Thanks to Mrs. Bergman I bring you...

**Fracking, it is happening in Pennsylvania! 🌈**

**First** off what is fracking?

Fracking is the process of drilling down into the earth that directs high-pressured water mixed with tons of chemicals and sand at a rock to release the gas inside. Water, sand and chemicals are injected into the rock at high pressure which allows the gas to flow out to the head of the well.
How bad can it be?

Luckily, since we don't live in northern Pennsylvania, we aren't affected. This is what happens. The company will buy your land for a great price, then if you say yes, there will be an eye sore in your back yard. They say most of the chemicals will stay there underground, but remember, they said most. The people that get their water from wells will be affected badly. Their drinking water will have very flammable natural gas and some might come into there house!

Gaming Systems

In two years, the eighth-generation consoles that powerhouses Sony, Microsoft, and Nintendo, with the PlayStation 4, Xbox One, and Wii U respectively have created, have had a huge impact on the gaming world, kids and adults alike. We, at the Narwhal Nation News HQ, believe that kids, and sixth graders in particular, have got some strong opinions on what's hitting the tops right now with the Narwhals. But first, let me give you some background on the consoles themselves. This is coming from a gamer's perspective, so read on!

Xbox One:

Price at GameStop: $299.00, 500GB console, no bundle.

With a bunch of new features, and a redesigned controller, the Xbox One is something you might want to consider. The Kinect on the console is now something that can really help out with cutting through the clutter of the home screen with its voice command system, but those of us stuck with only the controller may have a problem on their hands with the insanely crammed home screen. The games can be amazing, but they do lack the 1080p quality of the PS4, at 720p, and most right now are just re-releases of Xbox 360 games, which can be a bit of a bummer, since there is backwards compatibility (you can play games from the previous console on the new one). Now, the controller is the true improvement here, with a way better D-pad than 360’s and all-new impulse triggers, triggers with rumble motors built into them. Everything else is pretty much the same, which isn't really a problem.

The Xbox One is a great console, with some pros and some cons, but which console doesn't have them?

PlayStation 4

Price at GameStop: $399.00, console only.

The PS4 is in many ways, a much, much, better console than the PS3, in both visual terms and in gaming terms. It's a huge contender, despite the price tag. Hint: If you're looking for a way to drop the prices on consoles, try game bundles (console sold with game), which give you the most bang for your buck, or try Amazon, which drops the price
considerably. Of course, the common option of second-hand is always available. Anyways, first of all, the console looks amazing, with its sleek, sharp, modern design. Second, the hardware, games and software are definitely besting the PS3 right now, with Need For Speed Rivals: Complete Edition (that "complete edition" is lot more than it seems, folks; you get a bunch of DLC packs and more bonus features, as well as better graphics), and a whole other bunch of racers, shooters, and more. The excitement is all displayed on the PlayStation 4's beautiful 1080p graphics. Yes, I know I've mentioned it, but that is one way that the PS4 has beaten the Xbox One - graphics. The Xbox One runs 720p, but so can my iPad. I mean, really? The controller, my oh my, is something you'll absolutely love. Long gone are the annoyingly easy-to-slip-off-of concave thumb sticks, replaced with convex ones, and the same is true for the triggers, L2 and R2. The controller comes with a touch pad (that's some tech for you there, Microsoft), speaker, headset jack, and a light bar. Most of the time, even though it is used for identifying players, and giving you visual clues, the light bar is just a bright, flashy, distraction. However, the console, with all of its pluses, is definitely not. It makes it on my Christmas wish list!

Wii U

Price at GameStop: $299.00, console only

The Wii U, with its relatively low price tag, is not a console to be trifled with. Although the Wii was released nine years ago, it still harks back to some of Nintendo’s 21st-century roots. This can be shown through the Wii U’s backwards compatibility with Wii games and Nintendo GameCube controllers. The head feature of the Wii U is the all-new gamepad that Nintendo has come out with, that lets you experience a new controller layout in a tablet-type form, and Amiibo, Nintendo's version of Skylanders and Disney Infinity. In addition to the gamepad, the Wii U also features the Pro controller. If you're a newbie to the Nintendo lineup of consoles, fresh from the Microsoft's Xbox series or Sony’s PlayStations, this might feel a bit familiar, as the controller layout and mold are reminiscent of Xbox and PlayStation remotes. In terms of games, the lineup is fairly similar to the Wii’s, with your Lego, shooter, racer, and Mario games. One of the most anticipated games for the Wii U was the new Super Smash Bros. U, as it boasted a whole new roster of characters. All this excitement combines to created a flawed, but well-rounded console that Nintendo can afford to be proud of.

- Rishab S.

Living As a Lone Wolf

Part 1 The Apartment

September 3rd, 2015

Tumble weeds rolled across the dirt road as I walked on and on through Arizona. The sun was beating down on my back but there was nothing I could do about it. I wasn’t very far away from my destination anyway. I was going to Phoenix.
**September 4th, 2015**

The city came into my view as I walked on. I could already hear cars honking. That reminded me of when I used to live in Sun City with my parents. Recently orphaned, I’m on the way to a new life. My plan? Go find a decent apartment (I look like I’m eighteen even though I’m only fifteen), get a job at a local restaurant, and live happily!

**September 5th, 2015**

Finding an apartment wasn’t very hard for me. I entered at the cheaper part of town and one of the buildings had a sign that said; Our best apartment is vacant, only selling for $500! No monthly rents! Come now before it’s gone!

I walked into the building and dug $500 from my parents secret savings and my allowance and put it down on the counter and said " Excuse me, I would like to buy the apartment,". The person at the desk was a frail but lively old woman. She smiled warmly, and began to count the money. While she did she said, " A student at the University right? Well you chose the right place! You will love it here. Just be mindful of your neighbors, no late night parties,". She gave the keys to me and the directions to my place. I walked up a staircase to the second floor. From the look of the outside it didn't seem like there would be anything wrong with the inside.

I was right! It was perfect! Yes, it was a one room apartment (have no idea how someone could have a party on hear), and yes , the ceiling leaked right over the toilet seat, but it was descent enough to live in. At least It was cheap I thought. I was just going to have to live with it.

**September 6, 2015**

Now about my job interview....

**Stayed Tuned for Part 2!**

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**A Long Journey**

**(Part 2)**

The journey to the city was not an easy one. For days and nights the tribe traveled without shelter. In the rain, the hot sun, without any rivers for water, the journey was near impossible. Finally, after a long, hard journey, we reached the outskirts of the city. Some of us had passed along the way, after their burials, we were forced to continue. Two woman and a child passed out from hunger, thirst, and lack of strength. The strongest...
of us immediately set out to the meadow at the edge of the city we had made it to.

At the meadow, we did not find much, but we did find some herbs that a kindly stranger had shown us along the way. They were herbs for strength. We had some cacti pieces full of water from a desert we passed. We used the last of the herbs on the week and the sick. Then we continued on closer to the city and towards the center of the meadow. At the start, we had 450 in the tribe. Today we have only 230.

Finally, we started on our way to the city. If we were not going against our will, we would have been excited and awed at the, I am not sure what the are called but they are flying things that look like the surfboards that an explorer made and showed us. We walked towards the shambles. There were little huts made out of cloth and skins. We set up camp here and the strongest of us (only the men apparently were still ‘strong’) decided to go and explore. Maybe find some food or someone who could help. The healthy women and girls were forced to stay and take care of the sick. I was never really quite the doctor. I only knew what I definitely needed to, so, I basically went back a little ways into the meadow so that Nala could hunt for some food. “Adsila, could you help me bandage your brother’s foot? It has a cut in it that won’t stop bleeding.” my mother called. Did I mention that our shoes got so worn out, half of us continued on bare foot. One of those people was my brother who is 2 years younger than me. Since I am 14, that means he is 12, but he sure does not act mature enough to be that old.

This journey has made him a little more sensible though, a little more sensible. The men came back with some fish that they had traded some of our rainforest seeds for. We had enough fish for most everyone. The strong people would have to salvage for their own greens or mice out in the meadow. Just then, Nala came back holding a juicy looking animal in her teeth. I demanded her to lead me to where she found it. I found and killed a whole bunch of them. It may sound crude but it is survival. I am sorry but I had to. The remaining people without fish would also have a feast tonight! If only I knew what would happen next.

A month later.....

We all set up permanent camp there at the edge of the city. At first it was hard to sleep with the noise of the hover cars flying around the city, but we eventually grew accustomed to it. Also, it turns out those delicious animals were bunnies. I had never seen one of those things, they look cute. Anyway, they have become our staple food. The tribe is regaining strength, some boys have even started school! We earn money every day by selling fish, cooking, selling clothes and embroidery, selling exotic pets and plants, selling medicines, etc. The city folk seem to like the exotic designs the women from my tribe make. I don’t see what they think is so pretty and worth $200, but I am not going to complain. We have really settled well, but the rainforest will always be a part of me still missing. Still, it looks like it is the end of this long journey, and the beginning of the next.

-Both Short Stories By: Aparna V.