



# THAT DARN TIC

## A NEWSLETTER BY AND FOR KIDS WITH TS



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spring 2004

issue no. 9

### Special Artists' Edition for Kids with TS

Jessica Simon of Needham, Massachusetts, sent us the following note and poem



Hi! My name is Jessica and I am 10 years old. I have tics. Kids at my school tease me and it bothers me. My teacher and school social worker will talk to my class to help them understand that I really can't help it and they shouldn't tease me. Ask your teacher if she can help you too.

Advice: Don't let other people make you feel bad about something you can't help. They just don't understand.

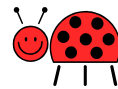
#### POEM

Sitting at the window looking outside,  
I saw good things beyond the mountain  
With the water fountain.  
Listening with my eyes, looking with my eyes,  
In my imagination,  
I can make a creation.  
Everything is good.  
Tics blow away with the wind.



Alex Yue, ten years old, of Fountain Valley, California, sent the following joke:

"Knock, knock." "Who's there?" "You." "You who?"  
"YOOHOOOO!!!!"

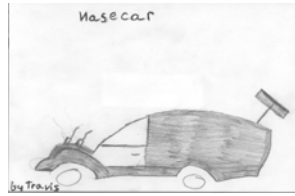
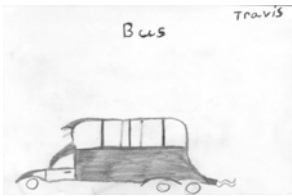


#### LETTER TO THE EDITORS

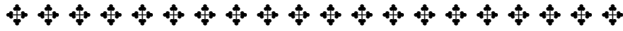
Dear Editors:

I have a dream ... that someday I will invent an invention to cure Tourette Syndrome. I have Tourette, too, and I want medicine that works. I have a dream ... to stop Tourette and help the world.

Joseph Pelletier, age 9, of  
Chicopee, Massachusetts



These drawings were sent to us by *Travis Lehmkuhl*, age 11, of Creve Coeur, Illinois.



Twelve year old Addy Rash of Loveland, Ohio, had a great time on her vacation to Yellowstone National Park.

### YELLOWSTONE & ME

I am going to tell you about my Yellowstone vacation. I had a great time but I felt weird because I have a little something called Tourette Syndrome. It is a neurological disorder of the brain. It makes me tic and my tics are sometimes vocal and very loud. I made "fu, fu" sounds and whimpering sounds while we were on vacation.

The first place we went to was Yellowstone Lake. It seemed like a really nice place but it was all moldy smelling inside of our cabin and we heard a family fighting right next door. The walls were thin and we decided to go to a new place where I wouldn't disturb people with my loud ticcing.

The second place we stayed was a dude ranch in Montana. It was fun because there was a hot tub, swing set and we got to ride horseback for two hours.

The last day we were in Yellowstone, we stayed at Old Faithful Inn. When we were at Old Faithful, we went to see the geysers. We saw the prettiest one: Old Faithful Geyser. It shot up 70 feet in the air and we saw it right at sunset! It reminded me of the Rocky Mountains.

The hard thing about my family vacation was that people kept staring at me and my family. I made extremely loud noises and people thought I was doing it on purpose. People would say "Where's the dog?" and I would say "that is me!" My sister protected me from some mean people that didn't understand my disorder.

All in all, the vacation was fun but kind of hard too! Next time my family goes on vacation we are going to have t-shirts made that say: "Tourettes really TICS ME OFF!" Hopefully people will be more understanding.

### FEELINGS

by *Amanda Kaminski*, age 13, Bridgeville, Pennsylvania

I'm sometimes sad  
Sometimes mad.  
When people look at me,  
They don't see  
A regular person.

I'm the same  
No one's to blame.  
I will fit in  
In the end I will win.



Dear Editors of "That Darn Tic":

I have a beautiful, sweet and loving daughter named Taylor Lovshe. She was diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome when she was five. That was five years ago. I always worry about her and wonder if she's really OK deep down inside her heart and soul. She always has to work so much harder than most kids and has so much more to deal with. Last Thanksgiving I was cleaning out her school backpack and found this school assignment. I wanted to share it with you, your readers and their parents who wonder if all their sleepless nights, endless hours of research, worry and prayers really pay off. They do. Thanks for listening. Denise Lovshe

*Taylor Lovshe*, age 10, of Houston, Texas



I'm thankful for my mom because she helps me with my TS. I got it on my mom's side. I hate it. I try so hard that I want those allergies to go away but I love my life because my mom has made it better. That's why I love my mom. She is so nice to me. When I was born, I knew that I was going to have the best life and I was right, too. Oh yeah, I forgot to tell you that I am blessed to have you in my life.



This drawing of Tiger Woods was sent to us by *Michael Edwards*, age 13, of Lyndenville, Vermont.

**LETTER FROM OUR EDITOR**

*Zak Hollis*

**CREATIVE OUTLETS**

When I was 6 years old I was interested in painting. I took private painting lessons for 2 years and really enjoyed it. When I was 8 years old, I lost my fine motor skills. I lost the ability to paint and write. It was very frustrating. Over the years I have learned to cope and found new ways to be creative.

I am not very good at painting or drawing but I love to take digital pictures. I love to take pictures of my dogs, my leopard gecko, sunsets and outdoor shots of the mountains. It is cool to make my pictures into computer desktop backgrounds. Once I bring my pictures from the camera onto my computer, then I have the ability to make pictures brighter, darker, remove things and crop it to my liking. I have made some note cards with pictures I have taken.

Another one of my creative hobbies is cooking. I like to get into the kitchen when my mom is away! I enjoy reading different kinds of cookbooks and discovering new cooking ideas. Last week I experimented with juniper berries. I picked them, dried them and crushed them. Then I basted the chicken with olive oil and the crushed juniper berries. It was wonderful.

Over the last 5 years I have found that there are many wonderful ways to be creative.



*Greg Bentley* of Lombard, Illinois, sent us his drawing of a lighthouse.

My name is Greg Bentley. I am 12 years old. I have had Tourette's Syndrome since I was 8. When I was young, I never liked to color but I did like to draw and have been drawing since I was 1-1/2. I drew the lighthouse picture when I was 10. I am now working on drawing people's homes. In 2000, I attended my first TSA Conference and sold my matted drawings at the Artists' Table. That was a lot of work so since then, my Mom has made note cards from my drawings and now I sell these. At the last conference (in 2002), I sold over \$300 worth! I will be attending this year's conference in April and selling my note cards there. I hope a lot of you artists can bring or ship your artwork to be sold at the Artists' Table.



Six year old *Sydney Moskowitz* of Potomac, Maryland, was diagnosed with TS at age 5. She said this is a picture of herself and her shirt says "Shake My Head."



*Shane Bissett*, age 13, of Oregon City, Oregon wrote the following:

Hi everybody. I would like to share a condition that I have. It is called Tourette Syndrome or TS. With my condition, I have a lot of different problems that I can't help that I wish I did not have. I have to take medicines to help me and the medicine does not work all the time and I wish that it would. Once in a while, I say "I wish I could be like everyone else." I wish I did not have Tourettes. Some of the problems cause me to get side aches, headaches and other pains. I appreciate you reading this article. For those that have this problem, I just want to say "hang in there and do your best!"



**SIBLING COLUMN**



*Chandler Roberts* is 7 years old and lives in Greer, South Carolina.

My name is Chandler Roberts. I am in second grade. I have Tourette Syndrome, OCD and ADHD.

I play football for the Bills. My position is Center and Linebacker. I like football because it gets all the energy out where I can be calmer. I am Number 80.

I have three dogs, one cat, one horse and a turtle.  
~~Love animals.~~ — — — — —

Chandler's brother, 6-year-old Collin Roberts, wrote: "I have a brother who is 7 who has Tourette Syndrome, OCD and ADHD. He is very nice. He tries his best in school. His favorite subject is math.

Having a brother with Tourette's is hard sometimes because when I say a word, he thinks I say something else. Sometimes it is fun because he plays good games."

### Tic, Tic

By: *Michelle Thiry*, age 8 of  
Wilton, Connecticut

Tic, Tic went Rick  
All around the playground.

“Stop doing that,  
Stop shaking around.”

“Hey punk  
You flunk.”

“A-uhm, a-uhm”

“Miss Smith - he is being noisy.”

“He is making sounds.”

“Miss Smith - he’s doing something strange.”

“Psst, psst- I think he’s weird.”

“Miss Smith - It’s Rick,

I only have one friend

Because I have Tourette Syndrome.”



This drawing is from *James Walsh*, 14 years old, of  
Baysville, Ontario, Canada

The next issue of *That Darn Tic* will be about  
friendship. Tell us about your closest friends – in  
essays, poems, photos, drawings, cartoons and  
jokes. The deadline for submissions is May 1,  
2004. Please send them to:

TSA  
That Darn Tic  
42-40 Bell Boulevard  
Bayside  
New York 11361  
or

email: [peggy.harford@tsa-usa.org](mailto:peggy.harford@tsa-usa.org).

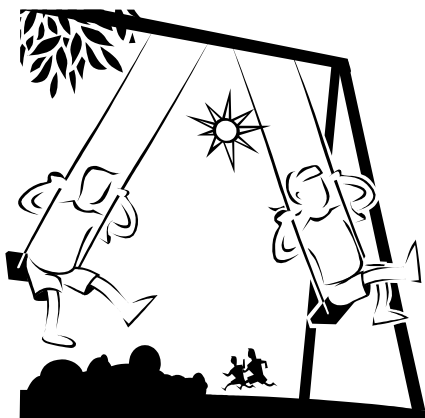
For your work to be considered, you must be  
14 or younger (please include your age) and be  
no longer than one page. Please note that your  
work may be edited for length, grammar,  
spelling, etc. We will use everything submitted  
that space allows.

We look forward to hearing from you.



tourette syndrome

42-40 bell boulevard, bayside, new york 11361



Swing into Spring

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*Jake Ouellette, age 11, of San Diego, California, sent us this story.*

### The Sacred Blood

In a land where blood is spent, poisoned, wasted by a phantom . . . a 5,000 year-old vampire, who can take the form of another, destroy and revive, with power unlimited, divine, and ruthless.

A vampire is on the loose, unchecked, unchallenged, killing at will. There is only one person who can stop it, Princess Shahiro Kohaku, a wizard who has taken out a demon that possessed her brother, an evil warlord, and an Oni demon.

In her meditation, she had a vision of a vampire heading toward her village. She knew she was the only one who could stop it. She had the village evacuated so she could fight her best against a five thousand year old demon vampire, one who escaped the very clutches of the underworld. . .

She dashed outside to greet him and saw a flash of movement. She was struck in the face by the vampire. She started to try to read his mind, but it was heavily cloaked.

She heard a hypnotic voice, "Why do you not fall, crumble, die?" he asked.

"I will never fall" she replied, "It will be you who will fall."

She saw his next move but he rebounded as she dodged and he kicked her in the stomach. She fell to the floor, helpless. She threw a fireball at him but it missed and burned. She ran to the temple and ran all the way to the top and retrieved a secret vial, full of vampire blood, the blood of the legendary vampire, Krishna.

"I swore I would never tamper with this power but I must," she said. She poured the blood from the vial into her mouth. She let out a scream, but not a scream of pain, a pain of hunger . . . she was now half-vampire, half-wizard. She ran toward him and with astounding speed she lashed out and cut his stomach. He roared in pain. He lashed out and put a long gash in her arm. The gash turned into a scar! "I know the secret of vampires too, you're hopeless."

She shot a fireball. He dodged. She grabbed the fireball and hurled it at him. It hit him in the face. He dove to the ground extinguishing it quickly but the damage was done. She pulled out a pair of red dice and rolled them in a skull. "It says you will die," she said evilly. "It's time." She rushed at him . . . and ripped out his heart then drank the blood. "More," she yelled, "I must have more." She screamed.

A voice came into her head. Her brother's. "Revive me," he suggested. "And suck me dry and when I'm dead again, revive me. We will always be together that way."



Together they had saved the day. "Emrys, we must wield the power with the two greatest sorcerers alive. One inside the other and the one outside. The world will be in peace. And we, its savior."



*Cooper Pickle, age 14, of Paris, Texas, wants to be an architect. He sent the following:*

### ARCHITECT IN THE MAKING

My name is Cooper Pickle, I am 14-years- old and live in Paris, Texas. I am in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Travis Junior High. I enjoy playing football on my school team, playing snare drum in the symphonic band and being a member of our Travis Student Council. What I am most proud of, however, is my art. I love to draw. I have been drawing since I was 10 and I have taken lessons for about 2 years. I won 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Paris Art Fair in 2002.

Here is a picture I have drawn recently. I draw at my drafting desk that is in my room.



I want to go to Texas A&M University to study to become an architect. (My dad went there also and he is a proud "Aggie!". I have developed my 4-year plan for high school with classes that will help me reach my goal.

I was diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome in July of 2002. I also have ADHD. I take medicine for both things every day. I have a great doctor who helps me with TS and talks to me about how it affects my life. I have not let TS take over my life. I still do all of the things I want to do. I make good grades in school but I have to work hard for them. I have even applied to be in the National Junior Honor Society this year.

I have a few close friends who know that I have TS. They skateboard with me and I can talk to them about stuff. I have watched videos my mom bought about TS and I have watched a good movie on TV about it so I could learn more about the disorder. At first, I was bothered by the fact that I had this. Now I can even tell some of my close friends about it.

I went "on location" with my art teacher and drew the famous water fountain in my town. My art teacher also had a gallery event where he displayed 4 of my pictures. That was great!

I want to be able to reach my goal of being an architect. I know that I have the ability and TS will not keep me from getting there. I will keep drawing forever!

Austin Neese, age 9,  
Mastic, New York



My name is Austin Neese. I am a nine-year-old boy with TS. Just because I have TS, doesn't mean that I am dumb or stupid in any way. Sometimes kids in my class make fun of my tics and it hurts my feelings. When I am nervous or upset, my tics will be much worse. I will not let my Tourette's get in the way of living my life.



This is part of a report written by 11-year-old *Daniel Morrissey* of Worcester, Massachusetts, about a Utopian culture called Nickleburgulia. He wrote this for his Sixth Grade Class:

**Nickleburgulia**

The name of this extraordinary culture is Nickleburgulia. This culture is an island shaped like a jagged elephant far off the coast of South America. This island broke off of South America in the future time of the year 31,576.

**Food/Fashion/Shelter:** In the culture of Nickleburgulia, they have simple food menus. On a typical day for breakfast they mostly eat vegetables. The vegetables have this type of sugar that is non-fattening and have different tastes such as bitter, sour, sweet, etc. At school for a snack they have grapulines, which are giant grapes, the size of an egg. For lunch they eat sandwiches with whatever type of ingredient they want. At supertime, normally, they would have pasta with enriched saucolia. The food and trash are recycled into rich fertile soil that farmers use over and over again.

The Nickleburgulian people have great living conditions also. Everyone has a home with robot servants that do everything for them. The people are always happy. The houses are always the right temperature and on TV there are always the appropriate shows for the appropriate people.

The house itself is made of hard-smoothened trash that is then painted with berry juice. Everyone has a porch and has a teleport door that can be locked. All of the children don't play with the old plastic toys that normal children play with, but they play with electronic toys.



This is 8-year-old *Patrick Flynn's* drawing of a pirate ship. Patrick is from Bloomfield, New Jersey.



Dear That Darn Tic!

My name is *Gina Marissa Velez*. I'm from Whittier, California. I was diagnosed with TS when I was 9. I'm now 13 and love to act. I take drama at my school and I'm also a very good artist. I've been in over 5 plays, and 10 performances. Ever since I could walk and talk I was dancing and singing so my mom got me into dance. At my dance studio, their recitals were musicals so I would sing and dance at the same time. When I was 9, I got into theater. I've performed in *The Sound of Music*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Annie* in which I played an orphan called Christy. I received the Gypsy Coat Award and it is presented to eight people a year. It means you have what it takes to be an actress. (It's an honor to get it.)

After *Annie*, I did *The Music Man* and got a Teen Dancer, and now I'm doing *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. I'm doing *Peter Pan* next, and I'm shooting for Wendy!

I also love to draw. I draw cartoons, realistic, abstract... basically anything. I've gone to art schools and camps and have gotten better each time.

When I'm drawing or acting, my TS escapes me and I'm transformed into a different world. It's soooooo neat to have that feeling. I love being on stage and drawing too.



**Sorry**

by *Cady Carlson*, age 11,  
of Tulsa, Oklahoma

Sorry, I didn't see you there;  
My nose was too high up in the air.  
I wish I wasn't such a bully  
But, I'm just not all that holy.

That's what I think my rival's thoughts are,  
But, I wouldn't know since I'm not popular.  
You see, I'm glad that I'm not,  
Quite frankly that's just the way that I have been taught.

I don't want to have the coolest clothes,  
I don't want to have surgery on my nose,  
I don't want to act better than everyone else,  
I'm just not like that cool Kelse.

But I do admit that it's hard to think positively  
When everyone's back is against me.  
I wish it wasn't so hard to go against these waves  
I wish it wasn't so hard with all of these craves.  
Maybe it wouldn't be if I just gave in  
and let others take over.

But I'm stronger than that  
And I'll show you yet!  
For I have strength and love  
From those who are as peaceful as a dove.

