

The Classy Rat Newsletter

February 2019

A word from *Classy*...

It's February and I'm ready to live my classy life. This month is the secret shining star of the winter months. At first glance, it has no big, regular holidays besides Valentines day and the Governor of the Rat Dimension's Annual Party (which we don't even get off work for, so who cares!) But February has so much more to offer than that: Black History month, for example. Then of course we can't forget the Squeaker Bowl. I for one am excited to break out my best bowls, prep the best cheese dips, and get my friends over to help me lick the bowls squeaky clean while watching Rat TV's finest.



So, there's hordes of ways to to stay Classy in February. You could also volunteer with a cause you care about. Nothing is more energizing than putting your own energy where it's needed. Take yours truly for example: I'm still shaving my tail in solidarity with those who live with mange, and I'm always on Crumbs for Class Duty.

For those who did not read last months issue, I launched a rat fundraiser called Crumbs For Class, aimed towards improving the quality of education our rats receive in grades 1-12. We're off to a great start so far, earning 15% of our goal since early January. If you would like to donate or get involved, log on to the rat internet with our parent or guardians permission and tell the operator to link you to my domain!*

*For readers outside of the rat dimension: a workable link will be distributed as soon as we receive permission

from your dimension's gate-keepers. Thank you for your patience.

Without further ado, please enjoy the February 2019 edition of the Classy Rat Newsletter!

Your friend,
Classy

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Classy Rartist: The Sketch Rat

Allow me to introduce to you Stephanie Waller, an up and coming rat artist who goes by “The Sketch Rat.” Waller draws rats in a style that is very classy and cute. Her designs can be purchased on T-Shirts and mugs through zazzle.com. And, she has just launched a facebook page for her art, where she plans to upload more rart.

<https://www.zazzle.com/sketchychik>

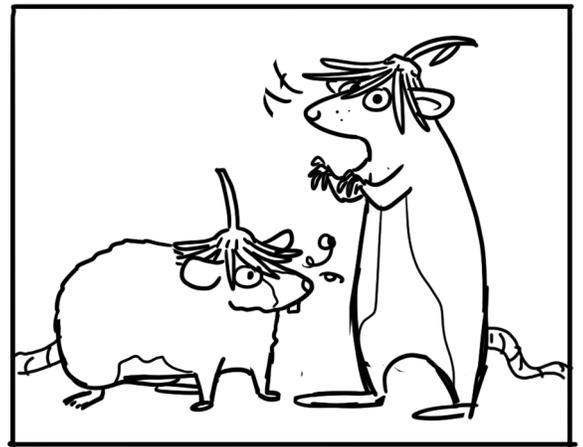
<https://www.facebook.com/TheSketchingRat/>

Classy Rat Of The Month

This month we're recognizing two impossibly dreamy rat brothers: Hanzo and Sleepy. Born on Valentines day, both rats enjoy popsicles and have an appreciation for flowers. Sleepy, a pianist, and Hanzo, a race-car driver, live busy lives and enjoy snuggling up at the end of the night for a long snooze.

You can catch a glimpse into their charming lives by checking them out on Instagram:

@Hanzo_And_Sleepy_Ratties



https://www.instagram.com/hanzo_and_sleepy_ratties/

Rat History: Origins of The Squeaker Bowl

The Squeaker Bowl is upon us, my classy friends! If you're a non-rat reader, you may need more of an explanation: The Squeaker Bowl is a rat tradition born from the classic rat text "Memoirs of Cheetah: Living Up to a Big Cat's Name," during which Cheetah, a hard-working rex rat from the pipes of Pizzaville, sits down with her makeshift rat family in front of the TV to share a bowl of cheese dip (all except Delores, who prefers only chips). The squeaking aspect of this holiday is often attributed to the process of the characters licking the bowl squeaky clean, but that's actually a misconception.

Instead, the squeaking comes from the arrival of Andreas, a skeezy outsider-rat, who's tail has been injured by the ratking. Cheetah, a doctor, has the squeaking Andreas lay on his stomach in front of the TV to set his tail with a splint. Meanwhile Delores, Buster, and Eggroll ignore Andreas' squeaks of pain and try to keep watching TV. After this, Cheetah is very cross with her family for their lack of sympathy for her patient.

It may surprise you to find out that the origins to such a laid-back holiday are a touch more morbid than is preferred. Often times as the years pass we try to hide the dirty details of our history. This cannot be, Classy rats! **The Modern Squeaker Bowl as we know it is a facade of consumerism powered by big rat ratvertising.** Trust me, I'm just as curious about how Ratomobile is going to make up for last years offensive dog commercial as you are. But, I challenge you to honor the true roots of the holiday this year and remember to listen to our friends and family; And in the case of Cheetah, pay attention to our ratmanity and help strangers who might also be hurting.

Classy Recipes: *Rat Cheese ball*

Have you ever wished you could just eat your favorite food and also have it be shaped like you? Well now you can with this genius recipe by Rita1652. This full size rat-shaped cheese ball is perfect for the upcoming squeaker bowl and goes perfectly with chips, fruit, and crackers.

The Ingredients include: 8 oz cream cheese, 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese, ¼ cup sour cream or ¼ cup yogurt, 1 Serrano chili, 1 garlic clove, 5 mashed black olives, 1 tsp celery seed, 1 tsp black pepper, ¼ cup black beans, 1 dried shiitake mushroom (for the ears), 2 red peppercorns (eyes), and 17 bacon bits (toes and nose), 10 dried rosemary sprigs (whiskers).

For more details and directions, you can find this recipe on Geniuskitchen.com by the user Rita1652.

<https://www.geniuskitchen.com/recipe/rat-cheese-ball-439241>



Above: Illustration of Andreas from "Memoirs of Cheetah: Living Up to a Big Cat's Name" 2nd ed.

Black History: Dr. Marie Manard Daley



April 16, 1921. A beautiful, gaseous, nebula appeared in the rat dimension near the Algernon constellation, and it just so happens that it was also the birthday of American biochemist, Dr. Marie Maynard Daly. Born in Queens, Daly earned her BS in chemistry in 1942 from Queens College. Then she earned her masters, and a PHD in Chemistry from Columbia University in 1947, making her the first black American woman to do so.

She worked with rats and mice to make important discoveries about protein synthesis, and also made great strides in other scientific research about the body and aging. Inspired by her father's inability to finish his higher education due to lack of money, she started a fund to help minority students who are

pursuing STEM careers. Currently a rat movie about Dr. Marie Maynard Daly's life and accomplishments, starring celebratty rat-actor, Ms. Scampers, is in production within the rat dimension.

source: wikipedia

Ask Classy

Got a problem? Let Classy deal some advice! Send your questions to: AskTheClassyRat@gmail.com

Dear Classy,

Whenever I take public rat transport, I am always afraid of sitting down when others could use my seat more. How can I manage this without just standing forever??

Sincerely,

CantSitInRatlanta

Dear CantSitInRatlanta,

Easy! Any time you get on the bus or train, pull out your notepad and make a diagram of the bus. Identify any open spots and mark them, making sure to take into consideration if they are for seniors or those with handicap.

Have in your mind the number of stops you are going to be on the bus or train and divide that by the empty seats. Then consider the time of day and add that to your number. Then take note if it is a weekday or weekend. If it is a weekday and the number is less than ten, stand for half your stops and sit for the rest, doesn't matter what order. At each stop, keep track of who gets on and who gets off, adjust your diagram accordingly. Read the mood: if someone looks like they could use a seat, offer it to them. If that doesn't work for you, you can



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probably find dozens of rats on the rat internet who have the same problem. Look for a support forum, maybe you'll find some more Classy Rats. Remember to treat your fellow passengers with respect, and feel free to share your diagram.

Dear Classy,

My doctor says I really need to stop skateboarding, but I can't! I'm stuck! Help!

StuckOnSk8board

Dear StuckOnSk8board,

Oh dear! Well, that is a predicament. I'd say, try and determine what it is that is keeping you stuck to the skateboard. Is there something adhering you to the board? If so I would try some kind of strong soap. Or does it go deeper? Is your identity as a sk8r-rat just a facade you are putting on to try and be cool? Maybe you need to talk to someone about it. Do you really need to be attached to this skateboard? Has it become so much a part of you that you have developed an unhealthy relationship with it? Ask you doctor if there is an appropriate amount of skateboarding you may be allowed to take part in in the future. Remember, there's more to life than skateboarding. You can find something else, perhaps more stable, to stand on. Be realistic. Life is not always an easy glide, and if you try to force it to be, you can crash. Be positive. You may be surprised how fast and rattically your own feetsies can carry you.

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Ratdimension.com