

Legacy of portly twin plumbers prospers

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The world of a short and pudgy Italian plumber/carpenter living in the Mushroom Kingdom may ring a bell. How about a thinner and slightly taller fraternal brother? Sound familiar? Of course! This is the story of Mario and his brother, Luigi, the fraternal brothers that constantly save innocent lives, mostly Princess Peach, and stop the evil turtle villain known as Bowser.

The Mario and Luigi franchise is one of those most popular video game series of the day beginning in 1981, though these characters may have even originated earlier. For the last 30 years, children around the world have helped the brothers defeat countless enemies, reach the kingdom and save the helpless princess waiting for her rescuer.

Mario was first featured in the video game, "Donkey Kong," in 1981. Two years later in 1983, Luigi was introduced to the public. By 1985, Super Mario was released and the world of Mario and Luigi never looked back. From there the popular characters continued in their journey to playing Mario Tennis, Mario Golf and Mario Kart.

Who was the brilliant

mastermind that created the Mario brothers? None other than the Japanese video game designer, Shigeru Miyamoto, who originally named Mario, "Mr. Video." So how did Mario receive his name? A heated debate opted Nintendo employees to name Mario after Mario Segale, an American Nintendo warehouse landlord who demanded more money. Nintendo agreed that Segale would be paid for having his name used for a character. The name stuck and Mario now needed a profession that would fit the design of the game.

Mario was originally a carpenter as the game was set on a construction site. Later it was changed to a plumber as the game focused on playing underground in the Mario Bros. games. Next was Mario's character design which came from Western influences, such as an overly large sized nose and perfect mustache created Mario's Italian heritage. Over time

Mario's appearance became more defined, adding a red "M" in a white circle on the front of his hat and buttons on his overalls. Mario is consid-

ered one of the most famous vid-

eo game characters in history and is an icon for the gaming industry. The series has sold over 200 million copies, making it the best selling video game franchise of all time.

In 2003, Mario had the honor of being the first video game character made into a wax figure in the legendary Hollywood Wax Museum.

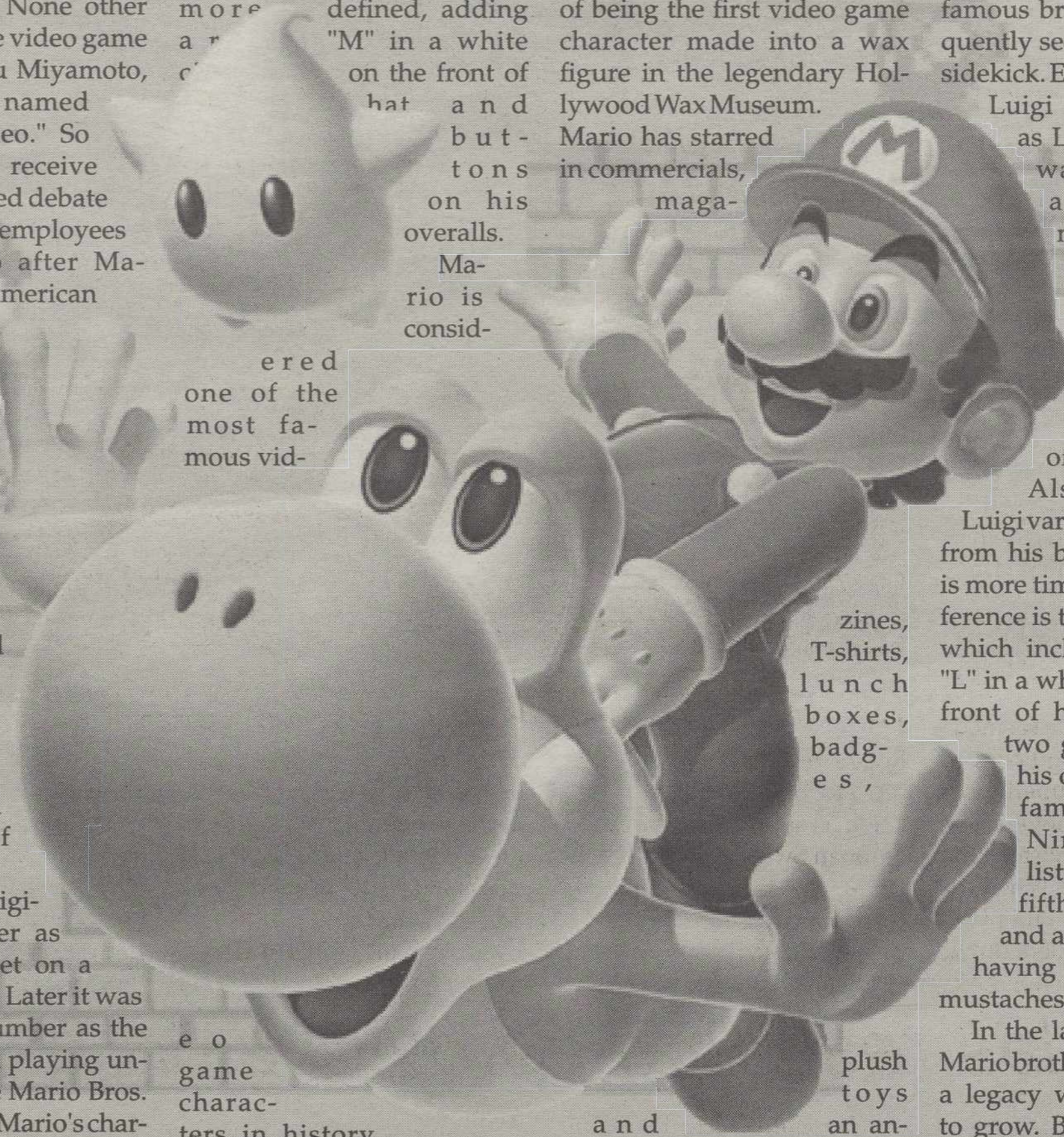
Mario has starred in commercials, maga-

zines, T-shirts, lunch boxes, badges, thinner version of his more famous brother. He is frequently seen in games as a sidekick. Ever wonder how

Luigi became known as Luigi? The name was inspired by a pizza parlor near Nintendo's Headquarters in Redmond, Wash. called "Mario and Luigi's;" hence, the origination of Luigi's name.

Also a plumber, Luigi varies in personality from his brother cause he is more timid. Another difference is the color scheme which includes the green "L" in a white circle on the front of his hat and the two gold buttons on his overalls and the famous mustache. Nintendo Power listed Luigi as its fifth favorite hero and also listed him as having one of the best mustaches.

In the last 30 years, the Mario brothers have created a legacy which continues to grow. Being one of the most popular video game franchises in the world, you can expect that you will hear about the brothers in the future.



zines, T-shirts, lunch boxes, badges,

plush toys and an anime series.

In 1983, Luigi made his first appearance as Mario's older brother in "Mario Bros." Luigi is portrayed as a younger,

MARIO AND LUIGI

Originally Mario was known as Jumpman

He has made an appearance in 207 games

A survey in the early 90's showed that Mario was more well known by children than Mickey Mouse

Super Mario Bros. 3 made over \$500 million in USA Alone

United States' secrets revealed on the internet

WikiLeaks leaks truth

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Ellsberg released the Pentagon Papers to the *New York Times* and other newspapers revealing a top secret study of the government decisions related to the Vietnam War. Ellsberg was arrested and held in jail. He was tried for violating the Espionage Act of 1917 and charged for both conspiracy and theft. All charges were later dismissed as more scandals appeared.

The question now is simple: were Ellsberg and Assange justified in their clear attempts to expose the government coverups? Officials wonder how dare someone release information that the public is

clearly unaware of and, on top of that, actually bother telling the American people the whole truth and nothing else? My answer to this question is this: how dare the government not tell the public the truth?

Every day we are lied to by the government, receiving little truth or only a portion of it. When the documents were first released, officials argued that the documents harmed relationships with other countries and endangered soldiers. WikiLeaks argued that no evidence has been shown that soldiers have been endangered, in regards to relationships with other countries, the government shouldn't be hiding secrets in the first place. Instead of accusing Assange as being

a terrorist, why doesn't the government release the truth? Because the government would rather avoid the truth.

In the future, WikiLeaks will continue releasing information and the government will continue threatening the organization to close down or risk prosecution. However, the government has no right to prosecute as freedom of speech protects the site and the people involved. The government can no longer hide behind secrecy, but take a stand and tell the truth.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not saying that our government is plotting for our demise, but we should not have to fight so hard for the truth. Exposing corruption of power is not a crime, it is a necessity.

Winter Writing Fest offers numerous guest speakers

Writing Fest

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All the events will be held in the auditorium and West invites anyone to attend.

"We have three main goals for the event," West said. "We want to raise interest in creative writing, bring in more creative writing for Kaleidoscope and we want to ensure the event is cross curricular, in other words, that it is relevant outside of English class."

One way the staff is luring students to the event is a Valentine's poem writing contest that kicked off on Feb. 7. The prize for the contest has not yet been determined, but the winners will be announced Feb. 18.

While it remains to be seen whether or not the Winter Writing Festival will attract the interest that West and the English 12 staff hope, it promises to add an interesting spice to the mid-February drudgery.