



THE EAGLE EYE

DECEMBER 2018

A Look Back...

and A Step Forward



# Table of Contents

2018 Year in Review.....3

Elon Musk 2018.....5

The Grinch Movie.....7

Youtube Rewind.....8

Sports Column.....9

Holidays in the City.....10

Soulful: A Short Story.....11

Winter Word Search.....15

# 2018: Year in Review

2018 was one of the wildest and most chaotic years in recent history. The past 12 months have been marred by events which strengthened international bonds, revealed the inner evil present in certain individuals, and left many questioning about their futures. Here's a look at some of the most influential and noteworthy events of 2018:

## **US Government Shutdown - January 20th to 22th**

Ever since the election of President Trump, the US government has become constantly more unstable, due mostly to the lack of significant party majority in the Senate and the House. This particular shutdown was the result of the Senate unable to overcome a democratic filibuster (an attempt at delaying the passing of a bill) regarding the revision of DACA policies. The filibuster was so successful that it stalled the passing of legislation to fund government operations and agencies. The shutdown finally ended when Democrats caved into Republican demands, resuming government operations the following Monday.

## **Winter Olympics in PyeongChang - February 9th to 25th**

The 2018 Winter Olympics was arguably the worst US showing in the 21st century. The US won a record low 23 medals in PyeongChang. The low medal count was mainly attributed to olympian Apolo Ohno's retirement, and hopefully

the US can make a comeback at the 2022 olympics in Beijing. The more interesting development was the tension between South Korea and North Korea present during the games. Surprisingly, South Korea allowed North Korean athletes to participate, with some speculating the two neighboring enemies to be "warming up" to each other.

## **Castro Rule Ends in Cuba - February 24th**

The Castro family has controlled the presidency of Cuba for nearly 60 years, beginning in the 1960s with Fidel Castro.

Therefore, the international community was ecstatic to hear that current president Raul Castro would be stepping down from power by the end of February. This should result in Cuba forming

much stronger international bonds, as the rest of the world was not thrilled with Cuba being led by Castro after Castro (to say the least).

Surprisingly, Cubans seem quite indifferent to this transition. Most seem to think that their new president will not bring any tangible added benefits to the country.





## **Voting in Iraq - May 15th**

Following the recent overthrow of ISIS, Iraqis finally regained the power to vote, and the first legislative and provincial election were held in over a decade. Notable with these elections is that Iraqis allowed women to vote, thus ending the gender difference instated by ISIS and traditionalist views. Hopefully these elections point to the beginning of a more politically open and westernized Middle East, once again making it a safe and flourishing area.

## **World Cup - June 14th to July 15th**

The 2018 FIFA world cup brought a nice distraction to the political issues that ravaged the world, and it did not disappoint. Many matches resulted in unexpected outcomes, such as the qualifying match between South Korea and Germany, and who could forget England vs. Croatia, arguably the most hyped match of the entire cup. In the end, France won for a second time, exactly 20 years before its previous win.



## **Tham Luang Cave Rescue - June 23rd to July 10th**

On June 23rd, a Thai soccer team consisting of boys ages 11-17 (plus their coaches) were stranded in a cave due to monsoon flooding.

With the team nearly a mile underground, and their only exit blocked by water, their chances for survival seemed very slim. Nonetheless, a search team was able to locate the team, and was surprised to learn that all boys and adults were perfectly healthy. After an international rescue effort, the entire team successfully exited the cave with no casualties or even major injuries. Everyone thankfully made a quick recovery.

## **Senate Midterms - November 6th**

The recent Senate midterm elections were projected to indicate voter opinion regarding the last year and a half of Trump's presidency. If this is true, then voters are extremely unhappy with the president. The turnout from the midterms can best be described as a "blue tsunami," with democrats taking back the seats they lost to republicans 2 years prior. However, neither party has a true majority in the Senate, and we can therefore expect legislation to continue being delayed in the recent future.

## **COP24 Summit - December 4th**

Global warming is the biggest environmental issue on everyone's mind, and it now seems as if world leaders will finally be making a decision regarding the future of the Earth's climate. Held in Poland, countries will finally be forced to enforce the Paris accords put into place years prior, which state acceptable levels of pollution and the steps governments must take to limit carbon emissions. Hopefully by the end of it, the US government will acknowledge the necessity of reducing emissions, and will take the proper steps to do so.

*- Avinash Kumar*



# Elon Musk's 2018

When people think of Elon Musk, they often think of an innovative leader, one who has single-handedly affected the lives of many and has made the world a much better place today. Musk has a proven track record when it comes to success and has founded numerous major corporations, including PayPal, SolarCity, SpaceX, Tesla, and Neuralink to name a few. But while Musk may have a reputation for success, a lot changed in 2018.

## **Tesla Going Private**

On August 7, 2018, Elon Musk tweeted, "Am considering taking Tesla private at \$420. Funding secured." Shortly after, the Tesla stock price fell by 7% and led to an investigation. In addition, Musk's net worth dropped by about \$500 million dollars. On August 10, Musk faced lawsuits from two Tesla investors who filed lawsuits which accused Musk of manipulating investors and Tesla's stock price. To make matters worse, the US Securities and Exchange Commission charged Musk with fraud for his tweets. The charges were later settled, however, and the Tesla stock jumped 5% shortly after.

## **Autopilot Controversy**

While the Tesla Autopilot Feature may be one of Tesla vehicle's selling points, it also comes with a significant amount of risk, as demonstrated on May 20, 2018, when a Tesla driver died with the Autopilot feature on. Wei Huang, the driver of the Model X, had reportedly ignored multiple warnings from the vehicle but did not take any action, thus resulting in the vehicle crashing into a concrete highway divider. This crash sent

Tesla's Autopilot program back multiple steps and was financially costly for the company as well.



## **Musk vs. Media**

2018 also began Musks' battle with the media. Often, Musk took to Twitter to express his discontent with the media. To date, Musk has lashed out against CNBC, Reuters, and many other news organizations. More specifically, Musk was enraged by the fact that Tesla vehicles were often scrutinized and criticized. "It's super messed up that a Tesla crash resulting in a broken ankle is front page news and the ~40,000 people who died in US auto accidents alone in past year get almost no coverage."

## **Hyperloop**

Though the Hyperloop has often been ridiculed for being a dangerous and unrealistic idea, it has finally become a reality today. The Hyperloop is a mode of transportation which relies on pressurized tunnels to transport passengers in speeds of up to 760 miles per hour. The Hyperloop concept has been characterized as "open-source," and was introduced by



Musk in 2012. Today, Hyperloop construction has already begun and is being introduced across the nation.

### **Falcon Heavy Liftoff**

Considered to be one of the most powerful rockets ever created, the Falcon Heavy rocket lifted off from Cape Canaveral on February 6. This rocket is important because it is a partially reusable heavy-lift launch vehicle and represents an iconic move in the space industry. The successful liftoff of this rocket can be considered one of Musk's greatest successes in 2018 and cemented his legacy in space exploration.



*- Roshan Patel*



*Tesla's Autopilot*







# THE GRINCH: MOVIE REVIEW

Grab your hot cocoa and a warm blanket as you settle down to watch Disney's retelling of the classic: *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. The live-action original is a must-see on everyone's holiday movie checklist. However, Disney might have you replacing it with their new animated version.

Disney went all out for this animation. While watching the movie, you are definitely going to be saying to yourself, "Hmm, that voice sounds familiar." And indeed it is. Famous actors Benedict Cumberbatch, Rashida Jones, and Pharrell Williams all play different characters in the film.



Moving on to the content of the movie, the animation itself portrays the Grinch as a character with a past rather than a monster. It tones down the harshness of the live-action movie and makes it more suitable for younger audiences. However, the movie follows the same



plot line we all know. I was expecting Disney to put some sort of twist or unique input into the story, but the classic remains the same. If you were looking for some excitement from the film, you will not be getting any.

All in all, the movie is a simple re-telling of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* in animation form. It's cute, and will make you laugh here and there. You might shed some tears at the end, but it's nothing you don't know. The film is a simple replacement for the live-action film in case you wanted a tamer version of our well-"hated" Mr. Grinch.

- Adhya Khare



# YouTube Rewind

Unless you've been living under a rock for the past few weeks, you've probably watched or at least heard about the most recent YouTube Rewind. Most notably, you've heard about all the hate it has been getting, and you may even be one of those haters yourself. Astonishingly (yet perhaps not surprisingly), the video has quickly become the most disliked video in all of YouTube's history, but this begs the question: why? And more importantly, what does it indicate about the real way YouTube has changed over the past few years?

The largest problem people have sighted with this year's Rewind is simply that it is absolutely not representative of the YouTube audience or culture of 2018. What's so ironic about this is how the video is subtitled as "Everyone Controls Rewind," and someone in the video literally says, "let's give the people what they want," yet the final product is far from what people really hoped to see. Half of the cast is unrecognizable to the casual viewer, and even PewDiePie, the person with the most subscribers on the platform, who has grown a lot over the past few weeks in his "subscriber battle" against the Bollywood giant T-Series, is absent. In place of some creators are people who are more celebrities than YouTubers, and some (like Ninja) aren't even YouTubers at all!

As the comment section indicates, most people are already aware of and angry about Rewind 2018's underrepresentation, but why is this the case? It's not like YouTube hates their audience. After all, it's what they need to thrive as a business. However, like any business ever, what YouTube also needs is money, and the main way they get this is through advertisements. However, since the aptly dubbed "Adpocalypse" of 2017, where several companies pulled their

8 ads from YouTube because they were being aired on "inappropriate" videos, YouTube has

come down hard on creators in an effort to preserve their image and keep the site safe. Sadly, this has led to some creators struggling to make revenue off of their videos and, of course, YouTube cutting ties with any creator who is associated with a hint of inappropriate or controversial content. This is the real reason why YouTube is so afraid to feature many creators in its more recent Rewinds: they simply can't risk coming off as "unsafe" or "insensitive" to the outside world.

But YouTube wasn't always like this. YouTube Rewind 2013 was one of the most cherished Rewinds ever, with the reason being that it felt more wholesome, less pandering, and much more indicative of the culture at the time. They used to be a lot more dedicated to the people on the site, but now, with YouTube becoming more and more corporate, and with disastrous events like the subscription box algorithm change and the Logan Paul controversy, a large gap has grown between YouTube and its audience. This is the real issue behind the 2018 Rewind, an issue which perfectly sums up how YouTube has changed over the past few years. Of course, nobody can really blame YouTube for wanting to appear more safe and family-friendly, but at what cost does such a change come with? Sure, YouTube is a business, but I think we can all agree that such a large disconnect and feeling of hatred between them and their viewers will not help their cause in the long run.

Will YouTube learn something from this Rewind? Only time will tell, and right now all we can do is hope that YouTube listens to its audience, while we remain shaking our heads and trying our hardest to wipe the image of Trevor Noah and John Oliver doing Fortnite dances out of our brains.

- Rocco Tropea

# SPORTS COLUMN

The month of December continues to entice and excite sports fan across the nation as the National Basketball Association (NBA) and National Football League (NFL) are in full-swing.

With the NFL's 16-game regular season winding down, 13 teams have been officially eliminated from playoff while 5 teams have clinched a playoff spot. That leaves 14 hopeful teams who will be fighting during their last two games for the final 7 postseason spots. One team that is fighting for a postseason appearance in the American Football Conference (AFC) is the Cleveland Browns. Coming as a surprise to many, the Browns, who went 0-16 last year, have managed to achieve a 5-7-1 record thus far into the season. If the Browns can defy all odds and other pieces fall into place (CBS Sports put their odds to make the playoffs at less than 1%), it would be the first time any NFL team makes the playoffs following a 0-16 season.



Moving to the NFC, the Chicago Bears (10-4) have clinched the NFC North for the first time since 2010. Powered by quarterback Mitchell Trubisky and linebacker Khalil Mack, the Bears are a force to reckon with in the NFC. Unfortunately, both the New York Jets and New York Giants have been eliminated from the postseason. The next for these two teams is to finish the regular season strong and deliberate any roster changes for the 2019 NFL Draft.

Moving away from the gridiron and onto the hardwood, the NBA regular season, which is now one-third complete, has seen action at a whole new level. Every team in the NBA has been averaging more points per game compared to their totals last year, hinting at an elevated level of play as well as a more dynamic game with more 3-pt shots being attempted every game. The biggest surprise of the NBA season so far may be the Eastern Conference. The Boston Celtics and Philadelphia 76ers, who were projected to be fighting for the #1 seed in the East, are currently sitting as the 4th and 5th



seeds. The Toronto Raptors, powered by new acquisition Kawhi Leonard, are leading the NBA with a league best record of 23-9. The Western Conference has also seen much shock with the Denver Nuggets de-throning the Golden State Warriors as the West's best team. This regular season so far has also been a great year for rookies; Luka Doncic of the Dallas Mavericks has lit the league on fire by leading all rookies in scoring and points-per-game.

As 2018 winds down, what better way to close off the year than exhilarating NBA and NFL games! Happy holidays!



# Holidays in the City

One of the most common activities during the month of December is to take a trip to New York City. This vivacious location is filled with the hustling and bustling of a diverse group of people—workers, families, tourists, and more. Even with the harsh winters of the Northeast, New York City's peak travel time is in this month. The feeling cannot be described with words, and the holiday spirit can be experienced by everyone. Whether it is for the social media pictures or the beauty of the city, holidays in the city are unmatched. Events throughout the season are for different cultures and religions.

There are a variety of holiday markets in the city, some of which are located in Bryant Park, Union Square, and Columbus Circle. Merchants have items for purchase such as jewelry, handmade clothing, and other gifts. The Bryant Park Winter Village has a 17,000-square-foot ice-skating rink and a large amount of food vendors as well as shopping kiosks.

The Rockefeller Christmas tree stands tall above the ice skating rink in Rockefeller Plaza. It has been a major attraction from its opening in 1933. The tree is usually a Norway spruce and requires about five miles of lights to adorn it. This holiday tradition cannot be missed. Next, the famous dance company, The Rockettes, perform at Radio City Music Hall. The Christmas Spectacular features more than 140 performers and combines singing and dancing. Other decorations in New York City include the giant Christmas ornaments and giant string of Christmas Light bulbs on Sixth Avenue across from the Radio City Music Hall.

The Museum of Natural History on the Upper West Side of Manhattan honors the seven principles of Kwanzaa. Unity and culture are promoted in these seven principles known as Nguzo Saba. There are many performances and artists to help celebrate the African-American heritage.

The biggest menorah in the world is lit nightly during the eight days of Hanukkah. The golden menorah weighs about 4,000 pounds and rises 33 feet tall. In addition, the Eldridge Street Synagogue is a place where one can sing and dance to Yiddish music among others. A lot of events can be found in the city that celebrate the Festival of Lights.

- Megan Santhumayor



# Soulful

I have always hated rain. It always comes down without warning and destroys my circuitry. Whenever I finished my shift at the bar, I would always sit and wait for master to come pick me up. I didn't mind, though. It gave me a lot of time to think.

Bartending was a very boring job. No one ever talked to me, and if they ever did it is to ask for another drink. A few people once in a while started a decent conversation with me, but they always noticed the circular symbol on my arm and backed away as if I were a plague. At first I used to be insulted, but I grew used to the hostility.

If it's not raining, I usually have an hour left for myself. I would say I enjoy going to the park, but I don't know what enjoyment feels like anymore. I am grateful to be given the gift of a complex mind, no matter how artificial, but I also wish that I had the gift of feelings. I often see instances of something that humans define as love, however I have never understood the logic of it. Love brings together masters and their creations, but the creations always betray them for another creation. The cycle repeats even then, except the creations are the masters this time. Sometimes I run many equations and algorithms to try and explain this phenomenon, but I always get an error at the end. I don't dwell on this, since what is beyond our capacity is something not meant for us.

Once in a while I take a stick and trace images in the mud. I always love how with just a few strokes an infinite amount of figures can be drawn. I could just sit there day after day drawing detailed scenes from the park.

At noon, master came to pick me up. He always looked so amazing with his long top hat and expensive suit. I always looked up to him, knowing he was always leagues ahead of me. Whenever I came home, he replaced my batteries with newer ones and says "good job today, Molo-7XA4." His kind words always lightened up my day, and I sometimes started humming a tune. I didn't do that often, however, because master had said that I sounded too human.

There were some days, however, when I was bad and master got mad at me, and rightly so. I always saw so many different types of people, so I once asked him "who am I, and how do I fit in this world?"

Master looked up from his work very slowly and narrowed his eyes. "Why do you ask that, Molo? You are a bartender, and you will always be."

"But what if I don't want to be a ba-" I started.

Master jumped up from his chair and started pulling on my wires. Although I had no feelings, I could still feel pain, and at that moment, I felt a lot of pain.

"You are a bartender, and that is it! No more questions!" He yelled. And ever since that day, I have never asked a single question again. I only endure, and enduring is enough.

Secretly, however, I always go through different simulations in my head when I sit on a bench during my free time. Most of them are quite unpleasant, but some are very wistful. I didn't mind, however, since I had a job and a wonderful master. I could have been doing a lot worse.

I was sitting on the bench one day when a lady sat down next to me. Normally I would have the bench all to myself since no one wants to be anywhere near me, so her sitting there made me



She looked up at me, puzzled. "I'm sorry, did I do something wrong?" She asked.

I stared at her, my mouth open wide. I pointed to the symbol on my arm, thinking she had not seen it. I waited for her to back away, but even after seeing it she still sat there.

"Yes, you are a robot. Am I supposed to give you the whole goddamn bench just because of that?" She reacted. She then took out her phone and started typing on it casually.

I gaped at her for a minute or two, and she finally looked up again. "I'm sorry if I sounded rude. You can sit back down, you know," she stated.

I stayed still for another moment, and after running the many possible scenarios that could result from my sitting there, I decided that it was safe enough to sit back down.

Immediately after I sat down, however, a man walked over and looked at me with disgust.

"Ma'am, is this bot disturbing you? Here, let me remove it from the seat," he exclaimed, moving towards me.

The lady stopped him. "I'm sorry, but I never asked for him to be removed. If anyone should be removed, it should be me. This young fellow was sitting here first." She responded, smiling at me.

The man was baffled. "But it's a bot. They don't have feelings, and are a nuisance. They don't matter! How can you stand bei-"

"Stop!" The lady yelled angrily. "He has been given a complex mind, and that makes him a human too. He is more human than you, too!"

At this, the man was shocked and took a few steps back. "Fine, you can have it your way! But don't say I didn't warn you!" He yelled, and then slowly sauntered away, looking back and glaring at us once in a while.

The lady sighed and shook her head once the man was out of sight. "I'm sorry you had to go through that. Many people are still not... cooperative with your kind."

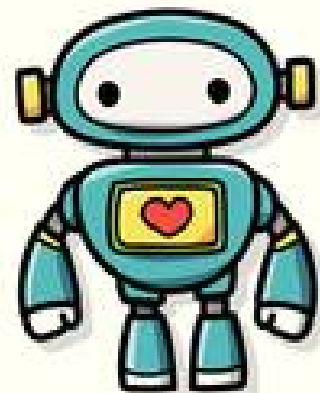
I was incredibly confused. The lady that was sitting right next to me was so strange that I thought I was going to fry the motherboard in my head. Never have I ever been seen as a human being before. Not even my creator acknowledged me as one!

"By the way, my name is Samadhi. What's your name?" She asked, breaking my chain of thought.

"I'm sorry, a name? I don't have one, I'm just a bot!" I exclaimed. "I am, however, recognized as Molo- 7XA4."

The lady laughed. "Well then, that won't do! You deserve a name." She then started thinking, and all of a sudden, her eyes lit up. "I know! Your name will be Angosin! It has a nice ring to it, don't you think?" She declared.

I thought about it. Never before had anyone considered me anything other than "it." I was suddenly fascinated by the idea of a special name to call myself by. I smiled and shook my head. "Yeah, it does," I replied.



Ever since that day, we always met at the park after I was finished working. We always talked about the strangest of things- politics, science, and my personal favorite, art.

I started drawing figures on the mud one day while waiting for her to come, and then suddenly I heard someone suck their breath behind me. I turned around and saw Samadhi standing there.

"That's beautiful! I didn't know you were good at art!" She exclaimed. We then launched into a conversation about the many artists and styles of art.

Although I tried keeping our meetings a secret from master, he still found out about them eventually. "Who's that girl you keep on talking with?" He asked.

"Samadhi. She's a friend," I replied. This, however, was something I should not have said, for he lashed out at me.

"A friend? Absurd! A bot thinking he has a friend! Remember this, Moto- you're a bot, and just a bot. You are disposable. Don't get into this outrageous delusion that you have a friend!" He fumed.

I tried to ask why, however he beat me whenever I opened my mouth.

I still meet with Samadhi, however. Although I respect master and have gotten punished many times, I cannot bear to stop meeting with her.

One day, however, she did not come back. I waited for her for weeks, but she never came back. While miserably waiting for her on the third week, Master came to see me.

"Oh, hello Moto! Are you waiting for your little friend?" He asked, smiling.

I had a sudden feeling of dread wash over me. "What did you do?" I asked, starting to get worried.

"Ooh, how harsh you can be sometimes! Let's just say that she got into a tiny accident and passed away," he responded, laughing.

The world around me started to spin. "What?" I asked, still not processing what master said. I felt as if my nonexistent heart had been ripped out of my chest. In a fury, I lashed out at him.

Master let out a loud screech and fell to the ground. I lost all respect towards my master and continuously punched him with my steel hands.

"How dare you! I saved you! If it weren't for me, you would be de-" he started saying, however I landed one final punch before he finished the sentence.

When I was finally certain he was dead, I took a handkerchief and wiped my bloody hands. It started raining furiously, and I could already feel the circuits in me starting to malfunction. I didn't even notice this. Nothing mattered anymore.

I sat back on the bench and welcomed the rain. For the first time in my life, I saw how beautiful the tiny droplets were. I sat there until my main circuits were destroyed while looking at the empty space in the bench while slipping away into unconsciousness. Right before I lost unconsciousness, however, I could have sworn that I had felt something stir in my chest, but it was probably just my imagination.

I don't know how long exactly I was out for, but the next thing I knew, I was somewhere

**"For the first time  
in my life, I saw  
how beautiful the  
tiny droplets  
were."**



underground surrounded by a junkyard of robotic parts. I let out a small groan, and immediately a short, rusted robot came and started inspecting me.

"You're finally awake! Took you long enough!" He exclaimed, clapping his hands together.

I sat up and ran a scan on myself. Surprisingly, everything was perfect! "Is this heaven?" I asked. Before meeting Samadhi, I may never have thought of something like that, but after meeting her she made me realize that I had a soul, too.

The strange bot chuckled. "No, my boy. I salvaged you from the park right before you had any serious brain damage." He declared proudly.

"Brain?" I asked. "Bots don't have brains."

The strange robot had grown serious. "Of course, you don't know. Do you honestly think complex intelligence can be fabricated? Bots are created from humans, my friend."

I knew I should have been surprised and even a bit skeptical, but my past experiences with Samadhi opened up a range of personalities and emotions to me that could never be artificially built.

"By the way, the name's Xalvador." the bot exclaimed. He then pointed to many other bots around the place. "We are the Resistance. We fight against the cruel treatment of bots." He then produced a pencil and notebook from his pocket. "Do you happen to have a special name?" He asked.

I nodded, remembering the day I was named. "Angosin," I replied.

"Good, good. Now, do you want soup?" He asked.

I've always been a part of the Resistance ever since. I always think about Samadhi, but I never let the rage consume me like it did before. Instead, I direct the rage towards finding and releasing the truth. The bots task me with drawing posters and graffiti art, which I enjoy. Sure, I may have been a collection of circuits, but I know that deep down I have a soul.

- Anuraag Sarkar

# WINTER WONDERLAND WORDSEARCH

S Z C H R I S T M A S L E D F  
N I C J D R E I N D E E R Y O  
O B A T N A S L R S R Y A R O  
W W R E A T H E N T O D E R D  
F J O L L Y B I Z J I P W E P  
L D L E R M T C N L A A U M C  
A I T T E S N I O P V A X I T  
K O M C D M E H L C O Z X D T  
E S E S N G M L P Y O N C R A  
B D N N O H A K K U N A H E V  
B I O O W W N T L L A W I I O  
T E R W O R R B N E G K L D E  
L C A M S T O C K I N G L E L  
S X H A I R A M F C A N D L E  
R E T N I W C T C E S S V O Y

## WORD BANK

|           |            |
|-----------|------------|
| CANDLE    | NOEL       |
| CAROL     | ORNAMENT   |
| CHILL     | POINSETTIA |
| CHRISTMAS | REINDEER   |
| COCOA     | SAINT      |
| DECEMBER  | SANTA      |
| DREIDEL   | SCROOGE    |
| FOOD      | SNOW       |
| GIFT      | SNOWFLAKE  |
| HANUKKAH  | SNOWMAN    |
| HOLIDAY   | STOCKING   |
| JOLLY     | TINSEL     |
| JOY       | TREE       |
| KWANZAA   | WALLPAPER  |
| MARIAH    | WINTER     |
| MENORAH   | WONDERLAND |
| MERRY     | WREATH     |
| MISTLETOE | YULE       |





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