

TRIDENT

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TEXAS, MAY 4, 1918

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Los Angeles Express CITY EDITION

NEW BILL WILL BAR BEER

FAST TRAINS COLLIDE; 8 KILLED, 40 INJURED

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Op-Ed

New York Tribune

ALL READY TO GO TO THE FRONT

AS WE BEAM TO ONE RUSSIAN WOMAN

SANTA FE NEWS

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ATOMIC BOMBS

Los Angeles Express CITY EDITION

NEW BILL WILL BAR BEER

SPORTS

THE SUN

Journal

TIMES

SPECIAL ELECTION EDITION

The Tribune

VOTE AS YOU LIKE... BUT VOTE!

PROVINCIAL ELECTION 2ND 1918

APRIL 2021 STAFF

EMMA JOYCE, *co-editor in chief*

CLAIRE QIU, *co-editor in chief*

TARA AFSHAR, *online editor*

NIKA AYDIN, *online editor*

MISS KARISSA JONES, *advisor*

Journalists

ANGELINA JIA

KAT KELLER

HUNTER LEJANO

NAZLI NAZEMIAN

KAYDENCE OSGOOD

ANABELLE TAYLOR

BRITTA WOLKER

COVER ART BY CLAIRE QIU

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TO MS. BALL
WE MISS YOU.

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EDITORS' NOTE

Since the beginning, the goal of *TRIDENT* has always been to report on you, the students. As journalists, it is imperative for us to learn to report the truth, with as little bias as possible. In recent current affairs, we have seen that sometimes truth is compromised for personal benefit.

However, it is equally important to remember that everyone has a voice. The freedoms of speech and press are what make true democracy so covetable to man. With that in mind, we decided on an unusual theme for this issue: to give us, the journalists, a chance to air our own opinions. Whether it was on news and media, modern politics, laws, sexual harassment, female stereotyping in film, queerbaiting, or owning pets, every one of our staff had a chance to present their own views, backed up by statistics and facts.

It is our hope that this issue brings to light some perspectives for you to dwell on. All of the opinions expressed in this issue are solely the opinions of the author. We did not publish this issue with the intention of forcing our opinions on anyone. We simply hope that our writing provides some food for thought, and sparks some meaningful discussion.

And, as always, we hope you enjoy this issue.

Your editors,

Emma & Claire

Emma Joyce and Claire Qiu



HEY SENIORS!

TRIDENT is looking for your input for our beloved senior issue! To participate, please scan the QR codes below.

Much love and thanks from the *TRIDENT* staff!





ACT WITH EMPATHY

A NOTE FROM MR. HILL

One of the attributes that sets CdM aside from other schools is our identification of the importance of empathy. It is rare to see that specific character trait listed in a school mission statement, but we have it in ours.

I have reflected a lot on empathy this year and feel like this year has personally given me many opportunities to practice being empathetic. Hopefully it has done so for you, too. Whether it's disagreeing with somebody's political views or having a difference of opinion about certain decisions made by others, empathy can often be a solution to the problem, not because it makes the problems go away, but because it enables us to continue to have a relationship with someone we might disagree or be frustrated with. Empathy allows us to see things the way others see them, and then preserves or even establishes the human connection between two people.

This is also why empathy is hard. Most of us struggle to look at the world through others' eyes because our own perception is based on our experiences. The outlook and beliefs of others are based on their own experiences. The truly empathetic person, however, is able to try to do this.

One of the best ways to be empathetic is to listen. Too often, we make assumptions about others based on things they have said or done without really taking the time to understand what is behind their actions, words, or how they arrived at their decisions and actions. To be empathetic is to take the time to ask them why they think what they think or do what they do; and to not ask this with the intent to disagree with them or argue with them, but to really understand. It might require an additional question or even a willingness to restate what they have shared in your own words.

In his 1989 book, *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, noted author Stephen R. Covey said, "empathy is not sympathy. Sympathy is a form of agreement, a form of judgment. And it is sometimes the more appropriate emotion and response. But people often feed on sympathy. It makes them dependent. The essence of empathic listening is not that you agree with someone; it's that you fully, deeply, understand that person, emotionally as well as intellectually."

Taking time to truly understand someone and not with the intent of getting what you want enables you to connect with that individual. Once that connection is established, doors open, and opportunities to engage in constructive interactions are more abundant.

As we continue to navigate the shifting landscape related to COVID-19, it's very important that we take the time to think about and better understand those we disagree with or who disagree with us. This approach can lead to one of two outcomes: either it will enable us to better understand the other's perspective so that we know how to better respond to further our objective or we actually change our thinking because we took the time to listen to someone else's reasoning. Either way, the outcome is positive and can move us forward in our exchanges and relationships with others.

Whether the individual is another student, a friend, a teacher, a parent, or anyone else, I urge you to take a moment to listen, observe, question, clarify, understand, and to try to connect before you respond. To quote Covey again, "People want to be understood. And whatever investment of time it takes to do that will bring much greater returns of time as you work from an accurate understanding of the problems and issues and from the high Emotional Bank Account that results when a person feels deeply understood."

College Prestige: Is It Real?

WHY THE US COLLEGE ADMISSIONS ARE BROKEN BEYOND REPAIR

NAZLI NAZEMIAN

After four years of AP classes, late night ACT cramming, and running from one extracurricular activity to another, you finally sit behind your computer and log onto the applicant portal of your dream university. With shaking hands and the pounding rhythm of your heart, you click on the status update that has been posted, only to face one of the worst words in the English language: rejected. So, what went wrong?

Every year college admissions become exponentially more selective and acceptance rates drop significantly. Admission to colleges that were once considered safety or match schools has now become unattainable for many. Factors such as population growth and more accessibility to resources among all demographics play an important role; however, this year an incredible phenomenon ranks highest among the factors of why college admissions were so selective. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, many students were unable to register for standardized tests. This allowed students who once shied away from applying to 'elite' institutions to do so and try their luck. Consequently, according to CollegeConfidential, a website that regularly posts updates on college admissions, higher ranked colleges such as Harvard University experienced a shocking 42% growth in applicants; making their 2021 acceptance rate just shy of 3 percent; breaking yet another low record after hitting 4.5% in 2019. On the other hand, many lower ranked colleges that once received a significant number of applications due to their reputation of being safety or match schools, have resorted to excessive marketing and expanding of their deadlines because of the drop in their application numbers. For example, SUNY - State University of

New York- has experienced a 14% drop in application numbers this year and has had a 5% increase in acceptance rates. A logical explanation for this drop can be the test-optional or test-blind policies of elite institutions. Many students applied to more high ranking schools as opposed to having a balance between reach, safety, and match colleges. The biggest mystery in college admissions is the question of why students have become more obsessed with the idea of attending a prestigious university? A simple answer is because prestige does matter. Contrary to what many advertise, colleges have successfully created a system in which the ranking and reputation of the school that one attends can be propitious to the quality of opportunities that they will be presented with after graduation. For those who plan on entering the career world after receiving their bachelor's degree, having the name of a prestigious institution on top of their resume can certainly help open bigger doors.

The U.S News started publishing their annual college rankings list 36 years ago (1985). According to their website, many factors go into the making of this list with 'average graduation rate' -which calculates a successful six-year graduation rate- and 'social mobility' ranking among the top. Another important indicator is the category of 'undergraduate academic reputation' that ranks colleges based on a peer assisted survey that determines the reputation of academic excellence at a school. The truth is, many colleges have found a way to make it to the list without actually improving their school. An example of this can be seen with Northeastern University, a school that was once ranked at #162 and is now competing with Tulane University for #40. Northeastern was once viewed as a

third-tier, commuter school stuck with an unattractive campus. However after many budget cuts and having to lay off university staff members due to a financial crisis and its unattractive reputation, Northeastern's new president at the time was able to significantly increase funding for the school by simply focusing on improving its ranking; an attempt that has proven to be successful in drawing more students.

Now as a senior who has been exposed to the realities of college admissions, I can only give one piece of cliché -but true- advice to the reader: You will end up attending the college that is meant for you. College admissions are deemed unfair, and truthfully, they most often are. However, the admissions process will most likely remain the same in the years to come and admission will become more selective every year. Therefore, it is important to remember that your efforts did not go unseen and the college that you choose to attend can help you become a successful adult regardless of its ranking; more importantly, a four year university is not the only path to success.



Nazli Nazemian'21 is currently struggling with choosing a future college; however, after obtaining 3 gray hairs in the process of college decisions month, her greatest concern at the moment is finding a hairstylist.

Death Row: Cruel

EVERYTHING WRONG WITH DEATH ROW

ANABELLE TAYLOR

At first glance, the death penalty may seem fair and just. However, upon closer inspection, one must realize that the death penalty costs more than it's worth, is perhaps unconstitutional under the eighth amendment, and is poorly executed.

In theory, the death penalty consists of a trial, sentence, and execution for those who commit heinous crimes. In reality, criminals are kept on death row for an average of 243 months (20 years) and usually end up dying of natural causes in prison. A case which involves the death penalty has numerous appeals which requires longer, more expensive trials to hire more lawyers and experts. Furthermore, less than 17% of prisoners sentenced to death are executed. In California there are currently 700 people on death row (the largest in the country), but only 13 have been killed since 1977. In other states, like Oklahoma, there have been 200 death penalty trials, but only 15 were sentenced and only one was executed. The only difference between sentencing someone to death and sentencing someone to life in prison is the cost of the trial. A trial with death penalty costs the state at least \$700,000 more than one without, which is about 3.2 times more expensive.

Once on death row,

inmates spend up to 23 hours a day in confinement, have little to no visitation rights, and no access to educational or employment programs. Furthermore, prisoners don't know which day is going to be their last; years of anxious waiting have driven some people to insanity. Psychologists call it the "death row phenomenon," where an astonishing number of inmates experience a psychotic break and become clinically insane. This is one of the reasons the death penalty might be considered a "cruel and unusual punishment," which is illegal under the eighth amendment. Scott Dozier, an inmate on death row at Nevada Department of Corrections, Ely State Prison, was 47 and convicted of two murders. He was sentenced to death in 2007. After 10 years on death row he waived his rights to appeal and announced in court that he was ready to die. Dozier said:

"It isn't that I want to die. It's just that I'd rather be dead than do this. This should have been a straightforward legal action. You spend millions of dollars cramming the death penalty down my throat. You spend a million on the death chamber and

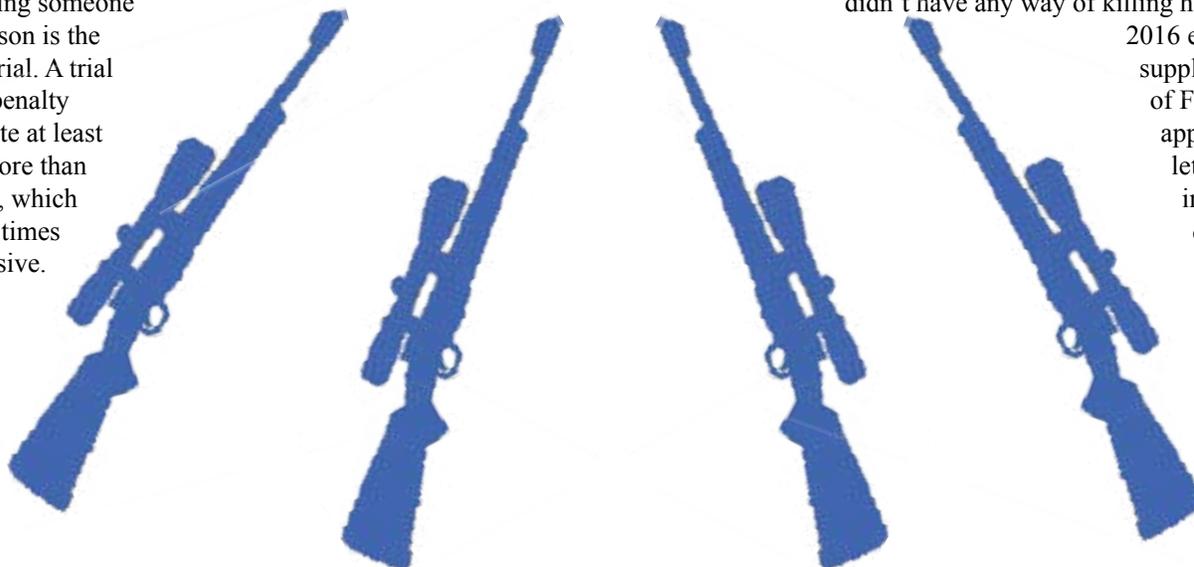
tens to hundred of thousands avoiding using it to carry out a lawful, though dubious, sentence. And all to amount to extended, and vastly unnecessary, cruel and unusual circumstances and torture.

If you say you're going to f***** kill someone, you should f***** kill them... I would rather be dead than do this any longer."

Scott was still on death row in January 2019, 6 years after he begged for death. On January 5 of that year he hung himself in his cell. He spent 12 years on death row.

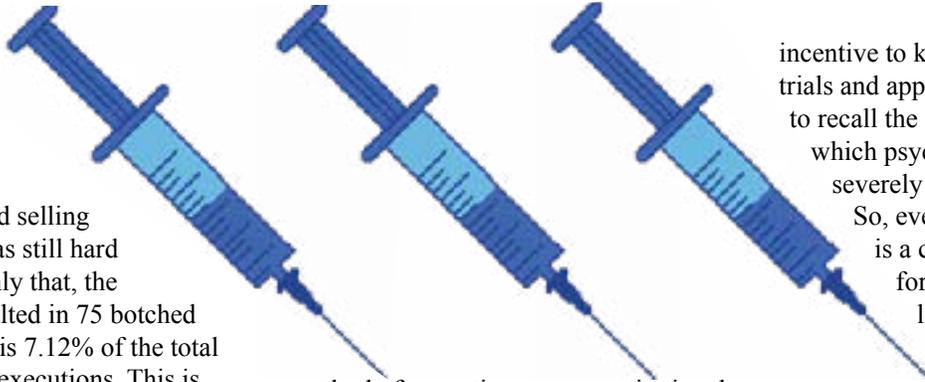
Part of the reason Scott had to wait so long was because the state of Nevada didn't have any way of killing him. In

2016 every supplier of FDA-approved lethal injection drugs in the country no



and Unusual

longer sold their products to prisons for execution. Even before these companies stopped selling the injection, it was still hard to procure. Not only that, the injection also resulted in 75 botched executions which is 7.12% of the total injection induced executions. This is another reason why the death penalty is seen as cruel and unusual punishment in 23 states. The injection works in three parts. The first shot makes the person unconscious, the second shot makes the body paralyzed, and the last one stops the heart. The first shot is usually the part that causes problems, so the person can feel their body go into paralysis and can feel their heart slowly stop beating- this is not a humane way to kill someone, especially because it takes about ten minutes to finally die. Even though this is an incredibly inhumane way to die, it has not been ruled unconstitutional. In fact, the Supreme Court has never ruled a



method of execution as unconstitutional. Under national law, it is legal to execute someone by firing squad, hanging, lethal gas, electrocution, and lethal injection.

Lastly, not everyone that should be sentenced to death is sentenced to death. In 1976, the Supreme Court reinstated the death penalty for crimes other than murder. Rape, armed robbery, and recently, the act of selling drugs that are sufficient to cause overdose are all seen as capital crimes (although states can decide to rule some of these out.) Currently though, all prisoners on death row, and all those executed in modern era, were convicted of murder.

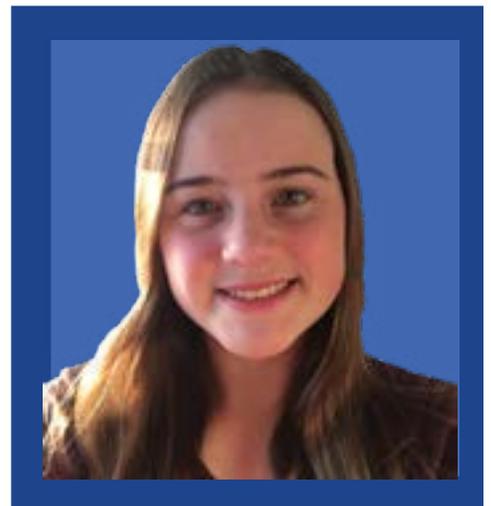
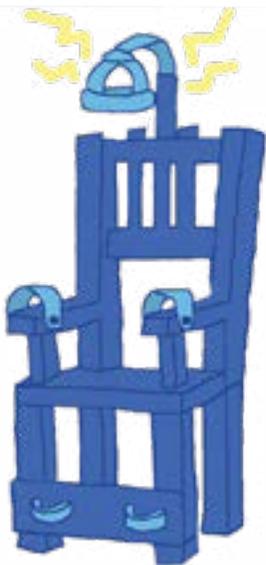
Some criminals who deserve to die are not executed. For example raping a child was a capital punishment until the ruling of Kennedy v. Louisiana. Kennedy v. Louisiana was a case where Patrick Kennedy was found guilty of raping his 8-year-old stepdaughter. Although Patrick Kennedy was sentenced to death in 2004 and executed in 2008, the Supreme Court decided that the death penalty could no longer be applied unless a death occurred which ruled out a lot of despicable crimes. The Supreme Court cited three reasons for no longer using the death penalty for child rape. First, applying the death penalty to rapists would worsen the problem of under reporting. Second, the death penalty would increase their

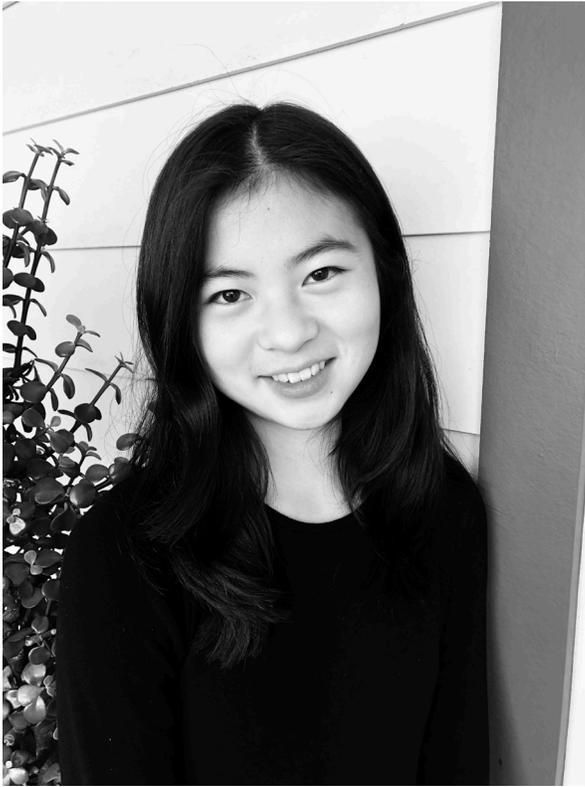
incentive to kill victims. Finally, extra trials and appeals would force the victim to recall the attack numerous times, which psychologists said would severely disrupt the healing process. So, even though raping a child is a crime worthy of death, for technical reasons it is no longer enacted.

While it is true that some criminals deserve to die, this isn't the way to do it. Inmates shouldn't have to stay on death row for decades awaiting execution. These trials need to be more concise and efficient, and therefore less costly. Lastly, the method of execution is not humane. The lethal injection should be altered or taken out of rotation altogether until scientists can find a more reliable substance. In conclusion, the cost is too high, the wait is too long, and the death is too often unethical.

All information from Death Penalty Information Center

If Anabelle Taylor '23 was on Death Row, she would choose Canes for her last meal.





YOU'RE NOT POLITICAL, YOU ONLY THINK YOU ARE

POLITICS AND YOUTH IN THE MODERN ERA

CLAIRE QIU

I believe I spent the majority of 2017 reading newspapers. Early into the Trump presidency, it seemed like the headlines got bigger every day. James Comey was fired; Trump bombed Syria. He pulled out of treaties, he insulted Angela Merkel, he admired Putin. I read the headlines in the New York Times, standing at the kitchen counter with the newspaper as my way of procrastinating on my homework. Most of what I felt about the news could be summed up as shock or disgust. It did occur to me, even then, that although Trump had spent his entire campaign promising to build a wall, there did not seem to be any wall.

Back then, I was still young and tender and capable of feeling shock. I had just turned thirteen in June of 2016, a prestigious leap from tween to true teen that made me feel worldly enough to start caring about the world. I raged to myself about the stupidity of Trump and his supporters. It didn't occur to me that I was merely parroting what my parents often said about him at the

dinner table. It is 2021 now, the wall was never built, and certainly Mexico never paid for it.

Part of the reason why Republicans and Democrats alike were so intoxicated with loving or hating Trump was because he created drama. Watching him, reading the news, was like watching a presidential episode of the Kardashians. Even those who were repulsed by him obsessed over him. With Trump, there was always something to talk about: his scandalous past, his lavish lifestyle, the type of remarks he made to Angela Merkel or Kim Jong Un.

Ironically, it was this manipulative political strategy of always being in the spotlight that kept his devoted followers on a string - and kept everyone infatuated by politics. I read Trump's Wikipedia page, and Melania's and Ivanka's too. I read articles about Mitch McConnell, and I found out that he was married to

Elaine Chao, the transportation secretary that, like the maternal side of my family, came from Taiwan.

Eventually, though, somewhere between Trump's second and third years as president, I lost interest. By that time, I was sick of the political stage. I stopped reading newspapers. I felt, with a very acute, adult sense of exhaustion, that nothing could shock me anymore. The year 2020 arrived, and, confined by the pandemic, I researched the backgrounds of the dwindling Democratic candidates. I took a half-hearted interest in Pete Buttigieg and Andrew Yang. Eventually Joe Biden secured the nomination. I perked up when he announced Harris as his running mate. Between a couple of friends, we adored Harris, not because we truly understood her policies, or, for that matter, even really cared that maybe her policies were too liberal for my moderate-conservative leanings, or too conservative for my friends' Socialist-liberal leanings. Mostly we were captivated by her obvious intelligence, her poise, her success, and the barriers she would break as a Black, Asian American woman. All of us aspired – and still aspire – to everything she represents.

On election night, I checked the polls, which all predicted a Biden victory. Being in a cynical mood, I scrawled in my diary that I would not be surprised if Trump was victorious and the country went to hell. Earlier that day, at cross country practice, I had finished my run, checked the time, and expressed aloud the wish that Pennsylvania would, in a burst of state pride, elect Biden. Beside me, laying on the grass, someone turned his head, arrested, perhaps, by my passion. "Why do you care so much?" he asked, his tone not accusing or demeaning or bullying, merely curious. It was the same tone I would have employed to ask a waiter where the restaurant bathroom was. I don't remember what answer I made, I likely said something serious and grave, because I felt suddenly so acutely despondent and hopeless.

As it happened, my seemingly directionless passion would have to sustain itself for the next three days. By Thursday, John King with his magic map at CNN became my nine-year-old brother's hero. On Saturday morning, when the election was called, I was torn between wanting to cry and being confused as to why, exactly, I felt so overcome. Certainly, I did not know what Biden planned to do in office, but I knew that with him, there would be less scandal and less drama, but would a new president really make my life any different?

It hasn't. January 6th brought the Capitol Hill riot. I felt a vague disgust towards the rioters and all those who were indirectly, whether by making excuses for the rioters or trying to shield the president from blame, supporting the riot and its cause. Within me there was an unidentifiable sense of something wrong and out of place with the world. On Inauguration Day, I went into raptures over Amanda Gorman. Harris was sworn in, then Biden. Later that night, as my family gathered around the TV to watch Gorman's interview with Anderson Cooper, followed by Tom Hanks's "Celebrating America," I read "The Hill We Climb" over and over again, absorbing the words, as if literary osmosis would make me brave enough to be the light. Over the next few days,

I tracked the administration's moves diligently, but eventually, I gave up, as did the rest of the country. There would be no sex scandals or shaking hands with dictators in this administration. Everything was progressing swimmingly, but boringly. Biden was rejoining alliances. He was wearing his mask. He was denouncing racism and white supremacy. He was working to get the economy back; he was delivering vaccines.

Meanwhile, my grandparents, both sets, got their vaccines, both shots. I got my first A on an APUSH essay. I failed my driving test twice before getting my license, once for driving too fast around an elementary school, once for neglecting to look both ways before entering an intersection. At a mock cross country meet one chilly February morning, I nearly fainted on the course. A visit to the doctor and then the blood lab found that I was anemic. I started taking iron supplements and working out less, trading seven mile runs for four mile runs. The same cross country teammate that had found my passion for the election baffling offered, jokingly, to melt the iron fence for me to eat. In the throes of the election drama, I often wrote opinion articles for the High School Insider section of the Los Angeles Times, where I would quote Plato and Jefferson and vent about how Trump represented a shattering of society and moral principles. Swept by the general emotion and tension pervading the country, I had to have my say, too, and I felt like I couldn't keep up. Tweets, headlines, and political winds flew in every direction, and I was in the middle of the storm. In a way, I helped perpetuate that. I was one of the gullible, engulfed by the drama, blowing up the headlines in my small little world the way Trump, ever the politician, wanted all of America to do.

When the winds died down, and normal, boring political processes resumed, I had nothing to say. I didn't know what to say. I have not written an article for the LA Times since January.

Somewhere, I think there are young people who have thought about the world seriously and have already determined what they can do to make it better. Unfortunately, there aren't enough of them. And that includes me, too. Most of us who love to criticize only criticize because we don't really understand what's going on. If we did, we would fix it. I started parroting whatever my parents said about politics, and sometimes I think I am still mirroring them. I have not yet learned to think for myself.

Although, perhaps this essay will be a starting point.

Claire Qiu '22 would make a very bad politician.

QUEERBAITING

Progress or Exploitation?

TARA AFSHAR

Imagine if we lived in a world void of advertisements. How would our economy survive? From its inception, advertisements have been marketing tools to drive our economy by swaying the consumers into buying their products and increasing their sales. Today, corporations use celebrities and athletes to endorse their products in order to capitalize on their fanbase. Lately, many stars and athletes have been accused of using their VIP status to gain popularity by queerbaiting, and many critics are questioning whether this is a sign of progress or exploitation.

Queerbaiting became mainstream in early 2010. It is described as a calculated marketing strategy to attract an audience of multiple demographics, whilst being mindful of not offending the conservative audience, and simultaneously signalling to the LGBTQIA+ community that you want their support as well. It is a marketing technique used to attract the LGBTQIA+ audience by hinting at same sex relationships and LGBTQIA+ representation, where in actuality there is no representation. Queerbaiting is often seen in films, music videos, television series, as well as celebrities who purposely market themselves as sexually ambiguous through their body of work, or personal statements.

Ariana Grande was accused of queerbaiting in her song called Monopoly, suggesting she might be bisexual. There is a particular verse in her song that says "women and men", which some

believe she is using as a marketing tool to reach out to her fans from multiple demographics, especially the LGBTQIA+ community. Grande got immediate backlash for exploiting the gay culture as a tactic to increase her album sales and viewership. This means of cheap marketing tool was recently used by Rita Ora, where she described relationships between women in her song Girls. Twitter was exploding until she publicly apologized profusely on their platform, and officially came out as bisexual.

Outside of the entertainment industry, queerbaiting is used as a marketing tool by companies feigning solidarity and representation for the LGBTQIA+ community through their advertising campaigns to garner their loyalty and consumer sales. CdM Sophomore Max Fornier described queerbaiting as "when you see same-sex characters in forms of media have interactions that can be viewed as romantic relations, but never do. It's like teasing the potential relationship so fans can hope, but never actually giving it". Many businesses use gauche queerbaiting tactics during the month of June, known as the gay pride month. Many corporations simply use a gay pride flag in their advertisements, using this tactic to show their solidarity with the LGBTQIA+ community. Most, but not all of these companies just jump on the June gay pride bandwagon to increase their sales. The rest of the year they do not show their support to this community that they are so feverishly seeking to gain as customers.

This marketing tool is toxic and harmful. It is no longer just "targeting the gay dollar", but creating extremely damaging representation of the LGBTQIA+ community. Since queerbaiting is derived from the observations of non-queer populace, representation of LGBTQIA+ in media often stems from stereotypes that generalizes an entire community. These notions are often very inaccurate and can lead to homogenizing these detrimental portrayals in media.

Using queerbaiting as a vile marketing ploy might mask itself as showing solidarity and inclusivity, but in reality the LGBTQIA+ community is represented only to drive market sales. How can we as a society not find this offensive? Rolling out the rainbow colored merchandise in retail stores just in time for the month of June to increase sales is not okay! We are a free country and we must exercise our rights and advocate for our freedom. Although representation and inclusivity is a goal and decree we are working on as a nation, we must adhere to using art as a means to inspire, empower, comfort, and educate the masses, instead of capitalizing on the support of LGBTQIA+ community for financial gains.



Tara Afshar '22 hopes that companies stop using queerbaiting to take advantage of entire communities.

97%

Sexual Harassment and Assault, Why Men Rape, Myths and Facts, and the Wise Words of Tupac

NIKA AYDIN

For those who do not know yet, 97% is the percentage of 1,089 18-24-year-old women in the UK that were polled and said they have been sexually harassed.

Here are the facts: nearly 1 in every 5 women have been raped, 97% of women have been sexually harassed, 70% of the 97% have experienced sexual harassment in public, almost 9 in 10 women feel unsafe in public spaces, every 73 seconds another American is sexually assaulted, 42% of women who have been raped were raped before the age of 18, 79.6% have been raped before the age of 25, only 4% of women said they reported the incidents of harassment to an official organization, 45% of women said they didn't believe reporting would help change anything, and 51.1% of female victims of rape reported being raped by an intimate partner, and 40.8% by an acquaintance. Only 3% of 18-24 year old women have never experienced sexual harassment. All of these facts were found from the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC), the APPG for UN Women, and Mashable SE Asia.

You cannot physically or mentally just snap back the next day and expect everything will be normal. Being raped can scar you. From what I have read, the healing process can take a couple of months to the rest of your life.

In my opinion, 97% is an extremely high number. If you think about it for a moment, almost an entire gender has experienced sexual harassment. It is not that complicated. Women do not feel safe. We need to fix this. Moms should not have to teach their daughters to protect themselves, sons should be educated on how to treat a woman. Why is it that my mom has to tell me, if you are going to a party, always grab a closed can, never a cup with no top? When I asked why she said because if you leave your cup on the table someone could put something in it. Why does she have to tell me to walk in a group or be with other females at night? Why does she tell me to look around and make sure I am safe? Why do I feel the need to be in constant fear something bad is going to happen? I shouldn't have to be looking around and fearing that I am unsafe, that any moment I could be in danger. My mom has to educate me on how to protect myself from boys, and that is depressing.

So many things are put in place to prevent a boy from making a mistake. The dress code; tank tops are just shirts with no sleeves. I have not heard a legitimate reason why females can't wear tank tops to school. Just think for a moment...what could the reason be. The reason that I was told by teachers is that a woman's shoulders and chest distract the boys in the class. That makes zero sense. How is it the

woman's fault if a boy is looking at her arms or collarbone? It's not; no female has control over Boys should be expected to contain themselves. Society should not allow room for their lack of self-control. Maybe the school should teach the boys common decency instead of telling women what they can and can't wear.

Another thing is that it has become second nature to some women to walk with a key between their fingers or be ready to run or punch at a second's notice. Some women have even taken self-defense classes to protect themselves. Doing these things and knowing you could fight back gives momentary comfort, but if you are put in a real position, could you act on it? Why is it that we need so much training, so many skills, in order to walk down the street and feel safe? The problem is that when women are sexually harassed or assaulted, they are blamed. It somehow becomes their fault, because society believes we must make excuses for men who cannot control themselves, instead of teaching them to respect women. In no way was it the woman's fault. No one raised their hand and asked to be harassed or assaulted.

There is a stigma around people who get sexually harassed. People think they are asking to get raped with their clothes or their attitude. Just because a woman wants to wear a skirt or

a dress, that does not mean she is “asking for it.” Children are raped in their nightgowns and pajamas. Teenagers are raped in their jeans and sweatshirts. Women are raped in their everyday wear. It is clearly not about the clothes, just the lack of control for a male. Furthermore, when a woman is fighting back that does not mean she is playfighting and starts flirting, again that does not mean she is asking to get raped.

I want to mention Sarah Everard because she was walking home, modestly dressed and she was still kidnapped. She was wearing a sweater, a bright green raincoat, patterned leggings, a mask, running shoes, and a beanie with a pompom on the top. Sarah was walking home alone from dinner at her friend’s house. She was on the phone with her boyfriend for about 15 minutes and spoke to him until 9:27. She was last seen on a doorbell camera at 9:30. Exactly a week after she was last seen, human remains were found in a builder’s bag that had been left in a town 50 miles away from where she was last seen. Dental records confirmed that it was her. Wayne Couzens is the person charged with her kidnapping and murder. He is a high ranking officer being charged with her kidnapping and murder. A male kidnapped her at night as she was walking alone modestly dressed. She did nothing wrong, yet she was still kidnapped. Sometimes the reason for rape is for the male to feel dominated or in power. Couzens is a male with an occupation in power and he abused this power to

There is a difference between sexual harassment and sexual assault. The Oxford dictionary defines sexual harassment as “behavior characterized by the making of unwelcome and

inappropriate sexual remarks or physical advances.” For example: being catcalled, being stared at continuously, unwelcome touching, body rubbing, or groping, in-person comments or jokes, unwelcome sexual advances or requests for sexual favors, being physically followed, indecent exposure, online comments or jokes, sharing of suggestive or indecent content online or in-person, being forced into participating in sexual behavior and having images taken and/or shared without your consent. Sexual assault is any type of sexual activity or contact that you do not consent to. Sexual assault can happen through physical force or threats of force or if the attacker gave the victim drugs or alcohol as part of the assault. Sexual assault includes rape and sexual coercion. My question is “what poses someone to do or say these things?”

Here are some myths and facts from *HelpGuide*:

Myth: If you didn’t fight back, you must not have thought it was that bad.

Fact: During a sexual assault, it’s extremely common to freeze. Your brain and body shut down in shock, making it difficult to move, speak, or think.

Myth: People who are raped “ask for it” by the way they dress or act.

Fact: Rape is a crime of opportunity. Studies show that rapists choose victims based on their vulnerability, not on how sexy they appear or how flirtatious they are.

Myth: Date rape is often a misunderstanding.

Fact: Date rapists often defend

themselves by claiming the assault was a drunken mistake or miscommunication. But research shows that the vast majority of date rapists are repeat offenders. These men target vulnerable people and often ply them with alcohol in order to rape them. **Myth:** It’s not rape if you’ve had sex with the person before. **Fact:** Just because you’ve previously consented to sex with someone doesn’t give them perpetual rights to your body. If your spouse, boyfriend, or lover forces sex against your will, it’s rape.

I was watching a tik tok and one of the videos I saw was a woman asking how females would feel if males had a 6 pm curfew and the comment section of this video was flooded with phrases like “I would so much safer”, I wouldn’t be scared to walk alone”, and “this is a great idea.” This made me think about it; it still baffles me that women are scared to walk alone. I too am scared to walk alone. A couple of days a week in summer I would walk about 4-6 miles to my friend’s house and back and I unconsciously had my key in hand, not in my pocket, but in hand, ready to jab at a moments notice; I was ready in case someone would come at me.

I saw another tik tok and it was the exact opposite of making women feel comfortable. It was just a boy’s face and the text read, “Only 3% left.” He is referring to the 97% harassment rate and how there was only 3% of women left to harass. This is sexism. Another video similar to this was a girl trying to bring awareness to this and she posted a screenshot of a Snapchat story of two boys taking a mirror selfie

with a caption saying “just a couple of men tryna turn that 97% to 100%.” Again, what poses someone to do this? It frustrates me so much. How can someone be so mean, rude, and extremely dumb all at the same time? They could have posted it as a joke, but even that is so disrespectful. There was a video of a woman walking around New York City all day and everywhere she went a boy would catcall her, follow her, or approach her. This is not right. Everywhere she went someone would do or say something that was completely inappropriate. Women are scared and uncomfortable. Boys need to be smarter and treat women better.

Another major problem is males in power. Politicians are the perfect example; just because someone has been given a job in power doesn't mean they can use that power in their personal life. So many politicians have faced sexual assault and sexual harassment allegations and have had to address their mistakes. How do so many male politicians have these allegations? What is in the air in these government offices? I think when someone is given a job in power and has a job where they are able to tell people what to do, they implement that commanding aspect into their personal lives. I think the reason why in so many movies and tv shows the politicians have scandals or hire prostitutes is because it is based on reality. I think this correlates to why politicians have been accused of so many sexual assault and harassment allegations. They feel like they have the power and protection to do it and get away with it until someone speaks up. The males in these positions of power need to face their consequences.

Why do men rape? *The New York Academy of Sciences* feature on *Why Men Rape* was written by Randy Thornhill and Craig T. Palmer. They answered the question by saying, “many social theorists view rape not only as an ugly crime but as a symptom of an unhealthy society, in which men fear and disrespect women. In 1975 the feminist writer Susan Brownmiller asserted that rape is motivated not by lust but by the urge to control and dominate. In the twenty-five years since, Brownmiller's view has become mainstream. All men feel sexual desire, the theory goes, but not all men rape. Rape is viewed as an unnatural behavior that has nothing to do with sex, and one that has no corollary in the animal world. Undoubtedly, individual rapists may have a variety of motivations. A man may rape because, for instance, he wants to impress his friends by losing his virginity, or because he wants to avenge himself against a woman who has spurned him. But social scientists have not convincingly demonstrated that rapists are not at least partly motivated by sexual desire as well. Indeed, how could a rape take place at all without sexual motivation on the part of the rapist? Isn't sexual arousal of the rapist the one common factor in all rapes, including date rapes, rapes of children, rapes of women under anesthetic, and even gang rapes committed by soldiers during war?” The main parts that I took from this article were that some males crave dominance and want to be in control and that all rapists rape because they are sexually aroused.

Tupac said it best:

“And since we all came from a woman
Got our name from a woman and

our game from a woman
I wonder why we take from our women
Why we rape our women, do we hate our women?
I think it's time to kill for our women
Time to heal our women, be real to our women
And if we don't we'll have a race of babies
That will hate the ladies, that make the babies
And since a man can't make one
He has no right to tell a woman when and where to create one
So will the real men get up
I know you're fed up ladies, but keep your head up”

Some facts and quotes were edited for clarity.

Nika Aydin '23 hopes to live in a world where she will never have to explain to her daughter what sexual harassment and assault are.



CANCEL CULTURE?

APPROACHING CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECTS

BRITTA WOLKER



As modern society becomes more mindful of the content presented within television programs, news articles, videos, and movies to respect culture, race, gender, religion, appearance, debate as to whether or not something can be interpreted to be the slightest bit offensive is enough for an internet scandal to circulate and rid, or what's called "cancel" a person from society. By all means, any form of discrimination is completely unacceptable; but for the times when we over-analyze something unintentionally offensive, who is at greater fault for bad judgement? My mother always told me that in her generation, the rules were looser, no cameras or internet to track your every move. Something you said thirty years ago that was offensive is less likely to resurface today. With the extreme caution we exercise today, is the biggest issue our blatant unforgiveness and persistent surveillance, or is it completely valid and acceptable to be rigid and stern about what is acceptable in 2021, with no mercy for second chances? As always, I see both sides.

It's always difficult to know the whole truth. I sit here thinking about all the Youtube drama I could use as examples: David Dobrik and his sexual misconduct allegations, Olivia Jade and her USC admittance scandal, Ellen DeGeneres guilty of being deemed a not-so-generous-cold-hearted witch. My question is, why do people choose to risk the destruction of their families, job, and future endeavors all for the price of a single mistake? Why is it that rational thinking does not exist when an individual expresses their honest and controversial opinion?

I don't believe that second chances should always exist. In fact, just a couple months ago at a Speech & Debate club meeting I was very passionate about expressing

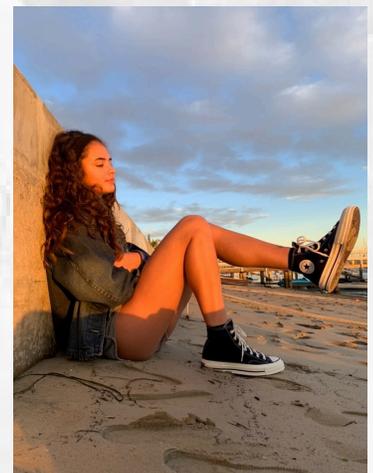
my thoughts on "Should a Murderer be Murdered." With some thoughtful thinking, and vigorous scribbling on my sticky-note, I was brave enough to unmute myself. In short, I believe that some people who have done so much harm simply do not deserve to exist on this planet. When a topic like this is often brought up, we usually turn to reason with the killer rather than the victims. Cancel Culture is out of question when it comes to a serious topic, there are times when all that matters is what will ultimately serve justice, and not just satisfy a petty internet feud.

However, when caution crosses the line of consistently finding wrong in something completely innocent, it distracts us from shedding light on movements like #StopAsianhate, when deciding if President Biden did in fact swear in his latest press conference. Common sense is unfortunately not as common as it should be. An antidote to cure stupidity unfortunately does not exist, but a book called "How to Be an Antiracist" by Ibram X. Kendi does. In short, it stresses the importance of not only being a non-racist (or sexist, homophobic, etc.) but rather an antiracist, presenting a self-critical approach to discuss deeply-seeded thinking that can go on to cause great destruction. (Exhibit A: the folks involved in Capitol storming; having gone out of their way to bring along with them their collection of Proud Boys merchandise and semi-automatic rifles). The book talks about how we hold back from our own personal development when we fail to realize our own racist ideals, and instead focus on accommodating the definition of 'racist' to blame it on others to avoid imposing the question on ourselves. Deeply-seeded thinking within racist ideals for example, hinders us from moving forward in what we consider to be the modern 21st century, and not the era of racial segregation in the 60s.

It isn't just comments and jokes that can be derogatory, but moreover the choices we make; will you choose to avoid associating yourself with a group of people because of an ill personality, or because of appearance? Walking through the halls of Privilegio Del Mar, what could I possibly lose from talking to someone new in order for them to feel comfortable in who they are, despite their hair or their clothes. The journey towards achieving a completely open, respectful, and anti-whatever mindset is both difficult and simple. It starts with a little something called thinking before acting; was doing or saying that the right choice, and what can I do to be better?

In conclusion, is cancel culture all that bad? No. What I would advise people (and myself because I'm human too) is to focus on proper reeducation to avoid an unfortunate outcome of ignorance to be repeated, rather than the heavy gossip culture urging you to join the debate on whether or no Charli D'amelio deserves her Dunkin sponsorship. Some people deserve to be seriously cancelled, but we can all learn a thing or two from becoming better through accepting our mistakes, rather than dwindling on the hottest headlines to fend off boredom.

Britta Wolker '23 prefers 80s fashion culture over discussing cancel drama.





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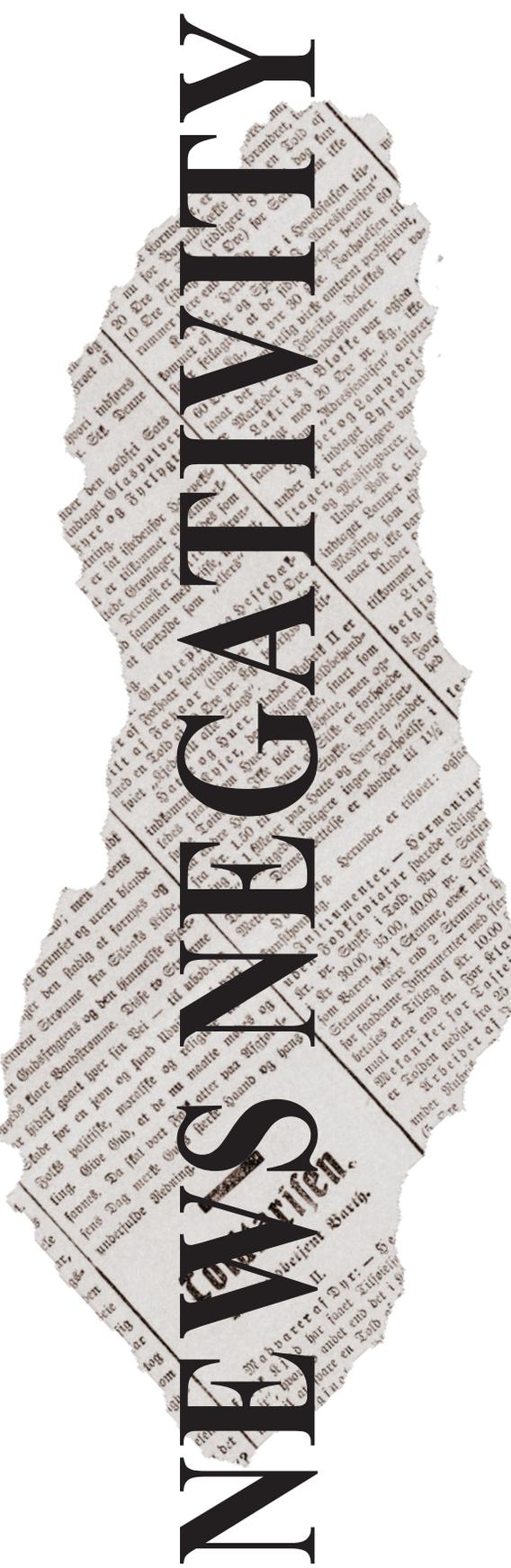
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WHY NEGATIVE NEWS IS SO COMPELLING AND DANGEROUS

KAYDENCE OSGOOD

News organizations, whether it's through social media, online publications, or an actual newspaper, are the only way we find out what is happening in the world. These organizations mostly report negative stories. In a recent study, "Why COVID News in America is so Negative," done by Bruce Sacerdote and Ranjan Sehgal of Dartmouth College and Molly Cook of Brown University, here it was proven that "91 percent of the U.S. stories are classified as negative whereas 54 percent of the non-U.S. stories are classified as negative." Even though COVID is such a devastating topic, other countries were still able to find a way to make almost half of their news positive, so why can't America do the same thing?

According to Kinder World, studies show that headlines that contain the words "bad", "worst", and "never" draw in 30 percent more readers than other headlines. A newspaper in Russia, *The City Reporter*, did a social experiment and only published positive news for a whole day. On that day they lost 66 percent of their readers. There is an undeniable fact that we want to read more about bad news than any other type. This could stem from our internal instinct to know about dangers around us or it could be the mysterious feeling we get when reading about a crime. There are a number of reasons why we enjoy reading and hearing about tragedies, but why don't we prefer positive news?

When researching I didn't find much

on why we don't like to read positive stories. Though, I did find that there is a direct correlation between anxiety and depression to surrounding yourself with negative news. According to an article published by *Psychology Today* written by Austin Pearlmuter M.D., there are three ways negative news messes with our thinking. The first way is negativity bias, "Negativity bias refers to the fact that humans focus on negative events, information, or emotions more than their positive counterparts. In more dangerous times, this bias may have provided an evolutionary benefit...but in the modern world, our preference for the negative has been harnessed to keep our attention." The second way negative news messes with our thinking, is availability bias. "Availability bias is the tendency for people to overestimate the importance of the examples that immediately come to mind when considering a topic...so if you just watched a news report on local robberies, and then were asked about problems in your town, you might say that robberies were a major issue, even if they were, in general, very uncommon." This is something I catch myself and others around me doing all the time. The third way is confirmation bias, "Confirmation bias is the idea that we will actively seek out, remember, and favor information that confirms something we already believe. If you have decided that robberies are common in your hometown, confirmation bias makes it more likely for you to latch onto the data that



supports this belief. Your brain will selectively focus on the information that helps your preexisting theory, ignoring conflicting facts.” Personally, I don’t watch or read about the news very often because it does make me depressed. It makes me fearful of the world because when crime happens the news only showcases all the people affected by the crime, not all the people who weren’t impacted at all.

I understand that we need to know what is happening and I understand that showcasing the people unaffected by the crime wouldn’t make sense, so instead there should be a better balance between negative and positive news stories. We need to hear about the tragedies, but we also need to hear about the triumphs. The only way that can happen is if we, as a society, stop focusing on the negative parts of life. News organizations aren’t going to give us more positive news if it hurts their company, so the only way to help with the mental health issues that stem from negative news is to start looking for positivity. I have caught myself diving deep into negative news and am trying to find more articles on things that make me happy (ex. movies I like, good acts done by others, reading about

negative events from a positive perspective). Maybe by doing this, we can give news organizations a reason to report on happier topics and we can help lower the rising anxiety and depression rates.

Kaydence Osgood ‘24 gets irritated when the news is on and complains until it is turned off or just leaves the room to watch something else.



Images courtesy of:
 Newspaper strip behind title: @cloudy-aesthetic on PicsArt
 Paint strips: @imrannemir on PicsArt
 Girl holding newspaper: @spencerbazar on PicsArt
 Picture of shoe: Kaydence Osgood’s iPhone, edited on PicsArt
 Picture of Kaydence Osgood (author): Landon Fichtner, edited on PicsArt
 Frame around picture of shoe and Kaydence: @bts_ecstaetic

Adulthood

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO REALLY BECOME AN ADULT?

EMMA JOYCE

Independence at the age of 18 depends heavily on types of control. In the US, you are legally considered an adult at 18. This entitles you to make your own decisions about your health, job, schooling, etc. At the same time there are things put in place that allow your parents to step in and help, and that will allow them to have some control if you or they want.

For example, if you attend university there is a document called FERPA that you must sign an exemption if you want your parents to be able to see your grades, communicate with the school about health situations, financial matters, etc. If you don't sign the document and leave it as is, your parents don't have the right to see your grades, health records, or finances. Being aged 18–26 is a confusing time since the law goes into these weird gray zones about independence, being a dependent and whatnot. This whole age group could have one person being married with kids and 100% totally independent at 24 while meanwhile someone could still be living at home and at the mercy of everything and anything their parents do. No other age group in adult life is this varied in living situations. Biologically most people's brains aren't finished forming until they are 25 so this is why oftentimes people that might be really mature in some areas of their life and immature for other parts (having kids, finances, relationships, time management). It's okay to be in either one of these groups. I think that almost nobody has all of this figured out by 25, especially because that's usually the time people have recently graduated from college and are new to that way of life. Even if someone feels matured,

emotionally it is still scary and creates a feeling of nervousness. However, people live much longer than 25 so there is plenty of time to figure out all of these different areas of life.

Other than the legal aspects of turning 18, I personally think being an 18 year old is not necessarily a rite of passage into full independence. While it is a big change in overall responsibility, most 18 year olds are still living with their parents, as well as relying on them for most of their financial responsibilities. My thoughts are that as long as parents are still paying for most things, they still get to have a say in their children's choices, behavior, and freedoms. However, they definitely need to loosen the reigns a little.

Something that recently became relevant for me personally, and I know for many other kids my age, is the app Life 360. Life 360 is an app that gets downloaded by teenagers as well as their parents, and it is designed so that families can know each other's whereabouts at all times. It also has other fun features such as speeding notifications, where parents can see exactly how fast their kids are driving and what the speed limit is in that location. I hated everything about Life 360. Not that I was out and about all the time and up to no good, but I really disliked the fact that the small amount of privacy I had felt like it was taken away from me. I also hated getting text messages from my mom to slow down while I was driving and she was sitting at home. So, once I turned 18, I impulsively deleted the app without saying anything. And either my parents didn't notice or they just didn't care because they

never said anything.

I do like the idea of being fully independent from my parents, as much as I love them, but know that it is not entirely realistic. I understand that they pay for everything in my life, and they should have a say in a lot of the important decisions I have to make.



Emma Joyce '21 actually has a great relationship with her parents, despite the fact that she wrote about this topic.

Not Just an Impulsive Decision

WHY OWNING ANIMALS WITH LONG LIFESPANS SHOULD BE RESTRICTED

ANGELINA JIA

The classic debate between owning a cat or a dog is familiar to many, but what about stepping outside the basic options to own a parrot or turtle? Large parrots including macaws, cockatoos, and African grey parrots, as well as painted and slider turtles all seem like great pet options until their extensive lifespan is considered. These species can live 30 plus years, and it is unjust to allow them to be the casualty of someone's impulsive decision. People should not buy or adopt a pet until they are sure they have the means to care for it and have considered how long the pet will be in their life.

Before owning a pet, the cost has to be considered. While many only look at the initial cost of buying the animal and purchasing necessary parts to its enclosure, upkeep is the most expensive part. The cost of caring for the examples listed ranges from around \$500, according to [costevaluation.com](#) for turtles, to \$1,300 a year, according to [parakeethome.com](#) for large parrots—assuming proper care is being taken. This means that if the pet lives for 30 years—which is short for some of the large bird species—the owner would be investing between \$15,000 to \$39,000 depending on the specific animal and, possibly more if it needs special medical attention. Life is unpredictable and being able to consistently care for an animal and cover the costs is not a guarantee. Before someone obtains an animal with a long lifespan, a financial evaluation should be made to ensure they have a strong chance of being able to continue providing for their pet for its lifetime. Someone enduring financial hardship shouldn't have to stress over a pet, and the pet shouldn't have to be mistreated for something it has no control over.

As of 2019, the UN estimated the average world life expectancy for humans to be about 72.6 years of age. This means that someone who is 42 years old or above could potentially die before their pet if they decided to get one with a long lifespan at that stage in their life. When an owner dies, the animal's emotional response must be considered. While turtles and tortoises do not get extremely attached to their owner, parrots can. Parrot behavior consultant from [berylsbirds.com](#) Bee says that after their owner passes away, "Some parrots will become introverted, not wanting to eat, not wanting to talk, not wanting to play, not wanting to come out of the cage. . . Some parrots will go almost wild, biting people passing the cage, lunging at people passing the cage, screaming a lot of the time". These birds can go through emotional trauma when their owner is no longer around, so by choosing to own a large parrot species, especially later in life, the bird is at risk of having a mental health crisis. Although these things don't always happen, they are still serious possibilities that need to be considered. If unfortunately, the bird were to have an episode, there are steps that can be taken. Vets can prescribe Prozac, which is an antidepressant for birds commonly used in the US and England, and the bird can heal with time, attention, and consistency in routine. Avoiding this situation benefits all parties involved since the family doesn't need to worry about a depressed bird, and the bird doesn't need to be at risk of depression.

Another issue with the potential death of the owner is who the animal goes to. Without proper action taken before death, such as writing who the pet will be passed on to in their

will, a person's pet can end up at a shelter and be put up for adoption. This does not guarantee the adoption of the pet, nor does it guarantee a good home in case the pet is adopted. In addition, even if the animal ends up with family members, it could become a burden on the family members to take care of. They would have to assume all financial responsibility, as well as pet maintenance in general like feeding and cleaning. In order to prevent some of the negative consequences an owner's death can have on their pet, action should be taken beforehand that requires the owner to provide the name and details of a person who consents to and is capable of caring for the pet in the event of the owner's death. In this case, a written plan will always be available and the person who will step into the role will be better prepared and aware of the possibility.

While there are some restrictions on owning pets like tortoises and large parrots, the restrictions, such as the application for ownership of a desert tortoise in CA, are mainly in place to prevent illegal sales, breeding, and release into the wild. More action must be taken to ensure that animals with extensive lifespans are only taken in by people

who have a high chance of being able to provide a good quality of life for their pet during their life. By buying or adopting an animal, a person is taking on the responsibility of caring for that animal for its entire life, including the ones that live long lives

Angelina Jia '22 is an example of someone who didn't consider the future

enough when she owned her first horse and panicked(like, a lot) when she had to figure out how to retire her.





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FAST TRAINS COLLIDE; 8 KILLED, 40 INJURED

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