

New neighborhood market gets two thumbs up from Young D.C.

Damali Hall and Peter Berg
Young D.C.

Glen's Garden Market opened Sunday April 14, 2013. YDC caught up with co-founder Danielle Vogel and chef Sean Sullivan on Friday April 19. After working on Capitol Hill on a doomed climate change bill, Vogel decided to open up a store that would bring about change with every bite. Sean Sullivan joined her to create Glen's Garden Market, named for Vogel's late father.

Glen's Garden Market is supplied with produce, groceries and meat from 300 different vendors. While Vogel and Sullivan plan to venture out further, they will only look for vendors in the Chesapeake Watershed states: Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia, New York, Delaware and D.C.

The store offers a welcoming, open atmosphere and the music is really great. As "I Just Haven't Met You Yet" by Michael Bublé floated from the speakers, YDC decided that we'd met a great new business. This neighborhood store is well organized and things are set out on tables for easy access. The labeling is also clear and informative. The produce is arranged so everything is within arm's length. Foods that go well together, such as salsa and chips, and foods that are in the same food group, such as dairy products, are located near one another. There is a deli area and a freezer aisle. There are no bulky carts to crowd the space; instead, the market provides environmentally friendly shopping bags. Staff are always present and eager to help customers.

The market gives shoppers access to unique items. "I have a pretty intense cured meat program," said Sullivan. As he showed YDC a high-tech machine full of chains of hanging salamis, he said, "The curing box is very neat and it replicates environments in Europe and Italy." He added, "I went to school in Italy and I missed the taste of the Italian prosciutto." The sausage, bison pastrami and corned beef are house cured, but prosciutto is still in the planning stage.

This is a neighborhood store that isn't necessarily going to get any bigger than its eco-friendly footprint. "It's not going to turn into a Wegmans," Sullivan said. YDC thinks that Glen's Garden Market isn't too big and isn't too small. It is just the right size. It also did not have a lot of customer traffic on our visit early on a Friday afternoon. So one iced tea and one Cheery Cherry soda later, YDC is already planning a return trip.

Glen's Garden Market
2001 S Street, NW
Open Sun - Sat, 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Damali Hall, 19, is a senior at Parkmont School in the District of Columbia.

Peter Berg, 17, is a junior at The Lab School of Washington in the District of Columbia.



Photos by Peter Berg
Top: Peter Berg, left, and Damali Hall in front of Glen's Garden Market. Clockwise from top left: Glen's Garden Market Pepperoni; colorful heirloom tomatoes on display; bags of fresh popcorn; blue corn tortilla chips and salsa.

Spring break starts off on the wrong foot for DuVal High School

Samantha Joseph
Young D.C.

It was a normal day: kids were talking about their plans for spring break, teachers were laying down the basics for their education plans. Second period, which started at 10:05 a.m., was almost over. As students were chatting in their circles of friends, Principal Alice Swift-Howard abruptly announced on the public address system that DuVal High School was on a code red lockdown.

"Before the lockdown, I was in my computer graphics class working on a project. When the lockdown happened, I thought it was a drill. But then it lasted for so long, I started to worry. I panicked a bit inside because I heard police and a helicopter." said Adanze Chukwuocha, 17, a senior at Duval.

It was definitely a shocker to staff and students. A past code red lockdown was only for a drill. And if any drill were to happen, the faculty would know and perhaps Prince George's County Public Schools' Board of Education, too.

Students made wild remarks such as "a shooter was walking around school" along with the comments that students were going to die like the Sandy Hook children.

Malik Abu-Kalokoh, 17, a senior at DuVal, said; "I felt it was planned but quickly became elevated to being real once facts were revealed of police and dogs."

But unlike Chukwuocha, Kalokoh finds PGCPSS's attempts a bit weak. "I think the code red lockdown wasn't used efficiently and PG could have handled the situation better." He added, "I think it could have been handled better through easier control through non-confused communication."

Principal Swift has a Twitter account to connect with students, but it wasn't the right technology for the lockdown. Students resorted to the internet using "lockdown" and "DuVal"—Who could they trust?

Caitlyn Gilliam, 16, a junior, added to the conversation about the miscommunication problem, "Parents as well as the students should have been informed on what happened."

In terms of the March 27 situation nobody knows exactly what really happened. The spokesman for the superintendent told reporters, "false alarm," while the county police said they were just responding.

Samantha Joseph, 17, is a senior at Duval High School in Lanham, Md.



Courtesy of Prince George's County Public Schools

YoungD.C.

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Photos by Emily Yang, layout by Dominique Obregon

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An imprint of the leaf of an American linden, *tilia americana*, in the concrete sidewalk on 18th St., NW, near R St. Photo by Peter Berg



Screens draw teens to their guilty pleasures

Damali Hall and Emily Yang

Young D.C.



To Catch a Predator

My original guilty pleasure was *To Catch a Predator* from Dateline NBC. It is hilarious that the producers fabricate chatrooms and attract these predators. The television show even has a house that they use when the predators aren't content to talk to underage girls online and want to visit them. I am just intrigued by how dumb some of the men that the show catches actually are. From the beginning of the chat when the "girl" or "boy" notes an age of 13 or 14, the man should get out of the situation. The predators' horniness just astounds me. They can't take two seconds to think about what they are doing, calm themselves down and back out of the situation.

Another thing that I have come to realize is that they have never had any episodes where there is a female predator. I suspect there are some women out there who might be preying on innocent children. Overall I think that the show is a little biased. However I do enjoy watching the pathetic lowlifes get caught. It gives me a satisfying feeling to know that they are going to be locked up in jail. This way they won't be able to continue pursuing underage girls for a very long time.



Degrassi in all its incarnations

My next guilty pleasure is *Degrassi Next Generation* (recently changed to *Degrassi*), a television drama that comes to us from Canada. TeenNick airs it Fridays at 9:00 p.m. The franchise (*The Kids of Degrassi Street*, *Degrassi Junior High*, *Degrassi High*) was created in 1979. I have loved and been obsessed with this show since I was 12. I know which characters have siblings, who gets along with parents, whose parents are divorced or dead. I have even committed to memorizing some of the characters middle names.

A lot of things happen in each season of the long-running franchise. *Degrassi* deals with pressing topics that are important in the everyday teenager's life – topics like substance abuse, sexual abuse, peer pressure, bullying, shootings, stabbings, sex, homosexuality, teen pregnancy, divorce, infidelity and gender identity.

I have also enjoyed watching the storylines about graduation and the ups and downs of college life. Some of my favorite characters mature and transfer to lives of budding adult college students. One of my favorite characters is Johnny DeMarco, because viewers get to see him transform over the course of the show.

Ah, the romances of *Degrassi*. There are certain couples that I never would have imagined the writers pairing. There were lesbian and gay teens that I didn't find so appealing individually. When they became parts of a couple I loved them. The most recent odd pairing is Jenna and Connor. Connor is the brainiac guy who is not your typical boyfriend material. Most of the girls have not even thought twice about dating Connor. I could tell that Jenna was attracted to his honesty, wit and kindness. When I first saw Jenna I thought that she was a bit of a ditz. She was a cheerleader and a naive teenager. Jenna became a teen mom when she was 17. I thought that Jenna would've been a great mother but K.C., the father, probably wouldn't have been that great of a father.

Parents are rarely on screen. Many scenes are in the school or at homes of characters. As a child who grew up with my mother working as a counselor at my school, expectations were high for me to set an example for other students. My name was always connected to my mother's. In a way I was representing two people and always had to make sure I was doing the right thing. Perhaps that's why the drama of *Degrassi*, especially when a parent does work at the school, has proved so appealing.

– D.H.

Fanfiction from two angles

Watching horror movies, eating gluttonous deserts, listening to countless hours of country music – each is a guilty pleasure to someone, somewhere. However, mine isn't any of these. My guilty pleasure, which can leave me wasting hours on a busy school night, is reading online stories, namely fanfiction.

Fanfiction is a pretty self-defining term. It's fiction written by the fans of any character or characters ever been in existence. As long as a character has been published somewhere, its fanfiction may be created. It can be any genre, any storyline – anything you want it to be, honestly. The history and personality of the character can even be reshaped for a new storyline. The writers refer to this as "out of character," or OOC.

The fanfiction I usually read is about romance. No, not the extremely hot and steamy romance that you can find in the adult or romance section in your public library, if that's what you're thinking. I'm talking about the sweet, innocent romances that just squeeze your heart and plaster an idiotic grin on your face as you stare at the computer screen. Adding to that, you might even be dying from all the cheesiness

of the story, but I think it's worth it, even if your parents think you're crazy for smiling like a goofball in front of the computer.

I narrow my fanfiction searches to the characters from *Harvest Moon*, a video games series. To me, it's more entertaining to read the fanfiction about the characters from any of those games because unlike the original genre, the characters don't have a fixed storyline. The writers can manipulate the characters' past, present and future as they want. Because there are no boundaries set by an originally published book, you can find a variety of plotlines to enjoy.

No story goes without drama. Think of the Disney princess movies. The heroine generally goes through some kind of initial mishap that she has to endure. Along the way in her attempt to escape it, she meets her "knight in shining armor." They slowly fall in love, whether they are aware of it or not. Drama ensues and eventually they live happily ever after.



That's also the gist of most of the stories that I read.

Even though the basic storyline is always the same, it's just so addicting to read each take on it. Even though I know that the main character will end up having a happy life, the tear-jerking moments in the middle always gets me. I know there are people who get tired and bored of reading a similar stories, but I'm not one of those people.

Reading so much fanfiction actually inspired me to start writing my own. It's so exciting! The more I read other people's stories, the more motivated I am to write one just as addicting as theirs. Other than for school or for YDC, I've never actually tried writing a story to the fullest. I hadn't written in my free time, but with this new hobby, I've been writing more often than before.

To be honest, I don't have an idea on where the storyline for my fanfiction might head to or what the ending will be like. But who says that I need to have an idea on how to lead up to the ending? There are so many possibilities on how to advance the story, but one thing I'm sure of is that I'm not going to rush it. It feels like a huge adventure – an adventure that only my mind can go on. I want to take my time exploring every nook and cranny that I come across.

– E.Y.

Damali Hall, 19, is a senior at Parkmont School in the District of Columbia.

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My Little Pony takes the Internet by storm

Peter Berg
Young D.C.

If you've had Internet access at any time in the past three years, there's a high chance you've heard of bronies. If you haven't, here's the scoop: they're young adults and teenagers who enjoy *My Little Pony: Friendship Is Magic*. No, seriously. An ever-growing fandom of tens of thousands of people surrounds this Flash-animated children's cartoon based on Hasbro's *My Little Pony* franchise, and it's not those little ponies of the 1980s that you may be thinking of.

The show began as the brainchild of Lauren Faust, who had previously worked on the shows *The Powerpuff Girls* and *Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends*. Having considerable experience in animation, she was approached by Hasbro, Inc. to work on a reboot of the *My Little Pony* cartoon series — this would be the fourth generation, or "G4." The show debuted on October 10 2010 on the television channel The Hub, a joint project between Hasbro, Inc. and Discovery Communications, alongside other shows such as *Transformers*, *Strawberry Shortcake*, and *Dan Vs.*

My Little Pony: Friendship Is Magic centers around the "Mane Six" characters, a group of ponies whose friendships are explored by the show and who have adventures in the massively detailed fantasy world of Equestria. The Mane Six are comprised of Twilight Sparkle, the magical bookworm unicorn; Applejack, the honest farmer earth pony; Rainbow Dash, the loyal athletic pegasus; Rarity, the generous seamstress unicorn; Fluttershy, the kind nature-loving pegasus; and Pinkie Pie, the laughing hyperactive earth pony. The Mane Six represent the spirits of the Elements of Harmony, six magical artifacts that can be used to defeat darkness and chaos. Joining the Mane Six is Twilight's faithful dragon assistant Spike, and as secondary characters are all of their assorted family and friends. Equestria is an ancient and noble kingdom ruled by Princess Celestia and Princess Luna, two alicorns (winged unicorns) who control the sun and moon respectively, the former of whom is Twilight's personal teacher. The world of the show is filled out by dozens of strange, powerful mythological creatures and hundreds of individual ponies, as well as numerous pony events and holidays that make the experience come alive. The show makes frequent use of equine puns, elaborate songs, and real world pop-cultural references that appeal to older audiences while at the same time entertaining younger children. There have been three seasons so far, totaling 65 episodes, and the fourth season is set to air sometime this upcoming winter.

The show came to the attention of the Internet shortly after its debut, when an online news article decried it as the end of animated television and merely a vehicle to sell merchandise. Users of /co/ on the message board 4chan became aware of this and decided to give the show a shot, to see if the article's claims were legitimate. To their surprise, the show was excellent, and they were hooked on ponies. It was around this point when the term "brony" was coined. Interest in



Hasbro, Inc. image courtesy of Derpibooru / Crunchnugget
The "mane" characters of *My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic*.

the show then spread throughout the Internet, extending through gaming and social networking communities. It was not long before the blog Equestria Daily was founded as the premiere source of pony news and information. Following Equestria Daily were the image boards Ponibooru and Derpibooru, as well as the pony fanfiction network FIMfiction.

The fandom and the show have a reciprocal relationship, growing off of one another symbiotically. In particular, the fandom likes to focus on background ponies — ponies who don't usually have any lines but often appear in background or crowd scenes — and create fan works about them. Of note are: Derpy Hooves, a grey pegasus mare with googly eyes, largely considered the mascot of the fandom, who is characterized as a klutzy mail-carrier who loves muffins and her daughter Dinky; Lyra and Bon Bon, a pair of mares almost always seen doing things together, the former of whom behaves in oddly human-like ways and the latter of whom has multiple voices; and Doctor Whooves, a stallion whose resemblance to British actor David Tennant led to many fans thinking of him as a pony version of the Tenth Doctor from the BBC's long-running science-fiction serial *Doctor Who*.



1. Pinkie Pie
2. Rainbow Dash
3. Rarity
4. Twilight Sparkle
5. Applejack
6. Fluttershy
7. Spike

MLP:FIM also acknowledges its fandom occasionally, nodding at the bronies with in-jokes and running gags; for example, Fluttershy wanting to be a tree, or Rainbow Dash saying that something needs to be "20 percent cooler." With hundreds of ponies appearing on *MLP:FIM*, such as the DJ Vinyl Scratch, pegasus air force commander Spitfire, or Wild West cowboy Braeburn, it's no surprise that each and every one of them will be some fan's favorite character.

What astonishes many newcomers about the *My Little Pony* fandom is its sheer creative output. A significant amount of bronies create fanfiction, music, videos, and games for the consumption and entertainment of other bronies. Fanfiction in particular is exciting. Thousands of stories have been written and read, with new ones being published every day. Some of the

Omnivorous Reader

For one justice a beloved, if challenging world

Rebecca Tackie
Young D.C.

Sonia Sotomayor recently published *My Beloved World*, a memoir of the circumstances and opportunities throughout her life that inspired her to become the associate justice of the United States Supreme Court. The narrative details her upbringing by a closely-knit Puerto Rican family in the projects of New York, her journey through Princeton and Yale for her bachelor degree and law degree, and her stint as an assistant district attorney. In 1984, she entered private practice, joining a law firm in Manhattan. While in private practice she served on boards of several organizations that defended the rights of minorities, the poor and voters. All of this prepared her thoroughly for the bench, fulfilling an ambition she held since elementary school.

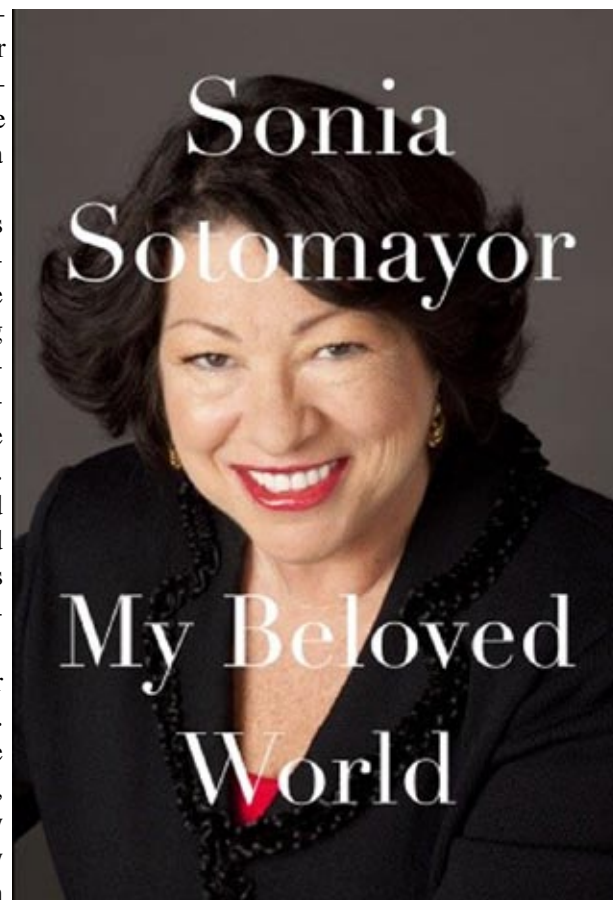
The book was written in a style similar to Maya Angelou's *I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings*. Both are essentially collections of anecdotes and lessons learned. However, Angelou's background in poetry plays a crucial role in helping the audience to relate to her elations and her lamentations. Sotomayor, the jurist, is very matter-of-fact, very cause-and-effect, and somewhat detached. Although she is not totally devoid of emotion and achieves eloquence, there is a certain distance in Sotomayor's prose. This distance is not exactly a blunt disconnection. It lies in her analytical way of thought, her fascination with facts and details and her practical, goal-driven nature. She describes events exactly as they are, in a very straightforward fashion, as opposed to Angelou's emotionally nuanced style.

Readers learn that Sotomayor is very independent, competitive and hardworking, which baffles her family, and has ruptured some of her relationships, including her marriage. But her character, including these qualities, helped her to become the nation's first Latina Supreme Court justice—and only its third woman.

Sotomayor is extremely disciplined, in all aspects of her life, which stems from her experience with childhood diabetes. The disease pushed her to learn to take care of and depend on herself at a tender age. As a young girl, her mother, toiled paycheck-to-paycheck as a poorly paid nurse, to support Sonia, her brother and her alcoholic husband. Sotomayor saw how underprivileged the rest of her family was and focused on her education. She confesses a ravenous appetite for gold stars and academic achievement ever since she was at Blessed Sacrament elementary school. Some may see her as destined for success, but readers will not be able to discount her hard work and humility in correcting flaws.

Sotomayor's story is very inspirational. However the clinical tone of her voice takes away from the story. It's difficult to relate to such perfection, such discipline and such organization. Everybody is flawed somehow, and the storytelling does not adequately portray any true faults in habit or personality that Sotomayor may have, beyond her dogged independence, which is not a valid fault, since it really serves to praise herself in a roundabout way, and suggests a prideful nature.

Rebecca Tackie, 17, is a junior at James Madison High School in Vienna, Virginia



Courtesy of Alfred A Knopf: photo by Elena Seibert
The New York Times lists *My Beloved World* by Sonia Sotomayor as a best seller for 12 weeks as this review goes to press.

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Bronies: creative wildfire

(MY LITTLE PONY, FROM PAGE 6)

most popular fanfictions are over 500,000 words long and result in the spawn of new ideas and ways of thinking about characters. Crossover fanfiction is very popular, with science-fiction series like *Starcraft*, *Doctor Who*, and *Fallout* taking the lead in number of combinations with the pony universe. There is Human in Equestria fanfiction, where a hapless human from our world gets dropped into the magical land of Equestria, and its opposite, Pony on Earth. By far, however, the largest percentage of fanfiction is shipping — short for “relationshiping” — where characters are written into romantic situations and their contrasting personalities play off each other, leading to sweet harmony.

Music and videos are another aspect of the fandom that draws attention. Hundreds of pony-themed and -inspired songs have been produced, some in a professional capacity, others in a way that benefits the fans. A select few brony

musicians have even gotten the chance to participate in the musical production of the show itself. Nearly all pony music is available for purchase or download online, making it an extremely profitable industry. On the other side, there are thousands of pony videos on sites like Youtube, including mashups with movies, fan-made show-quality animations with original voice acting, and Pony Music Videos or “PMVs” which sync up clips from the show with popular music. One part of the video section of the fandom is made of the Abridged Series, which recut episodes of the show and dub over them with new dialogue in order to create original stories and different interpretations of the characters. The two largest Abridged Series are *Friendship is Witchcraft* and *The Mentally Advanced Series*, the latter of which has a spinoff which riffs on popular fanfictions. Both have been responsible for reshaping fan ideas about the show and exploring absurdist humor. Pony videos tend to be the most frequent vehicle for

new fans to discover the brony fandom.

The final section of the fandom, the one that appears to be the most influential of them all, is the pony gaming. Pony-themed modifications and add-ons for popular video games like *Team Fortress 2*, *Minecraft*, and *Skyrim* have taken the gaming world by storm. It is not uncommon to see a *Call of Duty* player with a cutie mark insignia. And all the while, bronies are developing and programming entirely novel pony games by themselves. One such game is *Story of the Blanks*, a short “creepypasta” game about an odd little town of blank-flanked ponies in the Everfree Forest. Finnish programmer Donitz created it for a game-developing contest, and he designed it to use authentic NES graphical and musical constraints. Another game, which was the subject of infamy in recent months, was *Fighting Is Magic* by Mane6 Gaming, an MLP take on fighting games like *Mortal Kombat*. Though it was shaping to be the premiere pony game of the entire fandom, it was ultimately subjected to a cease & desist notice by Hasbro, Inc. for trademark violation. Lauren Faust herself later signed

on with Mane6 Gaming to develop original characters for them. The game has resumed production with a new engine, but it is no longer My Little Pony-related. Despite this, many bronies are still looking forward to its ultimate release.

With season four of *Friendship Is Magic* on the horizon, as well as a controversial straight-to-DVD animated movie entitled *Equestria Girls*, the fandom continues to grow, create, and change. The 2013 Brony Census put the number of fans at roughly 21,000, but it is likely that still more bronies are out there. If you live in the DC area, you might even get the chance to participate in a meetup with the DC Bronies group, who you can look for at Meetup.com. You could also attend a convention such as Bronycon or Otakon, both of which are coming up this summer. And though the ponies never say it verbatim, remember the message inherent in the show of “love and tolerance.”

Peter Berg, 17, is a junior at The Lab School of Washington in the District of Columbia.