



The Redbird Report

REDBIRD REPORT

FALL/WINTER 2018

DATES TO KNOW

December 18
Band & Jazz
Band Concert

December 20
Orchestra &
Choir Concert

Dec. 22-Jan. 1
Winter Break

January 24
End of Quarter 2

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New Front in Space Exploration: EM1 by A. D.

Space. The final frontier. For the past hundreds of years, people have been looking to the sky wondering what really lies out there. Every once and awhile, someone would discover a new planet, or a moon, or a star, or an asteroid, and so on, and that was exciting because only now have they been adding on to the understanding of what the universe holds to give. So far, only minuscule achievements have been made to the dream of space travel. The first man on the moon, that was huge, but since then we as humans haven't really added anything to that. That will soon change with the string of upcoming missions to test new technology and spacecraft that humans

will very soon be traveling in.

NASA has multiple objectives in mind for these missions. The first is to soon end direct supplies and support to the ISS (International Space Station), and to expand commercial and international activities. The second is to establish a long-lasting presence in the vicinity of and on the moon. The third is to conduct a manned mission around the moon as well as developing the Gateway which would stay in orbit of the moon for astronauts to live upon. The fourth and last is to launch ships to Mars and then send them back to test for the first time taking off of another planet and coming back to set standards

for future manned missions.

EM-1 (Exploration Mission 1) will be the first test in which many will follow. This mission is specifically to test habitat for humans and to test brand new propulsion systems. This ship will go farther than any ship designed for humans has ever gone before. The mission will last for a duration of about three weeks from launch to set down. Many factors are going to be tested in preparation of future missions such as the craft's ability to land safely and how well its systems work.

Is Water Wet? by S. P.

Many people believe that water is wet, and many believe it is not. This subject has caused many arguments, conflicts, trust issues, torn families, and hopefully it won't start World War III. You may have a strong opinion about this topic as well, or you may not know what to believe. Let's take a look at both sides of the argument.

Yes: Water is wet.

Obviously water is wet. What kind of question even is that? What is a liquid and that makes it wet. It's definitely not dry. This is a very simple truth we can learn from Dr. Doofenshmirtz in *Phineas and Ferb*. While taking a swig of water, he states, "Water, like drinking wet air." This makes perfect sense that water is in fact, wet air. It has no taste just like air, is clear just like air, keeps us alive just like air, and they are both very refreshing. There are molecules in water that start off dry. Once they come in contact with each other, they become wet. So water actually is wet because the molecules in it are wet.

No: Water is not wet.

Yes, water is a liquid, but that doesn't mean it is wet. It

makes things wet, but it is not. If you dip a rag in water, it gets wet. Water is making it wet, but water is not what *is* wet. The object in contact with it is. According to UCSB Science Line, "Wetness is the ability of a liquid to adhere to a solid." This means that water has no solids in it to adhere to, so it is not wet. However, this doesn't mean that water is dry. Water is simply just a liquid. Maybe someday in the future, we will be able to label water as wet or dry, but for now it remains just a liquid.

So what side are you on? Is water wet? In my personal opinion, I honestly have no idea if water is wet or not. I have completely confused myself in writing this article. I'm sure poor water is confused if it's wet or not too with all these people assuming its identity.

On the other hand, maybe we don't need to worry if water is wet or not. Maybe if we just drink it instead of arguing about it, we will be much happier. Let's just not bring up problems that are completely unnecessary.

Quiet: A Fictional Story Told In Three Parts by K. C.

"Oh, Alex. Quit being such a baby. Just do it!" Erin shouted, impatiently, at me. I was standing at the edge of the gloomy, and apparently haunted, woods. Even with the sun shining bright, and it being 82 degrees outside, the edge of the wood was chilling. My friends had dared me to take five steps into the woods and turn around and, "run if you're wimpy," Erin had said. "Come on, dude. Just get it over with," Darren whined. Erin and Darren were twins. I was their first mate. We were all friends since first grade. "Easy for you to say," I stared at a tree with a face, "You're not going in." "Rumor has it, a girl disappeared into these woods and never came out," Erin said with an evil grin. "We know what the legend is, Erin," Darren piped in, "But that was 10 years ago." "Who cares! Just go in and get it over with, Alex!" With that Erin pushed me into the legendary woods.

It was foggy when Alex entered the "twilight zone". Erin pushed Alex so hard that he stumbled on the dewy ground. When he got to his feet, he stood still and lis-

tened, for he was too scared to move. He didn't hear Darren and Erin fighting on the other side of the thick trees. He didn't hear the trees sway in the wind. The wind whispering, ever so softly, "Turn back. Turn back." But what he did hear was a voice. A raspy voice that sounded like someone was screeching chalk against a chalkboard.

"It's okay to be afraid," It whispered. Alex froze. He felt like the voice was right behind him. The hairs on his neck all spiked up. He ran. He didn't know where he was going. All he knew was that he needed to get out of there. When he ran out of breath, he hid behind a tree. *Who was that? Alex thought. He looked around. He didn't see anyone. What? But I heard someone. I guess they couldn't keep up. He smiled in relief. But the smile faded quickly.*

"Hello? Who's there," A voice shouted from farther in the woods. No, it wasn't the voice Alex ran away from. It was a girl's voice. Alex, stealthily, walked toward the girl's voice. When Alex saw brown hair, he ducked down in a bush. He made too much noise and startled the girl.

"Who's there," She re-

peated, "Show yourself!" The girl had knotty brown hair, a torn apart red sweatshirt and jeans that had holes on the knees. And Converse. She looked about Alex's age. Maybe a little older. Alex didn't know what to do. But he didn't have to ponder long.

* * *

"Alex!" Darren reached for Alex but was too late. He turned to Erin with steam coming out of his ears, "Erin! Really?!" "What?! I was getting bored," Erin exclaimed. "Erin, Erin, Erin. You know what? Ever since I introduced him to you, you said that he was the cutest boy you've ever seen. And you treat him like this?!" "Okay, I was seven when I said he was cute. And I regret every word I have said about him then. He's just like you. Stubborn, rude, dumb, pathetic... do you want me to keep going?" "Alright, alright. Let's see if he survives. If he doesn't, I bet you're going to cry for a week!" "Will not!" "Will too!" And the fighting kept going.

Quiet (continued from page 3)

"It's okay to be afr--"
Alex heard behind him suddenly. The girl must've heard it too because she turned around to Alex. Her eyes widened. She saw the shadow behind Alex. Her eyes suddenly narrowed.

"Leave him alone!" She shouted and stomped up to Alex. She looked at him, "Do you trust me?" All that Alex could get out of his mouth was, "Uhhhh..."

"Good," The girl said and pushed him away from her and towards the shadow! But instead of landing in some stranger's arms, he landed in his mother's. "Alex!! Where have you been?! You're shaking like a leaf, Alex... Alex? Alex!!" His mother tried to focus his attention on her but it didn't work. Alex looked around. His mom was here. So were Erin and Darren. And their mom! The police were on the scene too?

"Mom, what's going on?" He asked.

"What do you mean? You've been in the woods for two days!"

Two days?! I've been in the woods for two whole days?! But it felt like five minutes! WHAT?! How can that be possible? Alex was lying on his bed. His mom had offered him food but he rejected it.

"Are you sure?" His mom had said, "You haven't eaten in two days. You've been in that awful place. So cold and dark and just... spooky. They should really clear out that area. Are you sure you're okay?" "Mooom!" Alex groaned, "You don't have to keep rubbing it in. I didn't know I was in the woods for two days. To me, it felt like five minutes!"

"Really? That's... strange." "I know," And that ended the conversation. After that, his mom called the doctor.

* * *

Erin and Darren stopped by just when the doctor did. When they saw the doctor enter the house they shared the same worried expressions. Darren

turned to Erin.

"Great, now the doctor's here," He gave Erin a warning look and she glared back. They walked into the house and saw Alex on the couch. His mom and the doctor were talking in the kitchen. They both sat with Alex.

Erin was the first to speak, surprisingly, "Are you okay, Alex?" She asked.

"I'm fine. Other than the part about my mom thinking that I'm insane. And the part where my friend pushed me into the woods, without any warning." "I'm sorry about that. I really am."

"Right. Whatever," Alex replied. The doctor and Alex's mom came in and sat down in two other chairs.

"Hello, Alex. I'm Dr. Julius Martin. I've been talking with your mother and I heard you had quite an interesting weekend. Am I correct?" Dr. Martin asked.

"Sure," Alex didn't really want to talk about it but he had no other choice.

"Can you tell me what happened while you were in the woods?" the doctor asked. Alex groaned but told Dr. Martin the whole story. He told him about Erin pushing him into the woods. The voice in the woods. The dirty girl and what she did.

"I was thinking about it and I think that the girl is the one that disappeared 10 years ago," When the doctor gave him a strange look Alex explained, "Think about it. I've never seen her around town, and it's a pretty small town so we know everybody. The girl was still young. Maybe my age. In the legend, the girl was young too. And when the shadow was behind me, she seemed to know how to deal with it. It would take me 10 years to get used to that shadow and know how to deal with it." Dr. Julius Martin wasn't buying it, "Mrs. Tin, your son has gone absolutely mad," Everyone's mouths dropped open.

I'm not crazy. I know what I saw. I just have to prove it. Alex was determined to prove himself right. It was 10:49 p.m and Alex was up and awake. His plan was to go into the woods and get the girl out to prove that he was right and not crazy and there is something wrong in the woods. But, of course, he wasn't going alone. He climbed through Darren's window (which is always open) and shook him awake.

"Alex? What are you doing, man?!" He squinted at his clock, "It's 10:50! What are you doing in my room?! Why are you here?! My parents are going to

kill yo--"

"Relax. I need you to be quiet right no--" Alex began but something shuffled in the hallway. It was Erin.

"Darren..... Alex?! What are you--"

"Shhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!"

Alex shushed both of them loudly, "You're going to wake your parents!" He whispered and yelled at the same time.

"I'd rather wake them up. Mom, Dad. There's a stranger in Darren's room," Erin whispered, sarcastically.

"I dare you," Alex threatened.

"Okay," said Erin and she disappeared around the corner; but a second later she came back, "Why did you come here in the first place?" She asked. Finally, they were getting somewhere. "Everyone thinks I'm crazy and I want to prove them wrong. I want to go back into the woods and get the girl out of there to show them," explained Alex.

Erin's face brightened, "Sounds exciting. I'm in."

"Really? I... um..." Alex wasn't planning on inviting her. Erin narrowed her eyes, "What? You weren't planning on inviting me on your crazy adventure? I'm coming with you. End. Of. Story." Alex gulped.

"Whoa, whoa, whoa. Let's not jump into conclusions!" Darren proclaimed, "I mean, we might get lost. We might be gone for years like Alex had been gone for days--"

"Darren, you always ruin the fun. Are you in or not?" Erin questioned her brother.

Darren thought for a moment but then sighed, "I'm in. Besides, what would you do without me?" The twins got dressed and set off towards the woods with Alex leading the way.

* * *

"Why couldn't we do this during the day?" Asked Darren. They all stared into the woods. Now that it was night, it all looked darker than usual.

"I... don't know," Alex pondered at that.

"Alex!!! Ugh!" Darren groaned.

"I guess I just wanted to get this done with right away," said Alex.

"Yeah, you'd want to. The whole town's gossiping about the crazy boy that went into the woods," Erin teased. Alex shot Erin a glare. "Because you dared me to." "I'll push you again if we don't go in there soon," Erin pointed at the woods. They all stared at it again.

Alex sucked in a deep breath and didn't let it go. "Alright. Here goes nothing," He said as he stepped in the woods. Erin went in next. Darren braced himself for the worst and soon they were all standing on the dewy ground and breathing in the dirty air around them. Well, two of them were.

To Be Continued.....

(Be sure to read the next edition of The Redbird Report for Part Two of "Quiet.")

Problems

by E. B. & A. W.

The bombs were dropped,
The children ran,
Problems overwhelm,
This terrible land.

All over the world,
Are threatening faces
Problem with equality,
Including gender and races.

World hunger and war,
Might as well drop dead on the floor,
Poverty and dictators,
The cruel ones and the haters.

Abuse and drug addiction,
So sad this isn't fiction,
And for those I will cry,
Who aren't blessed unlike I.

Why are we so spoiled?

We cry when we break our phones,
While people die from hunger, abuse, rape,
child labor, drugs, alcohol, cancer, and war
every day.

This world has problems,
And that's all I have to say.

The Redbird Report

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