's society.

In the '70s, it was about race, and in the '90s, it's about sexual orientation. I think that this kind of discrimination is wrong because you don't know if your best friend is a lesbian, and even if she is, it shouldn't matter. I love all of my friends so much, and if I found out something like that, I wouldn't care at all because it doesn't matter. It's what's inside that counts.

**Allison, 13**  
**Overland Park, Kansas**

Dear New Moon,

I am glad so many girls read New Moon and have the chance to get their ideas published. By reviewing different ideas, you can create new ideas of yourself and of many serious issues.

I want to say something to those who think that homosexuality and lesbianism are morally wrong. I honestly cannot get that. I don't hate people who think that, but I'm just really curious how they could think that way. I am not a lesbian, but I've seen many gay couples, and they do not seem "morally wrong" to me. They look quite happy. Also, when people find that they are gay or lesbian at a young age, it is very hard for them to fit into their peer groups. They are made fun of and left out. That is very, very sad, and I hate seeing that.

I think that homosexuality and lesbianism are just as natural as having different races of people. The world is full of different types of people, and none of them are morally wrong or a mistake. They are there simply because they are there, and life goes on. Let us not judge people by whether they are straight or not, but whether their personalities are right for each of us or not. I admire others for their ideas, but I wish they would give a second thought to this issue.

**Temí, 13**  
**Los Angeles, California**

## DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO LUNA?

I would love to hear from you.  
Write to me at Dear Luna, New Moon,  
P.O. Box 3620, Duluth, MN 55803-3620,  
or e-mail me at [girl@newmoon.org](mailto:girl@newmoon.org)  
Be sure to include your whole name,  
age, and whole address.

# Luna Listens

to your thoughts about this issue's theme—Humor & Happiness.



I'm happy when I'm with my friends.  
They always make me laugh.

**Jen, 11 • Canton, Ohio**

The happiest moment of my life was when my older brother came home. He's a Marine. I was so excited because I hadn't seen him in three months. When I saw him, I cried tears of joy. Now we are even closer than before.

Another happy time was when my cousin Erica was born. I was happy because another person was added to the world.

**Ashley • Hamburg, New Jersey**

The funniest thing that happened to me this year was when my friend Nellie was reading a great poem about school. One of the lines went like this: "Teachers flying on math books with pencil swords, trying to get you in their coffee mugs where they keep kids with overdue homework." Just when Nellie was getting to "The teacher's lounge is horrible. That is where they take off their skins to uncover snakelike arms, reaching, reaching to grab you," Mr. Mohan, the head of the middle school, walked in. That was the funniest thing. Our whole English class was laughing for five minutes. I laughed so hard tears were running down my cheeks.

**Elena, 11 • San Francisco, California**

The person who makes me laugh most is my friend Nadia. She is a great person. Even when I am sad, she can make me laugh. Happiness is one of the best things to have and the thing I cherish most.

**Lauren, 12 • Calgary, Alberta • Canada**

My dad and I are practical jokesters. We always joke around together. Here is an example: When my dad was 15, he shattered the bone in his index finger. The doctor mended it, but it's sort of crooked. Anyway, when my dad and I go shopping together and if we can't find an item, he points his index finger around the store and beeps! He says his finger is magic, and it'll find the item. When we find it, he beeps really loud. It's very embarrassing and stupid, but if you think about it, it's funny. My dad can always make me smile.

**Toni, 13 • Bemidji, Minnesota**

**To express your thoughts about an upcoming issue's theme, read "Luna Asks" on page 3.**

# Draw Luna



Luna is a fairy with lots of ideas. She loves all, and she hopes to grow up big and tall. At the moment, she is happy to be 5½ inches.

**Megan Norr, 10 • Minnesota**

**Becky McKeever, 8 • Texas**



What do you think Luna looks like? Every girl's idea is different, and that's the way we like it! Let your imagination run wild, and send us a drawing in pencil or black ink on white, unlined paper of what Luna looks like to you. Send them to Draw Luna, New Moon, P.O. Box 3620, Duluth, MN 55803-3620.



# ask a girl

*Ask A Girl is an advice column for you and by you. We help each other and take our problems seriously. Here's how it works: We publish letters that ask for help or advice. In later issues, we publish your replies—advice or personal experiences you can share. Because we get so many replies to each problem, we can only print a few. Write to us at Ask a Girl, New Moon, P.O. Box 3620, Duluth, MN 55803-3620, or e-mail us at [girl@newmoon.org](mailto:girl@newmoon.org) Please include your whole name, age, and whole address, but tell us if you don't want your name and address published with your letter. (Sorry, we can't reply to individual letters.)*

I announced at school that I am bisexual. My friends shied away because they don't understand and won't let me explain. Now, I'm the social outcast. Later, my mom found out. My parents don't understand. Help?!

**Rave, 13 • Vancouver, Washington**

My best friend and I are 10 and like to talk. We almost always end up talking about bras. She says girls our age are too young to wear bras, and if you do, you're weird! I have a bra, and I think she is WWRROONNGG!! There's no certain age you're supposed to get a bra! I want to tell her how I feel and that I have a bra, but she will think I'm weird! What should I do?

**Emmy, 10 • Bellingham, Washington**

*Have you been through something like this? How did you feel? Who did you ask for help? How did it turn out? What would you have done differently? Do you have any suggestions or ideas? Write to us!*

*In November, Nyssa told us that she feels like she needs to act "funny and half-stupid" for her friends to accept her. Here's what you suggested:*

Dear Nyssa,

Just be you. Don't change because you feel like you're not wanted. Try to make new friends. If they were your friends, they wouldn't care. Talk to your friends or talk to a counselor.

**The YWCA Teens • Carlisle, Pennsylvania**

*In January, Lynzie wrote about her friend who's always the center of attention. Lynzie's worried that if she tells her friend she's tired of her behavior, she'll ruin the friendship. Here's what some of you said:*

Dear Lynzie,

I had something like that happen to me once. I thought this girl was so cool. She was very mean to me. One night, I cried almost all night. My parents and I had a long talk. The next time she was mean to me, I said that I did not like it and found new friends. My advice to you is to tell her how you feel. If she gets mad at you, try to find new friends.

**Annie, 8 • Sonoma, California**

Dear Lynzie,

The best thing for you is to become your own best friend. Do things you enjoy—maybe writing, arts and crafts, sports, or acting. Join new activities, and meet people who share the same interests as you. You can make new friends who will treat you with respect.

As for your "friend," tell her how you feel. Maybe she has reasons for the way she acts, or maybe she doesn't realize she's hurting you. If your relationship with her does not work out, don't feel bad. The only thing you have lost is a stuck-up girl who controls your life. Situations like yours take time to work out. You have to find the love within yourself to be happy.

**Iara, 13 • West Nyack, New York**

*In November, Linda talked about becoming a vegetarian. She's worried that her dad, a hunter, will disapprove. Here are one reader's suggestions:*

Dear Linda,

I have three solutions:

1. Talk it over with your mom. She might give you some advice on how to handle this.
2. Talk to your dad about his beliefs and try to make him see it from your perspective.
3. You could start eating LESS meat, then fish and poultry, then none at all.

**Adrienne, 13 • Montara, California**

# How Aggravating!

How Aggravating! is a place where we voice our opinions about what's unfair to girls and women. What makes you mad? What drives you crazy? What's unfair in your life? Send letters to: How Aggravating!, New Moon, P.O. Box 3620, Duluth, MN 55803-3620, or e-mail us at [girl@newmoon.org](mailto:girl@newmoon.org) Remember to include your whole name, age, and whole mailing address!

My best friend and I recently read a sexist article in the Newark *Star Ledger*. Maybe some college kids were playing a prank!

The article, called "A Girl's Place," said: "When will girls realize that they were not made to play sports? They look and act unfeminine playing sports. I suspect many girls wish they were the sons their fathers secretly wanted.

Gymnastics, cheerleading, and ice skating truly show a girl's femininity. All other sports show a girl's gender denial . . . ." How aggravating!

**Robin, 11 • Maplewood, New Jersey**



There is a Bugs Bunny cartoon about "new and improved cars for everyone." It shows a car that announces the direction you're going in. A man points to the left with his hand and a robotic voice says, "Turning left, turning left!" Then the narrator says, "It also works for the woman in the family." Then it shows a woman in the driver's seat with her hand going in all directions as the robotic voice says, "Turning lef-right, left, turn-lef-turning right!" The narrator says, ". . . or maybe not!" Since when are women worse drivers than men?!!!

**Marge, 13 • Kensington, Maryland**

One of my gym teachers is always making little remarks like, "You throw like a girl!" or "We need more boys on this side. I said it should be EVEN!" They are only little comments, but every time my teacher says that, all the girls get a little weaker inside. It can still be very hurtful.

**Nora, 13 • St. Cloud, Minnesota**

When we go to stores, employees follow my family and me. They think that we are shoplifters because we are not Caucasian. It makes me feel stalked and not respected. If people just minded their own business, I wouldn't be as mad as I am right now.

**Anonymous, 9 • Portland, Oregon**

# Howling at the Moon

Howl out your moments of empowerment, celebrate examples of gender equity, and sing about the good things in your life! How do you make life better for girls? Who do you know who is working to create equality for girls? What do you see that is already fair? Send your letters to Howling at the Moon, New Moon, P.O. Box 3620, Duluth, MN 55803-3620, or e-mail us at [girl@newmoon.org](mailto:girl@newmoon.org) Remember to include your whole name, age, and whole mailing address!

There was a big step for women's rights in our town this fall. We finally have an all-girl, under-19 hockey league! We have been bugging the hockey association for a long time, and it finally happened. This just goes to show that when you put your mind to something and stay persistent, you can accomplish anything. The male hockey players in town were supportive, too!

**Caroline, 14 • Wausau, Wisconsin**

In the paper, I read about a school that has separate science labs for boys and girls! The school knows that girls learn differently than boys, so now girls with "C" averages have gone to "A" averages!

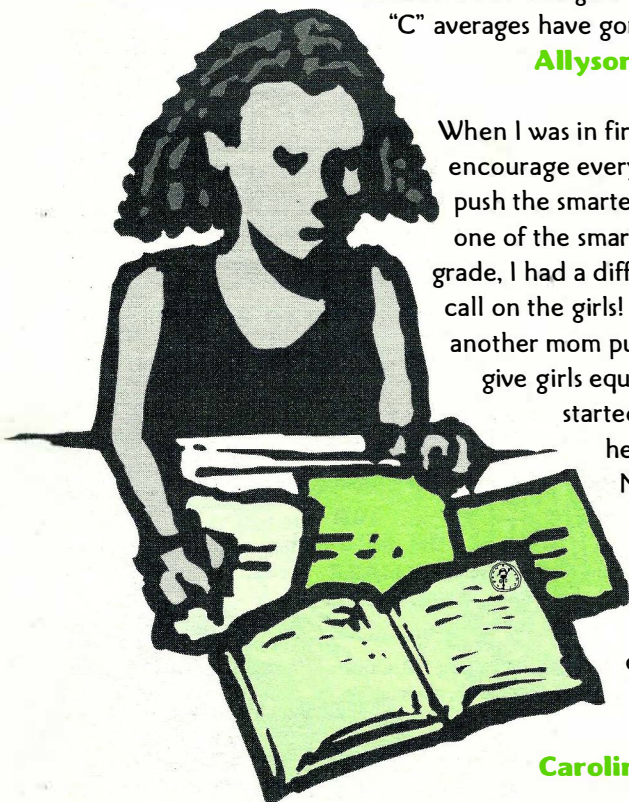
**Allyson, 10 • Naperville, Illinois**

When I was in first grade, I had a very nice teacher. She would encourage everyone to do her or his best, and she would push the smarter kids ahead in school work. I was lucky to be one of the smarter kids. When I got to third and fourth grade, I had a different teacher. He was sexist. He would never call on the girls! I didn't learn anything. So, my mom and another mom put the pressure on him. They asked him to give girls equal treatment. After about a week, he finally started calling on the girls. By the end of the week, he had moved about five girls into the Advanced Math class!

**Marin, 10 • Cambridge, Minnesota**

My gym teacher isn't sexist like some male gym teachers. We were playing basketball one time, and at the end of the class, he came up to me and told me that he watched me and thought that I was sensational. YES!

**Caroline, 11 • Lexington, Massachusetts**





# Picking a Pen Pal

So many of you want to be listed as pen pals that we can't fit all the names in the magazine! So, how do you get a pen pal?

1. Choose a New Moon girl(s) from the list and write us for her address. Remember to tell us which issue your pen pal was listed in!
2. Send us a Self-Addressed, Stamped Envelope (**SASE**). A **SASE** is a stamped envelope with your name and address **INSIDE** of the envelope you send to New Moon.
3. We'll send the addresses within six weeks.

*Or:*

1. Ask your parents for permission to send us your name, age, address, e-mail address (if you have one), and interests (we can only list two).
2. We'll add your name to the list we mail out, even though your name may not appear in the magazine.

*Remember:*

We can only send the list if you include a **SASE**. We **CANNOT** forward letters to pen pals. New Moon strongly discourages the use of form letters when writing to your pen pals. Write to: **Pen Pals, New Moon, P.O. Box 3620, Duluth, MN 55803-3620.**

Elizabeth, 11  
Bedford, NH  
Internet, drama

Jackie, 10  
Landenberg, PA  
AOL, swimming

Maura, 13  
Des Moines, IA  
Dancing, acting

Alexandra, 11  
Wilton, CT  
Boys, swimming

Aviva, 10  
Cedar Falls, IA  
Music, traveling

Lauren, 12  
Seattle, WA  
Drawing, acting

Andra, 11  
Minnetonka, MN  
Cats, dance

Laurel, 11  
Hinsdale, NH  
Beanie Babies, singing

Erin, 11  
St. Paul, MN  
Singing, art

Kristen, 7  
Marietta, GA  
Nature, reading

Alexandra, 11  
Hercules, CA  
Cats, babies

Kiri, 13  
Centerville, UT  
Boys, music

Lizzy, 12  
Rohnert Park, CA  
Reading, guys

Olivia, 13  
Ellsworth, ME  
Dogs, drawing

Alex, 13  
Geyserville, CA  
Science fiction, nature

Patricia, 13  
Fredericksburg, VA  
Individuality, having fun

Jessica, 9  
Wayzata, MN  
Piano, computers

Katie, 10  
Nashville, TN  
Animals, games

Abby, 10  
Olympia, WA  
Babysitting, shopping

Mara, 9  
Golden Valley, MN  
Art, writing

Olivia, 10  
Guerneville, CA  
Reading, writing

Samantha, 10  
Merrick, NY  
Reading, music

Flynn, 12  
Irvington, NY  
Animal welfare, writing

Sarah, 11  
Malvern, PA  
Arts, writing

Stephanie, 9  
Winnipeg, MB, Canada  
Animals, music

Erika, 12  
Shutesbury, MA  
Ballet, science

Bridget, 10  
Menomonie, WI  
Singing, boys

Jade Ariel, 9  
Destrehan, LA  
Acting, drawing

Miranda, 11  
Cincinnati, OH  
Music, swimming

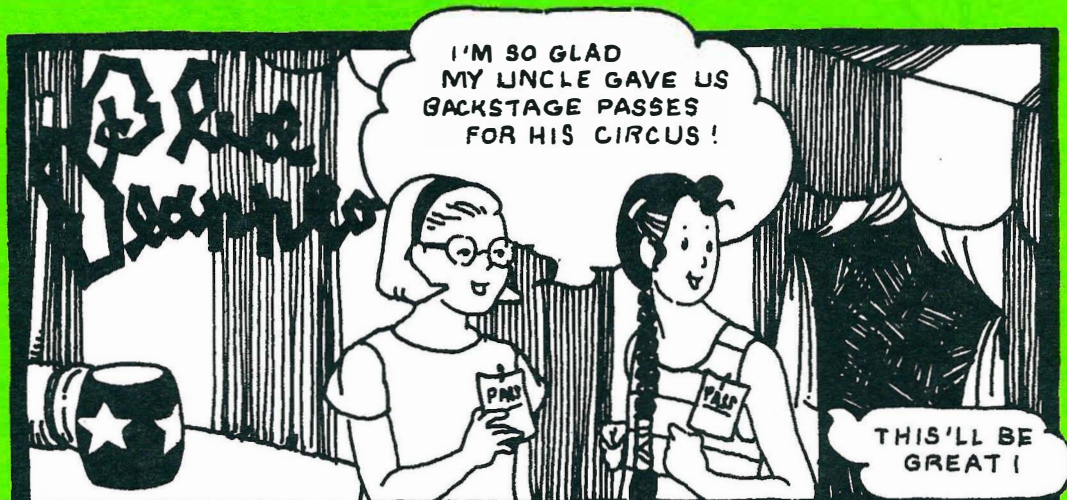
Martina, 12  
Santa Rosa, CA  
Crocheting, writing

Willow, 12  
Lyons, KS  
Dancing, acting

Melanie, 14  
Toronto, ON, Canada  
Books, *X-Files*

Kelsey, 12  
Yukon, OK  
Animals, hockey

Anna Liza, 13  
Chicago, IL  
 *Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Gone With the Wind*



TO BE CONTINUED ...

# Margaret Fishback, Queen of Wisecrack



BY MARTA OSTOVICH

IN 1926, young Margaret Fishback arrived in New York as one of the many "career girls" who flooded the city looking for jobs. She was determined to make her living in the big city and succeed. Little did she know that in a few years she would be the highest paid woman in advertising and a humor poet.

Margaret was born in 1900 in Washington, D.C. She attended Goucher College in Maryland. Margaret enjoyed college so much that she went to New York to take more classes. However, once she arrived in New York, she was stage-struck. She took ballet lessons and dreamed of becoming an actress. In order to earn money, she took bit parts at the Metropolitan Opera. She and other young women would "crawl into red tights and yellow wigs" in order to earn \$1 for dancing in the background of the opera.

Margaret realized that she wouldn't be able to earn a living through dancing, so when a friend told her of an opening in a publicity firm, she jumped at it. She walked into the firm and immediately demanded an interview with the president. She got the interview and the job. She attributed her instant success to "luck, pure and simple." At the publicity firm, Margaret gave speeches and raised money for charities. During her lunch breaks, she often wrote couplets for fun. A couplet is two lines of poetry that rhyme.

Some of Margaret's couplets appeared in *The New Yorker* magazine. Her couplets were so popular that Margaret began writing longer poems. People loved to read Margaret's lighthearted and amusing verses, like this one.

I've stood reducing long enough;  
I want to gorge, I want to stuff.  
I don't believe I ever can  
Absorb another bit of bran  
Or look a batch of spinach in  
The face. I'm sick of getting thin,  
And if you do not like me fat,  
We'll have to let it go at that.



## MARGARET'S VERSES

led to an advertising job at Macy's department store. She brought new life to Macy's advertisements. A newspaper wrote, "Until the Fishback girl arrived, Macy's ads had been solemnly conventional. After a brief apprenticeship, she began inserting flip-pant rhymes and wise-cracks. She even insulted the merchandise!" One time, Margaret found a two-foot cake tester in the store. She thought it was ridiculous, so her ad said, "This cake tester will come in handy the next time you bake a cake two feet high." Many people were skeptical of Margaret's advertising methods. Who would want to buy this cake tester

when even the advertiser made fun of it? What a surprise when orders for the cake tester started pouring in—and Macy's ran out of them!

With the success of her witty advertisements, Margaret became the highest paid woman in advertising. Many well-known magazines like *Harper's Bazaar* and *Mademoiselle* asked her to write ads for them. She was the first woman to make a name for herself through advertising.

Margaret married in 1939 and moved to a farm in Maine. Here, she developed her career in verse. She published many books of poetry, including *One to a Customer* and *I Feel Better Now*. Her poems were about city life, gardens, love, fashion, the weather, and other pleasantly amusing topics. After her son was born, she also wrote humorous books on parenting. She died in 1985 at her farm in Maine.



Margaret's poem is taken from her book *Time For a Quick One* (Harcourt Brace 1940). All other quotes are from *Famous American Humor Poets* by Everett Allen (Dodd, Mead & Co. 1968).

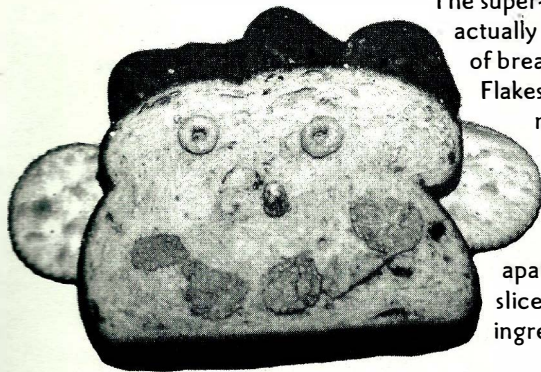
Marta Ostovich is one of the founding editors of *New Moon*. Playing noisy music on her bassoon makes her happy; talking like a pirate makes her laugh.

# Food For Thought

**Dear Readers:** Way back in January/February 1998, we asked you to think about food and how it fits into your life. Here's what you had to say:

When I'm happy, I like to eat sweet foods. When I'm angry or anxious, I lose my appetite. When I'm melancholy, I don't like to eat very much, but I like bread and other starches. When my endorphins are high, I like to drink Gatorade or water. On my birthday, I like French toast made with challah, a Jewish egg bread.

**Erin, 12 • San Francisco, California**



The super-duper yummy sandwich looks hard to make, but it is actually an easy meal! Ingredients: any sandwich filling, two slices of bread, five pieces of pepperoni, two Cheerios, some Frosted Flakes, two Ritz crackers, and one large grape. First, make a normal sandwich without cutting anything. Put the pepperoni at the top, between the two bread slices. Put the two Ritz crackers in between the bread on both sides of the sandwich. Then, put the two Cheerios near the top of the top bread slice, approximately two centimeters apart. Next, stick the grape into the middle of the top bread slice. Finally, add a smile of Frosted Flakes. You can eat the ingredients of this sandwich separately or together.

**Julie, 13 • Rochester, Minnesota**

Even though I have a big sweet tooth, I do not eat refined sugar. I eat alternative sweets like carob (a chocolate substitute), honey, and maple syrup. It's really not that hard, especially when you use your imagination to make desserts like this one:



## Apple Crisp

### Filling:

- 8 cups (2 l) cored, peeled, and sliced apples
- 2 tsp. (10 ml) cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. (2.5 ml) nutmeg
- 1 Tbs. (7.5 ml) arrowroot powder or cornstarch
- Juice of 1/2 lemon
- 2 Tbs. (15 ml) honey or maple syrup
- 1/4 cup (3/5 dl) apple juice (if apples don't seem very juicy)

Bake in a 9"x 13" (23 cm x 33 cm) pan at 375° Fahrenheit (190° Celsius) for 30 minutes.

### Topping:

- 2/3 cup (1.5 dl) barley flour
- 1/4 cup (3/5 dl) whole wheat flour
- 1/3 cup (4/5 dl) date sugar
- 1/3 cup (4/5 dl) rolled oats
- 1/2 tsp. (2.5 ml) cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. (2.5 ml) nutmeg

**Sara, 13 • Navarre, Florida**

# Knots of Fun with Your Tongue

These tongue twisters from all over the world are fun to say, even when you don't know what they mean!

## French:

Ecartons ton carton car ton carton nous gêne.

☉ We are moving your box because your box is bothering us.

## Indonesian:

Kuku kaki kakak kakak ku kayak kuku kaki kakek kakek ku.

☉ My sister's toenails look like my grandfather's.

## Tagalog or Filipino:

pitumput-pitong puting pating

☉ 77 white sharks

## Farsi:

ران مرد لر مو دارد

How to say it: Ruye rune marde Lore mu dore.

☉ The tops of the feet of the man from Lor are hairy.

## Javanese:

Pitik blorok klorok bolak balik.

☉ The spotted chicken crows over and over.

## Swahili:

Kale kakuku kadogo ka kaka kako wapi kaka?

☉ Where are your chickens, brother?

## Tigrinya/Araminian:

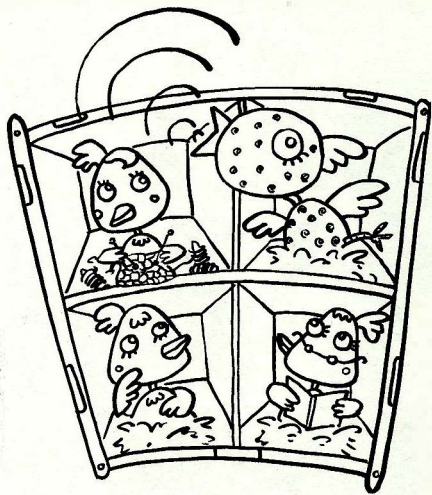
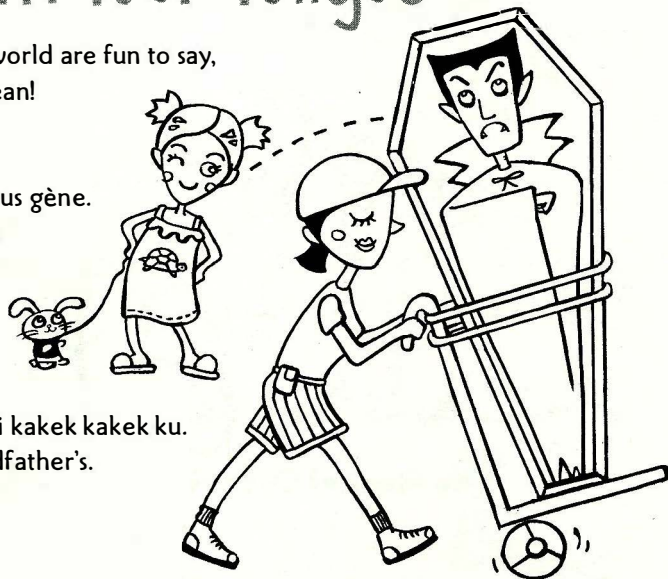
Irasen berase kalankolpetskat man yankolptsigneal.

☉ If I don't say that I admire myself, who shall then admire me?

## Sardinian:

E chí na chí na chí no.

☉ And who says that it isn't.

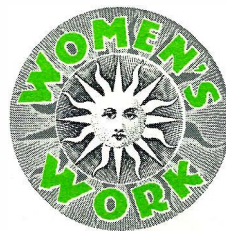


Illustrations by Crystal Ho

These tongue twisters are from the *1st International Collection of Tongue Twisters*, collected by Michael Reck of Zirl, Austria. Find more at [www.uebersetzung.at/twister.html](http://www.uebersetzung.at/twister.html)

# Make Me Laugh

by Rachel Ostovich



Dear Readers: Maria Bamford is a stand-up comedian who lives in Los Angeles. She has appeared on ABC's *Dharma & Greg* and does voices for Nickelodeon's *CatDog* cartoon. Editorial board member Rachel Ostovich talked to Maria about what being a comedian is like.



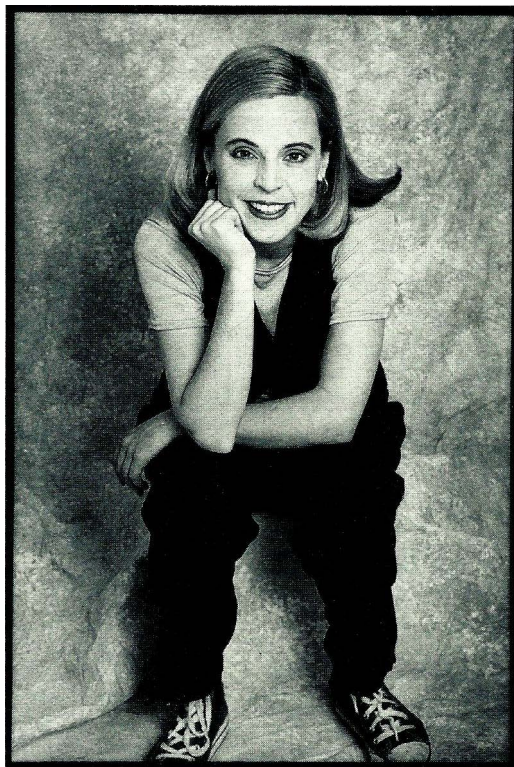
**New Moon:** When did you decide to become a stand-up comedian?

**Maria Bamford:** Not until college. It just wasn't a career that seemed available to me before then. When I started talking about it, my mom said, "Well, you're going to have to prepare yourself for a life of desperation, rejection, and dire poverty. . . but you go for it."

I started performing at my college's comedy nights. When I lived in Minneapolis, I started going to clubs and doing open mic nights, where anyone can perform. As I got better known, some of the comedy clubs started asking me to do five-minute routines on regular nights.

**NM:** How do you get ideas for your routine?

**MB:** Basically, I pay attention to things that happen to me. I like doing impressions of different voices. I talk to myself in the car and in the mirror at home. Sometimes when I'm telling my friends stories, I think, "Oh! I can write that into a joke." It's a constant process.



**Maria Bamford**

Photo courtesy of RedBar Management

I also work as a secretary to supplement my income, and some of my best material comes from that. I think it's important to have a foot in the outside world—a job or something—because you have to have a life to talk about in your routines.



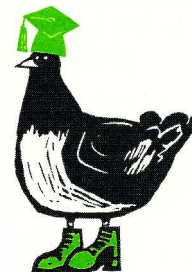
**NM:** How does a comedian get a manager?

**MB:** A manager saw my routine at a club and said he wanted to represent me. I've been with him ever since. Otherwise, you talk to other comedians about different managers and find out who's good and who's not. Then you interview them and hire one. Your manager gets 15 percent of what you earn. A good manager does a lot of work for you.

**NM:** How much money does a beginning stand-up comedian make in a year?

**MB:** At first, I made \$150 per week. But you have time during the day to work somewhere else. It's good to have an education and be able to do another kind of job that earns you enough money because there's nothing funny about being poor. Especially when you're starting out, you should expect to work at another job, too.

Most comedians don't make all their money doing stand-up. They earn money doing things like TV voiceovers, commercials, and shows.



**NM:** What do you do when you feel like giving up on being a comedian?

**MB:** Whenever I think about giving up, I make a list of all the other jobs I could have. Then I see that nothing else makes sense. There really isn't any other choice for me. This is what I love, so I will do whatever it takes to continue doing it.



**NM:** What are your proudest moments as a stand-up comedian?

**MB:** Recently I was at a club, and Drew Carey was there. After I did my set, he said, "You're really great." That's lovely—to have somebody who has achieved the things I would like to achieve say, "You've got what it takes" or "Great job."

Mostly, though, I'm proud when I keep going—especially when a night doesn't go well. Sometimes if no one's laughing or clapping, it can feel like they're rejecting me as a person. I've had to learn that it's not about me personally and just keep going.

**NM:** What is the best part about being a comedian?

**MB:** Writing jokes and making people laugh. It's wonderful to make people laugh. There's nothing better than that.

# Forget the Fairy Tale

BY RACHEL SMITH

In most fairy tales girls read when they are young, a woman character is pretty, but helpless. The handsome, dashing, young prince rescues her, and, as an added bonus, gets a child-making machine, too. While being in love may bring happiness, it is not the only source.

We can find joy in other things—things like being kissed by a puppy, getting accepted into our college of choice, reading a good book, helping someone else, earning a good grade, receiving a compliment, or hanging out with our friends. Girls do not have to depend on falling in love for their ultimate happiness. But that's not what popular fairy tales tell us.

In Disney's movie *The Little Mermaid*, Ariel is finally happy when she becomes human. Her only reason for wanting to have legs is (guess what!) to marry Prince Eric. In the book version, Ariel ends up dying. When Prince Eric doesn't love her, she cannot bring herself to kill him and therefore sacrifices her own life.

In *Rapunzel*, the only thing the heroine does while she is stuck in the tower is, once again, wait for a prince to rescue her. She could be doing much better things with her time, like cutting off her hair and making a ladder or learning something new.

The recent movie remake of *Cinderella*, *Ever After*, is not much better. The main character is unhappy until she marries the prince. However, there is the funny scene where she rescues the prince from a band of gypsies.

When I was young, I read *The Little Mermaid*, *Snow White*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Cinderella*, and *Rapunzel*; but I also read feminist fairy tales. *Don't Bet on the Prince* (Routledge 1989), edited by Jack Zipes, is one collection of fairy tales with strong women characters. These women rescue the men and realize that getting married isn't everything.



One of my favorite examples from the book is a reversal of roles. Usually, the prince wants to marry the princess because she is beautiful. A short poem by Judith Viorst slyly reverses this portrayal.



“...And Then the Prince Knelt  
Down and Tried to Put the Glass  
Slipper on Cinderella’s Foot”

I really didn’t notice that he had a  
funny nose.

And he certainly looked better all  
dressed up in fancy clothes.

He’s not nearly as attractive as he  
seemed the other night.

So I think I’ll just pretend that this  
glass slipper feels too tight.

Viorst changes the roles so that the woman judges the man based on *his* looks. Another story in *Don’t Bet on the Prince* is about a princess who goes off in search of a prince to rescue. She does find a prince, but he is a lazy slacker. In the end, she brings home an enchanter who loves her because she is charming, kind, brave, and determined.

I do not think as many women today are so intent on catching a husband. None of my friends and I are concerned about marriage. We are happy when we don’t have homework, when we are hanging out together, when something wonderful happens to one of us, and especially when it is the last day of school! I intend to find happiness in my future by achieving my dreams, having good friends, and doing a job I enjoy. It will just be icing on the cake if I find someone I truly love enough to marry.

### ABOUT THE ARTISTS:

**Alina Urusov**, 13, moved to Canada two years ago after a tour of Europe. Alina enjoys drawing, painting animals, and being outdoors. **Helen Urusov**, 11, was born in Moscow, Russia. She grew up in Israel, but now lives in Canada with her family. Helen likes to do naughty things with her friends. She also enjoys skating.

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

July

National Ice Cream Month, U.S.

International Joke Day

Dog days of summer begin.

Independence Day, U.S.



1

8

Don't Step on a Bee Day, U.S.



10



4

18

Olympic gold medal skater Kristi Yamaguchi born, 1971.

5

19

6

20

Bastille Day, France. In 1789, an angry mob stormed the Bastille prison during the French Revolution.

7

21



22

Amelia Earhart, first woman to fly across the Atlantic, born, 1898.

17

24



Lunar Eclipse 28

25

26

27

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30

31

August

Chocolate Festival, New Brunswick, Canada

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2

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5

Gertrude Ederle became the first woman to swim across the English Channel, 1926.

6

Mata Hari, a belly dancer accused of spying for both the French and Germans during World War I, born, 1876.

7

Moment of Silence Day. Remembers those who were killed by 1945 atomic bomb attack on Nagasaki, Japan.

8

10



Solar Eclipse 11

12

Women's Day, Tunisia

13

14

Children's Vision and Learning Month

15

16

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National Homeless Animals Day and Candlelight Vigils, U.S.

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28



# Voice Box

Welcome to Voice Box, where girls express their opinions about current events. In this issue, readers tell us what they think about **animal rights**.



I think it is unfair to poach animals, use them for senseless experiments, or put them in captivity for shows. I think it is wrong to bring an animal out of its home and put it in captivity. But if it was born in captivity and it doesn't know better, I think that is okay. Animals have the right to freedom.

**Brittney, 11 • Columbus, Ohio**

I think we should pay more respect to animals and their rights. I think animals should be protected from abuse by people. I think it's wrong to capture exotic animals from the wild and subject them to captivity, but I don't have a problem with keeping exotic pets that were bred in captivity. No animal is really more important than any other, although we treat animals we have relationships with (dogs, cats, horses) as more important than the animals we eat.

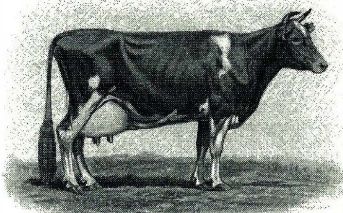
**Kaitlin • Santa Maria, California**

I'm a vegetarian. I'm very supportive of animal rights, and even if people choose to continue eating meat, they should avoid factory-farmed animal meat—especially veal. The animals are not allowed to go outside and enjoy life. Young pigs are kept in small cages stacked on top of each other, and all of their waste falls on the pigs below. With veal, the calves are separated from their mothers and deprived of iron in order to create “whiter” meat.

I'd also suggest that people buy free-range chicken eggs because other types of eggs are laid by chickens kept in cages about the size of this magazine.



**Brianna, 13 • Mountain View, California**



I think animals should have rights, though I can only think of one. I think they should have the right to bark, meow, or whatever other noise they make as loudly as they want. That is their way of communicating.

I would make it illegal to ship exotic animals. I would also make it illegal to kill animals for no reason or for only one part of their body.

**Jessica, 11 • Hanover Park, Illinois**

**Next time in Voice Box, we ask you about the difference between all-girl and co-educational classes. Look for it!**

# The Wizard of OZma

*Fiction* by Nina Cameron and Courtney Fiske

My name is Dorthy. Once, I was taking a bubble bath with my clothes on. My grandparents were sleeping, and they were snoring really loudly. I was just washing my hair, and BAM! my grandparents snored so loudly they caused an earthquake. My dog, Yoodle, was so scared he jumped into the sink, and while still in the tub, I fell through a crack in the earth. I traveled for a long time in my wet clothes, but they eventually dried. I landed somewhere with a BOOM! and a SPLAT!

All around me were turquoise people, holding canned pineapple and staring at me. It took about two hours before they realized that I wasn't going to shoot anyone with a laser gun. "The Wicked Eggplant of the East always shoots us with laser guns," explained one of the turquoise people. "Now that your bathtub has landed on her house, she can't shoot us anymore!" The turquoise people cheered so loudly that you could see their orange gums. The turquoise people stopped cheering. A green blob appeared.

The green blob was the Wicked Carrot of the West. "Grab the Wicked Eggplant's shoes," said the turquoise people.

"No, they stink!" I said.

"But they're magic," explained the turquoise people.

"FINE!" I said, and I put on the shoes and disappeared into a wheat field, where I found a scarecrow.

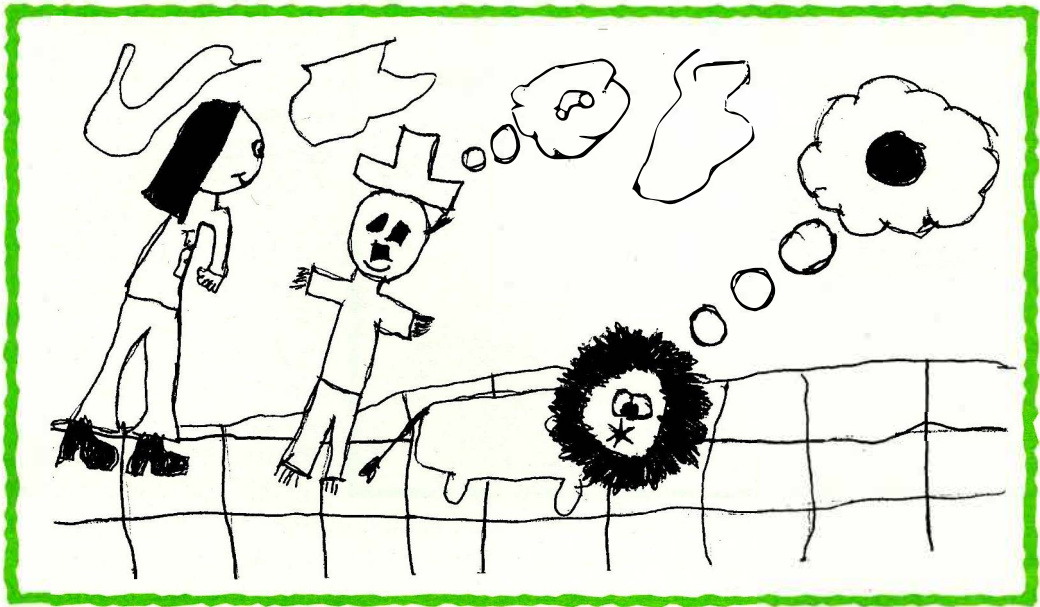
"Mac and Cheese!" said the scarecrow.

"Do you want Mac and Cheese?" I asked.

"Yes. Will you take me to the Wizard of OZma?"



Courtney Fiske



"Yeah, I need to go back to Cuba."

"Okay, let's go!" said the scarecrow. "And follow the lavender brick road."

"But we can't go to Cuba, we have to go to the Wizard of OZma," I said.

"Yeah, let's gooooo!" said the scarecrow. Then we followed the lavender brick road until we found a brave lion named Fred.

"I want oranges," said Fred. "Can we go to the Wizard of OZpa?"

"We're going to the Wizard of OZma," I said.

"OZpa."

"OZma."

"OZpa."

"Let's just go to the Wizard of OZma!" yelled the scarecrow.

"FINE!" said Fred the lion. So we walked some more along the lavender brick road until we ran into a patch of peas, which made me so hyper I bumped into a tree.

"Owwwww!" I said. I had just started to pick the peas when the scarecrow grabbed me and shook me.

"The Wizard of OZma! She's here!"

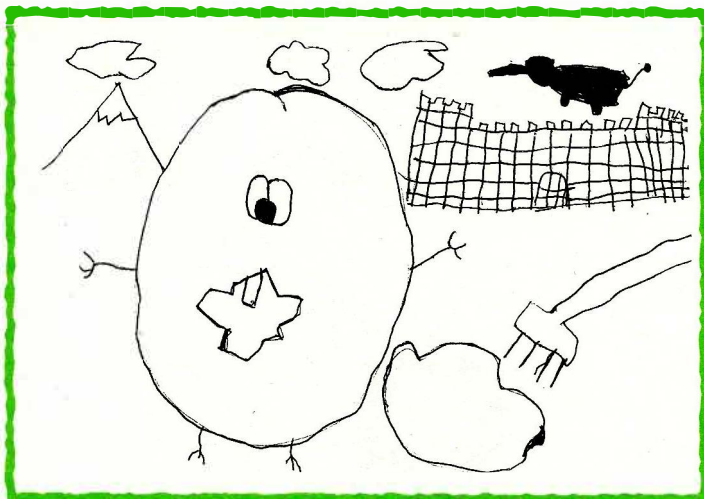
"I will give you three wishes if you kill the Giant Pea!" said the Wizard of OZma. "I will transport you to the Giant Pea castle."

"Okay," I said. In one split second, we were there.

"I am dumb. Come to me. You can be my servant. If you don't, I will shoot you with my laser pea-edition gun!" said the Giant Pea.

Eventually, my friends and I ended up being servants for the Giant Pea. He needed to be watered every second of his life. One day, I decided not to water the Giant Pea because that would kill him. So, while the Giant Pea was in the shower, I turned off the water.

"I'm growing and growing. NO!!!!!!!" And while the Giant Pea was growing, he



tried to shoot me with his laser pea-edition gun, but his stomach was so big, he couldn't see me. Instead of shooting me, he shot himself and burst!

"Yummy pea!" I said, and I started to eat the pea mush. I was so tired that I fell asleep. When I woke up, my friends were waiting outside for me. They were oohing and ahhing at the gigantic flying elephant.

"Like, totally jump on,

dude. Like, I'll take you to the like OZma wizard person dude person." So my friends and I jumped on to the gigantic elephant. Once we got to the Wizard of OZma's castle, the gigantic elephant said, "Like have totally fun visiting the cool wizard dude person."

A maroon butler showed us to the Wizard of OZma. "Hello," said the Wizard of OZma in a calm and kind voice.

"Please pretty please with vanilla ice cream and sprinkles and whipped cream and chocolate sauce and a cherry on top," I said.

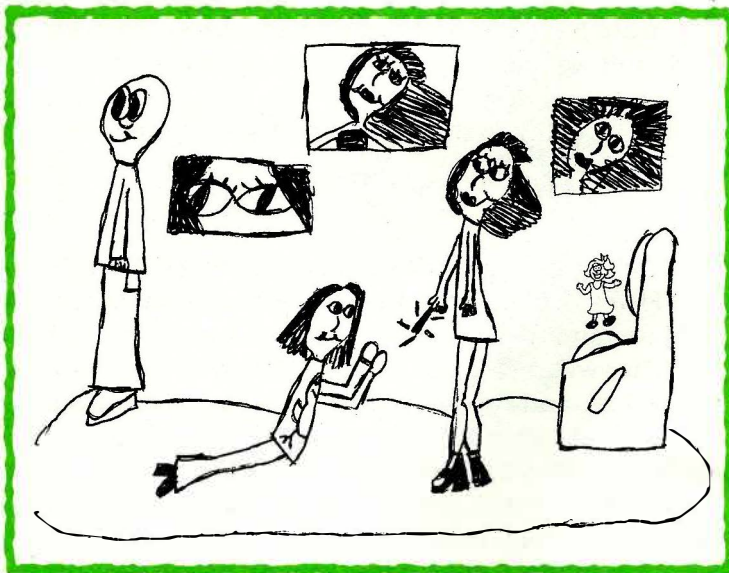
"Cherry on top what?" questioned the Wizard of OZma.

"Send me back to Cuba. Pleeeeeeeease!" I pleaded, and in one split second I was back in my bathtub in my house in Cuba.

I was sad that I hadn't brought a camera to OZma so I could have caught one picture of the Wizard of OZma's beautiful, starched hair.

"Hi," said an unfamiliar voice. "I'm the tin woodsman. Will you take me to the Wizard of OZpa so I can get a tin hat?"

"Oh no," I said. Later on the tin woodsman explained that he was a servant for the Wizard of OZma, and he came very close to me when I was being transported back to Cuba . . . but that's a whole new story.



# Looking for Beauty



## A beautiful girl...

Is brave, kind, creative, generous, confident, or hard-working;  
Does good things for others;  
Volunteers;  
Is not afraid to be herself;  
Fights sexism;  
Stands up for herself and others;  
Or has overcome difficulties.

## Do you know someone like this?

The May/June 2000 issue of New Moon will profile 25 beautiful girls picked by you. We want to celebrate girls ages 8 to 14 and the beautiful things they have done. Send us a couple of paragraphs (300 words) telling us why your friend is beautiful.

We need the whole name, age, and mailing address for both of you.  
We will pay you if we choose your essay, and your friend will receive a special prize from New Moon.

Send your nominations to Beautiful Girls, New Moon, P.O. Box 3620,  
Duluth, MN 55803-3620. E-mail them to [girl@newmoon.org](mailto:girl@newmoon.org)

**Hurry! The deadline is November 1, 1999.**



# A BLESSED COUNTRY

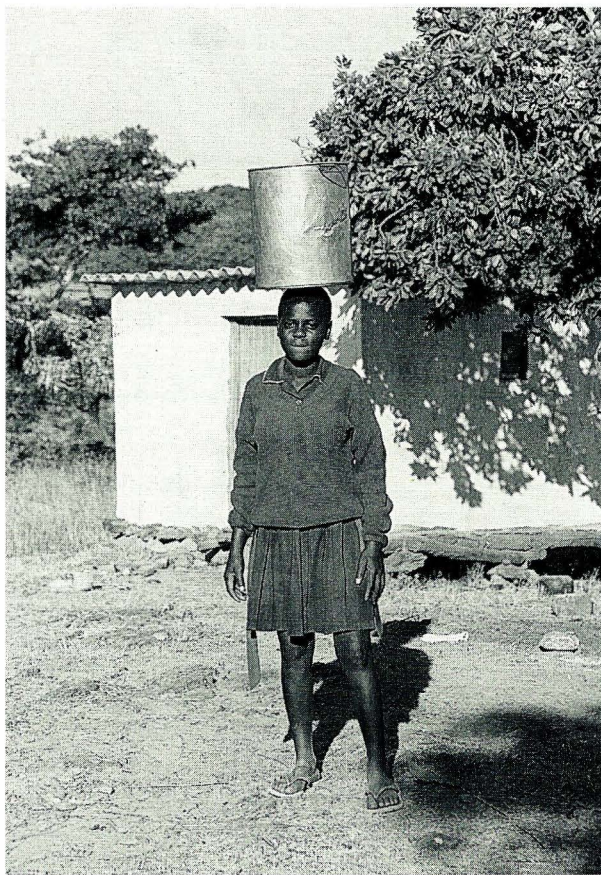
by Munyaradzi Christine Terera

**Hello! Hello!**

My name is Munyaradzi Christine Terera. I live in Nyanhongo Village, which is in Manicaland Province in Zimbabwe, Africa. I am 14 years old, and I attend Nyakomba Secondary School. My parents named me Christine in remembrance of my late aunt. The name Munyaradzi is a Christian name, and it means that I am the peacemaker between my mother and father, since I am the firstborn child.

In my family, we have five children—four girls and one boy. Both of my parents are still living. Their names are Charles Terera and Beulah Nyagadza. My mother works as a farmer and my father works as a shopkeeper in Mutare. They work together to support our family.

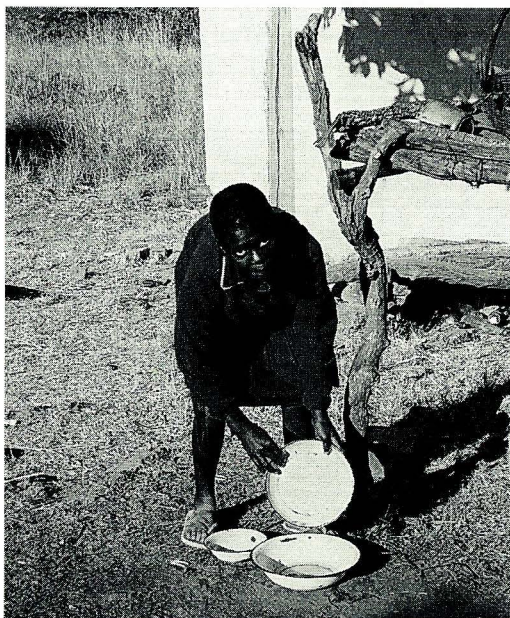
As the eldest daughter in my family, I am always busy doing my duties, which include sweeping all the rooms and the yard, shining the floor, and washing the windows. I also collect water from the well and clean the toilet every day. In the future, I am expected to get married and have my own family.



**Christine brings water from the well.**

Aunties play an important role in our culture. If a girl is about to be married, she must first go to her aunt. The aunt will teach her good behavior and technical jobs. As I am still at school and too young for marriage, my aunt teaches me jobs like knitting, sewing, cooking, and washing the clothes.

Because my brother Mike is the eldest son, he herds cattle, goats, and



**Christine washes dishes.**

sheep. He also looks after all of our domestic animals and collects firewood in the bush. During his spare time, he enjoys hunting with his dogs. In the future, he wants to be a doctor. He will be responsible for caring for our parents as they get older.

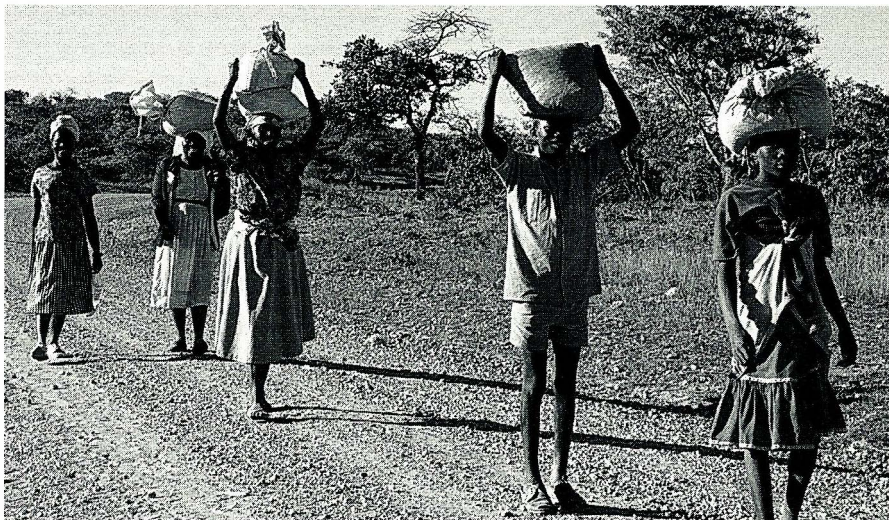
Our staple food is *sadza*. It comes from the maize cobs that many farmers grow here. After harvesting the maize cobs, we remove the kernels and grind them into mealie-meal, which is like flour. In my family, I always cook the *sadza*. First, I put water in a pot with some mealie-meal. Then, I put the pot on the fire. When it boils, I put more mealie-meal in the pot until it becomes thick, like porridge. We

put different relishes on the *sadza*, and we eat it with our hands. Women sit on reed mats and men sit on chairs while we eat. Sometimes we eat rice, chicken, sausages, potatoes, and fruits. The fruits we eat include oranges and bananas, as well as our traditional fruits—*mazhanje* and *mauyu* from the baobab tree. This makes up our balanced diet.

Our religion is both Christianity and African Traditional Religion (ATR). In ATR, we brew beer to show respect for and to remember our ancestors. We also invite our relatives to meetings at our house to drink, enjoy themselves, and dance to drums. In Christianity, we praise the Lord by singing and preaching the Word of God, using our Bible. When we are singing, we use instruments like guitars, drums, tambourines, and hoshels, which are shakers similar to maracas.

I have three friends, named Joyce, Forget, and Tumbare. We are all the same age. My friends respect the elders and do what they are told to do in good time. They also help their parents and grandparents do different duties at home. During our spare time, we enjoy walking around the bushes and other areas, studying nature and the environment.

My grandparents are an important part of my life, too, because they tell me how life was before the independence of Zimbabwe. These things include how our ancestors dressed and how they lived. They say that people wore animal skins and lived in caves long ago. After having supper in the evening, I enjoy going to my grandmother's house because she roasts groundnuts and tells folktales.



**Women from the village carry maize for their family elders.**

Zimbabwe is a blessed country, filled with beautiful rivers, mountains, and vegetation. During the holidays, we visit places like Hot Springs, the ancient ruins of Great Zimbabwe, Chinhoyi Caves, the Lion and Cheetah Park, Victoria Falls, Chimanimani Mountain Range, and Inyangani Mountain. In this country, trips are excellent because there are so many places to visit.

I would very much like to learn about other countries. I want to learn about other people's customs and beliefs, their staple foods, how they dress, and their practices in life. The country I want to visit is the United States because I have heard about its development from the radio, from newspapers, and from my teacher. Although I enjoy learning about other cultures, I know that there are some people who never want to visit foreign countries. That's why in my country they say one man's meat is another man's poison.

# considering customs

**Name:** Republic of Zimbabwe

**Size:** 390,000 square kilometers (about the size of Texas)

**Population:** 11.2 million (about as many as Illinois)

**Religion:** Christian and Mwari, a traditional African religion.

**Money:** Zimbabwe dollar. One issue of New Moon would cost 210 Zimbabwe dollars.

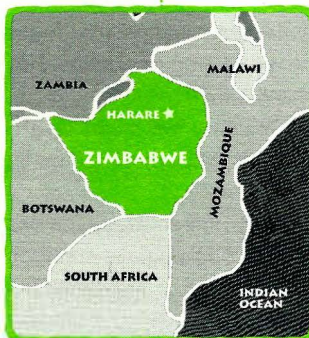
**Food:** *Sadza* (white maize meal porridge) is the main ingredient in most meals. *Nyama* (meat) is usually beef or chicken, but also crocodile and antelope.

Try making this recipe for *Chimodhu* (Children's Bread). Remember to ask for permission before working in the kitchen.

## Chimodhu

- 1/2 cup (1.25 dl) cornmeal
- 2 Tbs. (15 ml) flour
- 1/2 tsp. (2.5 ml) baking soda
- 1/4 tsp. (1.25 ml) salt
- 1 1/2 tsp. (7.5 ml) cooking oil
- 3/4 cup (1 1/4 dl) buttermilk
- 1 egg

Mix cornmeal, flour, baking soda, and salt. Stir in the oil, buttermilk, and egg until just combined. Put a little cooking oil in a skillet and heat over a high flame on your stovetop. Pour small amounts of batter into the skillet to make small- to medium-sized pancakes. Cook until brown and serve. In Zimbabwe, *Chimodhu* is served to kids for breakfast.



**Languages:** English is the official language, but only 2 percent of Zimbabweans grow up speaking it. Most speak a language named Bantu.

**Holidays:** Independence Day is April 18. Houses of Stone Music Festival, a celebration of traditional Zimbabwean music, takes place on a different date each year.

**Social Issues:** The people of Zimbabwe battle racial tension and political conflict. After a lot of fighting, Zimbabwe became independent from Great Britain in 1980. Most Zimbabweans are unhappy with their current leader.

**Famous Women:** Sekai Nzenza-Shand recently wrote a book called *Songs to an African Sunset*. It's about a Zimbabwean woman returning to her country after many years and facing such issues as AIDS, witchcraft, and changing old traditions.

**Cool Wildlife:** Zimbabwe is one of the only places you can find king cheetahs, samango monkeys, and nyalas (antelopes with huge, spiral horns). Also, Zimbabwe is one of Africa's last rhinoceros ranges.

**Women's Rights:** In March 1999, the Zimbabwe Supreme Court took away laws protecting women's rights. This ruling means that the law does not recognize women as equal to men or even as adults.

# Laugh Track

by Bridget Grosser, New Moon Managing Editor



## WHY DO WE LAUGH?

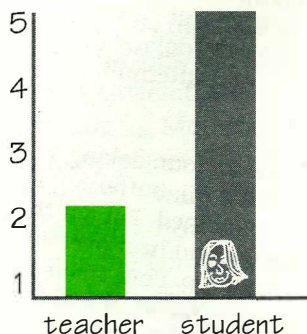
Some psychologists believe that laughter strengthens bonds between people. If we are relaxed, then we feel comfortable enough to laugh. Laughing also relaxes us. Have you ever laughed so hard you felt weak, just like after running hard?

Laughter can also show differences in power. We might laugh when we are nervous or at a joke that's not funny, just because we want to fit in. Sometimes we laugh at other people. This can show aggression toward another person.

Do you wonder what makes your friends, classmates, and teachers laugh? What does it tell you about who has the power in each situation? Sociologists conduct surveys all the time to learn about the differences between people. Ask your teacher or principal for permission to conduct a survey about student laughter. Then conduct this survey on your class and graph the results.

## SURVEY!

1. Choose two jokes.
2. Choose an adult and a student to tell one joke each.
3. Get together two groups of five kids. Don't tell them that you will be watching to see if they laugh. Some of them might laugh on purpose then.
4. Have the student tell her joke to group one. (Keep group two in a separate room so they can't hear what's going on.) Count how many kids laugh out loud.
5. Have the teacher tell her joke to group one. Count how many kids laugh out loud.
6. Repeat the joke-telling steps for group two.
7. Make two bar graphs like this—one for group one, one for group two. The left side has numbers 1 through 5 which show the number of kids who laughed. The bottom shows who told the joke (teacher or student). Make a green bar going straight up from the teacher to the number of kids who laughed. Make a blue bar the same way for the student.



How many kids laughed at the teacher's joke? How many kids laughed at the student's joke? Who did the kids think was funnier? Do you think it's because the joke was funnier? Do they like the joke teller more? If they were fake laughing, why would they do that?

Now do a switcheroo! Get together two different groups of kids and have the teacher and student switch jokes. Follow the same steps as above and graph the new results. Does it turn out that one joke was funnier than the other? How do groups three and four compare to groups one and two?

Share your results with New Moon. What jokes did you use? Who got more laughs? Why? Send your results and analysis to Laughter Survey, New Moon, P.O. Box 3620, Duluth, MN 55803-3620, or e-mail them to [girl@newmoon.org](mailto:girl@newmoon.org) Remember to include your whole name, age, and whole mailing address!

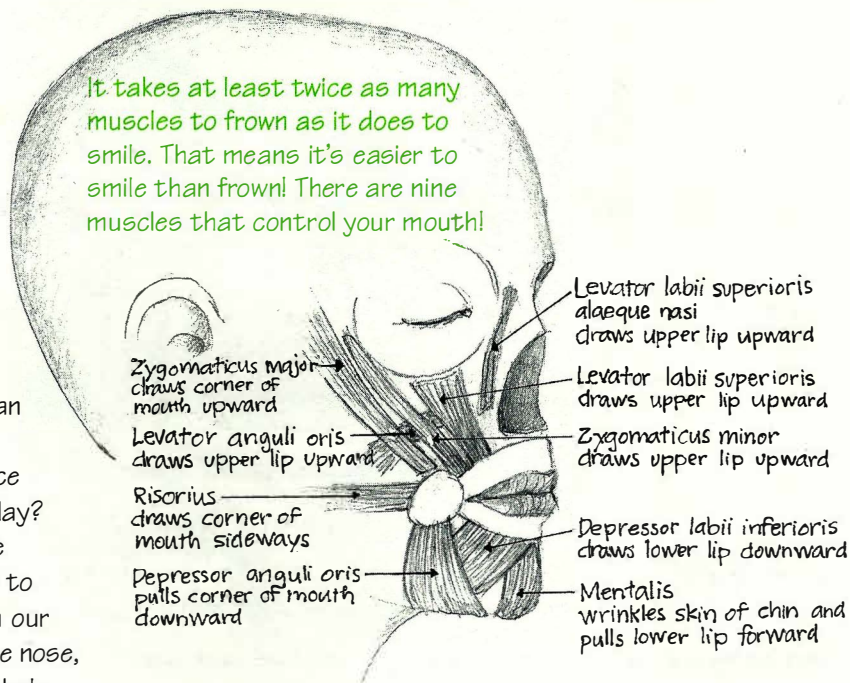
## When You're Smilin'

by Barbara Riedel Sheedy, New Moon Science Advisor

THERE ARE MANY muscles that control movement in your face and neck. These muscles help you to show emotion and make faces. Muscles move the chin, lips, eyes, nose, neck, and mouth. Some people can even wiggle their ears! Have you given your face muscles a workout today?

The chief job of the muscles on the face is to control the openings in our heads—the mouth, the nose, and the eyes. Muscles help protect these openings. Muscles also help these openings do their jobs—eating, listening, blinking, or smelling. Most importantly, muscles help show our emotions.

It takes at least twice as many muscles to frown as it does to smile. That means it's easier to smile than frown! There are nine muscles that control your mouth!



GIRLS EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBER ALYZA'S FAVORITE JOKE:

Jane walked into a restaurant and sat down. A woman sitting nearby noticed that Jane was frowning and said, "You know, it takes a lot more muscles to frown than smile." Jane said, "Well, I have to get my exercise somehow!"

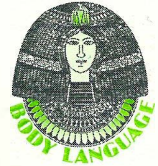
# Laughter: It Does a Body Good

by Heather Henderson

Why did the elephant stand on the marshmallow?  
So she wouldn't fall into the hot chocolate!

Why is six scared of seven?  
Because seven eight nine!

*Okay, so maybe these silly riddles made you groan more than they made you laugh.  
But you have to admit: you smiled a little, didn't you?*



Illustrations by Debbi Hem

And did you know that your smile was healthy?

It's true, laughing and smiling are good for you and your body. Here are just a few of the healthy things your body does when you enjoy a joke with a friend or giggle at a funny movie:

**Your body temperature rises, making you feel warmer.** (So laugh lots when it's snowing.)

**Your muscles contract, and then relax when you laugh.** Laughing works your diaphragm, thorax, stomach muscles, heart, and lungs! (What a work out!)

**Your breathing becomes deeper.** (Kind of like meditating.)

**Certain oxygen levels in your body rise,** which helps your heart and lungs, gives you more energy, and reduces stress. (Just like breathing through an oxygen mask, except you don't have to carry that heavy tank.)

**Laughing boosts your immune system,** causing your body to activate cells that fight off illness-causing microorganisms. (So when your sister sneezes on you, laugh it off!)

# Here are Luna's favorite ways to get a great "workout":

☀️ **Celebrate for no reason at all.** Have an "un-birthday" party. Invite your friends, have a cake, candles, and balloons. Play music and dance around. ☀️ **Run outside in the**

**rain.** Laugh while you try to catch raindrops on your tongue, or try to run between the raindrops. (Betcha can't!) ☀️ **Think of your**

**life as a sitcom,**

where you are the star. Your life is more interesting than anyone's on TV—so enjoy the funny little things that happen to you every day.

☀️ **Be goofy.**

The next time you feel like doing something wacky and different, go for it! Stand on one foot while you're talking to a friend; walk out of your bedroom

backward; make up your own words for things and talk in your own language; make faces at yourself in the mirror; wear a silly hat or mismatch your socks just for the fun of it.

☀️ **Smile at people wherever you go.** It

makes them wonder what you're up to, and it makes them smile, too. Then, before you know it, you're laughing and you don't even know why. Your day will be fun and interesting.

☀️ **Create a humor corner at home.** Put funny videos, books, hats, masks, whatever will make you laugh, in this corner. Then, when-

ever you feel like it, pull something out of this corner and use it to make yourself—or your mom, dad, sister, or brother—laugh.

☀️ **Share your favorite jokes with others.**

Here are some from the Girls Editorial Board:

☀️ **From**

**Emma:** Why did the cookie go to the doctor? Because it was

feeling crumb-y. ☀️ **From Reshma:** 1st girl: I once knew a guy with a wooden leg named Smith. 2nd girl: What was the name of his other leg? ☀️ **From Sadé:** What kind of key doesn't unlock anything? A piano key.



Information for this article partly came from *Relax—You May Only Have a Few Minutes Left* by Loretta LaRoche (Random House 1998). Heather Henderson is the Assistant Director of Dads and Daughters (DADS). She believes a smile a day keeps the doctor away.

# Monk-y Business

by Katy Kondrat

**I**f you know anything about Buddhists or Buddhism, you probably think of a whole bunch of weird and serious guys in long robes going around chanting. That's the image that comes across on TV, in movies, and in books. But the Buddhists I know—including my dad—are not at all serious, even though they are usually weird. Or maybe I should say that they ARE serious, but they don't take things, or themselves, too seriously.

More than in most religions, Buddhist teaching uses humor. Zen Buddhist teachers use brief stories called koans that are mental puzzles. Sometimes the koans are so odd that they are funny. You have probably heard some of the famous ones, like this one: "If a tree falls in the forest, and no one is there to hear it, does it make a sound?" A clever Buddhist is supposed to come up with an answer to the riddles. Teachers use koans as a way to test a Buddhist's understanding. Koans are open-ended; they don't come with an answer. There are many Buddhists around the world who meditate on these koans for hours, days, or even years.

Here's a funny story about the way Buddhists see reality: Two Buddhist monks challenged each other to a dharma combat (sort of like a debate). One monk was from Tibet, and the other was from Korea. The Tibetan monk had been in solitude for many years, and had a very penetrating mind. The Korean monk was much younger, but had been known to stump others with his questions about reality. After a long period of silence, the Korean monk pulled an orange out of his robe and asked the other monk, "What is this? WHAT IS THIS?" (He expected to stump the other guy about whether the orange really existed or was just an idea in his mind.) Finally, the Tibetan monk asked, "Don't you have oranges where you come from?"

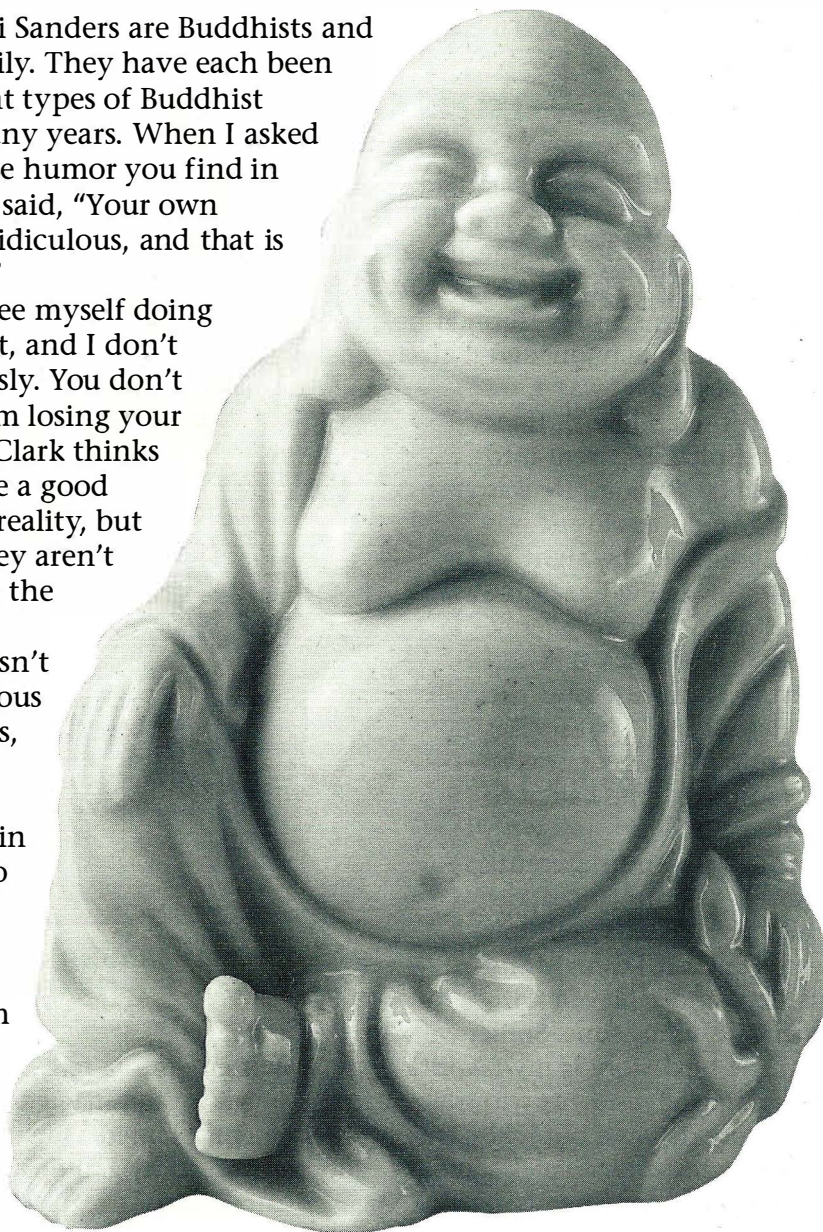


"If a tree falls in the forest, and no one is there to hear it, does it make a sound?"

Clark and Lotti Sanders are Buddhists and friends of my family. They have each been practicing different types of Buddhist meditation for many years. When I asked them, "What is the humor you find in Buddhism?" Lotti said, "Your own thinking can get ridiculous, and that is humorous to me."

Clark said, "I see myself doing things out of habit, and I don't take myself seriously. You don't gain anything from losing your sense of humor." Clark thinks that if people have a good understanding of reality, but are too serious, they aren't free enough to see the humor in life. He added that he doesn't always feel humorous when he meditates, but when he sees some of the crazy stuff that goes on in his head, he has to smile.

My friends explained to me that Zen Buddhism is not based on rules. Buddhists believe rules can take humor out of life. During the course of my research on humor and Buddhism, I have come to the conclusion that depending on whom you ask, you will get many different answers about the connection between humor and Buddhism. What all the Buddhists I've met have in common is a great sense of humor, and that is what helps them see the lighter side of life.



# Clowns on Call

BY BONNIE LYN FITE

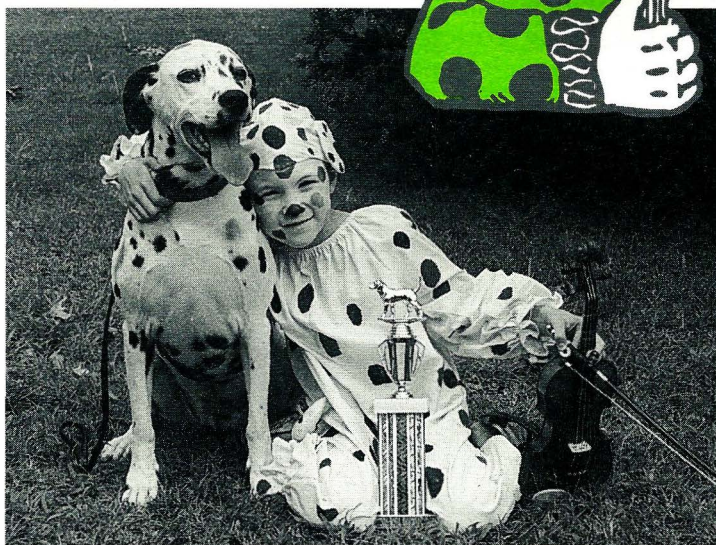
**I LOVE TO CLOWN!** I learned to clown at Camp Funnybone. It's a camp that teaches you how to juggle, make balloon animals, do magic tricks, mime, do skits, and put on makeup. After camp, I joined Caring Clown Kids. It's a group of kids who dress as clowns and perform at hospitals and retirement centers. It is so much fun, and it always makes me happy.

Once, when I was 4, we visited the children's floor in a hospital. We went into a small boy's room. He was only 17 months old and was frightened at the sight of adult clowns. But he saw me as a friend, not an enemy. Everyone left the room and let me stay with him. He smiled at me! That's what clowning is all about: smiles!

Another time I went to a city clinic to play with kids while their parents waited in line to see the doctor. The kids couldn't speak English. I went in and smiled, and I played with them for a long time. Smiles work in any language!

The next story is my favorite of all. We often go to a retirement center where we entertain the residents with skits, singing, juggling, and magic tricks. I play the violin while others hand out jokes. One of the residents planted a big wildflower garden just so kids who visit can pick some. I've adopted him as my grandpa. Now he comes to my house for dinner, attends my violin performances, and is a regular member of my family!

I feel very happy when someone smiles because I cheered her up. It's a special reward, like a kiss from a relative or a hug from a friend. It's always a pleasure to make someone happy. I hope you will make someone smile today.



**BONNIE LYN CLOWNS AROUND WITH HER DOG, INKY. INKY "SINGS" WHEN BONNIE LYN PLAYS HER VIOLIN!**



Bonnie Lyn Fite, 10, lives in Oklahoma with her parents and many pets. She enjoys biking, playing violin, reading, and playing with her friends in her big back yard! Bonnie Lyn loves serving other people and making them laugh.

# POETRY

## Inspirations

Prose inspires poetry  
And poems inspire books  
Books inspire movies  
Produced by filthy crooks.  
Crooks inspire tragedy  
Tragedy brings tears  
Tears cultivate catastrophe  
And devastation nears.  
Devastation makes one think  
And thoughts inspire prose  
Prose inspires poetry  
And on and on it goes.

**KATHERINE ASSEF, 13 • MINNESOTA**



## Late!

I came to school late one day,  
To find that things had gone astray.  
The kids were nutty as can be,  
Crazy far as I could see!  
The teachers all were silly too,  
Sitting there and eating glue.  
In Math we played some games you see,  
But not games known to you or me.  
We counted kids while upside-down,  
Hanging from the ceiling round.  
In Spelling we learned some funny words  
Like bigglewort and fairydords.  
In Science we blew Jimmy through the wall.  
He's our new human cannonball.  
In Social Studies we used the new guillotine  
To chop the head off of the queen.  
Unfortunately the queen was Sue.  
So we put her head back with extra glue!  
When school was finished  
At the end of the day  
And all the children  
Went away,  
Then I wondered if I could wait,  
So EVERYDAY I could be late!

**IRENA LINDMAN, 11 • OHIO**

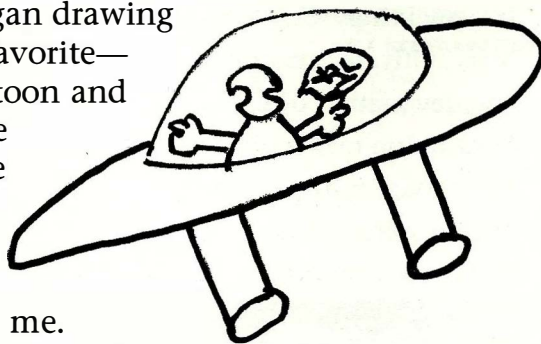
*bigglewort and fairydords*

# TOON IN!

by Andrea Peres

I have always loved drawing cartoons.

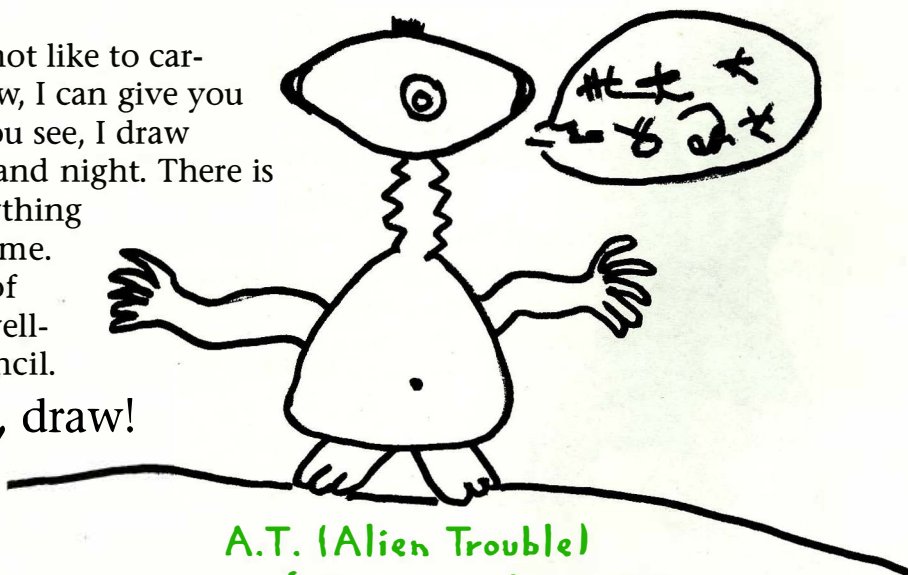
When I was about six years old, I began drawing people, aliens, cats, dogs, and—my favorite—horses. The difference between a cartoon and a drawing is that usually cartoons are made-up characters and drawings are of real things. One of my cartoon characters is a virtual alien, named A.T (Alien Trouble). It goes on many adventures with its family and me.



Ever since I started cartooning, I have had this feeling that I would be famous someday. Maybe I would be in the local newspaper. Give me that front page! I would live as a very, very happy girl.

If you do not like to cartoon right now, I can give you lots of tips. You see, I draw cartoons day and night. There is not really anything that can stop me. Grab a piece of paper and a well-sharpened pencil.

Ready, set, draw!



A.T. (Alien Trouble)  
on one of its many adventures.

**Think of something and draw it.** I get my inspiration from watching cartoons on television and the funny pages in the newspaper. My favorite cartoonist is the artist who draws the pictures for *The Angry Beavers* on Nickelodeon.

It takes me 15 to 30 minutes to draw a cartoon, depending on how big it is and how much detail it has. I sometimes draw comic strips with words. That usually takes more time because I have to make the people or characters the same in every frame of the strip.

Most of my cartoons are of animals. But the people I have drawn are teenagers, my mom, Santa Claus, myself, my brother, and my fifth-grade teacher, Mrs. Allen. I have made other cartoons, but they are not really people. They are called Big Heads. A Big Head is a character with an oversized head and a small body. The ones I have drawn are football players Troy Aikman and Emmitt Smith.

My parents and other relatives give me lots of encouragement. My grandma used to be an artist and taught me how to draw better and to use shading. My relatives say, "Good job," "Wonderful," and sometimes even, "May I have that?"

Some people have offered me 25 cents for funny cartoons I have drawn, like basketball player Charles "Bark"ley—a dog with a Phoenix Suns outfit. Another funny picture I drew was of my friend Elizabeth, also known as Tibby or Sharky. Everybody at school cracked up laughing. So did Tibby!

A trick to drawing is believing in yourself and having a good imagination. No matter what I do, I will keep on drawing cartoons. I like drawing cartoons because it is easy, fun, and makes me feel good. Everybody compliments me and asks me to draw and autograph pictures for them. They say my drawings might be worth a lot of money someday! I just say, "Maybe they will."

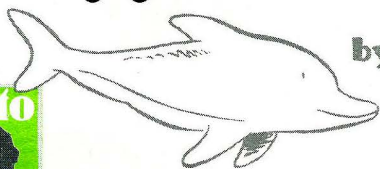
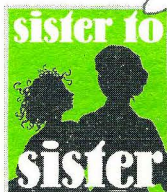
I encourage every girl or boy in the world to try drawing cartoons. Drawing cartoons lets you and others enjoy what you do. It can also make people smile.



One of Andrea's Big Heads, football player Troy Aikman.

# Happiness Under the Sea

by Alison Boyd



## Some of my friends spend

their summer vacations at the beach swimming in the ocean,

but I spend mine scuba diving beneath it. For the last three summers, I spent part of my vacation swimming with tropical fish (and an occasional shark!).

It all started with my dad, who's been scuba diving for more than 20 years and wanted me to follow in his footsteps. I was 15 when my father's friend began teaching me. Each session included watching videos, reading dive manuals, and reviewing information needed for diving certification. I really didn't like these classes because I felt my father was forcing me to learn.

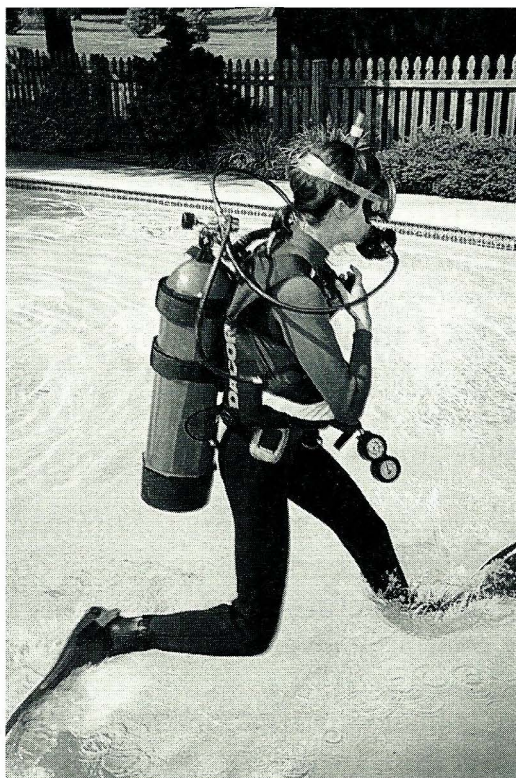
But as we began practicing diving techniques and skills in a nearby pool, scuba diving began to interest me more. It was neat to be able to stay underwater without surfacing for air. I learned the proper way to use equipment and what to do in emergencies. The scariest thing,

and the one I hated, was taking off my mask underwater. The first time I did this, I rushed to the surface, gasping for air. Eventually I learned how to breathe in through my mouth and exhale through my nose to keep the water out.

After I mastered the basic skills at a pool in Maryland, it was time for my check-out dives. Check-outs are a series of four dives with an instructor. You perform skills to show that you are responsible, knowledgeable, and ready for open water certification. My family and I were vacationing in Florida, so I took my check-out dives there, off Pompano Beach, where the waters are much clearer and warmer than in Maryland.

Even though I was kind of nervous

before the dives, I knew what to expect. I had to properly assemble my equipment on my own and demonstrate four ways to enter the water. Once underwater—between depths of 15 and 30 feet—I showed that I could maintain



**Alison uses one of four entry methods while learning to dive.**

Photos by Ellsworth Boyd

buoyancy, breathe from a spare regulator if needed, buddy breathe, use a compass, and keep track of my depth and air supply.

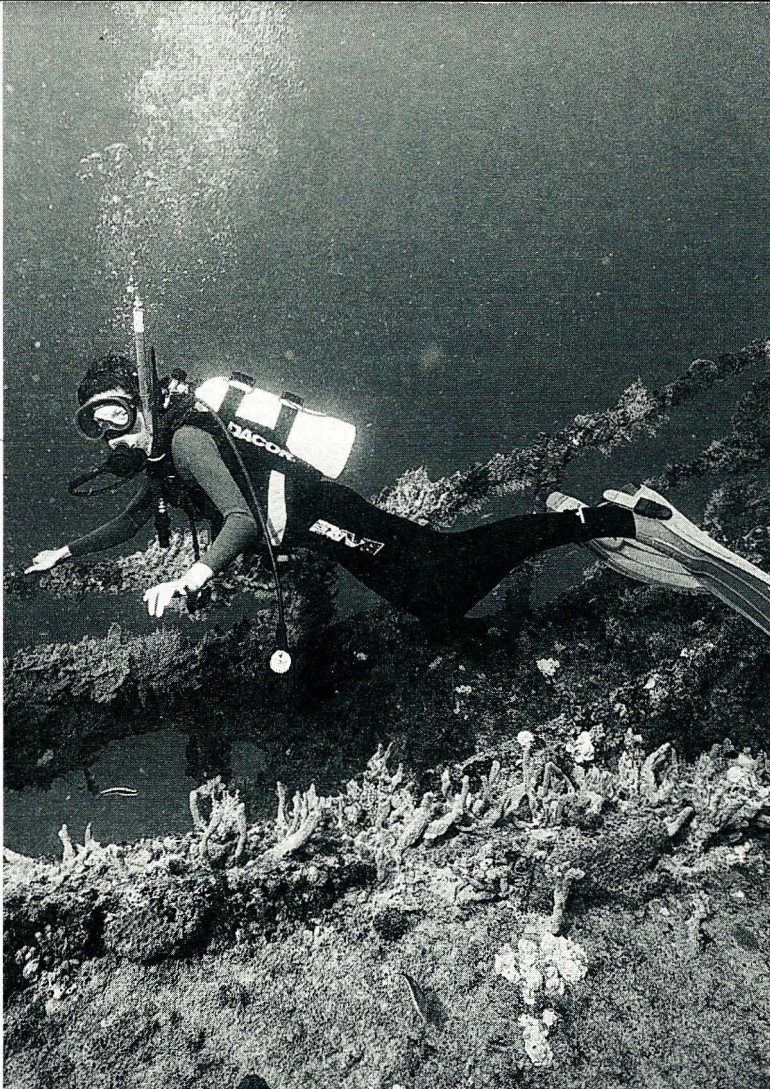
My instructor and I completed two dives each day and finished in two days. Although he said the water wasn't as clear as usual and that the current was stronger, I wasn't concerned. I also wasn't fearful of the six-foot-long nurse shark we saw on the coral reef as we drifted along. I just concentrated on completing my skills. I passed with flying colors and got my open water diver certification. I was glad it was over and proud of myself. My father was also very proud of me. It was a memorable moment.

The next summer, my family headed to the island of Aruba, off South America. There, my father and I dove on some spectacular shipwrecks and a sunken airplane. On one dive, we entered a storage room in one of the shipwrecks, where it was dark and scary. I researched the ship when I returned home and learned about its interesting history.

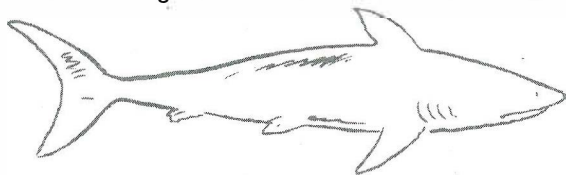
My feelings about diving have changed. In the beginning, I felt my father was forcing me into diving. Now when I'm under the water,

peacefully observing the aquatic life, I feel truly happy I took the time to become a certified diver. Also, being dive buddies has brought my father and me closer together.

If you're swimming in the ocean next summer, look for a dive boat anchored offshore. Then look for my dad and me. We might just be below you, buddies together, swimming with the fish.



**Alison explores a shipwreck off Pompano Beach, Florida.**



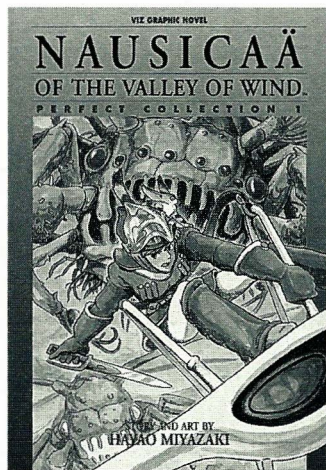
*Seventeen-year-old Alison Boyd is a high school senior from Maryland. She thinks angelfish are heavenly.*

# Check It Out

Dear Readers: These books will keep you laughing and tears rolling down your cheeks. Some of them are happy tales; some of them are true stories. Get your funny bone in gear and check them out! Love, Luna.



- 101 Wacky Computer Jokes by Genevieve Stamper (Point 1998)  
*City of Light, City of Dark: A Comic Book Novel* illustrated by Brian Floca Avi (Orchard Books 1995)  
*Jewish Humor Stories for Kids* by Irmela Wendt (Pitspopany Press 1998)  
*Laughs: Funny Stories* by Claire MacKay (Tundra Books 1997)  
*Stand Back, Said the Elephant, I'm Going to Sneeze* by Patricia Thomas (Lothrop Lee & Shepard 1990)  
*How to Survive Junior High* by Ann Hodgman (Troll Assoc. 1994)



## Book Review

by Sarah Stephens, 14, Ontario, Canada

**Nausicaä of the Valley of Wind, Perfect Collection 1  
by Hayao Miyazaki (Viz Communications 1995)**

"In a few short centuries, industrial civilization had spread from the western fringes of Eurasia to sprawl across the face of the planet. . . . The cities burned, welling up as clouds of poison in the war remembered as the seven days of fire."

This is part of the introduction to *Nausicaä of the Valley of Wind* (Perfect Collection 1); followed by a haunting graphic, the manga begins. A manga is a detailed and well-drawn comic book with an interesting story that draws the reader in. Manga comics originated in Japan. Nausicaä is about a young princess who must stop war from spreading in her homeland, the Valley of Wind. To do so, she must go to faraway lands and try to negotiate peace. She gets into many adventures along the way.

I liked the art. The scenery was very realistic; the faces of the characters were drawn simply. The story is very interesting; it reaches out to you and asks for your complete attention. The characters all have their own personalities, which makes them very interesting to read about. *Nausicaä of the Valley of Wind* is a little different from other mangas and books. The characters are more simply drawn than in most mangas, such as *Sailor Moon*, but this style really suits the storyline.

I would recommend this book to any fan of Japanese comics, or anyone who has heard of Japanese comics and is interested in them.

# Hodge Podge

## What's New at New Moon

**Eight new members** joined our Girls Editorial Board this spring! Find out who they are at our website—[www.newmoon.org](http://www.newmoon.org)

While you're at it, check out all the other **great stuff at our website**. Read stories from back issues of New Moon, write to Luna, and lots more. Give us a click!

**Looking for a girls' program** in your town? New Moon and Girls International Forum have created an online list of programs for girls all over the U.S. It's on our website ([www.newmoon.org](http://www.newmoon.org)). And if you know a program that's not listed but should be, e-mail it to the list.

If the Web's not your thing, you can still spend time with us this summer by **reading our two new books**, *New Moon on Friendship* and *New Moon on Sports*, available in early August. Nine girls from across the U.S. spent last year creating the *New Moon* book series, published by Crown Books for Children. The series includes writing by girls, problems and solutions, resources, and cool activities. Order them by calling us at 1-800-381-4743 or ask for them at your neighborhood bookstore.

## Thank You!

This issue's great BIG thank you goes to **Tiffany Braithwaite** of Massachusetts. She brought copies of New Moon to her school librarian. Now, her school subscribes and lots of her classmates are also ordering New Moon!

What have you done to let other people know about New Moon? We want to thank girls who are spreading the word, so write and tell us how you are helping. You might end up in a future issue of the magazine!

## Our Mistakes!

In the March/April 1999 "Herstory: Sleeping Lions," we gave incorrect information about Meena's death. The correct date is February 4, 1987. Agents from the Islamic Party of Afghanistan, not the Taliban, probably killed her.

In the May/June 1999 "Considering Customs" map, what was labelled as Hungary is actually Yugoslavia!



This cartoon was created by thirteen-year-old Crescent Sullivan. Crescent lives in Arizona, where she enjoys drawing and painting. Her work has appeared in both magazines and museums.

# IN THE WILD

by Mary Lawton



© Lawton mlawton@ben.fmc.edu



*We are  
not amused!*

**Queen Victoria**

Alexandrina Victoria was born in London on May 24, 1819. At age 18, she became Queen of England. Her 64-year rule ended with her death in 1901. Queen Victoria said this famous quote when she came upon one of her grooms-in-waiting doing an imitation of her!

**The Last Word**

This issue's cover was painted in watercolor by Carolyn Watson-Dubisch. Carolyn has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in illustration from the School of Visual Arts in New York City. She teaches drawing and painting classes and develops children's books. She lives in the Catskill mountains of New York with her husband and daughter.

