

inscapism

“The Almost Everything Magazine”
Issue 4½ / Christmas 2024

MERRY CHRISTMAS

PLUS



HALF LIFE 2
THE VALVE CLASSIC
TURNS 20



CHRISTMAS IN NOVEMBER

Is it a crime to celebrate the holiday early?



WINTER WARMERS

(WHICH IS BEST? SANTA'S
SLEIGH OR THE VOLVO
V90?)

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What to expect?



Reviews

Which one's better, a new/used Volvo or Santa's sleigh?



What's hot?

Sonic's back in theaters, baby!



Comic Corner

Porsche feels different today...

Welcome to Issue 4½!

Who doesn't love Christmas? Decorations, presents and goodwill to all. We want to spread some goodwill to you, so as our gift to you, the reader, have a special festive mini-issue to celebrate this amazing season. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Festive greetings, Finley Farrah (and G.B.)





inksplat here.

Merriest of all Christmases.

My name is InkSplat, as you can tell.
I'm taking a break from working on that video
game to work on a brand new indie animation
pilot called "InkSpill MEGA," and another
video game based on said pilot.
Please go to inscapism.co.uk to find out
more.

inksplat out.





Our favourite hedgehog is back on the big screen!

What started as a internet laughing stock has become one of the greatest movie franchises of recent years. A love letter to all things Sonic disguised as a normal CGI live action hybrid movie. The first two movies were fantastic and from what we've seen so will this one. The main selling point of this movie is the ultimate lifeform himself... Shadow. We don't know much about it yet, but the movie looks like it will take place in the USA, Japan and **the UK.** Are you excited? Because we are!

by Harry Watson

Release date: 21/12/2024 (UK), 26/12/2024 (USA And everywhere else)

What's Hot?

Christmas and when to decorate *by Jake Wood*



Christmas a holiday that is supposed to happen in the month December, this holiday has broken loose and gone rogue. As many people are starting to celebrate it earlier in November ruining the December Christmas spirit, derailing the holiday and running it into the ground.

Nowadays this can be a real problem because, eventually this could stretch the advent calendars to be partially in November. This would ruin them permanently... which is great... its not like it would tear Christmas to shreds, eventually breaking the space time continuum and tearing our universe as we know it...



Ebz's Zone



Hey readers! It's Ebz again! And welcome to the second instalment of Ebz's zone!! In this segment I thought we could chat more about Sonic's number one rival, and the star of Sonic X Shadow Generations: The ultimate lifeform himself, Shadow the hedgehog!

Rather than a full description on his backstory and lore, I thought this time I could tell you some interesting facts you probably didn't know! And I can confirm that all these facts are 100% accurate, so let's dive in!!

(PS, most of this is sourced via the Sonic twitter takeover, which was confirmed as canon, so yeah, all this is true!)

Firstly, as sourced by the Sonic Twitter takeover, did you know that Shadow loves to eat coffee beans? He eats the beans over a cup of coffee any day, believing that the beans straight is "proper coffee" and a coffee that you drink is simply "coffee flavoured water" Secondly, did you know that Shadow's favourite scent is lavender? Often this is stated, and he even claims he smells of it.

Shadow has a 20 step skin care routine, in his own words keeping him "young and youthful".

Shadow is around 50-55 Years old. Yeah, he's an "old codger"!

Did you know that Shadow is immortal? He's not your average hedgehog, he's the ultimate lifeform, created with black arms DNA, via a deal with black doom to cure Gerald's granddaughter Maria. Shadow was not the original "ultimate lifeform".

Many attempts were made, however they all failed. The first known attempt was a creature called the "Biolizard".

Before Shadow's design was confirmed in development in Sonic adventure 2, Shadow wasn't the Shadow we all know and love, in fact, he looked rather different, and even had a different name! Originally Shadow was going to be known as *Terios* the hedgehog!

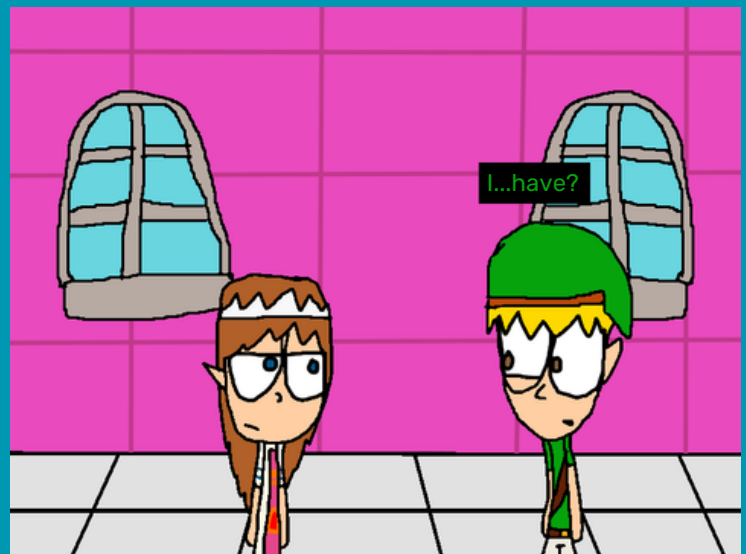
The Community has Constantly joked about how Shadow has a Fondness for the "Latina" and The country of Mexico, even willing to steal people's passports to get there. (He keeps losing his.)

His Name was accidently leaked thanks to the toy company "ReSaurus", Which went bankrupt around a few weeks later.

Finally, for the last crazy and bizarre fact of today, Shadow is confirmed to be a Swifty (Taylor Swift fan). No, this is not a joke, this is 100% cannon as said by the Sonic Twitter takeover. It has also stated recently that Shadow is a fan of Sabrina Carpenter too, so yeah.. not what you expected, huh? He even apparently went with Amy Rose to a Taylor Swift concert!

Super Smash Gags

by Jack Tivnan



The Porsche Strips



Illustrated by Harry W

InkSplat's Comic by Finley Farrah "Merry Christmas"



JASPER COMIX

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#3: Piece-ful at last



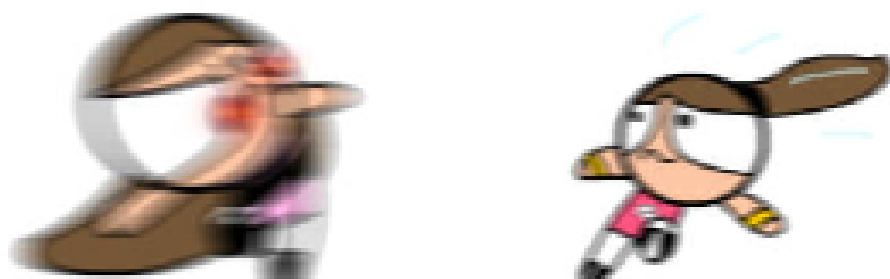
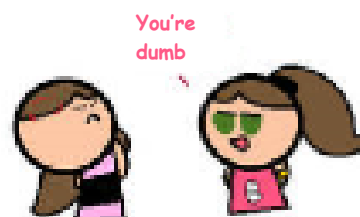
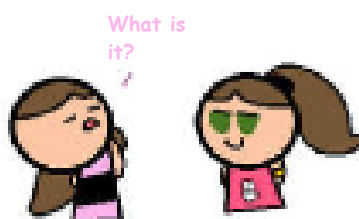
By George B.

(Creator's note: That gal and the mexican cuckoo clock are not jasper to any newbies. also, they're cats.)

LIFE OF LILLIAN

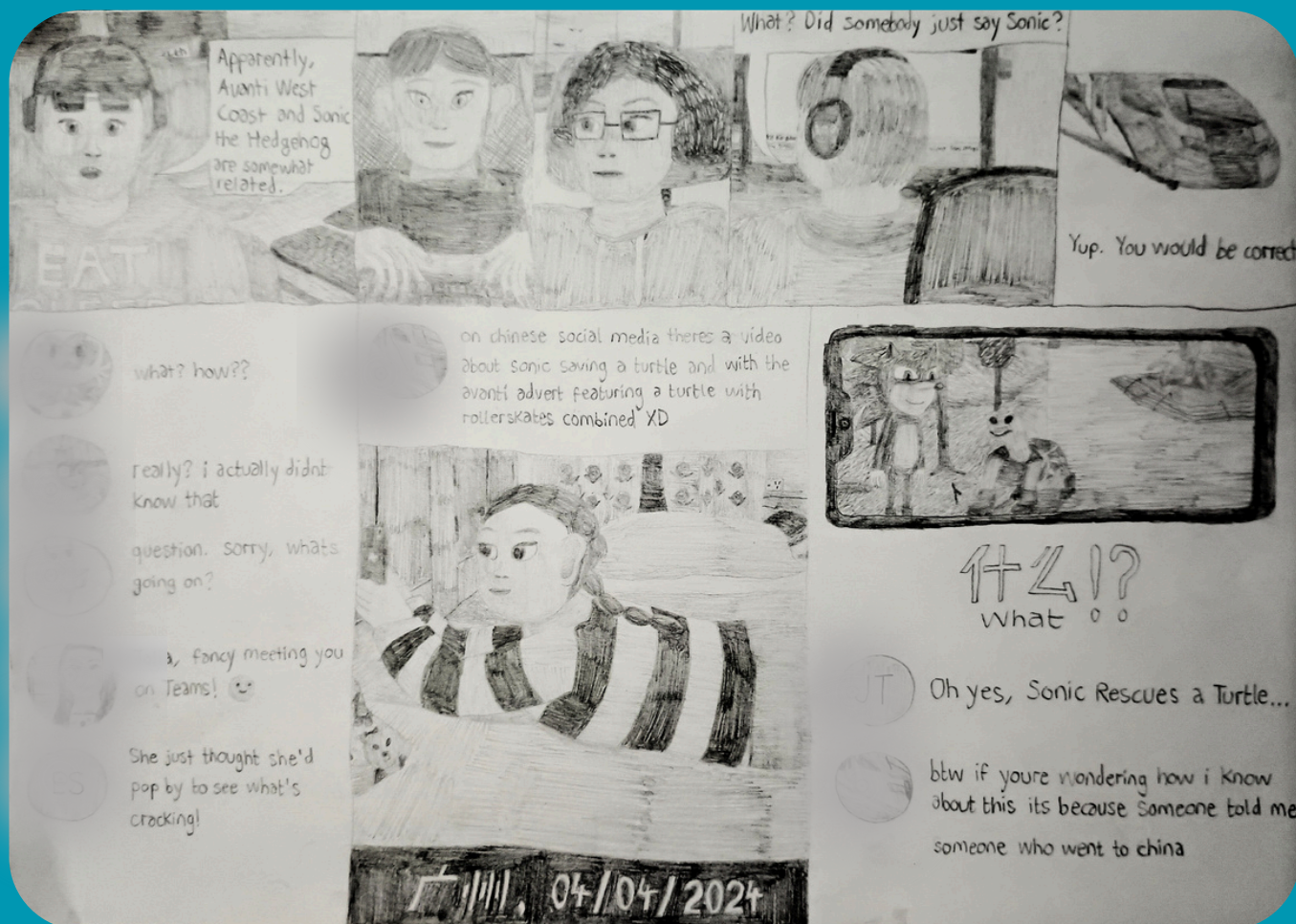
"Me when someone insults me"

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By lillianlover2007 on deviantart censored
version by harry watson

"Avanti West Coast has Gotta Go Fast"



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Note: The identities of real people depicted in Leo's comic have been censored.

20 Years On, A Half-Life 2 Retrospective



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On November 16th 2004, Valve released Half-Life 2, what went on to change the first-person shooter genre forever, yet it nearly got cancelled.

From 1999 to 2001, Half-Life 2's storyline had not been solidified, but the narrative of humanity being enslaved by an alien empire known as the "Combine" began forming.

By 2002, a lot of the "darker" elements of Half-Life 2's storyline was scrapped, such as the combine empire poisoning the air with the "Air Exchange". However, the combine draining Earth's oceans was kept in retail.

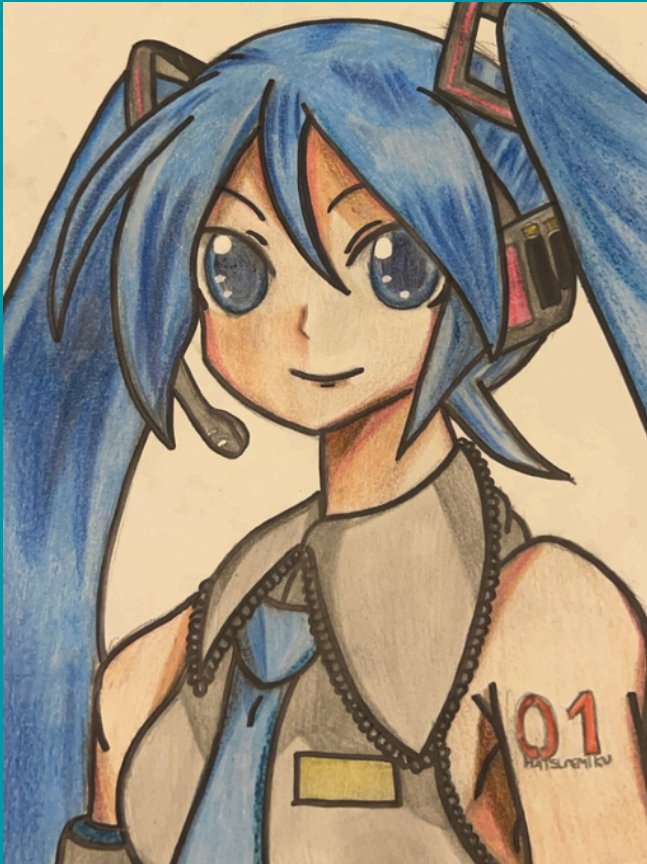
A 2002 E3 showcase of Half-Life 2 was planned, but cancelled due to the rushed state of the demo. By early 2003 the story had largely been completed, and work on storyline maps began for a September 30th release on the same year. Half-Life 2 was fully announced at E3 2003 with a more expanded version of the cancelled 2002 E3 demo.

Yet disaster struck on September 19th 2003, when a German hacker, called Axel Gemble, had took advantage of a server breach and shared Half-Life 2s source code with his friends, what quickly began spreading online.

Valve had been majorly demoralized by the leak, with Half-Life 2 being delayed to an unknown date in 2004, with it's development team returning to work after Christmas 2003.

However, morale increased during 2004, when cuts and reworks to the storyline gave greatly increased feedback, with Half-Life 2 being fully finished by October 14th.

The legacy of Half-Life 2 still sends ripples through gaming history. Without it, gaming would be a lot worse.



'Miku' by Ebz



**"May and her pokemon"
by Ebz**



'Dragonite' by Ebz

Got some art YOU want to display in our magazine? let us know by writing to inscapism@togethertrust.org.uk and your art could be featured in the next edition of L'art Pour L'art

"We gon' be alright"

Released: 2024

Piece by Piece

I don't usually watch biographies. I usually like documentaries about certain topics, if they're interesting and well-edited like Netflix's "The Toys That Made Us". However, there seems to be a new trend of biography documentaries that are CGI animated, such as Robbie Williams' "Better Man" (starring him as a CGI monkey), or Pharrell Williams' amazing film "Piece by Piece".

"Piece by Piece" is fully animated in the style of the LEGO Movie series, made using CGI within the physical limits of real-life LEGO pieces, but is based on real events.

"Piece by Piece" follows Pharrell through his life, from his childhood to his sudden rise in fame, and how he kept making a name for himself no matter how many times he was told "no." Piece by Piece does miss out a few important things, such as the copyright case involving his song "Blurred Lines," but is too visually striking and genuinely inspirational not to hate. It also has an amazing soundtrack, which you would expect from a film about a music producer. I give it a Full-On **TEN**.

10/10: Please watch it, it's gonna change your life.
Written by Finley Farrah



Volvo v90 vs Santa's sleigh

Released: 2016 and Unknown

The job of Jolly Ol' Saint Nick has got to be the most important one out there. Delivering presents (and sometimes coal) to every child in the world in one, yes, **ONE** night. So naturally he needs a vehicle that can do the job. That being his iconic sleigh. However is there a better solution? To find out Santa kindly let me borrow his sleigh and I put it up against a similar vehicle. The Volvo V90.

So you might be wondering what does a sleigh and a Swedish estate car have in common? Well quite a bit actually. Both vehicles were built to conquer icy temperatures because, let's not forget with Volvo originating from Sweden, their cars were built for snowy temperatures just like the sleigh. Not to mention plenty of room for presents and extremely reliable.

But in all fairness there are many reasons why the Volvo is better. For example you can't imagine the sleigh having air conditioning, which is especially troublesome for a convertible. While the Volvo on the other hand doesn't only have air conditioning, but also has a roof keeping out the cold weather and keeping you warm. The Volvo's also more comfy than the sleigh with its choice of charcoal and blond leather seats. While the sleigh has just old school hard bench seats. Yes, the sleigh will deliver all of Santa's presents in just 1 night, but with his magical reindeer pulling it, can't the Volvo too? It's got a fantastic amount of boot space and can happily sit at its top speed of 112mph, no reindeer required.

As for entertainment the Volvo has a radio Bluetooth and a iPad styled display screen, which is easy to produce and more relaxing to use. Amazon and BBC petrol head Jeremy Clarkson described it like sitting in Sarah Lund's mood room. Which is more than we can say for the sleigh. The interior, if you can even call it that, is completely bare. There's not even a glovebox! The Volvo is more accessible as well. With a good, brand new plug in hybrid version, setting you back just under £60,000 at the cheapest. Or, if you're like me and don't fancy a hybrid plug in, a used petrol or diesel version will cost you £16,000-to £26,000. Santa's sleigh is out of the question though, considering there's only one of it. And don't get me started on safety. The Volvo has crumple zones airbags ABS ESC and a SOS hotline so you can call for help. The sleigh doesn't...need I say more? Okay, so used variations of the Volvo have a diesel engine that clatters like an Old grey Ferguson tractor, and the voice activation system is a pain to use, but overall it's the better pick out of the two. Its more safe its more comfy more usable on a day to day basis, and just as useable as the sleigh if Santa lets the reindeer pull it. The sleigh is by far a Christmas icon, but let's face it. Its 2024. The safety and comfort of Santa is just as important as the safety and comfort of all the kids of the world. All things considered I'll have the Volvo.

WRITTEN BY HARRY WATSON
(And a tiny bit by G.B.)

The Grand Tour: Sand Job *“63°F and it thinks its in Nottingham?!”*

Released: 2024

If you've got the spirt of adventure a knack for trouble and humour and consider yourself a bit of a petrol head, then has amazon got the feature length special for you. The grand tour's second newest special sand job! Staring the presenter trio of Jeremy Clarkson Richard Hammond and James may. Challenged to build a Dakar rally raid car for a budget the 3 buy and modify 3 sports cars a Maserati Grancabrio an Aston Martin DB9 volante and a Jaguar F-type convertible. Their venue? The mystic sandy Mauritania which is in the west of Africa. In which they trek across the mighty Sahara desert and towards Dakar where their journey will be complete. On the way they get up to all sorts of mischief such as fixing a road drag racing on a public road crossing a river and trying to protect a fuel tanker. (which they fail spectacularly) Being a fan of these 3 for years I am immediately hooked on this. But, I think that you too can enjoy this. Its just one of those programs where you can sit back and laugh shamelessly too. High stakes higher laughter! Well done Clarkson Hammond and May!



"She Goes Away For Three Days And All We Get Is Good?"

Ever looked at someone and wondered what's going on inside their head? Well.... we already found out in 2015 when Disney released the emotional rollercoaster of a movie *Inside Out*. 9 years later, Riley and her emotions are back in not only the best animated movie sequel of 2024, but one of the best animated movies of 2024 full stop! Riley and her new friends Grace and Bree have been selected to join a hockey camp but coach Roberts won't be their coach next year. And to make matters worse, Riley has entered puberty and her body starts changing. Enter the new emotions; anxiety, envy, embarrassment and ennui. Fittingly anxiety gets ahead of her self and plans to far into Riley's future making her hang out with the captain of the fire hawks Val than Riley's actual friends. Sensing things aren't right, Joy and the other emotions try to fight back but get kicked out by anxiety, meaning

Inside Out 2 Released: 2024

they have to go on an epic journey to get back to headquarters just like in the last movie, but with a twist. They not only have to get back to HQ, but keep Riley stable in process. This movie is a perfect representation of what happens to your body when you reach puberty. Fantastic animation, great characters, funny jokes, gripping story and brilliant voice acting makes this a must-see movie for all ages. Fun fact: they actually got real-life teenagers to make sure the emotions of Riley throughout the movie are accurate to an actual teenager which shows how much effort they put into this film. Speaking as a teenager who went through the same emotions in the film, I can tell you this movie is a charming yet logical take on puberty. Well done, Pixar!

10/10

WRITTEN BY HARRY WATSON

The Inscapism interview

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Hi everyone, its Ebz! What's that you're saying? This ain't Ebzs zone? Well, say hello to the interview zone!! As a student journalist, it is my job to interview interesting people you guys want to hear about! So, I went searching, and searching through the entire world, which lead me back to inscape school. Justyna today will be answering some questions I asked, so let's get into it!

How is Christmas different in Poland compared to the UK?

Christmas in Poland begins on the evening of Christmas Eve, December 24th. This celebration is not unique to Poland; countries like Germany, the Czech Republic, etc., also celebrate Christmas Eve. Even the English royal family opens presents on Christmas Eve to honour their German heritage.

In Poland, Christmas Eve features a fasting tradition leading to the Wigilia supper. The supper begins when the first star appears in the sky. Traditionally, red meat is not served; fish is the main dish. After the Christmas Eve supper, presents are opened, and many people attend church for the Christmas Mass at midnight.

What is polish food like?

Polish food is delicious, but it does take time to prepare. My favorite cake during Christmas is poppy seed cake, which I plan to make this year. I also love pierogi, dumplings filled with meat and wild mushrooms.

Barszcz czerwony, or beetroot soup, is the best soup ever and is often enjoyed during Christmas. The soup is typically served with small dumplings filled with wild mushrooms.

When I visit Poland, I enjoy potato pancakes served with stew and a side salad. The side salad, known as "stroke," is made with raw vegetables like leeks and apples and dressed in cream. There are different types of surowka, each offering a unique flavour. Another dish I absolutely love is plane dumplings served with meat and accompanied by surowka. We tend to eat a lot of raw vegetables, but we also like meat dishes and potatoes, as some dumplings are made from potatoes.

Who is your favourite student?

All of my students are my favorites for different reasons, and each one brings a smile to my face. I love teaching food technology because my lessons provide opportunities for students to socialize, taste the food they've prepared, and have an overall fun experience.

Tell me about your cat...

My cat is the cutest and also the most spoiled. He is 4 years old and has been with us since February 24. He is a rescue cat, ginger, and very handsome—though I might be biased! He spends most of his time sleeping on our sofa or in my bed, but he also loves to play. His favourite toy is a feather wand, and he jumps and pounces like a little kitten when he plays with it. He loves to play in our garden too, but he doesn't go outside in the winter because it gets dark quickly. I'm worried and trying to find him, but when he is outside, he thinks he's a cool kid and tends to ignore me.

Why did you move to England?

I came to England 18 years ago, initially thinking I would only stay for a few months to learn English. However, I eventually realised that I was very happy here.



I love England for many reasons. For example, it is very multicultural, and I have discovered foods from different cultures that I had never tried before.

The only aspect I don't like is the weather; there is too much rain and not enough sun. Although Poland is known for its winter snow and average temperatures around -10°C , I find the cold there more bearable because it's dry, as Poland is not surrounded by water. In contrast, England's damp/wet winter cold feels more intense. In the summer, the weather in Poland is great, allowing for swimming in the sea, among other activities. I usually visit Poland during the summer since working at a school gives me that opportunity.

And that's about a wrap. Thank you to Justyna for kindly letting me interview her!

Do you want to be interviewed for the magazine? Or know anyone that has some stories to share? Get in touch with us!!

Meet our Team!



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