

VALENCIA BAY-FAREER

Written by students. Read by all.

Free to kids

The Last of Its Kind?

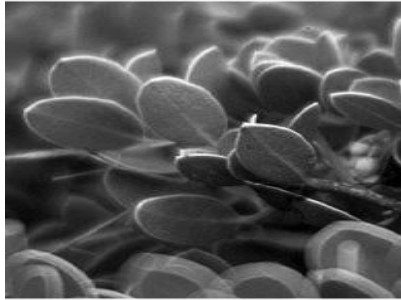
by LIAM BURDEN, AGE 11

It's the most endangered species in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area... the native plant's location is a closely guarded secret... it's the Raven's manzanita!

Named after Peter Raven, who discovered it in the 1950s as a boy, the Raven's manzanita is now nearly extinct. There is now only one mother plant left, though there are several clones. The location of the mother plant, as well as the clones, is a closely guarded secret.

According to Michael Chasse, a Presidio National Park Ranger, "When journalists or researchers are given permission to photograph the plant, they must take close-up shots so as not to disclose the location."

When I asked another Presidio Park Ranger, Lew Stringer, why he thought it was important to save the Raven's manzanita, he said, "It is an important host to



Courtesy of nps.gov

many bees and butterflies." Chasse believes that "like the towering coast redwood and golden California poppy, [the Raven's manzanita] represents the unique natural heritage of the western United States."

Raven's manzanita likes sunlight, so scientists and conservationists are planning on cutting down non-native trees to give it more places to grow. However, according to an article in *SF Weekly*,

many people who live in the Presidio don't want the trees to be cut down. The trees are not native to that area: they were planted by the army more than 100 years ago to hide the base's guns and to make the contrast with the city seem as great as possible. The issue of what trees would be removed and how many has not been resolved yet.

Besides sunlight, it appears that the Raven's manzanita needs fire or smoke conditions to germinate. According to Chasse, the Presidio Native Plant Nursery is using smoke to prepare the manzanita seeds for germination, but this process is not sure to work.

Chasse thinks "the best place to see the Raven's manzanita is at the East Bay Regional Parks Botanical Garden at Tilden Park." The manzanita on display there is not the mother plant but a clone.

Asian Rice Prices Fly to the Sky!

by CERA PARAN, AGE 9

Prices of Asian rice have doubled due to the shortage of rice. Since there is little rice to be purchased, there is more to pay for just one pound of Jasmine rice.

The shortage of rice from Asia upsets some families' "rice days." Carol Klatt, mayor of Daly City, cut her rice days from three to two times a week. The shortage leaves less rice in store stocks and higher prices for just one sack of Asian rice.

Mayor Klatt said the reason why prices

for bags have doubled compared to other food is because taxes, transportation and gasoline must be paid. The shortage is also an extra bonus to the double prices.

Mayor Klatt may be the mayor of Daly City, but she doesn't have control over the stores, nor the food economy. She thought it would be best if the public gets just enough rice they need, and no extra to waste. Everyone could have at least one bag a week.

While there is not a shortage of rice

grown in California, there is a shortage of Asian rice. The rice imported from Asia to the U.S. is having a shortage. The big earthquake that struck China and the

(Rice — continued on 2)

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From Cub Scout to Eagle Scout: a Big Change

by DYLAN TANG, AGE 11

When you start out as a Cub Scout it will take you a long time to become a Boy Scout, but becoming a Boy Scout is a lot of fun. It feels great when you become a Boy Scout. You learn a lot of new and useful things. You learn about wildlife, and about plants and forests. You learn about fire safety, gun safety, and first aid. You also learn astronomy and oceanography. The leaders in your troop will teach you how to tie many different types of knots like the square knot, magic slipknot, and tall hitch.

You also learn to be trustworthy, and to leave no trace. "Leave no trace" means to never throw your trash on the ground. You learn to leave no trace by going to many places and cleaning up in that area. You learn how to identify plants that are

dangerous. You learn that when the Scout Leader brings in Poison oak and other dangerous plants, he will talk about what it is and how it is dangerous.

If you are a Cub Scout starting from the first rank, then it would take you five years to become a Boy Scout. In these five years, you are not only in one rank. If you are in first grade than you are a Tiger Cub. If you are a second-grader than you are a Wolf Cub. If you are a third-grader than you are a Bear Cub. If you are in fourth grade than you are a Webelos one Cub and if you are a fifth-grader then you will be a Webelos two Cub. When you are a Boy Scout the first rank is Tenderfoot, the second is second class, the third is first class, next is star rank, after that is life rank, and finally Eagle Scout.

Rice — continued from 1)

weather there doesn't favor the crops' needs.

In spring, April 2008, some national governments were limiting imported rice and other grain products due to insufficient global supplies that might be another "food world crisis." Asian countries such as India, Thailand, Japan, China, Bangladesh and the Philippines were the first to feel the pinch of rising prices.

Vince Ergas, manager of Lucky's grocery store in Daly City, also knew about the rice.

Mr. Ergas simply said that the reason why rice prices are being doubled is because of the gasoline and the food economy. Mr. Ergas is unsure of what the leaders are doing, but thought it would be best if the leaders would boycott the rice and the public should support the boycott.

Lucky's grocery store limits the amount of rice per customer so everyone could have at least one sack of rice. He said as an example, two people can walk right in and get all the rice in one day, in one hour!

In the future, or maybe just in one or two years, Thailand, China, the Philippines and other countries will have no more rice. Who is to be blamed? Us. If we don't do something about it, this may be the worst thing we humans would



Courtesy of ammaro.com

Is the Dollar Weak? Or Is It Not?

by LUCA MCDERMOTT, AGE 10

For almost two years the euro has been stronger than the dollar. But do you think that's fair? No.

Nicolas Catena, my grandfather, said, "The reason that we are weaker than the euro is because we import more than we export and this causes the exchange rates to go down."

Laura Catena, my mother, agrees with Nicolas by saying that the dollar is weak against the euro but adds that the dollar is also weak against the English pound. But the dollar is strong against the Argentinian peso because of the Argentine market crash in the year of 1998. Another reason that the euro is stronger than the dollar is because the exchange rate is changing, for example in Brazil they started to import more, which caused the exchange rate to go up.

I asked all of the people that I interviewed a hard question. Why are the first two letters of exchange "ex"? Well, I got a couple different answers. Laura Catena says that in Latin "ex" means "from," so exchange means "from change." Nicolas Catena says that in Latin ex means "out of." We looked it up and it did mean "out of" so Laura Catena was wrong.

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Hit Albums

by ERIC TONG, AGE 12



Courtesy of musicnewsculture.com

A lot of R&B/Hip Hop songs come and go really fast. So it's probably a good idea to know what's popular. Here's what teenagers between 13 and 16 say about the current hit albums/songs/artists.

The artist that came up with the most votes was Chris Brown. Almost all of the teenagers on MySpace and AIM, to people at Lincoln High and A.P. Giannini like Chris Brown's newest album, *Exclusive: Forever Edition*.

Exclusive: Forever Edition

Chris Brown's new song, "Forever," is a definite hit among the teenagers. Eighteen teenagers said "Forever" is their favorite song, on their favorite album. Next comes "With You" (13 votes), then "Nice" (10 votes). Most of the people said that they like these songs because of the steady beat, and the way Chris Brown sings.

"I just love to listen to him sing! I like his voice," a seventh-grader at A.P. Giannini Middle School said.

Other hits include "Kiss Kiss" (nine

votes), "Wall to Wall" (eight votes), and "Picture Perfect" (six votes).

Next up is T-Pain, with...

Epiphany

Another artist that turned up often was T-Pain, and his album, *Epiphany*. "Bartender" (feat. Akon) was really popular at Lincoln High with 15 votes. Along with "Bartender" comes "Buy U A Drink" (feat. Yung Joc) (seven votes) and "Backseat Action" (feat. Shawna) (five votes). Most people didn't like his songs

because of the beat; instead, they like his songs because of the unique sound in his singing. And there you have it: *Epiphany*.

Next up is Leona Lewis with...

Spirit

There were many other female R&B/Hip Hop artists like Cherish, Danity Kane, or Keyshia Cole that showed up in the interviews, but the artist with the most songs that were hits was Leona Lewis. Her songs "Bleeding Love" and "Yesterday" both got 11 votes each (the only reason Leona Lewis wasn't in first place is because there are only two songs that were actually hits). According to the teenagers on AIM, the lyrics in both "Bleeding Love" and "Yesterday" were really good and simple at the same time.

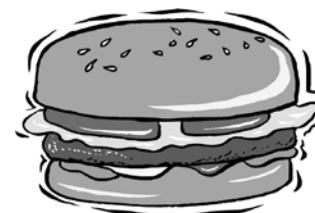
"In 'Yesterday,' the song has a good steady beat to the song," a high school guy said.

Songs come and go really fast, so keeping up with the flow should be a good idea.

HEALTH

Fast Food Dangers

by ISAIAH BRYANT, AGE 9



Courtesy of consumerpsychologist.com

You might like fast food but do you know how many grams of fat are in it? Well, the author of *Fast Food Nation*, Eric Schlosser, said, "this year, Americans will spend more money on fast food than on higher education." Schlosser said "the taste of a fast food french fry is largely determined by the cooking oil." He also said, "For decades, McDonald's cooked its french fries in a mixture of about seven percent cottonseed oil and 93 percent beef tallow." Schlosser also said, "In the early years of the twentieth century hamburgers had a bad reputation."

According to historian David Gerard Hogan, the hamburger was considered "a food for the poor, tainted and unsafe to eat." Schlosser said, "Restaurants rarely served hamburgers; they were sold at

lunch carts parked near factories, at circuses, carnivals and state fairs." He also said, "In 2001, Americans spent more than \$110 billion on fast food."

I'm a nine-year-old kid and my name is Isaiah. I wanted to research why fast food restaurants are so popular. I began to ask my mom questions. My mom started eating fast food when she and her sister were about four or five years old. I asked why she thought her parents gave her fast food. She said, "It was cheap, fast and easy," because they didn't have a lot of

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Cancer and Cancer Treatments

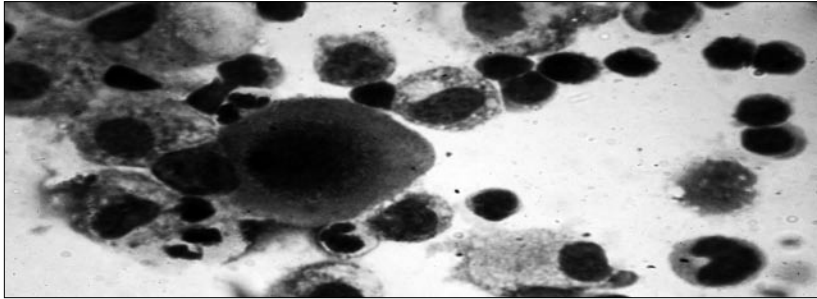
by SARAH ONG, AGE 10

Cancer is a fatal disease that makes your regular body cells reproduce too quickly. Cancer can make people die. But if it's caught early enough, doctors can offer many treatments.

If the cancer is found early and has not spread, doctors will probably consider surgery as the first treatment option.

Usually when the cancer has spread, chemotherapy is better, because it doesn't focus only on one place. Chemotherapy injects medicines by IV into the blood system, so the medicines can kill the cancer cells at any position in the body. Chemotherapy may have the following side effects: nausea, vomiting, constipation and reducing the number of patients' white blood cells.

Your doctor may also suggest the radiation treatment. Radiation therapy is bet-



Courtesy of <http://i3.photobucket.com/albums/y90/hillaryk/CancerCells.jpg>

ter when the cancer has not spread. Radiation is applied to certain locations of the body to kill cancer cells locally. Radiation is also good for reducing pain. However, radiation can cause the following side effects: nausea, skin irritation and reducing the patients' white blood cells.

When patients don't have enough white blood cells, they have very weak immune systems. If they are exposed to people who are sick, they may not be able to fight off the disease.

Make sure that you have frequent check-ups so you will stay healthy!

The Messy Bathroom

by MARGARITA JIMENEZ, AGE 10

Students at Longfellow Elementary School use the bathrooms for many rea-



Courtesy of www.howstuffworks.com

sons, but if they need to use one in the afternoon, the bathrooms are usually messy.

When I went to the girl's bathroom it was such a mess, it was all wet. Since there is a bathroom upstairs, it is really clean. There are three bathrooms in the main building and four outside. When it is a rainy day, students who are in the main building are lucky because you don't get wet, and outside, you do get wet when your class is not in the main building.

Some people say that you could escape from class and others say that you're missing your work. There are many ways you could do stuff. The principal's bathroom is so small, not messy, and it is really organized.

What do the bathrooms look like? The walls and floors are white. The stalls are



Courtesy of www.rvacation.com

blue. It smells like Dog Park because students don't flush the toilet.

Like I told you, some bathrooms are outside and some are in the main building. About three classes feel good being close by it. Vincent said, "The bathrooms are messy and wet with dirt." Angela said, "The bathrooms are better in the morning."

An Amazing Bacterium

by ANDREA RUSTRIAN, AGE 9

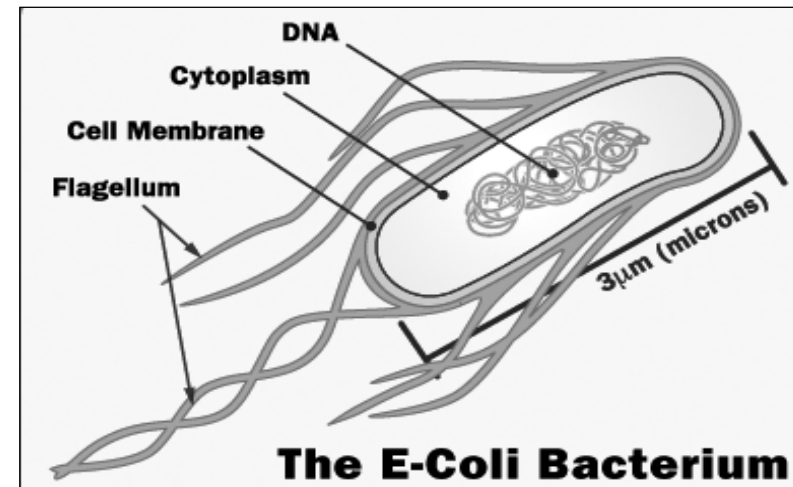
Do you know a type of bacteria called E-coli?

E-coli is a short name for Escherichia coli. Well, my dad's friend has it, and her name is Maria. She has the disease E-coli. Maria is 30 years-old. She got E-coli from eating a burger. She ate it at home with her friends. She found out that she got E-coli a week later.

She noticed she was getting sick by throwing up, having fevers, and headaches.

Do you know how to get E-coli? There are many different ways to get E-coli.

Here are three examples. You could be handling raw meat, you



Courtesy of www.howstuffworks.com

Right now the hospital is taking care of Maria. She can't walk or eat, and she lost her speech. She's having a slow recovery, and she had to learn how to walk again.

could get it by not washing your hands after using the bathroom, and by undercooked food.

But there are many more ways to get E-coli. There are lots of different kinds of E-coli. There are many strands of E-coli that live harmlessly in people's and animal's intestines. A typical infection of E-coli will give you a bad stomachache and diarrhea that turns bloody for a few days.

A few patients will recover in about a week, but it could damage kidneys and a few patients will die.

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time to cook. I also asked her whether her parents had a choice about whether or not to buy her fast food. She said, "sometimes we got it for a treat because we usually did not get soda or toys."

I also asked her when she first learned fast food was bad for her. She stated, "When I was in middle school, my mom, who is a nurse, told me that fast food can make you overweight and unhealthy."

I also spoke to my health teacher at school. I asked my health teacher if she has ever had a student who was taught well but was still tempted by fast food. She said, "Yes, I've had wonderful students who said they would never eat fast food again, but they just went ahead over to a fast food restaurant." I also asked her if she'd ever had students who went to a fast food restaurant just because they saw their favorite cartoon or show supporting fast food restaurants. She said, "Yes, the media is always tempting a kid with toys and commercials."

Schlosser said, "Americans spend more money on fast food than on movies, books, magazines, newspapers, videos and recorded music combined."

This research tells me the important things about fast food. I want to know these things to tell people what they're eating, what's in it, how it's cooked, and answer questions from people who've dealt with these problems and have learned about fast food.

Learning about fast food makes me learn that eating this kind of food at a time when I can eat regular food, or getting something to eat that's not as bad for you, is a smart decision.

I love learning about fast food because it's fun, exciting, interesting, and I get to learn about things I've never learned before. I will not eat fast food anymore, unless it's the only thing I can eat right then.

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Improving Your Tennis Game

by MAYA LUNA IMPERIAL, AGE 9

I started playing tennis the summer of last year, 2007. I learned how to play tennis at Ella Hill Huch. The program that I play in is Youth Tennis Advantage (YTA). I like tennis because it is very fun and because it's fun to hit the ball and easy to make friends. One way I improve in tennis is by playing with different people, young and old.

Long-time tennis player Coach John said that if you can hold a racket and hold a ball, you can play tennis. There are several different ways to improve at tennis. He suggested that focusing on the ball and lots of practice can make you a good tennis player.

Following this advice helps to improve my tennis game. For myself, my racket also makes a difference. I choose a medium-strung Wilson racket. Their rackets are strong and well-made. With the right equipment, you might feel more comfortable playing tennis.

Very surprisingly, according to Wikipedia, the rules of tennis have

stayed almost the same since the 1890s. The one exception was the addition of a rule about a tie-breaker in the 1970s. For tennis players, tennis is like riding a bike. Once you know how to do it, you never forget.

In a Wikipedia article about tennis,



Courtesy of www.commonswikimedia.org

they note “[t]he growth of tennis in Eastern Europe and the Far East has been especially notable in recent years.”

In my own experience, my tennis class has gotten bigger since the beginning of the summer. I'm not sure if interest in tennis is growing everywhere, but I hope interest in tennis grows in the future.

Gymnastics

by LYDIA TANG, AGE 9

Gymnastics is very fun! My name is Lydia and I've been in gymnastics for five years. I love to do gymnastics because I learn lots of new skills like front flips and back handsprings.

According to my friend in gymnastic class named Mika, doing gymnastics is not a waste of time. Her favorite event in gymnastics is floor because she loves to flip on the floor. According to my other friend named Sterling, Mika's sister, her favorite event is floor, too.

My favorite event is also floor because I like to do round-off back handsprings. When I do a round-off back handspring, I feel like I'm flying in the air. I've been training to do it for about four months, but now I'm on the level-four team. So I have to do it by myself. That's why my favorite event is floor.

According to my teacher Julia, she started teaching gymnastics because she loves to have fun with kids and get stronger. She's been teaching gymnastics for four years. She says if I try hard enough, I will be able to get to my goal.

Being a Swim Coach

By CHRISTOPHER NGO, AGE 9

Matt's last name is Lucchio. Matt coaches the U.S.S. swim team. He's been a swimmer for eight years. The U.S.S. swim team is in high school. Sometimes the kids don't listen.

Matt's favorite age to teach is seven through 10 years old. He will be teaching the high schoolers until they go to college. He heard that there is a job available for teaching.



Courtesy of Oregonlive.com

Dodgeball Dominates

by CRYSTAL LEE, AGE 10



Courtesy of simonsrockers.com

Dodgeball has gotten pretty popular at Commodore Sloat Elementary School. Every recess people rush to the dodgeball field, eager to play dodgeball. Students at Commodore Sloat probably started playing dodgeball after it got introduced in P.E. At school, only fifth-graders usually play dodgeball. When we first started, we picked team captains and took turns picking people to be on the teams (there are two teams). Now we just have one class versus the other. Our school has two different 5th grade classes so those are the two teams.

This is how we usually play dodgeball:

1. You have to have at least two balls to play dodgeball.
2. You divide into two different teams, each team standing on a different side.
3. You can either start with equal balls on each team or you can put the balls in the middle of the dodgeball field and when the referee says, "GO!" both teams

have to run to get the balls.

4. The object of the game is to eliminate the other team without your team getting eliminated first. You have to throw the ball and try not to get out at the same time.

5. When someone gets out on either team they have to go to jail, which is located on the other side of your team.

6. To get someone out of jail you have to throw the person in jail the ball, but they have to get someone out on the other team to get back in.

7. If there is only one person left on your team, that person has to dodge 10 balls to get the whole team back in or throw a ball to the people in jail and they have to help you get the opposite team out.

8. After one team has no more players the game ends but you can always start another.

I interviewed fifth-grader Katrina Lau about her experiences in dodgeball. I asked her, "What do you like about dodgeball?" She replied, "I like catching, throwing, and getting people out with the ball."

Next I asked her, "What do you hate about dodgeball?" She answered, "I sometimes never get the ball and always get out."

So then there are many ups and downs in playing dodgeball. You can get out easily and you can get people out and have fun. My school still likes playing dodgeball!

LITERATURE

A Poet's Journey

by AILISH BURDEN, AGE 11

Sarah Rosenthal wanted to go to Manhattan without leaving San Francisco so she decided to write a book taking her there. The book is called *Manhattan*, spelled with an "e" because it's not all about the real Manhattan but one constructed partly from her imagination and memories.

Her mixed genre book, a combination of poetry and prose, is the story of one woman who journeys to Manhattan and finds herself. The narrator is very much like the author but not exactly. She has small adventures, mostly emotional ones. One example is a fight she has with her

friend, Laurie. Nothing actually happens; they just argue and talk about their feelings.

The prose is written without paragraph breaks. According to Rosenthal, "the prose voice is very chatty and constantly analyzing everything, often very anxious." In every page, actions, thoughts, and feelings rush through without pause.

The poetry, on the other hand, is like a whisper and yet it grabs your attention. It gives you a chance to think about what you've read. Her poems, according to Rosenthal, are "like prisms—the light shines out of them in many directions at

once." "If you say/my silent moon/I say 'where do/these words come from/ am I being plunged/ into your dream?'"

There are a lot of characters but you don't get to know them very well. This reveals that the narrator is mostly interested in herself. This is also important because it tells you that it's not the kind of book that you talk about your favorite characters; it's the kind where you discuss the deep hidden meaning of the literature.

The book is not an easy read. According to Rosenthal, writing literature is

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Teachers use Comics to Teach Topics like the Holocaust

by ASHER GUTHERZ, AGE 12

Comics and school. Two things mentioned in every episode of every single child's cartoon. But what if those two things were fused? What if a student was to walk into a classroom and read a comic? In Jennifer Selvin and Tamara Pellicier's freshman English classes, that's exactly what they do.

They think that comics don't "challenge" them. So they don't think deeply about them. And then, when Selvin asks them to do an analysis, their analysis isn't as good as it could be.

Selvin really wants kids to think about comics deeply. They actually read a whole



courtesy of carr.org

For a long time, Selvin's husband, Eric Guthertz, had been telling her to read the comic *Maus*, written by Art Spiegelman, that portrays his father's experience in the Holocaust. Instead of humans, Spiegelman portrays everyone as animals.

The Jews are mice, the Nazis are cats, and other people are different animals. Four years ago, Selvin finally read *Maus*. She loved it, so she taught it in her classes. Ever since she's been teaching with comics (as well as books).

Every year, before she starts teaching with comic books, she brings candy and comics, and for one day, kids just read comics and eat candy. This is her way of getting them used to comics.

Jennifer says that kids are always surprised. Some pleasantly, but some not.

"There are kids who think they're above comics," Selvin said.

comic about how to read a comic (Scott McCloud's *Understanding Comics: The Invisible Art*). So then when they do read a comic, they won't just see the words. They will see all the different mediums in a comic book, from the drawing panels.

One kid in Selvin's class was really struggling with analysis. But after reading *Understanding Comics* something clicked. What clicked was that in a comic you could see everything. When you're analyzing a book, you have to figure out all the images that are being represented. But in a comic, all the images are there. So when you go back to a page because you're analyzing it, you can just look at the picture and it's all laid out for you. So it's easier to think about them and to really notice things. And that's why Selvin teaches comics: because for some kids, comics click.

(*Poet's Journey* — continued from 7)
like having a conversation with lots of people, both readers and other writers. Sometimes that conversation is hard for the reader to follow.

The book doesn't come to a clear end; in fact, it doesn't seem to end at all. Rather, it is a bundle of thoughts and memories. Rosenthal wants the reader to find his or her own meaning.

Manga and You

by MIRANDA LEE, AGE 10

Manga! The number one best-selling comic...WHAT?! You never heard of it? Well, it is very popular.

A Manga comics fan named Crystal Karin Lee said, "My favorite Manga comic was Naruto. What I like about Manga are the drawings and the humor. I started reading it when I was six. Now I am ten, so I have been reading it for four years!"

So by interviewing Crystal, people can tell that the Manga comics are indeed popular. So why are you reading this right now? GO! Go find a Manga comic to read! You will like it!



courtesy of charactersnaru.com