**Direct Air Capture: A Step Forward against Global Warming by Jimmy Thompson**

Did you know that there is technology that sucks up and filters carbon dioxide (CO2) and pumps it in the ground with water, transforming it to stone? While this may sound like a chapter from a science fiction novel, this type of technology exists today and is called Direct Air Capture (DAC).

Why do we need to absorb CO2? As of 2023, we have 50% more CO2 now than we did before the Industrial Revolution. The ocean has absorbed so much CO2 that its pH has lowered by 0.1 units translating to 30% more acidity. The last time that there was this much CO2 was 3 million years ago. With the escalation of global warming comes many consequences. Some of these consequences directly affect human public health while others are the result of more extreme weather. For example, warmer weather increases crop destruction by increasing wildfires, hurricanes, and drought. We would save between 4-33 billion dollars if there was an international effort to halt global warming. By 2040, if global warming continues, the average temperature on earth will rise 1.5 degrees. This doesn’t sound like a lot but it would have catastrophic results! In conclusion, if we don’t stop global warming soon our planet will be in big trouble.

Companies use DAC and for good reason. To understand why, it is important to know about carbon credits and offsets. In an effort to decrease CO2 and be seen by the public as environmentally sustainable, companies can purchase carbon credits or offsets to neutralize their carbon footprint. For example, an airline company may decide that they want to become carbon neutral. The problem is that they produce large amounts of CO2 from the burning of fossil fuels. The airline company can buy carbon offsets from another company who is doing something positive to improve the environment like reforestation, or proper recycling of chemicals. Then the airline company can technically claim they are carbon neutral even though they produced millions of tons of CO2.

We need to start using DAC instead of participating in the classic carbon credit system. The classic carbon credit system is flawed because the main cause of global warming is increased CO2 in the atmosphere and while carbon credits are helpful, they often do not actually decrease the amount of CO2 in the air. DAC does remove CO2 directly.

DAC technology uses fans to suck up air, pass it through special filters to cleanse out all of the CO2. After this, they mix the CO2 with water, then pump the CO2 water deep into the ground where it will turn to stone. By injecting the CO2 into the ground and turning it to stone we have created the ability to keep the CO2 out of the air for a long time. DAC also is space efficient. This means that trees do not need to be cleared to make space for these DAC plants. DAC is currently being used mostly in Iceland at the Orca Power Plant to reduce carbon waste.

In conclusion, we need to take care of the environment and start using DAC technology. Our planet is our most valuable resource, and until we can colonize mars, it’s the only place in the solar system we can call home. The actions we take today can doom us or help us create a better tomorrow. DAC can be a huge part of the solution.

# **The United States Coast Guard by Nico Sansone**

The U.S. Coast Guard, the most physically and mentally challenging branch of the U.S. armed forces. It is also not talked about as much as the other forces so let's dive in and explore the USCG. A person working in the coast guard, male or female, is called a coast guardsman. There are other jobs in the coast guard but this is what a general worker is called. These coast guardsmen work at the base, on the water, or in the air but they would still live at home. Another topic I will cover is the daily life of a coast guardsman. Daily life is different for different jobs. You will have to work for most of the month until your drill session which is your break according to the coast guardsman Jason who is a mechanic for the boat engines.

As your daily life differs from your job, so do your duties. Everyone has to be “semper paratus” or always ready. They all respect each other and their superior officers. The missions in the coast guard range from Search and Rescue to law enforcement and everything in between the two. The next thing I want to talk about is the hardest part. Like I said at the beginning of the paragraph, the coast guard is very hard physically and mentally. You would need to pass the fitness test and succeed in getting at least a 35 on the ASVAB which is the standard military test to see if you are in or out.

Finally, why is the coast guard important? Every day the coast guard helps people and protects our shores from people doing bad things on the water. For example, they save 12 lives, assist 60 people in distress, help transport 12 billion in goods, and seizes 1,221 pounds of cocaine. They protect our borders and save us from bad things that have happened to anyone. The coast guard also protects the people by making sure the people do not use drugs. They make shipping lines to camp McMurdo which is a research camp in antarctica. The ships that are used to make channels through the ice are still being used as they are very old. The coast guard also helps the navy during war times. They also protect our oceans from pollution. And those are only some of the many things the coast guard does.

**History of Minecraft XP Farms by Dylan Chin**

Have you ever played Minecraft? If you have then you know a lot about XP. If you haven’t then I am here to tell you about it. Minecraft is a game in which your goal is to survive and beat the ender dragon. There are a lot of other fun things that you can do.

Xp is a thing in Minecraft that you can get from mobs dying and many other sources. Jessica Ferguson, a designer at Playbite, says, “Ever wondered how to keep leveling up in Minecraft without the constant grind? Here, we’re diving into the awesome world of XP farms in Minecraft. If you’re itching to know how to build an XP farm in Minecraft, let’s get straight to it. An XP farm is your ticket to gaining heaps of experience points without the hustle. Sounds cool, right?”

Jessica Ferguson also states, “An XP farm not only boosts your level but also supplies a steady flow of items dropped by mobs. This means less time hunting at night and more time crafting, building, and exploring. Whether you’re looking to enchant your gear or craft those tricky potions, having an XP farm in your Minecraft world is a game-changer. Plus, it’s a fun engineering challenge that tests your creativity and resourcefulness.”

The nether opened up many possibilities such as zombie piglin farms. These can attract thousands of zombie piglins. This will supply you with tons of xp.

A god particle is the largest xp orb in the game at about 2,499 xp, or about 37 levels. This makes a god particle the largest xp orb. A god particle is very important because if you obtain god particles then your xp needs are set for life. You will never need to kill mobs for xp again. No more trips to the nether to mine quartz for xp. God particles give you a ton of XP. This allows you to build giant projects without the need of constantly gathering xp.

Minecraft exploits target the bugs in the game code and use them for benefit. They help gamers obtain objects at mass and obtain objects that should only be obtained by creative and cheats. Servers don’t allow exploits and sometimes they can corrupt your game files. Using exploits makes it so much easier to obtain god particles which boost your xp.

By overloading furnaces with xp to create a god particle, you can create the best xp farm. There are exploit farms but furnaces are the easiest.

**Josie Foreman by Maëlle Grehan-Savona**

Who is Josie Foreman? She is a softball player at USF Tampa. She is the #1 catcher of the Team.

Here are some facts about Josie Foramen and her athletic career. She grew up in West Palm Beach, FL. One of the main reasons that started her passion for softball was the involvement of her family with that sport. She played for her high school, Oxbridge Academy and got quickly noticed by USF coaches in her senior year. They thought she had a great mind for the game and particularly to be the catcher. One of the perks of playing that position is wearing the protective gear – a facemask, chest protector and leg padding. When Josie Foreman wears her catcher gear she makes a joke about calling it the “bug suit” with her family. Right now, she is a senior at USF so she only has one more year on the team. Her number on the back of her jersey is number 28. The reason Josie likes being the catcher for the USF is because she loves being in charge and being involved in every play. She said “I loved being in charge”. I loved to be involved in every play. “I loved being the loudest voice out there,” Foreman said. “I just loved being in that role and being the confident one on that team, who can tell everyone what needs to happen.”Josie Foreman has achieved many milestones in the game. One in particular is when she caught two perfect games and no-hitter. Did you know that Josie Foreman has played 53 games! She has also made 50 starts as primarily catcher. She also has caught six runners stealing while being behind the plate.

A challenge Josie Foreman faced in 2023 was an injury that stopped her from playing a full season at USF. She had a torn labrum and a partial tear of her rotator cuff. She had to get surgery on her torn labrum and partial tear in her rotator cuff to get it fixed and a lot of hours in the training room. Her teammates were always by her to support her during her recovery. After the surgery she was forced to take a break from softball for a whole season but always came to games to support her team. She is back on the field and sees the game with a new perspective now. She is still a force behind the plate.

Advice Josie Formen gave to younger softball players is to “Never Give up even when life gets tough.”

**Photovoltaic Solar Panels at Frankfurt Airport! by Victor Menszycki**

Frankfurt Airport is an airport located in Frankfurt, Germany. This is the busiest airport in the country. About 59.4M people visit the airport annually. This airport consists of 4 runways, 2 terminals (a new terminal is being built at the moment), and 4 concourses.

The operator of Frankfurt Airport, Frankfurt AG, is planning to make photovoltaic solar panels. Frankfurt Airport will have the record for the largest photovoltaic solar field in the world. Since our globe is warming up, Frankfurt Airport is taking a big step for not just the airport, but the world. The airport will run off of photovoltaic solar panels. This will be a big leap for the airport.

When complete, the solar panels will generate 17.4MW. 30.8-hectare of area and 2,800 meters long by size and this is how big this solar field will be. The solar panels are going to be parallel with the western runway. The solar panels will be the one the only vertical solar panels in the world. The new solar panels will supply the new airport terminal 3 and the rest of the Airport.

The company that is going to install these solar panels is Next2Sun. Their goal is to make the world a cleaner place and create energy in an environmental way. That’s basically also Frankfurt Airport’s goal too. The project will be finished around June 19th through the 21st this year.

Keimling explains, “This means we can expect maximum electricity generation with a minimal impact on nature,” “That’s important because our green spaces are virtually unique when it comes to their biodiversity. We want this characteristic to remain to the fullest extent, even with the new installation.”

Keimling also explains, “The aim of our initial demonstration section is to gain experience with building and maintaining the system and the lawn around it. Our own staff will be involved in this task. The trial areas will give us the experience we need. We’re going to move on to expanding the PV system alongside the runway very soon, with the aim of completing it as soon as possible.”

In conclusion, there are not many photovoltaic solar panels in the world so it is good that Frankfurt Airport is taking advantage of this and making the world a cleaner place. Soon, there will be tons of photovoltaic solar panels. But, we have to worry about the present and what decisions we make.

C block

**Why do cats always land on their feet? by Jessica McDougall**

In 2018, a cat fell from a 32 story building in New York City and survived!

There is only one possible reason why a cat is able to survive such a fall. The reason is because cats have a built-in balancing system called the “righting reflex.” The righting flex is how and what allows them to switch themselves and land on their feet, it also is the ability to arch their back and how they perfectly position their feet. If they were a centimeter or more less arched then they would break both their legs and their spine. But while cats are usually landing the right way up, it’s not true that they always land on their feet. The height of the fall can slightly change their ability to land safely.

The cat who fell 32 stories away was very shocked to see Sabrina, their cats, still alive. “I was shocked Sabrina’s was still there, alive," said the owner. The owner is now in a two floor house because “she cares too much and would let her cat fall or get hurt ever again.”

An evolutionary biologist shared that Cats are the only species on earth who don’t need their bodies to develop anymore because they are perfect in every way. Cats then last cat to evolve was 3.5 millions years ago.

Cats need their reflexes because if they don't have good reflexes they could get seriously injured, cats have 65% more activity than do dogs. This is a good example because when cats are in the wild they have no owners to protect them when they get hurt unklike when a dog gets hurt they would just go to the vet so a dog but sometimes this isn’t the case for when cats go missing, they would need to survive on their own and I could assure you a cat couldn’t survive without its brilliant reflexes.

Cats IQ is similar to a two year old toddler in cat life. We would be as smart as a six year old to them and a research goes on cat biologists are on the right track to getting smarter and learning more about cats. Just think about it, if we had the intuition and reflexes of a cat then the world would be a better place.

In conclusion we’ve learned that the height of the. Fall can affect the cat's fall. But still every cat isn’t the same so some cats might react a slightly different way cats would not be the same without their incredible reflexes and they’re great intuition even though there as smart a a 2 year old toddler

**Why Do People Dream? by Phoenix Freisberg-Hickey**

Have you ever woken up from a dream and wondered, “Why do I have dreams?” Or “How do dreams work?” There is a lot that experts and clinics know about why people have dreams, and where they come from, and a lot they don’t. However, there is a theory that dreams help you consolidate memories. For example, skills, habits, and even some situations or challenges that one might have faced in the daytime. Luckily, experts were able to find out more about what happens physiologically when you dream. Most dreams occur during REM( rapid eye movement), which we cycle through during the night time. Sleep studies show our brain waves are almost as active during REM cycles as they are when we’re awake. Psychologists believe that the brainstem generates REM and the forebrain generates dreams! As fascinating as all of this is, experts still have far more to learn and study about your dreams. Nightmares or “bad dreams” are a type of dream that is triggered by stress, anxiety and fear. They also come from the process of REM too. “Our most vivid dreams are a remarkable replication of reality, combining objects and actions into a detailed hallucination.” States NBCI, a research facility that studies brain science. Most people do dream every night, although you simply don’t remember your dreams unless you're awake during or just after them. Some people do remember their dreams. Whether they remember or not, all people do dream in their sleep. It is an essential function for the human brain. Young spiders dangle on a thread at nighttime, in a box, in a lab. Every so often, the retinas of their eyes shift back and forth. “What these spiders are doing seems to be resembling—very closely—REM sleep,” says Danelia Rösler, a behavioral ecologist at the university of Konstanz in Germany. In people, REM is when most dreaming happens,particularly the most vivid dreams. Which leads to an interesting question.: If spiders have REM sleep, might dreams also unfold in their seed-sized brains? Rösler and her team kept cameras on the spiders, though the spiders were motionless. Because of this, the team hasn’t proved that they are sleeping just yet. “But if it turns out that they really are-and if what it looks like really is REM, dreaming of these animals is a distinct possibility.” Rösler says. Dreaming is a really cool process, and there is a lot that researchers are studying about dreams to find out more about it! I hope you learned something new about your dreams and thoughts and how they work! Fun Fact! Lucid dreaming is when you gain consciousness or awareness that you are dreaming while dreaming. Often, lucid dreaming lets you control what happens in your dream. Some people think it feels more real and vivid, and some say less.

**The Greatness of the World Cup by Emmett Lee**

The World Cup is a national tournament where soccer teams from all around the world go head to head to find out which team is the best in the world. To get into the World Cup your country must qualify to get into round 32. It takes a lot to win the World Cup.

First you need to get past the group stage. Then you will qualify to get into the finals of the knockout stage. The way the World Cup started was with an idea from the FIFA president Jules Rimet. He thought that there was a need to be a national tournament for countries all over the world. Because of the second world war there was an unofficial world cups during 1909 and 1911 which was the closest thing to the full tournament. This tournament only happens every 4 years so it is big if your country hosts the world cup, which is another way to get into the World Cup. Countries qualify by beating other countries to earn points that allow you to qualify.

Out of 22 World Cups, only 8 countries have ever won. The first World Cup winner was Uruguay. They have won 2 times. The first time was in 1930 and the second time was in 1950. Italy has won 4 times; 1934, 1938. Germany has won 4 times; 1954, 1974, 1990, 2014. Brazil has won the most World Cups. The years were 1958, 1962, 1974, 1994, 2002. England has won 1 World Cup in the year 1966. Argentina has won 3 World Cups. One of them being the most recent, 1978, 1986, 2022. Next, we now have the French. They have won twice, 1998, 2018. Now Spain. Spain has won once in 2010. These are all the teams that have won the World Cup.

What does it mean to a country to win a World Cup? This means a lot of things to a country because the World Cup is done every 4 years so winning one is amazing. It is very hard to qualify for one. One example is that Italy has won 4 world cups but they haven't qualified for one in 8 years. When Argentina won there were parties after parties.

Getting this achievement in soccer is one of the best achievements you can do. The country also gets a lot of money for winning. The amount is $270,000. Most players don't care about the money they care about making their country happy and proud. But there are some bad things about playing in the World Cup. If you fail just as one player you might get death threats and it would be super dangerous to go back to your country after that.   
 This is the history of the World Cup.

**Life Cycle of the Immortal Jellyfish by Leah Sptaru**

Have you ever thought of what it’s like to have the ability to live forever? It may seem like that’s an impossible idea, but what if I told you that for a certain species of jellyfish, it's not so impossible. Jellyfish are already remarkable creatures, living their whole lives without a brain, heart, or central nervous system, but as if that wasn't enough, a certain species can essentially reverse its growth and prevent itself from dying of old age. But before we dive into that, let’s talk about the typical life cycle of a jellyfish. The life cycle of a jellyfish starts when the jellyfish is an egg. Then slowly, it grows into the next stage called the planula phase, which is very small and looks like a circle. Next it grows into a polyp, which looks a bit like a plant, shortly after that, it evolves into a polyp with buds. After that, they grow into the next phase called immature medusa where they begin to look like an actual jellyfish. Lastly, they grow into their adult and final form called adult medusa. Different species of jellyfish can look very different from each other while they are an adult, but most species look the same while they are in planula through immature medusa phase. This is the typical life cycle that the vast majority of jellyfish experience. However, this does not apply to a certain species sometimes. The species is called Turritopsis Dohrnii, this type of jellyfish is only about 4.5 millimeters wide. If this jellyfish gets physically damaged while in the adult medusa phase, it is possible that it can shrink in on itself and revert back to the polyp phase. It loses its ability to swim and settles on the ocean floor in the polyp stage, then it begins to evolve into the next stages until it is a fully functioning adult again. This remarkable phenomenon is called transdifferentiation, and it is extremely rare, it’s only found in a handful of animals. This process can be repeated over and over again, making it impossible for this species to die of old age, hence why this species is often referred to as “the immortal jellyfish.” Jellyfish that do not experience transdifferentiation typically live 4 months to 3 years depending on the species. Thank you for learning about the life cycle of a jellyfish and the immortal jellyfish.

**The C-5 Galaxy by Maxwell Chin​**

​​The plane that amazed the world and can hold 25,844,746 ping pong balls.​

The development of the C-5 galaxy was not easy, for example the program is a 7.7-billion-dollar program. This plane was so expensive it almost bankrupt Lockhead Martin. The first plane developed in 1960 was the C-5A.

The C-5A Galaxy had an excessively big problem though. The C-5A wings broke under 125% load so it could only hold 80,000 pounds (about 36287.36 kg) not the 200,000 pounds (about 90718.4 kg) planned. Despite this the plane continued and more funding by the congress led to stronger wings and upgraded engines. Years later in 1985 the development led to the C-5M.

The C-5m also known as the super Galaxy can hold 288,000 pounds (about 130634.5 kg). The plane can also travel 2,100 nautical miles. The C-5M has 5 sets of landing gears and 28 wheels.

The C-5 has been used in every conflict since the Vietnam war that the USAF was involved.

The plane is now the biggest in the world after Russia bombed the biggest cargo plane in the world, the Antonov – 225 in a Ukraine hanger.

The C-5 Galaxy can hold a C-130 or 2 M1 Abrams. The C-5 galaxy can hold 25,844,746 ping pong balls. The plane uses the nose of the plane as a cargo door and opens through there. The plane can also hold 343 people. The plane can also hold 7 commercial helicopters. The C-5m can also hold 6 Apache helicopters.

The plane has a length of 144 ft, and a width of 19 ft, and a height of 13 ft

​​The C-5 is a USAF (United States Air Force) plane developed by Lockhead Martin. This plane developed in the 1960s is a transport plane. The plane cost over 1 billion USD or almost 800 Million pounds​. This cost was mostly due to the size of the C-5.

The C-5 Galaxy is the biggest USAF plane, because of this the C-5 Galaxy uses $100,000 an hour to be in the sky. This is less effective compared to other planes.

The C-5 Galaxy is not just going to put a hole in your wallet, it will also hurt the environment as well.

The C-5 Galaxy had 1 crash in takeoff, but except for that there has never been a C-5 Galaxy shot down.

When a C-5 was delivering supplies to Israel the prime minister said” For generations to come, all will be told of the miracle of the immense planes of the United State.”

The C-5 was developed by Lockhead Martin during the Vietnam war to Transport military supplies to Vietnam.

**Syrian Civil Rights Violations by Santiago Fort**

Freedom of speech, enforced disappearances, the right to privacy, deprivation of liberty, and persecution. These are only some of the rights being violated in Syria since 2011. The Syrian government has been violating all these civil rights of their citizens since 2011, which is when the Syrian Civil War began.

The Syrian Civil War was a war that started in 2011 and lasted for 10 years. It was the rebels who were the citizens, the US, and the Islamic Front, against the regime who were the government, Russia, and Iran. On the regime's side they had the president, Bashar al-Assad. The war resulted in more than 2% of the population being killed which doesn’t sound like a lot until you realize that Syria’s population is 22 million citizens. That 2% is 440,000 people that died in the Syrian Civil War. Along with all the deaths, over 1,000,000 homes were destroyed and obliterated. The reason the war started was because of economic equality, which is the amount of poor people compared to the amount of wealthy people.

“I hid and stayed hiding for two days, I went downstairs, I shouted, but no one answered, so I drank water and went back to hide.” This is what 9 year old Laith told UNHCR after both his parents and siblings died in the Syrian Civil War because the Syrian government violated the civil rights of the citizens. Laith had to lay down next to his parents and siblings to play dead and to hopefully trick the gunmen. He now lives with his grandmother in an abandoned school and is just surviving on aid.

Systematic human rights violations by Syrian security and military forces, enforced disappearances, deprivation of liberty, persecution, freedom of speech, the right to privacy, arbitrary arrest, enforced disappearance of civilians, forced evacuations from homes, looting and seizure of private property, transfer of detained civilians across the border into Turkey, the cutting of water to civilian populations, recruitment of child soldiers, and the looting and desecration of religious shrines. All of these are all the rights that are being violated to the Syrian citizens. The citizens have to live with all of these horrible rights that are being violated on a daily basis.

After reading about all the rights of Syrian citizens that are being violated , I would suppose that you can see how bad the life of a Syrian citizen is. Syrian citizens have to go to sleep hoping they wake up. Even if they wake up, they have to traverse through all the rubble and debris just to find food to eat and water to drink. Even if they find food they only eat small amounts of food. Half of the population is in the grip of hunger. Throughout the day they have to hide in rumbles or abandoned buildings hoping not to be found because of the horrible things that would happen if they were found. There are over 1.2 million orphans in Syria because their families are killed or taken by the Syrian government.

**Crossing the Mediterranean by Daniel Ahlgren**

The Mediterranean Sea has been known as a migration route for years, but it became a refugee escape route around fifteen years ago for either people trying to escape a war or people attempting to leave a country. The Mediterranean Sea is an unpredictable sea and most refugees who cross it are unprepared. The MOAS (Migrant Offshore Aid Station) states that most who cross the sea are not well suited in terms of boats and supplies.

Most of the boats are made of metal, wood, or inflatable plastic. A common concern that is seen is not having enough flotation devices if the boat was to capsize. The driver or the person who runs the engine of the boat is inexperienced and most likely chosen by the smugglers. Therefore, during a capsize, the driver is not familiar with safety.

The Mediterranean Sea is known as a fierce sea as it is prone to have swells, sideway waves, whitecaps, dangerous storms and many more. MOAS Leader, John Hamilton states, “Why should innocent people have their lives at risk because they don’t know the danger of the sea?”

According to BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) news, there have been an estimated number of 21000 deaths from refugees attempting to cross the Mediterranean Sea. The all-time high was in 2016 with 4,574 deaths, but we are getting close to the all-time high now in 2024 with about 2,000 deaths so far. In 2020 we reached an all time low of 1,000 deaths, but the deaths are starting to slowly rise once again which could start to become problematic. Crossing the Mediterranean is a costly choice, but the governments of the refugees’ home country are so horrific which makes the refugees risk their crossings .

According to CNN, the conditions of a refugee’s home country can be terrible or their government may be corrupt. The government may play a big role in making citizens leave their country. Take Syria for example, there is an ongoing war that endangers the citizens and their families. The Syrian citizens may encounter snipers, land mines, and many more atrocities. The citizens may lose their home to bombs or to rival gangs. There is one main issue however, and that is leaving the country legally may not be possible! If a person can legally leave, they have to worry about the dangers that may be faced while trying to cross the border. These factors make crossing the Mediterranean Sea a more accessible escape route, but nonetheless, a costly one.

If the refugees reach their new country, they face many challenges such as finding shelter, food, water, and deportation. When refugees cross the border illegally they can be faced with border control or the government attempting to send them back. Most refugees can find a refugee camp or a safe place to stay. Another issue that is seen involves unaccompanied minors or children who survived the cross. The child in most cases cannot attend school due to having no ID or a parent/guardian. When a refugee does find a shelter, they need to find food or a place that provides the necessary supplies. When a refugee finds these supplies they can live a life of survival, but they are not legal citizens of that country which could be problematic later on in their life. What can be done to help refugees survive? Some of the simple things that can be done in order to help refugees includes: Donating clothing, donating money, attending a food drive, and providing aid to refugees that need more due to their financial situation.

**The Endangered African Forest Elephant by Ajay Amin**

African Forest elephants have declined by 86% over the past 31 years! The African Forest elephant is 1 out of the 2 types of elephants in the African elephant species and it is a critically endangered animal. They live in big, humid forests in Central and West Africa. African Forest elephants live 50-60 years and are smaller and darker than their cousins, the Savanna elephants. They also have round ears and a hairy trunk too. It weighs 2-5 tons and eats more than 400 lbs of food a day! African Forest elephants are also very tall, they are 8-10 feet tall! These are giant creatures that should not end up extinct.

This animal is important to nature and it is also important to humans. You must be wondering how? Since this animal is very large, while it walks to find food such as plants and seeds, it often ends up breaking branches along the way. African Forest elephants are like friendly bulldozers! Less branches means less competition for the trees to get water, space, and sunlight. This also allows more stronger trees to grow using the spaces where the African Forest elephants cleared some tree branches. This then means that they can take more CO2 which they then turn the CO2 into oxygen through photosynthesis.

This isn’t the only way African Forest elephants make trees though. They also make trees by eating seeds! Seeds have hard shells so it is sometimes hard for them to grow. African Forest elephants help with this. The seed’s shell gets weakened by the elephant’s stomach acid when it eats the seed. This helps the seed grow after it passes through the elephant. Then the seed would become a tree and help make oxygen for us! This is great since we need oxygen to survive. Without oxygen, we wouldn’t be able to play games, eat dessert, or play with our pets! Not only can African Forest elephants do this but they are also giant seed dispensers to animals. This is because while it eats, it often ends up dropping seeds. This means other animals get free food!

Sadly, not everyone knows how amazing and helpful not just African Forest elephants are, but all elephants since they are also helpful to us too. Poachers hunt African Forest elephants for ivory. Not only are they hunted, they also have lost an uneasy amount of their habitat from agriculture. It is said that African Forest elephants currently have only 25% of the amount of habitat they had when they were not endangered. Miners and logging companies destroy African Forest elephant habitat but also let poachers hunt the elephants down more easily since they destroy trees. Wildlife trade endangers many elephants since they are killed. Wildlife crime is run by many awful international networks. These networks kill many animals such as the African Forest elephant. This is disgraceful since all the poachers want is money even though they risk many animals’ lives to get what they want. They do not care if elephants and animals in general help the environment, they only care about themselves.

It does not end like this though. Many charities are putting in efforts to help African Forest elephants and other animals. They know how animals help the environment and they respect the animals. One charity that helps not only the African Forest elephant, but many other animals too. This organization is called the World Wildlife Fund. *“Poaching is a direct threat to the future of many of the world’s most threatened species”* says WWF. This amazing organization helps by advocating in many public places trying to get people to hunt less vulnerable and endangered animals. WWF also convinced neighboring countries of the Congo area to protect wildlife from poaching. WWF also supports a regional network named PAPECALF. PAPECALF will strengthen law enforcement and will try to end illegal poaching. The Elephant Crisis Fund is also helping. The EFC has funded more than 463 projects and 111 organizations in 44 different countries across the world. People who are a part of the EFC are dedicated to ending the ivory crisis. The EFC has supported interrogations with poachers which some have led to arrest. The EFC encouraged the Chinese government to ban ivory selling which became a law in 2017. The EFC is trying to find solutions to end human-elephant conflict and also are trying to help African Forest elephants get their habitat back. Hopefully, these organizations will succeed.

On March 25, 2021, the IUCN upgraded the African Forest elephant to Critically Endangered on the Red List. This is awful since African Forest elephants are now very close to extinction. Here is a quote from an expert explaining why African elephants should not be hunted. *“Africa’s elephants play key roles in ecosystems, economies and in our collective imagination all over the world. Today’s new IUCN Red List assessments of both African elephant species underline the persistent pressures faced by these iconic animals,”* said Dr Bruno Oberle, IUCN Director General. *“We must urgently put an end to poaching and ensure that sufficient suitable habitat for both forest and savanna elephants is conserved. Several African countries have led the way in recent years, proving that we can reverse elephant declines, and we must work together to ensure their example can be followed.”*

That was just one person out of many who believe not just African Forest elephants, but all animals should be protected. They are living things like us and don’t forget, they have been on earth millions of years earlier than us. They deserve respect, just how you have respect for your friends and your pets! So always remember, animals matter!

# **Rainmaker Ranch Review by Asha Amin**

Rainmaker Ranch is a dog breeding company that has successfully bred dogs since 2002 in Tennessee, Florida, and South Carolina. According to Rainmaker Ranch, there are 3 puppy caretakers named Krista(Florida), Ann(Tennessee), and Crystal(South Carolina). The caretakers temperament test and health test the puppies when they are a few weeks old. They test the puppies because the caretakers want to make sure that the puppies are healthy and that they have a great temperament for their future owner(s). The puppies stay at the caretaker’s home for 8 weeks then, the puppies can go to their new home or go to training for 2 weeks. After the 2 weeks of training, the puppy can go home to its forever home.

A family who are customers of Rainmaker Ranch named the Amin family, think that Rainmaker Ranch is a unique dog breeding company. On April 13, 2024, the Amin family stated, “We think Rainmaker Ranch is a unique dog breeding company because the caretaker of our puppy let us visit its litter before we decided what dog we wanted. They take remarkable care of their dogs too.”

There are many pros to dog breeding. According to Fear Free Happy Homes, a responsible breeder will check the mother’s health before breeding her. Responsible dog breeders will do this because if the mother is healthy, when bred the puppies have a higher chance of being healthy. If the mother dog was bred with severe medical conditions, there are higher chances of the produced puppies having medical conditions. Responsible dog breeders will allow customers to give their puppy back to the breeders if the owner(s) can no longer take care of their puppy. Also, responsible breeders can tell you what they predict how large and what type of coat the puppy might have based on the puppy’s parents.

A customer from Rainmaker Ranch named, Haley Shaver, says that Rainmaker Ranch is an exceptional dog breeding company. She says, “Rainmaker Ranch is excellent! As a full fledged dog enthusiast, I did years of research into the correct breeder for me as I patiently awaited the perfect time to adopt my first puppy. Given this, I had set the bar quite high, however, RR has already far and exceeded all of my expectations and I am now 1 month out from taking my "oh so worth the wait" puppy.”

However, there are many cons with dog breeding. According to PETA, there are some dogs who are struggling to survive in the USA. The struggling dogs end up going to shelters and sometimes, not being bought. If the dogs don’t get bought they end up being killed because there would be too many dogs in the shelter. Each time when a puppy is bred, a sheltered dog has less of a chance of living with a family and being happy. Some bred dogs come from puppy mills. A puppy mill is when dogs are forced to give birth to puppies over and over again. Some puppy mills give dogs very little area to move around and very little love and attention.

In conclusion, I believe that Rainmaker Ranch is an amazing dog breeding company because they are wonderful breeders. They think about the dog because if the mother dog wants to stop giving birth, she can go back to her owners, and never give birth again. The breeders also give the newborns a lot of love and attention. I rate Rainmaker Ranch 5/5 stars.

**Month of the Military Child/Purple Up Day! by Annalise Ferenzi**

April marks the month of the military child. Many people don’t know what the Month of

the Military Child is or how it is celebrated. The Month of the Military Child is a month where

people celebrate military children’s hope, strength, and resilience. On April 15th people are

encouraged by the US government to wear purple to show their support of purple up day which

is the day that military children are celebrated the most. Many schools like the Washington

County district, Benton Middle School, and Las Posas Elementary School host events to

celebrate. In addition to events there are also parades. This day is called Purple Up Day.

“Courage is the power to let go of the familiar.” This quote shows what military children

have to go through. Military children face many challenges like moving to a new house, joining a

new school, leaving their friends, and being separated from their parents. They settle down,

adapt to their new environment and then often move away again. They leave their friends,

school, and everything that they know and start over at a new destination. Most military children

do this several times in their life because a new base is assigned to military parents about every

three years.

Even though military children face a lot of challenges, they also have many unique

opportunities. They get to see different parts of the world that many people may never see, they

receive a GI bill which is a document that helps you pay for college, graduate school, and enter

a training program, and they get free healthcare, insurance, and survivor benefits. If military

children want to join the military, they are twice as likely to be accepted than a regular person.

A Dandelion is used to describe military children because “Dandelions can take root and

flourish practically anywhere the wind blows them.” They are uprooted and replanted across the

world.” This quote says how military children are spread all over the world in different military

bases, and can take root by making friends and getting used to their new home. Because

military children move a lot, they are able to make friends and get used to their new school very easily.

Military children face a lot of challenges in their life and showing them support can make

them feel more welcome and adapt better to their new community. Even the smallest gesture

like wearing purple or celebrating purple up day can make their day.

**The Rise of DIG BUGHA by Asher Furness**

Fortnite streamer Bugha, is one of the most accomplished gamers in history. Bugha has 5,507,010 followers on Twitch and 4,620,000 followers on YouTube and he is only 21 and his popularity is still growing!

Now that you know little more about Bugha let’s talk about some of his accomplishments through his life so far, his biggest accomplishment is winning something called the FNCS and World Cup and this is a gaming competition where the best of the best gamers come to a big arena and they join a 100 player game and the winner gets a grand total of $30,000,000. Bugha has won a lot of money throughout his life so far and with all of those earnings he has a 6 million dollar net worth at the young age of 21! and if he keeps playing the way he always plays, his net worth will just keep growing and growing.

You may be wondering what Bugha’s real name is? But don’t worry i'll tell you, Bugha’s gamer name is DIG Bugha as you all may know by now but his birth name is Kyle Giersdorf and he was born and raised in the state of Pennsylvania on December 30 2002, and the reason that Bugha got the name Bugha was by his grandfather who always used to call him his little Bugha. As a young child Bugha always strived to become the best not only Fortnite player there was but the most accomplished. And after all of his training and struggle he managed to win the biggest award in gaming history named the World Cup and the FNCS.

When Bugha was younger he was always inspired by many people but one person the he looked up to the most was Ninja and if you don’t know ninja he is still one of the funniest Fortnite streamers in gaming and now with all of the skill that Bugha has built up he is better than the streamer that he always wanted to be. The reason that Bugha got into streaming and gaming is because that is what Kyle always wanted to be when he was growing up. Bugha’s audience consists mainly of other streamers and gamers that strive to become like Bugha and accomplish all of the milestones that Bugha has managed to surpass in his career.

Thank you all for reading my news article about the best gamer there is, BUGHA!

**Why Luka Doncic Should be the MVP of the NBA 2024 Season by Jordan Cooper**

The biggest question of NBA audiences is who will be the MVP of the 2023-2024 season. Lebron James, Kevin Durant, or even James Harden? Some of the most popular basketball players. Well I think Luka Doncic, the first player to have at least 10 points, 10 assists, and 10 rebounds in a game, 6 games in a row.

Just before I tell you why he should be MVP, I'll tell you who he is. Luka Doncic is an NBA player for the Dallas Mavericks. He is in his 5th season in the NBA. I know what you are thinking, Doncic is not an American name, where is he from? Well Luka Doncic is from Slovenia, Europe. Luka Doncic started playing basketball when he was 8 years old, he played with 12 year olds because he was so good and so tall. I know you've never heard of Luka Doncic but just wait until I tell you his stats.

Luka Doncic averages 34 points, 10 assists, and 9 rebounds a game. Those are some of the best statistics ever. He. Is in 1st place for points, 2nd for assists, and is in second for 3 pointers made a game. A triple-double in basketball is when you have 10 points, 10 assists, and 10 rebounds in a game. Only 2 players in NBA history have averaged a triple-double. Luka Doncic is so close to averaging a triple-double. When the 2 players averaged a triple-double, they were not even close to averaging 34 points a game. Luka doncic also won rookie of the year, which means Luka Doncic was the best rookie in the NBA. Did you know that Luka Doncic was 15 when he started playing with Pro European Players. He won MVP in Europe, so why wouldn’t he win MVP in America.

Next we are going to see the perspective of a teammate of Luka Doncic, Kyrie Irving. “He’s mastered different nuances of the game and he’s continuing to explore his abilities and his talents,” Irving said. “I think the most important thing he wants to do is win. And he’s always put that first. Barring something statistically incredible, Doncic will win his first scoring title when the regular season draws to a close on Sunday. With two games left, Doncic is averaging 33.9 points, 9.2 rebounds and 9.8 assists. No player in NBA history has ever finished a season with such averages in all three of those categories. And on top of all that, he led a 50-win team that won the Southwest Division. There’s no reason that Luka Doncic shouldn’t win MVP.” That is the opinion of Kyrie Irving. I fully agree with Kyrie, Luka’s stats have never been seen before. Also, who would know better about who should be an MVP than a former teammate. That is why Luka Doncic should be MVP of the 2024 NBA season.

**How Nick Eh 30 Got to Where He is Today by Ronan M. Engert**

Nick Eh 30 is one of the top Fortnite streamers and gaming content creators today, and he is still climbing in popularity. So, how did he get to where he is today, and what influenced him into making these decisions? Let’s start from the beginning.

In Halifax Regional Municipality, Canada, on March 14, 1995, the future professional gamer, Nicholas Amyoony (most commonly known as Nick Eh 30), was born. He grew up quite normally, with one brother, and of Canadian-Lebanese descent. During his early childhood, nothing was really different than an average childhood. It was during his time at his university, Dalhousie University, where Nicholas Amyoony started to become the modern day Nick Eh 30.

At the university, Nick really wanted to become some sort of doctor, and he was pursuing this greatly and trying to achieve this dream of his. Since he was studying so hard every day, he eventually gave up extracurricular activities such as football and guitar to spend more time with friends. He often needed a break from all of his studying and hard work at the university, so he would play on his PlayStation 3. This is one of the reasons that influenced him into becoming a gamer. It was his way of relaxing and winding down. He decided soon after that he wanted to pursue a gaming career, so he dropped out of the university.

He started streaming on YouTube at the age of 19 in 2014, but not as a real career yet. On his channel, he was primarily focused on games such as The Last of Us, Uncharted 4, and Resident Evil 7.

In 2016, PewDiePie had this thing he did on Fridays where he would give a shout-out to smaller channels that he thinks deserves a bigger shot. One of the channels he decided to give a shout-out to was Nick’s channel, and this helped Nick’s channel a lot. This made Nick gain over 9,000 subscribers to his channel. The following year, he started streaming professionally, and this was also the year that would greatly change his channel, for the good.

In 2017, a new game called Fortnite was released. Fortnite from day one was already getting a lot of players, and was rising in popularity very fast. Since Nick thought this game had a lot of potential, Nick Eh 30 decided to mainly play Fortnite and start playing other older games less. Since his gain in subscribers from the shout-out from PewDiePie, more people every week have been watching his content. Since Fortnite was a new game, people wanted to learn tips, and get better. Back then, there were not many people streaming Fortnite, so Nick Eh 30 was one of the top options to watch. Another factor that made him a top option is because he was one of the only family-friendly streamers, so a lot of young kids would watch him. Other streamers at the time would use bad language, so the kids that were not allowed to watch those types of streams decided to watch Nick Eh 30.

As he got better at the game, he gained more views. He got so good at Fortnite so quickly because he dedicated so much time into Fortnite. What makes him professional is that he makes a lot of money from YouTube and twitch, judging from the fact that he gets an average of 1.3 million views on his YouTube videos, and he has over 7.6 million subscribers.

He didn’t qualify for the Fortnite World Cup (F.N.C.S.), but he still has earned over 49 thousand dollars over the course of 20 Fortnite tournaments.

One of the main reasons that Nick Eh 30 got so popular is because of his iconic quote, never back down, never give up. This quote was never even supposed to be famous, but it ended up affecting people that play Fortnite and don’t. A lot of people that don’t play Fortnite know this quote and just use it for motivation. This quote was said by him in 2017, and in the last couple of years, has been a REALLY popular quote. In terms of gaming, it is one of the most known quotes, if not THE most famous gaming quote. This quote has spread to millions of people across the globe, and positively impacted a lot of people.

In conclusion, Nick Eh 30 is one of the most popular gaming content creators, and he has positively impacted the world with his videos and quotes.y

**The History of the iPhoneby Fiona Grebow**

The iPhone has so much more history than you think. It all started in 1955. Steve Jobs was born in Cupertino, California and raised by his adoptive parents. He had always been interested in engineering and technology. In middle school, he met Steve Wozniak. Steve Wozniak is the Co-Founder of Apple. Together they developed a company called Apple that produces smart devices such as iPods, iPads, iPhones, and computers.

The name *Apple* comes from Steve Jobs' love for apples. In 2007, a bit after the company Apple was launched, Steve made the first ever iPhone. He made the iPhone to make technology easier. The first iPhone was just called iPhone 2G. Nowadays, selfies are normal, but in 2007, no one imagined that they would be taking pictures with a front-facing camera. That's why at that time there were no cameras on the front, only on the back of the phones. In fact, the iPhone didn't have a front-facing camera until they had released the iPhone 4 in 2010 with the new FaceTime video calling. The first ever iPhone also didn’t have an option for taking videos. Now, taking videos is just a normal thing to do, but back then, no one even knew you could take a video!

It was smaller than the present day iPhone and even had a home button, and funny enough, it was still super expensive. It was $449 back then, but due to inflation and all the new features, now the iPhone is $799! That would definitely hurt your wallet. First, there was only one iPhone, and now there’s fifteen! There are actually 42 models! In 2016, the iPhone 6 was released, making it the most purchased iPhone for Apple! Around 60 million iPhone 6s were brought! With a price of $699, that would mean $41,940,000,000 worth of iPhone were sold! About 231.8 iPhones are produced a year! Still to this day, Apple iPhones are booming like crazy!

“We're here to put a dent in the universe. Otherwise why else even be here?” This quote was Steve Jobs' most famous quote. He means to change the world because why else would we be here. Sadly, Steve Jobs died on October 5, 2011 due to pancreatic cancer. He was 56 years old. Currently, Tim Cook is the CEO of Apple, making sure he doesn’t lose any of Steve's hard work.

***Mr.Beast and His Success* by Max Rish**

Jimmy Donaldson, also known as MrBeast, is a YouTuber who started his channel in 2012. Since then, he has grown his public status and has more than 250 million followers/ subscribers and is the most famous YouTuber ever!

MrBeast is a YouTuber that creates videos about gaming, being stranded in places or being locked in places for 24 or more hours or even days, he gives a lot of money out, helps people get better, and makes everyone’s life better. For example MrBeast also gives away money to people in need like homeless people where he gave 10,000 dollars to a random homeless person and spent 20,000 dollars on important appliances that homeless shelters need and gave the appliances to the homeless shelters. He also built 100 wells in Africa to save people from dying of thirst. While he was doing that he also gave a bunch of money away to the people that live there, toys to play with, and things to help these people learn and get a better education. MrBeast's most popular past video is actually the Squid game video where he recreated squid games and then gave 456,000 to the person who won. This video got more than 541 million views!

Squid Games is a Netflix show that became really popular, however it is rated TV-MA or for mature audiences only. This is because there are violent and inappropriate scenes that should not be shown to kids usually under 16.

MrBeast is so popular because he has over 250 million subscribers that support him. People reading this article have also probably subscribed to MrBeast’s channel which really helps him do the things that he does in his videos because you get 50 cents for subscribing, 25 cents for a view, and 25 cents for a like. For example, blowing up a bank, Renting a whole entire football stadium, and renting a 1 billion dollar yacht!

There is so much more he has done but those are probably some of the most expensive things he’s done and he also has given more than 6.1 million dollars and has raised more than 24 million dollars.

He has also rented stuff that is way too expensive to buy. He also gives away cars, Xboxes, PlayStations, and so much more! He also gives stuff out to tempt people to get out right now instead of staying and winning the really big prize. This has worked in a lot of his challenges and it only didn’t work in the video where he was giving away 1 million dollars in one single video.

He has also made his own candy and then perfected it! Not only that, he made gummies with Karl’s face on it. Karl is a YouTuber that works with MrBeast and has two channels. These channels are Karl and Karl Gaming.

In conclusion, MrBeast is a very successful person and should be remembered forever.

**Youtube, Uploading Hearts or Stars?** **by Alessandra Noordstar**

Did you know youtube has 2.7 billion users? Youtube was created in San Bruno, California, 2005, by 3 men that used to work at Paypal named Chad Hurley, Steve Chen, and Jared Karim. They quit Paypal because they felt the Internet's potential could change different industries. They were inspired by their entrepreneurial spirit. When they began working together, they thought of the idea to do a dating site named youtube. They chose the name youtube because they wanted to show that they are your videos and they chose “tube” because that was the word for television in 1927.

They pursued the idea of a dating site, and when they finished they had a dating site where you could upload videos. People can look at those videos and comment to meet up for a date. However when they published the app on valentines day they didn’t want to create just another dating site, so they decided to take down the site and change it completely. They wanted to change so instead of people uploading videos of talking about themselves for dates to talking about whatever they wanted to talk about. This platform took a couple years to accomplish but when they posted it they were sure that this is what they wanted to do. When youtube was uploaded people were unsure and even scared to upload videos so Jawed Karim was the first to break the shell and started posting to show people what to do. People started growing a little more comfortable with Youtube. They started uploading their own videos which helped other people upload videos.

Youtube went through different updates. Those updates let people subscribe, let people edit their videos in youtube and let just about anyone with an account upload a video.Today youtube's net worth is 400 billion dollars and there are more than 140 million people with channels on Youtube. Youtube has become some peoples life and some peoples job. Some youtubers love to do nice things on youtube like MrBeast who helps donate to people that need it. Youtubers like showing themselves gaming on youtube like Cyper-PK who likes to inspire young gamers to follow their gamer dreams to win a League of Legends, Youtuber’s help let people share stories with people that will listen and support them, Youtube lastly helps out people with different day to day tasks. For example a lot of people need help figuring out how to work things and figuring out how to put something together. All the kinds of youtubers all help inspire different crowds of people. Youtube, an app that started off as a dating site, now helps people find their people, which is what apps should do.

**The Big Bang by Juliette Gillis**

The Big Bang didn't happen in one place but everywhere at once, for it was the start of the universe. As claimed by Forbes.com, there are lots of theories and controversial topics that have to do with the Big Bang. One of these topics is where or when did the Big Bang happen. The Big Bang is thought to have a birthday or the day a point exploded. This is also known as “the day without a yesterday.” The Big Bang is called an explosion by most but it is really an “expansion.” Since an explosion is “destructive blowing apart something in one area,” but, as we know more about the Big Bang, In the eyes of Space.com, the Big Bang theory is how the universe began. For what we know it as an infinitely hot single point that stretched and became bigger over time, and is now what we call the Big Bang. The Big Bang is when all of the matter, light, energy, and more came from a huge explosion throughout the universe. The Big Bang happened about 13.8 billion years ago, long before anything.

According to the American Museum of Natural History and Britannia, George Lemaître was named “Father of the Big Bang” because he theorized the Big Bang’s existence. George Lemaître was born in 1894 in Charleroi, Belgium and died in 1966. George Lemaître was a Belgium cosmologist and astronomer who formed the Big Bang theory. In 1927 George Lemaître became an astronomer and became a professor at the Catholic University of Leuven. George Lemaître called this very dense point a “super atom” because of the reckless explosion it caused.

Exploritorium.org stated, at the beginning of time, energy was jammed into one point. This point was very dense and soon, from all the pressure, it exploded. This explosion had an unimaginable force creating matter. This unimaginable force pushed all the components outward making the billions of galaxies we have today. Cosmetologists believe that the Big Bang explosion made energy go in all directions at the speed of light (300,000,000 meters per second), and an estimate of about 1,000 trillion degrees Celsius. Even the hottest stars today are much cooler than that. In approximately one ten-thousand of a second, protons and neutrons formed. After hundreds of thousands of years passed when the Big Bang exploded electrons stuck to the nuclei to make complete atoms.

In 1964 two men named Arno Penzias and Robert Wilson accidentally discovered leftover heat radiation from the Big Bang. These two men put up an antenna to research how radio signals can be reflected off of orbiting satellites. Once they heard the signal they thought it was from New York but later relished that it was from beyond the Milky Way.

The authority of Carl Sagan once said, “By looking far out into space we are also looking far back into time, back toward the horizon of the universe, back toward the epoch of the Big Bang.”

**All About The History of The Corvette by Liora Palmer Verdeja**

Corvettes are one of the most popular sports cars this year. There are so many reasons why they are so popular! One reason why they are so popular is because of the vast amount of models. According to the website *stingraychevrolet.com* there were approximately 20,368 Corvette models made in the year of 2021. Another reason why Corvettes are so popular is because they are designed for ultimate performance and most people want a Corvette because it is lightweight and it is low to the ground.

The first Corvette was made by Harley Earl in 1953. Harley was born in Hollywood, California, on November 22, 1819. After he grew up in Hollywood he moved to Detroit in 1927. But before Harley moved to Detroit, in 1914 he worked at his father’s coach and chariot business. Harley Earl is mostly known as the father of the Corvette, but he made many automobiles such as, the 1940s and 1950s Cadillac Lasalle Concept Cars, 1961-1964 Cadillac, 1953-1954 Dodge Firearrow, and 1962-1970 Buick Wildcat. Another one of his great achievements was making it on the top 10 greatest car designers in automotive history. His idea for the corvette did not just come off the top of his head. He got inspiration from another popular sports car, the Jaguar. One of his famous quotes was, “The art of automobile design has progressed, until today it is regarded as one of the most important factors in the marketing of the automobile.”

Harley Earl got his inspiration during World War II by watching Jaguars and MG’s race road-running courses like the course at Watkins Glen race track. According to the National Corvette Museum Harley Earl felt America needed its own sports car that was an inexpensive two-seater.

News editor Christopher Smith states that there are about 200 Corvettes made each day in the world and Russia is the country who has the most Corvettes in the world! The first model, Corvette C1 was made in 1953 and continued until 1962. The next corvette that was made was the C2 1963-1967. Then the C3 was made in 1968 and continued until 1982, then the C4, 1984-1996. After the C4 came the C5 in 1997 through 2004, then the C6, 2005 through 2013. After those 6 models were made came the last two, the C7, 2014 through 2019, and then lastly the C8, 2020 and it continues!

Harley Earl had a dream and his dream is still happening today! It took him multiple times to succeed but he never gave up. In his very own words, “If you go by a school and kids don’t whistle, back to the drawing board!”

**What is VR? by Colin Smith**

Did you know that by 2030 there will be an estimated half a trillion dollars spent on Virtual Reality? VR, or virtual reality was invented by Ivan Sutherland, in 1968. Video games have taken over the VR market, the huge variety of VR games all use sensors, track where the headset is, the players position, and eye movements. A player's movements will translate into game actions and have an effect on their virtual environment. Two screens for both of your eyes show your virtual environment you are in, and the screens add depth and shading. In 1968 Ivan Sutherland created the first VR game, it was called Sword of Damocles. Sword of Damocles is a medieval fighting game that viewers can play in. Games that require more than one player model use NPC’s. NPC’s, Non Playable Characters are Artificial Intelligence that use code to interact.

The first headsets were meant for military purposes. Sometimes they were dangerous simulated situations.For Example they might want to simulate you being trapped behind enemy lines. These would be too dangerous to simulate in real life.Although VR headsets have existed for over 50 years, only recently have they started to become popular. Companies like Meta have almost completely taken over the VR market. Meta is a company owned by facebook, they have the majority of headsets in the world. The Meta Quest 3, their newest headset with a price tag of 500 dollars is the ranked the best headset of the VR market right now. VR headsets have evolved hugely since their invention 50 years ago. The first VR headsets were big, heavy, and had huge antennas that stuck out.

Companies like Apple are starting to branch out to VR. On February 2, 2024 Apple released its new Apple Vision Pro. It has a price tag of 3,500 dollars. Because this is Apple's first VR headset and it has a price tag of three point five thousand most of the people that buy their products skipped the Apple Vision Pro. VR has had a huge impact on the gaming industry. It changes everything and adds depth and immersiveness. It feels like you are in the game instead of playing it.I personally play VR and I have for about 1 year and ½. I love VR and the games in it are awesome. You can play with your friends and by yourself, I love to connect with other players, making friends and having a good time. In conclusion, VR is a fun virtual environment that you can have fun with cool games and make friends.

## **The Concert that Took the World by Storm by Laine Campbell**

The most famous woman in the world is on tour. So many people attend this concert that there was once a small earthquake during her Los Angeles show. I am going to tell you all about the experience of the Taylor Swift Eras Tour. Famous singer songwriter, Taylor Swift, is very invested in her fans and loves them very much. She even said once, “When I meet my fans, it’s not like meeting a stranger. It’s like meeting someone I already know.” This shows how much that she has put into her career all for her fans.

The Eras tour is Taylor's most successful tour since her debut tour. She has traveled to almost every state in the continental U.S and many other countries including the U.K, Australia, Canada, and many more! During the Eras Tour Tour, Taylor features all of her albums but especially features 4 of her albums that didn't get their own tour. These albums are called Lover, Folklore, Evermore, and Midnights.

The Eras tour is a very unique experience that all fans wish to enjoy. The tour can be unique to each city by something that fans call “surprise songs”, these are songs that are off the set list that Taylor herself decides to play. The reason fans love these so much is because they feel special to be hearing that song on tour. One of the most popular surprise songs is called “You’re on your own kid”.

Another unique thing about the Eras Tour is the Red album performance. During this section of the tour, during the song “ We Never Ever Getting Back Together”, Taylor brings someone, usually a child, up on stage and gives them her hat. This is a wonderful piece of memorabilia. These children will always remember these wonderful moments of their lives.

When I went to the Eras Tour, I had the time of my life. This was one of my favorite memories of 2023. She even told the audience that this is her favorite city to perform in. My personal favorite part of the tour wasn’t the singing, dancing, or the bracelet trading, it was when Taylor would stop singing and just talk about the significance of the song or how much her fans mean to her.

In conclusion, the Taylor Swift Eras Tour is the coolest concert to attend in the present moment. This is all because of the wonderful effort she puts into her fans' happiness.

# **A Commotion in the Ocean by Miles Fetherston-Resch**

We are killing our oceans and the animals in them every single day, bit by bit.In addition a new study from Eckerd College has revealed that the waters of Tampa Bay contain four billion particles of microplastics that are polluting our oceans.In fact, every day we are throwing away things like soda cans or plastic forks that end up in our oceans, the average person produces half a pound of plastic every single day. This trash that we produce ends up in our oceans and can kill anything from a small bird or a humpback whale.

The plastics we produce take 1,000s of years to decompose and they eventually turn into microplastics that are about 5 millimeters wide (0.5 inches), the plastics get eaten by fish and can eventually end up on our plates and eaten by us making us ill.But the fish aren’t the only ones contaminated, more mammals can eat these fish and get the microplastics in their systems and once again end up on our dinner plates making us sick.In addition, issue isn’t passing over anytime soon, because global plastic production has double since the beginning of the century, we have produced almost 400 million metric tons of plastic in the year 2021.On top of the things were doing to the oceans, 80% of all the marine debris in our oceans comes from land, meaning us, every single day.

Just because we are producing this much plastic doesn’t mean that it's all hopeless, there are ways that you can help save our oceans.For example some ways you can help are you can conserve water by using less to prevent extra water waste, reduce toxins by choosing non toxic chemicals on things like weed killer or even perfume, reduce waste by throwing less things away and re-using, and be aware of what you buy for example sustainably caught fish or using reusable bags instead of plastic ones.Some more ways you can help are you can use shampoo bar instead of bottles, metal straws and silverware instead of plastic ones, or as stated previously reusable bags, one last thing you can do is also donate to organizations that support or directly help our oceans.

But why should we help our oceans? The reason is not just because it makes us sick, they also put food on our plate, make us about 180 billion dollars from ocean produced goods and services helping our economy stay “afloat”, provides medicine to help cancer and even heart disease, entertainment with different water sports and having a beach day the ocean gives us plenty to do, and finally the ocean produces trade routes and transportation by boat.In summary, we are not only affecting the oceans we are also affecting ourselves, we can get sick from the contaminated fish and mammals, but all is not lost, there are ways we can help our oceans in little ways and in big ones, so make sure to stay sustainable and remember you can still make a difference no matter how old or how young you are.

**SypherPK’s Rise by Jordan Walter**

Sypherpk is a family friendly streamer with 9.6 million subscribers. He plays many video games but his main hobby is playing Fortnite. He has a YouTube channel that has 9.6 Million subscribers. Sypher also is a muscular man and is a motivational gamer. He has many quotes such as, “age is not a number your actions define you”, and “Use defeat as motivation and analyze your mistakes so that they can happen less often. You can either use your shortcomings to help you get better or allow them to keep you down. Keep your head up! Additionally, He is a hardworking man who works out a lot. Sypher is a Middle Eastern Muslim. He grew up in Austin, Texas with a Household of six people. He has 3 brothers, himself, and his parents.

When Sypher was younger he played a lot of video games with his brother and he was really good at it. He decided to make a YouTube channel. By 2017 sypherPK had 75,000 subscribers. But then fortnite came out. Sypher knew it was time to become famous; he grinded and played his heart out. He had lots of content and set records in the game. September 13, 2022 SypherPk got an icon skin, glider, backbling, and an emote. After that day sypher subscribers peaked. But the other streamers got mad like courageJD, nick eh 30 and more. So they had beef with a sypher. Sypher wasn’t fazed and he realized they were jealous. He also creates his own miniature Fortnite games such as rocket wars. By 2024 he had 9.6 million subscribers.

SypherPK has a facility that is worth 10 million dollars. He has employees that create online games and organize his streaming. His base is vast and it took him years to build it. He invites other famous streamers to his base such as Asian Jeff, Loser Fruit, Clix, and many more. He has more than 3 streaming rooms. In his base he makes YouTube videos like when he cooks or when he plays hide and seek with his friends. He has a backyard with lots of sports to play.

SypherPk donates a lot of money to streamers and his followers on YouTube and twitch. He donated money because when he was a kid he started off with no subscribers so he watched kids streamers and he donated to them so they could build their channel. He bought a million V bucks which is about 7,900 dollars. He didn't spend it on the item shop, instead he donated it to all of his subscribers. He is known for donating. Clearly SypherPk is a famous, caring, and motivational man.

**Life of Ukrainians by Stepan Spodin**

Russia declared war on Ukraine on February 20, 2014 and the bombing of Ukraine didn't start until February 22, 2022. The life of Ukrainians immediately changed. People started to die. Schools started to close. Kids weren’t able to go to school and had to stay home. Students had to have online school but some families couldn’t afford technology and the kids had to stay home with nothing to do. Shelters were packed with people who lost family members and homes including children. Some mothers who lost their husbands struggled to take care of their families by themselves.

Leaving the country is very difficult. For people to make it to the United States, it is even harder. The hard part is to get the visa. According to NBC news 40 percent of Ukrainians get to come to the United States. My dad who is in Ukraine right now, it takes him over 60 hours just to come to the country and see us for a few weeks and go back home. When the people get a chance to leave the country they mostly leave by train. When they do leave the country, they mostly go to Europe. Some countries in Europe don’t like Ukrainian people coming in. If they do come in they need a job and knowing they are refugees from Ukraine and might not accept them for the job.

For those who cannot leave, life in Ukraine is hard. The worst part of the war was the first three days. My mom stayed up all night making sure all of the relatives were okay. These first few days Ukrainians witnessed constant bombing and saw their relatives die. In some places kids and parents have to stay in bomb shelters for over 3 hours. People might lose their home and must live somewhere like the metro station which is also not the best place to live. With all these hard conditions they also have to survive through winter which is much colder in Ukraine than it is in Florida. The weather is below 40 degrees fahrenheit and some people might not have warm clothes. This conflict is the bloodiest conflict in Europe since World War II. The reason Putin is still president is because Russia’s election is fake. Putin will always become elected no matter what. If you try to stand up you will get executed. For Example Alexei Navalyny, he was killed by the Russian government when he went to prison for standing up in Russia. He was killed and the Russian government refused to give them the body until days later. His wife said that she will continue doing what her husband did. People in Russia are told lies about the world around them.