

Rivers Chronicles

The Newspaper of Rivers International School



A SNEAK PEEK INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

WHO CREATED THE
CONCEPT OF WAR IN
THE FIRST PLACE? WHO
THOUGHT THAT IT
WOULD BE A GOOD
IDEA TO CAUSE HARM
TO OTHERS, MERELY
FOR THEIR OWN
SURVIVAL?

ON THE NATURE OF WAR - P.3

WAR

WE'VE GOT A WEBSITE!

Check out our website at riverschronicles.wixsite.com/mysite to find more information on us, our themes, publishing dates and the previous editions.

We care very much for your feedback and opinions on the content, layout or anything else in between! On the website there is a chat box where all the comments go directly to us, or you can go to the 'contact' sub heading and send us an email. We look forward to hearing from you and hopefully you enjoy the website!

Editorial: a remarkable woman

Dominique Wagemaker

Looking at this month's articles, the theme might as well have been leaders throughout history (including the Syrian fighting bear Wojtek, of course). I always give the journalists and artists full freedom to write about whatever gives them inspiration based on the theme for that month*. Given that this month's theme was "War", I think it's pretty heartwarming to know that most people's minds go straight to inspirational people instead of the gruesome ideals behind war time. War is ofcourse a very broad topic and can be taken into account through many scopes - which allowed the newspaper to exercise looking at a theme from their own perspective (which coincides directly with the goal of the newspaper this year, how coincidental).

I myself am a very strong pacifist, which of course holds almost no ground unless you talk about to what extent you are. Naturally, I respect what has been done in the past to be able to live in a country like I do now and understand many of the decisions made, but some of these wars and the glorification of these conflicts... Geesh really? I'll try to silence myself a bit, because I know there are very strong opinions about the matter in our school environment. Instead I'll focus and try to relate to one of the subthemes - women's history month.

Happy belated international women's day! I know it's late and not every woman truly feels the necessity for such a day, but you still deserve to hear it. All over the world there are many, many women who do not have the freedom to do what I do, nor have the ability to have made the impact they could have on the worldwere the world a more equal place. And of course, as this should for everyone, it saddens me deeply. But with this marginalization of women, some remarkable women have stood out through these harsh times - when people need someone to look up to. Just like at war. Women like Malala Yousafzai, Maya Angelou, Valentina Tereshkova, Rosa Parks, Millicent Fawcett, Marie Curie, Sirimavo R.D Bandaranaike, Margaret Heafield and so many others are all examples of women who arose during times of oppression to guide or to develop the world and make it a little bit better.

Each of these women inspires me but one in particular (I'll try not to let this come over as too much of a cliche) Bernadette Groot, my mother. Even though everyone would say this about their mother, I've got a bit of a unique story behind my reasoning for why I think about her when I hear the subtheme.

I was born in South America and have lived for more than half my life in developing countries. I have certainly lived a well endowed life and am very honored that I've had the ability to experience what I have, but I've also experienced less - fun things.

Things like personal contact with the guerilla groups and armed warfare in Colombia, being in the midst of the shia and sunni conflicts in Bahrain or having to flee Argentina over the borders because of expiring visitors passes. You'd think that by now I'd have my own podcast to talk about my stories - but to tell you the truth, I have little negative memories about my times in the past (and actually look back at these memories now wondering how we could have ever come out un-scratched). Whether we were financially tight or being chauffeured around in our three cars, my mother kept my brother, sister and I grounded at all times and reminded us of fun times and the beauty of pacifism. Because of her I don't look at my memories and see the slums of the internally displaced people in Bogota or the immigrant from Venezuela, but I see the beautiful beaches of Aruba and the excitement she always gave us with art projects and new books.

I never payed much thought to it until recently, when I realized that my mother was only around 10 years older than I was when she moved halfway across the world and traveled alone with my father to start a family and experience all of these things. From her I know that if I wanted to, I could suddenly move to China and have the time of my life - but I for sure wouldn't have had the guts to raise three children alone with my father in countries she barely spoke the language in. Taking that into account, whether she was going through scary medical problems or she was scared or confused about where we were, she always made sure that we knew that we were loved and safe when she was around- without ever breaking a sweat or letting us feel quite how scared of the unknown she herself was.

Therefore when I think of a strong woman that I would want to use as a role model I could think of wanting to be like Emma Watson and her fight to achieve gender equality but I much rather think of the beautiful morals and messages my mother has been teaching me and my siblings from day one (with my father of course, let's not forget Raymonde).

So in conclusion, I may have strong opinions about war or the role of women or what I think would be a perfect Utopian world, but people will always tend to disagree with me - cause that's just life. But I think we can all agree that even in times of war, conflict or poverty, the one thing that always helps is a woman or man who sticks by you.

Happy women's month! I do so hope you don't have some of the same turbulent memories as I do from the past - but if you do, I hope you too had strong people to pull you through.

Hope you enjoy this edition of the newspaper and are interested in the many new stories the journalists have to tell!

Dominique Wagemaker

^{*} A few people had approached me concerning the alternating lengths of the newspaper. With the goal of the newspaper being people trying to find their passion and writing about things that inspires them and their own opinion, forcing people to create content doesn't really fit. As such, think about the saying 'quality over quantity' and I hope you all understand that we only try to bring out items which everyone is comfortable with and happy with sharing.



We've got a website!

RIVERSCHRONICLES.WIXSITE.COM/MYSITE

On it you can find all of the editions, the future themes and ideas and a contact page and chat box for feedback or questions.

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Now, most of you are probably familiar with Hua Mulan, the Chinese warrior, whose legend became most known and beloved through the Disney film 'Mulan'. While no historical evidence is actually available for the story, it has remained an inspiration to the Chinese population.

The story particularly inspired revolutionist and poet Qiu Jin.



Qiu Jin, also known as China's 'Joan of Arc', was born in 1875 in a declining family of the gentry and proceeded to grow up in an environment of deeply rooted patriarchal values. Despite this, Qiu Jin seemed to dismiss the traditional norms of her society and instead studied Chinese martial heroines such as Hua Mulan, hoping one day to achieve more than what her 'role' as a woman required. She wouldn't achieve this before succumbing to an arranged marriage at the ripe age of 19 between her and a wealthy merchant. Qiu Jin remained committed to her marriage and even gave birth to a daughter and son in 1903. Although her lifestyle was seemingly conservative and typical of the time, Qiu Jin wasn't afraid to voice her opinions on China's stifling gender roles through poetry. An example is shown below:

"My body will not allow me To mingle with the men But my heart is far braver Than that of a man." It wasn't long before the Chinese rebel decided to leave her husband and children in the summer of 1904 to pursue a career in dismantling gender roles and advancing women's causes. After having sailed to Tokyo, Qiu Jin enrolled at Shimoda Utako's Women's Practical School and spent her time connecting with other like-minded students, she even started joining anti-Manchu secret societies. She eventually returned to China in 1906 and began her fight for women's rights there too. She started demolishing the Qing government by founding a journal filled with nationalist and feminist pieces called the 'Chinese Women's Journal'. By 1907, Qiu had become the head of the Shaoxing Datong school, aimed at training future revolutionist military leaders. It was there she was informed that Xu Xilin, her cousin as well as co founder of the school had been executed because of his involvement in the assassination of his Manchu superior. Soon after, Qiu was warned that Qing troops were on the hunt for who they thought to be the co-conspirator. Qiu Jin was soon arrested. Her lack of cooperation in providing information about the uprising paired with the discovery of incriminating evidence against her inside the school ultimately resulted in her public beheading on July 15th, 1907.

Although she didn't have the happy ending we Mulan enthusiasts would've liked to see, Qiu Jin not only made her mark as a feminist poet and revolutionary but participated in politics, trained military leaders, plotted against the Manchu led government, and ultimately sacrificed herself for a cause she so passionately believed in. Her remarkable story may be unknown to most and deeply buried in history, but she truly paved the way for restricted Chinese women in the 20th century. To fully appreciate Qiu Jin, featured below is a passage of her speech in which she argues against foot binding and arranged marriages, encouraging women's independence and education:

"I would now bind twice then thousand times ten thousand women in single indivisibility under our guidance; would at dawn and dusk penetrate women's realm throughout the country discussing general control in women's affairs; would provide women with dashing waves of independence in life's course. I would now rouse women's essence, spirit, to rise as birds in flight

over fields, leaving swiftly earth's dust, that they may speedily cross the frontier into the great world of light and brilliance. I desire that they be leaders,

awakened lions, advance messengers of learning and intelligence; that they may serve as rafts crossing cloudy ferries; as lamps in dark

chambers. That they may let shine, from the center of women's

realm in our country, bright light resplendent,

glittering rare in the beauty of its color; that on the whole earth globe, they startle the hearts, snatch the eyes of men, causing all to applaud, rejoice."



ON THE NATURE OF WAR

Aengus Schulte

I'm going to be honest with you guys - I know next to nothing about what war is really like. Sure, I play a bunch of war-related games, like Warhammer, or Risk, or even chess, but I'd not have the faintest clue what it's like to be there on the battlefield, defending one's country, honour, or family. I would imagine that it's frightening. Terrifying, even. Being in a situation where death could arrive at any moment, either for you or those surrounding you. It makes you wonder - what's the use of it?

Who created the concept of war in the first place? Who thought that it would be a good idea to cause harm to others, merely for their own survival? War has become such an integral part of the collective human psyche that we view it as commonplace today. And why? Why is it that we consider this normal? It surely cannot be normal for us to think of war as good. How can it be? If it only spreads pain and suffering, and leaves mourning families gathered around a corpse, then what good does it do?

I know that there are many reasons for war to take place. Defence or reclamation of natural resources. A diplomatic misunderstanding. Sometimes even to prevent other countries from declaring war. But are these merely excuses to satisfy some addiction to violence we all secretly have deep down?

And then there are the justifications. Always excuses to show that you are in the right, and they are in the wrong. After all, why wouldn't you be right? They are different to you, and therefore frightening, and almost inevitably evil. But there is no good and evil. Those who do things that we might perceive as evil are merely fulfilling their own personal agendas. To them, it is you who is in the wrong, and they who are in the right. This is one of the defining factors of conflict. One does not view themselves as evil. Not truly. There aren't any Joker-esque villains hiding in some dark lair, plotting a new plan for world domination. There are only those who seek to achieve their own goals. Genghis Khan didn't kill 40 million people for the fun of it - he had a goal, one that gave prosperity and wealth to the Mongols for almost three generations. But does this dream of wellbeing truly justify the numerous massacres that the Khan carried out? Whether well-intentioned or not, war almost always causes more pain than it does relief.

So then, what are the solutions? How can we refrain from resorting to violence when disagreements arise? All things considered, I'm probably not the best person to come up with ways of stopping global war from breaking out. But there are some things that should be considered as common sense, as opposed to radical ideas that can't be universally accepted.

For one thing, we could stop threatening one another. A favourite strategy of countries facing the possibility of war appears to be reinforcing their own military, which only worries their perceived enemies and makes them act in turn. Take the Cold War between the US and the Soviet Union. Each nation was preparing for nuclear war, not because they wanted to wipe out millions of people, but because they were afraid that the opposing side might. Thankfully, this did not come about. But there seems to be a worryingly similar situation going on at the moment between the US and DPRK. One can only hope that common sense will reign through and restore order.

Another method that should be self-evident is understanding the beliefs and viewpoints of other cultures and societies. As mentioned above, people do not perceive themselves as evil. They are under the impression that they are in the right. Take Islamic State. Whilst I am in no way condoning their beliefs, they are not performing terrorist attacks out of spite. In their eyes, we are infidels, sacrilegious heretics who are going against the will of their god. As such, they believe that they are doing the world a service, when in fact they are merely adding to its hurt.

This article went on for longer than I imagined, but the message still stands - violence can be easily averted if we just take the effort to understand the other party's perspective and talk it out with them. This will by no means work every time; there are far too many people in the world who think just about themselves, with no consideration of others. However, the more people that pick up this philosophy, the more likely you are to run into one of them. Give it a go, and see where it takes you.



The Boosting Club

The boosting club is about providing free and private tutoring by and for students right here in our school.



Are you in MYP 4/5 or in the DP and need help with a subject?

Or are you a DP1 or DP2 student willing to help fellow students out with a specific subject you're good at? (It counts as CAS)

Get in contact with me:

- · at this email; jonah.smans@outlook.com
- · ask your teacher to contact me
- · walk up to me in school Include the subject you want help with and make sure to share your timetable.

Jonah Smans, the head of the boosting club

AAVA MÄÄTTÄ

No longer property - Womens History Month





Culture Shock

WOJTEK

By; Therese Steffensen

When I first heard of the theme for this edition and I heard war and animal conservation, my mind immediately went to Wojtek. Now if you do not know who Wojtek is, that is alright. Recently, he was more popularized thanks to a Buzzfeed video "Ruining History" which has gained over 2 million views on this specific topic.

But let's start with an introduction of Wojtek and who he is. Wojtek is a bear, more specifically a Syrian brown bear raised by the Polish army during world war 2. Yes, this actually happened. He was found in 1942 by the Polish army from a young boy who had originally found Wojtek. The soldiers traded a few of their own resources with the boy to get the bear, keeping him as a pet and mascot.

They took him back to their camp and raised him there as their own. Two specific soldiers called Dymitr Szawlugo and Henryk Zacharewicz had the role of taking care of him, making sure he was fed properly and didn't cause any damage around the camp. The soldiers gave him pretty much anything to feed him, in the beginning, he was fed on condensed milk but as he grew larger his taste changed. Specifically more towards beer and cigarettes. He would only take one puff of it before swallowing the entire thing. Now I don't recommend doing this with your own pet bear, or any animal.

As he grew up, he was a form of entertainment for the soldiers on quiet days, some soldiers even taking up the chance to wrestle him, because why wouldn't you wrestle a large brown bear? He was also very friendly towards other troops mascots such as anti-tank dogs and even a monkey a troop had adopted. He was the only bear tho.

But he wasn't just any mascot, he even helped the soldiers in one of their battles. The Battle of Monte Cassino, Wojtek helped in carrying ammunition towards cannons, thus helping out the army is not only speeding up the process but also making other soldiers scared. He could carry heavyweights of ammunition, lifting multiple ones at the time. As a reward, Wojtek was treated as a hero and even had the logo made after him. The silhouette of a bear carrying a shell in his hands.

MIRELL LESKOV

Assassin's Creed Syndicate



MAX LE ROUGETEL

Cleaning up the Netherlands, one plastic bag at a time



"So, why are you cleaning up after other people?" My neighbour's son has asked me that question many times over the last couple of months. Every time my brother and I headed out with our orange sacks and heavy gloves he'd come over to see what we had picked up when we came back an hour or so later. I have tried to explain the S.A program to him countless times but his answer was always somewhere along the lines of" "OK... but why are you picking up garbage. Gross!" I can't argue with that point! So, why am I doing it?

I've recently moved to Arnhem from Nairobi, Kenya. Nairobi is a fantastic and crazy place, full of life, people and, sadly, in many areas outside of the shopping and business districts, full of garbage. Much of it lies exactly where people have dropped it. In the small settlements and shanty towns that are spread all over the city large piles of garbage build up, rivers get clogged up, and water sources become polluted. In my neighbourhood which was just around the corner of the International School, in an area largely made up of expats, my family could pay to have our garbage removed, but not recycled. Once it was gone we had no idea where it ended up. We were one of the few lucky ones who could afford this; the poorer Kenyans who live in slums have no such choice. I remember being told by someone that after a while you just stop seeing it. Maybe you do but I can't imagine that you could ever stop smelling it. In the summer the smell that's given of by garbage piles can be absolutely awful - luckily, as an expat, you are usually just driving through the slums, unable to smell the stench. In our area, Wednesday was "burn day" - the day of the week during which garbage, grass, whatever else can be set alight, is dealt with. Coincidentally it was also a short day of school so often when we arrived home the thick acrid smoke hadn't cleared up yet. I remember my mother cursing at everyone as she ran around the house shutting doors and windows, protecting our home from the poisonous smoke. It was horrible for me but lifethreatening for my brother. He developed severe asthma because of the smoke after we had lived two years in Nairobi.

In August 2017 the Kenyan government, desperate to do something for the environment, put a ban on plastic bags. All plastic bags. Suddenly you weren't allowed to be seen with one, even if you were reusing a bag you already had. Anyone caught selling, manufacturing or even just carrying one could be fined up to 38,000 USD or be jailed for up to four years.

It was estimated that Kenyans used approximately 24 million plastic bags a month prior to the ban. There were so many that animals ate them: it was reported that the vast majority of slaughtered cows were found to have up to twenty bags in their stomachs. They had been everywhere for years and then suddenly they weren't. Don't get me wrong, they were still in the rivers and garbage piles but they weren't in the shops...

It's safe to say that It took time to adapt. Try balancing fifteen apples on a small weighing scale without all of them rolling everywhere or try filling your trolley with loose kiwi fruit, oranges, and tomatoes while trying to keep them organized. The ban also stretched to freezer bags and even to clingfilm. I know people who smuggled ziplock bags into the country! Us expats only experienced inconvenience. Many Kenyans, on the other hand, who worked in the plastic plants making the bags lost their jobs because of the ban. People selling produce in the markets had to find alternatives like paper bags which cost considerably more. For a couple of months, it really was difficult...Then people started to adapt. They started bringing their baskets, boxes or reusable bags with them. Supermarkets provided locally made, small reusable bags to their customers. Those bags are still used instead of using plastic bags in supermarkets there. Frankly, the fines and threats of punishments were so severe that no-one had a choice! By the time we were getting ready to leave just less than a year later, the plastic bags that used to be everywhere had vanished. By then only one in three slaughtered cows were found to have swallowed one - such a drastic change from 20! If I had to guess by now that number is down to zero. Nobody died, the county didn't grind to a halt, and the world carried on...

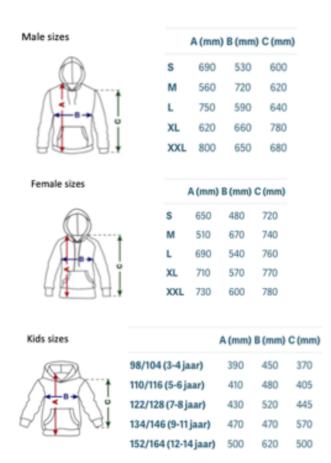
So, returning to the neighbour kid's question. Why did I decide to pick up garbage for my S.A? I did it because I get so pissed off whenever I see it. I live in Doorwerth, deep in a forest which I pass through every day returning from school. I find it annoying that some people here seem to think it is ok to just chuck their crap around. In just over two months of picking up garbage, my brother and I gathered approximately 65 plastic bags, together with loads of other plastic products. Honestly, I don't know why supermarkets here even give people the option to buy them? Once bought though, I have even less understanding of how they find their way onto the bushes and ground in forests like mine. This is a country that has garbage bins everywhere. This is a country that has a door to door garbage and recycling pickup. I have come from a place where most people would be stunned to see what we have here in the Netherlands. We might take the clean streets and organized efficient services for granted but Kenyans do anything to have them. They don't want to live surrounded by rotting garbage, just like everyone else. Lack of money, lack of planning and services, and plain old corruption take the choice away from them. We don't tend to look at an African country for guidance or positive suggestions; instead, we think of Africa as a whole as a place we have to send money to. In the case of getting rid of those awful plastic bags though, I would say that Kenya is leading the way and that rest of the world, including the Netherlands, should follow their initiative. 10

School Hoodies

Sarah Stuttaford

Most people like to represent their school, or they at least want to stay warm. With the school hoodies, you have the privilege of doing both! Coming in navy blue, these sweatshirts are designed to symbolize the school and are being sold to fundraise for the students attending the trip to Ghana on June 22, 2019.

They come in children and adult sizes: perfect for the whole family! The hoodies are priced at €22 for adults and the ones for kids are priced at €20. Now that's what I call a steal! So, are you already fumbling for your wallet to purchase one of these beauties? Well, don't worry all you have to do is fill out an order form which will be handed out by your child's form tutor, otherwise, you can simply email your name, class, and hoodie size to r.arts@ll.riversarnhem.org.



The money can be transferred to (NL70 ABNA 0515 1911 32, W. ARTS) or in an envelope as cash with your name to Rianne Arts DP1 or Mr. van Kollenburg.

Be sure to order them before April 1st!



Payment in Advance!

Kids Hoodie - €22,-Adult Hoodie - €20,-

Contact; r.arts@ll.riversarnhem.org

Doyenne of the Sea

Sarah Stuttaford

Blackbeard, Captain Kidd, and Calico Jack all of whom were ruthless pirates that pillaged the world, but you can go ahead and add someone else to the list-Zheng Shi. Born in 1775 and beginning as a prostitute, Zheng Shi married Zheng Yi, a pirate admiral, when his fleet captured her brothel. She miraculously convinced him to grant her equality, and soon she was commandeering his men alongside him. They built the Red Flag Fleet together, terrorizing trade ports and attaining affluence. Tragedy befell the couple a few years later when Zheng Yi was killed, yet that didn't end Zheng Shi's career as one of the most powerful female pirates in history. At the time of his death, their fleet contained an estimated 1,200 ships and Zheng Shi helped to expand it to 1,800, controlling roughly 50,000-70,000 men. Blackbeard never came close to those numbers, commanding about 300 pirates during the same century.



The Red Flag Fleet was infamous around the world. The political superpowers at the time even trembled at the extent of her reign over the sea. The Chinese government sought to end her power, sending in their navy only to have 63 of their ships sunk by Zheng Shi and her pirates. The government asked for the assistance of Portugal and Great Britain; however, both refused on account of the potential harm they could suffer. Zheng Shi herself ruled her fleet callously but justified her actions. When loot was discovered, 20% was kept by that ship and the remaining 80% was designated for the rest of the fleet. Those who failed to part with their treasure would either be whipped or beheaded depending on the amount. She displayed respect for female prisoners as well. The pirates were able to choose female captives as wives or concubines, but if they raped them or were careless towards them, the pirates were to be executed. Those that attempted to escape punishment would be sought after and have their ears cut off much to their chagrin.

Eventually Zheng Shi retired when the Chinese government offered her an amnesty deal, frantic to end her terror. Most of the pirates were also set free and even joined the Chinese Navy. As would be expected, feared leader Zheng Shi was held in an aura of respect. After her pirateering days, her wealth grew as she opened a gambling house. In 1844, old age succumbed her and she died at sixty-nine. So, if anyone ever says the best leaders are men, tell

them to check their facts.



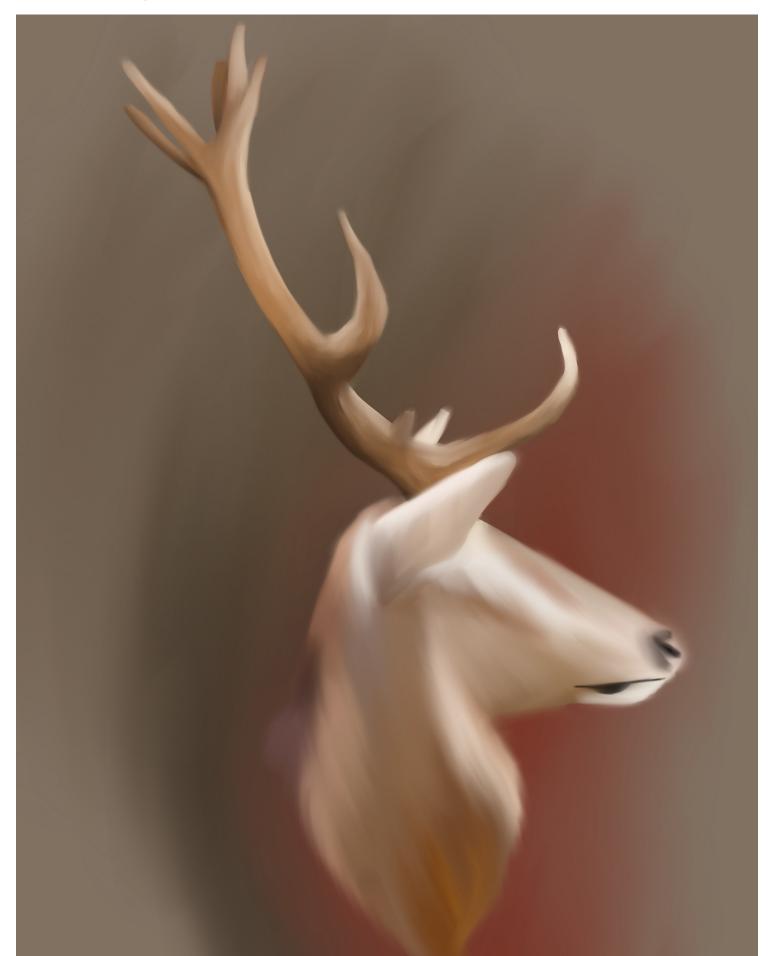
TIECHI TIEOM

EVERY THURSDAY 6 T H P E R I O D F I O O R 3

RUN BY JOHN MANNION

THERESE STEFFENSEN

Strength



Rivers Chronicles' Members



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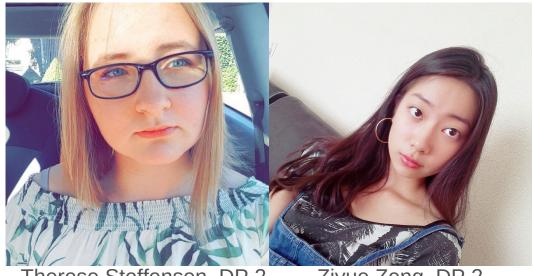
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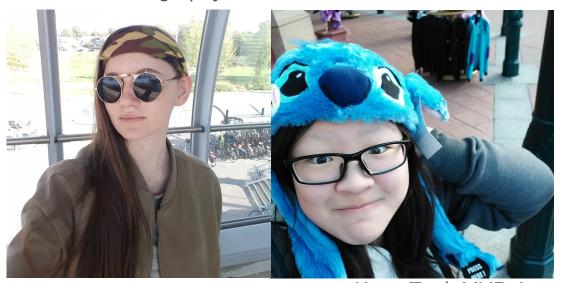


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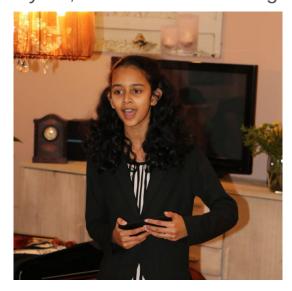


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