



ABC CLARION

High school students are welcome to send articles or comics to clarionabc@gmail.com

Share Everything (part 1)

by Jeffrey Ho

Bob Evert groggily trudged down the stairs and carefully closed the study room door. He strode past his father and younger brother's computer capsules and settled in comfortably into his own. Grabbing a notepad and a couple of sharpened pencils, he carefully lowered the computer helmet over his head until it comfortably shielded his eyes. The computer suddenly whirred to life, and Bob felt a sudden tugging on his mind, like it was being grabbed by a fishhook, until he finally blasted into the world of cyberspace.

He was greeted with the familiar white screen on which he could select different options from a menu. His thoughts controlled the computer, so that he could select what he wanted to do without lifting a finger.

Welcome, Bob Evert, to Share Everything, a computerized woman's voice resounded throughout his head. There are two customized computers in this system, your work computer and your personal computer. Which would you like to access?

As he usually worked on his courses early in the morning, he selected his work computer. The main screen faded from view and a second menu opened, containing options for different educational programs. He selected the learning program, and the familiar Robot Teacher appeared in front of his eyes and presented a variety of different courses in which he was enrolled. His Robot Teacher, programmed into his computer capsule, was linked into the main database at Washington, D.C. and taught the same material to hundreds of thousands of other students throughout the country. Each student in the United States was connected to the same exact information and learned the same skills.

In Bob's mind, it was incredibly efficient and logical. If everyone learned the same material, opinions and personal prefer-

ences would be less decisive in making decisions, and all choices would follow logical processes and could be carried out more efficiently.

He began listening to the Robot Teacher drone listlessly about U.S. History, which was a required course he had to take to pass high school. Each and every student learned the same "Un-Biased, Completely Factual" History Curriculum that the U.S. Education Committee implemented after the Share Everything capsules became a common household commodity. As physical school buildings became obsolete, each school eventually was torn down and each student was issued a Share Everything to learn. The Official Switch, decreed fifty years ago in 2067 by the National Congress, made sense to Bob Evert as he believed the old books probably were tainted with bias from the authors.

Bob paused the video of his Robot Teacher, and blasted back into the physical world. He lifted the helmet slightly and jotted some important notes on his notepad. It was a lengthy process; almost everyone preferred to use the mind-controlled Cyberpen and Cyberpad, but for some reason Bob enjoyed the sound of pencils scratching on paper and the feel of the sleek wooden tool in his hand. It somehow made him feel connected to the past, when capsules were not invented yet.

Bob finished writing his notes - the Vietnam War was fought from November 1st, 1955 to April 30th, 1975; the anti-Communists, including the United States, fought against the unjust and wrong Communists; the U.S. eventually withdrew their troops from the fight, and the other Anti-Communists could not support themselves without the forces of the United States, so simple and

accurate. Bob scribbled a question mark next to the note involving the withdrawal of U.S. troops - why did they do that? He shuffled the question into the depths of his mind; Robot Teacher was not programmed to answer questions, and there were no history textbooks available. They were burned along with the destruction of the school buildings.

After returning to the lecture and finally completing the day's lesson, Bob switched to his personal computer and opened up his favorite social networking sites; most particularly, FaceNet, in which you could telepathically chat with your buddies. Another commonly used program was ForumSpace, which was the world courtyard of the Internet; you could chat with random people in the 'main forum' or access forums of more specific topics, such as T.V. shows.

He started chatting with David,

as his username goes, xXxTwiliteSparkles, one of his good friends since elementary school.

Yo man, David's telepathic voice - slightly deeper than it actually is, transmitted into Bob's brain via computer wires. Each telepathic message first detoured at Mother Database in Washington, D.C., which filtered profanity. This was logical, in Bob's point of view, as people of all ages use the Share Everything capsules. There was no harm in blocking acrimonious words; it only protected younger children.

David: *How's that History course going?*

Bob: *It's boring as ____*

David: *Yeah I didn't get that, but sure. I really ____ this Calculus course.*

(To be Continued)

Taiwan's First Female President Ushered in the Winds of Change by Thomas Lynch

In a historic election, the island nation of Taiwan has announced its first female president, Tsai Ing-Wen. Tsai, a former law professor, heads the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), and her victory is interesting for several reasons. As the first female president of Taiwan, Tsai is one of the many female leaders elected in recent years, including Angela Merkel of Germany and Park Geun-Hye of South Korea.

However, it was the way she won and her political position which made her election particularly noteworthy. CNN reported that her election was a landslide victory of over 20% popular vote on the next leading candidate (Eric Chu), totaling at a respectable 56% of the vote. This is surprising and it is a radical shift from the political balance of even a few years ago, during which the BBC reported 70% of popular support for the Kuomintang party. Since the end of the Chi-

nese Civil War, Taiwan's politicians have split into two factions, the Kuomintang (KMT) and the DPP. The DPP is a pro-independence party which believes that Taiwan should further isolate itself from mainland China, whereas the KMT has upheld more pro-Beijing policies. Tsai's election is the first DPP victory in eight years, and there are those who are excited and those who are apprehensive of what her presidency will bring. "Personally, I'm really happy that someone like her is in office. I'm obviously a bit worried because her stance on Beijing and independence is quite controversial. Nonetheless, I agree with a lot of her policy," Kristina Liou, a Taiwanese Junior at EBHS, says.

Indeed, Tsai's policies have been simultaneously controversial and popular throughout Taiwan. A supporter of gay rights with a liberal economic policy,

Tsai appeals to many young voters with her promises of a reformed Taiwan in the face of what many consider economic stagnation. As Lawrence Huang, a Taiwanese Junior at EBHS, remarked, "A lot of Ma's (the previous president's) policies are going to be reversed... I think this is definitely what the younger people and even some older generations want". However, others are less certain. Albert Wu, a Taiwanese sophomore at EB, says, "China never plans on letting Taiwan gain full independence, and I'm worried this could turn out to be a very big mess."

Herein lies the controversy; while Tsai has undeniably popular social policy, her political stance on the single most divisive issue is guaranteed to draw the hate of a lot of the older generation. Mr. Saroka, a teacher at EBHS helped give some insight on why her Beijing policies were controversial. "The last time a

DPP member was elected, Beijing threatened war. To China already aggressively militarized small islands near the strait across from Taiwan and increased military drills is a sign that perhaps this time they won't back down." "I think in some ways, they should be careful what they wish for".

Whether or not Tsai would strengthen an independent Taiwan is a question that can only be answered with time. However, it's undeniable that for such a small island, Taiwan will be making big waves in the years to come, something many Taiwanese students here in East Brunswick have expressed. "Oftentimes a change in leadership leaves many doubtful for the future of a nation, especially one in a situation as precarious as Taiwan," Taiwanese senior Andrew Lee commented, "but Tsai Ing-Wen makes me optimistic that Taiwan is changing for the better."

Managing Editor: Siyu Cao
Executive Editor: Lawrence Huang

Members: Adam Liu, Aileen Wu, Alina Peng, Angelina Li, Audrey Zhou, Daniel Zheng, Jeffrey Ho, Lawrence Huang, Olivia Nguyen, Sanford Ren, Sydney Peng, Siyu Cao, Siyu Hou, Sophia Hu, Tanya Wang, Tiger Li, Victoria Tian • **Website:** www.GCTimes.net/abc.php