

The Colt



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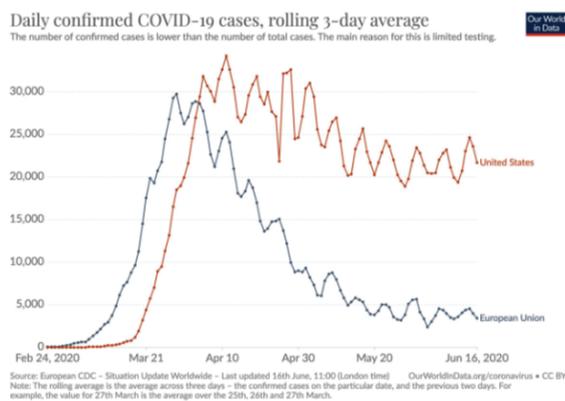
Monday, January 11th, 2021

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THE EFFECTS OF A VIRUS BY AIDAN DOYLE

COVID-19 is a deadly virus that has been ravaging all across the world for the better part of a year now. The virus has killed more than one and a half million people and has shut down most of our global economy. The virus has been a major problem, especially to the economy. The Dow Jones dropped to 18,591.93 on May 23rd which is as low as it has been in about 2 years, making May and April both weird months. People didn't realize that most toilet paper is made domestically, not internationally due to the large packing size making it sell at a loss if shipped. But someone got scared that the stores were going to run out of toilet paper, so they started buying up all they could. Other people realized this and thought that toilet paper stock might drop making it harder to find, so they go and buy another bag. Then another person joins in and buys 3 and it just gets worse and worse the longer it lasts and it all could have been handled if someone had just realized that toilet paper is made domestically. News channels didn't give too good of information, they would even give contradicting information. It also didn't help that the President at the time was slow to get into action when the coronavirus came, although that's just my opinion. The biggest problem was that science became political. The health minister of Brazil was fired by Bolsonaro for advocating for Social Distancing. Trump announced (after he got over his own infection) that "It's (CPVOD-19) going to disappear. It is disappearing." On October 10th, there were 51,648 infections in the US. Over the next few months after that statement, that number jumped to 229,007 infections. It seems ignorant to say something like that without consulting medical professionals. The safety measures that were put in place did help, though. Usually during spring I'll get a really bad flu. It happens annually and hasn't skipped a year besides this one. That's because I was in quarantine and not at school, showing that the measures have been helpful. People say that masks aren't good but it doesn't matter either way. Even if you don't like masks, put on the mask to make people happy and feel safe!



NEW YEARS CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE WORLD BY JOELLE PADGETT

You're probably used to staying up late, and making lots of noise during a New Years celebration, but what do other people do around the world? On the Chinese Lunar New year, children dress up in new clothes and people hold lanterns and join a large parade led by a silk dragon, the Chinese symbol of strength. According to legend, the dragon sleeps most of the year so people throw firecrackers to keep it awake. In Thailand, a three day water festival from April 13th to 15th marks Songkran, the Buddhists' celebration of a new year. Parades include large statues of Buddha that spray water on people nearby. And in smaller villages young people throw water at each other.

Source: schoolastic.com

LOTS OF CELEBRATION! BY CAMI CROSS

Happy New Years, Ione Junior High! Hope your New Years and Christmas was great. COVID-19 is still around but oh well (make sure to stay safe and wear a mask out in public!). Anyway, did anyone else totally love counting down?! Plus staying up way late just having fun! Ok, but Christmas... the joy of seeing someone's face when they open the gift you gave them. Oh and totally opening gifts yourself. And we can't forget about Martin Luther King Jr day! I can't wait for that. Well, that's all I have, but make sure to check out the Wise Owls and if you need any advice or just support you can email someone from Wise Owls! Thanks for reading!

THE MYSTERIOUS CASE OF ASHA DEGREE AND WHY YOU SHOULD BE AWARE BY MADISON NOELLE

Nine year old girl, Asha Degree, went missing on the night of February 14th, 2000 from Shelby, North Carolina. For unknown reasons, she packed her bookbag and left her house, locking the door behind her, never to be seen again. Her family said this was very unlike Asha as she was afraid of the dark and storms, so it was very unlikely that she would run off like that.

Only a day later after she was marked missing police discovered a shed which held three items that police marked as Asha's. A marker, pencil, and Mickey Mouse hair bow. Candy wrappers were said to have also been found which were identical to the ones Asha received from her basketball team as a Valentine's Day treat. Sadly there is no sign of Asha, and the case goes cold once again.

A while later as Asha's family is still trying to find their missing daughter another clue shows up as to where Asha might be. 26 miles away from where her possessions were last seen a man was digging on his property and found a trash bag. When he opened it he found a bookbag with the name 'Asha' written on it in marker. He didn't think much of it, but did decide to tell his wife about it over dinner that night. Luckily the wife had been paying attention to the news and recognized Asha's name. They quickly called the police and had them deal with the bag, the man who had found the object said that it was tied inside of two trash bags like it was trying to be preserved... or found.

The question I have about this and I'm pretty sure you readers do as well is 'why would a little girl think to do that?' 'is there another parent involved who could have done that?' These are the questions we should ask ourselves when looking at cases like Asha's. Keep asking yourself questions like this, share this story. Maybe someday one witness or one known object will show up, and we can find Asha. It's up to people like you to try and bring this girl home, for people like you to raise awareness so people can rest easy knowing a child is safe. If you have any idea where Asha is please contact: 704-484-4788 or 704-672-6100 now.