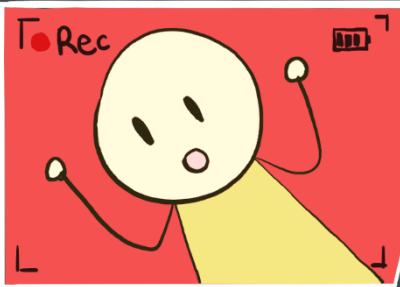
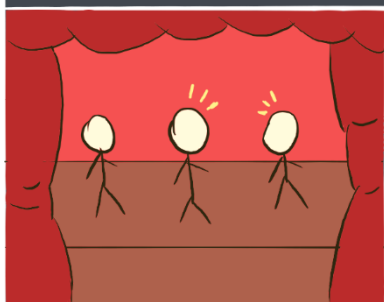
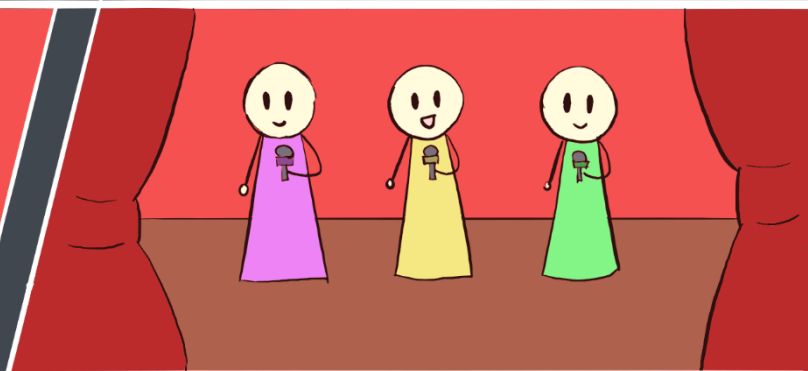


Interview of 18266A  
Cheryl, Ellie, Annie  
18266A  
Houston, TX



Testing? Testing? Ah there it is.



Uh...who wants to go first?  
Alphabetical order is fine.

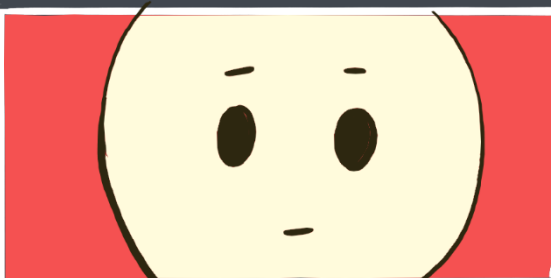
Hello everyone, you're just on time for an interview of 18266A Team Continue!  
As a brief introduction, we are a team of 3 that decided to compete independently starting this season.  
My name is Cheryl, the team lead and your host for today's show!



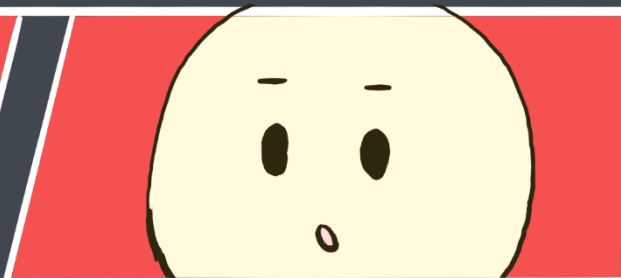
Alright. My name is Annie, and I mostly help with building and scouting.  
My name is Ellie. I'm a builder on the team.



Cool, despite the fact that we are all stick figures, you are now familiar with our faces. The plan for today looks like this:  
The first few questions are for all of us, then we'll get to ask each other questions!  
Let me see.....Ah! First one of the day: Why did you decide to create an independent team?



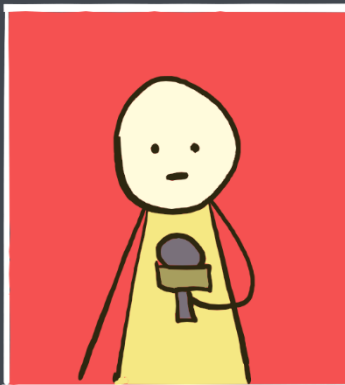
Oh that was a while ago.



Yeah. I think you should answer this question.



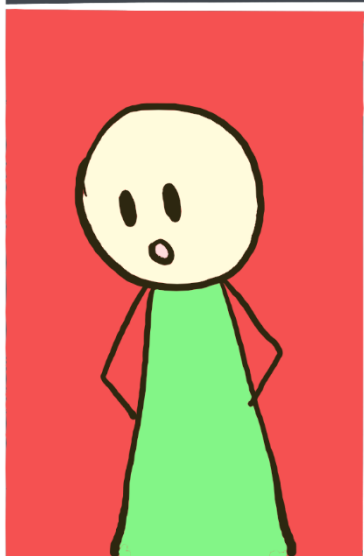
Well...This is a very long and complicated story, but one of the reason is that over the past few years of VRC,



no matter what role I started with in the beginning of the season, I always end up with notebook and taking apart failed prototypes.

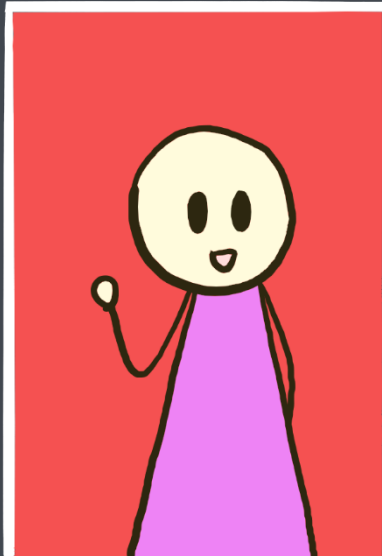


I think my teammates probably have the misconception that notebook is the only thing I can work with.



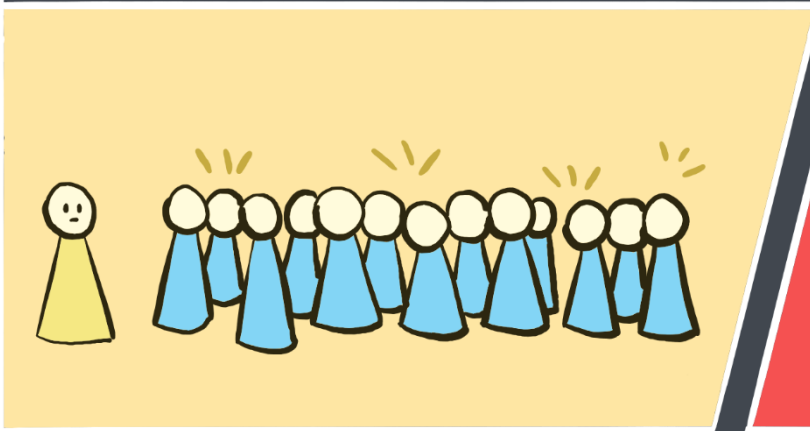
A few years ago I was on the same IQ team as Cheryl and we got State Finalist. We were just one step away from qualifying for Worlds, so this year we want to see if we can go further.

My school doesn't have a competitive robotics program, so I'm on this team.

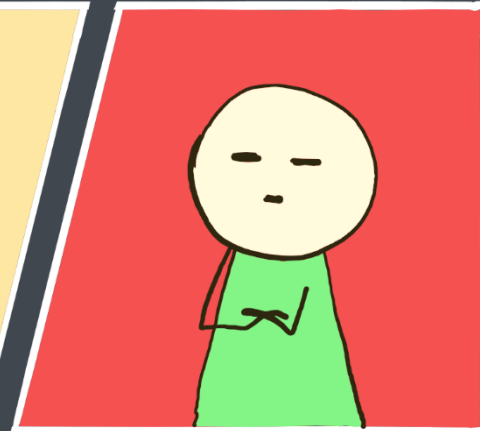




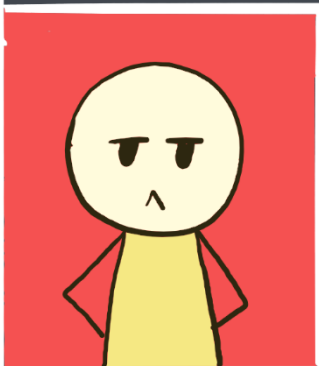
My school is exactly the opposite. We are a huge club of 70 people and sometimes it felt overwhelming.



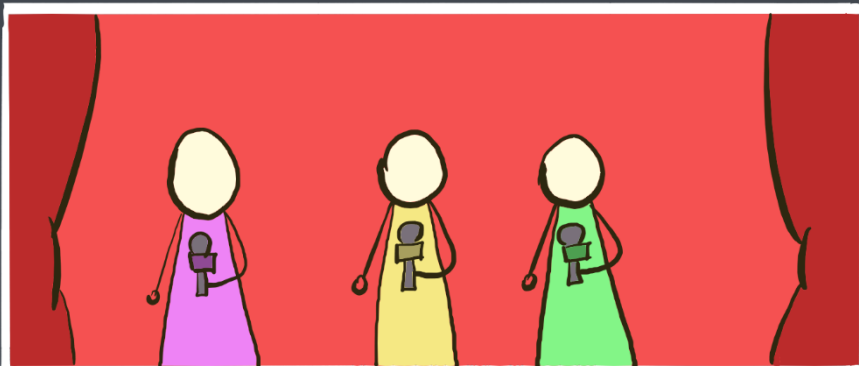
I remember my first year in the club I was stuck in the corner of a tiny room with 30 boys. The problem is, I didn't even know where to look.



That was tough.



Ok, done with sad stories. Let's switch to something brighter.

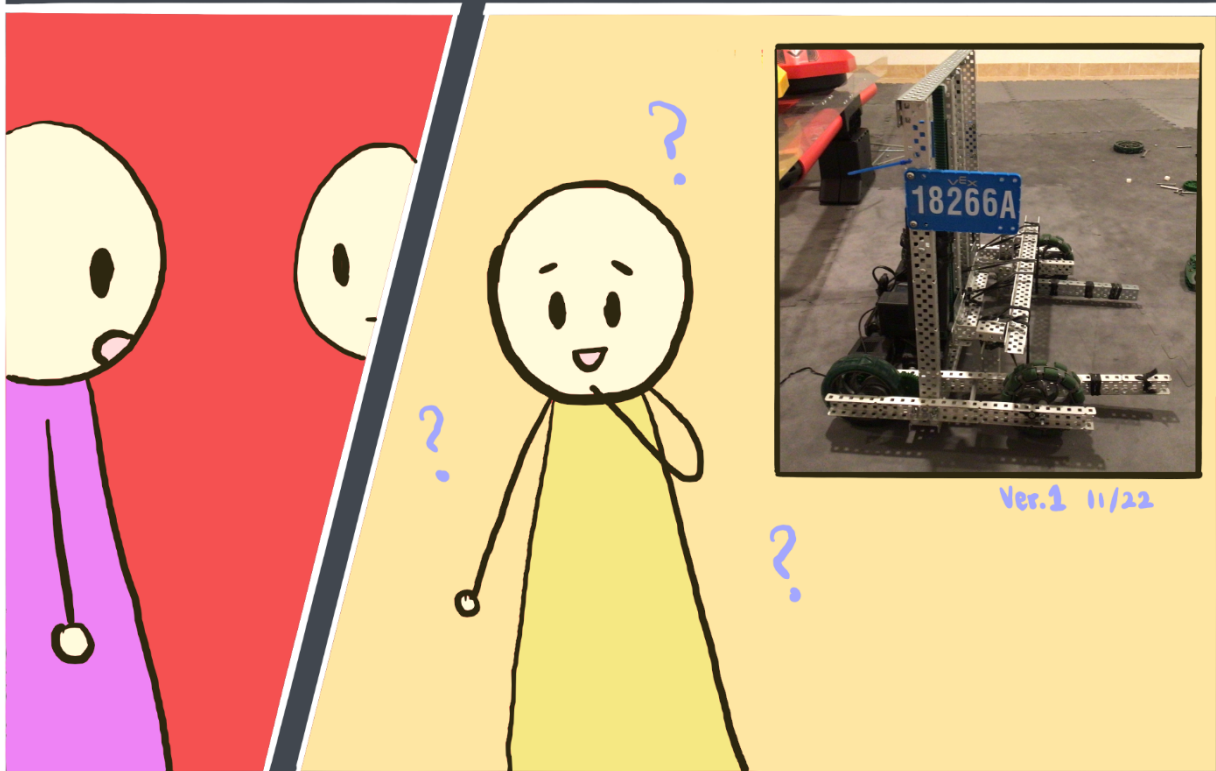


During our last tournament in December, we brought back Tournament Champion and Excellence award. What does it feel like?



Awesome. We were finally able to see all our hard work pay off and have some more motivation to continue our journey.

It's still a bit surreal right now. Everything we did built up to this one moment where we captured everything we dreamed.



What did you feel like?

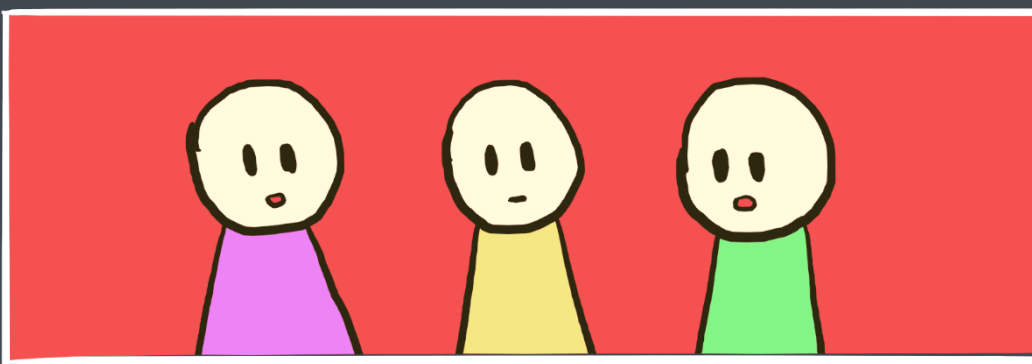
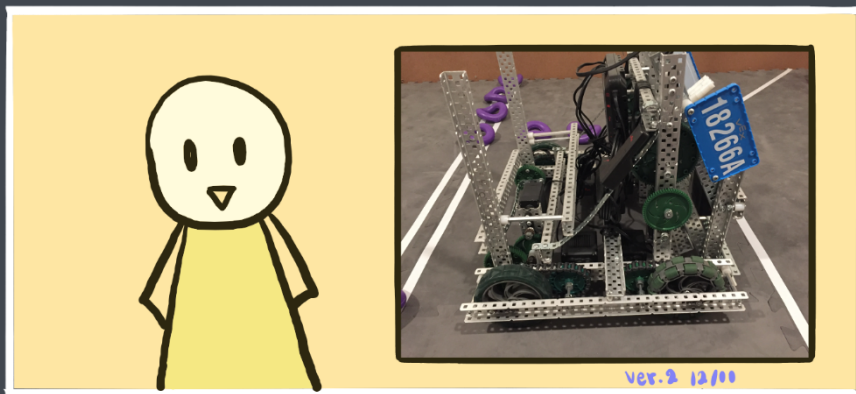
At first it felt unreal. Then it felt bewildering. I mean, we had our first tournament three weeks before that and we barely got the robot to move.



To be honest, I'm not terribly surprised that many teams seemed disappointed to be our alliance at the time.

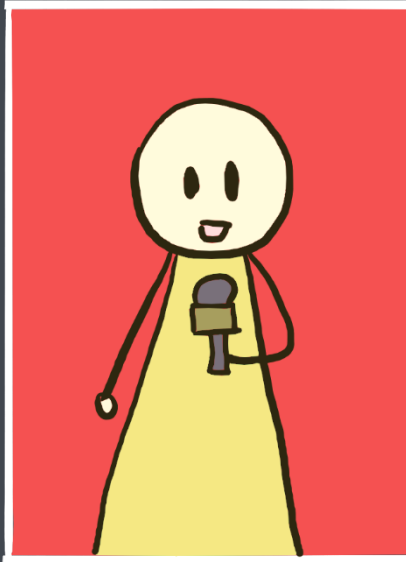
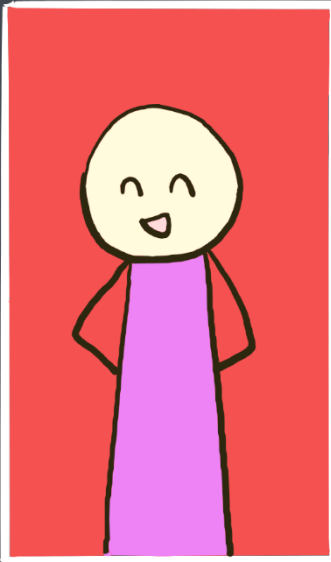
Yeah, we were not very prepared for our first tournament. The robot just got ready 7 hours before we leave.

Well, it's normal for anything to go horrible on our first competition, I'm glad we're doing a lot better now. The next one is good. What are some difficulties your team faced?



We had to do everything since we don't have a coach to take care of things like registration and finance. Out of all the problems I think the hardest one is getting parts for the robot.

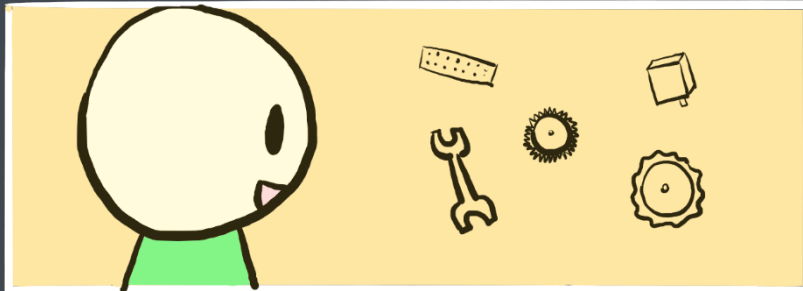
Almost everything on VEX is backordered, so we had to contact regional support manager for help.



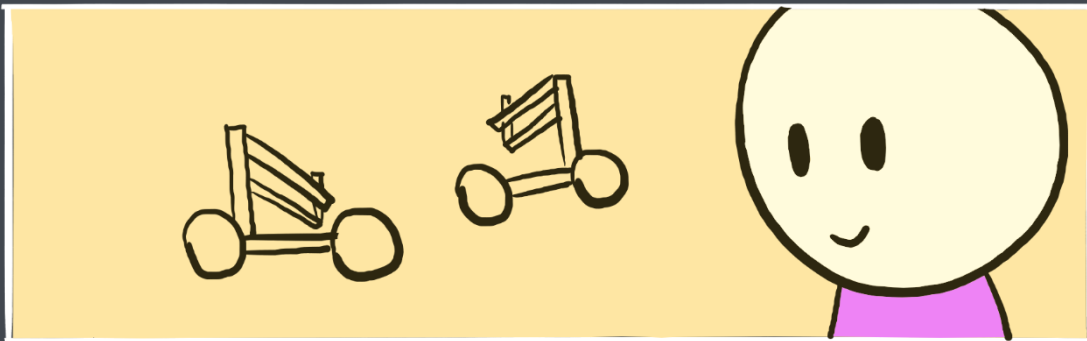
She offered us a lot of solutions, and in the end VEX also gave us a special exception to ship the V5 system bundle to us so we can at least compete.

Yes. After this experience we learned that you always have to actively look for solutions rather than waiting for it

Let's continue to our our next question! Now these questions are for each of us individually. The first one is simple: Why robotics?



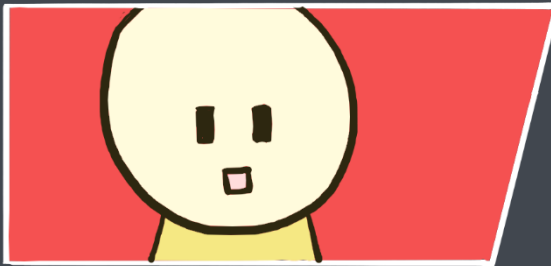
At first I wanted to do robotics because one of my friends was doing it and it seemed like something I could be good at. I think being able to piece things together and making it do something is a calming and rewarding process.



Cheryl was the first person to give me insight in robotics. I got very interested in how robots can complete tasks without human intervention.

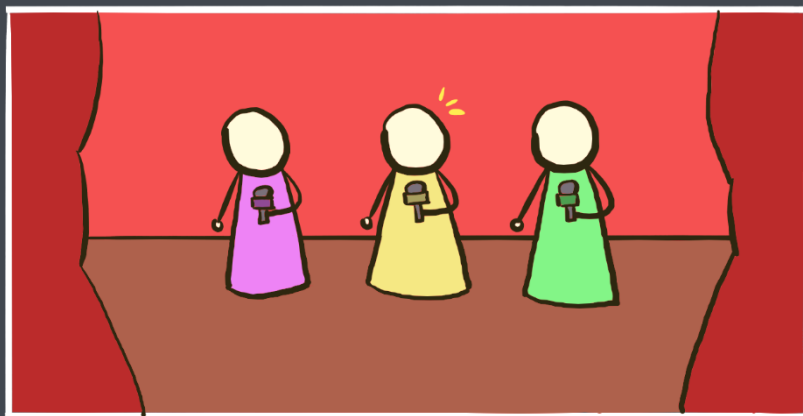


Hmmm.....I like the people there. I like competitive robotics because I get to meet so many wonderful humans that share the same passion with me. Like a team that was always optimistic no matter how low their ranking is, like a one-person team that was willing to drive to other cities just for a chance to qualify for regionals, like so many insanely good teams that are still willing to share their knowledge, like—



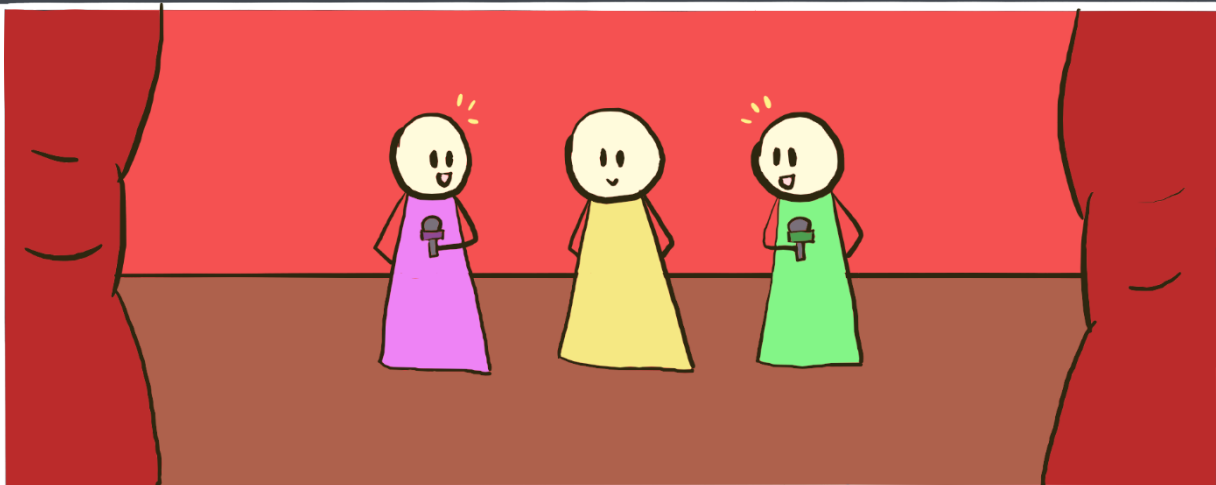
We have a word limit you know?

Oh yeah.



The next question: Who are your role models?



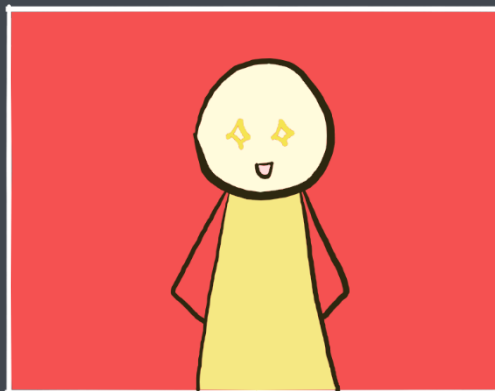


One of mine is Entrapta from one of my favorite cartoons, She-ra. She is a genius princess who is able to hack into different devices and hubs in order to make robots and other electronics to do what she wants. Her character shows the complexities of teamwork and friendship, but it also shows how someone with the highest level of intelligence still needs some help from their friends in order to create things that can work in diverse situations and will be overall better.

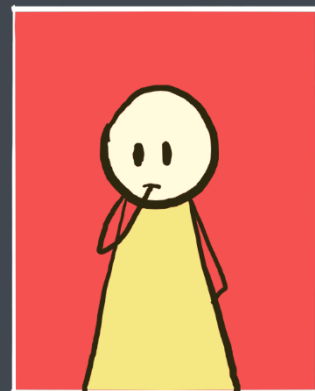
I really admire Ruth Bader Ginsburg. She influenced the lives of millions by taking a number of sex discrimination cases as a lawyer. And whether you liked her view of the Constitution or not, she held firm to her beliefs, never wavering in defending her view to anyone who would listen with an open heart and an inquisitive mind.



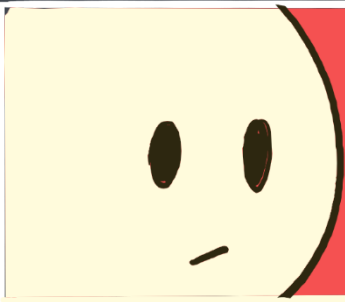
One of the few movies I watched in a movie theater is Hidden Figures. The three girls featured are magical.



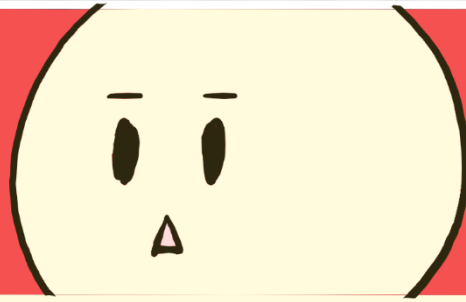
I highly suggest you take some time to watch the movie. Yes I'm talking to you, the audience of this interview. Oh, my favorite line is this one from Mary Jackson.



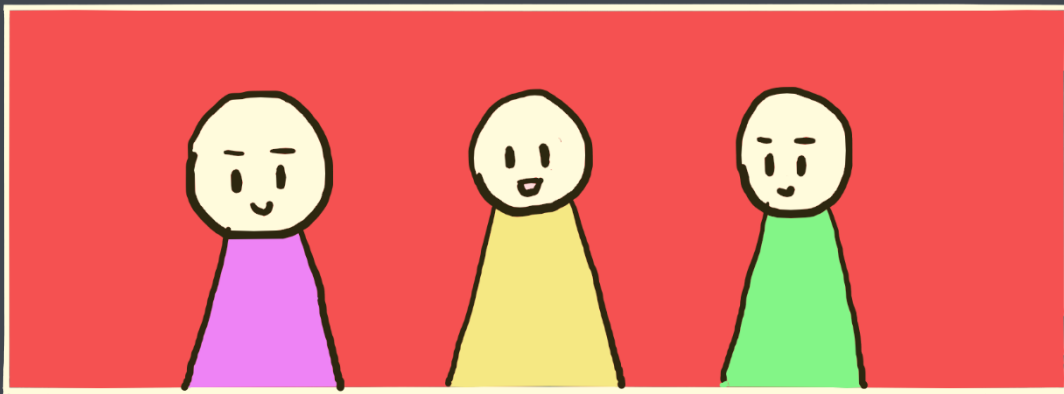
\*Cough cough



"If you are a white male, would you wish to be an engineer?"



"I wouldn't have to, I'd already be one."



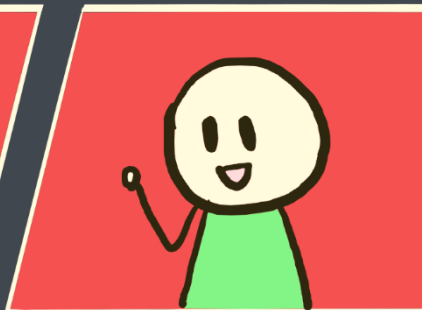
Alright next question. What is your definition of girl powered?

We finally remember what today's topic should be.

Agree.

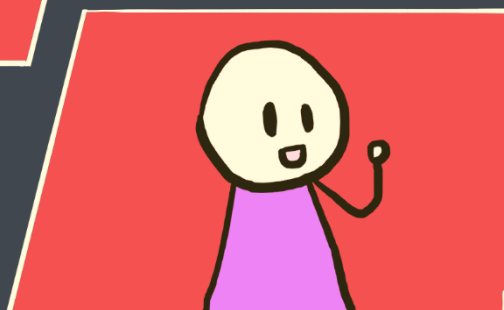


Uh...haha...  
so what do  
you think?

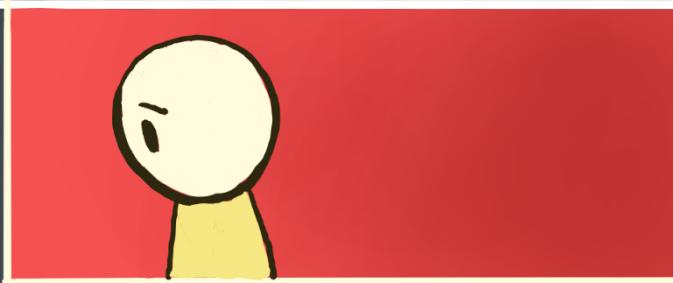


To me it means that girls should have the same chance as guys and for all genders to be equal in everyone's eyes. It also means that projects should be powered by brains of all genders.

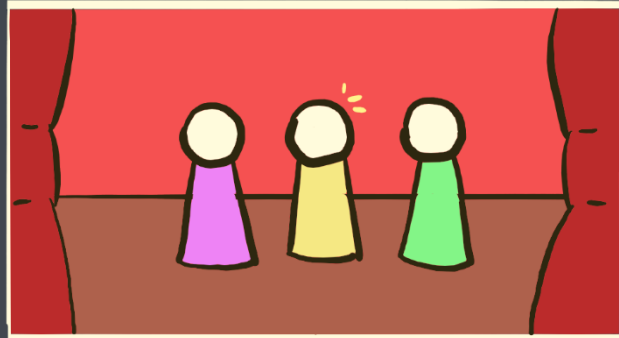
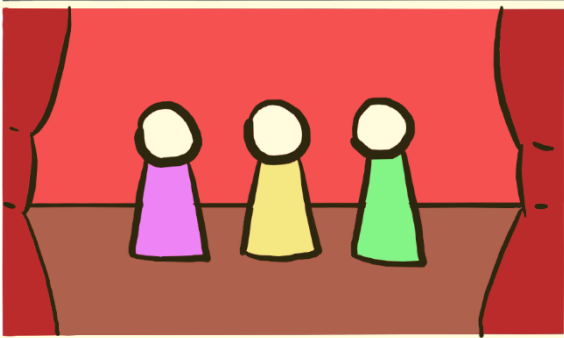
Girl power is being independent and fearless. Every girl should have a choice on their education as well as the passion they work for and be financially self-sufficient.



For me, this is a very heavy topic. I usually prevent myself from answering those questions, but I'll recite some sentences I wrote for a school assignment:

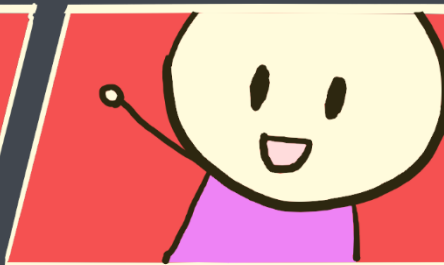


"Imagine the world being a big wardrobe of hobbies and passions that we all can choose with freedom. It is not a shame to be uniquely dressed, thus no one is required to reject their identity in order to put something on. I wish there will be a day where boys are able to acquire so-called "feminine" attributes without being afraid of getting bullied. I wish someday, girl powered programs lose their necessity because our sisters already have the courage to step in these traditionally 'masculine' fields."



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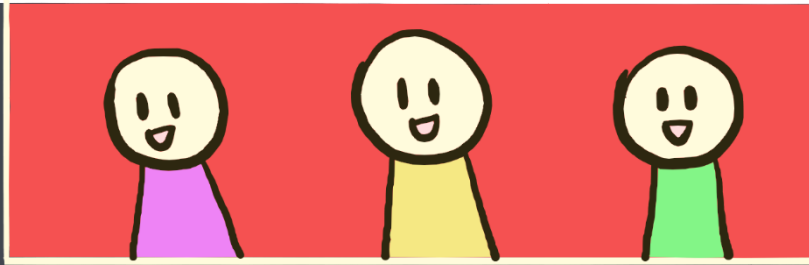
Alright, last question of the day. You ready for this?  
What is your goal for this season?



Make it to Worlds!

Make it to Worlds, and better teamwork.

Yes, definitely make it to Worlds, that's probably part of the reason why we're here doing this interview.



I also want to make an auton and mobile goal lift.

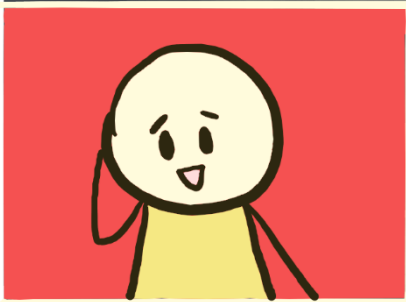
Ah you're going very detailed.

In the future I want to help more with programming skills and testing.

Same here!

At this point of the season we are not ready for those yet, but I'll make sure you can work on them when we get there. That's my promise.

What is your goal?



Ah...hahahaha...



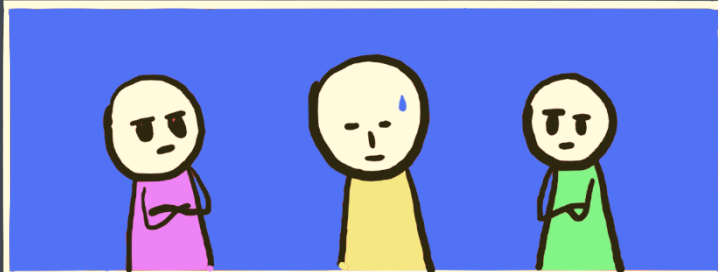
If I say world champion, will you believe in me?

No.

Our goal is clearly inflating.

We should stick to something more realistic.

Then we'll see where the future will take us.



Oh, word limit warning! We'll end today's interview by saying our team name.

