

## Style

### HOW TO BUILD



# RAINBOW ROLLER SKATES

BY JAMES LYNCH · PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHRISTOPHER PAYNE

**EVER SINCE THE PANDEMIC** forced everyone to find new hobbies, roller-skating has been a hit, with dancers and daredevils going viral on Instagram and TikTok. Among the most sought-after skates are Moxi's Lolly Skates, rainbow-colored old-school four-wheelers made in Red Wing, Minn. Riedell, the 100-person company that makes the skates, is on track to make almost 80,000 pairs of roller skates this year, about four times as many as before the pandemic. The skates are so popular that buyers now have to wait a few months before they arrive in the mail — especially if they want them in floss (mint green) or lilac (light purple), two of the last year's most popular colors. Each skate takes about a week and a half to put together. This is how they're made.



**1. CUT THE LEATHER** About 1,250 square feet of leather is cut into 4,000 pieces each day. Workers use a die cutter (basically an industrial cookie-cutter) to carefully stamp out each piece of the boot.



**2. BUNDLE THE PIECES** After the leather is cut, workers stack the pieces up and label them with the boot's size, width and style. Though the skates come in lots of colors, all Moxi Lolly skates have the same liner, covered in vintage-style ads.



**3. SEW THE BACKS AND TOES** Workers at Riedell use industrial sewing machines to punch through the tough leather. They attach the outers and liners to one another first, then sew the heels and toes together.



**4. ADD EYELETS** Moxi's skates come in lots of sizes, but any roller-skater will tell you that you need to lace up to get the perfect fit (and avoid blisters!). Nine sets of eyelets, the metal-lined holes that laces go through, are punched into every boot.



**5. PUT THE SHOES ON FORMS** The leather pieces of the boot are pretty flat until they are put on a plastic model foot, called a last. When workers pull the leather over it, the boot starts to take its shape.



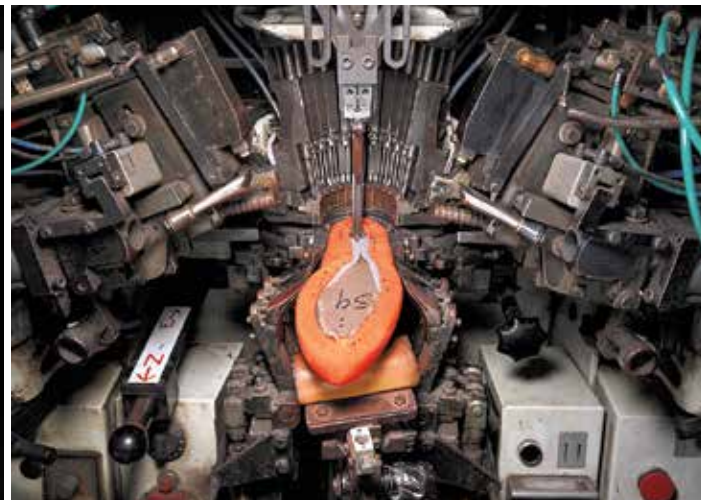
**6. PLACE THE INNER SOLE** Once the last is tucked into the boot, workers lay an insole on the bottom. The upper is then pulled around it and pinned down with a tack to hold it in place. When the skates are finished, this will be inside the boot.



**7. INSERT THE BOX TOE** To help shape the boot and protect skaters from stubbing their toes, each boot has a hard protective cap called a box toe. To make it, workers stick a soft piece of resin (a type of plastic) inside the toe. As it dries, it hardens.



**8. SHAPE THE BOOT** To give the boot its final shape, the leather is stretched by hand over the model before it is tacked down through the bottom of the boot. Each tack is double-checked to be sure it won't poke through to your foot.



**9. SEW THE HEEL** A "heelseat lasting" machine smooths out the leather at the heel and sews it down. This completes the process of shaping the boot.



**10. APPLY THE GLUE** It's time to glue the hard outer sole onto the boot. Workers cover the bottom and the sole with urethane, a superstrong cement, and heat it up.



**11. ATTACH THE OUTER SOLE** When the glue is heated and sticky, workers align the right size of sole beneath the boot and use a hydraulic press to push the boot, glue and sole together. The model foot is now removed.



**12. SECURE THE HEEL** The last thing a skater wants is a roller skate's heel (and wheels) falling off! To make sure that never happens, workers nail the heel into the boot and bend the end so it stays in place.



**13. BOLT THE PLATE** A plate is bolted to the boot, creating a strong base for the wheels. While some people use the skates just to glide through rinks, others do flips and tricks — meaning the wheels have to be supersturdy.



**14. ATTACH THE WHEELS** Workers bolt on squishy cushions that let the skates lean to either side to turn. Soft wheels help ensure the skates can roll over bumps and stones. The toe stop, a rubber circle at the front of the skates, works like a brake.



**15. INSPECTION, PACKING AND SHIPPING** After a final inspection, the boots are packed and shipped around the world — ready to be laced up and rolled out at the park, on the street or in the roller rink. ♦



## International

## THREE KIDS WHO DEFENDED THEIR RIGHTS

BY JOSH OCAMPO

**THE CONCEPT OF “human rights”** is a powerful one. The idea is that there are certain freedoms that all people, no matter who they are or what country they live in, must be given. What you may not know is that kids have their own set of rights. They're laid out in a document created by the United Nations called the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which includes things like the right to be protected from war, the right to express an opinion and even the right to play.

But just because you're entitled to something doesn't mean you won't have to fight for it. “There are people who will count on you not knowing about your rights and use that to control you or mislead you,” Angelina Jolie, the actress and human rights activist, tells *The New York Times* for Kids. She's one of the authors of a new book, in partnership with the organization Amnesty International, called “Know Your Rights and Claim Them: A Guide for Youth.” In addition to explaining what rights kids have and how they can defend them, the book puts a spotlight on young people who have done just that — including the three below.

## AUTUMN PELTIER FOUGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO CLEAN WATER

**Fact:** Kids have the right to basic needs, like a home, food and water.

Autumn, now 16, is a member of the Wikwemkoong First Nations people in Ontario, Canada. Growing up, she learned about the struggle that many Indigenous people in Canada face to find clean water. This is because Canada doesn't regulate water in many Indigenous communities, so water is often hard to find or isn't safe to drink. In 2018, Autumn spoke in front of the United Nations to defend her right to clean water. She was also named chief water commissioner of the Anishinabek Nation, which represents 39 Indigenous communities in Ontario.

## MUHAMMAD NAJEM FOUGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION

**Fact:** Kids have the right to attend school.

Four years ago, when Muhammad was 15, he began filming his life in Syria during the country's civil war. Because of the war, he was unable to attend school for some time, or to grow up in a safe home. His goal was to share his experience — and the experience of many other kids living in the war zone — through social media. Now living in safety in Turkey, Muhammad posts videos on YouTube to help other kids learn how to defend their rights.

## ZULAIKHA PATEL FOUGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO EQUALITY

**Fact:** Kids have rights equal to all other kids', no matter their race, ethnicity, religion or gender.

Zulaikha was 13 when a teacher at her school in South Africa told her and other students that their Afros violated a policy requiring hairstyles to be “conservative” and “neat.” Zulaikha marched with other students to protest the policy and helped start a social media campaign and a petition. Thanks to her efforts, the local department of education ended up suspending the rule. ♦



TINY STORY

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The number of hours per day that kids in China may spend playing online video games on Friday nights, weekends and holidays, according to a new government rule. On other days, no online gaming is allowed at all.

WHAT HAPPENED IN

## AFGHANISTAN

BY DAVID ZUCCHINO



Afghans at the airport in Kabul on Aug. 18, waiting to be evacuated on a transport plane from Qatar. Many people fled Afghanistan last month as a group called the Taliban overthrew the country's government.

**L**ast month, President Joe Biden withdrew the last American troops from Afghanistan. You probably saw news stories about the chaos and alarm that took hold as a group called the Taliban, whom the United States spent 20 years fighting, took control of the country. Here's what you need to know.

**WHO ARE THE TALIBAN?** The Taliban ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001. They practice an extremist interpretation of Islam that mandates brutal punishment for anyone who disobeys their teachings. When they last ruled, they banned education for girls and required women to stay at home unless they were with a male relative.

**WHY WERE U.S. TROOPS IN AFGHANISTAN?** It goes back to the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. They were committed by Al Qaeda, a terrorist group (a group that uses violence and fear to achieve its goals) that the Taliban had allowed

to operate in Afghanistan. That fall, President George W. Bush sent troops into the country and toppled the Taliban government. But the U.S. military was never able to actually defeat the Taliban. More than 2,400 American troops and tens of thousands of Afghans died. The United States also spent billions trying to build a democracy in Afghanistan and train the Afghan security forces to fight the Taliban themselves.

**WHY IS THE UNITED STATES LEAVING?** Polls have shown for years that most Americans were weary of the war and wanted U.S. troops to come home. Earlier this year, President Biden said that delaying the withdrawal would do nothing to actually resolve the conflict with the Taliban and would risk lives, and that it was up to Afghans to work toward a solution.

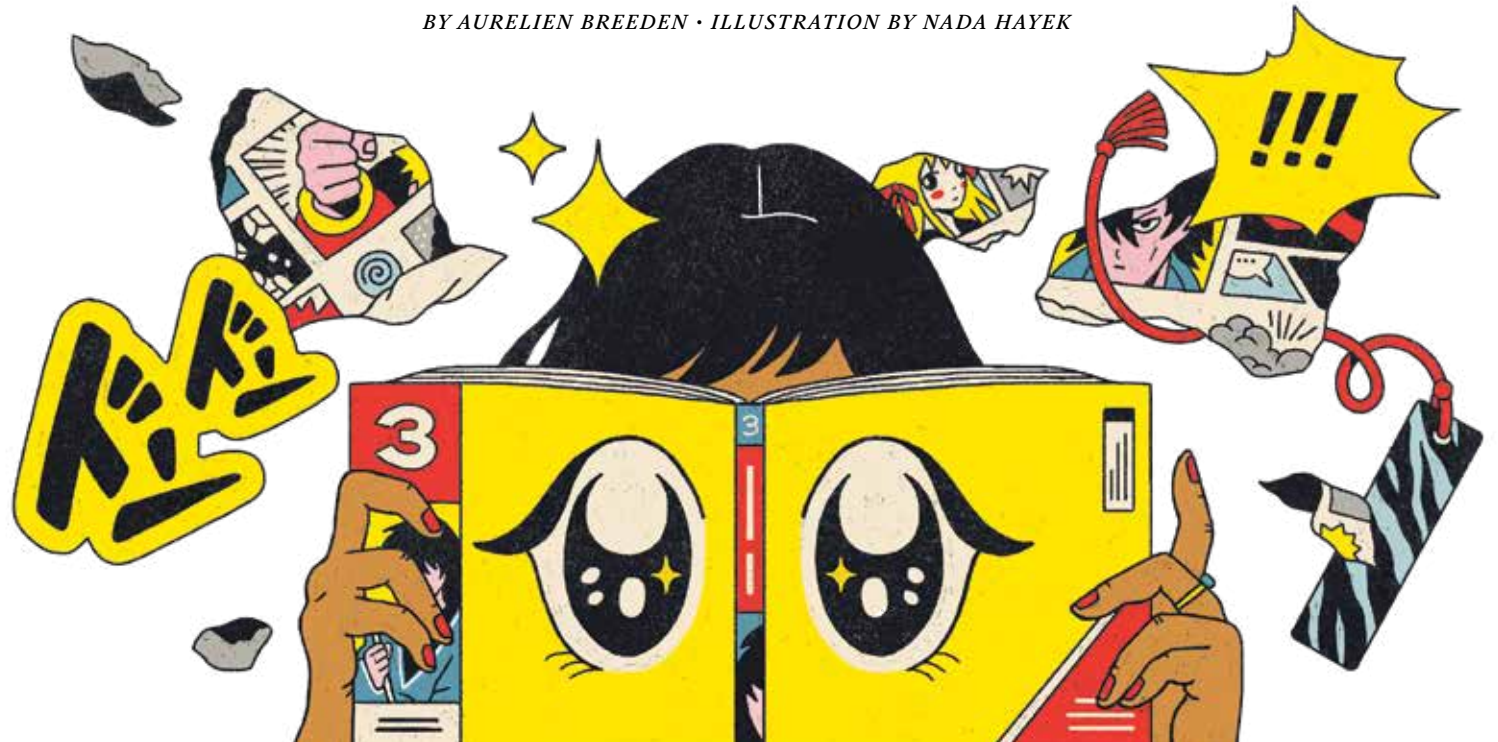
**WHAT HAPPENED WHEN THE TALIBAN TOOK OVER?** On Aug. 15, the Taliban seized control of

Afghanistan, and the U.S.-backed government collapsed. Many people became desperate to leave the country, fearing that the Taliban would resume their brutal practices and take revenge against Afghans who supported the U.S. mission. Thousands of Americans (and other foreigners) and Afghans swarmed the Kabul airport. More than 123,000 were evacuated on U.S. military planes, as well as planes from other countries like Qatar. (Read about how *The Times* evacuated its Afghan colleagues on Page 2.)

**WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?** The Taliban have promised to be less severe than when they last ruled, but they may have already executed some Afghans and have beaten and threatened others and imposed rules on many women and girls. They have also attacked journalists and female protesters. During the war, the United States and other nations spent billions to provide food, education, hospitals and other aid. But now much of that money has stopped as the world waits to see what the Taliban will do. ♦

## WHY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT IS BUYING TEENS COMIC BOOKS

BY AURELIEN BREEDEN • ILLUSTRATION BY NADA HAYEK



**IN MAY**, the French government introduced a smartphone app called Culture Pass that gives every 18-year-old 300 euros (about \$350) to spend on cultural purchases. The idea is to help young people buy the products they already love while also encouraging them to explore new things. That could mean a night at the theater, a museum exhibition, even dance classes or art supplies. So what are they spending it on? Manga!

As of July, over 75 percent of all purchases made through the app were books, and roughly two-thirds of those

books were Japanese comic books. Juliette Sega, 18, who lives in a small town in southeastern France, is a big fan of the app. She reads a lot of novels and manga, she says, and “it helps pay for them.”

Nationwide, nearly 720,000 teenagers now use the Culture Pass app, where more than 8,000 businesses and cultural institutions list their offerings. France's Culture Ministry says it plans to introduce a more restricted version of the app to middle-school students too.

But the program has caused some controversy in France. Users of the

app mostly have the freedom to spend their cash allowance where they want — whether that means opera tickets or video games. (There are some restrictions, though. For example, when it comes to video games, the game's publisher must be French, and it must not feature violence.) Critics say that giving teenagers free cash and expecting them to spend it at an indie movie theater instead of on the latest Marvel movie is unrealistic, and a waste of taxpayer money.

The freedom is part of the appeal to Gabriel Tiné, an 18-year-old student in

Paris. He has spent over €200 from his pass at Cîteaux Sphère, a record store. Gabriel says that nearly all of his friends have activated the pass. “What's interesting,” Gabriel says, “is that each person can do what they want with it.” ♦

If you had \$350 to spend on culture, what would you buy? Art supplies? Concert tickets? Comic books? Write to us with your culture wish-list at [kids@nytimes.com](mailto:kids@nytimes.com), and we may publish your answer in a future issue.