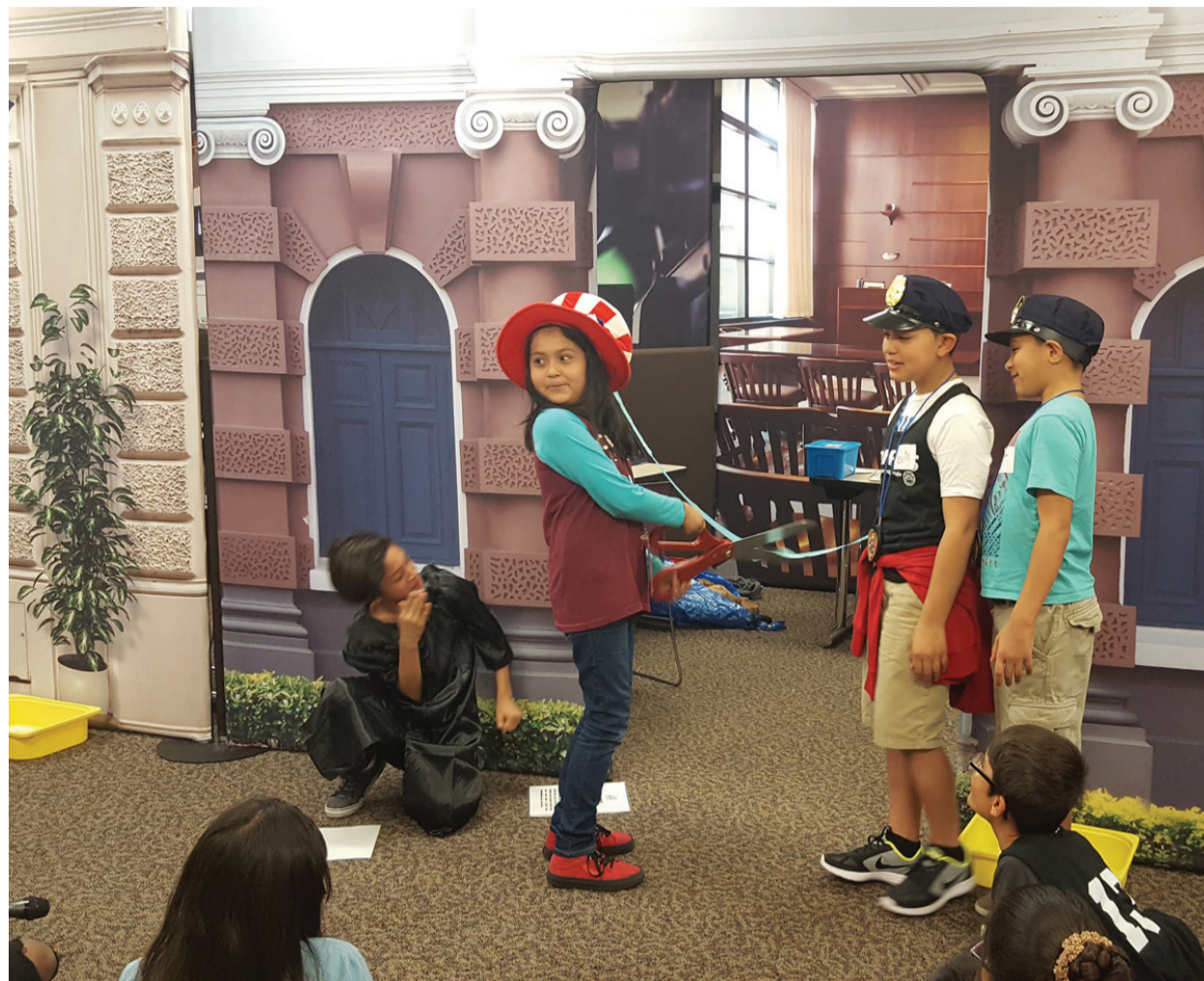




CK Reporter of the Week
Ben Vanourek, Littleton

AmeriTowne becomes portable



At the recent unveiling of the portable Young AmeriTowne, the mayor cuts a ribbon while the judge (kneeling) and two police officers look on. photo courtesy of Young Americans

Young AmeriTowne is a place where 4th and 5th graders come to learn about economics and business in a fun way.

Sadly, however, many schools outside the Denver metro area either don't have the money or the transportation to get there.

Young AmeriTowne's mission is to get as many students to experience their program, and so, for this reason, the Young Americans Center for Financial Education, which runs Young AmeriTowne, has created a mobile version of the Towne.

Although AmeriTowne has been around for many years, traveling around the state instead of having kids come to Denver is a new concept.

AmeriTowne mainly focuses on helping students learn about finances, but, instead of having them in a classroom hitting the books, they get to learn in a fun, hands-on way.

Last year, when I was a fifth grader, I got to experi-

ence this program.

The way my school did it was that they first taught us all the financial and business lessons to prepare us for the whole day at AmeriTowne.

When we were taught the AmeriTowne curriculum, we learned real life experiences like applying for a job, working shifts, and managing our money in a "town atmosphere."

The primary goal of the program is to learn the work ethic and financial responsibility.

Is it wise to spend more than you earn? We were taught to budget our money so that at the end of the day we didn't end up with negative numbers!

There are a variety of jobs you can apply for. I was lucky enough to get the job I wanted, which was (*of course!*) the Newspaper Manager.

Not only does AmeriTowne teach you about finances but it also teaches you about government.

An example of this is how a mayor is elected and

laws are created. All the citizens in AmeriTowne must obey these laws or else they will have some serious consequences!

Police officers make sure that citizens are following these laws.

Businesses are a very important feature of the program.

The mobile version of AmeriTowne offers their most popular businesses, which include The Bank, The Newspaper, The TV Station, The Container Shop, The Medics, The Radio Station, and The Snack Shop.

Shops earn their money by selling goodies to their fellow town citizens.

Janet Redwine, communications director at the Young Americans Center for Financial Education, said she believes students should be able to see and experience these lessons in person.

Not only does this program allow students to learn about different types of jobs, but it also teaches them the value of teamwork.

The role of this "portable" AmeriTowne is to let students in faraway schools participate in this fun curriculum.

What is great about this addition to the program is that smaller groups of kids can come, 25 to 30 students, from different settings.

"A great example is afterschool programs. We offer a curriculum for small groups of students to come in and enjoy this learning experience," says Redwine.

Another problem is that schools sometimes struggle to find the money for this, often having to fundraise for the travel in addition to paying for the program, she added.

Young AmeriTowne provides a scholarship program for older students and for schools.

My school was fortunate enough to attend the facilities of AmeriTowne and it was an experience that gave me a taste of the adult world.

With this new version of Young AmeriTowne, more students will now have access to this interactive program without leaving their school.



By Natalia Zavaleta,
12, a CK Reporter
from Lakewood

Tap into this guide to the world of Roald Dahl

"Wonderful, Wicked, and Whizzpopping: The Stories, Characters, and Inventions of Roald Dahl" is a reference book of summaries of Roald Dahl's stories and how he came up with the ideas.

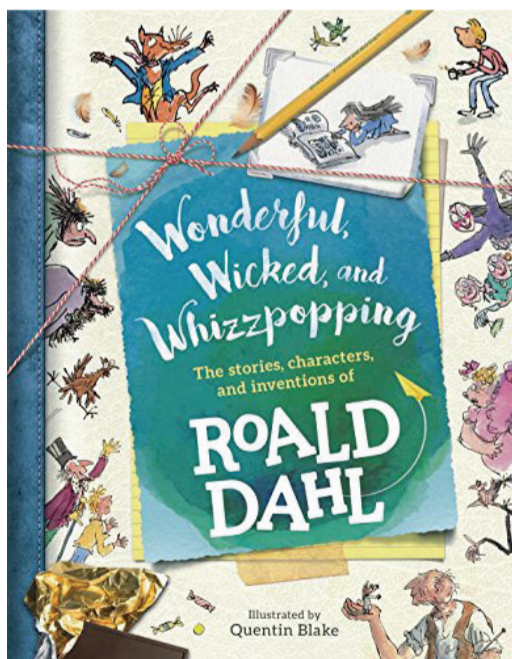
Each page of the book gives a summary of one of his books. Some even contain a mini book for extra insight, like how to spot a witch in "the Witches", or the Trunchbull's many rules in "Matilda."

There are also a great many facts in the book, like where Dahl got his ideas and some information on the author himself.

It even comes with a letter in the back.

I learned lots of things from this book, like that his hip bone was found in his writing shop, and that he worried he would not have good enough ideas for his books.

I think this book was very good, but I also found that it was a little easy for me to read, which is why I think the age range for this book should be 8-12 years of age because



it may be a little scary for some younger kids yet it is still easy to read.

But no matter the age range, I hope anyone and everyone enjoys this book.

Over all, this book was a wonderful, wickedly fun to read, and, as for "whizzpopping"?

I guess you will have to read the book to find out what that means.



By Katherine Gagner,
12, a CK Reporter
from Boulder

Youth Journalism Day

for 4th-8th grade students

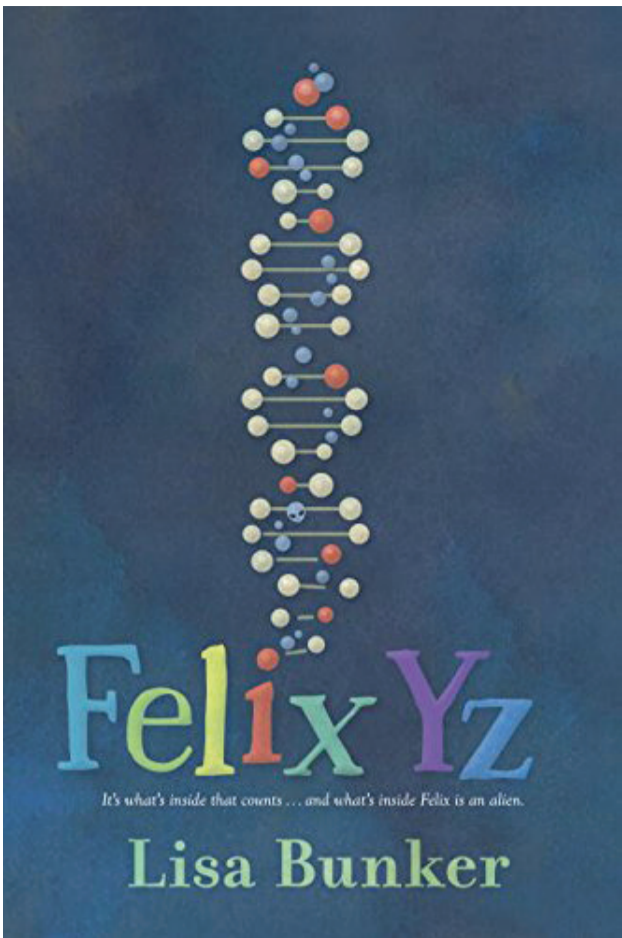
Thursday, July 20, 2017
7:30am to 5:00pm
Metropolitan State University, Denver

Student Cost for the Day: \$65 (includes breakfast & lunch).
Spend the day with professionals learning about story writing, interviews and photography.

Register today! Go to ColoradoNIE.com for a registration form.
Call 303-954-3974 with questions.

Limited to first 75 students.

Poor choice of language, metaphor ruins novel



In Lisa Bunker’s newest novel, “Felix Yz,” the author reimagines life as we know it. In her novel, a human boy, Felix, gets fused with an alien during a freak accident. “Felix Yz” is a blog of Felix’s personal experience of living fused with a fourth-dimensional being, Zyx, and tells about the high-risk procedure that could detach Felix and the fourth-dimensional being. Within the first few pages, many ingenious and insightful ideas appear that significantly contribute to luring the reader in. As an example, Felix communicates with Zyx by letting the alien being take control of his fingers to type words onto Felix’s computer screen, successfully communicating with Felix. There is also a male love interest for Felix and it truly breaks traditional roles and gives this book some diversity from many other novels for young people. The perceptive similes and metaphors are a jackpot for visual readers. Vivid figurative language and descriptions give way to astounding visuals. Although the story contains numerous extra details, some are under-explained and dampen the brilliance of this book. There is, however, usage of the R-word in “Felix Yz” that may start to mainstream the use of this unspeak-

able word because it is in a novel for preteens. Numerous campaigns’ efforts to end the usage of the R-word could be overshadowed by the unnecessary usage of it in “Felix Yz.” Also, a message about disabled individuals is prominent in this novel and it is a demeaning one. In this book, Felix explains how others think that he is mentally disabled, but he is just fused with an alien. “Felix Yz” thus gives the impression that mental disabilities make people seem like aliens. It is derogatory and offensive. It’s definitely not a message that should be sent to the public. Felix Yz is an imaginative novel with good intentions, but it is tarnished by its discriminatory message towards people with disabilities. In my opinion, this book scores 2 out of 5 extra-terrestrials due to its creative direction, but the use of the R-word and comparing people with mental disabilities to aliens is repulsive. I wouldn’t recommend going out of your way to purchase or read this novel.



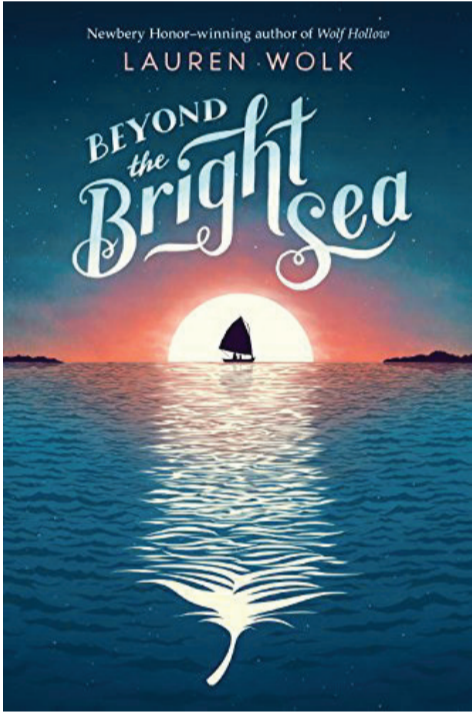
By Kira Zizzo, 13, a CK Reporter from Highlands Ranch

Patience with this book’s slow start will pay off

“Beyond the Bright Sea” by Lauren Wolk will leave readers satisfied after completion with its mystery, suspense, and vivid descriptions. It tells the story of a young girl named Crow who was abandoned inside a skiff as a baby and washed up on an island.

As the story goes on, the mystery element builds with chapters that will leave your heart racing.

From there she was raised by a quiet man she calls Osh, who fled his country for his own safety. Along the way, she tries to answer the question of where she came from, which eventually gets her into trouble, while Osh tries to teach her that home is where the heart is. At some parts, the book is quite slow, and it’s hard to make yourself read it.

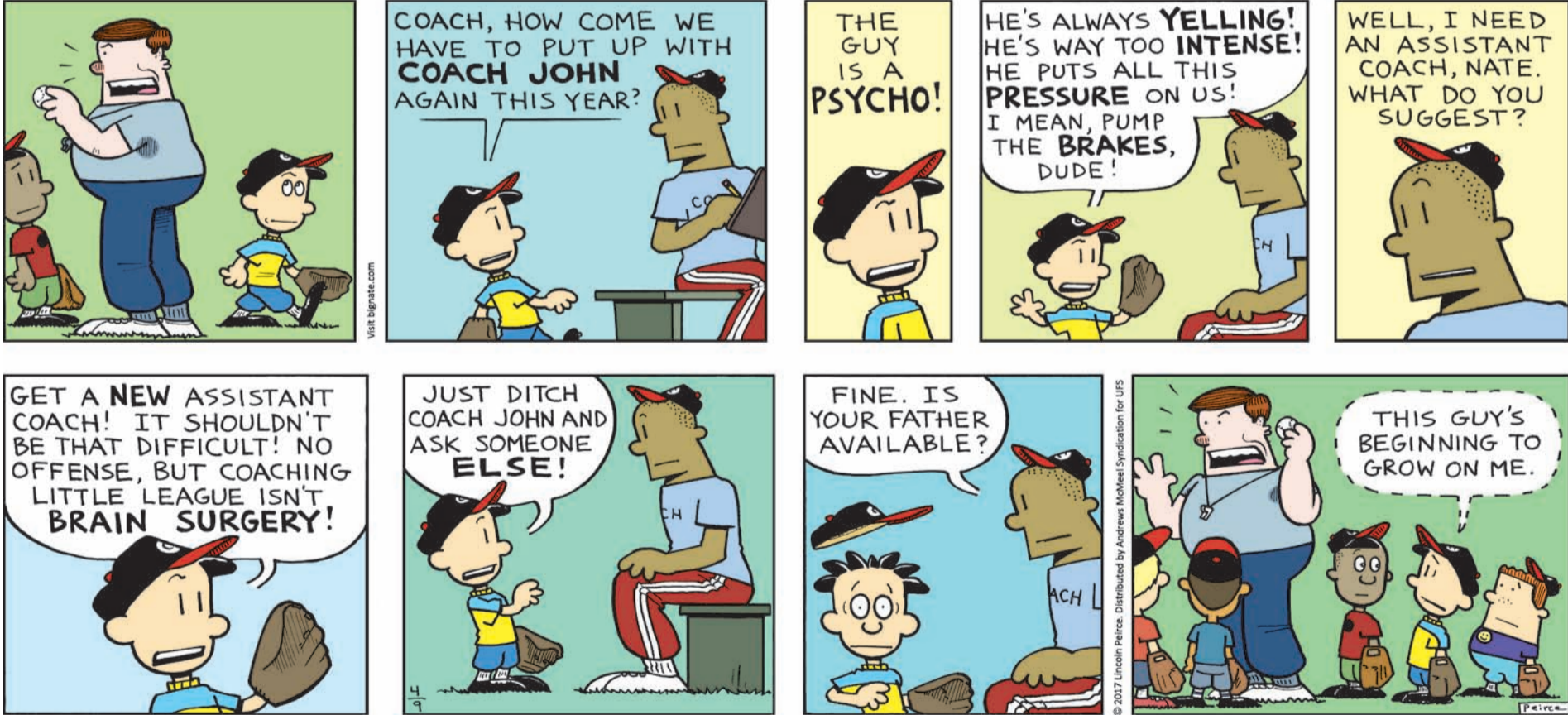


Crow often describes what’s going on inside her head, but although that can become too frequent and overly descriptive at times, it can just as easily be intriguing. As the story goes on, the mystery element builds with chapters that will leave your heart racing. The book has a lot of variety, however, and can also be quite relaxing. The dialogue is very genuine. It feels like you’re seeing the characters with your own eyes as well as hearing them. If you can make it all the way to the end, you will be excited by the conclusion. Overall, this book is a very good read that will probably make you read it all over again.



By Jonah Rupe, 12, a CK Reporter from Evergreen

Big Nate



Happy badger finds way to store food safely



University of Utah biologists wanted to find out how the flying scavengers of the desert dealt with food in winter, and their method was simple: They simply put out seven carcasses of dead calves and set up cameras to observe the vultures and other birds that live on dead animals visiting these free meal sites. But when one of the researchers went out to check things a week later, he found that one of the carcasses had disappeared. Evan Buechley thought perhaps a coyote or mountain lion had dragged the body away, so he walked around to try to find it, but with no luck. Then he returned to where it had been put out

and realized that the ground there was disturbed. Without even returning to the lab, Buechley began checking the photos on the camera. What he discovered was that a badger had buried the entire carcass by digging tunnels under it so that, as each tunnel collapsed in the sandy soil, the heavy calf sank deeper in. Then, having stashed the 50-pound calf where the birds couldn’t get to it, the badger could sit back and enjoy his generous food supply. And that’s not all: A second calf carcass was later found half-buried by a second badger. There’s a stop-action video of the happy hoarder linked at [ColoradoNIE.com](#) screen shot from Univ. of Utah video

Important film for mature history buffs

“The Zookeeper’s Wife” tells the true story of Antonina Zabinski (*Jessica Chastain*) as she and her husband, Jan Zabinski (*Johan Heldenbergh*) rescue Jewish people from the ghettos of Warsaw, Poland, to hide in their zoo during World War II.

After the invasion of Poland by the German army, Antonina and Jan’s zoo is bombed before being taken over by Nazi soldiers.

After hiding one of their Jewish friends, they plead with the government to be able to keep their zoo to raise pigs to feed the soldiers.

In order to feed the pigs, they must collect scraps from the nearby neighborhoods, which, in those days, were known by the term “ghettos,” meaning places where Jews had to live in a segregated society.

While doing so, Jan hides people from the ghetto in the truck under the food scraps until the troops have left their house and they can safely hide in the basement of the zoo.

Over the course of the war, Antonina and Jan rescued and hid over 300 Jews, with only two fatalities, and those not due to their own actions.

They would also take in and change the appearance of people, such as dyeing their hair, before letting them return into the streets of Warsaw.

It is worth mentioning that while the film may be based on Antonina, it was originally Jan’s idea to take in people, while Antonina was not as sure at first.

Over time, she became close to many of the people they helped, and took them in as if they were her own family.



She would play her piano to tell the everyone in the basement whether they should hide, or whether it was safe to come upstairs.

“The Zookeeper’s Wife” is for mature 13-year-olds and above, as the movie doesn’t hold back and is very honest about what happened during the war throughout eastern Europe.

There is also a complicated love story between Antonina, Jan, and the Nazi’s appointed head zookeeper, Lutz Heck (*Daniel Brühl*).

The movie also contains intense violence, cruelty, and mild nudity.

However, I think the film is important to teach people about the impacts and events of World War II, while still showcasing a family who sacrificed everything for people they knew needed it most.

The movie is based on the book “The Zookeeper’s Wife” by Diane Ackerman, as well as Antonina Zabinski’s diary entries from the time.

While the film is very intense, I would recommend it to anyone with a solid understanding of World War II, as the film requires many inference-based references.



By Lauren Walters, 14, a CK Reporter from Denver

Kids teach lesson: Be honest, do your job

The staff at “The Booster Redux,” the student paper at Pittsburg High School in Pittsburg, Kansas, had an important but not an exciting assignment: Write a story about the new principal at their school.

Part of their work, of course, included finding out where she had come from and what she had been doing before she was hired as their new principal.

And, of course, to find out about her education.

That’s where a fairly normal story became unusual.

When they went to the website of the college where she had earned her master’s and doctorate degrees, they ran into a technical problem.

The website didn’t work.

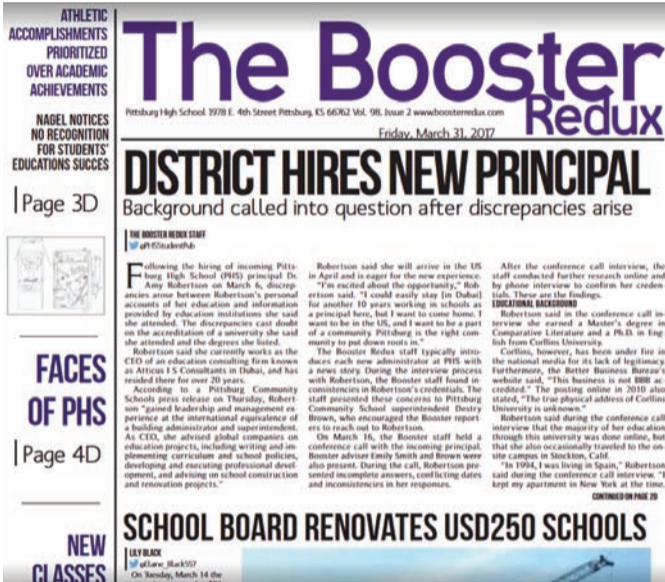
And when they tried to find out why, they learned something else: It didn’t seem to be a real college.

Instead, it seemed to be a place where you could simply buy a diploma without having to take classes or pass any exams.

They then did the fair thing and called the new principal to ask her about her educational background.

She told them that she had been living in Spain and taking courses on-line, but had occasionally flown to Stockton, California, to take classes at the college.

However, a phone call to authorities in Stockton showed that there had never



been a “Corllins University” there, and the registrar at Pittsburg State University, who has lists of colleges and universities throughout the country and around the world, couldn’t find any proof that the school exists.

Like Colorado, Kansas has a law that gives student journalists the same protections as journalists at regular news organizations, so the school could not keep them from publishing what they had learned.

However, before publishing, the students brought their information to the school superintendent, who was not only not angry with them, but gave them advice on responsible reporting for their story.

Once the information had become known through the Booster Redux story, the school board held an emergency meeting and the new principal agreed to resign.

The superintendent praised the students for their solid reporting and admitted he was embarrassed that the adults in charge of hiring the principal had

not taken that same time and effort to check her résumé.

The story teaches two lessons: One is to be honest when you apply for a job.

The other is that good journalism matters, and that responsible reporting is an important job that helps protect a community, even if it’s only a school community. (You’ll find a link to that issue of the Booster Redux at [ColoradoNIE.com](#))

Sudoku



Brainteaser

On this date in 1970, the manned Apollo XIII lunar mission was launched, only to return to Earth four days later in a skillful emergency operation, so our answers this week will begin with “A.”

1. A city in Texas, or the color of the spectrum between *naranja* and *verde*
2. Ant-eating mammal found in the US Southwest, noted for its leathery bands of armor
3. Colorado-based children’s author with one name, his books include “Crispin: The Cross of Lead,” “The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle” and “Nothing But The Truth”
4. Found at the back of the throat, if they swell, they can block your nasal passages
5. Able to use the right or left hand equally well
6. The only continent without any native reptiles, amphibians or mammals
7. In chorus, the vocal range between soprano and tenor
8. The main ingredient in guacamole
9. Name shared by a city and county in the San Luis Valley, home to Adams State University.
10. First US President who was the son of a previous US President

(answers on Page Four)

Cassini probe headed for grand finale of its 20-year mission

Most CK readers have not been on the Earth for as long as NASA’s Cassini probe has been orbiting and exploring Saturn.

But at the end of this month, the 20-year mission of Cassini will come to an important, spectacular finale.

Cassini–Huygens, its full name, was launched October 15, 1997, and arrived on station at Saturn July 1, 2004.

On Christmas Day of that year, the Huygens landing module separated and landed on the surface of the moon Titan, the first successful soft landing in the outer solar system, and began sending data back to Earth.

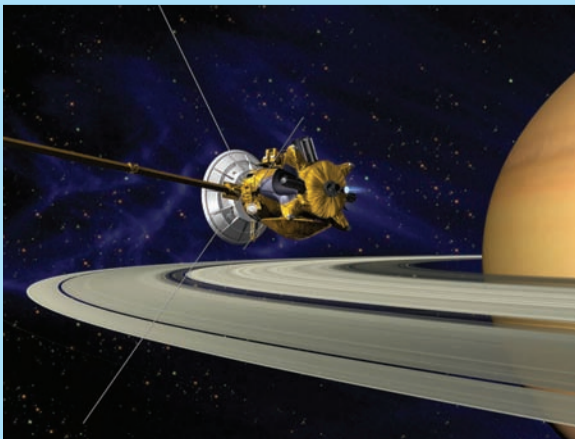
Meanwhile, Cassini continued to orbit the planet, making a variety of changes to its positioning in order to explore Saturn, its rings, and its moons.

Today, NASA engineers will send instructions to Cassini for its last, and most complicated, mission.

Cassini will make a final close trip past Titan and then change its path to fly between the rings of Saturn and the planet itself, gathering information on a place that, indeed, no man has gone before.

In fact, on its first trip through, Cassini will put its main antenna out ahead as a shield, in case there are particles large enough to damage it.

On September 15, Cassini will plunge into Saturn’s atmosphere, sending data until the end. **image/NASA**



Beyond These Four Pages!

Hot Links to Cool Sites!

NASA's Space Place

<http://tinyurl.com/ckspace>

NIE Special Report

<http://tinyurl.com/ckniereport>

Headline Geography

<http://tinyurl.com/ckgeography>

Pulse of the Planet

<http://tinyurl.com/ckpulseplanet>

How to become a NextGen Reporter!

<http://tinyurl.com/colokidsreporter>



To read the sources for these stories

Calf-burying Badger

Young Journalists

Cassini Crash

go to <http://www.tinyurl.com/ckstorylinks>

Stories in the Stars: Sagittarius

The Story

Sagittarius represents an archer, and, for thousands of years, Sagittarius has been an centaur, though it's not clear which one. But many people say that Sagittarius is the centaur Chiron.

Now, most centaurs were not very nice.

They were beautiful, half-horse and half-man, powerful and swift. But they drank too much, they had no manners and they behaved very badly.

But Chiron was different. He was wise, and kind, and not only did everybody like him, but people even brought him their finest sons to raise.

Chiron trained Theseus, the hero who killed the horrible Minotaur. And Chiron also raised Jason, who sailed all the way to Colchis with his band of heroes to find the Golden Fleece.

Chiron, too, was the teacher of Heracles, the strongest of all the Greek heroes, and of Ajax and Achilles, the heroes of the war against Troy.

But he did not just teach young men to fight. He also raised Asclepius, the first doctor, and taught him the art of surgery and how to create healing drugs to help people.

He was a great doctor himself, too. When people were injured and no-one else could help them, Chiron would heal them.

But, alas, even the great Chiron had no cure for the poison of the monster, Hydra.

When Heracles killed the Hydra, he kept its poison blood to put on his arrows, to make himself an even deadlier warrior. But that was a dangerous idea, because one day, he and Chiron got in a battle against the other centaurs, the evil ones.

They won the fight, but somehow, in the middle of it all, Chiron was accidentally hit with one of the poisoned arrows.

Chiron was an immortal and could not die, but the pain from the wound was too much to bear.

And so the wise and gentle centaur did one more kind act.

The Titan Prometheus had angered mighty Zeus by giving men the gift of fire.

Zeus had wanted fire to be something only the gods had, and so he declared that Prometheus must die.

But Chiron begged Zeus to let him die instead, so that his pain would end, and so Prometheus might live.

Zeus agreed, but he did not just let the good centaur die. Instead, he put him up into the heavens for everyone to see, and remember.

Now, some people say that Chiron is the constellation Centaurus, and others say he is really Sagittarius. But since we can't see Centaurus in our hemisphere, we're going to say that he is Sagittarius!



The Stars

You'll need to find a wide open, dark field for stargazing when you look for Sagittarius, but if you can get a nice summer night without light pollution, this would be a great chance to take out your binoculars and enjoy some interesting things.

Sagittarius lies along the Milky Way, but quite a long way from Cassiopeia. If you face north with Cassiopeia on your left, and Cygnus (The Northern Cross) just about overhead, Sagittarius will be a little more than the same distance away down the Milky Way on your right.

The best way to find the Archer is to forget archery and look for the Teapot instead.

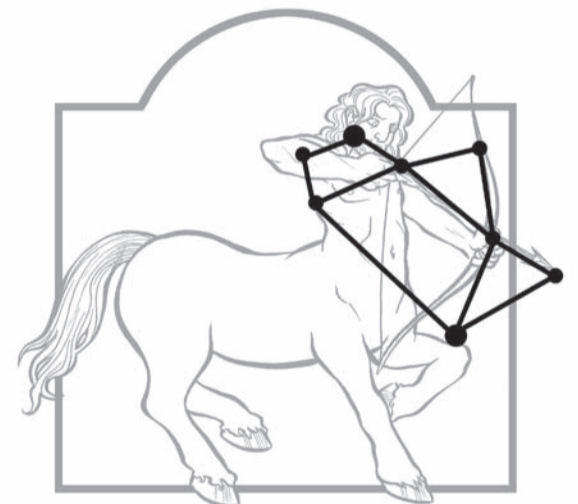
The Teapot is an asterism inside Sagittarius that looks just like a little teapot, short and stout. It's fairly easy to spot and then you can look around for the other stars that make up Sagittarius.

When you look at the Milky Way, you're looking right through the rim of our galaxy, which is why so many stars seem packed together. But when you look at Sagittarius, you're not just looking through the rim, but through the rim and then the very center of the galaxy.

That means a pair of binoculars will give you some great views if you point them at Sagittarius: There are many things out there to see!

For instance, if you start at star at the top of the Teapot's handle and draw a line to the star at the top of the lid, then keep going that far again, you'll be at the Lagoon Nebula, a cloud of gas and stars that you can see on a dark night with just your eyes, but that looks even better through binoculars.

There are more star clusters and nebulae in that area: Go have a look!



Sudoku Solution

3	2	4	5	1	6
6	1	5	3	4	2
2	4	3	1	6	5
1	5	6	2	3	4
5	6	1	4	2	3
4	3	2	6	5	1

Brainteaser Solution



(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. Amarillo
2. armadillo
3. Avi
4. adenoids
5. ambidextrous
6. Antarctica
7. alto
8. avocado
9. Alamosa
10. (John Quincy) Adams

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