

New Moon®

The Magazine for Girls and Their Dreams

Should Kids Vote?

**Be Your Own
Best Leader**

**Keeping
Score—
Save Girls' Sports**

**Politics &
Leaders**

September/October 2006
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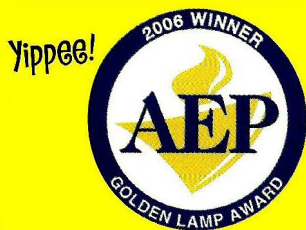
The Magazine For Girls and
Their Dreams

September/October 2006

Volume XIV Issue 1

Politics and Leaders

www.newmoon.org



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.

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Cover Art

Amanda McLeod



Amanda has been drawing since she was a girl. She earned a Bachelor of Design from Alberta College of Art and Design. She enjoys running, salsa dancing, doing arts and crafts with her niece, eating almost anything made with chocolate, and basking in warm weather. She dreams of traveling to different parts of the world.

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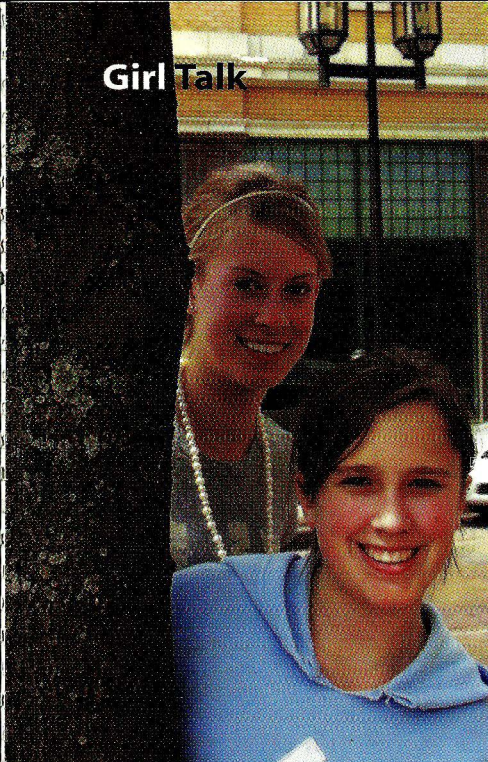
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Girl Talk



To our radiant readers:

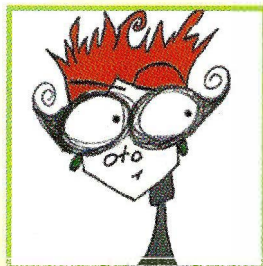
We believe girls can influence the government and the world! That's why this issue is all about politics and leaders. In "It's So Political!" you can read four girls' opinions on the political issues they care about most. Then, meet one girl leader who fought for freedom of speech in "Break the Silence."

Lots of girls say they would vote for a woman president. But did you know women already lead three countries? Charina says, "Each of the women in 'Three Women on Top of the World' saw something that she wanted to improve in her country, and she worked until she got it."

Brittany, who plays volleyball, admires the women who made sure girls and boys have equal opportunities in U.S. schools—and in sports. A congresswoman named Edith Green was one of the first to speak up about it. Read about Edith's law, Title IX, in "Keeping Score."

We hope this issue inspires you to speak out in your community and make a difference. Good luck!

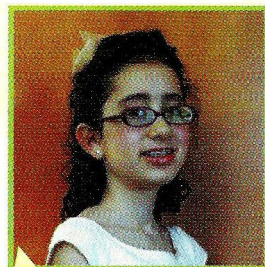
Brittany & Charina



Charlotte Steinecke, 14, writes from Maryland, where she lives with her mother, father, and sister. Charlotte reads too much, writes, draws, daydreams, and listens to

music. Charlotte explores the art of protesting in her article, "How to Overthrow the Government."

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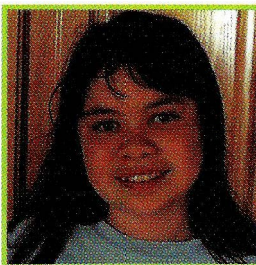


Emily Cutler, 11, lives with her parents and three dogs in Alabama. She enjoys playing piano and clarinet, writing, and designing webpages. She wants to be a scientist and discover evidence of parallel universes. Emily talks about lowering the voting age in "Voice Box." *Page 27*




Lior Appel-Kraut, 11, has spent her whole life in Michigan with her mom, dad, and two brothers. She dreams of saving trees, which she thinks

are the best part of nature. Lior used to hate writing, but now she wants to write for a living! She writes about choosing a political party in her article, "Under the Influence." *Page 28*



Margaret Foley, 9, lives in New Brunswick with her mother, father, little sister, and pet guinea pig. She affirmed her love of science and learned more about Canadian history while writing her article, "Dig In." *Page 40*

Politics and Leaders

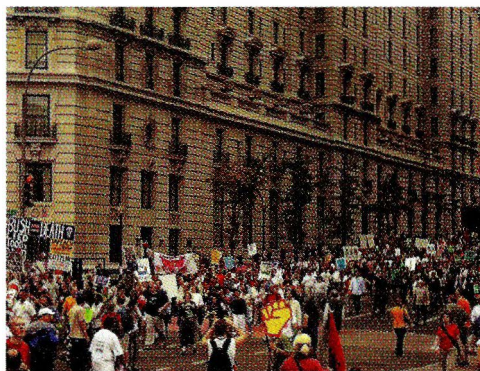
 by girls



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YOUR thoughts on important issues.



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Or at least get heard.

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Billie Jean and Edith Green
go to bat for girls.




Find the 10 Luna Tics hidden in every issue!



This issue's Luna Tics are drawn by Marissa, 10, from Grosse Ile, Michigan
and Katherine, 13, from Concord, Massachusetts.


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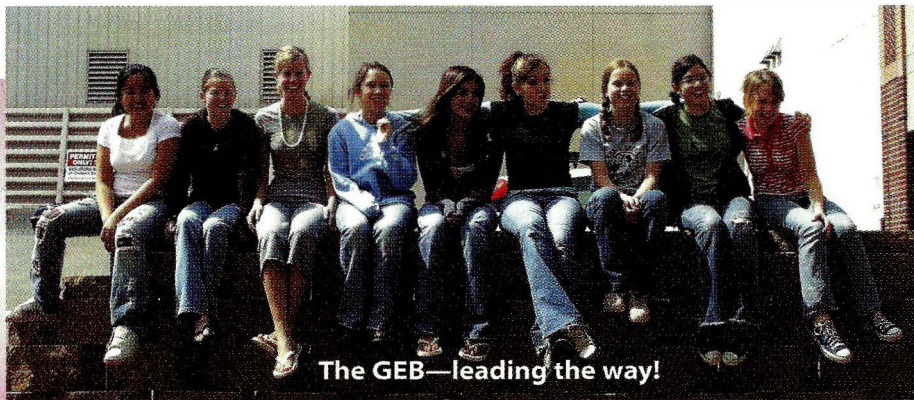
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When you see me, go to
www.forgirlsandtheirdreams.org

Luna Click drawn by Marissa, 10, from
Grosse Ile, Michigan.



The GEB—leading the way!

Dear Luna

I'm Luna, the spirit of
New Moon magazine!
Do you have something
to say to me?
I love to hear from you!
Write to me!

Dear Luna,
I'm writing in response to Emily's letter in the January/February 2006 issue. Emily said she was sad to see politics in New Moon, but I disagree. I'm REALLY into feminism and I'm really aware about what's going on in the world. Democrats, republicans, communists, anarchists—we should all be heard. Adult men (and very recently, women) shouldn't be the only ones ruling the world. GIRLS and boys should, too. Keep printing stuff about politics, New Moon. YOU ROCK!!!

Sarah, 12
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Dear Sarah: Thanks for your encouragement. As you can see from this issue, we agree that political discussion has a

place in New Moon. Also, watch for our January/February 2007 issue, called "Letter to Congress." We'll be sending girls' ideas about politics and policies to every member of the U.S. Congress. You can help encourage Congress to listen to girls by taking our survey at www.newmoon.org. **Love, Luna.**

Dear Luna,
I love your magazine and how you print unique articles in it, rather than the usual makeup, fashion, and celebrity stories. You have a great message for girls and it inspires me to try my hardest. I love the "Draw Luna" section. All of the drawings are so creative! Luna, I like to think of you as a woman who sits on the moon and watches us from up there, helping to guide girls. New Moon is one of my favorite magazines. Keep up the good work!

Jackie, 11
Hanover, Massachusetts

Dear Luna,
I agree with Amy, who said that anti-gay opinions are too

strongly represented in our society (January/February 2006). Two of my good friends have two moms and I've never had a problem with it.

I also liked Rachel Lazar's article, "Censor This!," in that issue. The part about the underground newspapers reminded me of a book I read called *The Landry News* by Andrew Clements. In it, a girl starts a newspaper at her school and people really take notice. It's a really good book! I think it would be great if you could print a list of books girls recommend. I love the Harry Potter series, The Chronicles of Narnia, A Series of Unfortunate Events, the Young Jedi Knights series, and a lot more.

Maya, 11
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Dear Maya: Thanks for all the great ideas—check out "Check it Out" on page 22. Lots of girls have asked for more book recommendations, so we've added a book review to every issue. If you'd like to submit a book review, see page 8 for submission details. Keep reading! **Love, Luna.**



Dear Luna,

Thanks so much for giving girls an awesome, refreshing magazine that inspires them to be themselves. I loved "Look at You!" (January/February 2006). I was six feet tall when I was in seventh grade, and sometimes it was hard to make people see past my height. Now, I can let people know that I'm a funky, art-loving, music-making writer, not just a big body. Thanks for helping me become my own beautiful self!

Anna, 13

Kennedy, Minnesota

Dear New Moon,

I really like your magazine, but something you published in the November/December 2005 issue hurt and offended me. In your article about stereotypes, Rachel wrote: "Stereotype: All Jews are super-religious and weird." She goes on to say how she doesn't keep kosher or attend a Jewish school. This offended me because I'm what she might call "super-religious" but I don't think it's "weird." It's who I am. I attend a Jewish day school, keep kosher, and

speak Hebrew.

This article seems to say a Jew like me is "weird." I feel we must all try to be tolerant of others' levels of observance. I hope you will clarify that article by printing this letter. Thank you very much for your time.

Clara, 13

White Plains, New York

Dear Clara: We included "Staring Down Stereotypes" in our November/December 2005 issue because we wanted to dispel stereotypes. You're right—it isn't weird to be religious and we should've paid more attention to the language we used in that article. We know that girls are wonderful just for being themselves and that our beliefs, actions, and ideas are what make us each special. At New Moon, we respect each girl for her unique voice. It takes a lot of guts to speak up. Thanks for writing!

Love, Luna.

Dear Luna,

Thanks for publishing "No More Secrets!" by Jessica Weiner in your November/

December 2003 issue. I hope if girls read this article, they'll know that bulimia is bad for you. It's important to tell someone if you're struggling with an eating disorder. It's a scary thing to handle alone. It doesn't matter what shape your body is as long as you care for it. I hope Jessica Weiner is still doing well!

Darby, 9

Hanover, New Hampshire

Dear Darby: You're right about eating disorders—they're really scary. Talking to someone you trust can help. If you feel worried about talking to someone you know, you can call the National Eating Disorders Association hotline at 1-800-931-2237. The call is free and won't show up on your phone bill. Jessica Weiner is doing great—we just saw her at the Turn Beauty Inside Out conference in New York City (www.tbio.org). She recently wrote a book called *Do I Look Fat in This?* Her book helps young women develop a more positive body image. You can buy it at the New Moon Store—just visit

www.newmoonstore.com.

Love, Luna.

Dear Luna,
I used to dread reading the “Dear Luna” section. There were few letters that were NOT responses to other letters. Often they’d only talk about how another person was wrong. It got to be so “my-way-is-better” that I almost wouldn’t read it. In the March/April 2006 issue, though, I didn’t see any letters like that. Thanks so much!

I always try to phrase my opinions as “I think . . .” or “I believe . . .” instead of “This is not true!” or “This is wrong!” I think it’s great to be passionate about your opinions, but it’s important to respect others’ ideas, also.

On a different subject, I’d like to see longer articles. I notice that the Global Village article is always four pages, while other articles are one or two pages, with lots of pictures. I’d much rather read an in-depth article on one topic, rather than several short and general ones.

Emily, 13

Sioux City, Iowa

Dear Luna,
Hi! I’ve been reading New Moon for almost a year now. I think it’s the BEST MAGAZINE in the WORLD! It’s good to have a magazine just for girls where everyone listens to what you want to say.

This is the first time I’ve ever written to a magazine. I’m kind of shy but it feels good to write to New Moon.

Marley, 9

Wakefield, Quebec

Dear Luna,
I ordered a back issue from New Moon once, and I saw that there was part two of a fiction story. Do you still do “To be continued” stories? I have a story that I’d like to submit, but it’s longer than 3,000 words. Is it possible to have longer stories split into two parts for two different issues?

Mari, 11

Ann Arbor, Michigan

Dear Mari: We used to print excerpts from novels and “To be continued” stories, but we don’t anymore. You can still send us your story, though. If we decide to publish a 3,000-word story, then we’ll help

you edit it so it fits in the magazine. We love to publish stories by girls, so if you’ve written something, then send it to us! Our submission guidelines are on page 8. We can’t wait to hear from you!


Love, Luna.

Dear New Moon,
“Fantasies and Fairy Tales” is by far my favorite issue (March/April 2006). Tamora Pierce is my favorite author, so I was really excited to see her interview! I also loved the article about daydreaming. I tried it out and imagined myself winning a huge national horse show on my horse, Lady Roxanne. I have mixed feelings about my daydream—I know that this is a huge goal and I probably won’t win nationals. But even if I don’t, I’m going to keep trying because I love to ride!

Anna, 13

Mattawan, Michigan

Dear Luna,
I think you have a great magazine, and I want to say thanks to the GEB and everyone who works so hard on it. I look forward to getting every issue. I’m going to



make a donation soon. If everyone contributes, then maybe New Moon can come out EVERY month!

Thanks for creating such a great magazine!

Elisha, 11
Scottsville, Virginia

Dear Luna,
I just want to say how much I enjoy your magazine. It's a safe place where we girls can express ourselves. Your magazine helps me so much. I love to read what other girls are thinking. In my school, we were discussing the topic, "What freedom means to me." That really got me thinking—I think we're still working for freedom in the United States. What I mean is that women, gays, African Americans, and all people of color are still fighting for equal rights. I don't think we're truly a free nation, even though we have more rights than some other countries. And I'm concerned that we're losing rights we've always taken for granted, such as the right to privacy. Whose rights will we have to fight for next?

Alina, 14
Bath, Pennsylvania

Dear Luna,
I love New Moon. I used to subscribe to *American Girl*, but I thought most of the questions and stuff were really basic, such as, "What do I do if I'm afraid of the dark?" Sure, that's a reasonable question, but do you really have to write to a magazine for the answer? The questions people write to you are good questions that people need answers to and probably couldn't talk about anywhere else.

I also really think you should talk in New Moon about the less common religions, such as Unitarian Universalism. There are tons of people who are Unitarians, but often people ask, "So, are you Christian or Jewish?" I think that's unfair to girls who are neither, and more people should be educated about different religions. You can get more information about Unitarian Universalists at www.uua.org.

Katie, 12
Topanga, California

Dear Luna,
I like this magazine because it has actual girls talking and writing, not just some fake characters that adults make up. I think it's great that girls can talk about their feelings, things that bother them, and stuff they like. I like that girls can show their artwork and say things to the whole world. It proves that we can live with mistakes and we're all unique. New Moon helps us believe that we're strong and beautiful, no matter what we look like or what we do. I hope you publish a lot more issues!

Evie, 9
Hanover, New Hampshire

Dear Luna,
I just wanted to tell you that your wonderful magazine has inspired me for years. Sadly, I've now outgrown New Moon, but I'll definitely encourage younger girls to subscribe. So, thank you and goodbye for now. Someday I hope to get my daughter a subscription to New Moon, so keep up the good work!

Hannah, 16
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Get Published in New Moon

1 *Girls* can write for **EVERY** department in *New Moon*. ARTICLES should be between 600 and 1,200 words. Write

letters and *poems* as long or as short as you want. **ARTWORK** for "Draw

Luna," "Luna's Art Gallery," and "Luna Tics" must be **your own original idea**

and created on unlined paper. **2** INCLUDE your complete **NAME**, complete

ADDRESS, and **AGE**—otherwise we can't consider publishing your work. New Moon will NEVER

publish your address in the magazine or share it with people outside of New Moon.

3 Send your writing and art to us at:

New Moon:

Department Name

(like "Poetry" or "Voice Box"),

2 W. First St. #101,

Duluth, MN 55802, USA,

or email it to girl@newmoon.org.

Put the department name in the subject line.



* If you don't hear from us within six months of sending your work, it means we weren't able to use it. Keep trying! If you send a letter, watch our letters pages and see if yours shows up there.

Variations on a Theme

Your writing has the best chance of being published if it fits with one of our themes:

Theme:

25 Beautiful Girls

City Girl, Country Girl

The Great Debate

Deadline:

October 1, 2006

December 1, 2006

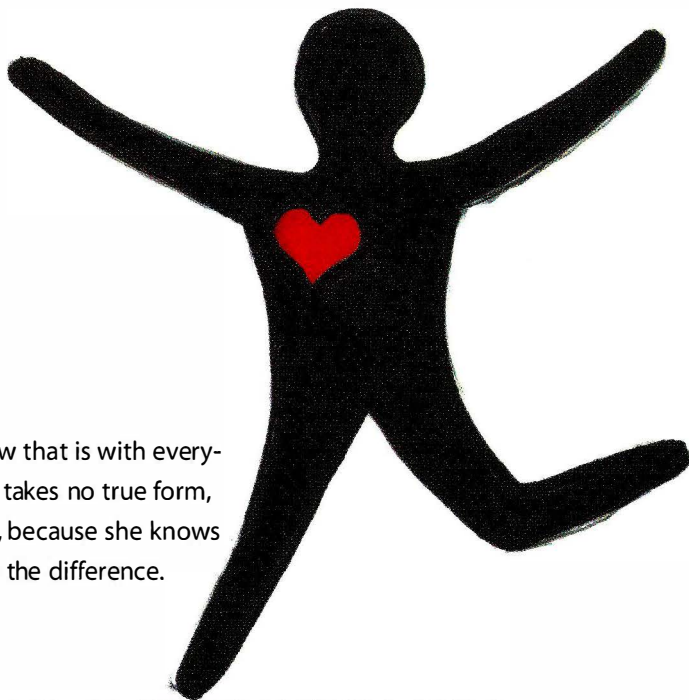
February 15, 2007



For more information, visit www.newmoon.org and click on "Submissions."

Draw Luna

Luna is the spirit of New Moon. What do you think she 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!



I think Luna is the shadow that is with everyone and everything. She takes no true form, and has no true features, because she knows that what's inside makes the difference.

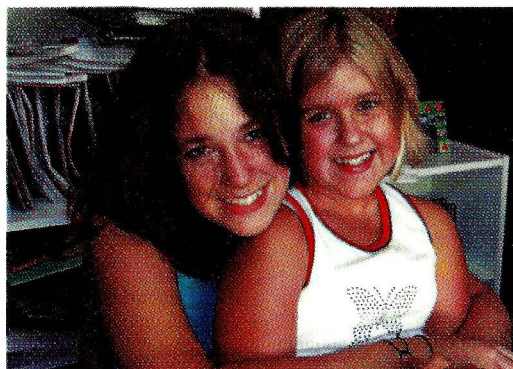
Meara Cafferata, 14
Maine



I think Luna is a forest girl who keeps everyone safe, happy, and active.

Emily Arnold,
11 • Vermont

Ask a Girl



Ask a Girl is an advice column
for you and by you.

We help each other and
take our problems seriously.



Dear Ask a Girl:

My friends are pressuring me to get a boyfriend. I don't think I'm ready, but I don't want to lose my friends. What should I do?

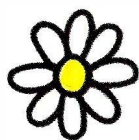
Emma, 10 • California

Your answers to Emma:

Dear Emma,
I've been in a situation like this. You can go along with your friends, or you can go your own way. If you don't feel comfortable having a boyfriend, that's fine. My opinion? I think we're too young for boyfriends. Tell your friends you don't like that idea. Who knows—maybe one of them feels the same way, and she'll stand up with you. Trust your heart!
Rebecca, 10
Massachusetts

Dear Emma,
I think you should tell your friends—politely, but in no uncertain terms—that you're not ready to have a boyfriend. It's normal for you to be worried about their reactions. But if you don't do anything, the pressure could get worse. If you want, tell them your mom said you can't have a boyfriend yet—I'm sure she'll agree! If they tell you to disobey her, they're definitely not worth it. Hey, I'm older than you, and I'm STILL not ready for a boyfriend. Don't rush yourself!
Danica, 13
Pennsylvania

Dear Emma,
I've never had a boyfriend, gone on a date, or kissed anyone, and many of my friends haven't, either. I'm friends with all sorts of people—I don't judge them based on what kind of relationships they have or haven't had, and they don't judge me! If your friends are good friends, they'll respect your decision, and you'll stay friends with them.
Emily, 16
Maryland



Dear Ask a Girl:

I don't like my mom's new boyfriend. He buys me gifts and food, but that doesn't make me happy. My mom spends more time with him than with me. I feel lonely and depressed, and I often act mean when I don't want to. Please help!

Caitlin, 11 • New Mexico

Because we get
so many letters
for Ask a Girl,
we can only
print a few.
Sorry we can't
respond to every
letter.

Your answers to Caitlin:

Dear Caitlin,

You're going through a tough situation. My dad brought his girlfriend with us on vacation, and I felt like he spent more time with her than with my sister and me. I encourage you to talk to your mom. I know this can be hard, but it's important to express how you feel about her boyfriend and express what you want—for her to spend more time with you. Maybe you could even ask for an appointment with a school guidance counselor or a therapist, so you and your mom can both talk about your needs.

Janine, 14
Virginia

Dear Caitlin,

After my parents' divorce a couple years ago, my mom got a new boyfriend. I was really confused and disappointed, thinking she'd spend more time with him than with me. Over time, I came to love him. Now we're good friends and consider each other family. Just let time do its thing, and it'll probably work out. In the meantime, talk to your mom and tell her how you feel.

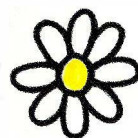
Sarah, 12
Vermont

Here's a new letter asking for help.

Dear Ask a Girl:

This year a boy in my class started saying really mean comments about other kids. A girl in my class is really emotional, so he makes fun of her by saying things like, "Ohh, I need to get my blanky before I cry." He says racist things about a Black girl in my class. And he said, "Go eat your Twinkies" to someone who has a bigger body than his. He's really hurting people, and I want to find a way to make him stop.

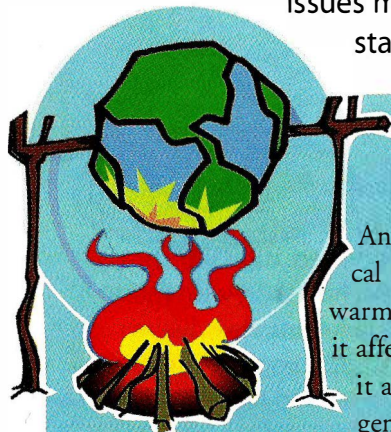
Emily, 12 • Massachusetts



It's So **Political!**

YOUR thoughts on important issues.

Since this issue is all about politics and leaders, we wanted to hear which political issues matter to you. You gave us your thoughts on everything from standardized tests to patriotism. Here are just a few opinions:



Is it hot in here?

An important political issue is global warming. Not only does it affect our generation, it also will affect generations after us.

Most scientists agree that humans are at least partially responsible for global warming. Cars and factories emit carbon dioxide, methane, and other greenhouse gases, which trap heat waves from the sun beneath the gases that cover the Earth. That means the Earth gets hotter. Global warming poses a threat to polar bears in the Arctic because of melting ice. When there's no ice to walk on, the bears can't hunt seals, their main food source, so they go hungry. The Alps and other glaciers are melting, too.

George W. Bush, as president of the country that causes the most global warming, should set aside more funding for alternative energy sources, which would create less carbon dioxide than burning fossil fuels.

Wujun, 14
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Testing out

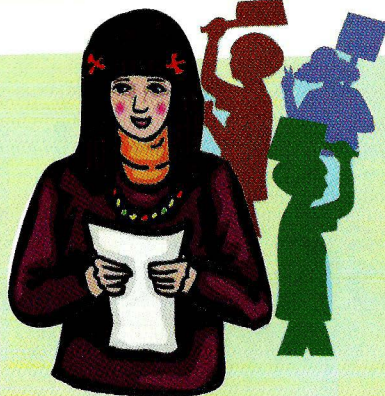
I feel very strongly about standardized tests. Many things can't be measured in tests. One student may be smart but unable to work with others. Another student might not be as smart but work great with others. But a standardized test wouldn't show that.

Also, there are too many tests. This year, we had to take 10 standardized tests. The state requires these tests, but most teachers dislike them. Sometimes, you haven't even covered what's on the test in your classwork yet. And if a school's test scores are very low and don't improve, teachers and principals can lose their jobs.

All this, just to measure how a student is doing? Don't we already do that with grades? Some kids just aren't good at tests. We should have fewer tests, and more diverse ways to measure progress.

Julia, 11
Westerville, Ohio





War or patriotism?

I don't feel the need to be patriotic. I'm not proud of my country right now. I respect our freedoms but I don't feel that we should've gone to war in Iraq. Innocent people and soldiers are dying, and we continue to send more troops. When this war started, I realized we'd probably never leave. How did our president not see this coming? Sure, we helped the Iraqis with elections, but there's still bombing and killing happening there, and no one has control of terrorists' actions.

Some people think sharing my ideas and telling people how I feel is the best way to be patriotic. Other people think I'm not patriotic if I don't support my country's decision to go to war. So which is it?

Abigail, 14

Stillwater, Oklahoma

Just one choice?

Many people believe you can only be for abortion or against abortion. I used to think along those lines, constantly struggling with the conflict. I believe every woman should have the right to decide what to do with her body, but by having an abortion, an innocent baby dies and had no choice.

I finally realized that I don't have to agree with either opinion. I understand the importance of a woman's independence and a baby's right to live. Not all issues are black and white, and you don't need to be completely on one side or the other. Girls can form their own opinions if they don't agree with the given arguments surrounding an issue.

Ariana, 15

Montpelier, Vermont



*Speak
Up!*

We could only print a few opinions in this article, but there are lots of other places to talk about important issues. Write to Luna, write to your representatives in Congress, post your opinions on a blog, or just talk to your friends. We can make things happen when we speak up!

Life on Tropical St. Lucia

Salt fish, green figs,
and a drive-in volcano!

by Kesan Gilana Clara Samuel



My Miracles

My mum calls me her miracle baby.

Before I was born, my dad had a kidney transplant, thanks to my uncle who donated a kidney to him. If my uncle hadn't done that, my dad might've died and I wouldn't have been born. I'm 8 years old, and I live in a small, beautiful country called St. Lucia. St. Lucia is an island between the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean.

I'm the youngest member of my family. I have three brothers, Kegan, Javed, and Cedric, and one sister, Gilna. Kegan, the oldest, is 26.

Javed is 23 and he's my hero because he's very intelligent. He graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and is a Rhodes Scholar, which means he studies at the University of Oxford. Cedric is 19, and my sister is completing her final year of high school. I live with my parents, who both teach school. We live in the community of Augier, in the district of Vieux-Fort. We have many friendly neighbors who care about each other. Whenever someone in the neighborhood is sick, people help out by cooking and cleaning for her.

In St. Lucia, all girls and boys get primary and secondary education. Girls usually do better at school and women have a higher literacy rate



Flower Power

We celebrate two flower festivals: the festival of La Rose and the festival of La Marguerite, both of which are unique to St. Lucian culture. The Rose society and the Marguerite society, rivals, both throw parties. We celebrate La Rose on August 30th and it's the more colorful festival. Saint Rose of Lima is the patron saint of the festival.

We celebrate La Marguerite on October 17th. That day is also the feast of Saint Margaret Mary Alcoque, the patron saint of the Marguerite society.

Both festivals include a mixture of British, French, and African cultures. Members of the two flower groups dress beautifully and parade the streets dressed as kings, queens, princes, princesses, doctors, nurses, and soldiers. They sing songs about the flowers. We sing lots of festival songs in Creole or patois. The celebration ends with a grand dinner and dance.

Unique Peaks

St. Lucia is covered with lush, green vegetation—including a rainforest—and surrounded by lovely beaches. There are many exciting and unique places to visit.

Castries, in the northern part of St. Lucia, is the capital of my country. It's also the most populated and busiest place on the island. In the district of Soufriere, in western St. Lucia, you can find the world's only drive-in volcano and the magnificent Twin Pitons—two mountain peaks. You can see all the beauty in my country in a day because it's only 238 square miles. I'm proud to be St. Lucian. I love my country very much.

than men. I go to school from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on weekdays. Friday is my busiest day: I attend school from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., then I play tennis until 2:30. I also belong to a kids' club through my church, and we meet from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Some afternoons I go walking with my mom or older brother. On Saturdays I enjoy reading books by Enid Blyton and Ann M. Martin. I also play the piano and watch TV.

Every Sunday I attend an evangelical church. I believe in God and I'm a born-again Christian. I read my Bible and memorize verses to help me build my faith. I hope to become a doctor one day so I can help people.

My Mother

I have a mother
Who is like a sister
A mother who is good
And likes food
She is very kind
And does not mind
If she is short or tall
But enjoys going to the mall
My mother who is a teacher
Teaches like a preacher
She is also a good cook
Who never reads the cooking
She is wonderful and beautiful
She is careful and cheerful
And I love her very much

—Kesan



We fly our flag from public buildings and from other buildings on special occasions. The blue represents the sky and surrounding waters—Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea—and the gold represents sunshine. The Black and White represents different races living and working in harmony. The triangular shape stands for the pitons.



Chad Coffey

Fast Facts

The Calabash is our national tree. The circular fruit can be over two feet in circumference!

The national dress is called the *Jupe*. It consists of a large petticoat, a skirt made of Madras material, a white blouse, and a Madras scarf worn over the head. We tie the head scarf so it has peaks at the top. Another version of the dress, the *Wab Dwiwet*, is a long dress with a triangular scarf called a *foulard* worn around the shoulders. Girls or women wear these dresses for special occasions.

The national dish of St. Lucia is green figs and salt fish.

Our country is 616 square kilometers (or 238 square miles—slightly smaller than New York City). About 168,000 people live here.

Almost 70% of St. Lucians are Catholic. We also have Seventh Day Adventists, Pentecostals, Anglicans, Evangelicals, Rastafarians, and others.

Even though our official language is English, many people also speak a French dialect called French patois.

The weather is tropical, with a dry season from January to April and a rainy season from May to August.

One issue of New Moon magazine would cost \$14 EC (Eastern Caribbean dollars). With the same amount of money, I could buy a storybook or half a gallon of ice cream.

Women and girls have the same rights as men and boys in St. Lucia. Most women work outside the home and women are the only breadwinners in many single-parent families. Women can vote, but men still dominate politics—we have two female parliamentarians out of 17, three female senators out of 11, and one female cabinet minister out of 13.



Here I am in my school uniform.

An Independent Country

English settlers first colonized St. Lucia in 1605. They were on their way to Guyana but got blown off course. England and France fought over St. Lucia for 150 years, and our country switched hands 14 times. Finally, the British won St. Lucia in 1814. In 1834, slavery became illegal in the British colonies, so slaves in St. Lucia won their freedom. St. Lucia gained full independence in 1979. We celebrate Independence Day on February 22. In Castries, students perform skits, plays, dances, and songs. Even though we're independent, we still consider England our mother country. Our government is a Westminster-style parliamentary democracy, which is modeled after England's government.

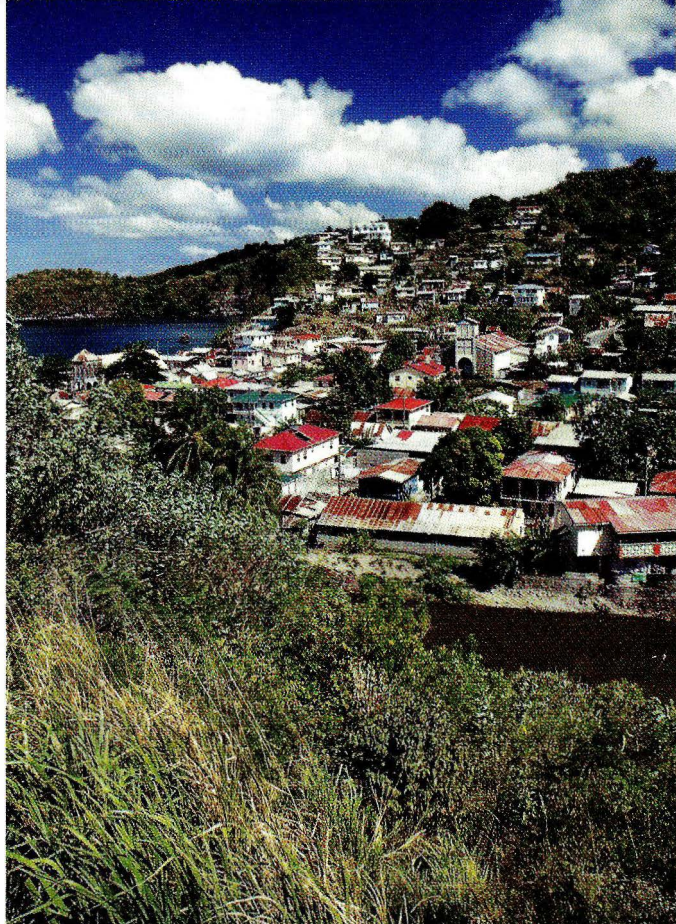
St. Lucia has a rich culture and a diverse population, including the Amerindians, Africans, Europeans, Indians and Chinese.

LOVE THAT JAZZ!

Every May, we have a jazz festival. The festival started as a way to get more tourists to come during the off season. Here's a poem I wrote about it.

St. Lucia Jazz

On Saturday at the plaza
I went to see jazz
Jazz is where you stand
And listen to a band
Which is lots of fun
Sitting in the hot sun
Where you eat cold ice cream
And hear music to make you scream
Then you will surely take a rest
Since you know you've danced your best
St. Lucia Jazz is awesome
—Kesan



Native recipe:

BREADFRUIT SALAD

You'll Need ...

- 1/2 medium breadfruit
(can substitute 1/2 a potato)
- 1/2 cup (80 g.) cooked peas
- 1 small lettuce head
- 1/2 cup (78 g.) diced cooked carrot
- 1 large tomato
- 3 Tbsp. (44.5 ml) mayonnaise dressing

1. Wash and steam breadfruit. Peel and cut into one-inch pieces.
2. Mix breadfruit with peas, carrots, and dressing.
3. Arrange with washed leaves and tomato slices as desired.



The Problem with No Name

Meet the original desperate housewife.

by Cleo Young

When someone asks you, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” you might answer, “a doctor,” “a lawyer,” “a veterinarian,” or maybe even “president.” But in the 1950s, most girls assumed they would be housewives after they married. Betty Friedan thought women needed more options.

Growing up in the 1920s and '30s in Peoria, Illinois, Betty noticed that her mother didn't have many opportunities to use her skills. Betty's mother had been an editor at the Peoria newspaper, but she quit her job when she married, as most women did back then. Betty shared her mother's love of journalism, so she worked with newspapers in junior high, in high school, and at Smith College. Betty was very fortunate to attend college—only 6% of all U.S. citizens had bachelor's degrees in 1940, and very few of those graduates were women. After college, Betty started studying psychology at the University of California, Berkeley, and won a fellowship that would help her continue her education. Betty knew most men felt threatened by smart women in those days, and she didn't want to ruin her chances to get married. So Betty turned down the fellowship.

Instead, she moved to New York and wrote for a union newspaper and then married in 1947. When she had her first child, Betty took the maximum amount of maternity leave allowed—one year without pay. Several years later, Betty became pregnant again, and her boss knew she would probably take another long maternity leave. The newspaper fired her, which Betty knew was unfair.

Betty learned that she wasn't the only housewife asking herself, “Is this all?”

◀ **Betty Friedan** (third from left) **leads supporters of the Equal Rights Amendment during a march in Washington, D.C., on Sunday, July 9, 1978.**

Betty loved her kids, but she found life as a home-

maker “stifling” so she started freelancing for women’s magazines. Betty also surveyed her former Smith classmates to see if they were satisfied with their lives. She discovered that some of the women were unhappy, and they thought it meant there was something wrong with them.

At the time, most women focused on raising their children and managing their households. In advertisements, women claimed they were content with fancy appliances and time-saving devices. But the women Betty surveyed didn’t find complete and utter joy in waxing the kitchen floor. Betty learned that she wasn’t the only housewife asking herself, “Is this all?”

Betty called the feelings of emptiness and depression that women were feeling “the problem that has no name.” Several magazine editors rejected the article she wrote about it. One editor wrote to her agent, “Betty must be going off her rocker. Only the most neurotic housewife will identify with this.”

But Betty knew the problem was widespread, and she wanted women to know they weren’t alone. So she expanded her article into a book, *The Feminine Mystique*, and published it in 1963. The publisher printed only 3,000 copies of the first edition, but it was a hit. Soon, colleges and organizations started inviting Betty to lecture all over the country. Women wrote to Betty and stopped her on the street to tell her that reading her book had changed their lives.

Betty continued to fight for women’s rights. She helped organize the Women’s Strike for Equality on August 26, 1970—50 years after women won the right to vote—and she led the

fight for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, or ERA.

“It wasn’t enough just to start a movement for women’s rights,” Betty explained. “You had to make it happen.” ●

Organizing for Change

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 outlawed discrimination against job applicants or employees based on their sex as well as race, color, religion, or national origin. But Betty was afraid the government wouldn’t take Title VII seriously without a watchdog group. So in 1966, she co-founded the National Organization for Women (NOW) and became its first president. NOW’s “first order of business” was to protest sex discrimination against airline stewardesses. At the time, airlines hired only women as flight attendants and forced them to resign if they married, became pregnant, or turned 35. After NOW held simultaneous demonstrations around the country and took legal action, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission began enforcing the Title VII law.

NOW Now

Today, NOW is the largest feminist organization in the U.S. with more than 500,000 members. NOW is still fighting for an Equal Rights Amendment. To get involved in NOW’s Young Feminist Task Force, go to www.now.org.



Cornell ILR school



Cleo Rose Young, 11, just moved to Oregon with her mom, dad, and two younger brothers. She loves to read, write, and work on her website. Cleo also likes to draw impossible figures like Escher’s, but she thinks it’s just a phase.

Three Women

on **Top** of the **World.** **Yes, Ms. President!**

Presidencia de Chile/Nancy Coste



"I believe in saying what I think, and doing what I say."

—Michelle Bachelet

While in office, Michelle hopes to:

- protect girls and women from sexual harassment by strengthening the laws
 - make it easier for families to get childcare
 - make sure women and men get paid equally
 - make sure girls' and women's achievements are included in textbooks
 - introduce a law requiring certain numbers of women in public representation and Congress
-

by Brigitte Aflalo-Calderon

On March 11, 2006, thousands of Chilean women put on presidential sashes to celebrate the inauguration of Michelle Bachelet, the first woman president of Chile. They gathered in front of Chile's presidential palace or wore the sashes in their own hometowns. The women's sashes matched Michelle's and symbolized presidential power. The women believed that with a woman president, ALL women had won a place in government.

Many years before she became president, Michelle was studying medicine at the University of Chile when a military dictatorship overthrew Chile's democratic government. The new dictators jailed, tortured, and even killed people who disagreed with them. They sent Michelle to jail because she helped families persecuted by the military. Her jailers blindfolded and tortured her for days.

Some people in the military disagreed with the torture, so they helped Michelle and her family escape to Australia. After four years in exile, Michelle returned home, became a pediatrician, and got involved in the new democratic government. At first, Chilean military officers refused to collaborate with her. That didn't keep her from succeeding. She became Minister of Health in 2000 and wrote new policies to make sure all Chileans, especially children, got good health care.

In 2002 she became Minister of Defense.

Because the dictatorship had divided Chile, one of her priorities was to reunite the people and create a working democracy. She said, "Because I was the victim of hate, I've consecrated my life to turning hate into understanding, tolerance, and—why not say it—love." Michelle promised that if she became president, she would make sure women had equal representation in government. But many men didn't believe political parties would allow so many women to be elected, and others said there weren't enough qualified women in Chile. Michelle responded, "Isn't that amazing? Half the population are women, over half the university students are women, and yet people still dare to put forward such an argument." After becoming president, Michelle DID create a balanced cabinet of 10 women and 10 men, representing all four of Chile's political parties. ●

Fortunately, Michelle Bachelet doesn't stand alone.
Check out these other women leaders!

President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Liberia

Growing up in Liberia in the 1950s, Ellen saw poverty all around her. She grew angry that her government did little to improve Liberians' lives. While she worked as Minister of Finance in Liberia, a military dictatorship overthrew the government. The new dictator felt threatened by Ellen, so he sent her to jail. After serving a short sentence, she traveled to Europe and the U.S., building relationships with people around the world. After Liberia suffered 14 years of civil war, Ellen came home with one goal: to be Liberia's next leader and help build a new government. Ellen won a landslide victory in 2005.

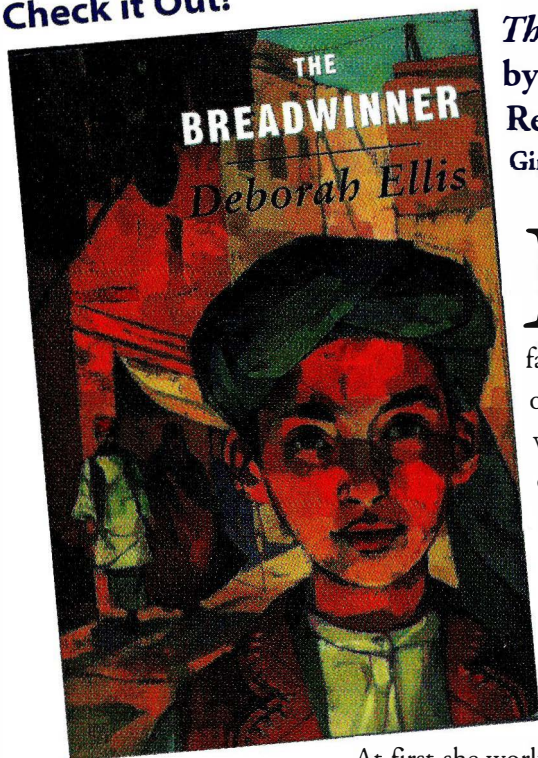


Chancellor Angela Merkel, Germany

People didn't have much freedom in East Germany in the 1950s—they couldn't even leave their country! Angela grew up wondering how West Germany and the rest of the world looked. In 1989, Germany allowed people to cross between East and West Germany, and German citizens tore down the dividing wall to reunite the country. Angela worked with the new government, helping citizens from both sides make peace. In November 2005, she became the Chancellor of Germany.

Brigitte divides her time between Washington, D.C., and Nîmes, France. She's traveled to many countries and speaks French, English, Arabic, Spanish, and some German. She also teaches yoga to kids and teens.

Check it Out!



The Breadwinner

by Deborah Ellis

Reviewed by Clare Dougan,

Girls Editorial Board Member

Eleven-year-old Parvana lives in Kabul, Afghanistan, which is ruled by a group of religious extremists called the Taliban. Her family of six lives in a one-room apartment and she only goes outside to help her disabled father walk to work. But unlike most girls in Afghanistan, Parvana can read. Even though the Taliban has banned many books, Parvana loves to read her father's secret stash of history and literature.

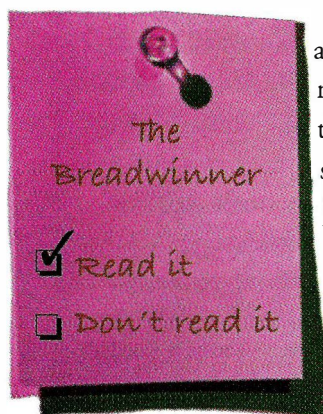
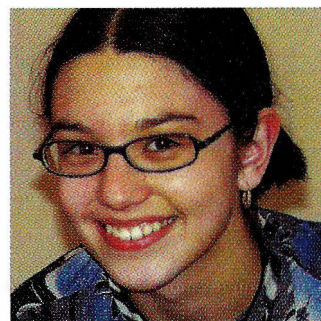
One day, Taliban soldiers burst into the apartment and take Parvana's father to prison. With no men in the house, no one can get paid work, so Parvana cuts her hair short and pretends to be a boy.

At first she works at her father's stall in the marketplace, reading and writing letters for illiterate Afghans. Then she starts picking up other odd jobs, from selling chewing gum to digging bones out of a bombed cemetery. Parvana is always on guard because if she's caught pretending to be a boy, she could face arrest or worse.

As I read this book, I put myself into Parvana's life. Parvana is a loveable heroine who survives in a war-torn country using her creativity and intelligence. She faces hardships most of us will never know, such as rarely going outside, walking for miles to get information about her father, and being beaten by soldiers. I can't imagine having to live through this, and I admire Parvana's courage and her feisty spirit.

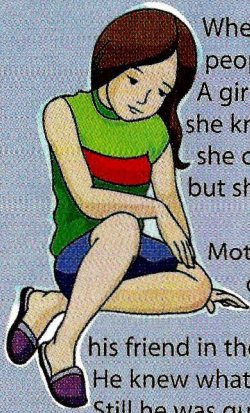
Deborah Ellis paints a lovely picture of Afghanistan, even in its destruction after 20 years of wars. I could see everything she spun into her tale: the dusty roads, the bustling marketplace, the shambles of buildings. While describing the wreckage of a country, she creates beautiful settings and people that take the reader on a journey through a rarely-seen place.

Clare Dougan, 14, has been on the GEB for two years. She likes drinking lattes, wearing flouncy skirts, and writing poetry. One day she hopes to travel around the world and write a book about it. Maybe she'll even visit Afghanistan!



Poetry

IT'S TOO QUIET



Wheels screech, sirens scream,
people yell, run, fall.

A girl watches a fight,
she knows how it started
she could have stopped it,
but she was quiet.

Motors hum, police yell,
cell doors clatter, people moan.

A boy sits on a bench,
his friend in the hospital.
He knew what he started,
Still he was quiet.

Commands are yelled, children scream,
guns are fired, men fall,
environment crumbles.

A man watches,
he can change it, he wants to,
but he is quiet.

Many yell, too many die,
sirens call, fires crackle
guns Blare, people scream
the world crumbles,
and still, it is quiet.

Amanda Lee Dickens, 13 • Iowa

SHEEP

What's up with you?
you think you can lead me.
you think you can control
How I think just because you have the
cash
Just because you have
the power.
who said i was gonna let you take
charge?
i'm not a sheep you can just
push around.

I don't wanna be part of this
commercial world where
people are made of plastic and look
exactly the same.
Leave me out of this
Twilight Zone world you created where
people don't have brains
Don't have a mind to
think for themselves ...

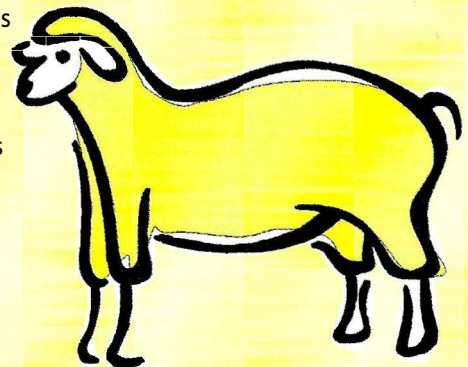
You say we have
all these rights but
Do we?

It seems like when
I wanna say something
I'm drowned out by
the noise.
Drowned by all the
Media that's telling us how to dress
What to look like and
the right way to act.

I don't wanna be part of this
commercial world where
people are made of plastic and look
exactly the same.
Leave me out of this
Twilight Zone world you created where
people don't have brains
Don't have a mind to
think for themselves.

Let me be who I am 'cos
i don't wanna be like
you.

**Cheyenne Parr, 13
Texas**



How to

Overthrow

the

GOVERNMENT—

Or at least **get heard.**

by Charlotte Steinecke

A politician's job is to represent the people—that's you and me!—so what do you do when a politician is on the other side of an issue you feel strongly about? Don't worry, there are several ways to speak up—some you can do on your own and some take the effort of many people working together.

1. **Communicate with your politician directly.**

Many websites feature senators' contact information—a good place to look is www.congress.org, a site containing a directory of every member of Congress. If you're going to write or email your politicians, remember to be polite, explain your views, and thank them for their time. Rudeness or "you're wrong" statements won't convince your congressperson. Politicians are more likely to notice you if you prove to be a respectful and intelligent girl who has a clear view of the world around you! They're also more likely to notice you if you write a personal letter instead of using a form letter.

Form letters are still OK, though, especially if you're not sure how to start. Many websites have draft letters that you can send as is, add to, or change. Feministmajority.org is a great example of a website that lets you email your representatives regarding issues ranging from birth control to Title IX. You can find similar websites by typing your topic into a search engine and seeing what comes up!

2. **Petitions are a good way to circulate ideas in your school and community.**

People often use petitions to raise public awareness. Although they don't always result in immediate action, they get people thinking about an issue, which can bring about change.

In January 2006, girls in New Orleans wore lifejackets, goggles, and flippers to protest the slow response of the U.S. government to fix the levees in preparation for future storms.



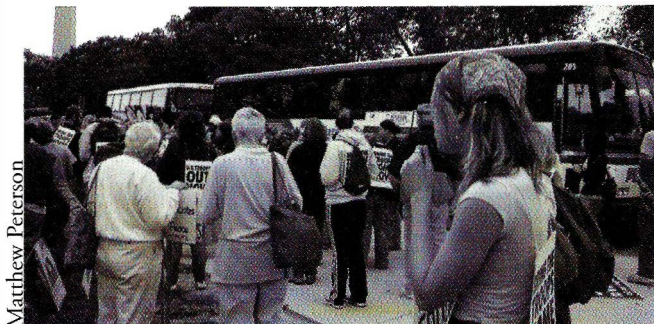
istockphoto



3. **If you want to get your message out in print,**

start an alternative newspaper or 'zine with like-minded friends. You don't need a publisher for this—just a computer, copy machine, and people to give it to. Be sure to back up opinions with facts. Pay attention to the layout—pictures can help catch readers' eyes. Choose a name for your paper, plan out publication dates, and create article lists. Don't fret about size: one front-and-back page makes a great weekly paper. If you don't want to create a print newspaper, you can write about your opinions on a blog or personal website and hand out the web address to friends and family.

4. Protest! The written word can be very powerful, but a group of people protesting together in a public space can communicate in a way that one person cannot. Sometimes, when politicians won't listen to one person, they'll listen to a lot of people talking about the same thing. If you feel ambitious, organize your own protest. Hand out fliers and get your friends and family involved. You can march in your local park or hold a letter-writing party where everyone composes a letter to your senator or representative.



Matthew Peterson

Picketing is a specific kind of protesting that happens when people form a line, usually in front of a building so that people can't get past without noticing them. Picketers carry signs, hand out literature, and protest the actions of an organization. You can get creative with picketing—create signs with slogans that support your view and make up chants to recite on the picket line. Getting involved with a picket line really makes people take notice.

You also can use silence to protest, and sometimes it's more effective than yelling. The Day of Silence, which protests discrimination against gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgendered people in school, relies on complete silence to show that by denying these people rights, we're silencing them.

Much of the U.S. Constitution is based on the idea of majority rule, but history shows that a small group or even one person with an idea worth fighting for can change the course of a country—and the world.



It Really Works!

Peaceful Protesting

During the Civil Rights Movement

Demonstrations in Washington, D.C.

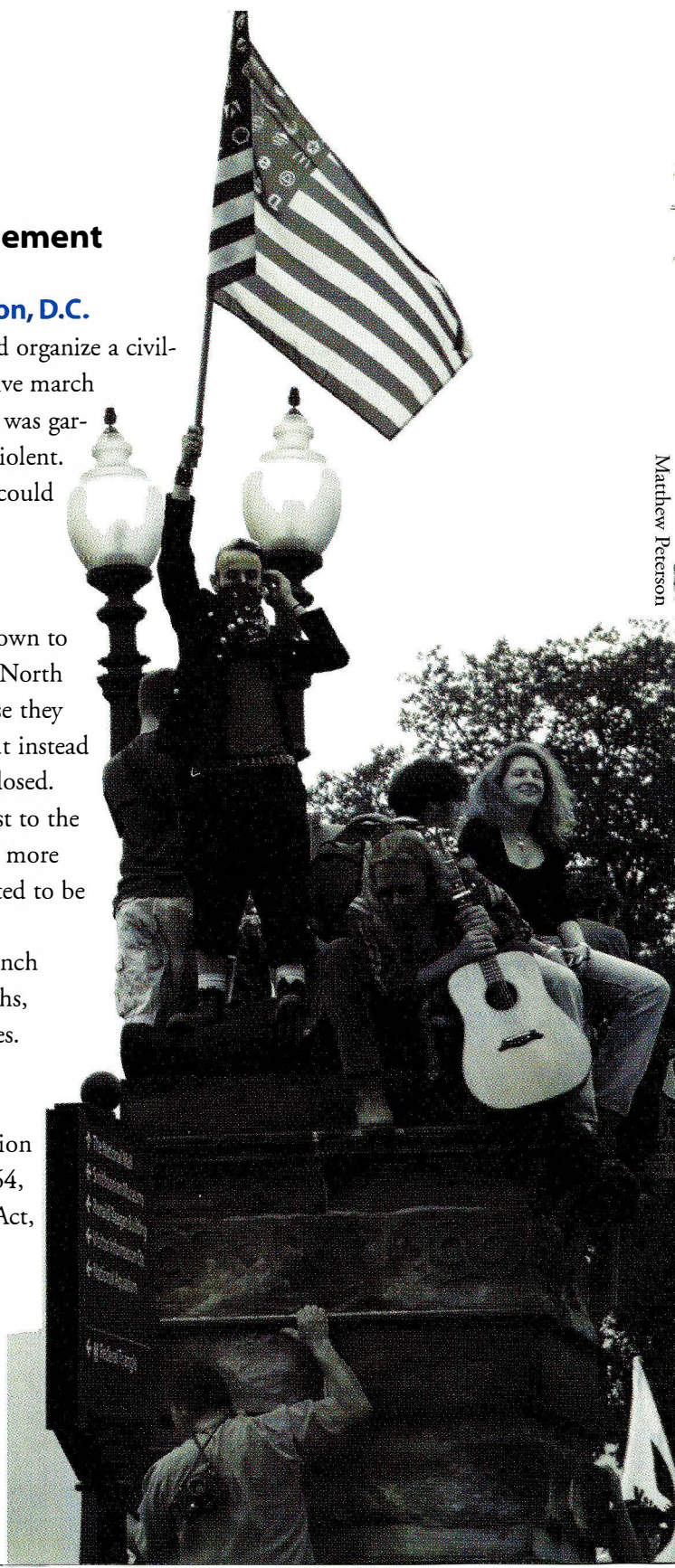
In 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. helped organize a civil-rights protest that took the form of a massive march on Washington, D.C. Although the march was gargantuan, the 200,000 protesters were nonviolent. Dr. King believed that peaceful protesting could effectively change policies.

The Greensboro Sit-ins

In February of 1960, four Black men sat down to eat lunch at a Woolworth's in Greensboro, North Carolina. No one would serve them because they were sitting at a "Whites-only" counter. But instead of leaving, the men stayed until the store closed. Their presence and persistence was a protest to the segregated lunch counter. The next day, 25 more Black people entered Woolworth's and waited to be served lunch. Their numbers increased at Woolworth's and sparked sit-ins at other lunch counters across the country. After six months, Woolworth's changed its segregation policies. Along with Dr. King's demonstrations in Washington, D.C., the Greensboro sit-ins made national headlines and got the attention of citizens and congresspeople alike. In 1964, President Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act, prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, religion, or national origin.



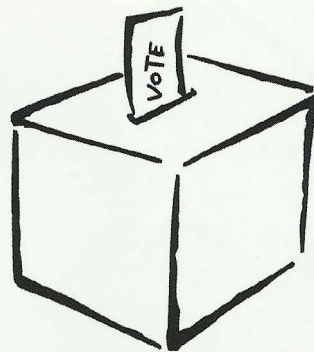
To learn more about protesting, visit
www.forgirlsandtheirdreams.org
and click on "Links Girls Like."



Voice Box

Welcome to Voice Box, where we discuss hot topics.
This time, we're talking about **lowering the voting age**.

by *Emily Cutler*



Not long ago, several groups in the U.S. fought for the right to vote. Women couldn't vote until 1920. Native Americans couldn't vote until 1924, and then only in some states. And until Congress passed the Voting Rights Act in 1965, many African Americans couldn't vote because they couldn't pass the required literacy tests (which were often rigged) or pay poll taxes. During the Vietnam War, 18-year-olds claimed they were old enough to vote if they were old enough to fight. Congress agreed, and in 1971, they changed the legal voting age from 21 to 18.

Some people think the voting age should be lowered again. They argue that letting young people vote will decrease voter apathy.

California Senator John Vasconcellos recently proposed an amendment that would give 16-year-olds a half vote and 14-year-olds a quarter vote in California elections. Iowa, Washington, Maine, Texas, and Minnesota also have considered lowering the voting age.

Opponents of the change say 16-year-olds aren't mature enough to vote. They point out that teenagers' judgment hasn't fully developed yet and they might be too easily persuaded by political candidates, parents, and teachers. But those in favor of lowering the voting age say that because teenagers study current events, politics, and government in school, they know just as much as most adults.

Some people also say that since teenagers often hold jobs and pay taxes, they should be allowed to vote.

What do **you** think?

1. At what age should people be allowed to vote? Why?
2. Should kids' votes count as full votes or partial votes?
3. Would you vote in national elections if you could? Why or why not?
4. Do you think politicians would treat young people differently if teenagers could vote?

For instructions on sending your answers to New Moon, see page 8.



For more information about voting rights, visit www.forgirlsandtheirdreams.org and click on "Links Girls Like."

What's

Voter Apathy?

Apathy is a lack of interest, concern, or emotion, especially about important matters like voting. Many people around the world who have the right to vote don't vote, especially in the U.S. That's because some people don't believe their votes really change the outcome of an election.

Others dislike politics in general or think government is controlled by rich corporations, not elected officials. And some people don't vote if they don't have enough information about the candidates or if they think none of the candidates are qualified.



Under the Influence

Be your own best leader.

by Lior Appel-Kraut

illustrated by Andrea Good

What political party do you support?

What political party do your parents support?

If you live with your parents, your answer to both questions is probably the same. Check yourself—are you “under the influence”?

Being under the influence means you’re following someone else’s opinions and values without evaluating them yourself. After listening to your parents talk about their political opinions all your life, you’ve probably learned to think like them. But we girls need to think for ourselves!

Being under the influence can be dangerous because if your parents, teachers, and friends haven’t done their research, they might be giving you inaccurate information. One time my brother showed me how to play a card game, but he didn’t teach me the correct rules! Luckily, that card game didn’t make a big impact on the world, but campaigning for a presidential candidate could. Make sure you know what you’re supporting before you choose a political party.

It’s important that girls understand politics. Not long ago, women couldn’t vote in the U.S., and in many countries women **STILL** don’t have any political power. Since we have these rights, we also have the responsibility to use our rights.

You can inform yourself about what's going on in the world and speak out about what you believe.

Many girls assume they can't do anything that matters until they're 18 and can vote. But politics isn't all about voting. Girls can play a big part in the world if we use our knowledge and power. My friend Sarah from Massachusetts testified in front of her state legislature about the need for sex education, and she did an interview with Fox News. Sarah explained that her classmates had resorted to spreading rumors about sex, and not all of the information they were sharing was correct. She got a message out even though she was only 17.

In the end, you might end up choosing the same political party your parents support. That's OK, because now you understand what it means and you aren't just under the influence. ●

The only way you can stand up for your beliefs is by having some, and the only way you can speak for those beliefs is by knowing about them. So, get out there and explore!

- Read news articles about political issues.
- Search "politics" or "current events" online.
- Watch C-SPAN.
- Listen to the BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) for international news—or a different perspective on your own country's news!
- Ask different people about their political beliefs.
- Keep updating your information!

Quiz

Have you ever heard the name of an issue, such as "stem cell research" or "welfare reform," and automatically taken a side without learning more about the topic? That's called political *pathos*. Circle your answer to the questions below to see where you stand on one hot topic—without hearing what it is first!

1. Is government responsible for preserving natural resources? Yes No
2. If cities are overpopulated—making it hard to find good jobs or housing—should the government allow people to spread out and build homes in "green," untouched areas? Yes No
3. Is it OK for a powerful country to use a weaker country's resources to strengthen its economy? Yes No
4. Should a government pursue all business and trade that could increase its citizens' wealth and quality of life? Yes No

If you answered yes to question one and no to question three, you're probably against cutting down rainforests. If you answered yes to questions two and four, you might see cutting down rainforests as beneficial. If you ended up somewhere in the middle, don't worry! Politics aren't as black and white as they seem. It's important to look at any issue from all sides and then try to find new ways to fix the problem. Maybe you'll come up with an idea that no one has explored yet!

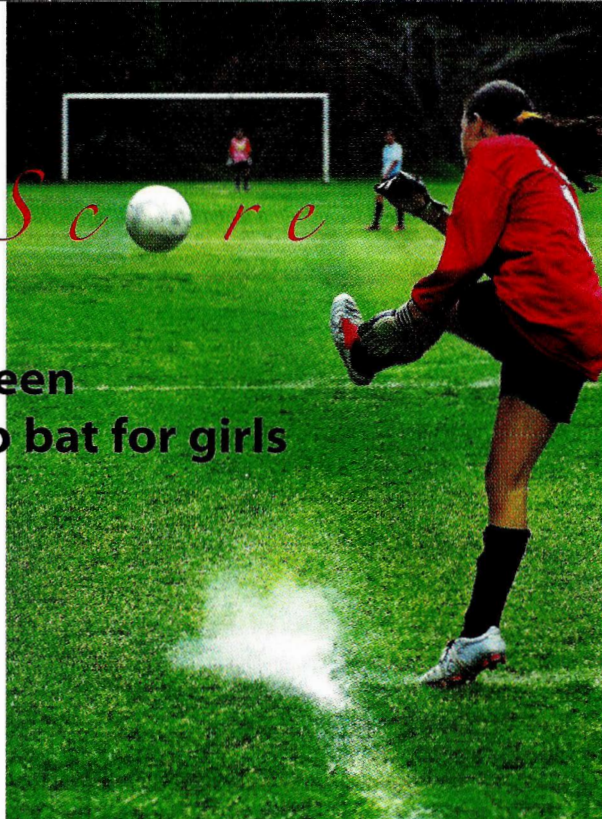
* **Pathos:** something that produces feelings of pity, sympathy, or sorrow.

Keeping Score

Billie Jean and Edith Green go to bat for girls

by Anna Grabowski

Do you play soccer, play softball, or run in track? Do you have to wait until the boys are done practicing to take the field? I hope not! But up until the 1970s, girls who wanted to play sports spent a lot of time on the sidelines. Then, along came a little law called Title IX.



iStockphoto

Battle of the Sexes

In 1970, tennis player Billie Jean King became the first female athlete to win \$100,000 in one year. Tennis star Bobby

Riggs, a critic of women's sports, noticed her success. He challenged Billie Jean to a match. Billie Jean soon realized if she didn't beat Bobby, women athletes would never hear the end of it. On September 20, 1973, Billie Jean easily beat Bobby in a match the media called the Battle of the Sexes. "It was very clear this was about social change and not about tennis," Billie Jean said.

Almost overnight, the world realized that girls could play sports, and play well. Before then, teachers usually discouraged girls who wanted to play sports, and classmates teased them. Most schools offered only swimming, tennis, and track for girls. Boys' teams received school funding and support, but girls often had

to raise money for uniforms and provide their own transportation to and from games and meets.

Changing the Rules

In the late 1960s, an Oregon congresswoman named Edith Green attended a hearing about programs that helped disadvantaged students stay in school. After three superintendents bragged about their achievement programs for boys, Edith asked about their programs for girls. They didn't have any. She thought it must be against the law for schools to treat girls and boys differently, but it wasn't. Edith vowed right then to try to change that.

When Edith first brought up the issue of educational equality in 1970, Congress wasn't interested in changing the law. But Edith tried again the next year and succeeded. President Richard Nixon signed the Education

**A
Dream in
Danger**

Back in 1979, the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare explained how schools could prove they were following the guidelines of Title IX—by meeting one of these three criteria:

1. The percentages of female to male athletes are about the same as the percentages of female to male students.
2. The school is expanding opportunities for girls.
3. The school is meeting the athletic interests and abilities of girls.

But in March 2005, the Department of Education issued a Title IX “Clarification.” Now, a school can prove it meets the athletic interests of girls by simply sending an email survey to female students asking about their interest in sports. If a student doesn’t respond to the survey, the school can interpret that as a lack of interest. But critics of the change say that girls might not be interested in a particular sport because they haven’t had a chance to play it in the past. Many worry that schools will cut girls’ sports programs because of the Title IX clarification.



Tennis player Billie Jean King in 1973.

Amendments Act into law in 1972, and Title IX—a very small section of the bill—stated that federally-funded schools had to treat girls and boys equally. When people realized that Title IX would apply to sports as well as academics, many schools and individuals protested. Schools didn’t think they could afford girls’ sports programs and they didn’t think girls wanted or needed to play sports. Title IX proved them wrong.

Today, almost 3 million girls play high-school sports in the U.S., compared to 294,000 in 1971. Studies show that girls who play sports get better grades, have better self-esteem, and develop a more positive body image than girls who don’t. Athletic scholarships make it possible for many girls—like Dominique Dawes, a three-time Olympic gymnast—to attend college. “I remember looking at the sport of gymnastics as

an opportunity, not just for athletics, but also as an academic achievement,” Dominique says. “It’s about the opportunities to dream and to soar.” ●

Save Girls’ Sports

- Write to your representatives in Congress. Encourage them to ask Margaret Spellings, U.S. Secretary of Education, to remove the Title IX Policy “Clarification.”
- To see if your school follows the Title IX guidelines, go to www.savetitleix.com.

Anna Grabowski, 13, lives in Michigan with her mom, dad, and brother. She likes horseback riding, playing soccer and basketball, acting, and hanging with friends.



by *Carrie Rethlefsen*



Have you ever loved a movie or a play so much that you just had to see it again? That's how I felt after seeing Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues* for the first time in eleventh grade. I went to the play again when I was a senior, and I bought a pin that said, "I ♥ my vagina." I placed the pin on my backpack as a way to show pride in my body.



Here I am (center) with other students during the protest. I'm holding my disciplinary notice from the school.

Break the Silence

I wore the pin at school for over a month. My high school counselor and teachers had all seen it and none of them asked me to take it off. But when I turned in my senior pictures to the secretary's office, she told me the pin wasn't allowed in school. She took me to the counselor. Even though the counselor had approved of the button earlier, suddenly she decided it was inappropriate. I sat in her office and said I'd sit there until someone could explain how loving my vagina could possibly be inappropriate. Finally, the principal told me wearing the pin made me an "open invitation to boys." I said the pin sent

the opposite message. I wore it to tell people that I have control over what happens to my body because I respect it. Before I left the office, the principal told me I had two choices: take the pin off or face the consequences. I chose the consequences.

My next step was to organize students who agreed that the school was wrong. We made over 150 t-shirts that said "I ♥ my vagina" (for girls) and "I support your vagina" (for boys). The backs of the shirts read, "I am wearing this to support gender equality, sexual awareness, women's rights, and freedom of speech." We



Why I ♥ My Vagina

I had to stick up for what I believed for many reasons. The first was freedom of speech. Lawyers all around the country asked me to bring the case to court. I didn't go to court because I didn't want to damage the school just to get my suspension reversed.

The other reason I wore the pin was to raise awareness about violence against women. Many girls learn at a young age not to talk about their vaginas. This is one of the reasons many women never report being abused. Silence only leads to more violence and a stigma around the word vagina only hurts more women. I wanted to show people that vagina is not a word you need to keep hidden.

The Vagina Monologues

The Vagina Monologues is a play that helps break the shame some people feel just saying "vagina." *The Vagina Monologues* uses interviews, humor, and passion to help women talk about the experience of being a woman. People perform the play all over the world to raise awareness and money to end violence against girls and women. Because *The Vagina Monologues* addresses violence against women, some material in it is very disturbing. Make sure to talk to a parent or guardian first if you want to go.

staged a silent protest outside the high school under the U.S. flag. We held up signs stating reasons why the school should allow the button. We passed out a statistics and information sheet to students entering the school to explain why the button was important.

The school suspended me after the protest, but I feel that it was a success. I received hundreds of letters and emails from people I've never met telling me how I'd impacted them. For the first time, women told their stories about being raped. I'd been molested when I was younger, so I understood the shame these

women felt and how hard it is to talk about it. It's important to take the first step and actually speak up. When these women talked to me, it made the entire experience with the school worthwhile. ♥

Carrie is currently enrolled at The Evergreen State College in Washington. She plans an individual major combining Women's Studies, Afro-American Studies, and Environmental Studies and hopes to become a U.S. Senator.

To learn more, visit

www.forgirlsandtheirdreams.org

and click on "Links Girls Like."



by Natalia M. Thompson • illustrated by Lauren Pagliuco

It's supposed to be autumn, THE TIME OF YEAR WHEN THE CLOUDS ARE HIGH IN THE SKY AND THE AIR IS FRESH. THAT'S HOW AUTUMN WAS WHEN I WAS LITTLE. BACK THEN, WE LIVED HOURS FROM THE CITY CENTER ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF BEIJING. TODAY, WE LIVE IN 1508B, 15 FLOORS ABOVE THE STREET, AND THERE'S ONLY A CRISP BITTERNESS IN THE AIR—CRISP LIKE THE MILES OF STEEL THAT SURROUND US.

The heavy door to the apartment building slams shut behind me, and I get into the elevator and press 15. The elevator obediently lurches into the air even though it's probably too old to meet any safety codes. I nervously check the signs rolled up in my backpack: small, bright green posters with "Say NO to McDonald's" scrawled across the top. The McDonald's corporation is trying to build a huge complex next to the temple. A group at school was handing out the posters, and when I saw them, I had to grab a few. One more McDonald's probably won't matter; it seems like Beijing already has hundreds of them. But I get so sick of seeing giant, neon fast food signs that I have to do something to stop the takeover.

I slap one of my posters onto the elevator wall and stuff the rest of them back into my backpack. I wouldn't want Mom to see them—she wouldn't approve. The elevator doors squeak open, and I step into the hallway of floor 15.

Floor 15: Where the occupant of 1502A, Mrs. Li, is a lonely widow who leaves her apartment door open and quizzes anyone who steps off the elevator. Floor 15: Where the occupant of 1503B is an American poet who visited Beijing 15 years ago, just after I was born, and "fell in love with the city." Floor 15: Where the occupants of 1504B are artists who leave their large canvasses in the hall to dry and invite us to trendy art shows. Floor 15: Where the occupants of 1506A are restaurant owners who store all of their leftovers in their industrial-size fridge. (What does a family of four do with 17 leftover servings of roast duck, anyway?!) Floor 15: Home.

Immediately after Mom gets home from work, she starts filling our apartment and the hallways with the smell of her cooking. But sometimes she works long hours so she can send money home to her factory-worker cousins in Shenzhen. On the days she works late, I

Like mother, like daughter?



know the second I get off the elevator because I don't smell food—just paint from the neighbors' apartment. Today, the strong odor of tofu with pickled greens overwhelms me. I escape Mrs. Li, who has captured the American poet like a Venus flytrap devouring her victim. I step around a wet canvas and let myself into 1508B.

"Hi, Mom," I say, entering the kitchen. It's a mess of unwashed pots and pans—the downside to Mom's extravagant cooking.

She turns to me, hands full of chopped peppers. "Lian!" I get a standard kiss, then the usual survey. I can just see my mother's mind working. *Ooh, those shoes are too big. Showy. And I wish she would wear a respectable blouse.* But she doesn't go into her usual rant about how my appearance reflects on the family name. ("We can't have one of us walking around looking like ... like ... well, never mind. Looking bad. If you look bad, the rest of us look bad.") She only shoos me out

of the kitchen with,
"Go to your room
and change before
Father gets home."

My closet is
divided in two. The right side is
my clothes—the jeans and t-shirts
I wear every day. The left is what I
wear to please Mom:

conservative skirts, my school uniform, polyester slacks. I even have the clothes I wore when I was 6 and 7—Hello Kitty tops, cotton leggings, tiny pleated school uniforms, and pink outfits adorned with bows and bears.

The clothes I find most embarrassing are the ones that please Mom the most. So I choose a pathetic yellow sweater with a crisp white collar and a pair of navy chinos. Goodbye, yoga pants. ("Why so tight? Aren't you uncomfortable?") Goodbye, green tank top. ("Won't you be cold?") Goodbye, fuzzy sweatshirt. ("Sort of sloppy, no?")

Kitchen, take two: "Hi, Mom."

"Lian! Much better. The yellow shirt is very, very nice. How are you?"

I shrug. "Good, I guess."

"Guess?"

"You know. Pretty good."

"Just pretty good?"

"Yeah."

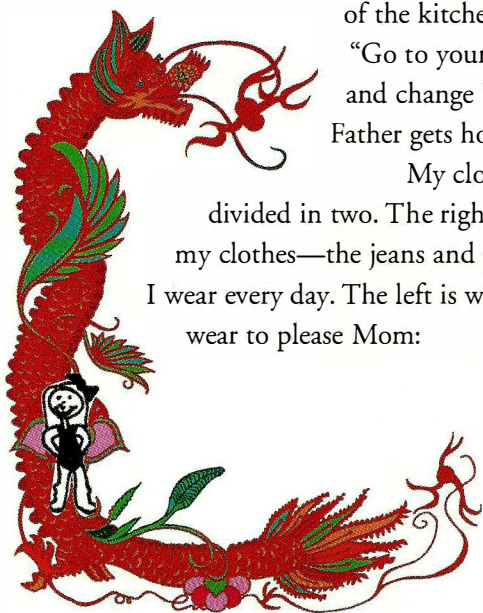
"Oh. Well, want anything to eat before dinner?"

"No, thanks." I pick up a copy of the *Renmin Ribao*, the daily paper. Mom looks at me and frowns.

"Just Communist stuff, you know," she says.

I know. Why else would it be called the *People's Daily*?

"Communists ...harrumph," Mom mutters. She grew up during the Cultural Revolution and still blames the Communists for destroying her family's art gallery. Mom wanted to be an artist like her parents, but she ended up selling computers wholesale to American companies. Instead of painting in a cluttered studio, she sits



obediently at a desk high above the streets of Beijing.

"Well. What's the news, then?" My mother is always curious and looking for rumors, news—anything she could talk about later. She finds the laundromat exciting because she can pick up gossip while doing chores. Call it multitasking.

"Not much."

"That's the problem with those Communists—nothing good ever happens."

"Yeah." I know Mom doesn't really care about politics. She just likes to criticize. It could be the grade on my history test, the prices at the grocery store, the new high-rise next to her office...anything.

"Nothing good ever happens." Mom repeats herself all the time. She's like a little kid who keeps saying the same thing until someone responds. "All they ever do is talk about change, restrict the media, make regulations."

"Yeah?" This is new. Mom usually only goes into detailed criticism when it involves loyalty to the family, obedience to Father, or reverence to our ancestors.

"Yes. You know, Lian, I really don't like them."

"Them?" Is she referring to the mushrooms she's torturing with slow, accurate slices of the knife?

"The Communists!" WHACK! She splits a fresh head of cabbage in half, revealing the intricate folds inside. "When I was your age..."

Oh, no. Mom stops chopping and squints until her eyes are slit like a snake's.

"I was very political," she continues. "Very

... disobedient."

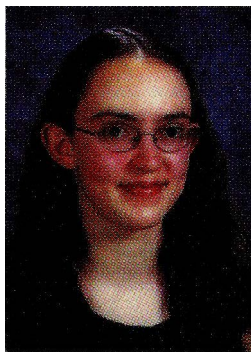
"Disobedient?" I ask. I can't believe it. For goodness sakes, this is my MOTHER! The only time she's ever disobedient is in an effort to be obedient, like leaving work a few minutes early so she can have dinner ready by the time Father gets home.

"Yes," she says, slowly stirring the onions sizzling in the frying pan. Either she's really dwelling on her past or the onions are starting to get to her. "When your uncle—my brother—was in detention ... I'm not always proud of my actions. But he's family ... what could I do? Sometimes obedience is wrong."

The glimmer in her eye is different from any expression I've ever seen her wear. Suddenly she's not just a corporate businesswoman or a strict, loving mother.

On an impulse, I pull the "Say NO to McDonald's" posters out of my backpack and hand one to my mother. As she reads it, I take a closer look at the woman who stands in our kitchen every day with an apron thrown over her business suit, wildly—yet dutifully—creating an addictive mix of flavors, love, and mysteries. I think I see a hint of a smile on her face. ●

● ● ●



Natalia M. Thompson, 14, writes from Wisconsin. Natalia is fond of volunteering, eating tropical fruit, and doing yoga. She's never been to China, but would love to visit someday.

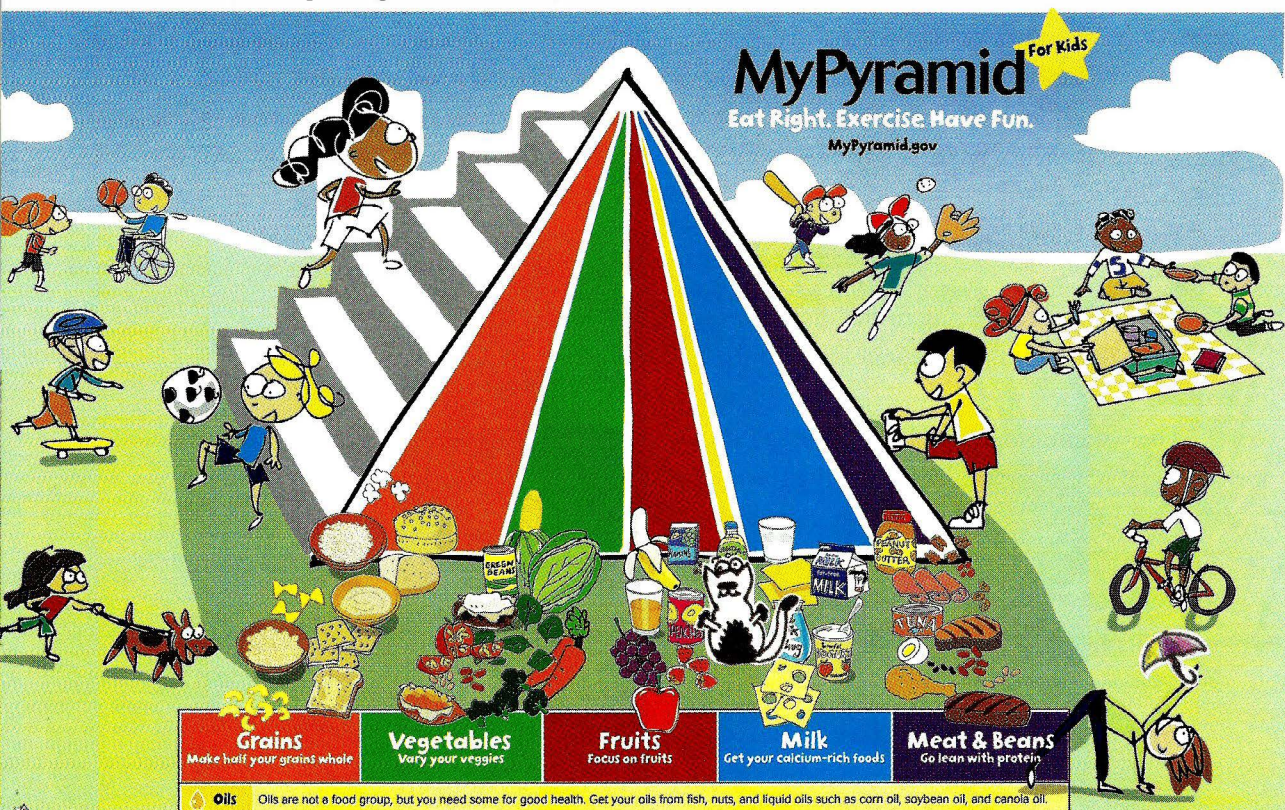
Brain Food

What you need to know to **eat smart**.

by Elisha Courts

We all know that being healthy doesn't mean having a two-inch waist or eating only chocolate (although I wish that second statement were true!) Being healthy means knowing what your body needs and responding to its needs. Your body is like a machine. Give it "fuel"—food and water—and it works great! Give it the wrong type of food or not much water, and it won't work as well.

Lots of girls feel pressured to go on fad diets, but there's no need for that! Eating a variety of food helps keep your body healthy. Your body needs certain nutrients to keep it working properly, and you can get those nutrients lots of ways. I like to read the nutritional information about food while I eat. It's a good thing to do if you want to know what you're putting into your body.



Grains	Vegetables	Fruits	Milk	Meat & Beans
Make half your grains whole	Vary your veggies	Focus on fruits	Get your calcium-rich foods	Go lean with protein
Oils Oils are not a food group, but you need some for good health. Get your oils from fish, nuts, and liquid oils such as corn oil, soybean oil, and canola oil.				

Your Body's Building Block

Protein makes up your bones, muscles, organs, skin, hormones, and more. It gives your body long-lasting fuel, so high-protein foods satisfy you longer than foods without protein. Nuts, beans, meat, fish, poultry, eggs, cheese, soy, and milk are just a few sources of protein. Your body can't store protein, so make sure to get some every day!

Know Your ABCs—Get Your Vitamins!

Vitamins boost your immunity, help your eyes adjust to light changes, keep your bones and muscles strong, and make red blood cells. Eggs, milk, fruits, vegetables, sardines, nuts, liver, pork, and even sunshine all contain vitamins. You can also take a daily multi-vitamin, which usually includes other things your body needs such as calcium and iron. Check with an adult before you take vitamins—taking too many or the wrong kind can make you sick.

Sugar, Salt, and Caffeine...Are They All Bad?

Sugary, salty, and high-caffeine foods might be yummy, but the food pyramid tells us to use these foods "sparingly"—that doesn't mean you CAN'T eat them, just that they shouldn't be your main foods.

Sugar alters your blood chemistry and gives you a quick energy boost. Sugar occurs naturally in lots of foods, including pasta and fruit. But table sugar, or white sugar, is the type of processed sugar found in soft drinks and most sweets. The more sugar you eat, the higher your energy will spike and the worse you'll feel when it wears off. Looking at how many carbohydrates are in a certain food can also tell you how much sugar it has, since sugars are carbohydrates.

Pretzels, chips, and some drinks have lots of salt. Lots of foods that I add salt to, such as rice, spaghetti, and soup, would be more healthful without added salt! Salt makes your body store

more water, especially in your blood. That means your heart has to work harder, which can lead to high blood pressure or heart problems when you get older. If you're reading the nutritional values on food packages, note that salt is the same as sodium.

Caffeine is in tea, coffee, most sodas, and chocolate. Too much caffeine can give you headaches and stomachaches or make you dizzy or cranky. It also makes you have to pee a lot, which dehydrates you. While your body needs some sugar and salt, it DOESN'T need caffeine. Caffeine is a drug, and your body can get addicted to it, so it's good to avoid caffeine as much as possible.

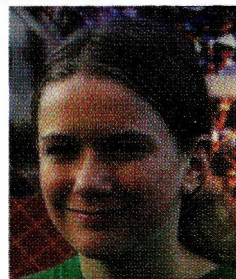
The 1, 2, 3s of Feeling Good

1. Eat right. Eat when you're hungry, don't skip meals, and drink lots of water—not soda—to stay hydrated. During the day, your body loses water when you sweat, go to the bathroom, and even breathe.

2. Exercise. Lots of people dread working out, but exercise can be fun! You may be rolling your eyes and saying, "Yeah, right!" But if that's how you feel, you probably haven't found the right activity for you. I like to run, play soccer, swim, play drums, and do gymnastics.

3. Feel good about yourself. Don't stand on a scale criticizing yourself because that's a waste of time. Remember: You're beautiful and a great person!

Elisha Courts, 12, lives in a renovated barn in Virginia. She has two dogs and two sisters and loves reading, writing, soccer, gymnastics, poetry, and the internet.



To learn more about nutrition, visit www.forgirlsandtheirdreams.org and click on "Links Girls Like."

Dig In

Get the dirt on archeology.

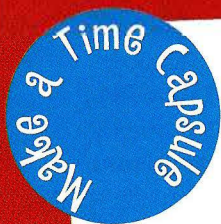
by Margaret Foley • illustrated by Sarah Reynolds



What is archeology? Is it thrashing through the jungle with a machete and finding Mayan ruins? Or is it kneeling down and painstakingly brushing dirt off an old clay bowl from everyday life? If you guessed the second, you've got a pretty good idea of what typical archeology is like. Most archeological finds are everyday things people have discarded. Only once in a while do archeologists find temples full of jewels.

We live in a disposable culture. Most of our belongings—clothes that don't fit, the doll with the lost arm under your bed—end up in a landfill, where they decompose. Hundreds, even thousands of years ago, people also threw things out. Archeology is finding and studying people's belongings so we can find out what life was like in the past.

Someday, the world will be studying how we lived in the 21st century. A time capsule is a good way to preserve things that are important to you. It will tell future archeologists about you and your culture.



You'll need:

- An airtight, waterproof container with a lid
- Objects and items that describe the way you live

Putting Your Time Capsule Together

Gather all your items and arrange them neatly in your container. If you're including perishable items such as wood, rubber, or wool, place them inside individual, airtight plastic bags. Place photographs in an envelope. The picture should face away from the flap.

Once you add all your items to the time capsule, seal it and hide it in a corner of the attic or basement, or bury it under the porch or in the backyard. Leave yourself a reminder of where you hid it so you don't forget. Decide whether you're going to open your time capsule in five, 10, or 20 years. Or leave it for someone else to find!

Stuck on what to include in your time capsule? Here are a few ideas:

- Ticket stubs from sporting events or concerts
- A copy of your family tree
- Your favorite music CD
- A letter from your pen pal or best friend
- A trinket or toy you played with when you were younger
- Photographs of you, your family, and your friends
- Newspaper clippings

Marie LaTour

When archeologists uncovered artifacts in the fourth layer of Saint John's grassy mound, they found the remains of a long-haired woman. Some believe the remains belong to Françoise Marie Jacquelin LaTour.

Marie LaTour was a French woman who arrived in what is now Saint John, New Brunswick in the early 1640s. She married Charles LaTour, whom the King of France appointed as governor. But Charles d'Aulnay also wanted to be governor, so he challenged Charles LaTour's position.

In February 1645, while Marie's husband was away in Boston, Charles d'Aulnay attacked Fort LaTour. Marie hid her infant son and put on a steel breastplate and helmet to face her enemy. Marie and her supporters charged out of the fort. D'Aulnay retreated in defeat.

Several weeks later, d'Aulnay returned and ordered Marie to surrender. Instead, Marie hung the red flag of combat. Although Marie kept d'Aulnay's soldiers back for three days, a guard betrayed her and opened the gates for him.

Marie surrendered only when d'Aulnay promised to spare the lives of her men. But d'Aulnay broke his word and hanged the men in Marie's fort. Marie died mysteriously three weeks later. Some think d'Aulnay poisoned her and others say she died of a broken heart.

Although d'Aulnay destroyed the fort, people still remember Marie as Canada's first heroine.



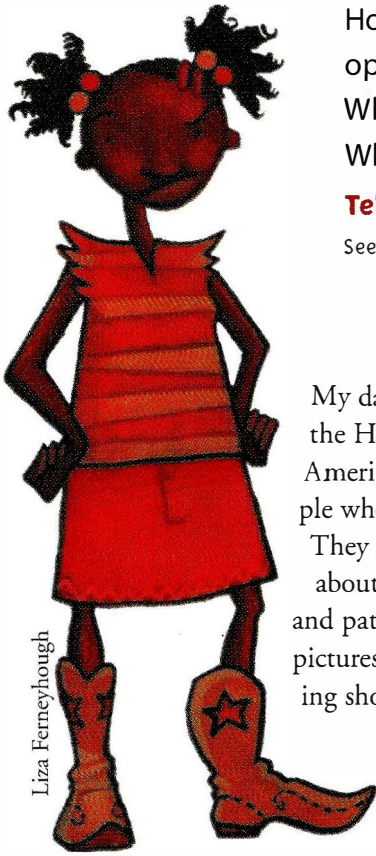
Margaret is a member of the Canadian Association for Girls in Science (CAGIS), a science club for girls ages 7–16 with chapters across Canada and members around the world! Chapters meet with women and men in science to get a “behind the scenes” look at science in action and try it out for themselves with fun, hands-on activities. For more information visit www.cagis.ca.

Saint John's Grassy Mound



In Canada's oldest organized city, Saint John, New Brunswick, a large, grassy mound overlooks the harbor. This mound hides over 4,000 years of human history. Two digs—in 1955 and 1963—uncovered thousands of artifacts.

How Aggravating!



How Aggravating! is 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?

Tell us about it!

See page 8 for submission details.

My dad's a member of the Handyman Club of America, a club for people who like carpentry. They sent him a book about building decks and patios. All the pictures of people working showed men—not one of them was a woman! My mom and I built a garden

bench from scratch. Women can do carpentry just as well as men!

Isabel, 9

Madison, Wisconsin

Our fifth grade assistant teacher is a fine example of someone who's prejudiced and sexist. We clean the lunchroom after we're done eating, and one day he was in charge of giving us jobs. A boy in our class noticed that the assistant teacher had selected only boys to lift chairs. The boy asked why, and the teacher said, "Boys are more physical than girls and are better at lifting chairs."

Our class thought this was unfair and unacceptable. We tried to confront the teacher. We even went to the principal, but no one listened to us. We finally asked another teacher to help us. But when she confronted him, he lied about what he'd said. How aggravating!

Katie, 11

Pennsylvania

I don't like my history book. It has large sections about Abraham Lincoln and other men, but nothing about girls. It doesn't even mention Clara Barton. When the book does mention women, it's just as a side note! How aggravating!

Gennie, 13

DeKalb, Illinois

My sister and I have a game called "Guess Who." You have to guess which card the other player has. Nineteen of the cards show boys, and only five of them show girls! How aggravating!

Casey, 12

Austin, Texas

Howling at the Moon

Howl out your moments of power and sing about the good things in your life! How do you make life better for girls? Do you know someone who creates equality? What do you see that's inspiring?

Tell us about it!

See page 8 for submission details.

My dad bought a new tool set, and the picture on the box showed a woman using it. She didn't look like a model selling tools with her good looks, either. She seemed strong and like she knew what she was doing. I was so ecstatic I felt like jumping up and down and cheering! But don't worry, I stayed civilized. For goodness sakes, I was in a hardware store!

Madison, 14 • Cannon Beach, Oregon

Last year I went to an art camp, and one day I was the only girl in a class full of boys. All day the boys kept making sexist remarks about girls. It really started to bug me, so I sent them a paper airplane with a note inside that said: "You boys don't get along with girls." I felt I had to stand up to them because they were being mean to me and they also hurt my feelings. I felt I was a young activist who fought against sexist remarks about girls.

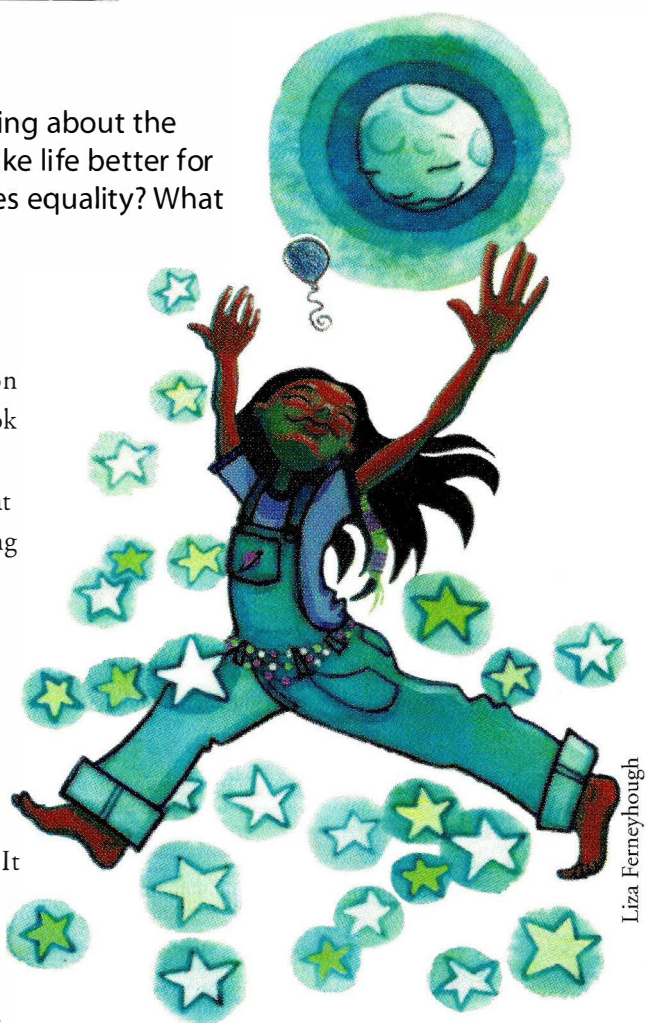
Naomi, 11

Staatsburg, New York

One day in a class at church we were talking about gender roles. We did a survey and one of the questions was whether it was all right for a girl to ask a guy out. Almost everyone, including the guys, thought girls should ask guys out if they were crushing on them!

Sara, 14

Buffalo, New York



Liza Ferneyhough

The main character in *Inkheart* is named Meggie, and she's a really cool kid. She's not a superhero—she isn't super strong or super pretty or super smart. She's just a normal girl who's in a tough situation. She really makes you want to fight back against the bad guys, and she makes you believe anyone can save the world if they care enough. So I'm going out to save the world and keep on keeping on. I hope you do, too. Howl!

Clare, 12

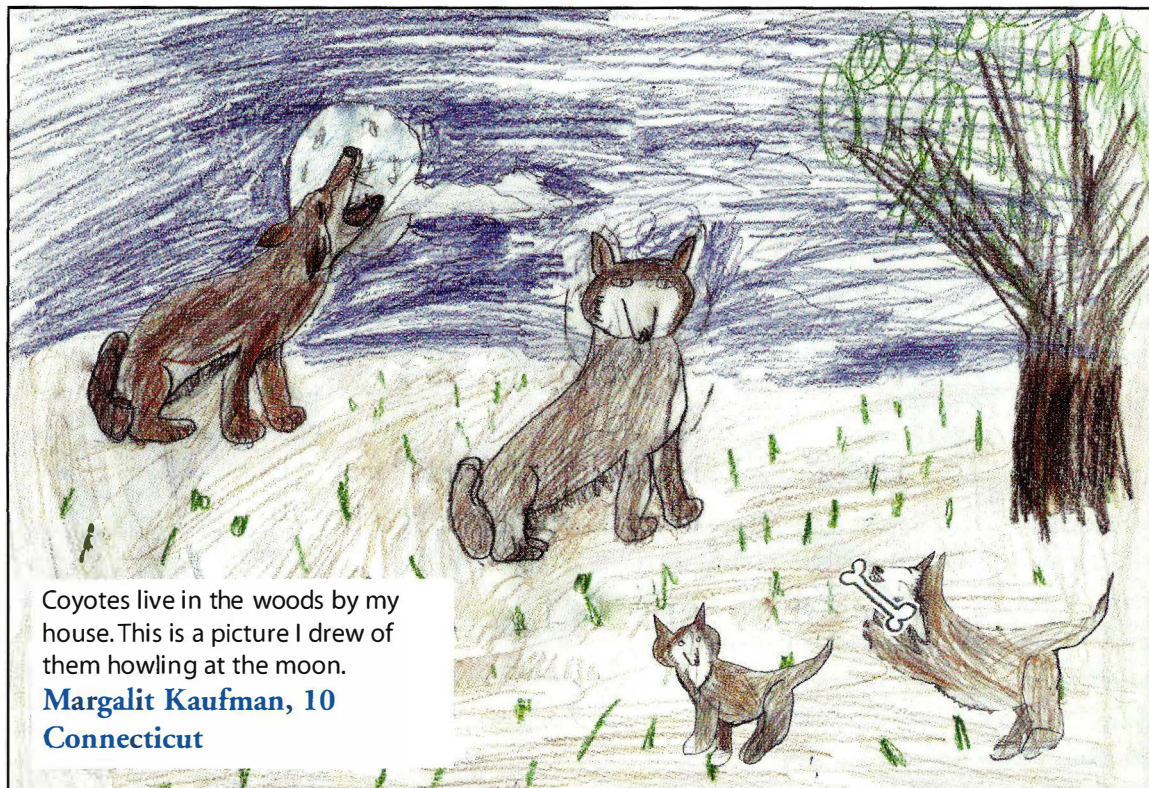
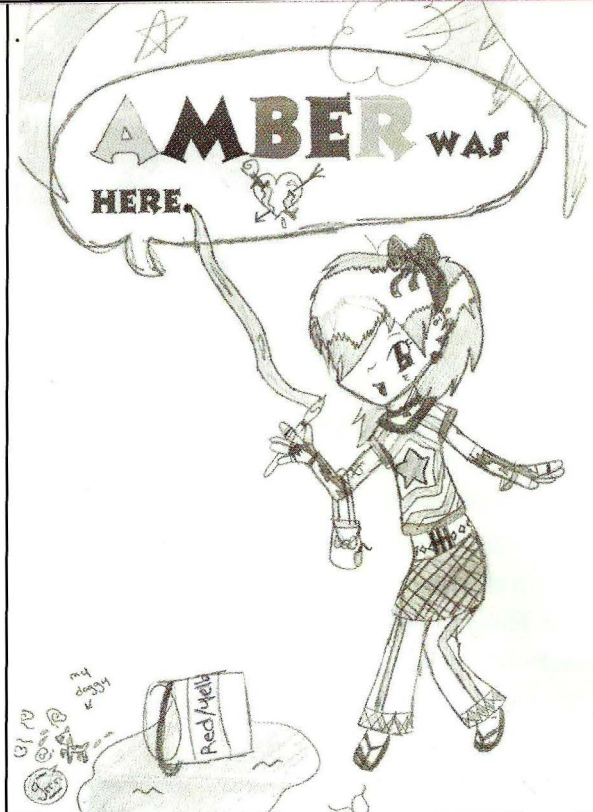
Belfast, Maine

Luna's Art Gallery

Welcome to
Luna's Art Gallery!
We're proud to
present the work
of two fabulous
artists.

This picture describes how
much I love to draw!

Amber Dean, 12
Ohio



Coyotes live in the woods by my
house. This is a picture I drew of
them howling at the moon.

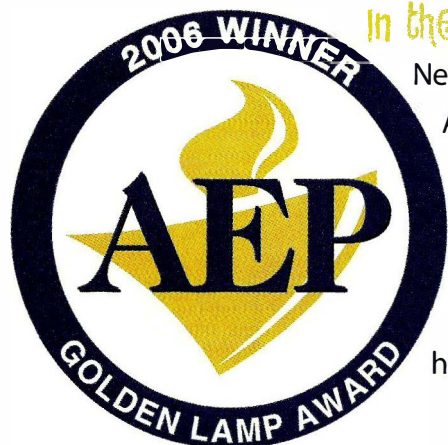
Margalit Kaufman, 10
Connecticut

Cat Tails

by Emily Kawachi



Inside the Moon



In the Spotlight

New Moon just won the Golden Lamp Award from the Association of Educational Publishers—it's the highest honor an educational magazine can receive! The Golden Lamp doesn't come with its own genie, but the recognition is a birthday wish come true—we're celebrating our 14th birthday with this issue. Thanks for helping us make New Moon a great magazine for girls!

Turn Beauty Inside Out

At the 2006 Turn Beauty Inside Out conference in New York City in June, girls met face-to-face with music industry professionals and participated in workshops. They also spoke up about what they want to see on MTV and hear on the radio. The TBIO participants visited a recording studio in Times Square, learned the art of songwriting with singer Lindsay Rush, and made their own band logos. Most importantly, they talked about defining themselves and not letting the media do it for them. To read the conference blog or to bring the Turn Beauty Inside Out campaign to your own community,

visit www.tbio.org.

••• Brochure Brigade •••

Thanks to **Megan** from Indiana, **Claudia** from Massachusetts, **Clara** from Minnesota, **Sophie** from Illinois, and **Lydia** from Oregon, who requested New Moon brochures to give to their friends.

You made our day, girls!

If you'd like brochures to hand out, email

newmoon@newmoon.org or call

1-800-381-4743.

Politics, Leaders, and YOU!

Are you interested in being a senator someday? What about president? More than 75% of the girls who already took our online survey said they're interested in politics and over half said they'd consider running for office. If you're interested in a career in politics, or if you'd like to help women get elected, check out The White House Project at www.thewhitehouseproject.org.

To see what women are already doing in politics, check out Melina Mara's photo exhibit, "Changing the Face of Power: Women in the U.S. Senate." The photos are at the University of Texas at Austin's Center for American History, but you can see them online at www.digitaljournalist.org/issue0502/cah.html.

Thanks to everyone who took the survey! We'll share more of the results in our January/February 2007 issue, "Letter to Congress." And if you haven't taken the survey yet, go to www.newmoon.org to share your opinion.





sunday

monday

tuesday

wednesday

thursday

friday

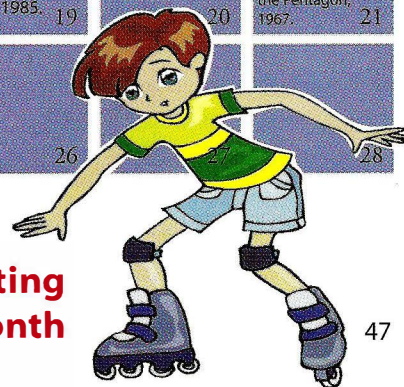
saturday

September

					1	2
3	Great Bathtub Race, Nome, Alaska. The bathtub with the most water and bubbles at the end wins! 4	5	6	Full Moon	7	8
10	Swap Ideas Day—"I'll tell you my idea if you tell me yours." 11	Alice Stebbins Wells becomes the first woman police officer in the U.S., 1910. 12	13	14	It's "Someday"—Do all those things you said you'd do "some-day." 15	16
17	Respect for the Elderly Day, Japan. 18	International Talk Like a Pirate Day. Arrr! 19	20	International Day of Peace. 21	New Moon 22	Autumnal Equinox—the day and the night are an equal length. 23
24	Sandra Day O'Connor, first female Supreme Court Justice, sworn in, 1981. 25	First televised presidential debate, 1960. 26	National Women's Health and Fitness Day, U.S. 27	United Planet Month		30

October

1	Yom Kippur—Jewish Day of Atonement. 2	3	Luna 3, Russian satellite, takes first pictures of the far side of the moon, 1959. 4	Kate Winslet, actress, born, 1973. 5	Full Moon	7
8	Alphabet Day, Korea—commemorates the publication of the Korean alphabet, 1446. 9	10	Eleanor Roosevelt born, 1884. 11	Florence Chadwick crosses the English Channel in world record time, 1955. 12	13	14
15	World Food Day—fight hunger! 16	17	18	First Blockbuster video store opens in Dallas, Texas, 1985. 19	20	More than 50,000 people protest the Vietnam War and thousands storm the Pentagon, 1967. 21
New Moon	22	23	24	Katharine Byron, former U.S. congresswoman, born, 1903. 25	26	27
29	30	Halloween 31				



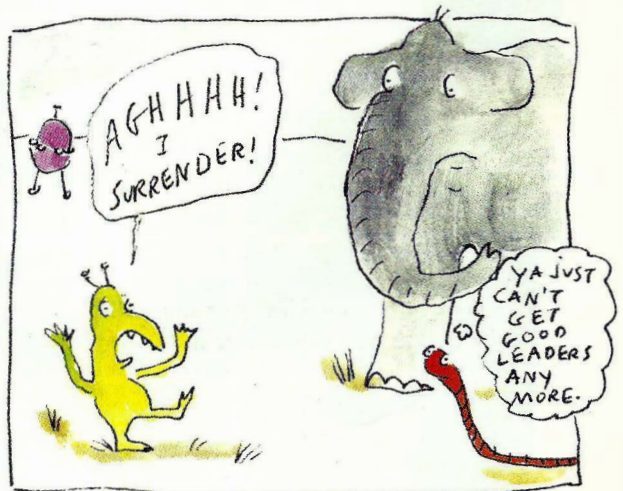
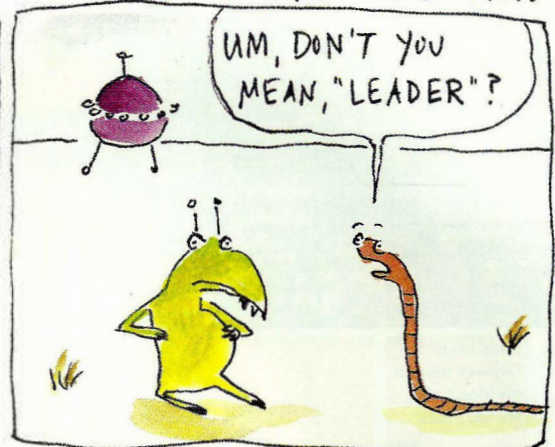
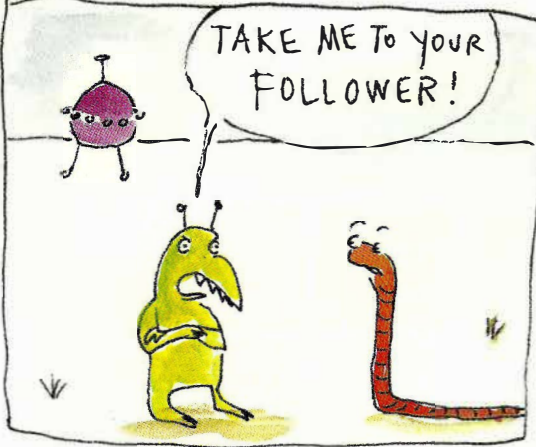
Roller Skating Month

September/October 2006

47

IN the Wild ~ ~ ~

by MARY LAWTON





“There is no such thing
as being nonpolitical.”

Just by making a decision to stay out of politics, you are making the decision to allow others to shape politics and exert power over you. And if you are alienated from the current political system, then just by staying out of it you do nothing to change it, you simply entrench it.”

—Joan Kirner

Joan Kirner was the first woman to be Premier of Victoria, Australia—a premier is the head of a state, much like a governor. Joan became interested in politics as a teacher and mother of three. When her first son started school, she was upset about the size of his class—it was so large that kids didn’t get much individual attention. She began her political activism by joining the school’s “mother’s club,” but it troubled her that the mothers were more concerned with bake sales and school uniforms than school policy. Several years later, Joan became president of the Australian Council of State School Organizations, which brought the concerns of parents, teachers, and schools to the national government’s attention. She thought parents should be more involved in kids’ education and that people should make decisions as a team.

Joan represented the Labor Party in the Victorian Legislative Council—the Upper House of Victoria’s Parliament. Victoria’s Premier, John Cain, appointed Joan as the Minister of Conservation, Forests, and Lands, and Joan worked to protect

endangered species. After John resigned, Joan became Premier. Some Australian newspapers criticized Joan, saying she was either a sinister communist or a frumpy housewife. But despite this criticism, Joan was popular. However, the Labor Party was not, so Joan lost her re-election campaign.

Joan retired from Parliament in 1994, but she continues to mentor women interested in politics. She also founded the Australian chapter of Emily’s List, an organization that helps women win seats in government.



