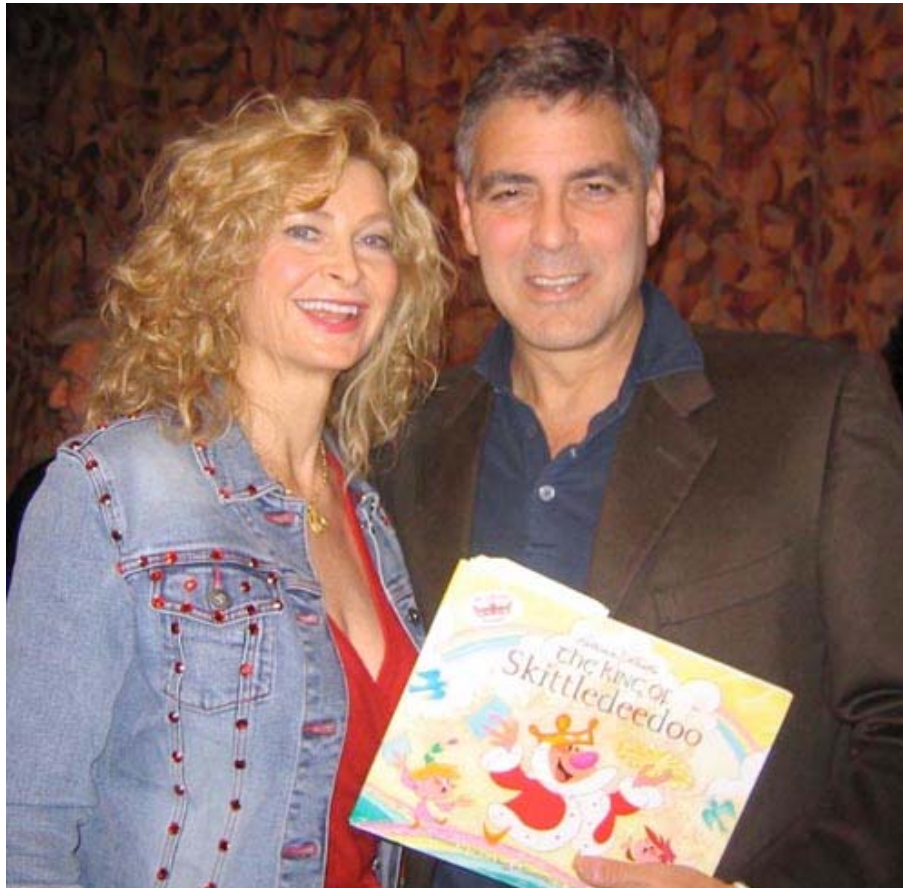


Volume 4, Issue 9
November, 2005
Edited by: Patricia Rust, Founder, and Aryn Kennedy
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Patricia Rust and George Clooney discuss the literate life after the WGA screening of **Good night, and Good Luck**.

A Few Words about new WGA member George Clooney

After a fabulously successful career in front of the camera, George has paid homage to his journalistic family's roots with **Good Night, and Good Luck**. While George has already successfully directed, his co-writing debut with (Grant Herzog) of **Good Night, and Good Luck** is truly a treat using the real life footage of Senator Joe McCarthy playing himself that is altogether inspired as the audience watches as one man tries to cripple a great nation. Enter George Clooney. As CBS executive Fred Friendly, he stands behind and beside Edward R. Murrow, an American hero and icon fighting a dangerous fire of ignorance that would eventually consume many innocents in its heat. Lest history not repeat itself, **Good Night, and Good Luck**

says that we need heroes and we need as many as we can. Now and urgently, we need people to use their “noodles” and think, ask questions, and formulate policy and opinions. Learning, listening, and doing are all part of what make a nation (and kingdom!) great.

Coupled with a breezy style and a dialog that has people congratulating the WORDS of the film and audibly cheering for Edward R. Murrow, played here by the seemingly channeling David Straithairn, writing and producing seem to come easily to Clooney, a hard working talent who wants to do projects of merit and **Good Night, and Good Luck** is all that and more. It’s a movie about thinking in an era when we are told what to think every time we turn around. We wish George and the film every success and thank him for caring so deeply about the power of words and education! Words of advice from George Clooney? “Ask questions!” And what does the King of Skittledeedoo vow to do every day? Learn one new thing! George Clooney is our prince in the royal kingdom of reading with The King of Skittledeedoo, as his intelligence takes his screen talents to new and pioneering vistas. Good luck, George, and thank you for being a hero and profiling one!

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CHILDREN'S STORY:

Snowboarding or Noboarding

By

Patricia Rust

As appearing in the L.A. Times



Doug loved snow and ice. He layered his bright color clothes to keep him warm as he dreamed of flying down a beautiful white mountain that you could see in the distance from Los Angeles.

Never mind whether his clothes matched. The point is that he looked as cool...he was about to snowboard! His community group sponsored a trip. As they loaded the bus to drive to the mountains, he boasted, "Watch me be the best!"

Now in the mountains, they rented snowboards and Teresa, their instructor, showed them how to carry the board and how to balance and carve their way down the mountain. At the top of the hill, Doug told the others, "I will go first!" It looked scary looking straight down the snowy mountain especially at trees that suddenly looked very small!

Doug started down the hill right behind Teresa who told them, "One at a time. In a line. Follow me."

"Wow! I'm doing it!" yelled Doug as he bent his knees low and started carving a wide turn in the white layer of snow that makes for such a beautiful mountain. Suddenly, he stopped, and fell down.

Everyone thought Doug was hurt and stopped. “Are you all right?” asked Teresa. Doug was huffing and puffing. “It must be the thin air up here,” tried Doug. But Teresa gave him a good hard look. “When was the last time you exercised and went to gym class?” she asked.

“Ah....well...” Doug stammered. Helping him up, Teresa asked, “You mean you can’t even remember? That’s not good.” Doug realized that it didn’t matter how cool he looked or whether he knew how to ride the snowboard. Unless he was physically fit, he couldn’t do any of it! “Maybe we can hike some hills while we’re here to start our fitness program so we can snowboard instead of noboard! Let’s get moving!”

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CHILDREN'S NEWS:

Q: When did trees become part of Christmas celebrations?

A: Evergreen trees and wreaths have been used as symbols of eternal life since the ancient times of the Egyptians, Chinese, and Hebrews. After the coming of Christianity, evergreens were still used in Scandinavia—thought to scare away anything bad. In the Middle Ages, the Christmas tree, decorated with candles and wafers, became popular, as did the gaily decorated wooden Christmas pyramid. By the 16th century, the two objects merged into what we now know as the Christmas tree. By the 19th century, the Christmas tree was popular across Europe and the United States. Christmas trees help our earth breathe. Maybe you can make plans to plant one! Write us and tell us please!

Twas the Night before Christmas Poem

By Clement Clark Moore

**Tw'as the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St Nicholas soon would be there.**

**The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads.
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap.**

**When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.**

**The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below.
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tinny reindeer.**

**With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St Nick.
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name!**

**"Now Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer and Vixen!
On, Comet! On, Cupid! on, on Donner and Blitzen!
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!
Now dash away! Dash away! Dash away all!"**

**As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky.
So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,
With the sleigh full of Toys, and St Nicholas too.**

**And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,
Down the chimney St Nicholas came with a bound.**

**He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot.
A bundle of Toys he had flung on his back,**

And he looked like a peddler, just opening his pack.

**His eyes-how they twinkled! his dimples how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow.**

**The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath.
He had a broad face and a little round belly,
That shook when he laughed, like a bowlful of jelly!**

**He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself!
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head,
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.**

**He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And filled all the stockings, then turned with a jerk.
And laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose!**

**He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.
But I heard him exclaim, 'ere he drove out of sight,
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night!"**

WINTER STORY CONTEST:

The winner will receive a selection of three Warner Bros. DVDs. A special thank you goes to Power For Kids Board Member and Warner Brothers Executive Gary Credle for donating them. To be eligible to win, be sure to send your story about your favorite thing about SNOW to contest@powerforkids.com or 12021 Wilshire Blvd. #924, Los Angeles, CA 90025 by January 1. All stories and artwork will be posted at <http://www.powerforkids.com/kids/KidsWork.html> and some will appear in the January newsletter along with the Power For Kids web site

IN THE NEWS:

Teachers and Librarians: Schedule School Visits Now

Each year Power for Kids presents literacy programs to schools and libraries. The programs are tailored to work with each specific age group and group size. Presentations are made by Patricia Rust or one of our trained volunteers, many of whom are actors affiliated with SAG. To learn more about the programs offered or to inquire about booking the program at your school, visit our website at <http://www.powerforkids.com/parents/appearance.html>. You can also call 310-281-3332 and leave your name and mailing or email address so a detailed brochure and current rates can be sent to you. Dr. Suess Day is March 3rd so please plan ahead.

Children's Submissions Welcome!

Please encourage the children in your life to send us their stories and artwork for inclusion in our newsletter, on PowerforKids.com, and in future newspaper publications.

Chopped Liver for the Loving Spirit Available Now

The third book in the *Chopped Liver* series is now available. Buy one for everyone on your list. In this edition, Patricia Rust honors philanthropist and spa and health pioneer Deborah Szekely. Buy your copy today and share it with those close to you. Signed copies are available at www.powerforkids.com/book/buy_book.html.

Signed Copies of *The King of Skittledeedoo* Still Available

The King of Skittledeedoo is a wonderful learning tool for every child in your family, or your friend's family. It will help motivate your young students to read, read, read and makes a wonderful holiday gift. A limited number of signed copies of *The King of Skittledeedoo* are still available. To order your copy now, visit www.powerforkids.com and click the "Buy" link at the top of the page.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Power for Kids, Inc. is guided by a dedicated group of professionals and community leaders:

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- Member, Lee Gaither
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Teresa Howard
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Hilton Foundation
Screen Actors Foundation
The Annenberg Foundation

POWER FOR KIDS, INC. MISSION STATEMENT:

Power for Kids, Inc. helps children by encouraging literacy and a lifelong commitment to reading.

Power for Kids, Inc. is a grassroots literacy organization whose aim is to educate, motivate, and excite elementary school children to the wonders of reading at an early age. We believe that by reading to a child, helping one child at a time, we can stamp out this problem. Our organization's "Royal Readers" program provides books, interactive reading sessions, and educational activities for children at elementary schools across the country. Our "Create-A-Book" program empowers children by helping them write and bind their own books.

Our motto is Live, Laugh, Learn

Helping Kids Become Royal Readers!

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