Bala Cynwyd Model UN Goes to Boston!

By: Aniah Bethea

We arrived late at night in the big Greyhound Bus after six hours on the road. We were all between being very excited and very jittery. We got off the bus and went to our hotel, Marriott Residence Inn Back Bay and then went out to dine.

We returned and had a short delegate meeting. We were all so tired we went to sleep. We got up the next morning, showered and dressed, ate breakfast at the hotel, and then went to our Model United Nations Conferences. We arrived at Boston University and went to one of the classrooms for our conferences.

Later, we had lunch at Marciano Commons, a place where you pay $13 and you can eat all the food you want; it was amazing. We returned to our conferences for the afternoon, and then returned to the hotel. We changed our clothes and then went to a souvenir shop where we met our tour guide and then continued on to Fenway Park, the home of Boston’s famous baseball team, the Red Sox.

We had a fabulous tour of Fenway Park. I learned that Fenway Park was built in 1912. In 2012 Fenway Park was registered as a National Historic Landmark, and in that same year they put golden plaques around the park that display fun facts. I also learned that there is a lonely red seat in a sea of green because that was the farthest a baseball has ever been hit. Player Ted Williams hit a 502 foot home run, the longest in Fenway Park history, hitting a fan in the head with it.

We ate dinner at Faneuil Hall - Quincy Market, and then Mr. Lloyd gave us a tour of all the great landmarks that had to do with the Revolutionary War in Boston. I learned a few things from that experience too. I learned that in the Boston Massacre, Crispus Attucks, a freed slave, was the first person killed. We visited the Old South Meeting House; it was the biggest building in Boston where the revolutionaries could hold a meeting. I learned that the British made plans to gut this building and fill it with gravel and dirt to use it as a place to train horses. They probably planned this because they thought this building helped the revolutionaries plan to get their independence.

After the tour we went back to the hotel, had a delegate meeting, and went to bed. The next morning we got dressed, ate breakfast, packed and left the hotel. We went to Boston University, had our conferences, ate lunch (at the same place), had more conferences.

Then we had an awards ceremony, it was good. Students from our school won. The awards were honorable mention, best position paper, outstanding delegate, and the golden goose best delegate. After that we were on the road to head home. This trip was fun, educational, and the best thing ever! I hope I can go back again next year!
The Amazing Stan Lee  
By: Tallon Layne McCormack

Stan Lee was one of the most accomplished people of his time because of all the things he has created and produced for Marvel Comics. Marvel is a comic book business that started in the early 1900’s. Now it still remains very popular.

Ever since Stan was a kid he had a love for reading. Back then he was known as Stanley Lieber. His mother, Celia Lieber, believed he could do anything. When he got older he needed a job so he could help pay the rent for his mother. When he was 19 his mother asked her friend Joe Simon if he could have a job at Timely Comics Inc. He got the job as an assistant, his boss, Martin Goodman, however was not so nice. As Stan got older he met a women named Joan and fell in love with her. They got married almost instantly. Then, for some reason Joe Simon left Timely Comics! So did Jack Kirby, the illustrator. Martin hired Stan to be the publisher, and that was the day that he became Stan Lee.

Stan Lee began writing fantastic comics, like the Ant Man, the Fantastic Four, and the X-MEN. That is how he made Timely Comics popular; but soon after that Timely Comics became Marvel Comics. He also made Marvel popular by making his superheroes the way he wanted to, and the way he made them was incredible. Like Hulk, who was created from the idea of the Hunchback of Notre Dame. The monster Hulk was a man named Bruce Banner affected by a “gamma bomb.” (Although, this was a fictional story after all.) Even Thor was a creative idea. He was made from one of the Norse gods in Marvel. Doctor Strange was also made differently. He was created from a radio show called Chandu, the Magician. Spiderman was made because they wanted a teen superhero, and Human Torch was made the same way.

Stan did not work alone; he had many cooperatives helping him like Sol Brodsky and Jack Kirby, but Steve Ditko, the co-illustrator, sadly left Marvel comics. He wanted to be the co-creator of Spiderman.

In conclusion, the superheroes he made are still popular. Now they make movies and even TV shows! His new superheroes were even better than earlier. Stan Lee passed away in November 2018.
Top 6 Nintendo Switch Games by Adam Fox

The Nintendo Switch is a fantastic console with many great games. I will be breaking down some of these games. I highly recommend all of them.

6. Mario Tennis Aces
Mario Tennis Aces is great for sports fans and/or Mario fans. There are 23 characters and many different and quirky courts. There is also a fantastic story mode. This game is perfect for having fun by yourself, but is also very fun with a friend. Play this game if you want some sports and Mario.

5. Arms
This game is awesome. When I first got Arms I quickly noticed that there is something for EVERYONE. There are 15 playable characters ranging from an inflatable clown to a robot dog to a literal heap of garbage. If you like sports, this game has basketball and volleyball modes. If you like chaos, there is plenty. This is an action game. This can be played for fun or competitively so go play it!

5. Super Mario Party
Super Mario Party is the 11th game of the Mario Party series. There are 9 different game modes with mini-modes, and mini-modes within the min-modes. There are also 20 characters in the game. This game will NEVER GET BORING! This is the best game to play with people who don’t like video games or don’t have video game experience.

4. Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild
Of all the games on this list, this is the only one I have not played. I have seen gameplay however, and the graphics are great. The attention to detail and costume design are flawless. This is a story mode game. Every person I have talked to who has the game says that it is amazing.

3. Mario Kart 8 Deluxe
You probably know what Mario Kart is, but if your parents don’t let you play video games (in which case there is no point in even reading this list), it is basically all of your favorite Mario characters (yes Smash fans, Waluigi is in this game) racing and playing in karts. This is a good game to play with someone who has little or no video game experience, but highly skilled and competitive gamers play this game and it can get very competitive if you want it to. All in all, this is an amazing game.

2. Super Mario Odyssey
There is no other game that has an Italian plumber, a magic hat, and an evil turtle-like creature trying to marry a princess. Super Mario Odyssey is one of the best Nintendo games ever. Traverse through 17 different kingdoms to collect moons to power the odyssey and save Princess Peach. This game has won countless awards and provides an extremely cool video game experience.

1. Super Smash Bros. Ultimate
This is the fifth game in the Super Smash Bros. series. There are 74 playable characters in this game. There are six submodes that are in the menu. Smash: This is the primary mode for fighting. Play with up to eight players at one time.
- Spirits: Play adventure mode and manage your spirits.
- Online: Play online and defeat other players to claim smash tags. Games and
- More: Customize your Mii fighters, play classic mode, tap in your amiibo, and much more!
- Vault: View Replays, buy music, and other things with in-game, free currency, plus more!
- Dashboard: View game options and some extra stuff. All in all, this game is amazing!
Why Do Video Game Movies Exist? by Drew DeMarino

Video game movies are almost unanimously bad yet they are made again and again. Which raises the question, why do video game movies even exist? If you don’t know, video game movies are movies about video game characters and their stories.

The Beginning

The very first video game movie was Super Mario Bros. which came out on May 28, 1993 and was horrible. It got a 14 percent on Rotten Tomatoes and didn’t even make back half of its budget. Even though the movie was a tremendous failure there are over 50 video game movies and they are still being made today.

Today

The next two video game movies to come out are Detective Pikachu and a live-action Sonic movie. People have mixed thoughts on the Detective Pikachu trailer and it’s being released two weeks after Avengers Endgame on May 10, 2019, so it’s not looking too good. People have unanimously agreed that the Sonic movie will be garbage, despite the fact that there are only two posters so far; neither of which even show his face. The Sonic movie is coming out on November 8, 2019.

Why?

At the moment, the highest rated video game movie is Rampage, with a Rotten Tomato score of 53 percent. It has made over $400 million. Now despite the amount of money it made, video game movies rarely make that much money. The question is why do they exist?

At this point it really is anyone’s guess as many people hate them, and they only occasionally make a ton of money. However, some possible reasons are that people will go and see them because it’s their favorite characters on the big screen. Also writers can save some time on developing characters and their personalities because the games have that covered.

At this point in time no video game movie has been rated fresh on Rotten Tomatoes by critics, but maybe some of the newer films may change that; we’ll just have to see.
Save the whales By: Rebecca Romussi

Blue whales are becoming an endangered species mostly because of humans. People over-fish the krill, which is one of the things blue whales eat, in addition to other sea animals. Krill also consume a chemical, PCB, that is very harmful to whales. Since whales eat around 3600 pounds of krill, the amount of chemicals they consumes becomes greater. You can help save sea creatures simply by picking up garbage on the beach. Clean beaches and waterways may save more animals than you think.

Fun facts about blue whales

- There are 25,000 blue whales left in the world.
- Their heart beat can be detected from two miles away.
- Blue whales can hold their breath for two hours, but sperm whales can hold theirs for three hours!
- Their vessels are so big, you could swim in them!
- There are only three recorded albino whales in the world; they are very rare to see!

If you want to save the whales, please visit this sites to donate money to save them!

Whales | What You Can Do to Help Whales | Defenders of Wildlife

Ode to the Superbowl….by Adam Fox
Why Social Media is Bad...By Henry Lunger and Adam Fox

You might use Instagram, Snapchat, and other things like that. These are great for chatting with friends and connecting with others when they are not around. Sure, they seem fun and happy, but is there such a thing as too much social media?

The first reason that you may need to think about your social media use is that there are attackers lurking behind your screen, and they may disguise themselves as friendly people. There are ways to stay safe and protected from hackers, (but not always are you invulnerable). Giving personal data like emails, passwords, names or phone numbers can be a problem. The best way to stay away from attackers is to friend or follow only people you know in real life; those you know and trust.

Also, personal information is a serious thing. Social media gives you the power to share all the personal information you want, but they don’t really have a content filter. The more you post things, the more money the social media is making off of your posts.

Most social media companies sell your personal data to other companies, used for targeting ads. Also, people see everything you post, so the best thing to do is take a moment to think what you will share will have a positive impact on you and others in the future.

Then, social media takes you away from the real world. You talk to your friends via social media even though they are sitting right next to you. You should talk to them in person, not through the screen. Social media is for connecting people when they aren’t there.

Another thing about social media is that it takes you away from family and other important people. Time in the real world matters and looking at your phone doesn’t really help that. Sure, checking your phone once in a while is good, but there are limits to everything.

The last thing about social media that you should consider is the negative effects on your health. According to National Public Radio (NPR), “Facebook admitted Friday that spending too much time on the social media site could have a negative effect on users’ health”.

So the next time you decide to spend five hours on Instagram, you might want to rethink your evening plans and take a break from social media. Go play fetch with your dog or jump rope in the back yard. Social media is great; but taking a break from it can be a great and refreshing thing to do.

https://www.wbur.org/hereandnow/2017/12/19/social-media-health-facebook