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12!

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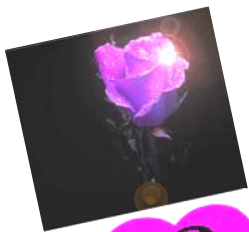
DESTINATION IMAGINATION

HALF IRON MAN

ASK DEAR GABY / WORLD'S BEST ADVICE

POETRY & FICTION

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12! is a supplement to Happeningnow!everywhere



Editor for this issue of 12! : **Maya Lubeck-Schricker**,
soda-pop editor, Happeningnow!everywhere
Some of the contributors served as an editorial
board

Also from Happeningnow!everywhere:
Snowflake! 10agers' and under's own magazine
Happeningnow!everywhere / multimedia literary, art
and pop magazine of general interest 12 through
adult by writers under 20.

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SPECIAL TO 12!

ASK DEAR GABY MEETS LILLY AND OPAL

There are these girls who invited me to a movie on a Friday. But then when I asked them again, they denied inviting me.

Now everyone hates me because they say I talk behind everyone's back [which I don't] and telling my crush that I obsess over him [which I don't] and now they are saying I called them names and are getting their friends to beat me up. I don't know what to do! Please help!

That seems like a very difficult situation but don't stress yourself too much about it because from what you have said it doesn't seem like you did anything wrong. I wouldn't worry too much about the threats to beat you up unless it actually comes to that in which case it's your decision how you handle it. If you feel like your safety is in danger find an adult that you trust to tell, whether it's a teacher, parent, or friend. Don't be embarrassed about

your crush because if you ever do talk to him about the situation he should believe you when you say it's not true. If he believes the rumors that's his own fault and his own loss. The silver lining to me though is that these do not seem like good people and they don't seem like the kind of people you would want to be friends with. It sounds to me as though it's time to find new, and better, friends! Good luck. - Gaby

Review by

ZACH Collieran

THE BRAVERY

Are you bored, looking for a new band to listen to, other than some old ones that you

don't like anymore? Well, give the Bravery a shot, and listen to some electric-punk that just might get you interested. With a four-man band, these guys put some pretty good songs together. In some songs, they have some cool little synthesizer riffs that make you want to keep listening, and then follow with a very interesting, yet satisfying song.

Destination Imagination:

Are you up to the challenge?

by Maya Lubeck-Schricker

What if you had to build a three foot tower out of toothpicks and newspaper in just 4 minutes? Or, what if you have to make a contraption that gets 'toxic items' from one place to the next. Well, that is what Destination Imagination is. It is a series of challenges that kids of all ages can face. Whether it is an instant challenge, or a project that you work on for *months*, you will have lots of fun.

When you have a signed-up team, you can find multiple challenges that you can do. The challenges go from building something that catapults things over walls, to a service to your community. Each year, there are about 6 or 7 different choices of challenges that you can do. This year, the challenges included Do or Di –an improv challenge, You're Gonna Flip– a puppet/improv challenge, Direct Diposit –A machinery challenge, Breaking Di News– structures out of newspaper challenge, Band Together– Solving community problems/community service, and another challenge just for younger kids called News–another newspaper challenge.

So, each team chooses one of these multiple challenges and works on it for about a year. Then, they put their chal-

lunge into a presentation, and present everything at a competition. First you go to regionals, and then if you make it, states, then if you get past that, you can go to worldwide. For some levels, like the high school kids, you can even get scholarships to college!

I had a team that worked on Band Together. The people on my team were Maya Lubeck-Schricker, Jesse Aronson, Natalie MacKinnon-Booth, Henry Schneiderbeck, Griffin Andres and William MacArthur. It was a very long process choosing the challenge we wanted to do. We read and reread the details of each challenge and took many votes, and finally ended in choosing Band Together. Band Together is a challenge where you address a community need, and find creative ways to solve it that involve music.



Now, this may seem easy, but actually going through with your idea is very hard. Our team started with wanting to change the school's lunch trays to reusable hard plastic. But we found many problems with the idea, like buying the school a washer for the trays and talking to the lunch ladies and even seeing if they would be willing to do it. So, we decided to abandon this idea and move on. We decided on starting composting at a school, and we only had a couple of problems that were easy to solve like where to actually put the compost. But, we then got a call from the city saying that we couldn't start the project until the end of March which wouldn't work for us, because that was when the presentation was. But, my point is that many unexpected things often go wrong when working on a community project.

Eventually our team decided on having a bake sale to raise money for the Matenwa CLC School in Haiti, and helping the school recover from the earthquake. But, even just having a bake sale takes a lot of work. We had to fill out a series of forms that would allow us to get a permit that allows us to even have the bake sale. The forms were complicated, but the permit could only be passed by the committee of the city of Somerville on the fourth Thursday of the month. But everything worked out bake sale-wise.

Next, we had to convert our journey and process into an 8 minute skit that would explain everything we did and what exactly happened with our project. The presentation had to be a multi-sensory aesthetic experience. Which included sound and sight. But, we also had to fill out lot of forms and make a written Album of everything we did. So, be prepared for what seems like never ending work. But when you do complete it, it feels really good knowing you made a difference and actually completed a large project.

So, I may not have made it sound like fun at the end, but it really is, because you can have teams that have 2-7 people in it. So, you can do all of this with your friends! It really is fun, and worthwhile doing. I really suggest doing DI (Destination Imagination) because it is loads of fun. So if you want to sign a team up, go to www.madikids.org and start a team now! You can win cool things and help people out and have loads of fun! So sign up today and be prepared for lots of fun!

The adventure by Lucy Coombs

fiction

One day an American actor named bob the builder broke out of jail. Wait let's back up a little let me tell you how he got thrown in jail. He was put in jail because when he was sup-

posed to say "yes we can" he said "no we can't it is impossible." I know it is crazy but that is how bob was thrown into jail. A few days later it was the coldest day of the century it snowed and rained at the same time it was crazy. The next day the bars on the window had turned to ice and broken so bob climbed out of the cell and fell with a thud to the ground. Bob hurt all over but he was out.

Once bob was out of jail he would hide during the daytime and at night he would run around the richer part of town robbing people. He would rob banks, jewelry stores. Soon bob had enough money for a plane ride to china (the cheapest flight out of the country). There was one problem with that idea he was in the country's biggest jail and he was being chased all over the country. There was even a reward if someone caught him. Then all of a sudden bob had an idea; at night he would steal his director's private jet and fly to china. That would be a perfect idea. That night bob put his plan to action and it almost worked except for one thing; bob does not know how to fly a private jet. He thought that if he just got in the plain he would figure it out. Once he got in the plane he found that if you turn on the automated pilot and program it where you want to go it will go there. When he was in china he landed in front of a Chinese house when he got out of the private jet there were some strange people going in and out of the house chanting "We live to protect, protect the jewel of china." The jewel of china eh thought bob. I could steal the jewel then when the reward goes up I give it back, collect the money, fly back to America and pay myself out of jail. Then make my own show called Billy the builder and I would have a tool belt. Right there and then that is what bob decided to do. After an hour bob was in the building he found where the jewel was supposed to be, it was just a plush toy. Next he thought that if he was gone any

longer he would spend a lot more time in jail.

When bob got back to jail his director was waiting for him and he was smiling he wanted bob to come back to do bob the builder. Bob said yes. Now every one is happy that is everyone but the people at the jail.

just plain annoying

by Maya LS

Remember when you were little and you thought it was really cool to stand up to the big kids and to disobey them? I never did that, but I remember other kids doing that. I saw that the teachers would get really annoyed at them, but I never understood why. I mean, they would yell at us for not putting a crayon down while they were talking. Now I understand why. It is just plain annoying.



Last year I helped with a k-2 club on Mondays after school. There were a bunch of kids that are in grades kindergarten through second grade. We planned some really cool things for them, that the teacher thinks about all week, but when it comes to do it on Monday, the kids just disrespect us all when we ask them to do something, and they don't get to do the cool activity. Like one day, for example, we were trying to do something productive by writing something about the art gala in which they had performed. But some kids were reading Pokémon book marks, and we asked them to put them down, but they didn't. It was sooo annoying. Eventually, we split the kids up, made them sit forward and didn't let them talk. We would quiz them about what we had just said, and they still didn't listen.

So, all of you kids out there who think it's cool to do that, and haven't had the experience that I have had. Don't do it anymore. Because it really isn't cool, it really isn't funny to the other kids, it is JUST PLAIN ANNOYING!!!!!!!!!!!!

Boring club

Fiction

by Lucy Coombs

One day a crazy person named Jeff was wondering who all the weirdoes with the baskets on their heads were. They look like small elephants with the big sticks sticking out from under the baskets. Jeff likes to pretend that he is a secret agent. He is playing this game right now but he was trying to find someone or something to spy on then he saw the men or women when he was on his porch he decided that this would be a good thing to spy on he runs inside to grab a few items that he could use on his mission. Whenever Jeff is on one of his missions his dog named Dog follows him. When Jeff got back to the porch with the items, he had two sticks, three pairs of flip-flops, two trashcans and two bathrobes.

He draped one bathrobe over Dog, put one of the trashcans on Dog's head and stuck a stick in Dog's mouth. That was not the hardest part, but getting the flip-flops on Dog's feet. What would happen was Dog would roll over and chew on the end of the shoe until the shoe came off then Dog would pick up the shoe in his mouth. Then Dog would run into Jeff's room. Then he plops down on Jeff's bed. After five more times of that happening. Jeff put on his costume and dog cooperated. Dog let Jeff put the flip-flops on him. Then they went across the street and got in the end of the line.

As soon as Jeff and Dog were in the building there were fifty people in front of him and seventy people behind him. Jeff was confused he thought that he was the last person in the line. He did not understand what was going on. He did not know what to do so he just fooled the person in front of him. After fooling the person in front of him for a while he was exactly where he started, outside in front of the building.

There he saw a sign that said welcome to the walk around club where all you do is walk in and out of buildings. Then Jeff and dog walked home and took off their costumes and talked, well barked about their not so interesting day.

maya

Gossip Column 2

A= girl 1

B= girl 2

C= girl 3

D= boy 1

E= boy 2

So, one day A and C were walking around, when suddenly E comes up to A and says D really wants to talk to you. A turns to C and acts all confused. C just shrugs. Then A walks in the direction of D. C turned to E, knowing what D actually wanted. They run after A. On their way they passed B and told her that D was "about to ask." She smiled. They all ran after A. When they got there they heard D say 'I like you do you like me?' To A. A turned and ran away. B fol-

lowed her, and took her inside. B just let her calm down a bit then started to play a card game with her, but right as they started the game C burst into the room with E and they both asked 'what's your answer A?' A got up and walked out the door to D. 'I would like to go to the movies with you as a friend,' she said to him. D's face lit up. He was so happy.

It was March, D had asked A in October. They still hadn't gone anywhere yet because A didn't think that D still liked her. She believed that he liked someone else. But he truly loved her, and everyone tried to convince her, but she didn't believe them. So to this day D loves A but A doesn't believe it. **The End.** (By the way this is not true!) ~M.L.S.

Lowlight

by Tabatha Bohmbach

My arm was throbbing as if my heart was inside of it instead of in my chest. The door closed on my arm as I was shutting it. Because of my reflexes, I was able to pull my arm out. But not without getting a wound.

When I pulled my arm out from the car door, it was like I pulled one hundred people's pain with it. My vision blurred, I screamed and cried, the pain was just too much.

My grandmother finished getting my baby cousin, (or should I say toddler cousin), out of the car and rushed into the house to get frozen peas.

The pain was devastating. The hours were agonizing. It was all too much. I was crying for what seemed like years. I drank ginger ale to slowly calm myself down.

After awhile, even if the pain was still coursing through my arm, I had calmed down. Later my grandmother took me and my toddler cousin to my aunt's house. (My toddler cousin's house). My aunt is studying to be a nurse. She looked at my arm and said it was fine. But I didn't believe her because it hurt so much. Though it was good enough for my grandmother.

My uncle however was willing to take me to the hospital to get it checked out. I called my mom and talked to her (and my stepfather)... The results were not what I wanted to hear.

It felt like no one cared that I was hurt. But luckily my arm wasn't trying to eat me anymore. It still hurt a little bit, but it didn't stop me from going to Bonfire Night, on the 3rd of July, tonight.

All that is left of that accident is a scar on my left arm.

maya

Gossip Column

W=girl 1

X= boy 1

Y= boy 2

Z= boy 3

A= girl 2

So, one day A and W were at the playground. They were having lots and lots of fun, then suddenly A got an asthma attack so W took her to the nurse. They were there for the rest of the recess and more. When recess was over they watched their class go up to their classroom. When suddenly they saw Z get out of the class line and walk to the nurse's room. Z walked over to W and said "X likes you, and he is wondering if you like him back." W was stunned. "What?" she said to

A as Z walked away. A just shook her head.

Later in the day A and W were back in the classroom doing free work. Then, X walks over to W. Uh-oh W thought to herself. "Y" also likes you, so you have to make a choice," X said. W's mouth dropped. Wait both X and Y like me yet Y had X ask me for him? She was so confused.

Through out the rest of the year both X and Y constantly asked W what her answer was, but she kept putting it off. "Not now" she would say every time they came up to her. Finally one day W said yes to X but no to Y. **THE END!!!!!!!** (This is just make believe... hehe)

-M.L.S.

write for 12! submit your work using the form at <http://12zine.com>

OR EMAIL magtwelve@yahoo.com

Highlight

by Tabatha Bohmbach

It was like two little pinches that barely lasted a second. It wasn't quick and dirty, it was quick and clean. I had waited 8 years minimum. And those weren't regular years. They were excruciating, devastating, agonizing years. I had kept asking, I even begged, to get my ears pierced.

July 13th, this year, 2010 was the year the miracle happened. My mother had been looking for a place that didn't pierce ears with a gun for years. She found the place. The place we would get my ears pierced.

We got my ears pierced at a tattoo place. Because most tattoo places will also pierce ears. (But not with a gun.) The tattoo place was called the Chameleon. The Chameleon is in Harvard Square, in a place called The Garage.

My earrings were little stars with a clear, white gem in the center of each one. The post of the earring was pointy at the end, to make it go through the ear fast. The backs were tighter than normal earring backs so they wouldn't accidentally fall off.

The guy who pierced my ears was the best. His name is Owen. I would recommend him to all of my friends. He was funny, kind, told me when he was about to pierce my ears, and asked if I was ready.

Let the piercing commence! The little pinches were over and I admired myself in the mirror. I squealed with delight. (Which is not normal, because I don't squeal.)

Then I said, "Mom, can I get a second piercing!?" She told me she would pay for it, but I would have to wait for my next birthday. Or if I wanted to get it done sooner I would have to

pay for it myself. Now I'm scrounging up the money for my second piercing.

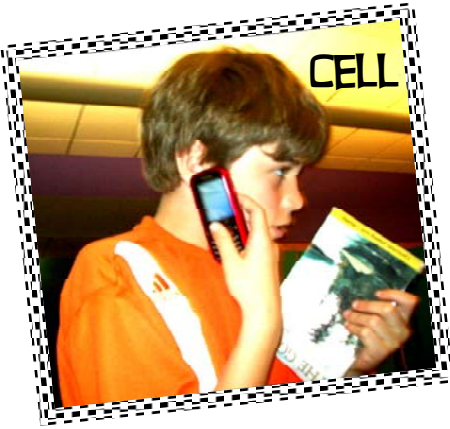


New

Shoes!

Everyone is getting new shoes. Whether they are Nikes or Pumas or even Converse! All brands have great new designs! Nikes seem to be very popular because they have awesome matching colors that pop out on each shoe! But now, Pumas have that too! I just recently got a pair of Pumas that are orange, red and peach and a very bright blue! The colors don't sound good together but really are nice. So lately shoes are popular there are great designs and people sometimes get like a new pair of shoes each week because there are so many designs and so many more to come!

~Maya LS



PHONES!

Jesse Aronson

I lately got a cell phone and it broke in the washer but I guess it was my fault. It was from Verizon, I think Verizon is the best because if you call anyone who has Verizon then it's free so if

everyone got Verizon then It would all be free the phones are great but of all the phones I would recommend the **intensity** because it's cheap, it's a media phone, it does not have any software problems. The keyboard is really comfortable, but if you have big hands I would not recommend it. If you have big hands over all I would say that Verizon is the best but AT&T has some really nice phones you should check out.

Nobody in Jesse's immediate family works for a cell phone co. We don't think, although we don't really know. -ed.

The Rose

Nattasha Vega Gonzalez

OH! crap. I got that stupid phrase stuck in my head.

He Who Walks Behind The Rose!

HEHOWALKSBEHINDTHEROSE!

Hewhowalksbehindtherose!



Photobop by Teletka

Butterfly Garden

Triana McPherson

Beautiful

Unveiled grace

Tenacious

Tastefully dressed

Excellent fliers

Radiant

Feathery

Luscious

Yellow and other colors

Glorious

Astounding swiftness

Raindrops on wings

Delicate

Elegant

Never-ending perfection

My Sister, The Moon

Triana McPherson

*You ask how many sisters I have? Fire and gems, wind and moon.
The moon dancing over the midnight sky is a pale beauty
A fevering blushing maiden showing off to the sun.*

Following the Moon

Maya Cooleyback

When I was younger, I used to look up at the sky to see the moon at night. I always wondered why it seemed to move with our car.

"It is following us" I would think. "It is a racecar on its track, going our way. It's following us, it's a scary, dangerous shark trying to catch the stars and eat them for dinner. Yes, it's following us, and it's going to hunt us down. We're deer, it's a Native American hunter who's going to bring us back to his tribe and eat us. Oh, yes, it's following us."

My dad would stop my dreams and announce our arrival. I would get out, looking at the moon, wondering. Wondering about what color racecar it is, what kind of shark it is, and what the name of the hunter was. Looking at it made me wonder more. Wondering why it followed us. Then I asked my mom why it followed us. She answered and explained, I understood. I looked at her, then at the moon. It seemed to nod back at me. All my visions went away. Looking at the moon now reminded me of stars, planets, and space. No more racecars, no more sharks, no more hunters. Now, I look at it, knowing it all. No more questions roamed my brain, just answers, floating and bouncing around.

Now, I look up at the sky, and I think of how I used to picture it - racecars, sharks, and hunters, "Wow," I tell myself as I laugh. "Did I really?" My body nods back to me. But still, not all my visions went away. Sometimes I look up and say, "That racecar is blue. He is racing on a sunny day and millions of people are watching. The shark is a tiger shark. He is eating the fish in his inky blue ocean. And the hunter is Squanto

getting food to share with the Pilgrims." I have all the answers. I know it all, I am pleased because I had imagination.

Land of the Lost

Review by Zack Colleran

Land of the Lost is like all other Will Ferrell movies: Hilarious, Stupid, and Hilarious again. It's an "adventurous" movie in a way, but Will Ferrell plays self-proclaimed fail scientist Rick Marshall, who, after

several tries, believes his invention, the Tachyon amplifier, is far from perfect. Then, after being convinced by Rick Marshall believer Holly Cantrell, they go to the widely-known devil's cavern. With a tour guide, Will, they venture into the "haunted" Devil's cavern. After finding a good source of Tachyon energy, they try the amplifier. They then venture into a sideways time, that they call "The Land of the Lost." I'll keep the rest of the movie quiet, but I would recommend it (for kids older than 10) because it's extremely funny and you'll definitely get a good laugh.



Writers wanted
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White Tiger

Triana McPherson

Black and white

Burning furious passion

The fire spirit

My Favorite Place to Be

Tabatha Bohmbach

I can feel...
The humidity in the air
The sand between my toes
Feel the cold water
As it touches my skin
The wind in my hair
As it blows by
Feel the tap, tap, tap
Of my baby cousin
Trying to get my attention
Feel the happiness
In the air,
And my heart beat
Feel the sun
Beating down on me

I can smell...
The salty air
As it blows by
The food we brought
And the sharp tang of seaweed
All the fish swimming around
Smell the bait of fishers
And the gas of boats roaring by me
The smell of sun block fills my nose

I can taste...
The salt in the air
The sand in my face

As I brush it away
The taste the meat and cheese sandwiches
And chips fill my mouth
The taste of my dessert
Fruit and ice cream
My water washes it all down my throat
I'll never get to finish
I'll drone on and on
But my favorite place to be
On a hot and sunny afternoon
Is a picnic on the Atlantic beach
With friends and family
To share the joy

Water Bottles: A Waste of Plastic and Other BAD Things by William Quan

The average American consumes 167 bottles of water annually. All those plastic bottles come with significant environmental impact and high costs. There are alternatives to drinking expensive bottled water that are cheaper and more environmentally-friendly.

In Massachusetts there is no bottle deposit on bottled water. That means there is less of an incentive for people to recycle water bottles. When people don't recycle that means that there is more trash on the street, on the beach and at parks.

When you buy bottled water 90% of the cost is related to the bottle, not the water, which is the part that you *really* want. A good alternative is to use a reusable bottle and fill it with tap water. It has mobility and it is cheaper because you

refill it at home. By not buying plastic water bottles you reduce the amount of waste that goes into a landfill if you had thrown it into the trash. You can also help reduce our dependence on foreign oil by drinking tap water because plastic water bottles are petroleum-based.

People often drink bottled water because they think it is healthier than regular tap water. But, in most cases, tap water is just as healthy or even healthier. An estimated 25% or more of the water that is in bottled water is just tap water that is packaged and filtered.

Americans have a choice whether to drink bottled water or drink tap water, they should choose to drink tap water when possible because plastic bottles take lots of energy to produce, they cost a lot more than tap water and are not necessary.

Half Iron man

by Lucy Coombs

When I got to the airport I felt nervous. We checked in our baggage then headed to the metal detector. Not only did I feel sick but now I had to decide if I should walk through and then be patted down (which I hate), or should I take off my leg and hop through the detector which would hurt my feet because the ground is very hard. I chose to hop through.

Once we boarded the plane I was still feeling sick but not as sick. I felt fine for a little while but then we went over a big lake and the feeling came back. This time I didn't only feel sick but now I was nervous. I was thinking last plane ride ever. In just a few days I would be jumping into the Pacific Ocean. Plus I was going to swim a half iron man distance. It would be the longest swim I ever complete at one time. The distance was 1.2 miles.

As soon as my family got off the plane, I could already feel the heat on my skin. The CAF (Challenged Athletes Foundation) had sent someone to the airport to get us. When my dad was talking on his phone to the man who was going to get us my dad described us as the family who looks like they belong on the other side of the country. When we got to the hotel, I saw some of my friends (who are also amputees). One of my friends is from Massachusetts too. My brother made a joke. He said that it is funny that you need to come all the way from Massachusetts to see Brendan.

The next day there was a running clinic. I got to learn how to run correctly from other amputees. It was a lot of fun and really hot. After that we had to go back to the hotel and take showers because later that day all the families the CAF had invited were going to a gala. It was amazing. There were jazz musicians. There were many amazing food bars. There was a meat bar, a quesadilla bar, and a mashed potato bar. At the mashed potato bar the potatoes were served in a margarita glass. I guess you could call them mashed potato margaritas. You could put almost anything on your mashed potato margarita. You could put bacon bits, blue cheese, fried onions, sour cream, gravy and more on your potatoes. Then later that night people got awards for doing amazing things. One of the award recipients was from South Africa, he lost his legs when he was little, he had been hit by a train and had been walking on wooden legs his whole life. Someone from the CAF had been on a plane sitting right next him. His name was Luvo. He shared his story and was awarded two new walking legs. He said that now that he had feet he wanted Adidas sneakers with green stripes. A friend of ours, her name is Deanna, was also given an award. She was swimming in a pool training for an iron man when her heart stopped. There was no lifeguard on duty but somehow an ambulance came and

brought her to the hospital. Not enough blood was going to her leg so the doctors had to cut it off.

Two days later, at five thirty in the morning my family had to get up. We got dressed and ready and waited on the hotel steps for a ride to the event. Our new friend Sean, who had picked us up at the airport, was going to drive us but ended



Nicole Morales

up needing to bring someone else. We didn't know that yet. While we were waiting I felt like I was looking for something that doesn't exist. Every time someone would get into their car we would ask if there was room for us. We were waiting for almost a half hour. Luckily some of our friends were still in the hotel and offered to bring us. They only had two seats so I had to sit on my mom's lap and kept banging my head on the ceiling every time we hit a bump.

When we got to the event people were running around getting their bikes ready, putting on their running shoes and trying to get into wet suits (ugh). Putting on my wetsuit was

the hardest thing to do next to the swim, I thought. The wet suit was super uncomfortable. I felt like a piece of rubber with a leg, two arms and a head. Just to get it on we had to use so much body glide that I felt like I would slide right out of my wet suit if it wasn't so tight. About an hour and a half later, one wave of swimmers took the plunge.

All swimmers and their handlers headed down to the cove. All the amputee swimmers had at least one handler. The handler was there to help and guide you through the water. If you were under thirteen years old you got two handlers. My handlers' names were Ben and Sarah. The cove was three flights of stairs below us. If you were missing a leg you would be given a piggy back ride down the stairs. The waves were so high that you had to leave your prosthetics at the top of the stairs otherwise they would drift away. Ben gave me a piggy back ride down. I was practically falling off his back I was so tired and nervous. It was only 7 am. When we got to the bottom of the stairs, I sat on the sand, and then all of a sudden I was lifted up. My leg and arms were pulled upward. I guess I wasn't paying attention because the waves could have been six feet tall easy. Ben and Sarah kept lifting me up until the event started.

As soon as the whistle was blown, everyone started. I was one of the youngest and not as fast as everyone else. So people were swimming around me. There were only three other kids swimming and they were all eleven, like me. At first everyone was swimming in one big clump and then the clump spread out. I was closer to the back of the crowd. My handlers would steer me (in a way) by telling me to move to one side or another. When I swam about a half mile out I started to see a lot of seaweed. The seaweed was getting caught on my arms and legs. It looked like I just grew about twenty feet of green hair. The seaweed was slimy and long. When I was close

to the beach I started to see some Garibaldi fish. Garibaldi fish are like mega sized goldfish. The fish were swimming in and out of rocks. I must have been closer than I thought because I could touch the rocks. A few seconds later, my handlers were pulling me up so I could climb on Ben's back and we could go up the stairs.

Once I was on Ben's back we headed for the stairs. The first step was three feet tall. When Ben started climbing the first step I was a little startled because he started to fall backwards. Then two huge hands reached out and grabbed Ben by the shoulders and pushed him back so he was steady. The hands looked like they belonged to a super person, they were huge and muscularly. After that we continued up the stairs.

While Ben and I were going up the stairs, we could hear people screaming swimmers' names and cheering them. I felt so proud. At the top of the stairs, my dad was there to congratulate me on the swim. Ben was still giving me a piggy back ride while we ran to the timing station. The timing station is where you get your medal and where they take the ankle timer off. The whole one minute it took us to get to the timing station, photographers followed us. One of the photographers ran with us the whole time taking pictures. When I got to my towel with my medal I was ready to peel off my wetsuit. But then my mom just had to have a picture of me and Sarah and Ben. I was done.

I just had one problem. The medal was heavy and weighed a lot and was on super itchy fabric.

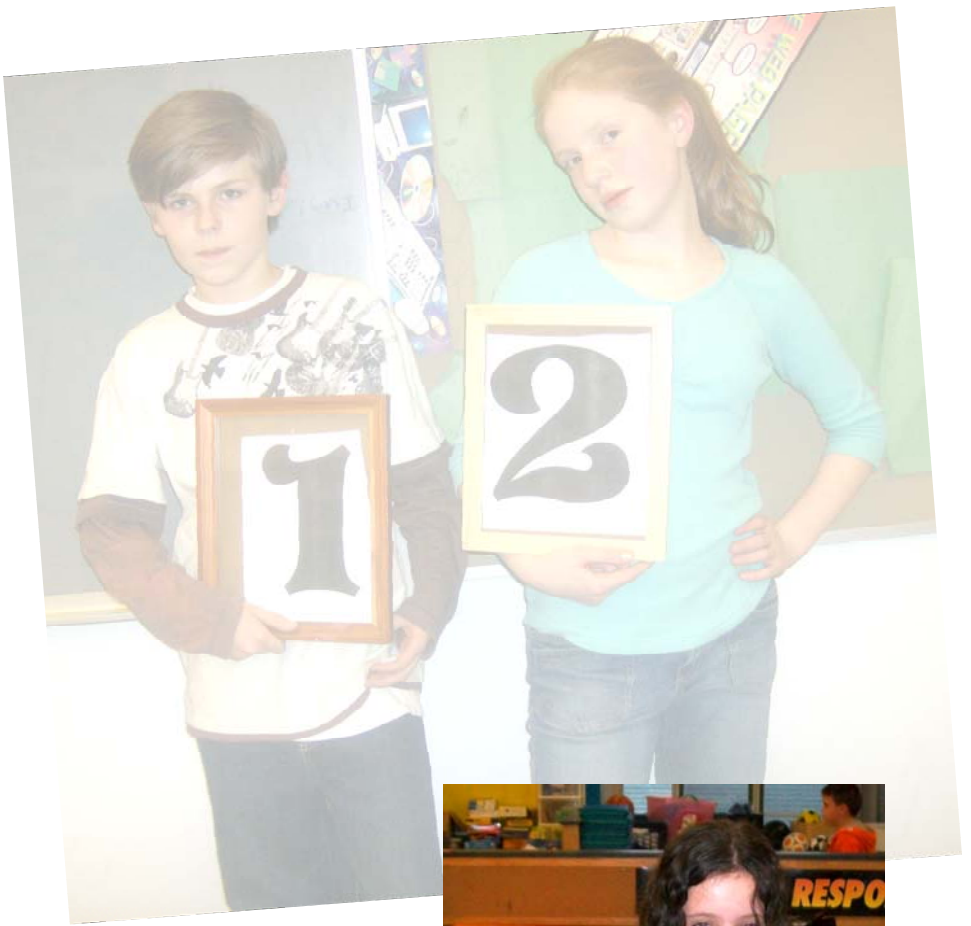
The Lost Hero

review by Zack Colleran

The Lost Hero is the first book in the new Greek/Roman mythology series now known as The Heroes of Olympus, the sequel series to the popular, world-wide known series of Percy Jackson and the Olympians. This book is just as exciting, compelling, and attractive as the old series. It's full of plot, and pulls you in more and more as you read, and has plenty of good, juicy fights between the demigods and some other "deadly" foes yet to be revealed. Now, I would only recommend this book to those who have read the WHOLE Percy Jackson series. This is a fantastic book, and anyone who gets in will enjoy it lots.

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