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## Yorba Times: Global Issues

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GLOBAL ISSUES

NO  
~~BULLY~~  
ZONE









Dear Yorba and Chapman scholars, family members, neighbors, and colleagues,

Welcome to our journalism publishing party, the second culminating event of the ongoing Yorba-Chapman Writing Partnership! It is an honor to be here with you to celebrate our ideas, research, writing process, and this anthology of journalistic writing that we have created together these past two months. This special edition of the Yorba Times represents our learning together this spring.

This evening, you will hear from Yorba journalists and Chapman future teachers. The Yorba journalists have worked hard to brainstorm, research, and write about global, national, and local issues. It has been a true pleasure to see the progress each day, and to see Yorba writers move from the seeds of an original idea to brainstorms, outlines, multiple drafts, and the final articles you will hear and read today.

In our teaching of writing course, the Chapman future teachers not only studied methodologies about the teaching and learning of writing, we also read case studies that exemplify authentic and responsive pedagogy at the elementary and secondary levels. As we worked with the adolescent journalists at Yorba, we wrote our own articles so that we could experience and discuss what it is like to engage the writing process that we were supporting through our fieldwork. These articles have been included in our anthology.

In both the work at Yorba and Chapman, it has been clear that reading and writing are about making meaning and participating in the world around us. It has been an honor to help foster adolescent scholars' and future educators' emerging participation in powerful literacies and pedagogies. Moments like a student's first time deciding to read a draft aloud for constructively critical feedback, a future junior high school teacher's epiphany about the best way to teach grammar, or writing partners deciding on the best way to begin the next paragraph demonstrate the value of collaboration and a deep process, and are reflected in the work you will hear tonight.



We would be remiss if we did not thank those who have made this collaboration possible. This partnership would not be possible without the support of the Lloyd E. and Elisabeth H. Klein Family Foundation. Your support of this and other important community projects and partnerships are deeply appreciated. Thank you to Principal Tracy Knibb and Ms. Andrea Lopez for their dedication to their students, and to this university-school collaboration. Thank you to my amazing colleagues in the College of Educational Studies for the support and planning that are making this publishing party event a success. Thanks to the dedication of all of these people, we are embarking upon a truly reciprocal partnership, one that supports young writers and future teachers alike.

Finally, thank you for coming to celebrate our collaboration with us this evening! We appreciate your being here to engage our writing.

Dr. Noah Asher Golden

Assistant professor of Integrated Educational Studies

March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017

*Special thanks to the artists who contributed to this anthology. We appreciate the talents of Brook-lynn Payne (cover art), Adriana Herrera (Section 1 art), Darby Bollinger (Section 2 art), Elora Estes, and Sakina Jaffery (Section 3 art)*

Estimados estudiantes de Yorba y Chapman, miembros de la familia, vecinos, y colegas,

¡Bienvenidos a nuestra recepción de las publicaciones de periodismo, el segundo evento de la asociación en curso: Yorba-Chapman! Es un honor estar aquí con ustedes para celebrar nuestras ideas, investigación, proceso de escritura, y esta antología de escritura periodística que hemos creado juntos estos últimos dos meses. Esta edición especial del Yorba Times representa nuestro aprendizaje juntos en esta primavera.

Esta noche, escuchará a los periodistas de Yorba, y a los futuros maestros de Chapman. Los periodistas de Yorba han trabajado duro para hacer una lluvia de ideas, para investigar y escribir sobre temas globales, nacionales y locales. Ha sido un verdadero placer ver el progreso cada día, y ver a los escritores de Yorba pasar de las etapas iniciales de una idea original, a contornos, borradores múltiples y los artículos finales que escucharán y leerán hoy.

En el curso de enseñanza de la escritura, los futuros maestros de Chapman no sólo estudiaron metodologías sobre la enseñanza y el aprendizaje de la escritura, sino también casos de estudio que ejemplifican la pedagogía auténtica y sensible en los niveles primarios y secundarios. Mientras trabajábamos con los periodistas adolescentes en Yorba, escribimos nuestros propios artículos para que pudiéramos experimentar y discutir lo que es participar en el proceso de escritura. Estos artículos también han sido incluidos en nuestra antología.

Tanto en el trabajo de Yorba como en el de Chapman, ha quedado claro que la lectura y la escritura tienen que ver con hacer sentido y participar en el mundo que nos rodea. Ha sido un honor ayudar a fomentar la participación emergente de los estudiantes adolescentes y los futuros educadores en poderosas alfabetizaciones y pedagogías. Momentos como la primera vez que un estudiante decide leer un borrador en voz alta para recibir una opinión crítica constructiva, la epifanía de una futura maestra secundaria acerca de la mejor manera de enseñar gramática, o los mismos compañeros ayudándose a descubrir la mejor manera de comenzar el siguiente párrafo demuestran el valor de la colaboración, lo cual está reflejado en el trabajo que escuchará esta noche.

Sería negligente si no agradecemos a aquellos que han hecho posible esta colaboración. Esta asociación no sería posible sin el apoyo de la Fundación de la Familia Lloyd E. y Elisabeth H. Klein. Su apoyo a este y otros proyectos



comunitarios y colaboraciones son profundamente apreciados. Gracias a la Directora Tracy Knibb ya la señorita Andrea López por su dedicación a sus estudiantes, y a esta colaboración. Gracias a mis asombrosos colegas en el Colegio de Estudios de la Educación por su apoyo y la planificación que hizo que este evento de publicación sea un éxito. Gracias a la dedicación de todas estas personas, nos embarcamos en una verdadera asociación recíproca, que apoya tanto a los jóvenes escritores como a los futuros maestros.

Por último, gracias por venir a celebrar nuestra colaboración con nosotros esta noche! Agradecemos que estés aquí para comprometer nuestra escritura.

Dr. Noah Asher Golden

Assistant professor of Integrated Educational Studies

March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017

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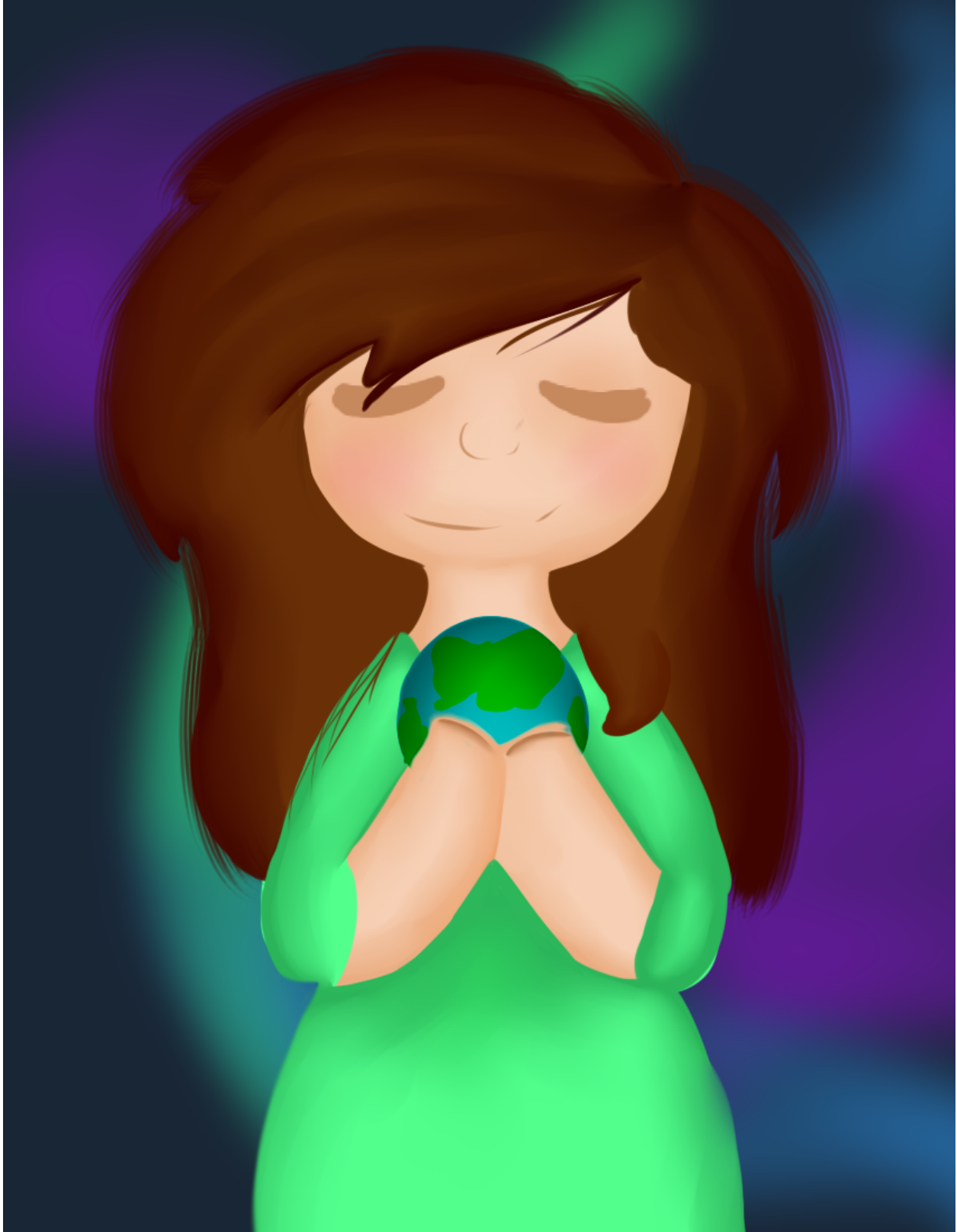
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# Women's March in LA

*By Alexa Tellez*

The Women's March was in Los Angeles on January 21, 2017. Women marched or protested for their rights, or to be treated as equal as men. Many people were involved such as women, men, and children. About 750,000 people filled the streets of Downtown L.A.

There is history behind this march. Back in history, women were not able to vote so they marched for that right. The women's march in Washington was the largest march in history. Women have always been marching for, "justice and equality for all" during the civil rights movement and now.

According to NBC Los Angeles, participants began meeting at Pershing Square at 9:00 am. The official march began at 10:00 am and ended at city hall. Celebrities such as Jane Fonda, Miley Cyrus, Alicia Keys, and Ariana Grande attended. Alicia Keys even stated, "We are mothers. We are caregivers. We are artists. We are activists. We are entrepreneurs, doctors, leaders of industry and technology. Our potential is unlimited. We rise." After Alicia Keys and other celebrities gave speeches, this topic became very important because they took some time out of their very busy schedules to come and support women.

Based on the *Los Angeles Times*, Dean Heezen, 26, of Canada decided to join the march in a pair of heels. "It's women's rights" he said. He also held a sign that said "walk a mile in her shoes." One lady responded, "Power to you for walking in heels." "Power to you for wearing them," he responded. People used this moment very wisely to fight for women.

People should know about this because they should know that women do fight for their rights and not just stay quiet. Some of the rights they are fighting for are women getting paid the same wage as men, women of color are getting paid less than white women, women stereotypes, and people who mistreat them. Women are getting paid 80 cents less than men, so women are fighting for that right because they are doing the same work as men. Sadly, there are still women stereotypes like "Women are supposed to cook and do housework." Women cook and do housework, but they can work outside of the house exactly like men. Men mistreat women by abusing them and harassing them.

Even though women get mistreated, harassed, and abused, men and women should really stand up and support all of these marches. Other ways to help women

is by making a movement and standing up to whoever treats them wrong. This is important for everybody to know because many people do not know that women have marches to fight for their rights and they can also stand up to people who hurt women.

## **Orange County Animal Shelter Waives Pet Adoption Fees: Is it Enough?**

*By Allison Carlson*

It's good news for the over six hundred and thirty pets living in the overcrowded Orange County Animal Shelter today! According to the Orange County Register, after the shelter had been over ninety-five percent full for months, The Board of Supervisors' voted to waive pet adoption fees in an order to help some of these furry friends find their forever homes. In an astonishing turn out, citizens of the community showed up and adopted two hundred and twenty of these animals in need and made it a day they'd never forget.

Unfortunately however, some pets were not as lucky. While the shelter has halted the wave on the adoption fee in order to continue to cover day to day expenses, they are not out of the woods yet. Many animals were still left without a loving home or family, and they still need your help! According to OC Animal Care, adoption fees are an average of \$167 for dogs, \$171 for cats and \$77 for rabbits. This covers the cost of microchipping, vaccinations, and preliminary health exams, therefore the monetary demand of adopting a pet from a shelter is still exponentially smaller than buying pets from the mall or breeders, which can cost up to \$2,000. Furthermore, the reward of rescuing an abandoned and neglected animal and giving them a loving home is priceless.

In short, adoption fees are small and hearts are big down at the Orange County Animal Shelter, where many loving animals are still waiting patiently to find the lucky human to call theirs forever. The temporary wave of adoptions fees did an excellent thing for this shelter and sparked a fire in the community, but let's not forget about the animals that are still there. The shelter has been reduced to an encouraging sixty-five percent capacity, but in this writer's book, that is still sixty-five percent too full.

## **Orange County Homeless Issue**

*By Brook-lynn Payne*

There is a big issue with the homeless in the Santa Ana riverbed affecting Orange, California in many ways. According to the Orange Register, Orange county's population of homeless people was 4,452 in 2015. This is a controversial topic which is causing many people to have their opinions on it.

There are many people who are complaining that they pay \$2,300 a month to live in a gated community. According to a report on Orange Register, they have been having problems about noise, trash, drinking and trespassing from the homeless. But homeless as well have their complaints. Charlotte Kramer is one of the homeless that lives in the riverbed and this is what she had to say. "It's really sad. We're just like everybody else. We're just a little less fortunate." Instead of complaining, people should try to help the homeless because complaining is not going to do anything. Many homeless people who live in the Santa Ana river bed have their problems that causes them not to find a job or better shelter. According to Orange Register, interviews with some of the homeless, most of the people who live in the river bed have mental issues or drug addictions that causes them not to be able to make the right decision which makes their life harder.

However, the city has been figuring out a way over the past few months to get the homeless out of the riverbed and find them a better place to settle. According to North Net Training Authority website, the city is planning to turn North Net Fire Training Center into a homeless shelter for the people who live in the Santa Ana riverbed. To prevent the homeless to put up their tents in the riverbed, the city has put down big boulders in the area where they use to set up. Some other areas that the homeless can clean up and get food is Mary's Kitchen. Although Mary's kitchen is not a permanent place to live this is helping people get off the riverbed and find better places to go.

I believe that this problem should be solved instead of complaining about it. I feel sad that the homeless are getting kicked out of the riverbed but it is for the good. The city does not want anyone to get hurt because with all this rainy weather, the riverbed floods up and can cause it very dangerous for the homeless. I feel the city is being pretty fair because they are at least trying to find a better place for the people who do live in the riverbed after they put down the big boulders. I believe if this problem wants to be fixed, everyone needs to come together and solve it.

# **The Homeless Community**

*By Dayana Camarena*

The homeless community has grown more in the city of Orange. Currently, the homeless are being kicked out of the riverbeds. According to the Orange County Register, there are several hundreds of people lined up in the riverbeds. I believe more people should help the homeless people instead of making them feel like if they do not exist.

There are many homeless people in Orange County, but not many people realize it. There was 15,291 in Orange County in 2015 according to the Orange County Register. Many people in the gated community do not understand the hardships of the homeless because they are closed off from them. When people do see the homeless, they think that the homeless are only homeless because they made bad life choices, but most of the causes are only that they didn't make enough money to sustain themselves. Reporter Joseph Pimentel said earlier that "Several hundred people have lined the eastern side of the riverbed with camps, adjacent to the 57 freeway and Angel Stadium. They will have to move."

The community is trying to help, but that is just not enough. There are about 3,400 beds, but there is not enough for every homeless. According to the Orange County Register, there were 32,510 homeless children during the 2013-2014 school year. Clearly, there are not enough of beds for all the homeless kids at the time. Orange County is trying to help by giving the homeless some shelter away from the riverbed, but they did not give enough beds for all of the homeless to live in. Therefore, this causes the riverbeds to be clogged up with many homeless people.

Many people do not respect homeless. Orange County was sued. Orange County has been sued for the second time in four days over allegations that it broke the law when it recently cleared out portions of a homeless encampment along the riverbed in Orange to make room to stockpile boulders and sand for flood control purposes. There should be changes made in Orange County that would help homeless people out of the streets. We as people should maybe save up some money to buy them a blanket or any products that they might need. We could communicate with them, say hi to them, and donate stuff that we do not need anymore. Also, we can volunteer our time to the homeless shelter and the foodbank. As you can see, by helping the homeless you can make a good cause of getting them off the streets. This is beneficial because there will be a better community.



When surveying Chapman students, many of them said they support the homeless community. Madi Spiegel said, “I think it is important for us to support the homeless community because they do not have access to the same resources as many people in our community do. They need support and need to feel like they are humans too.” A lot of Chapman students do community service. For example, there are soup kitchens. Soup kitchens are a place you can feed the homeless. Soup kitchens are important because not all people get to eat and having this place feeds many in need. Brianna Carcione worked at a soup kitchen and said, “It was a unique experience to get the chance to make a homeless child smile when I served them food that my friends and I made.”

Additionally, I interviewed my mom, Vanessa Albino, and my step dad, Jimmy Ochoa. My mom said, “Well, I agree that they should have more respect, every homeless deserves a second chance and they deserve to be in a better place other than the streets.” Jimmy Ochoa said, “The government should help the homeless more, not by giving them money but by maybe giving them a job or by giving them a place to stay at, but I think there are two types of homeless one that wants to make money for a good cause and one that wants money for something bad. I believe that there should be more respect towards them.”

In conclusion, there are still a lot of homeless people out there and it has been rising over these past few years. In my opinion, I think people should not treat the homeless badly. They are just like us. They have feelings as well, and we should treat them with kindness and not make them feel left out. I have talked about ways we could help the homeless community by spending more time in community service, donating stuff to them that we do not need anymore, and we can greet them whenever we see them. Overall, I think they should not move because that is the only place that makes them feel like home.

# **The Plastic Bag Law**

*By Jared Segundo*

On November 8, 2016, the California legislature and Governor Edmund Brown signed Senate bill (SB 270), a.k.a the Plastic bag ban. This is the first nationwide single use bag ban. In 2014, plastic bag manufacturers made Prop 67. According to Cavoters.com, “Prop 67 is a referendum that asks voters to approve or reject SB 270. A yes vote on Prop 67 means that SB 270 will go into effect. A no vote means that SB 270 will not go into effect.”

The ban was voted in 2014 but was delayed because plastic bag manufacturers campaigned against it using Prop 67. According to Ballotpedia, they say, “California is the first state to ban the sale of single-use bags.” The ban is taking effect and causing shoppers to pay 10 cents per bag. Based on Plastic bag manufacturers, “plastic bags are a tiny part of the pollution problem.” They also say, “Charging for bags will hurt low income people.”

Although opponents may think that there are no reasons for the ban, there actually are reasons. According to surfrider.com, Bill Hickman lists good reasons. First, they kill the environment by poisoning the food chain. Turtles, fish, & birds mistaken plastic bags as jellyfish or prey. Second, they cost taxpayers millions just to clean them up. Also, plastic bags are used for a few minutes but last a lifetime. Plus, only 5% of plastic bags are recycled.

Even though the plastic bag ban is used to help the environment, will it be enough? According to Science20.com, Enrico Dorigo says, “The banning of plastic bags may not be the salvation of the environment, but it could be a useful way to begin reducing waste pollution.”

Even though this new law hurts low income shoppers, it helps with the environment. The next time you go to a store and see a plastic bag, imagine what would happen if there was not a ban, think about it.

# **Technology Changes in the Classroom: One Student Compares Her Sister's Education to Her Own**

*By Jenna Dietrich*

August 2009: Skylar\* starts Kindergarten at California Elementary in Orange, California

August 2016: Skylar's younger sister starts Kindergarten at California Elementary in Orange, California

Seven years go by. While the curriculum may have stayed the same, the resources have changed greatly. Skylar recalls that she did not have any form of technology in her kindergarten class. Oh how times have changed. Skylar explains that her sister's kindergarten class has "iPads for each student," and that her sister is able to take the iPad home too.

With the advances of technology, this is amazing to see the inclusion of technological products within schools, but it is sad to see the divide between the generations of students. Within one family, the technology shift is showed very clearly. What does this shift mean for our schools? What should we expect from students like Skylar compared to her technologically saavy 5 year-old sister?

Joseph South, the Director of the Office of Educational Technology, explains that, "The National Education Technology Plan provides a vision of transformational learning experiences powered by technology that can shrink long-standing equity and accessibility gaps." While this plan provides vision and a mission for the schools, the technology gap is seen between students like Skylar and her sister.

Students are now expected to be computer literate at a very young age due to the resources in schools. This creates a gap between the students who attend schools that have these resources compared to those that don't. In a study in 2013, the U.S. Department of Education revealed that, "The percentage of internet users in the population age 3 and over was generally higher for those with higher family income levels. For example, 72 percent of people with family incomes from \$40,000 to \$49,999 used the Internet, compared to 85 percent of people with family incomes of \$100,000 or more." (NCES, 2014).

While the involvement of technology is necessary in today's society, the gap between students and schools will remain in some regard. Technology is highly dependent on the school district, the teacher's amount of integration, and the

resources overall. We cannot guarantee that every student across the nation is getting the same access to technology, which reveals the technology gap.

Skylar and her sister are a result of the technology gap. Due to technology growing and the schools integrating these changes, technological literacy is also changing. In addition to this technology gap within Orange, what should be done about the technology gap between school districts? Eventually, I believe that there will be a standardized curriculum relating directly to technology, but this still leaves out so many schools that do not have this technology. The technology gap is inevitable, but the goal is to serve the students to the best of our ability regardless of resources.

\*name is changed

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## Micah- a kids playing with legos, and saving the world?

*By Amanda Moore*



When Micah was six years old, he was pestering his father, begging for the newest lego set. His father told him he had too many Legos, and there were kids all over the world in places like Africa who do not have legos like Micah did. The next time Micah and his father were at a toy store, Micah asked his father again for another lego set, but this time he wanted to send it to kids in Africa. This is the story how a six-year-old Southern Californian boy started a program spreading joy, and legos, to children in Africa.

Play Well Africa began with Micah wanting to send a child Legos and now over 1000 children have the ability to play with Legos on a daily basis. In order to get more blocks, Micah's father posted on Facebook asking for donations. Soon, bags and bags of Legos came in! Now nine-years-old, Micah has visited Africa twice and was able to distribute the Lego blocks. Play Well believes that Legos are able to stimulate creativity, critical thinking and are able to sharpen the minds of students through play.

Want to help? There are two donation boxes, one in Los Angeles and one in Laguna Beach. You can also mail in donations to their Laguna Beach PO Box or to their Australian office. Play Well Africa also accepts monetary donations on their website.





## **What Drought?**

*By Lara Jacobson*

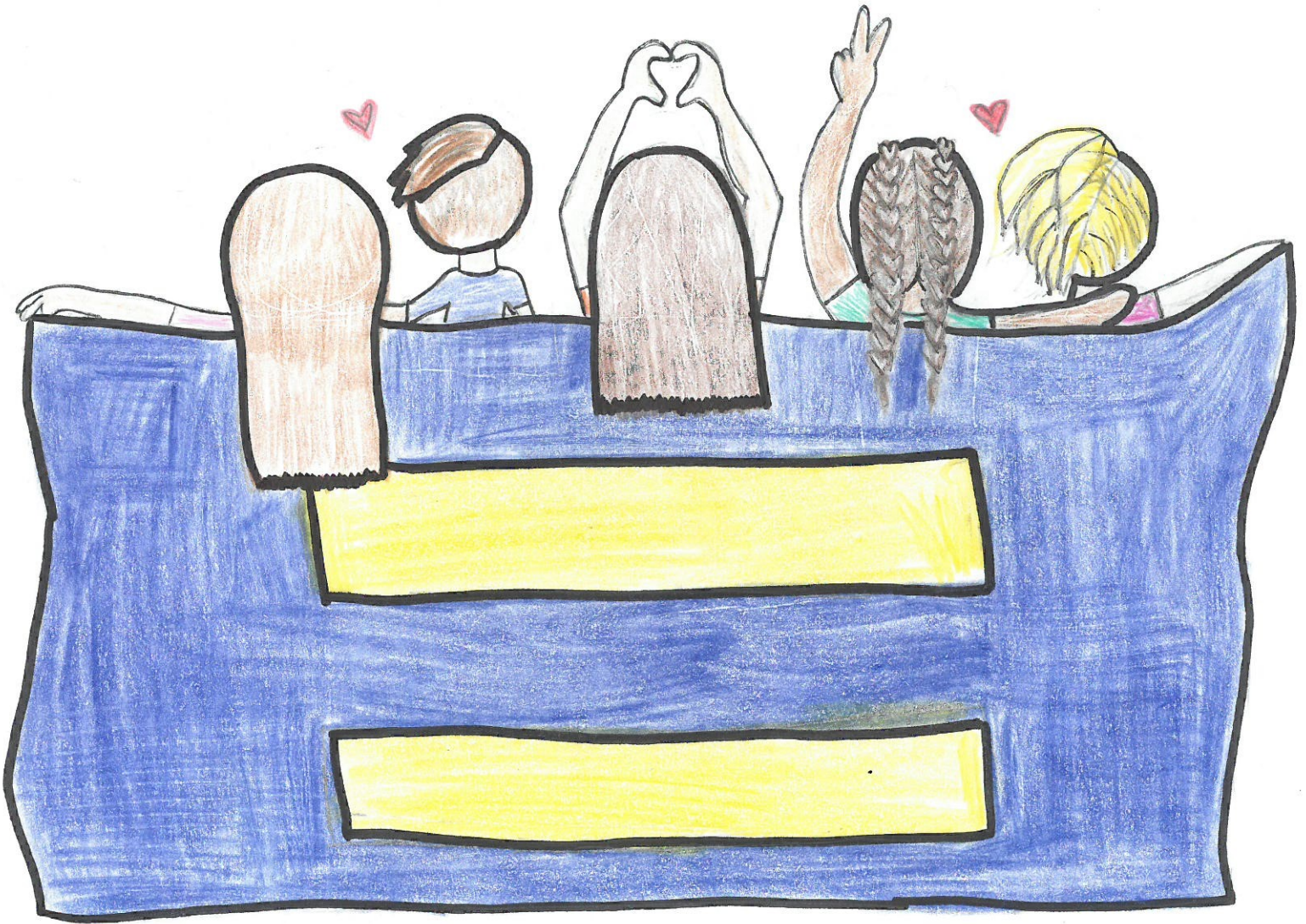
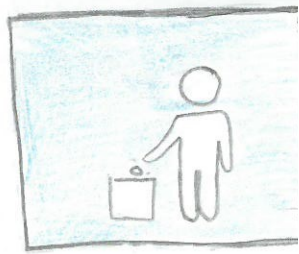
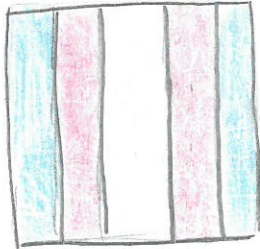
“So... is the drought over?” is a question that seems to be frequently asked by Californians only two months into the new-year. California has experienced more snow in the mountains and flash floods throughout the state than it has seen in years. Non-stop rain for hours over a time span of multiple days in January and February caused freeways, homes, and crop fields to flood. This has people wondering if California is finally out of this five-year extreme drought that has greatly affected the state as a whole in terms of agriculture, businesses, and just everyone’s day to day lives.

But what seemed like an endless amount of rain the Golden State has received so far in 2017, the answer is ultimately no, the drought is not over. Doyle Rice from USA Today reports that “...less than 60% of California remains in drought for the first time since early 2013, according to the weekly U.S. Drought Monitor. A year ago, drought covered 97% of the state”. As promising as these numbers are, California still has a long way to go before the drought can officially be over.

Although the drought has improved, it must be understood that Californians needs to continue to be conscience of their water usage. Yes, Northern California has gotten almost its entire annual average precipitation, the snow in the mountain is 150 percent times its normal rate, and reservoirs are filling up, but that still is not enough.

Peter Gleick, a member of the US National Academy of Sciences, reminds us that just because we have had several inches of rain already, we cannot forget about the severe warm weather we have experienced over the past few years. He states, “This combination of hot and dry led to massive groundwater overdraft, cutbacks to farmers, loss of snow storage in the mountains, reductions in hydropower production, and a range of voluntary and mandatory restrictions on urban water use. And while the wet year may end the ‘precipitation drought,’ higher and higher temperatures and a persistent ‘snow drought’ are here to stay.” As citizens of California, the only thing we can do now is hope for more rain, reduce our aquatic footprint, and expect that our state wisely proportions this increase of water in an equitable manner.





# National Issues

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## **Muslim Ban: Aren't We a Free Country?**

*By Sakina Jaffery*

The United States is a free country. However, according to CNN, President Donald Trump has banned people from seven countries from entering the US. The seven countries are Iran, Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Libya, Yemen, and Somalia. This order was signed on Friday, January 27th, 2017. Trump has signed this because of his order, "Protection of the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States."

The Guardian states that the ban has suspended the entire US refugee admissions system for 120 days. This ban is considered a Muslim ban because it has banned entry from seven majorly-Muslim countries for 90 days. Quote from Donald Trump during the signing of the order, "I hereby proclaim that the entry of nationals of Syria as refugees is detrimental to the interests of the United States and thus suspend any such entry." This ban caused chaos at airports, heartbreak to families inside and outside of the US, and confusion throughout US government. However, Vox.com has said that this order was on hold on February 3rd by a federal judge and is currently being considered in court.

Another reason why the ban is called a Muslim ban according to Vox.com is because of Trump's Islamophobic campaign. The case is unconstitutional discrimination. President Trump has also specifically promised to help Christians in the Middle East. If the ban excused Christians from certain countries, but affects their Muslim neighbors, that could also be called discrimination.

The ban has affected about 90,000 people according to The Washington Post. One of the many people who were affected by the ban is Dr. Amer al Homssi. Independent.co.uk states that he had traveled to United Arab Emirates to get married. He is a Syrian citizen but has never lived there and holds residency in the UAE. Dr. Amer al Homssi has been living in America under a J-1 student visa while he continued with his medical studies. His visa was cancelled and now he cannot come back to America to finish his studies as a doctor. As you can see, the Muslim ban does not just ban people from traveling, it also affects people's careers.

Not only does this ban affect people in those seven countries, but it also affects people who live in the US. The reason for that is because it creates

discrimination. If the US is a free country, why are people not allowed to visit their family or have them visit the US?



# **National Anthem Protest**

*By Andrew Guzman*

As American citizens, everybody should stand up for the National Anthem. Recently in football, San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick has been protesting against the National Anthem. I am against his protest because you should stand up and show respect not only for the country but for the people who sacrificed their lives.

What is the National Anthem actually about? The National Anthem is about expressions of the sense of belonging to a country. They resonate because we either grow up singing the song or we see the symbolic state of power. The anthem is not just about the words being sung, but it becomes a feeling of belonging and unity of the anthem.

There has been other players and coaches against Kaepernick's protest. Two coaches and three players have been against Kaepernick's protest. Coaches Jim Harbaugh (former coach of Kaepernick) and Dirk Koetter (Tampa Bay Buccaneers head coach) both respect the right to protest but do not like the way he is doing it in. Same thing with players Drew Brees (New Orleans Saints QB), Aaron Rodgers (Green Bay Packers QB), and Jerry Rice (San Francisco 49ers legend) feel the same way as both of the coaches.

I understand why he is protesting because he does not feel that our current state of our country follows the values of the anthem. He is protesting because he thinks that the anthem is oppressing black people and how they get treated everyday which that is not what it is about. But, the National Anthem is more than just the words being sung and values of it. It is about the people who sacrificed their lives for this country.

I hope you understand why I am against this protest and what Kaepernick was doing is wrong even though he has the right to protest. I encourage you to take a stand against his protest by standing up during the National Anthem and putting your right hand over your heart.



# Trump's Cabinet

*By Anya Vandandaigue*

Donald Trump is not the smartest person. Especially when it came to picking his cabinet. He is not smart enough to handle matters of our education and government, let alone our country. He should not be allowed to be president. He is a lying, inexperienced, businessman, not politician. His cabinet is terrible and is full of fools.

Trump still has not officially finished filling his cabinet. In fact, one of the men on his cabinet actually resigned because he was communicating with Russia, an outside party of the US, even before he was part of the cabinet; therefore, a lot of people may argue that Russia had something to do with Trump winning the election. This man of the cabinet was Trump's scapegoat. Trump says, "It is a disgrace that my full cabinet is still not in place, the longest delay in the history of our country." He is exaggerating. Many people said Barack Obama had taken longer to get all of his candidates, but his candidates were all qualified for their position. So far, Trump has had 252 no votes for candidates for his cabinet. Even though Obama had 406 no votes, that was over 2 terms. Trump has had the most no votes out of all presidents except Obama after Roosevelt. BBC News shows how so many people think about Trump and his cabinet nominees.

Many, many people find the time Trump has taken to fill his cabinet is utter ridiculousness. Press secretary Sean Spicer said the length of time it has taken to get Mr. Trump's presidential nominations confirmed was "ridiculous." Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell said, "Democrat obstruction has reached new extreme levels," which he called a "historic break with tradition." If known senators have talked badly about Trump, wouldn't you think something about it? Or would you sit at home and deal with it?

Trump's cabinet has little to no experience. Betsy DeVos paid senators to vote her for the position of Secretary of Education. She has admitted that she has little experience in education. Huffington post shows that Betsy Devos and her family fundraised over 1 million dollars for her to be the head of education as well as their support. Her family paid about 2 million dollars to Mitch McConnell after using 15 million dollars to back Senator Toomey.

We, the people should be choosing the cabinet. Trump is just surrounding his cabinet with rich people like himself. He is not doing what is best for our country. He is doing what is best for himself. The government is thinking that we

want to be represented and laws being decided for us rather than us deciding on laws ourselves. It is not fair.

## **“Nevertheless, WE Persisted”**

*By Charlie Grant*

Lately, I’ve found myself asking, “Is this really happening?” and “Did he really just tweet that?” much more frequently than I would like to. In the ongoing storm that is our political system, there’s been a shift, from an afternoon thunderstorm which can be annoying yet manageable, to a full on hurricane, where we are unaware of what will be hit next and what repairs will be necessary, in a matter of weeks. With each change, decision, and action President Trump makes, our stability as a country is left in his rather small hands.

In the latest headline, Senator Elizabeth Warren was silenced during a federal judgeship opposition Tuesday night. The senator was reading a letter by Coretta Scott King, which included a statement opposing a former member of the Judiciary Committee, when fellow Senator Mitch McConnell interrupted her and stopped her from speaking. He claimed she was reading a document that was considered “not suitable for debate in the United States Senate” and then invoked a rule to ban her from speaking for the remainder of the debate. McConnell claimed that Senator Warren had been previously warned of Rule 19 of the Senate, and claimed, “she had appeared to violate the rule. She was warned. She was given an explanation. Nevertheless, she persisted.” (Kane & O’Keefe, 2017).

Following Senator McConnell’s statement, there has been an uproar of support from citizens of both the United States and the world. Fellow senators have continued to read portions of Coretta Scott King’s letter in unison with Warren. Additional backlash began however when male Senators Jeff Merkley and Tom Udall were permitted to read the entire letter aloud without interruption. This led to more support for Senator Warren as she went live on Facebook and read the letter in a space where she was permitted to speak. Hashtags including #LetLizSpeak and #NeverthelessShePersisted have started trending worldwide to show support and respect for Senator Warren.

With disrespect and lack of knowledge at an all time high, it is more important now than ever to stand together. As women, as people, as global citizens, we need to stand up for our rights and beliefs. The bravery of those who see the issues and support these important, life altering changes, like Senator Warren, are those who need to continue to have a voice throughout the Trump reign. With strong female leadership, change can and will happen, as long as we keep persisting.

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## **#Blacklivesmatter**

*By Sunshine Durham*



The #blacklivesmatter movement was started by Patrisse Cullors, Opal Tometi, and Alicia Garza as a call to action for all Black people (and their allies) in response to the unjust ruling in the Trayvon Martin trial. They felt it was time to stand together as a community against the anti-Black racism that runs rampant in our society. The movement gained more publicity as the continuous mistreatment, marginalization, and murder of Black lives continued.

It has become routine for #blacklivesmatter to be trending on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and other social media outlets when new videos of unjust or the illegal mistreatment of Black people are released to the public. Many of these videos contain graphic violent content and/or racial slurs being directed towards a person of color. The people affected by content of the videos are often met with tons of support from the Black community as well as other marginalized communities.

However, there has been backlash from certain groups of people in response to the movement and even the videos released. Some of the negative responses are rooted in complete racism and supremacy, while others stem from ignorance and misunderstanding. Much of these misunderstandings are from a lack of grasping what the BLM movement is all about.

In a nutshell, it's an international activist movement that campaigns against violence and systemic racism towards Black people. To the uninitiated it is sometimes seen as a movement that believes Black lives matter more or are more

important than the lives of other races, when in fact, they are just striving for equal treatment in the country they live in and demanding to be treated like their lives matter.

# **Inside The Boston Bombing**

*By Ali Shehab*

On April 15, 2013, the Boston bombing occurred. Dzhokhar Tsarnaev was the man who caused the bombing. The Boston bombing happened in Watertown, Boston on Boylston Street. This act occurred because Dzhokhar was armed with heavy artillery and on psychological medicine. Also, Dzhokhar's brother was involved with the bombing. He was killed in a shootout with the police after the bombing.

After the bombing, Dzhokhar tried to hide in a boat in someone's backyard. The owner of the boat, David Henneberry, saw that something was off about his boat. Henneberry went to go check it out. When he lifted the cover for the boat, he saw that there was blood everywhere. He saw a body on the other side of the boat, but there was no movement at all. S.W.A.T. came and investigated the scene. Tsarnaev was taken into custody.

Three people were killed in this incident, over 250 people were severely injured, and 17 of them lost limbs. As stated in The Washington Posts, prosecutors described him as a "cold blooded killer." One of the people killed in particular was 8 year old Martin Richards. Tsarnaev will be the 62nd federal inmate on death row. He will be transferred to a federal prison where he will remain until put to death by lethal injection.

Tsarnaev had 17 charges and was sentenced to death on 6 of them. Tsarnaev had killed a police officer, Sean Collier, but was not sentenced to death on that charge. According to The Washington Post, Dzhokhar was 19 at the time of the attack and his attorney stated, "He was young, naive, and deeply regretted his action. He had no emotions during the court hearing. As reported by USA Today, he was charged with conspiracy to use a weapon of mass destruction that resulted in death. He was also charged with possession and use of a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence resulting in death; aiding and abetting (nine counts).

As of right now, he is being held in Supermax, a maximum-security prison. Supermax is located in Florence, Colorado. It is described to be a "living hell," said former warden Bob Hood. If you want a better idea or picturing of what is going on, you should go check out the movie based on this tragedy, which is called Patriots Day.

# **The Debate: Common Core and our Education System**

*By Dayna Sipila*

Common core, an American curriculum to try and get students to be at similar levels of knowledge within each grade level, isn't doing much to help students in the long run. It seems as if it is only creating more and more problems, rather than truly solving any. Teachers are even saying that the common core standards are not doing anything to prepare the students for higher education or to help improve their learning. The common core standards within our country need to be re-evaluated. We, as a country, need to look at what "learning" truly means and what exactly it is that we want our students to get out of public schooling.

When it comes to education, there is not a "one size fits all". There have been many studies done on the different types of learners that exist within educational settings. Therefore, in a more recent study, seven different learning styles have been recognized. Those being: visual, aural, physical, verbal, logical, social and solitary. Each of these seven styles are different. Every student learns differently, and it varies by subject matter. Something like common core tries to mold students in this "one size fits all" cookie cutter, but that is not what learning looks like. You can't mold learning. It is nearly impossible to meet the needs of all students, but common core is not taking different learning styles into account when it creates its standards. It has a "this is the one and only way" type of mentality when it comes to solving a problem. It does not allow for creativity or much critical thinking. This is not what we should be promoting within our schools, and we should allow for flexibility in terms of problem solving as long as it leads in the right direction.

Common core creates a new focus on meeting standards, rather than learning. Rather than trying to actually "learn" the material, students are just trying to meet the standard to get the grade. Teachers, principals, and administrators are promoting it to help get their numbers up. Is this what we want for our students? Learning is a lifelong process, not something you throw in your short term memory just to forget later on. We should be teaching concepts that stick. We should be promoting learning within our school systems, not crunching to meet numbers.

Common core is not preparing students for what they need to know for their possible future endeavors. For example, the math standards will not put students at the level they need when they graduate high school. James Milgram, a Stanford



math professor hired to review the math curriculum within common core refused to sign off on it. He did not think the curriculum was going to help students in the long run. Therefore, what is said when an intellectual from one of the country's best higher education institutions refused to sign off on mathematics common core standards? We need to think about that.

I understand the direction that the common core creators were trying to go, but it does not mean that it is currently working well in our society. Education is about learning, knowledge, questioning, and thinking. It is not about fitting into a mold. It is about focusing on the students and nurturing their passions and purpose. It is not about trying to get them to meet a standard so the school can make more money. If our country focused more on promoting students' strengths and guiding them through their weaknesses as a curriculum, we would be much more successful. We need to ask ourselves, can learning be evaluated in such a way?

Common core is not doing much good. There really should be no debate any longer, it is time to re-evaluate. Students are valuable and need to have curriculums that support their needs. I would only hope that our society realizes this because before we know it, this will be a much bigger issue. What is the purpose of "learning"? What is the purpose of "schooling"? Those are the very important questions it comes back to. Education is a lot more powerful than one may think. We need to start treating it that way.

# **Why the school system needs to change**

*By Ashley Diaz*

There are so many things our school system needs to fix. This article is going to be discussing some of the ways certain school systems outdated resulting in students being shortchanged.

Albert Einstein once said: Everyone's a genius but if judge a fish on its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid." Education system, can I ask you a question? are you proud of the changes you have not made in the school system turning millions of people into robots? Do you find that fun? Well, the time has come; no more excuses. School is killing our creativity, individuality and creating inequality. In a YouTube video Prince showed how phones, cars, and schools have changed over the past 100 years. Both cars and phones have had drastic changes, but when it came to schools, hardly any changes have been made. Literary over a century, nothing has changed. Yet school claims to prepare us for the future.

According to an article from Newsela why students suffer from anxiety stated every scientist will tell you no two brains are the same, and every parent with two or more children will confirm that claim. So school, please explain why you treat students like cookie cutter frames, or snap back. CNN stated that if a doctor prescribed the exact same medicine to all of his patients, the results would be tragic; so many people would get sick. This educational malpractice where one teacher stands in front of 20 children, and each one having different strengths, different needs, different gifts, and different dreams. Yet, you still teach the same thing the same way.

Teachers have the most important job on the planet, yet they are underpaid. No wonder so many students are shortchanged. You see teachers are heroes that often get shamed, when the districts are ones to be blamed. They work in a system without many options or rights over curriculums that are created by policy makers where most of them have not taught a day in their life. Just obsessed with standardized tests they think bubbling in a multiple-choice question will determine success.

That's outlandish, in fact these tests are outdated and should be abandoned. But don't take my word for it. Take Fredrick J. Keely, a man who invented standardized testing, who said and I quote, "These tests are too crude to be used and should be abandoned." We continue down this road; the results will be literal. I

don't have much faith in school but I do have faith in people. And if we can customize health care, cars, and Facebook pages, then it is our duty to do the same for education, to upgrade. Sure, math is important, but no more than art or dance, let's give every gift an equal chance. I know this sounds like a dream, but countries like Finland are doing impressive things. They have shorter days, teachers make decent wage, homework is non-existent, and they focus on collaboration instead of competition.

While us students make up 20% of the U.S population, we are 100% of the future. There's no telling what we can achieve. Let's change the system and create a world, where fish are no longer is forced to climb a tree.

## **English Speaker Parking Only! All Others Will be Towed**

*By Tara Schrock*

While filling out a job application for a hostess position at a restaurant, there came a section that asked me to list “any other relevant skills, languages, awards, etc. that would benefit you in this position”. Wanting to boost my application a little bit and make me seem more qualified, I almost listed “French speaking,” having taken French for three years in high school and three semesters in college. Surely, I could be considered a Francophone. Surely I could handle translating a native French-speaking customer, it isn’t too hard to ask for someone’s name or point them to the bathroom or ask how many are in their party.

Putting pen to paper, I wrote down “Speaks French” and almost immediately, beads of sweat began to emerge on my forehead.

What if the manager knows French, and tries to have a conversation with me? All I can really say is “Où est la toilette?” “Je m’appelle Tara” and “Je ne sais pas” (The last one being my favorite, literally translating to “I don’t know”).

I crossed out my credibility and left that section on the application blank. Despite my credible reputation of years of education in French courses, I am by no means a French speaker.

This event led me to think critically about the value of learning a second language in America, a value that our educational system does not seem to hold very highly as a priority. For the amount of time that I have spent in a French class, I should be able to translate more than “yes” “no” and “where is the bathroom”.

Unfortunately, I am not the only victim of a low quality educational experience learning a second language. Many of my friends and colleagues who took a foreign language in high school are also unable to speak more than a few phrases in their second language. For example, many of my friends who took Spanish in high school can’t translate more than “cómo está?” and “lo siento” (“How are you?” and “I’m sorry”).

Learning a second language is put on the backburner in the current educational system. According to Forbes, there is a shortage of qualified language teachers, schools offering language instruction has decreased from 31% to 25%, and only 50% of colleges require foreign language study. In addition, foreign

languages, if offered and mandated at all, are usually not taught until middle or high school ages.

Meanwhile, European countries emphasize learning a second language as a top priority. According to a report from the European Commission, most European countries mandate learning a second language between ages 6 and 9, and later begin learning a third language during middle or high school. According to the Pew Research Center, countries such as Belgium even require that children start learning their first foreign language at the age of 3.

Learning a foreign language is absolutely essential in the modern day as a key to becoming a global citizen in political, economic, and social terms. Speaking a language is to open a door into a culture, which is necessary in order to be politically active, economically competitive, and socially understanding and tolerant.

Not only is learning a foreign language important to be active in the global community, but refusing to make foreign language a priority in schools also fuels ethnocentrism, the concept that views other cultures relative to one's own. Ethnocentrism views English as the standard and dominant language, making all other languages inferior and less important.

By refusing to incorporate foreign language requirements earlier in K-12 education, American students miss out on the opportunity to become fluent in a foreign language which can benefit them in a multitude of areas outside of the school. Learning a second language is universally valuable, as the rest of the world seems to notice and organize as a priority. American schools need to place more emphasis on foreign language education, beginning language acquisition earlier in students' education and making high school and college courses more rigorous to train fluent global speakers.

# **Standardized Testing is NOT a Reliable Measure of Student Intelligence**

*By Claudia Doucette*

Standardized testing in fundamental education has been incorporated in schools since the 1800's; they are not a new concept. However, recently its merits have been challenged by some students, parents, and some educators. Standardized tests are not an accurate measurement of a student's achievements in school, their capabilities, or levels of intelligence. They are ridden with subjectivity, despite administrative claims of neutrality and lack of bias in the tests.

Reading comprehension, writing, math, and sometimes science are usually the subjects included in standardized tests. Indeed, these are extremely important skills to have as a student approaches adulthood, but I would also strongly argue that there are many other different intelligences to be explored. What about the artistic students—those who can dance, sing, draw, paint, for example? There is a “creativity crisis” as a result of focusing all lessons on test preparation.

Administrators and test-makers think that “teaching to the test” is a good thing because of its efficiency in teaching and focusing on the essential content, “essential” meaning the test material. The dangers present in this concept are that educators will drift towards the so-called “drill 'n kill” rote learning, where everything is purely facts and test strategies instead of complex and/or hands-on learning assignments. Therefore, standardized test preparation will teach students to be good test-takers but not good critical thinkers, which is incredibly vital for success in adult life.

Standardized tests only measure a small part of what makes education meaningful. Students should be allowed to express themselves and discover what they are passionate about rather than worry about test preparation and their intelligence being judged off of one test score. Everyone is unique and has different thought processes; that should be celebrated and honored in our educational system

## **Betsy DeVos Confirmed as Secretary of Education by Senate** *By Florencia Park*

On Jan. 7, 2017, President Donald Trump's nominee Betsy DeVos was confirmed by the Senate with a 51-to-50 vote as Secretary of Education. Vice President Mike Pence cast the unprecedented tie-breaking vote, a first in history. 46 Democrats, two Republicans, and two independents opposed. Republican senators Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska who opposed both expressed their concerns regarding the new Secretary's qualifications.

"I have serious concerns about a nominee to be secretary of education who has been so involved in one side of the equation, so immersed in the push for vouchers, that she may be unaware of what actually is successful within the public schools, and also what is broken and how to fix them," Murkowski said.

DeVos under her new position will manage 4,400 employees and a \$68 billion annual budget. For many educators, DeVos's support for charter schools, "tax credit scholarships", and vouchers is troubling for public schools. Furthermore, according to NPR, DeVos finds it "premature" to uphold the 2011 Title IX guidance as it relates to sexual assault on campus. Additionally, DeVos dismissed the idea of free tuition.

While there is opposition, Mike Pence in support of her appointment praised her through social media. "Today's vote to confirm Education Secretary @BetsyDeVos was a vote for every child having a chance at a world-class education" Pence said in a Twitter post.

Senator Lamar Alexander, Republican of Tennessee and a former education secretary himself, scrutinized Democratic Senators for their votes against DeVos for being voted by a Republican president. He supports DeVos and backs her in public. "She led the most effective public school reform movement over the last few years," Alexander said. In her first public message, DeVos addresses her opposition and support to collectively work for a better education system that places students first.

"Let us set aside any preconceived notions and let's recognize that while we may have disagreements, we can — and must — come together, find common ground and put the needs of our students first," DeVos said.

# **English Languages Learners Must be Placed in Mainstream Classrooms**

*By Samantha Cortes*

Imagine sitting in a classroom surrounded by everyone speaking a language you cannot understand at all. The teachers, the students, even your desk partner are all speaking words, however as hard as you try, nothing makes sense. Today, there are approximately five million English language learners (ELLs) in America's education system that face this struggle every day. Along with this, these students are even more susceptible to higher dropout rates, peer exclusion, unprepared teachers, and communication issues within their educational process. This group of students whose native language is one other than English currently make up the fastest growing population in our public schools today. Although there are various methods of instruction for English language learners, placing these vulnerable students in mainstream classrooms instead of separate learning programs is the most effective and inclusive way to educate them.

The No Child Left Behind Act asserts that all states must identify ELL's in the schools, measure their proficiency, and include them in state testing programs that examine their academic abilities. Some people argue that placing English language learners in separate "pullout" classrooms will provide these students with individualized and slower-paced instruction that they may need. However, this method of separation only endorses the exclusion of ethnic minorities and creates a division between ELLs and their English-proficient peers. Mainstream classrooms on the other hand, provide these students with the opportunity to interact with both academic and conversational English that their teachers and peers use every day.

Cook and Friend (1995) have done many studies focused around ELLs and declare that students' incentive and educational drive tends to grow in mainstream classrooms because they are engaged in meaningful learning instead of slower and separate programs that are "dumbed down." Along with this, Sakash and Rodriguez-Brown (1995) state that at-risk youth who are placed in mainstream classrooms actually reach higher academic levels than students who are placed in separate pullout classrooms. The reason for this is because these children are surrounded by a more authentic use of the English language by being full classroom participants instead of isolated students in separated programs and classrooms. English language learners can be appreciated for bringing diversity and culture into our mainstream classrooms as well. Teachers can utilize the addition of ELLs and modify lesson plans to incorporate new cultural ideas,



practices, and words to educate all the students. This idea of diversity in the classroom not only benefits the English language learners, but also their peers who would otherwise not be naturally exposed to it.

It is truly up to our education system to provide the best model of learning for English language learners. This growing population in America will constantly face academic struggles, however, the simple requirement of mainstreaming all ELLs can take us one step closer to a better and more inclusive education for these children.

## ***It isn't right***

*By Elora Estes*

Drug addiction is a huge issue; an issue that is seen throughout all communities. Hate crimes are an issue that affects everyone, but there is one community that is most times more affected, this is the LGBT population. They have higher rates of alcohol and substance abuse than any other community by far. Alcohol and substance abuse are always a problem, but why is it more likely in the LGBT community than the heterosexual community?

The statistics are unbelievable for drug use among LGBT versus heterosexuals. According to American Progress, “25 percent of gay and transgender people abuse alcohol compared to the 5 to 10 percent of heterosexuals.” Another study from American Progress shows “20 to 30 percent of gay and transgender people abuse substances compared to the 9 percent of the rest of the world’s population.”

A study from American Progress shows that LGBT experience more stress in everyday life than heterosexuals. The same study says the stress comes from everyday discrimination in employment, health care and relationship recognition. Hate crimes truly take a toll on a human mentally and sometimes even physically. A study from Pflagnyc.org says, “Gay teens are 8.4 times more likely to have attempted suicide than heterosexual teens and 5.9 times more likely to have high levels of depression.’

LGBT youth who have reported family rejection during adolescence are 3 times more likely to use illegal drugs. Studies from the Pride Institute suggest the most common of drugs in this community are Crack, Cocaine, Methamphetamine, Xanax, Valium, Ecstasy and many more. It also shows gay and transgender people smoke tobacco up to 200 percent more than their heterosexual and non-transgender peers.”

It is not fair to hate someone because of the way they were born. Families should not be sending their kids to gay correctional camps because they cannot handle someone who is different. How can a mother and father abandon their child that the mother birthed, raised and cared for but their love is now gone because they are gay. You should not, you loved them before and you should love them after they come out. It’s what is in your heart. There should not have to be statistics about kids who are rejected and bullied every day because they are different. If a crime is committed for any reason, it should not be a hate crime. They were BORN

this way! Care about them the same you would any heterosexual. Being different is okay. Diversity is a part of us. Gay and transgender teens should not feel like they have to go to drugs for comfort because they cannot go to their family. They are dying from drug abuse and overdoses every day and we are doing nothing to get them help they need.

The LGBT youth are not safe in school either. A study from Pflagnyc.org says, “Thirty two percent of students 12 through 18 have experienced verbal or physical bullying during the school year and 90 percent of LGBT kids grades 6 through 12 have been verbally harassed and almost half have been physically harassed.” The statistics are wild, we need to help them to stand up for themselves or help them get the strength to tell someone.

What needs to happen for this to stop is simply teach our kids better. Fight off homophobia and accept diversity in our community. Stand up for the LGBT community when we see them getting harassed. Have a talk with our youth about being LGBT and how it is okay to be different. It is okay to be diverse and some people do not see that.

Drug addiction is a huge issue; an issue seen throughout all communities. Hate crimes are an issue that are seen in most communities, but these are most seen in the LGBT community. Stop this issue. Diversity is okay, and loving the same sex is okay.

# **How The LGBT Community Is Treated**

*By Sandra Noria*

YouTuber Ingrid Nilsen came out as homosexual a few years ago. Ingrid was scared to share this because people in her community were homophobic. Homophobia is defined as people who don't agree with, are against, or dislike homosexual people. Homosexual means people who are attracted to the same sex. There are so many people who are not able to be honest about who they are because they are afraid of rejection. The LGBT community has faced discrimination. They are people and should be treated equally regardless of their sexuality and identity.

According to the website Center Link, “The first LGBT community center opened the doors in 1971 in Los Angeles, CA and Albany, NY.” LGBT stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender. Also, according to American Psychological Association, of the 5.5 million unmarried couples documented, 13 percent were the same sex couples. This is a high percentage of people who identify as homosexual, and many are treated poorly. The website World Economic Forum says, “Many people think we are useless... Some of us cannot even get jobs just because of our sexuality.”

According to the website Advocate, a guy named Amir Moini shared his story. “Growing up, my worst years were in middle school. I was coming to terms with my sexuality, and I was terrified of people knowing I was gay. People picked on me and took full advantage of their suspicions on my sexuality. I was constantly put down for not fulfilling the gender roles I was expected to excel at. I wasn't good at sports. I didn't talk a certain way. My body language was not masculine enough. The music and movies I liked were too feminine. I literally had to proofread everything I said.” Mr. Moini should not have been treated this way. I think he should've been treated how every other kid is treated.

Some kids can have trouble coming out these days because many people are disrespectful and not understanding. Other kids get bullied every day for being bi, lesbian, gay, or transgender. It's horrible how people cannot be happy because of their sexuality. According to LGBT Foundation, Bryan said, “Three years later, I still challenge homophobia in the classroom and on the corridor.” I believe it would be helpful if they started clubs at school about LGBT.

I think it's horrible how people have to act a certain way. It's their life and no one can tell them what to do. I believe that all people can raise a family without

anyone telling them not to. I agree that this community should be able to get married if they want to. I read on [www.governing.com](http://www.governing.com) that thirty seven states legalized same sex marriage. In my opinion, it is good how all these states legalized this, but I think more states should follow their lead.

In conclusion, the LGBT community has faced discrimination in school, marriage, and their everyday life. I believe they should be treated equally because they are humans. Our country has been moving forward with this issue, but there is still more work to be done. This topic is important to me because there's a lot of people who need support, and I want to see change.

# **Should College Athletes be Paid to Play?**

*By David Alvarez*

Should college athletes be paid to play? This is very important to colleges because sports like football and basketball bring a lot of money and attention to colleges and universities. I think colleges and universities should pay their athletes because college players put in a lot of work. Even though some colleges are already paying some of their athletes, I think they should pay all of their athletes.

To begin with, "It's reasonable that college athletes make money off his or her talent and fame," said by Patrick Hruby from the Huffington Post. I think this is a very good point because many celebrities are always making money off their talent and fame. Also, the sports that bring in the most money and interest are football and basketball. Therefore, it is reasonable for college players to make money off their skills and accomplishments, especially if they are good at the sport they play.

Another great point people might say college athletes are always putting their bodies at risk when they are playing the game they love. In football, especially, there are many injuries. According to CNN.com, "44 out of 55 college football players had chronic traumatic encephalopathy." CTE is a disease of the brain that affects a lot of players. Some examples that CTE has done are memory loss, aggression, depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts. Football is the sport that has caused the most concussions out of every sport.

According to smartasset.com, even though some people might say that paying athletes could detract from their passion and make them less motivated to play hard to get to the next level." I think that paying them could motivate them to perform even better. Also, people like collegiate sports because players play with passion and love. Collegiate sports are sports and athletic competition organized and funded by institutions like colleges and universities.

For example, if these players are being motivated by being paid to play, they can start to perform even better. If they are playing better, they can bring in more attention and more people will attend the games. Additionally, if more people attend the games, the colleges will be getting more money. Therefore, if the colleges are getting more money, they could be paying their athletes and the cycle could start all over again. Finally, colleges could be benefiting from the attention of fans, money, and gaining recognition.

College athletes sacrifice their time, school work, and body for the colleges so they can win games. Have you ever been in this position where you are working really hard on a job or project or any type of work and never got paid? This is how some college athletes are feeling right now.

# Concussions

*By Diana Lopez*

On July 19, 2011, NFL quarterback Jim McMahon and his girlfriend were seriously hurt in a car accident on Monday night in Reno, as a result he received a concussion. McMahon was a college football player who played at Brigham Young University. He was good enough to go on to the NFL; Jim McMahon played with the Chicago Bears, San Diego Chargers, Philadelphia Eagles, and a few other teams. McMahon won two Super Bowls, once with the Bears in Super Bowl XX and another time with the Packers in Superbowl XXXI. According to *The Chicago Tribune*, Jim McMahon has been experiencing memory loss. In an interview McMahon said, “Back then, it was just tape an aspirin to your helmet and you go back in....I’ve worked with some neurosurgeons and it’s a very serious thing, man... My memory’s pretty much gone. There are a lot of times when I walk into a room and forget why I walked in there. I’m going through some studies right now and I am going to do a brain scan. It’s unfortunate what the game does to you.” This quote shows that football can change your life for the worse.

A lot of people can get concussions besides athletes. A concussion is when your brain is damaged by a whack to the head or when your head and body goes through a violent vibration. People get concussions by banging their head against something very rough and hard. It mostly happens in sports when your body crashes into someone else or when you fall down.

The national sports foundation stated that concussions occur mostly in football because this sport includes tackling to the ground as well as players getting hit. The percentage of people who get concussions a year is 47, and 33 percent of them happen at practice. Although the percentage of concussions is high, there are ways to prevent them. According to sportsconcussion some of the best ways to not get a concussion are: play by the rules, wear the right equipment and wear it the correct way, look at the field and make sure there are no holes or anything on the field that can hurt you, and most importantly, make sure you’re not rough when you’re playing.

Jim McMahon is a good example of how serious concussions can be. His football career and his personal life have been affected by his concussion, which caused him memory loss. This injury potentially could make him forget football plays and people in his life. Jim McMahon will always suffer from memory loss



for the rest of his life showing that concussions can lead to very serious side effects.

# **How Political Issues are Affecting Athletes**

*By Edwin Reyes*

Do you like sports? According to CBS Sports, 64% of Americans watch sports. For a long time, people used sports to get out of problems, but now political issues are affecting some athletes.

This is also not a new topic though. Michael Jordan and Larry Bird have skipped their team's White House visit because they did not feel comfortable about the President George H.W. Bush and Reagan. Patriots won this year's Super Bowl and even before the game, two of their players said they would not go if they won. Now, 6 players will not go and they told NBC Sports, "We don't feel welcomed, and we don't care what they think."

According to TheAtlantic.com, in 2014 Derrick Rose wore a warm up T-shirt that said, "I Can't Breathe," the words repeated by Eric Garner as he died while being choked by a Staten Island police. Not too long after that, LeBron James and Kyrie Irving from the Cleveland Cavaliers, among some Brooklyn Nets players, wore the same T-shirt when they played each other in New York. After the game, LeBron told the reporters, "It's just to understand what we're going through as a society. I've been quoted over and over as far as what's going on, it's more of a notion to the family. More than anything. As a society we have to do better. We have to be better for one another, don't matter what race you are."

As I said in the beginning, that for a long time people used sports to get out of problems and now players are publicly showing their opinion on how they think the country is going. An example is Colin Kaepernick, he didn't stand up for the National Anthem at two games. Kaepernick posted on his Twitter, "It is not a really big deal, but know society has changed and everything that we do is controversial." After the game, he said that he also has an opinion and that is how he is expressing it.

In conclusion, athletes are public figures and they use that advantage to tell the world how they feel. We have the freedom to express how we feel and that it doesn't matter if you are young or old, you can make a difference.

## **Animal Rescue**

*By Haeley Arcos*

I think animal rescue is a good thing because it helps save many animals' lives. I think that people should take action in helping animals in any way they can. Some ways to help is by adopting an animal, knowing signs of physical and environmental abuse, and much more.

Based on ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals), one way people can help an animal is by adopting. There are 2.7 million shelter animals that are adopted every year. Also, when an animal is not adopted and has been in the shelter too long, they are euthanized. Approximately 7.6 million companion animals enter animal shelters nationwide every year and are now looking for forever homes. "I think animal adoption is a good thing because that helps animals find their forever homes," responded Sonia a middle school student when I asked her about her opinion in animal adoption.

According to the Connecticut Humane Society, another way people can help an animal is by knowing the signs of physical abuse. Some signs of physical abuse include untreated skin conditions that cause loss of hair, scaly skin, bumps or rashes. Other signs are parasite infestation of the fur, inadequate grooming, matted fur; overgrown nails, dirty coats, and observed beatings. When I asked Sonia what she thinks about physical abuse against animals her response was, "I think that it is sad and cruel that animals have to suffer in that way."

Based on the Connecticut Humane Society, signs of environmental abuse include keeping animals chained outside for long periods of time without adequate food, water or shelter. Other signs are when pets are kept in cages that aren't big enough to allow them to stand, turn around and make normal movements. Some pets are forced to live in conditions that are constantly filthy and littered with feces, garbage, broken glass and other harmful objects. "I think it is cruel to keep animals living in this type of condition," responded Deanna another middle school student when I asked her what her opinion in environmental abuse was.

Based on the Humane Society of the United States, one final example on how people could help animals is by being informed about how too many animals are being euthanized for many reasons. Euthanization is when an animal is humanely put to death. Around 3 to 4 million dogs and cats are euthanized every year because shelters are too full to keep all the animals. Approximately 8 to 12 million pets enter animal shelters nationwide every year and about 5 to 9 million of

those animals are euthanized. According to ASPCA comparing the statistics between dogs and cats, 31% of dogs are euthanized while 41% of cats are euthanized. This is why animal adoption is a good thing because people who adopt help save animals' lives. When I asked Sonia what her thoughts were on animals being euthanized she responded, "I think it is really sad that animals are being euthanized when they are not adopted."

As you can see, animal rescue is helpful in many ways because it helps save animals' lives and finds them forever homes. People can also help in many other ways like donating money, food, or other supplies needed. I hope that people will take action in helping animals because no pets deserve to be suffering.

## **Pet Adoption: It Should Be the Only Choice**

*By Madi Spiegel*



Have you ever had a dog that you considered part of the family? Do you have one now? If your answer is no, you're in luck! There is an animal shelter right in your own neighborhood. There are tons of dogs to choose from, just take a look. What's holding you back? Money? According to Rachel Ray's website, your dog would cost you less than \$3 a day! The website says that the average cost of "basic food, supplies, medical care and training for a dog is \$600 to \$900 annually." So, what's holding you back?

As stated by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals there are approximately 3.9 million dogs that enter animal shelters every year. Out of the 3.9 million dogs in the shelter, only 1.4 million dogs are adopted each year. Due to the overwhelming number of dogs that enter the shelter, 1.2 million dogs are euthanized annually. Additionally, only one out of every ten dogs born will find a permanent home. According to DoSomething.org, homeless animals outnumber homeless people five to one.

While it is true that a number of U.S. citizens adopt dogs through shelters, a large majority of them still choose to go to breeders or pet shops. When people buy puppies through breeders or shops, they add fuel to the growth of cruel puppy mill operations that forcefully produce puppy after puppy. Kristina Pepelko, a writer for

One Green Planet, asserts that puppy mills are unnecessary because there are already so many in need of good homes. She break the issue down to reveal two things. First, “breeding animals for the sake of profit or simply because someone ‘wants’ a certain type of dog is highly unnecessary and unsustainable – there are clearly plenty of dogs and cats awaiting homes.” Second, “the power to change these statistics is in our hands.”

Puppy mills are regulated by the US Department of Agriculture, under the Animal Welfare Act, and are supposed to follow the regulations determined by the act. Unfortunately, many puppy mills do not uphold the standards set forth by the Animal Welfare Act. As reported by the Last Chance for Animals, puppy mills have been repeatedly shamed for their mistreatment of animals and desire for money: “[puppy mills] are notorious for their filthy, overcrowded conditions, and the unhealthy animals they produce. Many of the dogs suffer from malnutrition and exposure, usually remaining outside year round, enduring both freezing temperatures in the winter and intense heat in the summer.” According to the Humane Society of the United States, an estimated 10,000 puppy mills produce more than 2,400,000 puppies each year in the United States.

In an attempt to eliminate puppy mills, many cities are banning sales of puppies that come from mills. Instead, they require that the puppies sold are from either an animal care facility or an animal rescue organization. As stated in An Ordinance of the Borough of Stratford Banning the Sale of Dogs and Cats from Pet Shops, an animal care facility is defined as “an animal control center or animal shelter, maintained by or under contract with any state, county, or municipality, whose mission and practice is, in whole, or significant part, the rescue and placement of animals in permanent homes or rescue organizations”, while an animal rescue organization is “any not-for-profit organization which has tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, whose mission and practice is, in whole or in significant part, the rescue and placement of animals in permanent homes.”

On June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016, the New Jersey Senate passed S63. S63 is a bill that requires puppies being sold in stores created after January 12, 2016 are puppies from either an animal care facility or an animal rescue organization. As stated in the New Jersey Legislature the bill institutes a \$500 fine for each violation, in addition to other penalties that “may be imposed pursuant to the State consumer fraud law (P.L.1960, c.39 (C.56:8-1 et seq.)), State animal control, dog licensing,

and kennel, pet shop, shelter, and pound laws (P.L.1941, c.151 (C.4:19-15.1 et seq.)), or the State criminal code (Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes).”

Many cities in different states have implemented similar regulations to the retailing of animals. According to the Best Friends Save Them All website, multiple cities in California, Florida, and New Jersey had applied pet purchasing regulations as early as June, 2006, alongside few cities in Colorado, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, and Utah. America is off to a great start, but it still is not enough. I implore you to support your local animal shelters and donate money when you can. Support states that are implementing bills like New Jersey’s S63. Adopt a furry little friend or two, I promise you won’t regret it. I didn’t.

So, I leave you with this: A dog is a man’s best friend, but isn’t it our job to reciprocate and be their best friend too?

# **Animal Rescue**

*By Sonia Paez*

Did you know there are many animals being left in the streets or being abused? There are many animals in shelters that want to be adopted and cared for. Some animals that get rescued come in really bad shape like being too sick or being too old. I think these animals should have a chance to be happy, get adopted, and not suffer.

First of all, there are many animals in shelters that suffer or are not happy. Animal Welfare states that animals who do not get adopted might stay in shelters for months or years. Because some animals might stay in the back of kennels for months, they are forced to run around less compared to housed dogs. The kennels might be literally driving animals crazy and making them feel uncomfortable. These animals may then show signs of extreme stress and even mental illness.

According to the ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals), animals in shelters that do not get adopted get euthanized. Each year, about 2.7 million animals are euthanized in shelters. In these shelters, 1.2 million dogs and 1.4 million cats are killed. Some animals that are being killed may be healthy, but they may still get killed if they do not find a home. Animals might be helpless or unwanted in shelters or homes.

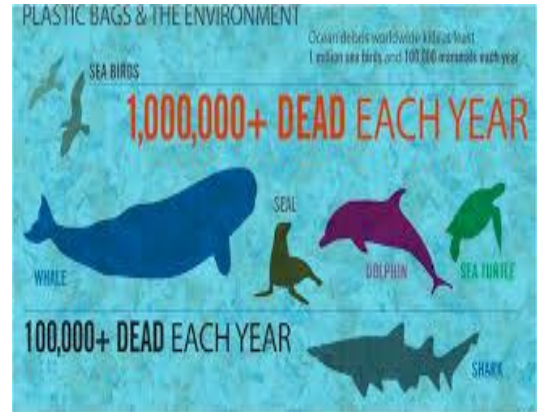
I also think animals should get adopted because they need a second chance to be happy in a home. Based on [animalrescueneworleans.org](http://animalrescueneworleans.org), about 7,800 animals coming from shelters have found loving homes. There are thousands of animals still in need to be fed, cared for, fostered, and adopted. You can help save the lives of animals that are either lost or given up by families. For example, you can donate money, give food, and tell people about shelters in order to spread awareness.

To sum it up, I think that people should take action and adopt an animal so they can live a happy life. Animals should not have to suffer anymore in shelters. An animal is like a best friend you can have as a partner, and they all deserve a loving family.



# Plastic Bag Ban

*By Francisco Lopez*



In San Diego, November 8, 2016, citizens voted yes for Proposition 67 also known as banning plastic bags. According to [plasticbaglaws.org](http://plasticbaglaws.org), the states that follow the plastic bag ban are Arizona, California, Delaware, District of Columbia, Idaho, Illinois, Maine, Missouri, New York, Rhode Island, Hawaii, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. These states voted yes to ban plastic bags to protect wildlife.

The percent vote for banning plastic bags was 52% to apply Proposition 67, and had 53.27% yes and 46.73% according to [https://ballotpedia.org/California\\_Proposition\\_67,\\_Plastic\\_Bag\\_Ban\\_Veto\\_Referendum\\_\(2016\)](https://ballotpedia.org/California_Proposition_67,_Plastic_Bag_Ban_Veto_Referendum_(2016)).

Some say yes to banning plastic bags because they want to protect our oceans and wildlife. Also, they are not biodegradable, which means plastic bags cannot decompose naturally. Other people say no because people do reuse plastic bags. Also, some people cannot afford plastic bags.

So, if citizens vote in two more years and people vote against it, people are suggesting that other people bring back their own plastic bags to the stores to save wasting plastic bags.

In conclusion, when citizens see a plastic bag on the ground, it is recommended to pick it up and throw it away so the plastic bag will not go into wildlife and pollute our world.

# Littering

*By Leleen Ramirez*

Here in America, 250 million tons or more litter is being produced each year. Since the beginning of life, people have been littering and it has been affecting our planet. Either the people are just too lazy to go walk all the way to the trash can or just don't care if they are making the planet look bad.

According to [www.conserve-energy-future.com](http://www.conserve-energy-future.com) by Rinkesh, "Litter consists of waste products that have been disposed improperly, without consent, at an inappropriate location. Litter can also be used as a verb. To litter means to drop and leave objects, often man-made, such as aluminum cans, cardboard boxes or plastic bottles on the ground and leave them there indefinitely or for others to dispose of as opposed to disposing of them properly."

Litter affects the planet in many ways. For instance, if you go to the beach, you will find so much trash on the ground such as plastic bags, cigarette butts, glass or plastic bottles, paper, etc. So much other kinds of trash which affects the animals, because they eat the trash that they see, and they mistake it for food and either choke on the trash or die of suffocation.

Littering does not only affect our world, but it also affects the animal's lives. Animals go through a lot because of littering. According to [peta.org](http://peta.org), gum can affect animals by getting it stuck on their fur or feathers and make it hard for them to move. Plastic bottles and bags can also affect animals because they can mistake it for food and then choke or die. Cans can also hurt the animals because they can cut themselves from sharp edges. For example, birds also get injured because of the litter. Fishing lines and hooks can hurt them because their beaks or wings can get stuck in the fishing lines and hooks can become devoured or can implanted in the bird's beak or skin. Soda rings can also kill animals because they could get their heads stuck in them and they could suffocate.

The statistics for littering are pretty shocking. According to [litteritcostsyoudo.org](http://litteritcostsyoudo.org), about 9 **billion** tons of litter end up in the ocean! Many endangered fish and other animals are dying, losing their homes, and food. All because of us, because we keep on throwing trash in the ocean. About \$11.5 billion are spent to clean up litter every year. This is a lot of money that could have been spent on something more important.

Some people say littering isn't such a big deal because they say, "My friends and family do it, so I don't see why I shouldn't do it," or something similar. In reality, litter can cause consequences like getting animal's homes destroyed which could cause them to die and could lead to extinction.

Although littering is caused here in California, it also happens in other places which are even more crowded with litter than here in Orange. According to soapboxie.com, Port Harcourt, Nigeria is the most littered city out of 25 other cities.

In conclusion, littering happens everywhere, everyone should stop it by not throwing trash in the ocean or on the ground. Littering makes our world look bad and I'm sure everyone would like to have our world clean, so let's stop littering once and for all.

## **Is contributing to pollution a good thing?**

*By Stephanie Nava*

Pollution is affecting our natural environment, our way of living, and us. Even though these acts are affecting us badly, we still negatively contribute by letting this happen and adding into polluting. We do not stop to think about it for a second, how we are just contributing to our deaths. There are many effects to what these damages do to us. In the long term, air pollution can affect us in horrible ways such as lung cancer, heart disease, and even brain damage. All of this is caused by the pollution made by humankind. If we stop to think about this, is this really the type of world that we would like to be living in? Who knows the increasing percentage of pollution made in 5 years? Would it increase or would it decrease? What if it gets worse and worse because we decide to continue this way of living, rather than put an end to it?

Imagine such things that can be done if all the bacterias from the pollution enter a child's body.

More than 1 in 4 deaths of children under 5 years of age are attributable to unhealthy environments. Every year environmental risks such as indoor and outdoor air pollution, second-hand smoke, unsafe water, lack of sanitation, and inadequate hygiene take the lives of 1.7 million children under 5 years, states WHO the world health organization.

Another issue we have is the amount of waste in the oceans, lakes, and all sorts of water. Many people don't dispose their trash properly and it all ends up in the waters all around us. According to the EPA, 44% of assessed stream miles, 64% of lakes and 30% of bay waters are not clean enough for fishing or swimming because of all the trash and waste that are in them. This really is a problem especially to fish and other animals that depend on rivers, oceans, and such. The most common effect of water pollution on human beings are diseases. Drinking water contaminated by disease carrying micro-organisms, also known as pathogens, cause various waterborne diseases, and typhoid. Little by little, the water pollution is increasing because our ignorance and the lack of attention we give to it. The less we do to help and fix this problem, the worse it will be getting over time.

Most of the air pollution is created by gasses and toxins released by factories, cars and other gasses released into the air. According to AIRNow, we have about 22% of air pollution around the area of Orange. Which in other cases,

this isn't the worst percentage of pollution, but in other cities and states the pollution is worse than just 22%. Los Angeles and Bakersfield are at the top list of worst air pollution in the nation. Los Angeles remains the nation's leader in harmful zone pollution from car tailpipes emitting smog, according to an annual report card from the American Lung Association.

In my opinion, we should be doing otherwise and not throw any type of waste in waters and on the ground. Eventually, when waste ends up on the ground because of winds and rain, it washes away into the waters. We should be more careful and think of the damage we make by just throwing a piece of paper on the floor. I think pollution is a very bad habit we have adapted and contribute towards it on a daily basis. To reduce these issues that we have we could limit driving by carpooling, using public transportation, biking and walking. Then, we wonder why are animals going extinct and why are they evacuating their natural environment? It is all because of us and our ignorance.

# **The Mistreatment of U.S Veterans**

*By Jeremiah Dille*

Do you see homeless people on the side of the street? Well, according to WoundedWarriorHomes.org the percentage of those homeless people you see on the side of the street almost every day are 67.4% U.S Veterans. Why so many homeless veterans? I think the reason why so many veterans are homeless is the lack of support networks, and homeless shelters are usually overcrowded so that is why they are physically forced to sleep on the streets. We owe society an answer to where the pay of veterans is.

Technically, The V.A (Veterans Affairs) is supposed to be paying funds for veterans. The annual fund that the government pays is \$103.9 billion according to VA.gov. If the government pays the V.A so much, why are so many veterans homeless or injured? According to VetsForJustice.com, the reason why so many veterans are injured is because when the V.A gets government funds, they decide to spend it all somewhere else and leaves the V.A medical center unfunded. There have been dozens and dozens of deaths linked back to V.A medical care. "In 2003 a veteran who served in the Vietnam war entered a V.A living facility after trying several times attempting suicide," says USA TODAY. The number one problem facing veterans is the V.A. not getting the right amount of money or healthcare.

Why are veterans coming home without a home? After the war, veterans come home without a real home. 50% of the time veterans come back with P.T.S.D (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). This means that the upkeep for a job can be hard considering the emotional distress that some veterans are in. Where would veterans live then? Well, the 64.7% of veterans are forced to live on the side of the street if they cannot find a homeless shelter that is empty. Even then young veterans would have to do physical therapy most of the time because of the injuries and mental issues they have suffered while serving (if veterans can afford it that is). Which would have to make them pick, pick a house with all the nice essentials. either that or their own health and well-being. Veterans are coming back from the war to fight another war of finding employment and a stable job.

The unemployment and homelessness is a problem. We are leaving people that fought for our rights and freedoms to almost die in a way in the gutter of their own despair. Know it is not really all our fault, it is the V.A's and even maybe a little bit of ours in a way. Is it our fault for not paying them? No, that is the V.A's job, not ours. Is it our fault that veterans are homeless? Again no - that is the V.A's fault. But is it our fault that we clearly have the knowledge that there are starving,

cold, and poor veterans out there? Yes, it is. We already know this because see these homeless people every day almost and 67.7% of them are veterans that fought for us, we have the power to feed the homeless. We have the power to clothe or even give some money to veterans, but a lot of us have the excuse of “we do not have time” or “we do not have any food.” If you feel like you want to help homeless people and maybe learn a little more about some of the homeless people you see on the side of the street every day, you can learn more at [MarysKitchen.org](http://MarysKitchen.org).

All in all, the homeless veteran population is going up each year; we do have the power to stop this. What power do we have? We have the power to volunteer or donate (if financially stable), we also have the power to call the senate office of California and complain about the homeless veteran population or the amount of U.S veterans. With all of these sources, there is a way to give back, there is a way to help the people that fought for us. I do not think the mistreatment of U.S veterans will ever stop unless we make changes like I have stated in this article. Even though the homeless and injured population of U.S veterans are rising each year, we can stop this.

# **Art Instead of Opiates--- Don't Cut This Valuable Tool That Save our Veterans**

*By Jacob Moreland*

Our servicemen and women who bravely served our country are facing dangerous futures if we don't embrace alternative methods to treat the physical and psychological illnesses they sustained. The use of opiates for everything from lower back pain, PTSD, chronic pain, and other psychiatric disorders has been rampant. Our heroes, who served multiple tours in Afghanistan and Iraq and other conflicts, have been pushed painkillers to "fix" their problems on the battlefield and for years at VA Hospitals. Prescription opiates change the way your brain senses pain, but does not help to cure. It has become apparent that narcotics cannot be the permanent answer; Long term opiate use has resulted in increased drug addiction, sleep and mood disorders, and suicide or unintentional death.

The *VA/DOD Clinical Practice Guideline for Opioid Therapy for Chronic Pain* (2017), has addressed the problem stating, "We now know that the best treatments for chronic pain are not opioids." The guideline addresses the benefits of using other complimentary and integrative health treatments such as yoga, cognitive and physical therapy, and exercise. The VA has now also added to this spectrum, the power of the "arts" to combat PTSD and chronic pain. This effective treatment tool has been supported by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) beginning when the National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE), at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, invited the NEA to help build out its creative arts therapy program in 2011. This treatment tool has changed lives and has allowed Veterans to "live" again. The only obstacle now is funding.

President Trump has recently proposed to cut funding for the NEA. This will be a travesty for our Veterans. Most of the non-profit organizations which provide free programs for our Veterans will be forced to cut services. I believe in the power of the arts to heal, whether it be visual arts, music, dance or creative expression. Recent clinical research has demonstrated successful outcomes from participation in these programs such as reduced PTSD symptoms and chronic pain, improved mood and self-esteem, identifying as being part of a community, and increased ability to return closer to normal functioning. Patients reported finding success in



symptom relief for the first time, even after years of counseling and having been reliant on opiate medicates to help them cope. The therapeutic benefit for learning, embracing, and incorporating these new skills and tools aid in their ability to reduce and/or stop opiates completely.

Don't cheat our Veterans. We cannot let them down. We now know effective tools and programs that will help them return to normal or as close to normal functioning as possible. Let them have the tools that will allow them to heal, not just for the limited time that the pill lasts, but for their lifetime.

# How Chance the Rapper is Reviving the Gospel Movement

By Hannah Lee



Chance the Rapper is proving himself to be one of the hottest acts in music. The Chicago emcee has won the affections and respect of established artists such as Kanye West, who has even allowed Chance to lead off his album *Life of Pablo*. At the young age of 23, the independent hip-hop artist has a Top 10 album, won three Grammy awards, his own music festival in coming month, and national tour.

Chance's third mixtape *Coloring Book* captures the artist's personal growth and values, which are ultimately rooted in African-American themes of oppression and history. Unsurprisingly, the album encompasses the artist's own struggles, but it also carries a spiritual aspect that consumers have not previously been exposed to. Consumers of hip hop are constantly fed hard-hitting beats and rhythm with profanity spewed lyrics, but Chance is reviving Gospel music by translating his own version to us wide masses.

Powerful leaders like Martin Luther King Jr. were known for their appreciation and devotion for the Gospel. The Civil Rights Movement essentially shaped Black Gospel as African-Americans fought for equal rights. *Coloring Book* recontextualizes one of the greatest African-American art forms through the

powerful use of Gospel choirs and faith imbedded prose. He debut his track “Blessings” on *The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon* with a full Gospel choir. Chance invited Gospel singer Byron Cage to perform with him and showcased a live band and abundant praise for God. His song is a testament to God as the lyrics sing: “I’m gon’ praise Him, praise Him ‘til I’m gone/When the praises go up, the blessings come down.” Chance channels themes of the Black Lives Movement, his personal relationship with God, and the birth of his daughter within the lyrics. His journey back to God has allowed Chance the Rapper to act as a vessel for the Holy Spirit, and ultimately blessed our ears with his latest release.

# **The Consequence of Texting and Driving**

*By Brianna Carcione*

Have you ever sent a text or checked an app on your cell phone while driving? Carlee Bolig did and she will live with this regret for the rest of her life. CBSN reported that one October afternoon, Charles Maur and his ten-year-old daughter, Cassy, were driving back home after their visit to the library. Suddenly, they were hit by a pickup truck driven by a 17-year old teenager, Carlee Bolig. Charles and Cassy were both killed by this great impact. Bolig had run through a red light and, thus, crashed into Maur's car.

How could Bolig have missed the red light? Bolig was reportedly posting on Facebook and looking down at her phone, causing her to miss the signal. Bolig had a few passengers in the car with her, all of whom yelled, "Red light! Red light!" just before Bolig's pickup truck struck Maur's car.

After the accident, about eight or nine of her previous passengers stated that Bolig always used her phone while driving and they even had warned her about this dangerous behavior several times. If only Bolig had listened to her friends, she would have been alert and seen the red light. Bolig now has to live with the fact that she took two lives that day all because she was trying to post something on Facebook instead of paying attention to the road ahead of her.

Cell phone use while one is driving has been an issue for quite some time now, yet the National Safety Council has still found that 1.6 million crashes a year are caused by this hazardous practice. According to this statistic, one in four of the car accidents reported in the United States are related to cell phone use. Due to the prevalence of cell phone use in the car, companies like AT&T have begun campaigns to try and end this issue. Cell phone use while driving needs to end so that society can save lives, like Charles and Cassy Maur.

## **Fearless Girl vs. Charging Bull**

*By Jessica Lau*

On March 7, 2017, a new statue of a young girl stood staring down Wall Street's famous Charging Bull. This tenacious statue was constructed by the major asset managing firm named State Street Global Advisors. The girl is sculpted in bronze, her hands firmly planted on her waist, ponytailed head held high.

The Boston-based investment company pushed to land this statue to make a point: "There's a dearth of women on the boards of the largest U.S. corporations". This company is pressing the notion to increase the number of women directors in companies. A plaque reading "Know the power of women in leadership. SHE makes a difference", lies at the statue's feet.

State Street's deputy global chief investment officer, Lori Heinel made a statement with Bloomberg saying "as a steward of nearly \$2.5 trillion of assets, we want to engage with boards and management around issues that we think will drive core results...and what you find repeatedly is having more diverse boards and more diverse senior management will actually drive better results for companies." According to Bloomberg about 25% of the Russell 3000—a broad index of U.S. companies—have no women on their boards.

The placement of this statue has prompted discussion around the world. This placement was a temporary installment in New York but has been petitioned by thousands demanding it remain permanently. Called, "Fearless Girl" and created by American artist Kristen Visbal, the bronze girl stands in a place "where corporate America cannot help but notice her" wrote Jill Mavro, head of strategic relations for State Street. The statue's alleged purpose is plainly evident in the figure's demeanor. It is an outright cry to address the perception that there are just not enough women among the ranks of Fortune 500 boards. It immediately drew crowds of onlookers and has quickly become one of Wall Street's must-see attractions.

"Fearless Girl" is not a provocative art challenging customs, but an accustomed expression of unity. The statue has instigated conversation and criticism but continues to stand enticing women to enter corporate life. The infamous Charging Bull was a sight to set this statue because it "needed to have a partner, and a partner that we thought was worthy of him...so we got a very determined young woman who is fearless and is willing to drive the change that we

believe we need” stated impeccably by Heinel. The iconic Charging Bull on Wall Street may have met his match, and it’s a bronze model of a girl in a billowing dress, already instigating conversation everywhere.

## **Strong like a Girl**

*By Danielle Pomeroy*

Strength is not something to be feared. It is something to work towards. Be it physical or mental strength, people need this attribute to make their way through life. However, many women are afraid of strength, both physical and mental. These women do not feel that it is feminine to be strong willed or strong bodied, so they avoid it. So we, as women, starve ourselves and shy away from confrontations. We move away from anything that'll challenge our strength, or lack thereof. This is a trend that needs to end. Women deserve to feel strength in all that they do, and although there are many ways for women to grow stronger, one specific way comes to mind: powerlifting.

The world of powerlifting is vast and diverse. With nearly sixty national powerlifting organizations, there are endless opportunities for involvement in this sport. Powerlifting focuses on the Big Three movements: bench press, deadlift, and squat. The sport revolves around lifting the most weight possible while also being safe, which is critical to achievement as a powerlifter. The equipment of a powerlifter - the belt, the knee wraps, and the onesie - help ensure both safety and ease of movement when performing a lift. Just like a basketball player in his/her Nikes or a water polo player with his/her swim cap, these pieces of equipment help make a powerlifter better at the sport.

Powerlifting is a rapidly growing community, especially when it comes to women. Female powerlifters have become increasingly dominant at meets, which are the competitions of powerlifting. A company run by a woman and her partner called Girls Who Powerlift has built its success on the strong back of these amazing women. Their clothing revolves around female empowerment and community, sporting phrases like "Uplift and Lift Heavy" and "Just Strong." The first phrase, which is commonly used as a hashtag, is designed to emphasize the communal aspect of powerlifting, and that the women in this sport are here to encourage and "uplift" one another. The second phrase is the response to when someone says, "Wow, you're strong for a girl" and a woman would respond, "No, I'm just strong." I think these phrases are incredibly important because they highlight the sexist nature of the sporting world, which is tailored mostly towards men. The Girls Who Powerlift brand encourages women to branch out beyond the stereotypes and be unafraid to lift heavy and be strong.

It could be argued that heavy lifting should be a man's sport, so society should leave it to men to be the strong ones. However, this is just what society says - it is not a fact. It may be a biological fact that men are genetically built to be stronger, but that does not mean that women cannot be strong, too. Being

physically strong, like squatting your bodyweight, can lead to emotional strength as well. For example, if you can manage lifting a heavy physical weight, what's stopping you from passing that hard test? It's just like lifting weight but with the most important muscle of all: your brain. Powerlifting can also boost self-esteem and levels of self-love, making a person more likely to appreciate their body for what it can do rather than what it looks like. Too many women become victims of eating disorders due to low self esteem and negative body image. According to the National Eating Disorders Association, 20 million women in the United States are affected by an eating disorder. However, based on personal experience and the experiences of many other women, powerlifting can change your life and bring an end to the negativity that exists in an eating disorder.

It is time for women to be strong, and what better way than to pick up heavy weights and build their body up? It is much better than tearing it down. So become a powerlifter, and maybe you will be strong like a girl.



# What The Women's March Is

*By Jocelyn Nava*

A day after Donald J. Trump was sworn as the 45th president, several marches have been organized in all 50 states. On January 21, over 5 million people worldwide and over 1 million in Washington D.C came to march, speak, and make their voices heard.

Men and women of all ages all over the country and even worldwide marched for women's rights. People who do not know about the march probably think it was only for women, but it was also for human rights in general.

Ending violence, reproductive rights, LGBTQIA rights, workers rights, civil rights, disability rights, immigrant rights and environmental justice are the main reasons why people marched on January 21st.

The Women's March went viral all over social media. According to the LA Times, officials say the Women's March is estimated to be "the largest protest in more than a decade." It took place in all 50 states, but the main states that filled the streets were California, Washington D.C, New York and Illinois.

The Women's March is important because it showed how we all have a voice, and we should not be scared to use it. If you find somebody that has the same opinion as you, you should work together and make your dreams become a reality. "Make sure you introduce yourselves to each other and decide what we're going to do tomorrow, tomorrow and tomorrow... We're never turning back" says Gloria Steinem, a feminist icon of the 1960's and 1970's. The big picture is that millions of people all over the world used their voice, and what is even bigger is that millions of people all over the world stood with the women's march.

"We stand together in solidarity with our partners and children for the protection of our rights, our safety, our health, and our families- recognizing that our vibrant and diverse communities are the strength of our country" is a quote that is on the The Women's March website. This demonstrates everyone fighting for their rights, safety, and health. In working together, they want to show that they are strong and trying to make a change.

The Women's March wanted to give people the idea of how the next generation is going to be like. How they are going to use their voice for what is right. How people are not going to be scared to use their voices. How they want to be heard, and stand up for themselves. "I want my daughters to have agency and



# “Guilty!” How the Justice System Should Convict Itself

*By Aidan Wilder*



After many controversial cases over the years, people have come to the conclusion that the justice system has its problems, but do not think much of it. Many people are right in their decision, but some purely base it off of conversations they have overheard, or biased articles and news which base their information on opinion. Nobody knows how to fix it. The government brushes by the thought of changing a system that has been in place for so long, as that might not do a thing to help it. God help anyone change a messed up system to actually *BENEFIT* the people affected by it. This is just a sliver of what the justice system is doing wrong.

I do not like our justice system. Instead of arresting 10 criminals without the media learning about it, they would arrest one innocent man and broadcast it across every *POSSIBLE* news channel in the country. That’s what I don’t like about it, most of it is based off of fake evidence. A lawyer could come up with an entirely

fake story, but because he had an “eye witness,” he can convince the jury he’s telling the truth. The system is setup to where someone’s opinion can influence the verdict of a case. If the jury doesn’t agree with the suspects ideals, he is probably already a guilty man. Although it is messed up, the ancient cave dwellers up in the supreme court will not change anything because they believe that because it is worked for decades, it does not need to change at all.

The system is also racially biased in MULTIPLE ways. The definition of racist could be implemented into the situation, but even THAT is an understatement. According to information provided by the NYPD, blacks and Latinos are 80% of their routine stops. Also provided by the NYPD, when whites were stopped, only 8% were actually frisked. When blacks and Latinos were stopped, 85% were frisked. When they are convicted, African-Americans receive sentences that are 10% longer than a white person for the same crime. What makes it even worse, is that after they are convicted, only 5% of African-Americans with a criminal record get call-backs on job applications, while whites get call-backs 17% of the time. This information was from a study conducted by Professor Devah Pager of the University of Wisconsin.

Wow, this is going to attract the feminists in a fury of rage, but there is a gender problem in the justice system, and it is biased towards MEN, not women. For the very same crime in federal court, men receive 63% longer sentences than women. Yes, feminists complain about equality when it’s bad for THEM. But when it is bad for men, they do not say a word. What makes this even better is that women are twice as likely to avoid charges and convictions completely. This is unorthodox in today’s culture, as the two genders are considered equal. This is purely based off the “women are innocent” notion. But the bad thing for women is that pregnant prisoners get treated worse than any other prisoner, including the fact that they are carrying an infant. They are often shackled, which may hurt the mother or newborn.

After all of that, we get to the court system. Many people believe that eyewitnesses are completely reliable and without a fault at all, since the memory is “perfect.” Well folks, your mind is about to be blown. The eyewitnesses presented in a case, no matter the circumstance, have twisted the memory in their head over time. The human mind will distort a memory, or add details that never even OCCURRED at the event. This makes it entirely unreliable, as most of what an eyewitness says cannot be trusted. Research shows that eyewitnesses make up one-

third of wrongful convictions. In the accused rape case of Michael Anthony Green, the victim's description didn't fit Green, and at the scene of the crime, the victim said the suspect was not Green. Just because the victim changed her mind eight days later, he was convicted and put in jail for 75 years. This is just one of many cases that share one common thing, they all have no evidence. It is purely based off of untrustworthy "facts."

With all of the problems the justice system faces, it still finds time to incarcerate a lot of people. The United States only has 5% of the world's population. The problem is that we have 25% of the world's prison population. That my friends, is a problem. People should focus on who we are putting in prison, not focusing on stuffing as many human beings inside of a prison as humanly possible.

Even though the justice system is already on the brink of ABSOLUTE failure, it can still be saved. We can eliminate eyewitnesses entirely, and only use evidence that is absolutely trusted. That way most wrongful convictions can be solved. Biased judges can be evaluated based on previous cases, and how they used the evidence in the present case. Everybody deserves a fair trial, as such in the sixth amendment of the United States. If our forefathers agreed to this, why can't we. With all of this, I convict the United States guilty of not following their own laws.



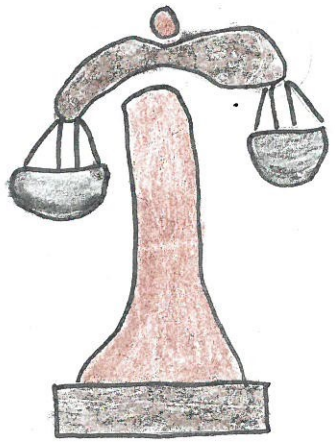
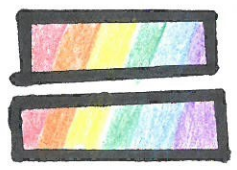
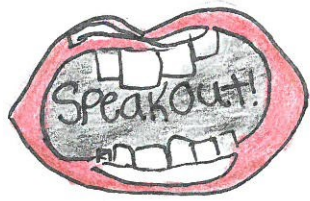
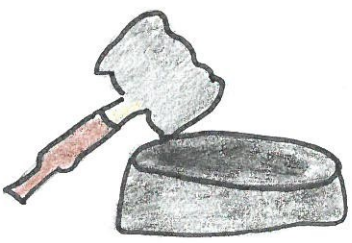
# GLOBAL ISSUES

governance

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Global Problems



# Global Issues

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# Art is a Job

By Adriana Herrera

Art, the way people express themselves through creativity and imagination, should be counted as a job, right? Apparently not too many people, many people think “Art isn’t a job” or sometimes even “Artists shouldn't be paid”. Let’s look at the definition of job: “A task where you get paid for it” -Ateliae (from deviantart.com), or “task or piece of work, especially one that is paid.”

In art, let's say the drawing field, people will pay you for your art, or for a commission (receiving funds for your work) when they request that you draw or paint something specific. Or in the singing field, someone may want to buy one of your albums, or commission you to make a song for them about their family. The customers or “shoppers” are paying you. You are running a shop, you are getting customers to come into your store (mostly online) and buy your items. Either way, you're getting paid.

Let's look at Baylee Jae real quick, she is a successful artist that is making a good living off her paintings, or digital pieces of artwork, and also has around 770,705 subscribers on Youtube (based on socialblade.com). And how did she do this? Well, she never gave up on what she loved doing. Sure in the past she has had part time jobs to help her be financially safe, but now she lives in a nice house with her fiance and her two cats in Vancouver, Canada. Or how about Josiah Brooks, also known as “Draw with Jazza” on Youtube. He has around 1,304,364 subscribers on youtube, and is also an artist; making a living off his art and Youtube, like Baylee Jae.

Based off an article “*Why Artists Should (Not) Be Paid for Their Artwork*” by Maria, an individual said “*Artists are better off working a job they hate and then painting in their spare time.*” Which is not true, the world is missing out on the art you could be creating. Working at a job you hate will cause you to gain weight, have anxiety (or if you had anxiety, it’ll make it worse.), loss of sleep and/or depression. Another thing he said is “*Artists shouldn’t be paid for their art. Getting paid prevents them from creating really good stuff.*” Which is not the case, some of Pablo Picasso’s artwork is up in the 100 millions! And they still look good even when the anatomy is broken.

A commenter from the article, named Sarah said “I always say it’s called artwork because you had to WORK to create it” and that is true! Art takes a lot of time, it could take up to a few hours, days, months, or on rare occasions, even a

year or longer to create a piece of art! Art enriches our lives, it adds a bit more fun to our boring lives. So what? What should you do once you have read this article, what should you take away from this? What you should do is do not ruin people's dreams of becoming an artist just because you think that there is no point or use to it, what good is that going to do to you?

If you still do not take art seriously, take some art classes, look at how artists love doing what they love, look at how happy they are, you would not want to destroy what they love because you simply do not agree with it, right?

Once again, art, the way people express their emotions, or thoughts, is a job. The definition of job is "a task where you get paid to do." Artists get paid for their work, through their commissions, or people buying other pieces or art they have made. In the long run, art is considered a job.

# Uncovering the Stigma of Mental Illness

*By Alana Freitas*

About one in five adults in America, calculating to around 43.8 million people, experience mental illness in a given year (Mental Health Myths and Facts). Additionally, mood disorders, which include major depression and bipolar disorder, are the third most common cause of hospitalization in the U.S. for both youth and adults aged 18-44 (Mental Health Myths and Facts).

Despite these statistics that depict overwhelming numbers of people affected by mental illness, most of society choose to dismiss mental illness and explain symptoms as simple methods to obtain attention. People with mental illnesses are therefore either labeled as “crazy” or “dramatic” and avoided like the plague, or ignored and expected to shake themselves out of this phase that is inconveniencing them, their families, their work, and their life plans.

We need to stop stigmatizing mental illness. By incorrectly labeling these individuals or pushing them to the side and pretending they don’t exist, we are not fixing the situation but instead are forcing our struggling peers to cope in isolation and in pain. By dismissing mental illness, we establish a norm for hiding symptoms or breakdowns that in turn perpetuates a culture where we don’t know how to deal with our emotions. People become so concerned with appearing normal and happy that they are not able to express what they are feeling or who they truly are.

One way to stop the stigma is simply to remember that people who have mental illnesses are still people. The normal dehumanization by society of the mentally ill, many times through depictions in mass media, describes them solely as their illness and omits any other aspects of their identity. Just as how an Asian woman cannot be defined *only* as Asian, likewise a mentally ill individual cannot be defined *only* as mentally ill.

Therefore, intersectionality as it relates to people’s identities then comes into play. Intersectionality is defined by Google Dictionary as “the interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender as they apply to a given individual or group, regarded as creating overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage.”

Another vital step in understanding mental illness is looking in the right places for information regarding it. When people hear the words “mental illness,”

they may picture Jack Nicholson from *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* or Logan Lerman from *Perks of Being a Wallflower*. We must encourage our filmmakers and screenwriters to create films and media that accurately represent mental illnesses and are founded on facts. Furthermore, we must, as a community, understand that even if two people share the same mental illness, it may likely manifest itself in different ways in each individual. In other words, we must be willing to accept diverse expressions of mental illness.

Finally, we can educate ourselves on the contributions that people who have suffered from mental illnesses have made to society. Albert Einstein, Abraham Lincoln, Kurt Cobain, and Carrie Fisher all suffered from a mental illness yet have made innumerable impacts that have made our world a better place to live in.

Mental illness is not a disease or infection you can catch like the flu. It is not an evil spirit or parasite that has replaced your friend or family member, and it is not going to disappear like a rabbit in a magician's act. We need to educate each other, spread awareness about what mental illness really is, and love people in their entirety. Let us be a country that does not shun mental illness but holds its hand tightly and drags it out of the dark.

# A Day Off Technology

By *Analyssa Amezcua*

It is hard to think about a life without cell phones. Before cell phones, life seemed simple. No one worried about getting the latest iPhone or if you had a missed call from your mom. We were simple. Although phones do have a huge impact on our lives and bring a lot of positives, it also has its negatives when it comes to health, social interaction, or just distracting you from your daily activities.

After reading an article from [abcnews.go.com](http://abcnews.go.com), I learned that phones are full of bacteria. Maybe even more than a toilet seat. Think about it, you take your phone almost everywhere with you. They must have some kind of bacteria. This bacteria can also be the cause of your acne. When you call someone you automatically place your phone on your cheek. All that bacteria on your phone goes onto your face! On [healthline.com](http://healthline.com), they explain that the most common bacteria found on your phone is Streptococcus, Staphylococcus, and Corynebacterium. Streptococcus can cause strep throat which could soon lead to scarlet fever which can give you a red rash on the body. Staphylococcus can cause many different illnesses like, pneumonia or toxic shock syndrome. Also, a good way to help your phone stay clean is by dampening a cotton ball with rubbing alcohol and just lightly apply pressure while rubbing the cotton over your screen. Although, be careful, because you do not want to ruin your phone.

Have you ever wonder why your fingers hurt after typing? Based on the information I got from [abcnews.go.com](http://abcnews.go.com), too much texting can be the cause of that. Your fingers are aching from the constant texting, tweeting or liking you have been doing. This is called radial styloid tenosynovitis, otherwise known as blackberry thumb. It is a swelling of tendons caused by repetitive motion. One of the main symptoms of this condition is pain in the wrist area.

Do your eyes ever hurt after using your technology? That's because too much screen time can affect your eyesight. Remember when your mother told you not to stand so close to the television? Well, she is sort of right. According to [bustle.com](http://bustle.com), a wonderful site, the blue light from your screen is not only keeping you awake, which causes dark circles, but it is also damaging your retina. Another effect it has on your eyes, according to [livescience.com](http://livescience.com), is that technology can cause eye strain. Eye strain is when you can get dry eyes, headaches, or double

vision. These symptoms can happen after staring at your computer or cell phone screen for a very long time.

Using too much technology can result in gray matter shrinkage. If you do not know what gray matter shrinkage is, it is basically when your brain starts to shrink and form this gray matter instead of white. Why do we need white matter? We need white matter to send messages to our brain but gray matter causes these messages to slow down. Gray matter shrinkage is a serious disease that can cause dementia, seizures, and difficulty reading. There are also many concerns that phones can cause cancer. Although, it is not a fact, there is evidence that it can. Cell phones emit radiation and some radiation can cause cancer. For example, ionizing radiation can cause cancer. Ionizing radiation removes electrons from an atom but we need electrons because it balances the charge of an atom. Remember this is not a fact, this is just theory many people have about the affects technology can have in the future. I got my information from [physicscentral.com](http://physicscentral.com), [cancer.gov](http://cancer.gov) and my science teacher.

Using your cellphone for a large amount of time can also have an effect on your relationships. Always being on your phone can cause you to get distracted and forget about the other person. You are so obsessed with your phone that you grow a stronger relationship with your phone than your significant other. Phones also cause you to become anti-social. With phones or computers, you can just type what you want to say and not think about what the other person is feeling. Also, it just stops you from talking to a person face to face. Technology also has a strong effect when it comes to bullying. Like I said before, anyone can say anything without having to face the consequences when it comes to technology. I got this information from [huffingtonpost.com](http://huffingtonpost.com).

Remember when I was talking about how phones can distract you? Well a big distraction that we all know about, but still some have this bad habit, is texting and driving. We all need to stop! I am not allowed to drive yet but I do see many people around me texting while driving. This topic is very common. I know I am just talking about giving your technology up for a day but in this case, I think you should just give it up whenever you drive. According to [edgarsnyder.com](http://edgarsnyder.com), texting while driving leads 1.6 million crashes each year. Did you know that 11 teens get in car accidents each day just from texting while driving? What the blub! Yet people still text and drive. I understand that many people cannot help it, but please think before you pick up that phone while driving your vehicle.

I am not saying to give up phones for life. I am saying that everyone should take a detox from the social media and the texting for at least a day or two. It will probably do some good and give you a rest from all of the screen time you have. I personally use my phone a lot, but I would actually like to do a detox from it all once in a while. Thanks to all the websites I used to get my information to write this article and my science teacher that helped me understand what white and gray matter is.



# **The Negative Effects of Social Media and the Result to Cyberbullying**

*By Bianca Adamo*

It is apparent that social media has rapidly transformed over the last decade. Technology and social media have many benefits to society and have enabled our society to develop in unimaginable ways. People are able to connect with others, collaborate with people more efficiently from all over the world, and grow in new innovative ways.

Contrasting to this view, there are numerous disadvantages due to social media including: depression, anxiety, behavioral problems, poor academic performance, and even suicide (Bergman, 2016). Another New York Times article states that the most current generation is more addicted to social media than any other generation (Jonah, 2017). With the rising use of social media and technology, the more prevalent cyber-bullying becomes as well.

A New York Times article titled *Teens Hooked on Screens* expresses that there is an even worse issue occurring along with teenagers' addiction to cell phones. This issue they are referring to is cyber-bullying. This article introduces a word called cyber-victimization. The dictionary definition of victimization is "the action of singling someone out for cruel or unjust treatment"; therefore, cyber-victimization is this negative act happening over the Internet and other uses of technology.

There are many forms of cyberbullying including race, gender, appearance, sexuality, socioeconomic status, etc. Race-related online victimization is increasing according to The New York Times: "50 percent of adolescents of color reporting these incidents in 2013, up from 32 percent in 2011" (Bergman, 2016). Cyber-bullying can result to people developing esteem issues and mental health issues. Sadly, many victims of cyber-bullying commit suicide as well. How can we help stop this epidemic and help save the lives of those being affected by this injustice?

One way to help is to be aware of what people are doing online. If you notice a friend or family member bullying someone or saying offensive things online, you should tell them the effects they may be causing on other people's lives. I firmly believe that we can stop cyber-bullying if people establish better rules about technology and its usage. Although social media can be used in positive ways, it is important as educators and people of the world to be cautious of

the negative effects social media has on people, especially our children in schools. The effect of cyberbullying continues into the classroom and can carry throughout one's life. In short, it is imperative that we monitor screen time for our children so we can bring the percentage of people affected by cyberbullying down.

# **I Find the Video Game, Not Guilty!**

*By Bryan Mendez*

Violent video games that contain, the “M” rating (rated for mature, 17+ in age) on the cover are often blamed for violence in this world. It is understandable to see the flaws of violent video games which they have always contained. Video games do have their reputation killed by people who view it to be blamed when major crimes such as massacres occur. People blame *video games in general* but that should not be the case. Here are just a few examples I believe that can restore your faith, video games can improve your intelligence, enhance the way you learn, it can even help with mental issues such as depression. The majority of games in the world are rated “E”, meaning it is the rating of the game for the use of all ages, thus blaming all video games should not be the way. There are studies that show that these games actually improve the human mind. Even as a toddler, video games will be there for you such as ABC Mouse, a website containing the purpose to teach young children's brains to their full potential.

The ways games can improve your intelligence is through educational games, an example being a game published by Paradox Interactive and developed by Colossal Order, *Cities: Skylines*. In this game, you learn to start your own city, building it from scratch from a piece of land and managing it, buying new land as your buildings grow. It also teaches you about tools city halls use in reality, like zoning. Zoning gives you the ability to zone residential, commercial, and industrial. This game goes on with the teaching of the summarized way to manage a city. Many video games can teach you a lot about how a country organizes war. *Wargame*, a real-time strategy game series developed by Eugen Systems. In this game the teachings of war and commanding your units are approved here, giving you also the safer and pre-experience if you plan to join the military. I hope now that you have opened your eyes to seeing the education that these games give children if you have been doubting them. There are many games that are meant to teach the player about careers, the games I mentioned give you ideas for careers. They might encourage you to work at your city hall. Joining the military can also be considered when players play first person shooters like *Insurgency* or the *Arma Series*, giving you an idea of real combat can really improve your performance when deployed on the grounds if you are to join the military. These video games give you positive information to pretty much semi-train you in these specializations.

Children are also able to learn from video games. If you are the type of person to have the thrill but also want to learn something in life. There are games that also enhance the way you learn math games. ABC Mouse, as I said before, can teach you about the basic education that mostly goes from preschool to high school. Yes, schools do use this to give the students a better way to be educated. It makes them excited more when learning in school. Maybe you have been in a situation where you were in elementary school went to the computer lab, and you looked at your friend and rushed to sit next to each other to play these games that were fun but also taught you the ways of math better. There are game websites that contain many games for you to play. One of them is a pretty famous one (at least in my district), Cool Math Games is the example we will use. Students use this on their free time or if they are assigned. These games actually help teach these students the math concept of each game. Some games also give strategy games. Bloxorz is a game on that website that gives you puzzles. You move a brick around the map, but you have to be careful how you move it as it does stand and lay each time you move it. You must be careful to where you are going to move it as the map is a floating island with no walls. Your goal is to get the brick through a hole in the standing position.

I hope that you are beginning to realize that not all games are causing our world's daily crimes. If you are still not getting the message, hopefully this will finally brighten the message for you. Video games can also treat a common mood disorder, depression. You might be familiar with it. It is basically the constant sadness that gives the victim weakness inside their feelings. This mood disorder has led to many unfortunate deaths throughout human history and today. Video games can also help treat and maintain the player's feelings. Video games can be exciting to the players so they choose to focus mainly on the game and nothing else in the world. It raises their motivation and happiness. Sparx, a game developed in New Zealand is a role-playing game which helps the player think of passive and positive thoughts when interacting with AI and other players. The game is meant to be calm and designed specifically for people facing depression.

Video games can also enhance the eyesight of the player, it has been created into study by Daphne Bavelier who discovered that players who play first-person shooter games can also improve their eyesight while playing. A study was made that showed players that they were able to see clearer at night. Players can also improve their reflexes when they train their brain to react faster when they play military games, one Squad is known as one of the most "realistic" games to be published as it contains real life military tactics that are needed to win the game. They also start to find enemies on the corner of their eyes. This is quite the benefit

for when you and your kid are walking together, (your child might notice something suspicious about that one truck driver down the street on his phone and you and your child are on the street walking to the other side). Your child might notice anything before you do, so it might be a consideration to make. Let him play these games if you are a parent or guardian because they might save your life one day because of it.

In the conclusion, so I sincerely hope you have learned something about the message I have presented. If you already are a gamer and your parent tells you that only video games are a waste of time, just tell them that there are conventions like eSports where only the best players from around the world compete with millions and millions spectating to see the performance that the show has to offer. If you win these competitions, you may win the big prize which is usually over \$100,000. The thing is video games are not guilty of anything, it is your duty as a parent or guardian to keep your child away from video games that should not be suitable for them yet. Video games these days are always for fun and for emotional benefit. People who might be going through tough times and need something to entertain them might come to these games and relax themselves. Competitive games can get you a career at the eSports arenas. Video games can get you a career in a game developing company to develop new ways to promote those games. Having experience in video games give you the better taste of ideas for them, you can get a career in video game design. Video game design is a high demand job that really pays well, maybe you might take consideration of that.

# **Video Games Can Help You, Not Hurt You**

*By Harlan Hoyt*

Lots of people, maybe even you, believe gamers are not social. This, in most cases, is wrong. Video gamers can be very social. Most of the time, they are not violent, either. In fact, video games can make shy people a little less shy. Many statistics prove that video gamers are social.

Video games can help with shy or depressed people. Lack of social skills and interaction can often lead to depression. Also, researchers proved that most depression starts at age 12-15, and about 5-10% of people are depressed, but playing games can help negate that. In video games, it is easier to open up and not let that happen. Video games give you confidence to overcome real world obstacles that can be challenging. A game that requires you to talk and not be shy is Project Reality. You will often be kicked if you do not have a mic or if you are too shy. Overall, video games will help real world problems and can help if you are shy.

Second, they will help your social skills with co-op. In most games, cooperation with your teammates is needed, and that makes you more social. Problem solving games, like Portal and Portal 2, help the most. Some more games that help can be R6: siege, Overwatch, and Project Reality. Also, games make people happy, which means people will not be shy or play by yourself. Finally, an article from Tamara Webb on Family Share.com according to a test administered by the University of Kansas, the use of videogames has shown to improve knowledge retention, spatial awareness, and problem solving skills. In addition to this, gaming helps with literacy, math, and other educational topics. Students who used video games to prep for exams outperformed those who used other study methods. All in all, video games help with social skills and education.

Finally, although most people think that gamers just stay in their room and play games, it can take a while for negative effects to appear. Most of the time, these effects show when you hit the 20-25 hour mark. However, if you play 10 hours a day every day, you should stop. No one recommends to play for that long. And plus, the chance of being rushed to the hospital is slim. Video games do not make you anti-social, but if you play a certain game for way too long, you can get violent effects. Therefore, videogames do not make you anti-social.

Overall, video games are social. If you like video games but do not want to play too much, just play with your pets, and then come back later. Games are not

that bad, and can help in most cases. Gamers can help if you are shy, and they help you if you are sad. In conclusion, games have more positive effects.

# **Sorry, I'm not following your Gender Expectations**

*By Darby Bollinger*

Have you ever heard of “Gender Roles”? Well, according to Google, gender roles are “The role behavior learned by a person as appropriate to their gender, determined by the prevailing cultural norms.” I think we should break these norms because women and men should be treated equally. If a man likes putting makeup on, he should be able to. If a woman wants to play football with boys, she should be able to. Women should not have to stay home and clean the house, and men should not have to repair all household issues.

In a Daily Mail article, they claim that, “Beliefs about gender roles of men and women are ‘as firmly held as 1980’.” That means gender roles have been around for more than three decades! These days, women represent 47% of the workforce than compared to 38% in the 1980s, according to their study. Women should not have to be doing all this cleaning and working. They should be free to do whatever they want.

Men in these roles are supposed to be the more masculine type. They have to be able to protect their family in a dangerous situation. But sometimes, men aren't that strong, and maybe some men do not want to be the leader of the house. According to my research, they are also supposed to be responsible for all household repairs. Usually men do not mind these types of roles, but I bet a percentage of men do.

Did you know that gender roles can also harm children's health? A lot of middle school and high school girls want to do sports, but can't because they think it is not, “a very feminine thing to do.” They worry they will not look pretty while running or will be made fun of by boys for not being good enough. Girls should never think that way, especially when it comes to sports because sports are for everyone no matter what gender you are.

If I'm going to be honest with you, gender roles are not worth arguing about because they're irrelevant in every situation. No one should ever follow gender roles, ever! If you are a student going by these roles, STOP, because you should do what makes you happy. Women should not have to stay home and clean the house and men should not be expected to be strong and masculine. You should do what YOU want, not what people expect you to do.



# **The Gender Pay Gap**

*By Devyn DellaValle*

The year 2017 seems to be one of unbelievable change. From an unexpected new president to the loss of an influential mother-daughter celebrity duo on consecutive days, could this year be one of constant and continuous change?

Over the last 50 years many salary advances have been made between men and women in order to level out the financial playing field. This slow creep towards equality in the workplace has become triumphant for women of power but it seems as if that gap is beginning to close (Blau & Kahn, 2007). While the gender pay gap significantly closed between the 1970s and the 1990s, since then women are still being paid an astounding 25% less than men that share the same title (Bielby, 2000). In this anticipated year of change, how can we decide what is equal enough and when to stop vying for paralleled salaries?

It is often argued that women are less valued in the workplace because, at some point, they will take a leave of absence, in the form of maternity leave, in order to start a family. However, it has been found that women in high or powerful professional positions are less likely to prioritize starting a family over building their career. But, if they do decide to enter motherhood only “roughly 50% of employed women [receive] job protected leave” (Berger et al., 2005). So, what about the other 50%? Why are they being financially punished for pursuing a biological right to bear children?

On the other hand, motherhood is a right that all working women possess and is mandated by the state. In most professional companies, women that are valued in their position are entitled to up to three months of paid maternity leave. During this time they are able to adjust to the new challenges of motherhood before they return to work. This new responsibility does not make them any less fit to perform their tasks (Berger et al., 2005).

So in this year of immense change, is it likely that we will see equality for women in the workplace? It seems that this is unlikely, but we will just have to wait and see.

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## **Animal Adoption**

*By Humberto Marquez*

Have you ever thought of adopting an animal? Did you know that adopting an animal is better than buying pets at stores? In my opinion, adopting is way better than buying pets from the store. Animal adoption is good because you don't support puppy mills, people making animals breed for money, and you just saved a stray animal!

If you adopt, you are helping animals that were lost or stray from shelters. In the article, Shelter Intake and Surrender, from ASPCA they said, "35% of dogs are adopted, 31% are euthanized, and 26% are returned to their owner." They also did another report on cats and stated, "37% are adopted, 41% are euthanized, and less than 5% are returned to their owner." Some stores buy their puppies or kittens from puppy and kitten mills. Puppy and kitten mills are places where animal breeds are made on purpose in order to sell them. I think this is important information because there is a low percentage of animals that are being adopted. There is an estimate that over two million dogs are bred in mills. In kitten mills, about 25,000 cats are bred. These pets are taking up many lives of homeless animals that are being killed. If you do not buy an animal from the store, then you are not supporting puppy or kitten mills. If you adopt a pet, you just saved a stray dog that might have been killed.

Did you know there are more homeless animals than homeless people? According to DoSomething.org, homeless dogs outnumber homeless people 5 to 1. The number of dogs that find a permanent home are 1 out of 10 dogs. DoSomething also stated that there are twice as many stray dogs than the ones that are relinquished, given up, by their owners.

I believe that adopting instead of buying dogs and cats is better because many homeless dogs and cats suffering. I think homeless animals are more important than the ones that are bred in puppy and kitten mills. I think this because homeless animals are suffering while the pets from mills are having a nice time. The puppies and kittens that were bred on purpose are less important because they just took up a home and life of a stray animal that might get euthanized.

In my opinion, we should all stop buying animals from stores and start adopting. Try to tell your friends and family. This will help reduce the number of homeless

pets and puppy and kitten mills will no longer exist. This will end all mills and those innocent pets will have a happy life.

## **Self-driving cars from Tesla are a bad idea**

*By Jose Guzman*

Most people know the brand called Tesla. Everyone knows and likes their cars, but they added a self-driving feature, and it changed the way people look at Tesla and their cars. People say that Tesla is sending out unfinished products. This is an important topic because it endangers the public and other drivers on the roads. My opinion on this topic is that the self-driving car idea is interesting but it is a bad idea because they are not taking the time to program the cars correctly.

According to Fox news, the CEO of Tesla, Elon Musk, said that “His cars are dangerous. He is suggesting that his cars are not safe for the public.” 1.2 million people died worldwide in crashes including Teslas and their autopilot system were involved in these problems.

According to CNN.com,” Tesla is sending out unfinished products to the public.” Ramsey said, “I don’t think Tesla minds that they can put the cars without having to be a finished product.” With that being said, Ramsey states that “Tesla is sending out unfinished products to the public because they are missing a key component which is an 8,000 dollar camera but they don't put in their cars.”

If you are considering getting a fancy or fast car, but still want to be safe, you could get a BMW I8. You could get this car because the BMW i8 is fancy and fast but it costs over \$138,700. The BMW i8 has scissor doors and you could have the option of a wood dashboard.

If you are considering getting a Tesla, you should get the basic model which means it is just a normal car. You should get this car because it is safer than the one that has no self-driving feature.

## Electric Cars Should Be More Affordable

By Kiara Vasquez-Klein

Do you think that electric cars should cost, on average, almost 40,000 dollars even though they are better for the environment (This was found on Green Car Reports)? This is not the real cost though. You also have to count paying for the electricity that the battery uses, which gets the electricity from a charger. Since electric cars only use batteries and electricity, they are better for our world. The problem is that it costs so much that not many people can afford them, which means that less people can help the environment.

According to Kevin Bullis from MIT Technology Review, the environment is badly impacted from the electric car parts being made, but the gasoline used by a regular car does more damage over the course of it's usage. Since electric cars do not use gasoline, they do not pollute our air. Also, they are quiet, so they do not cause noise pollution either.

Also, electric cars are safer for people. According to an article from OFF Conserve Energy Future, in an accident, the electric car will open it's airbags, and the electricity will stop running to prevent something worse from happening. On October 27, 2016, Arrian Marshall wrote in his article, *"It's Not Just Clean Air: Electric Cars Can Save the US Billions"* that "According to a new report from the American Lung Association of California, cars are responsible for \$37 billion in health and climate costs each year," and that is only for ten states! This is not what we should be doing to ourselves or to our environment.

Despite what the articles say, some people believe that electric cars are **not** better for the environment. According to Lizzie Wade's article *"Tesla's Electric Cars Aren't as Green as You Might Think,"* she stated that car makers use machines to obtain the metals for electric cars from "environmentally destructive mines." Also, the machines "spew a lot of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere." Even though the making of electric cars is not perfect, it has already been proven that electric cars are still better for the environment than gasoline cars.

We care about the environment, so we should do everything in our power to help it. Helping it should not cost 40,000 dollars because not everyone can afford it. The car creators should lower the price so that everyone can help the environment and our world.

# Female vs Male Soccer Players' Salary

*By Leilani Lagunes*

Are both male and female soccer players paid equally? Is there a lot of difference between both salaries? Is this important to us? Well, this is important to me because I think it is unfair for women to earn less than men while playing the same sport.

According to research on BusinessInsider.com, both male and female soccer players are not paid equally. Men soccer players get paid more than women soccer players. The US Women's National Soccer Team won first place against Japan in 2015 with the score 5-2. The US women earned \$2 million for their win against Japan. Going back to the 2014 Men's world cup, Germany beat Argentina with the score 1-0. The male German team earned \$35 million for their win.

Based on research on PBSNewsHour.com, according to Laura Santhanam, five US National women soccer players filed a complaint for this massive gender gap in salary. Carli Lloyd, Hope Solo, Alex Morgan, Megan Rapinoe, and Becky Sauerbrunn filed the complaint towards this pay gap in salary. This complaint was dated on March 29, 2016. This does not only involve the World Cup soccer players but all professional soccer players' salaries.

According to Alicia Lorene Johnson, from the Bustle.com, two soccer players both male and female, are not paid equally and both soccer players have a lot of similarities. These two soccer players are Sydney Leroux and Jozy Altidore. Both of these professional soccer players are 25 years old and they are both on the US National Team. Altidore is in the men's US national soccer team and Leroux is in the women's US national soccer team. Both of them play the same position, striker, and they both are in their own club in the US. There is also a difference between these two legends, they do not earn equal pay. Altidore earns \$6 million (not including sponsorships) and Leroux earns \$60,000-\$92,000 (including sponsorships).

According to Caitlin Murray from the Guardian.com, in 2014 the men played their 20th world cup. In 2015 with the women's world cup, the women played their 7th world cup. The Guardian interviewed Jerome Valcke, Fifa's secretary general who quotes, "We have still another [13] World Cups before potentially women should receive the same amount as men." This means women have to wait in order to earn equal pay in the World cup. This matters because both

genders are playing the same sport but males earn more than females and the females are just watching the males earn more while playing the same sport.

As to the opposing side, no one is aware that this is a problem. There is no research found that people are trying to make this problem change. No research is found that people are making a stand towards this problem. In addition, no one is having a conversation about this issue. People should start talking about this issue because this is unfair. There is no reason why men should earn more than women.

I believe this is unfair for women to earn less than men. There should be a change against this gender pay gap. Both genders play the same sport, train, travel, and maintain their own health in order to play. There is no difference between them but men earn more.

When will the women get equal pay? I hope people recognize that this issue affects everyone. This issue affects everyone because who would say one gender is superior than the other? Who would sit around and just watch this happen while one gender gets paid about 18 times more than the other gender? What if you were a female soccer player what would be your point of view on this issue?



## Does Too Much Homework Cause Stress On Students?

By Leslie Arriaga

*“I come home at 3 o’clock and try to pipe up a little bit of joy from myself although the pile of homework awaits for me. My siblings call for me and I answer in an annoyed voice, but all they’ve wanted all along is for me to play with them. There was one time when my family had planned a night out for dinner, but because of my homework, I couldn’t go. My family ended up not going and my siblings were hurt since I couldn’t play with them either. My mom sometimes gets mad when it’s past nine and the lights in my room are still on. I try to finish as quickly as possible but all of the sudden, my brain shuts off and I end up going to sleep. There was another time that I couldn’t even go to sleep because I was worried about my homework. Did I finish it? Did I put it in my backpack? Did I turn my notes in by computer? All of these questions pop into my head at night, bugging me, and not letting me have a good night’s rest. I also miss going outside, take a quick breath, and forget, for once, that I have homework.”*

Homework has a very big impact on student’s daily lives. In the majority of the cases, they end up getting stressed out when they do not finish an assignment. Students sometimes end up not doing their homework and with that, there comes consequences. It is either a lunch detention or Saturday School and students don’t want to spend their weekends in a school room doing work, or do they? Yes, it is pretty obvious that they do their homework so they get a punishment, but is it going to be like that for the rest of their lives? Are teachers actually going to spend every Saturday watching over a student? I do not think about that reasonable answer to a student not doing their homework. When homework places stress on the student, the student feels pressured to finish something they do not have any interest in, and that is a really bad thing.

According to [www.healthline.com](http://www.healthline.com), “...all those extra assignments may lead to family stress...” Family stress is another thing that is caused by homework. It can be caused when the parents are not sure, or convinced, about helping their children on homework. The reason might be that because the way that parents were taught in school back then, doesn’t match up with how the students are being taught today. Sometimes even parents suffer from the pressure of not being able to help their children on their homework. Family stress also includes not being able to go out on the weekends on a family day. Overall, family stress is also caused by homework.

Not only do middle school kids get an exaggerated amount of homework, elementary kids also get stressed out by it. Experts show how elementary students are receiving too much homework. “The study, published Wednesday in The American Journal of Family Therapy, found students in the early elementary school years are getting significantly more homework than is recommended by education leaders, in some cases nearly three times as much homework as is recommended.” says CNN News. The fact that kids are getting three times as much homework is bad because kids want to go outside and play, have fun, not be stuck in a room doing math problems and writing sentences. These days kindergarteners are doing a minimum of 30 minutes of homework. Second graders are doing reports on historical figures which have to be done based on their historical figure’s biography. Not an awesome thing to do as a second grader, especially when you’re an active kid and want to go outside and be a kid, while you can.

Along with homework getting in the way with family, it also ends up getting in the way of extracurricular activities, such as after school sports like basketball, volleyball, or soccer. Homework also gets in the way of talents. For example, if you are interested in music and there are some classes going on and you want to join, homework ends up getting in the way. “After school ends every day, a cycle of sorrow begins for many students. Hours spent on homework instead of sleeping, and all hope of social interaction gone. They are honors students, they are soccer players, they are Drama Club members. They are the brilliant minds of Rocky River High School, but also the miserable minority,” states The Hook. When students are finished with school they do not exactly have the freedom to socialize with their family, they have a pile of homework waiting for them.

When homework over flows the capacity of a student’s stress level, it can be a worrying thing. It interrupts the family and other possible activities. Yes, we have two days off, Saturday and Sunday, but many students basically think that those two days off are “Catch up on your work days” instead of “have fun, and see you on Monday” days.

Overall, students can be put into a stage of stress if overwhelmed with work. Let’s all work hard but taking it one step at a time.

# **Bullying**

*By Miranda Valdez*

Bullying, what is it? Why do people do it? Are they jealous, angry, or afraid? These are just three main questions asked when referring to bullying.

Not only shy kids get bullied. You could be popular, loud or talented, it doesn't matter. Almost everyone gets bullied at some point in their life. An anonymous teen went to a private school and she was popular, tall, and athletic, yet she was a victim of bullying. She claims that one simple word such as "stop" could have made a huge difference. Looking back now, she realizes that nothing can excuse bullying, not even a bad day. A piece of advice she gives to victims of bullying is that you should always seek out help from others when caught in a bullying situation.

Bullying is harsh behavior among adolescents that involves real imbalance. There are four main types of bullying: physical, verbal, social, and cyber. Physical bullying involves hitting, pushing, tripping and other acts of force. Verbal bullying can consist of hurtful comments and teasing. Social bullying can include excluding, ostracizing, and rumors. The last kind of bullying is cyberbullying, which happens online or over cellphones. Cyberbullying is one of the most popular kind of bullying in our century.

It can happen anywhere at any time in public or private places. According to *ncab.org*, "Over 60,000 children every year are admitted to emergency care in Australia because of physical bullying." *Erase-bullying.ca* explains that girls are more likely to engage in relational bullying than boys. It is the most difficult category to recognize because the bullying is done behind the child's back. This is one of the most harmful kinds of bullying because the victim feels rejected and depressed, and often times they do not see a solution to the problem. Cyberbullying is the newest kind of bullying that allows adolescents to be bullying 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, even in the privacy of their own house.

Bullying usually arises from distrust, fear, lack of knowledge, misunderstanding, or jealousy. In many situations, the bully may not like the person, they find it funny, it makes them feel powerful, or they think that it will make them become popular. Research from *Bullyingnoway.gov* shows that those who bully people may appear to be popular, but are not always liked. Bullies may become the way are because their family does not express love. Kids who come from an unstable home usually suffer from social rejection, which can have long

lasting effects on them even in their adulthood. Low self-esteem and peer pressure from failing classes at school can also be a contributing factor to why kids bully. Research has shown that “anyone who has power that they don’t know what to do with often turns to bullying, as do people who seek out power in their life by imitating others.” Some bullies behave the way they do because the part of their brain that is supposed to regulate their actions is inactive. This results in lack of compassion, allowing the bully to do whatever they want without feeling guilt or remorse. Adolescents who bully are under the influence that “violence is okay”- whether that is their point of view or the idea was put into their heads by a caretaker.

The effects of bullying are various based on the child’s interpretation of it. Most often, kids who are bullied are most likely to experience negative, physical and health issues. This includes depression, increase of sadness and loneliness, loss of interest in activities, and decrease in academic achievement and school participation. Contributing factors to being bullied can include history of family trauma, family problems, and belonging to a group where “lack of community support” is a major issue. In extreme cases, adolescents may be less well accepted by peers and have suicidal thoughts.

Bullying is a global issue that needs to be addressed so it can be prevented. If you are being bullied, try to avoid showing the bully how you feel. Make the situation seem as if it does not bother you and that you don’t care what he/her thinks. Eventually, the bully may stop bullying you because they realize that what they are doing is not causing you any physical or verbal harm anymore.

# Gender Inequality

*By Lisbet Wences*

Around the world, women, still do not have equal rights even if they qualify for the same as men. This is important because we as a world have grown but we still have more room to grow and to become a better world.

Women lack many opportunities because of the lack of their education and because they cannot leave their own home without getting threatened. In an article in USA Today, it said that in their most recent data, they found that 49% of Yemeni women and 40% of Pakistani women were literate, compared to 82% and 69% of men respectively. This means that more men are able to go to school than women. That is also a pretty big difference of percentages between men and women that are literate.

Another reason that women cannot take as many chances with jobs and school as men would be that they have chances of getting in trouble for leaving their home. The Washington Post stated that in Saudi Arabia and Morocco, rape victims can be charged with crimes. They punish the women for leaving their house without a male accompanying her, her being alone with an unrelated man, or getting pregnant afterwards. On muftah.org a woman named Bayan Perazzo who lives in Saudi Arabia said, “Perhaps it was the countless men who assumed that since I was out in public on my own I clearly was asking to be sexually harassed. Or the young men who shamelessly threw their phone numbers at me, or followed me in their cars for long-periods of time despite my obvious lack of interest.” The woman did not choose to be raped. She may have just wanted to walk around, or simply go buy something at a store. Also, in The Washington Post it said that women in Yemen cannot leave their house without their husband’s permission. They do not have the right to roam around. They cannot just be free and independent. They have to let their husband know, or the woman can get punished. The only exception to this law would be if there was a very serious emergency where the woman had to leave right away. Bayan Perazzo stated that she felt that “These little indignities can indeed break a woman, and I confess I am extremely close to being broken.”

About 32% of women hold national parliaments. Parliaments are the highest body of people that have the power to make laws. Although, in the YouGov study found that Algerian people would most likely respond saying “it is unattractive for women to express strong opinions in public.” On March 1, 2017, Korwin-Mikke, a

member of the European parliament spoke out and called women “weaker”, “smaller”, and “less intelligent”. Following that on March 3, 2017, he said that the idea of women being more intelligent than men “must be destroyed.” Also a woman in the European parliament responded by saying, "I know you're very upset and very concerned about the fact we women can represent citizens on an equal footing with you." Women represent people in many countries and yet in Vatican City women still aren't allowed to vote and hold a place in government. Vatican City is the only country that allows only men to vote. Only cardinals are really allowed to vote in that country which means that not even all men can vote. Since women cannot become cardinals, only men can become cardinals, they cannot have the legal right to vote. This isn't fair to women and men because they are part of that country and they should be able to share their opinion in government. This is the only country, out of 196 countries in the world, that still has not allowed women to vote.

We still have a lot more work to do as a world. There is still more room for women to have more equal rights. We can have the same rights as men, we just have to do something about it. We as a world must change so that women and men can both have equal rights.

# How You Can Get a Job on YouTube

*By Trevon D.*

I'm going to tell you about making money without having to do something you do not like. YouTube is not just an application where you can watch videos, it can also be a job. You can't get paid by sitting and watching videos on the app. To make money from YouTube, you need to get the right tools like a camera, subject, and name for your channel. While making, or figuring out a subject to record try going on YouTube and looking at the most trending things.

According to Google to get paid on YouTube you have to 1) Activate your channel to get monetization (monetization = The presence of advertisements on your videos, and YouTube charges advertisers for these and shares the money with you). 2) Connect your YouTube channel to an AdSense account in order to get paid for your monetized video. 3) Take a minute or two to get to know what kinds of videos you can monetize.

Getting famous is great for this type of thing because if you're a fast-growing channel like Evan Fong (VanossGaming), you should be able to make \$11,000 per day and \$4.1 million a year. You could also be getting money like Jonathan (H2O Delirious), which gets \$1 million from YouTube.

If you're not getting paid like those two, you're probably getting paid like these three. If you're an average YouTuber that's around 500,000 subscribers, you can get as much money as Lia (SSSniperWolf) who has made \$600,000 off of YouTube \$1,500 per day and \$550,000 a year. In other cases, you're probably going to be internet famous like PewdiePie or DanTDM which are people that make a lot of money off of YouTube. Felix Kjellberg (PewdiePie) is one of the most popular and most famous YouTubers out there. He makes more money than VanossGaming, but he does not make how much he should be making (Go to Forbes for more about this cause). Daniel Middleton was, and "still is" a famous YouTuber known as DanTDM. Dan has made \$10 million from YouTube \$15,000 every day and \$5.5 million a year.

Try YouTube as a job you can probably get as much money as some of these guys. And here's some advice to you for your channel; 1) Don't make bad content, 2) Post or make a video about something popular and you feel comfortable with, and 3) Don't let yourself down and keep going with your channel.

If you follow these steps and advice you might someday be as great as PewdiePie, VanossGaming, H2O Delirious, DanTDM, SSSniperwolf, etc and also be sure to not end up not getting the money you deserve like PewDiePie. And try and teach people things about women's rights or bullying someone's going to watch it trust me. Like for example SSSniperwolf is a girl that plays games and makes videos about the and she is a pro at call of duty. Another example is Faze Rug, he tells his viewers to not bully. But like I said YouTube is not just an application where you can just watch videos, you can make a career off of it.

*"I just feel like it's not important to anyone, I just want to make entertaining videos" -PewDiePie*



# **Technology: The Sources of the Digital World**

*By Rodolfo Aguilar*

Technology is developing and changing on a daily basis. Unfortunately, a lot of people use technology to play games instead of using it for research about the weather, news, and issues that are happening in our world. I believe that people should be using technology for educational purposes and homework. In my opinion, I think kids should have technology.

According to dictionary.com, they define technology as “the branch of knowledge that deals with the creation and use of technical means and their interrelation with life, society, and the environment, drawing upon such subjects as industrial arts, engineering, applied science, and pure science.” In other words, technology can help people daily and it uses science. It is good to know about the definition because people need to know the meaning and what it is used for.

When was the age of technology? The age of technology started in the 20th century and they used technology such as computer, phones, iPad, television and the most common one is the internet. The internet helps us communicate with other family members that are in other states or countries. According to the article “Who invented the internet?” Evan Andrews describes “The Internet was the work of dozens of pioneering scientists, programmers and engineers who each developed new features and technologies that eventually merged to become the “information superhighway” we know today.” This is stating that several people created a technology that gives information quickly. This is beneficial for students who need help with school work.

Some people say that technology is not good for kids. Some people think technology harms kids’ eyes because they spend too much time on the internet. Furthermore, there are parents who believe that kids should only be writing with the use of paper and pencil. They believe that technology distracts from learning. Another concern that parents have is that teens can post information about themselves that other people can use. I also believe that too many people are playing around with technology instead of using it for educational purposes.

On the other hand, technology is good because students can have access to other communities and share data with other people such as their family, friends, cousins and neighbors that are not nearby. People can share pictures and homework that cannot be seen by other people. For example, educators want

students to learn, and they can because the internet can give access to education. Students can do online schooling and homework can be completed in different ways. According to the article “Technology as a Tool to Support Instruction” on educationworld.com, Lynne Schrum discusses that “In such an environment, educators can encourage a diversity of outcomes rather than insisting on one right answer. They can evaluate learning in multiple ways, instead of relying predominantly on traditional paper and pencil tests. And perhaps most importantly, teachers and students can move from pursuing individual efforts to being part of learning teams, which may include students from all over the world.” This means that there are different ways to use technology in the classroom. Also, students can have fun at the same time doing this. They can do different things on the internet such as play math games and work on division with a friend. If you do not understand something, you can find help with the use of technology. For instance, Google can be used to find a definition or to find information about how to do something.

I think that students need to know how to use the latest widget so that they can learn faster than they usually do with regular paper and pencil. I believe that everyone can use technology because it can help people get access to a lot of things. Technology allows people to do several things at the same time. In conclusion, people should stop using technology for playing games that can waste their time and use it for educational purposes.

# You Blogger Believe It: The New Age of Style Media

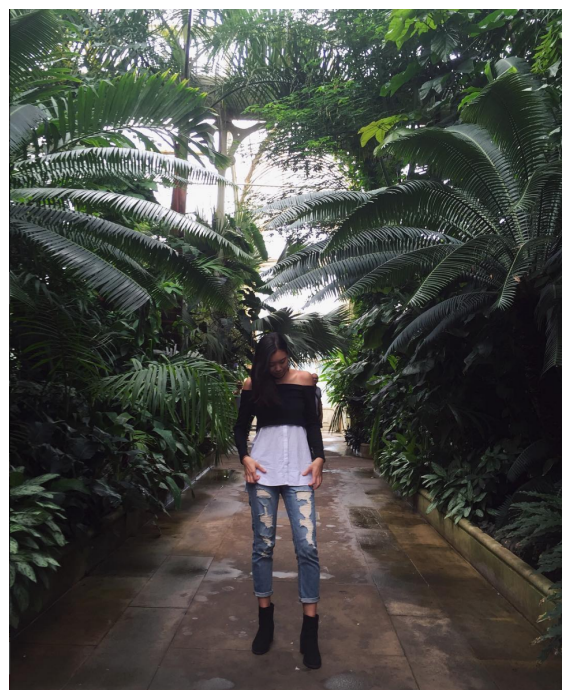
By Kathy Lau



Rather than critics' columns, food is documented and rated electronically in the digital age. Check out Yelp, Instagram Locations, and Snapchat for the best eats in town.

If you wandered into a teen girl's bedroom in the 1990s, chances are you would find stacks of magazines – everything from *Seventeen* and *CosmoGirl* to *Vogue* and *Vanity Fair*. However, with the rise of social media platforms, the authoritative voice of print media is being phased out for something altogether more fluid: blogging.

Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, and Twitter, the undeniable kings of media, allowing anyone and everyone to share opinions, discuss issues, and express themselves. Rather than dictating, the people of the fashion world are now learning the importance of *listening*. Style has become a



much more individualized concept, as trends such as vintage upcycling, streetwear, and athleisure have grown in popularity. We sat down with two industry experts, Mika (@believeinyourselfies) and Nina (@thefringelook) to get their perspective on the future of fashion reporting.

“I started out my blog because I loved to write and express my own sense of style, which I think is a mix of quirky and classy,” Nina explains. “But it’s the interaction, the engagement within a community that really makes blogging exciting. This is a channel that makes style accessible.”

“Nobody dressed like me in high school,” Mika comments, crossing enviably long legs beneath a filmy maxi dress. “And I didn’t have anyone to really get inspiration from, or acknowledge that not everyone dressed in one particular way. Blogging is exciting, it’s diversity.”



“There’s also a ton of jobs generated by this outlet of the industry,” Nina adds, swiping away the ends of her signature blunt bangs.

“Photographers, beauty, marketers, representation agencies... it’s important to remember how many pieces there are in the behind the scenes. Even if you aren’t into clothes, this business is all about creating.”

“It’s so easy to get started too!” Mika is enthusiastic, holding up her phone. “You don’t have to invest in a camera right away. Just start sharing your pics, make your voice heard.”

