



HEY
GUYS.

I JUST WANT
TO LET YOU
KNOW THAT MY
COUSIN WILL BE
MOVING IN WITH
ME TOMORROW.

OKAY.

I'M WARNING
YOU BECAUSE
SHE CAN BE A
LITTLE...
ROUGH.



WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?

SHE'S
FROM
ATLANTA.

SO?

SHE'S NEVER
REALLY BEEN
TO A GOOD
SCHOOL.



THERE'S
SUCH A
THING AS A
GOOD
SCHOOL?


WELL,
SCHOOLS
WITHOUT
METAL
DETECTORS.



WE'RE TURNING
THE GUEST
ROOM INTO
YOUR ROOM.

MAYBE
DON'T PLAY
THE MUSIC
SO LOUD.

MY FOLKS
DON'T LIKE
THAT.



AND ALSO
MAYBE NOT
CUSS SO
MUCH.

WHATEV'.

YOUR
SCHOOL
UNIFORM IS
ON THE BED.




A
UNIFORM?

THIS
SHIT IS
SAY.



WELL,
YOU RUN,
RIGHT?

WE HAVE
A GOOD
TRACK
TEAM.



LIKE THERE'S
ANY SPORT IN
SMOKIN' SOME
4TH TIER
SUBURBAN
CATS AND
DOGS.



HH

HH



HHH

HH!

HR!



WHO IS THIS GIRL?

I'VE GOT IT!

I'VE GOT THE STORY THAT WILL BE OUR HEADLINE FOR WEEKS!

I GOT A COPY OF THE RECORDING OF YESTERDAY'S TRACK MEET.

THIS NEW GIRL IS AS FAST AS JANIE BLACK.

THEY CROSSED THE LINE AT EXACTLY THE SAME TIME.

STUDENT RIVALRIES RARELY COME IN A FORM AS EXCITING AS THIS.

PUSH ALL THE CHESS CLUB COVERAGE OFF OF PAGE ONE.

DIDN'T YOU ONCE SAY SPORTS JOURNALISM WAS THE INTELLECTUALLY CHALLENGED STEPCILD OF REAL JOURNALISM?

NOT WHEN I DO IT!

OUR BLOG IS THE MODEL FOR OUR PAPER.

"WHO'S THE FASTEST GIRL IN SCHOOL?"

PEOPLE LIKE THAT.

IT IMPLIES THE ANSWER IS IN THE ARTICLE.

UH..

PEOPLE WANT SENSATION.

THIS STORY HAS THE POTENTIAL FOR IT ALL.

RIVALRY, ATHLETICS, TENSION... UH...

RACE?

YOU SAID IT, NOT ME.

THE NEXT STORY WILL BE ABOUT A RACE-OFF IN TWO WEEKS.

IS THERE A RACE-OFF? ARE WE JUST CREATING NEWS?

IF IT HAPPENS BECAUSE WE CREATE IT, IT'S STILL NEWS, TY.

OH.





OKAY,
OPEN THE
STOP WATCH
AND TIME ME
TO THAT
TREE.

OKAY.



ON
YOUR
MARK...



GET
SET...



GET
READY...



GAH!

THOMAS!!





ON
YOUR
MARK!

SHUT
UP!




JANIE.

HEAR
ME
OUT.

YOU EAT
RIGHT. YOU
TAKE YOUR
VITAMINS.



EVERYTHING
YOU PUT IN YOUR
BODY TO GIVE
YOU AN EDGE
COMES FROM A
GROCERY
STORE.



WHAT
IF WE JUST
SYNTHESIZED
ALL OF THAT
AND CHEMICALLY
SUPERCHARGED
IT?

IS THERE
ANY ETHICAL
DIFFERENCE?

YES!

CHANCES?

JANIE. WE
NEED TO TALK
ABOUT YOUR
CHANCES IN
THE RACE-OFF.

WELL, BASED
ON THE PLACED
BETS SO FAR,
YOUR ODDS
AREN'T GOOD.

YOU'RE
TAKING
BETS?

IT'S WHAT
THE KIDS
WANT, NOT
ME.

WHY
ARE MOST
OF THEM
BETTING ON
CLARICE?

WELL...

I
MEAN,
COME
ON...

IF YOU SAY
WHAT I *THINK*
YOU'RE GOING
TO SAY...

SO HELP
ME...

I DIDN'T
MAKE THE
WORLD,
JANIE!



CLARICE!

HEY,
CLARICE!



SOME
NEWS:

MOST
PEOPLE ARE
BETTING ON
YOU TO
WIN THE
RACE-OFF.

OF
COURSE!



I'M
TOTALLY
GOING TO
SMOKE
JANIE!

THE
BETS ARE
GETTING
HIGH.



SOME HAVE
THOUGHT ABOUT
BETTING ON
JANIE,
IF THEY KNEW YOU
WERE GOING TO,
SAY...


... LOSE ON
PURPOSE?
BIGGER
PAYOFF,
MAYBE A CUT
FOR YOU...



I DON'T
TAKE A DIVE
FOR NOBODY,
NO-HOW!


I BEEN
POOR MY
WHOLE
LIFE! I CAN
DO WITHOUT
A CUT!

I DIDN'T
MAKE THE
WORLD,
CLARICE!




WHAT DID YOU FIND OUT?

WELL, I ANALYZED EVERYTHING ABOUT JANIE AND CLARICE TO DETERMINE, SCIENTIFICALLY, THE MOST LIKELY WINNER.




I TOOK INTO ACCOUNT THEIR EFFICIENCY OF MOTION, TRAINING REGIMEN, DIET, AND RATE OF IMPROVEMENT OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS.

I USED THE ASSEMBLED INFORMATION TO DEVELOP COMPUTER MODELS AND RUN RACES BETWEEN THE MOCK-UP RUNNERS.



OUT OF 25,742 SIMULATED RACES, WITH A VARIETY OF RANDOMIZED ENVIRONMENTAL VARIABLES, THE MAJORITY OF THE RACES ENDED IN ANOTHER TIE.



NO ONE'S BET ON THE ODDS OF ANOTHER TIE...



PUT ME DOWN FOR IT.



HEY
YOU.

THAT STUPID
RABBIT WANTS
TO KNOW WHEN
WE'RE GONNA
RACE ON
SATURDAY.



SO I TOLD
HER ONE
O'CLOCK.

I CAN'T DO
IT IN THE
AFTERNOON.

I HAVE A
GYMNASTICS
COMPETITION.



WHEN I'M NOT
COMPETITIVELY
SWIMMING.

YOU'RE A
GYMNAST,
TOO?



YOU'RE
MAKING
THAT UP!

ARE YOU
SCARED?
♥

NO!

YOU'RE NOT WATCHING THE RACE?

NO.

THE OUTCOME DOESN'T HINGE ON WHETHER OR NOT I WATCH IT.

BESIDES, I CAN SPEND MY TIME DOING OTHER THINGS.

LIKE WHAT?

SEARCHING FOR NAEGLERIA FOWLERI.

WHAT IS THAT?

BRAIN-EATING AMOEBAS.

WHAT?!

OH, I'M SURE YOU'RE SAFE.

HEY!



YA'LL ARE **CRAZY**, YOU KNOW THAT?

YOU SET UP A BET AGAINST YOUR FRIEND AND TRIED TO **RIG IT!**

WELL, MAYBE I **DO** KINDA MAKE THE WORLD.

JUST A LITTLE OONSY BIT...

HER BROTHER TRIED TO MESS UP HER WORKOUTS!

AND NOW YOU'RE ALL HANGIN' OUT LIKE **BEST FRIENDS!**

THERE'D A BEEN SOME **FIGHTS** WHERE I CAME FROM!

IT'S CALLED: "IT DOESN'T MATTER BECAUSE WE'RE JUST BEING KIDS."

YOU SHOULD TRY IT.

HUFF

WE HAVE A SPARE ROD IF YOU WANT.

"SIGH" I GUESS.