

B A Today

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PART 3: The Mystery of the Missing Moonstone

by: Warren Rocksvold

If you missed part 2, pick up a copy of last week's issue at the newsstand...

Detective Adam Reperio ascended the steps of the great Buchanan Mansion and strode through the open front door. He was assured the scene had not yet been touched as he usually preferred to start his investigation with the body; however, since the witness, a Miss Alexis Mundi, was available, he decided he would start with getting a brief version of her statement. He trotted up the stairs and quickly located the study by the blood under the door, just as Alexis said it would be. Upon entering the room, he found a number of his coworkers milling about the room taking various samples.

"What's going on here? I thought I said not to touch the scene." Reperio demands.

"We were waiting on you, but you were taking to long and we needed to start processing the scene." A young man says. He's a new CSI, probably fresh from the academy.

"What's your name, Probie?" the detective asks.

"Richard Castle." he replies.

"Ok, Castle, has the body been touched?"

"No sir. We left the body and desk for you."

"Thanks." The detective said and turned to face his latest project. The body was slumped over in the chair, towards the right if one was standing behind the body. Mr. Buchanan's now sightless eyes stare out the large panoramic window that lines the west wall of his study. His dress suggested he was preparing to go out for a night on the town; a high-end suit, tailored specifically to his measurements, with expensive shoes, a Rolex on his wrist with matching cufflinks and bowtie. His hair would have been combed nicely, had it not been for the bullet that entered his left temple. One could still smell the aftershave cologne even over the stench of blood. I looked down and noticed the revolver in his right hand. On the desk before him is an array of papers, the sheet in the middle appears to be his suicide letter. He picked it up and studied it over. In the note, Buchanan delineated in it how the stresses and pressures exerted on him from his social lifestyle caused him to bottle up his feelings of sorrow and guilt over the deaths of his family and how he got to the point where he determined life was no longer worth living. I glanced over the other documents on the table, a few letters and invitations to parties. I noticed a letter that had been written by him and picked it up. It wasn't very interesting; however it was very enlightening. I turned to the young CSI. "So, Probie, what do you think happened?"

"Well," he said, "It seems this was a pretty clear cut suicide. These kinda rich folks almost always have deep buried demons and I guess his must have finally overwhelmed him."

"You just didn't try hard enough then. This was definitely not a suicide; it was murder. Just think, have you seen any sign of the Moonstone?"

continued in next column

For the End of School ...

by: Staff Writers

Start of school year backpack: 4 new packs of pencils, 7 folders, 10 pens, 3 packs of paper, and 1 ruler. End of year backpack: 3 wadded up gum wrappers, a paper clip, 3400 wadded up pieces of paper, and something left from lunch 4 months ago.

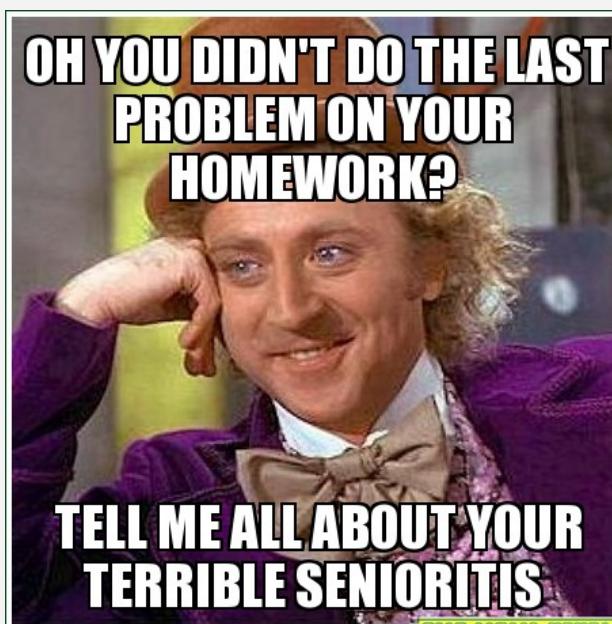
The BEST 2 days of school:

1. first
2. last

Spring break, senior trip, prom and graduation are the only things getting me through these last few months of school.



Last day of school: I AM OUTTTTTAAAAA HERE!!!!!! Two weeks later: I miss my friends...



Being a football player or volleyball player: summer workouts= never really get out of school.

Tech Talk: Mass Increase in Solar Power Usage

by: iZac

Since 2010, the amount of solar power used has increased by a total of 418%. Half of the 12,057 Megawatts is produced by small business owners or homeowners that can sell the excess energy back to the power companies for retail rates. Right now, solar power accounts for 1.13% of the total energy that the U.S. produces each year. This is quite an amazing feat because back in 2010, solar energy all accounted for .02% of the total energy generated. Furthermore, California alone accounts for roughly half the total solar power produced in the United States. It is truly amazing how we're slowly moving farther away from fossil fuels and trying to rely on what we have now.



... continued from column 1

"The what?"

"The Moonstone; the Buchanan family heirloom. It's a ring with a large moonstone set in the center. It is incredibly valuable and the only one of its kind."

"Well, sir," Castle said, "If I had something that valuable, I'd put it in a safe and never take it out."

"Yes I would agree," Reperio remarked, "however, Mr. Buchanan was known to wear the ring to the various parties he attended. If he was going to a party as Ms. Mundi suggested, where is the ring?"

"So, either she lied, or someone stole the ring."

"Exactly. Also, if he shot himself in the left temple, why is the gun in his right hand? It would make more sense for him to hold it in his left. And moreover, this suicide note is not in his handwriting. The "t's" are crossed differently, he doesn't write on the line as you see here, Buchanan's lettering is more smooth than this, he never connects his uppercase letters to his lowercase and the author of this note frequently breaks his cursive and will write in print for a letter or two before realizing his mistake. Whoever tried to cover their tracks here certainly did a poor job, and it will be their undoing." With that, Detective Reperio dramatically put on sunglasses and somewhere in the distance The Who began to play.

.....to be continued next issue!

Gamer's Corner:

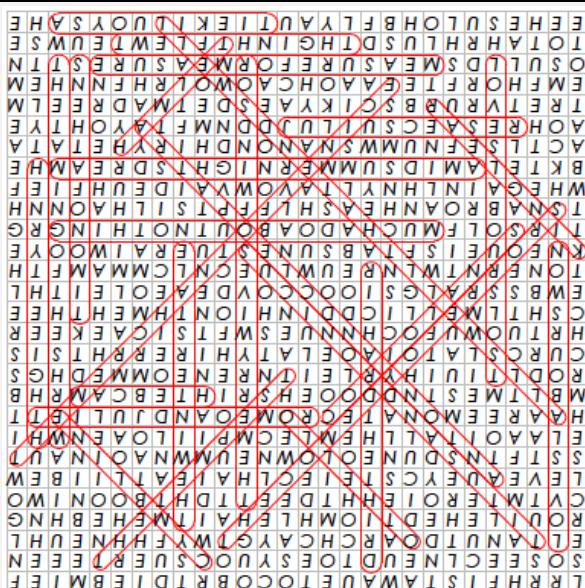
Mad Max

by: RJ Coleman



Image courtesy of wikipedia.com

Word Search Answers



No peeking!

With its thrilling mix of cars, guns, and a post apocalyptic Australian wasteland, the *Mad Max* franchise has finally made its way to the video game world. With its theme of violent anarchy and a post apocalyptic world, *Mad Max* would seem like the perfect idea for a video game. The setting is a barren wasteland in a dystopian Australia. Equipped with a harpoon and a shotgun, you are lone warrior who must embark on a dangerous journey. The only instinct you have is survival and to leave the madness behind and find solace in a place called "Plains of Silence" This seems like the perfect concept for a video game.

As *Mad Max*, you are legendary lone warrior who crafts and upgrade your equipment and weapons in order to survive in a brutal post apocalyptic world. Also, you fight with savage moves and combos to brutalize the deranged bandits of the wasteland. *Mad Max* is divided between car and on foot combat. In *Mad Max*, your car is fully customizable and an upgradable weapon that has a variety of physical attributes including weight, horsepower, armor quality, tire grip, and more. When two cars smash against each other, the result is determined by the cars stats and simple physics. Avalanche Studios have really taken the graphics to the next level. *Mad Max* presents plenty of details like fire, debris and flying car parts give each explosion a level of fidelity that's never been seen before. Also, they have delivered a more physical car combat experience. Enemies aren't just contented with just staying in their vehicles. But, they leap with reckless abandon from their own desert buggy onto yours. Adding to the insanity, you have the options to use your shotgun and fire at will and also to use your harpoon weapon at your disposal. Then, after the chaos is over you can hunt for parts and other resources from the wreckage and use these to improve your ride. There is no established date for the release for *Mad Max*, but you can pre-order this game.

Agree? Disagree? What game would you like to see reviewed in the next issue? Email batodaygames@gmail.com

Female Athlete Spotlight: Sydney Watson by: Casey Burnette



This week's female Athlete of the Week is yet again sophomore Sydney Watson. Head softball coach and girl's athletic director Joel Penfield says, "Syd has been on fire with the bat currently hitting a .610 batting average which leads the team."

He also stated that she is standing solid in left field and has been doing the team greatness all season. Sydney loves to be with her friends in her spare time. Sydney is also a dominator on the volleyball team and is ready for the next season to get started.

Camp McDowell by: Staff Writers

On April 23-25, 2014, Mrs. Ludvik, 2 chaperones, and 27 students braved the wild at the wonderful Camp McDowell. This trip is quickly becoming a BA tradition, and it's something environmental students look forward to all year. In addition to hiking and canoeing, the students participated in challenges as a team as well as trusting their classmates to pull them 25 feet into the air on a massive swing. The students were introduced to all kinds of new experiences like zumba, caterpillars, passing food around the table at meals, and hiking at night with no flashlight. Thank you to Mrs. Sabra Shaw and Mr. Darryl Webb for going with us as chaperones!

