

THE BULLDOG BARK



Principal: Mrs. Chamberlain

Advisor: Mr. Barnes

Northern Lehigh Middle School

Winter 2010

Issue Two

Bracelets blur line between being trendy and the cause

By John Taylor
SouthEast Team

There are many bracelets in the world that kids could wear, but many choose the “I ♥ Boobies” bracelets. Some people might find this disrespectful if they are being worn just for that word but if it’s truly for the cause, should that count for something?

A few schools, including Easton Area School District, have already banned these bracelets because kids were causing a distraction with them in the classrooms.

In their middle school, two girls refused to take them off because of knowing someone with cancer. Therefore, those two girls were suspended for defying school rules. They sued the school and are taking their dis-

ciplinary actions to court in hopes of removing the ban.

These girls, however, live in America and America is a country where you have free-

yourself the question: Are you wearing a “Boobies” bracelet simply because of the word or are you truly supporting the fight against cancer?

Also, some teachers think the bracelet is a distraction when really *they* are the ones making the distraction by pointing them out in the first place.

For instance, if the student is sitting there in class paying attention, there is no distraction going on. But why then does the teacher say the student is causing a distraction when he or she is taking time out of class to yell at the student for a tiny bracelet? Confusing, right? So why ban



dom of speech. That is why these girls are taking this to court. Here at Northern Lehigh Middle School, the bracelets are not banned, but ask

them?

Another thing is that these bracelets are close to \$4 each but only 1% of that purchase

See Bracelets, page 3

Massive pumpkin production? That's how our NJHS 'rolls'

By Julie Knerr
North Team

As a lot of you probably know, or have smelled, the National Junior Honor Society has been busy making pumpkin rolls – a lot of them!

On Nov. 12, 13 and 17, the 32 NJHS candidates spent hours at a time making pumpkin rolls. All of the money we raised will support our Senior Prom in May.

Overall, we made more than 500 pumpkin rolls. “Mrs. Bowser is probably on the FBI watch list,” Mr. Graver jokes. Why, you ask?

She bought 1,500 eggs, 250 pounds of cream cheese, 300 pounds of sugar and 150 cans of pumpkin! (See page 22 for more on this...)

A lot of you probably don't realize how much work actually goes into making the pumpkin rolls.

Mixing bowl after bowl of batter and icing, filling pans, baking, rolling, cooling, filling and re-rolling isn't

See Pumpkins, on page 4



Taylor Duplaga could not make adequate pumpkin rolls without testing them first.



Alexis Middaugh and Erika McKay were hands-on during the process.



Julie Knerr, Jessica Olewine and Laura Beltz were all smiles during PumpkinFest 2010.

The Christmas season is all about...

By **Nick Young**
SouthEast Team

Christmas is about when you have fun with your family and exchange presents with your family. Christmas is also a joyous time of year (in some religions) when Jesus Christ was born.

Some necessities of Christmas are having a Christmas tree. Also you should shop for presents for your family. If you really want to go all out, you can also put out decorations for Christmas. When you put your



tree up you should help because if you don't you don't know what you are missing.

When it snows, people think it is the best thing in the world because we only get snow in winter and parts of spring unless Punxsutawney Phil does not see his shadow.

When Christmas morning rolls around it is time for exchanging gifts with your family and friends. Over the years some of the presents that we want are going to get more expensive. Since we are older we want pre-

sents like a laptop, our own flat-screen TVs, Xbox 360, iPods, and new cell phones. Some of our parents might think some of these presents are way too expensive. Also some of our parents might not have jobs right now.

One fact you should never do is to go on Black Friday and go shopping because the stores are always packed you might never have the patience for it. Also if you would go to a store on Black Friday you would not know if they would have the product in the store or not.

Christmas in my opinion is the best holiday all around.

Doing it for the trend or the cure?

Bracelets, from page 1

goes to fighting cancer. If you are buying a bracelet to help the cancer cure, another option is the LIVESTRONG bracelet where about 80% of that purchase goes to cancer. LIVESTRONG bracelets are also only usually \$1 each.

Here are some quotes from NLMS students regarding the "I ♥ Boobies" bracelets.

Andrew Tarafas: "They're OK. I usually wear one." **Zach Rex:** "I like them and I know how much goes to cancer, but it's the only bracelet with 'boobies' on them. How cool." **Taylor Herman:** "I believe more money should go to cancer from them." **Cat Maniscalco:** "I think there's



no problem because they support the cause. I have one and think they're fine."

So the big question remains:

Are you wearing the "Boobies" bracelet because it's trendy or because you want to really fight the cause?

KidsPeace to unveil new site for parents

Despite the fact that we look upon our children as our most precious gift, parents often feel alone in their struggles to provide adequate care and understanding. Often, they do not know where to turn for help.

Dr. Julius Licata, director of TeenCentral.net, is proud to announce the formation of a new Web site hosted by KidsPeace

called “ParentCentral.Net.”

The new site is dedicated to helping parents who may be dealing with some of life’s more difficult challenges. It is their hope that ParentCentral.Net will fill that void for many parents and help them find answers to many of their questions.

The site will offer the benefit of reading other parents’ stories

and counselor responses. It will contain parenting information and helpline phone numbers, and it will educate, encourage and assist in dealing with parenting issues.

ParentCentral.Net will have various topic areas and Podcasts on subjects like: Suicide prevention, Speaking with your son or daughter about relationships, family meal time and many more.

\$3,000 raised for Senior Prom in May

Pumpkins, from page 2

as easy as it seems. It took a lot of time and was hard work, not to mention really, really messy! Even Mr. Graver complained about the icing in his hair!

Despite all the hard work, we managed to have a little fun. Everyone had icing smeared in their hair and “war paint” on their faces. A few, including me, had more of a cream-cheese icing and pumpkin facial! It may have taken hours to get cleaned up, but I had a lot of fun. Some of the candidates told me what they thought about the fund-raiser.

Erika McKay: “Even though it’s a lot of work, it’s good to know it will all be worth it in the end. All of the money we raised and all of the hard work we will put into the Senior Citizen Prom will pay off. I can’t wait to see the looks on

their (senior citizens) faces when they see all the time and effort we put into this!”

Taylor Duplaga: “Making pumpkin rolls seems easy-peasy,

but it’s not. It’s actually really hard work. It’s messy, too! It’s so much fun though and it leaves you with a sense of accomplishment!”

Amber Thomas: “Making pumpkin rolls is a lot harder than it looks. It was an awesome night and a fun experience.”

In the end, we raised \$3,000 to pay for our annual community service project, the Senior Citizen Prom. Mr. Graver and Mrs. Bowser agree that all of the candidates worked really hard but managed to have a lot of fun at the same time.

Mr. Eckhart told me he finds it interesting to see all of the students working outside of the classroom. But after all the work is done, one thing is for sure: the pumpkin rolls were delicious!



Through all the hard work, Mr. Graver even complained about the icing in his hair. He has since recovered.

Old phones could be new luxury for others

By Ms. Binder
West Team

Hello Bulldog Bark readers! I am Ms. Binder and as most of you already know, I take time from my busy schedule of molding the future and world domination each year to have my classes write letters to our troops who are currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The students are usually really excited about doing this and every year the project seems to get a little bigger.

Last year, after talking with a soldier who completed two tours of duty, one in Iraq and one in Afghanistan, my classes decided that in addition to the letters, they also wanted to send Northern Lehigh T-shirts to the troops.

They took it upon themselves to raise money over a two week period and we were able to send almost 100 T-shirts to Iraq along with our letters.

This year, after hearing about the letter writing assignment, a parent of one of our Team West students approached me and told me about a friend of hers whose brother was killed trying to save

bags of hard candy for the troops.

The cell phones are recycled and the money received from that is used to purchase calling cards that are sent to the troops so they are able to call home without placing such a financial burden on their families.

The hard candy helps prevent the erosion of tooth enamel that can be caused by the severe wind storms that are endured by our troops who are deployed overseas.

Ms. Ruben provided me with boxes and posters to promote this cause and I will be collecting the cell phones and bags of candy at least through the new year.

So don't be a cotton-headed ninnymuggins, do whatever you can to help support our troops. After

all, they are the ones who are fighting to give you the freedom to read the divine piece of literature you are holding in your hands at this very moment! Thank you...Good Day.



the lives of others on September 11, 2001.

To memorialize her brother, Ronald Ruben, Leslie Ruben started a foundation that collects old and broken cell phones and

NLCC Adult Evening Programs for Jan., Feb.

Northern Lehigh Community Center Adult Evening Programs for January and February: Register in person on the first night or call 610-760-0300.

Monday, Zumba: – 6 - 7 p.m. **\$48.00** Taylor Steward** Drop-ins: \$8.00, Vigilant Fire Co. (upstairs) – Walnut St. Slatington.

Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 and Feb. 7, 14, 21 *Snow makeup: Feb. 28.

Wednesday, Zumba – 6 – 7 p.m. **\$48.00** Heather Rehrig** Drop ins: \$8.00, Northern Lehigh – Middle School cafeteria/annex: Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26 and Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23 *Snow makeup: Mar. 2.

Thursday, Yoga – 6:00-7:00

PM **\$48.00** Sharon Schnyder** Drop-ins: \$8.00, Northern Lehigh – Peters Elementary Music Room on Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27 and Feb. 3,10,17,24 *Snow makeup: Mar. 3.

If the N.L. School District closes, class will be cancelled. Please listen to the radio.

Sending our heroes letters from home

West team English classes continue tradition of overseas correspondence

By Meghan Miller-Brown
West Team

Every year, Ms. Binder asks her classes to write letters to the troops. This year, we wrote them again. Ms. Binder started with a sample letter. She gave us guidelines, but didn't give too much information. She said we needed to make it more personal, which we all agreed on. We all wanted to get started right away!

Our minds started flooding with ideas. Everyone was so excited! We worked on these letters for 5 days. Ms. Binder's period 3 class went above the priorities. We, as a

class, decided to make an American flag out of poster board. They drew every individual star, every stripe, and colored around the



stars and in the stripes. It took about four to five people to finish

the product. We kept working and working on our letters and when we were finally done, the ending results were good.

They were kind, thoughtful, and considerate. Our letters consisted of a little bit about ourselves, questions about them, and lots of gratitude.

Although it took up a lot of class time, it was well worth it. Everyone also sent out return envelopes with the school's address. All students eagerly hope for a response.

We did this letter to show our appreciation for all the troops do for us.

This was truly an inspiring and touching class project.

Need to save a life? You never know...

During the month of January, your son or daughter will be able to sign up for the American Red Cross CPR course. Parents are also allowed to sign up, especially if you need this course for a job requirement.

The course fee is \$6 to cover the Red Cross Certificate and administration fees. The CPR book may be purchased for \$16 or borrowed from the middle school for free. The course is two days long

and will be held after school in the middle school library on a Monday and Wednesday from 2:15 to 5 p.m. If it snows on class days, the class will be rescheduled for Jan. 19 and 31.

If you are interested, you need to sign up for the week of your choice. Ten students will be in each course. For more information, contact Mrs. Raber at 610-767-9812, ext. 1347.

West Team Academic Excellence

The West Team would like to congratulate and recognize the following students for academic achievement for Marking Period 1: Erika Algard, Rebecca Blocker, Gage Christ, Emily Clements, Meghan Miller-Brown, Israel Moore, Alexis Papay, Zach Rex, Crystal Schaller, Holly Yoder.

North team travels back to Colonial Days

By **Katelyn Bult**
North Team

In November, it was all about time travel, and where did the North Team go? Back to the Colonial days. Students on North Team traveled around to different stations for four days to experience life of the Colonial period.

We got to try food, paint, knit, go to a court, and play games as they would have back then. Mr. Schell does this so while studying the Colonial days, students get a better understanding of what we're reading. And honestly, my favorite part of Colonial Days was the food because... well, who doesn't like food? Especially food that tastes super good and food that comes with apple cider.

My second favorite was the court because it was entertaining and fun, but enough about me. Let's hear from other people. Morgan Davis says that her favorite part was the court because she thought it was entertaining, and the candle making because the candles smelled good.

Jocelyn Filchner also said her favorite was candle making along with shooting the rubber band guns, stenciling, and dancing. Amber Ringler's favorite part was the candles. So honestly, it seems like the candles and the courtroom was everyone's favorite thing to do.

To be honest, the candles did smell good and shooting at things with rubber band guns was even more fun, but that's it for Colonial Days. Next stop? The Civil War!



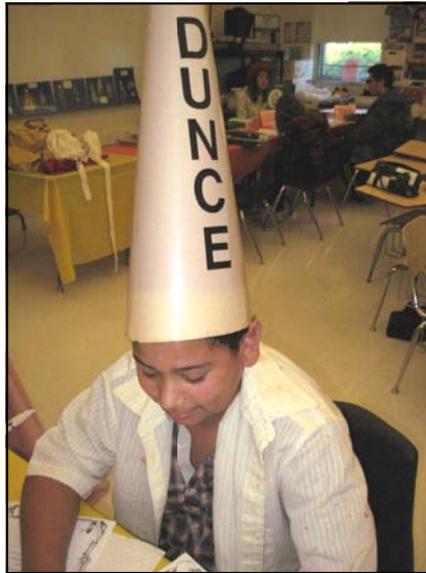
Andrew Tarafas practiced his aim in the annex.



High school students Allison Beltz, Morgan Kemmerer and Taylor Fliszar helped during Colonial Days. See more photos on page 8.



Morgan Konek and Samantha Kern (from the high school) helped during Colonial Days.



Michael Cummings donned a Dunce cap in Mr. Schell's room.



Stephan Scheib practiced Colonial art.



H.S. freshman Sophie Hanke was all smiles.



(Left) Willie Andino went back in time to make Colonial candles. (Above) Brian Scheetz looked Colonially adorable in his bonnet.

Behind the screen of NLMS's DNN

Taylor Duplaga
North Team

What do you think of when you hear someone on DNN, (which stands for the Dawg News

when you scroll down the announcements for others to read).

The station managers have the hardest jobs. First of all, they have to be at the school around 6:45 a.m. to set everything up.

The station managers this year are Nina Schnyder, Julie Knerr and Erika McKay.

DNN is at its best this year. We have a green screen, which Julie says "is going to be awesome!"



Erika McKay, DNN station manager, gets things ready very early in the morning.

Network). You probably think it is just a talk show, right?

Well, it's more than that. When you are on DNN, you gain confidence and become a better speaker. So in the long run, DNN is as helpful as it is fun.

When you're on DNN, you can either be an announcer or a station manager. Announcers, of course, read the announcements. They also work the cameras and do the computer job. (That is

They're also on the DNN crew year-round.

The jobs of a station manager are to make sure the announcements are correct, to work the main computer, think of fun ideas (Friday Night Dance Party!), pick out music and make sure everything runs smoothly.

The station managers are super important and everyone on DNN this year is happy to have them.



Julie Knerr, DNN station manager, works behind the scenes to get our news ready.

I really hope the station managers get it working soon. We are also working on a new opening for the show. It's going to be really cool!

Now, here are the guys who make DNN happen: Mr. Schell and Mr. Reinhard. They do so much for DNN. Nothing would be possible without them. They teach the station managers all they need to know, they help us with the multitude of computer problems and so much more. If it weren't for them, DNN wouldn't exist, so thanks!

'Her Arms' could be an outlet for teens' safe expression

By Mel Campbell
SouthEast Team

To Write Love on Her Arms (TWLOHA) is an American non-profit organization. They aim to bring hope for people struggling with addiction, depression, self injury, thoughts of suicide and more. TWLOHA wants to connect people to treatment centers, websites, books, support groups and other resources to help them through what they are going through. TWLOHA encourages people to have honest conversations about what issues they have and what goes on in their community.

TWLOHA has had very many prominences through bands like **Boys Like Girls**, **One Republic**, the members of **Paramore**, **Jon Foreman**, from **Switchfoot**, **Sean** from **The Blackout**, **Derek Sanders** from **Mayday Parade**, **Deon Rexroat** from **Anberlin**, **Amy Lee** from **Evanescence**, **Bryce Avary** from **The Rocket Summer**, **Miley Cyrus**, **Casey Calvery** from **Hawthorne Heights**, **Kevin Skaff** from **A Day To** from **Brazil** – and musicians include **A Skylit Drive**, **Between the Trees**, who wrote songs about **Renee Yohe**, "*A Time For Yohe*," as well as the song "*The Way She Feels*." **The Rocket Summer**, **Fireflight**, **The Almost**, **Underoath**, **Bayside**, **As We Collide**, **The Red Jumpsuit Apparatus**, and many more.

TWLOHA was founded by Jamie Tworkowski in March of 2006. To that date, the seeds of the group were sown by a story written by Tworkowski, about 19-year-old Renee Yohe, who struggled with addiction, depression, self-injury, and attempted suicide. Tworkowski's story, was written in February of 2006, with chronicles of Yohe's life five days before she entered treatment. Unable to get Yohe checked into a treatment center, friends offered support.

"We became her hospital and the possibility of healing fills our living room with life. It is unspoken and there are only a few of us, but, we will be her church, the body of Christ coming alive to meet her needs, to write Love on her arms," said Jamie Tworkowski, founder of TWLOHA.

T-shirts were printed and sold in Orlando to fund Yohe's drug treatment, a MySpace page was created to serve as a home page for the project. Bands such as **Anberlin** and **Switchfoot** showed their support and began wearing TWLOHA T-shirts right away. Their MySpace and Facebook pages began to receive messages and comments from teens and

young adult with the same problems that Yohe faced. TWLOHA has heard from young teens and adults in all 50 states and many from Canada, Mexico, Australia and the United Kingdom and more.

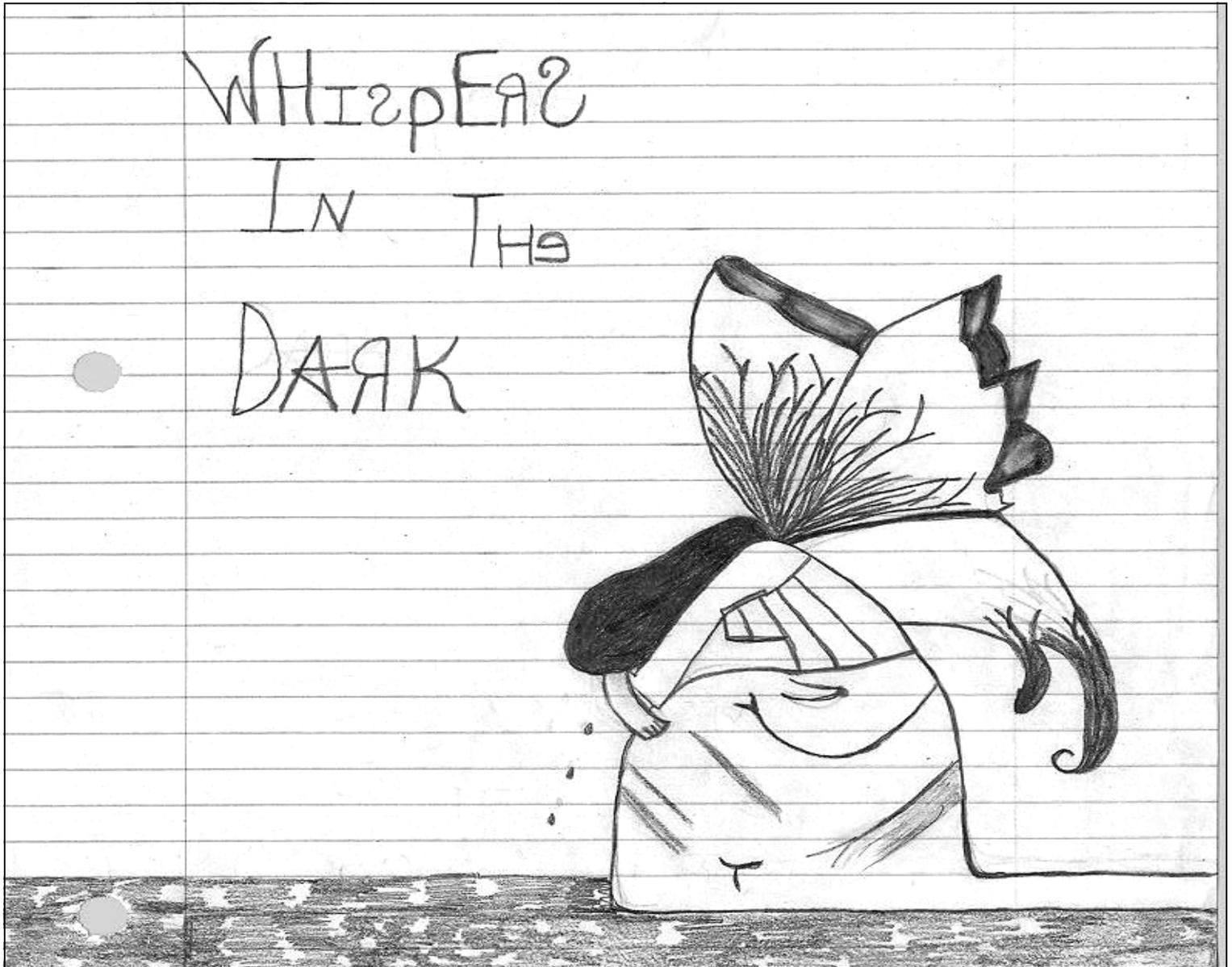
LOVE IS THE MOVEMENT. ★

September 10-17 has been called "TWLOHA Week" and teens and young adults write "Love" on their arms to show love and hope of others. "Love Is The Movement," "Rescue Is Possible," "Hope Is Real, Help Is Real," and "Stop The Bleeding" are slogans used often by the organization.

To Write Love On Her Arms has helped many teens in our community. People don't want

See Love, page 11

Homegrown Art... By Mel Campbell



Love is the movement for anyone in need

Love, from page 10

you to know what's wrong, they refuse to tell you and keep it hidden inside. Sometimes it gets to that point where teens do commit suicide. If you see hurt in someone's eyes, go up and ask them what's wrong. Sit with them and

talk to them. They will know that you do care.

The song "Dare You To Move" by Switchfoot was made for TWLOHA. The song shows feeling and is telling you to act like that bad day never happened. That you are on this Earth for a reason. Everyone is here for a rea-

son and that everyone is watching you. Never let anyone tell you you're not important because, I bet you, you're important someone. You're important to *everyone*. Do not let anyone tell you different.

Check out more at www.twloha.com.

Students solve a tough issue with compassion

By Abby Hillegas
SouthEast Team



“A West team teacher had asked me how I felt about them,” Mrs. Marushak said, so she had her students research the product.

They found that people were buying the “Boobie” bands for \$4

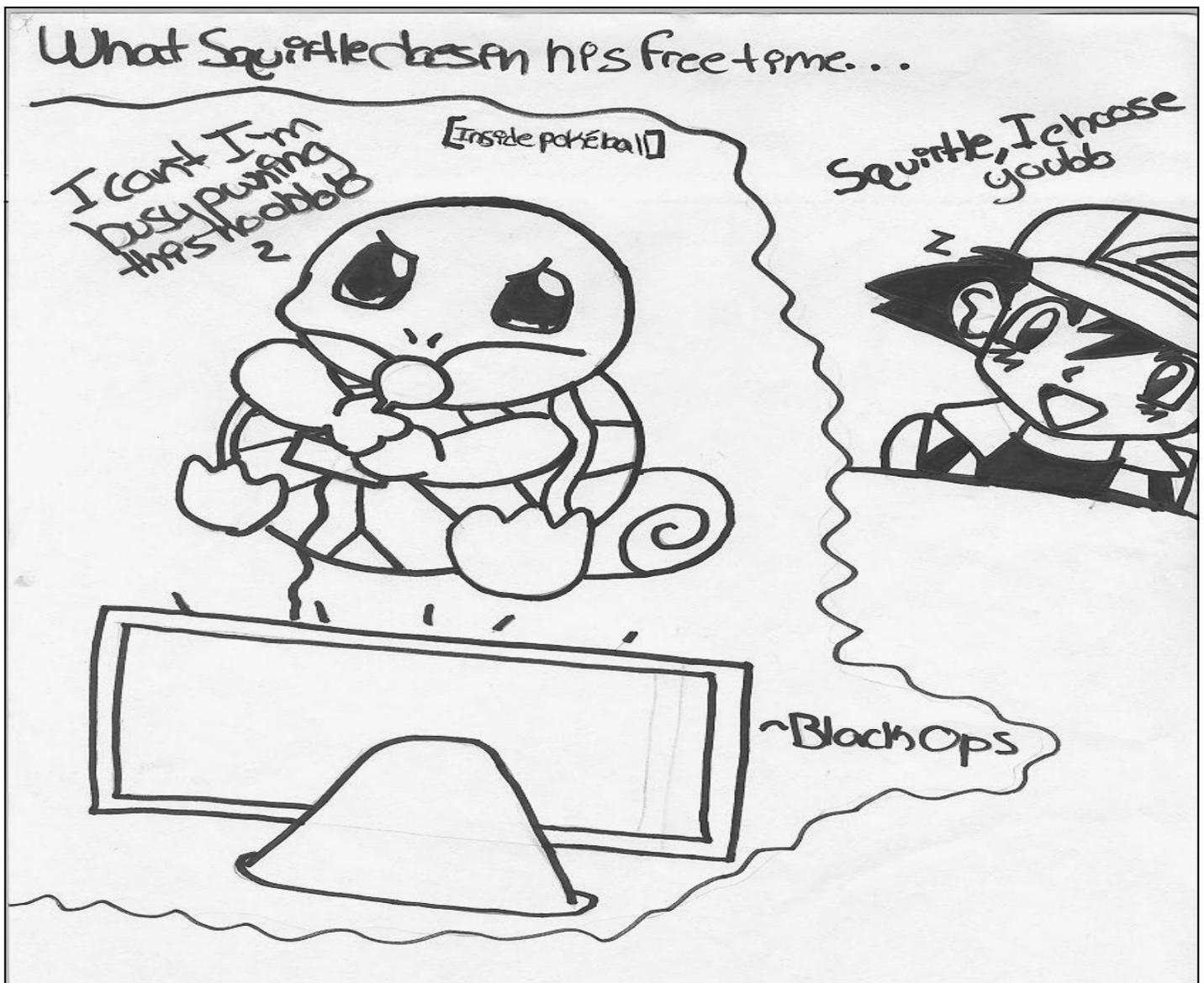
and only 1.5% was going to breast cancer research.

That is less than 6 cents per band. They then checked out LIVESTRONG and their bands only cost \$1 and 80% goes to all types of cancers. Selling the LIVESTRONG bands was such a success thanks to the caring students at Northern Lehigh!

Northern Lehigh Middle School solves a controversial issue with compassion. In November, Mrs. Marushak sold LIVESTRONG bracelets. It started over the controversial “Boobie” wristbands.

Homegrown Comics...

By Ambur Ringlur and Cubby George



Protect your computer from Facebook viruses

By Kasey Wayda
West Team

After you read this, you will probably hate me (for those of you who have a Facebook page anyway) because this article is about the dangers of Facebook and I am sure nobody wants to hear it since it is the hottest thing out there.

Facebook might be cool now, but like everything else, it will be done with sooner or later.

I can't stand Facebook because something on the Web site created a huge virus on our computer and we almost lost everything.

Lucky for us, we got it fixed before it got worse and none of

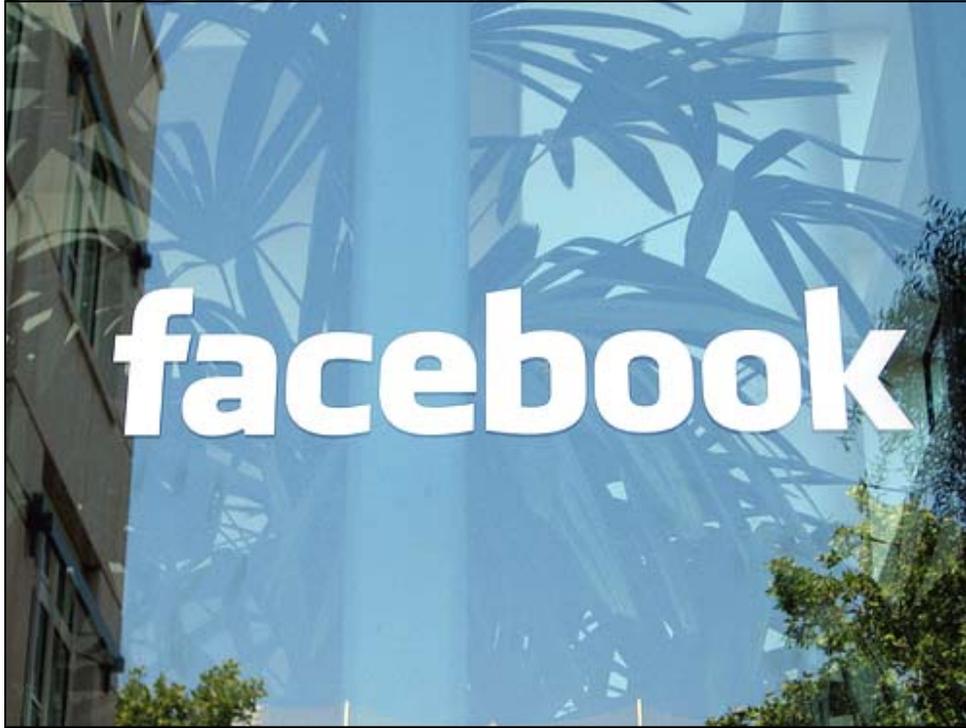
our files were lost.

But viruses aren't the only dangers of this Web site. For instance, everything that you type on Facebook gets sold to third

send to hack into peoples' accounts. Believe me people, my pastor's son is a tech genius and he knows this.

And yes, there is still one more (OK, two!) reasons: There are predators out there who pretend to be your friend just so they can trick you into letting you do something you'll regret.

And finally, the last one. Whenever Facebook has a new design to its Web page, all of your settings are changed and they don't even notify you! How rude! These are just some of the dangers of Facebook. Thanks so much for reading!



parties (look it up!) that share your information with everyone.

Another thing, there are robots (yes, robots!) that companies

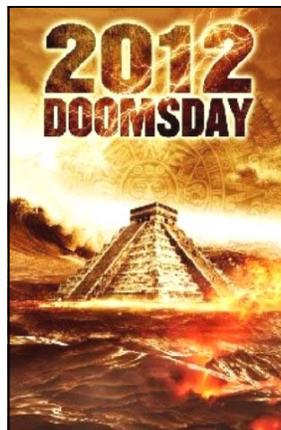
2012: Is the end of our world really near?

By Randi McRae
SouthEast Team

Scientists say the end of the world is coming to an end in 2012. The reason this is, is because the Mayan calendar ends on the 21st of December 2012. The people that created the calendar never finished it so supposedly people think the world is going to

end by that time.

People in the school say the world is not going to end. What I think of this situation is really dumb. Peo-



ple are freaking out because of this. Don't you ever think the people that made the calendar possibly died off before they could even finish the calendar?

If you believe this, please stop worrying about it. If you don't believe my opinion, it looks like you're just going to have to wait and find out...



OPINION

As you crush their spirit, do you *really* know them?

We have all heard of those little things called *rumors*, right? Well, they're actually not such a little thing. You've really got to be careful about what you say and who you say it around.

You also need to consider that others have problems. They might have a bad home life, someone they're close to might be ill, or they could just be having problems with their friends.

Before you spread that rumor and start all that drama, think about the problems in your life and realize that theirs could be a billion times worse.

The littlest comment you make could push someone right over the edge. Do you really want to be known as the kid who pushed someone to cut themselves, burn themselves, or even consider committing suicide? If not, think before you speak and you will be fine.

Let's talk about self-harm, shall we? Kids cut. That is reality. We all wish that we lived in a fairytale world, but we don't. Personally, I don't understand how intentionally hurting yourself

makes things better.

It seems like it just creates more problems. The people who cut are the ones you would least expect. The fact of the matter is, the kids with the biggest smiles are the ones sometimes dying the most inside. Look beyond the smile and ask if they're OK every now and then. It could make a huge difference and possibly even save their life.



Cat Maniscalco

Judgments! They're the best! Just kidding... They're awful. Everyday, kids are judged on their outfits, hair, and how they act. This lowers their self-esteem more than you would believe. Why does it matter how someone looks? It's more about their personality. Everyone is beautiful in his or her own way. Just because they don't meet your standards doesn't mean they're not beautiful somehow. Stop judging.

Now on to kids with mental disabilities or little money. We have kids with special needs in our school. We all know that. I don't know about you, but it blows my mind when I see or hear about someone messing with a mentally-

disabled kid. If you do that, please realize that they cannot help it and they don't deserve to be treated any differently than the peers you're with everyday.

It's the same situation for kids with less money than others. They can't help it and it's not something that they should be ashamed of. Yet, they get made fun of for it like it's their choice. Here are some quotes from our school's students.

Dakota Schweitzer: "I feel bad because some people aren't fortunate enough to have nice things."

Jalisa Thomas: "What if it was you being bullied? How would you like it?"

Cheyenne Smith: "No one should hurt themselves because someone tells them they don't dress right."

Quintin George: "Someone being different doesn't make it acceptable to bully them."

Everyone is different in their own way. Think about how boring life would be if we were all the same. If you don't like someone, don't associate with them. It's easier than creating a problem. Next time you go to judge someone or spread some rumor, put yourself in their shoes.



OPINION

Appreciating my sources of Inspiration

A brother, a best friend and young love have shaped my life

Inspiring. Inspiring love, inspiring people. Do people inspire you, or do you inspire yourself? The people that inspire me are the reason I am who I am. But really, who are these people? A brother, a best friend, and young love. This is my story of their inspirations... to what makes me, me.



Anna Barnett

A brother. My brother. Eric, Mr. Barnett, 2nd Lieutenant. He is the one who inspires me to work hard no matter what; he inspires my future, everything I do. I look up to my brother so much. More than any other person. But, you ask why? What kind of person do I have in my life that inspires me? What kind of person do I *need* in my life to inspire me?

Well, we all know that everyone's different, so I guess you could say it depends. But truly, I think my brother could inspire anyone. He's a hero because of who he is and what he has become.

Ever since he was a really little boy, he dreamed of flying. Flying planes to be exact. And guess where he is right now? In Oklahoma, flying a plane at Air Force training right as you read this. And guess what else? He's 28 now. What's that tell you? Yes, he fol-

lowed his dreams.

Another awesome thing about my brother is that he is the funniest person I know. Even when he was in Iraq risking his life every minute, he would call us happy and laughing just as we left him. This paragraph can't even describe how much I love my brother, and every-

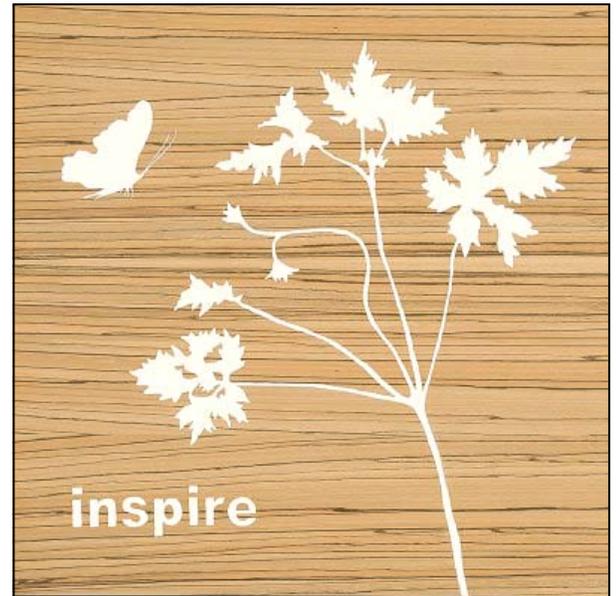
thing he does to inspire me.

Overall, I love you Eric, and thank you so much for being the best brother I could ask for.

A best friend. My best friend, Erin. The one I met in Girl Scouts. The one who has a weird obsession with the Cheetah girls with me. The one who has been there through it all. Nobody can take her place. Even though everyday is hard for me, she knows how to make me smile. She was always there for me. She inspires me to try hard, and especially make good decisions. Saying this probably sound kind of cliché, but it's true; she is a sister to me. Ever since kindergarten, we have been the best of friends.

Yes, she inspires me, and people like that *should* inspire you.

Erin inspires me every time I make a decision. Because I know she'll always choose the best one, just like a mom. Nobody has ever been able to deal with me like her, and I think that's why she means so much to me. I think everyone should be able to have a best friend like Erin. She is beautiful and funny, and my best friend in the whole world. I love her to death which shows that she *does*



indeed inspire me. Thank you, Erin. You inspire me, which I don't deserve.

Love. A young love. *The* love of my life. Now, you might say I'm too young to be in love, but I'm not. Hopefully, that will in-

See Anna, page 16



OPINION

Before burgers, remember cute puppies

Here's the story: Most people probably think being a vegetarian is dumb, right? Well, let me sum it up for you. Most people that hunt go for deer, bunnies, etc.

Well, think of it like this. Next time you go hunting, right before you shoot, stop.

Remember that cute little puppy you have at home. Put it in



Brittany Spaar

the deer's shoes. Imagine that cute little face, then imagine it blowing up into a million little pieces.

Actually, do that to every animal. Imagine a cute little animal being slaughtered and then wrapped up in a package and sent off to the grocery store.

I hope now, you will think twice. Enough said.



Finding inspiration needed at my young age

Anna, from page 15

inspire you; not giving up. Having hope day by day. When happiness is the thing that shows more than anything, but is most lacked. How do I get by with that? Because love inspires. *He* inspires my life. Now, yea, I know I'm crazy and obsessive, but I'm not, I'm in love. If you just knew. You would understand every word that I'm saying.

Out of everything, I think love is the thing people like you and I need. Never in my whole life did I ever feel something so great, so amazing, so inspiring. That is why I will never let go of it, because I am in love. And with all my heart I *know* we're all going to fall in love someday.

That's why it inspires, because all of us have a chance for it. Love and inspiration go together like peas in a pod. Because I know that he inspires me, and I hopefully inspire him more than anyone in the world ever will. I promise I love him more than any other girl in the world ever will, and could. Like I said before, we're all different, so our inspirations our different.

Love is the same for all of us. But since not all of us found love yet, this will inspire you. You see, all of this kind of connects. All of it comes to this; this being my love. My brother inspires me to never ever give up, meaning I'll never give up on my love. Erin is the one who is there when I'm starting to slack, and thinking

negatively. They both inspire me to move on.

This boy, he is my life. The miracle, of my life. Which is why I will never let go. So when he feels like there's no one left in the world, and he feels all alone, I'll be there. And I promise for the rest of my life I'll be there, because I'm the one.

And I can assure you that you are the one for someone in the world, too. This can't even describe the smallest amount of feelings I have for this love I have for him.

I love you so much, and I'll never lose hope, never give up. I love you, and I need you. Thank you for inspiring me.



OPINION

3-D movies: Too much coming off the screen?

3-D movies can be judged for the better and the worse. For instance, it helps enhance the movie and makes us feel as though we are really there. But at the same time, it can be very annoying and can even cause motion sickness with some people.

Some people just want to see the events of the story take place and do not want to be a part of it.

In the world today, we are always looking to improve on the things we have, but is there such a thing as *enough*? Not everyone wants to be an actual part of the movie. Some people just want to see the movie itself. Isn't that what

they were always intended for?

However, 3-D movies can also have its benefits. For example, they can help us get a better understanding of what's going on in the story, and they can just simply give us more joy out of the movie.

Not only are 3-D movies a big part of our present day source of entertainment, but they are leading to what is coming in the future.

Disney currently has a few movies featured in 4-D. How is this possible you ask? Not only do you use your sight and hearing for these movies, but you also use touch and smell. The seats are

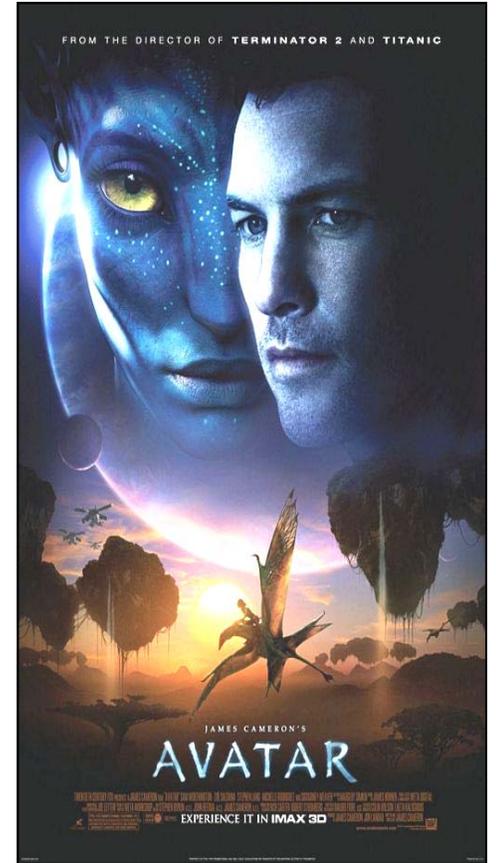
rigged with different machines to give off vibrations, blasts of air, and even different smells at the perfect time. Talk about really experiencing the movie!

But enough about what I have to say. Let's hear what other people think.

John Taylor: "I really enjoy 3-D



Nathaniel Rex



movies. It makes them seem more realistic instead of just the watching the movie itself."

Jared Brozowski: "I like them. It really makes you feel as though you are inside the movie."

Mr. Barnes: "Enough already! I just want to sit down and watch the movie without having to pay extra for 3-D, especially if the movie doesn't even need to be in 3-D."

So, 3-D movies can be both fun and annoying, but technology will always continue to advance, giving us new ways to enjoy ourselves.



Do we really need a Yogi Bear movie that jumps from the forest and into our laps?



OPINION

Balancing sports and school is possible

Many people think it's hard to be dedicated to your sport and still have time for friends, family and maintaining good grades. It's actually not that hard and take it from someone who knows.



Jessica Olewine

All you have to do is arrange things around your sport life. Sometimes, if it's important, you may just have to miss a practice.

Also, usually some of your friends may be in the sport you play, so sports actually help your social life.

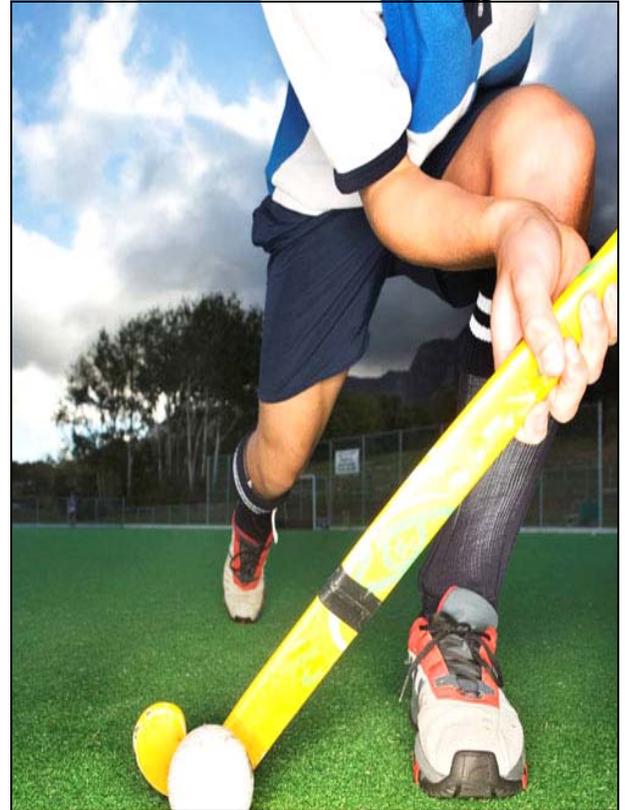
Plus, you could play a sport all

year and still get A's and B's. You just need to fit things in around your practice schedule.

They usually don't last anymore than three hours anyway.

Also, in life, you will learn not everything is going to work the way you want it to.

You might have to change your plans for something more important.



Cliques are everywhere but belong nowhere

Cliques. They are everywhere!

In school, sports, parties and a lot more. What is the point of them? I have no idea. Here are a few of the cliques in our school: "Populars," Preps, Jocks, "Nerds," and "Rebels."

Those are just a few. People will say "I am not in one of these groups!" Truth is, you are. You may not think it, but



Scarlet Ojeda

you are.

Your friends are, too. That is what gives you one of the categories. The people you hang out with. The clothes you wear. Who knows who.

In my opinion, cliques should not exist. People are cocky about it and so superfi-

cial. So what do you think? Should we have cliques?





OPINION

The true meaning of Christmas

When we think Christmas we might think of Santa Claus and snow, but the one thing that most people think of when you say Christmas is *gifts!*

Is this what Christmas has become? A holiday season that has been prolonged to over a month for commercialism's sake. Have we all forgotten what Christmas is really about?

We are all worried about getting the perfect gifts and

if we got more than others. I believe Christmas has become a season of hustle and bustle, and that in most people the true meaning of Christmas is lost.



Makayla Gordon

When I walk down any aisle in the grocery store around this time, I see that fat man's face plastered on everything.

If there was truly a Saint Nicholas do you think that he would want Christmas to be about Coca-Cola?

Christmas is about giving joy and happiness to people who have none and being with the ones you love.

So why are people getting so stressed out over gifts and parties? You don't need a huge pile of presents under your Christmas tree to be happy with your family.

If you think you need all of the commercialism for Christmas you don't really understand what Christmas is. This year instead of worrying if you got that Xbox that you wanted, why not spend time with your family, because presents and gifts do not matter if you have no one to share them with.

Boys: The pants problem... Are you serious?

I think it's ridiculous that... Guys wear their pants too low to the point where you just feel like going up to them and "pantsing" them. But on the other hand, I think it's ridiculous that guys wear skinny jeans, too. (No offense, guys).

I mean, seriously, they were invented and made for women and girls. Let's try to keep it that way.

They think that they're all cool with their jeans almost at

their ankles and their skinny jeans squeezing their legs so tight, it looks like they're going to burst.

Come on, seriously! You guys may think that you're attractive and all the chicks love you, but it's not really a turn-on!

I think that I am talking for all (or most) of the girls when I say please wear your pants at your hips and not stuck to your legs like you super-glued them that way.



Amanna Bradley





OPINION

Video games' violence is verified

Have you ever played a violent video game, such as Halo, Grand Theft Auto or Call of Duty? All of these are considered violent, especially with their parental notification on them.

The state of California is trying to pass a law that bans the sales of violent video



Nathan Snyder

kids under the age of 18 but what's the point? Kids are just going to ask their parents to buy them.

I also think that it should be the parents' decision whether or not the kids can have the game.

Another thing is that some of the games have historical violence like the newly-

released Call of Duty: Black Ops, which is about the Vietnam War.

So if you're playing the game, are you actually learning something?

If video games are so violent, then why don't we ban violent movies, which are equally as violent in my opinion.

Kids can buy R-rated movie tickets and go and watch the

See Violence, page 21

Bracelets good for all-age awareness

Breast cancer awareness is a great cause but the latest campaign has gotten a lot of negative feedback. Some say that the "I ♥ Boobies" bracelets are offensive and inappropriate for schools.

Others say they are a great way for people of all ages to start talking about the cause.

Some schools have either banned these bracelets or told their students to turn them inside out. In my opinion, this is silly.

Every day, students are exposed to much worse things than the word "boobies" on a bracelet.

Maybe some students are just wearing them because they say the word but who cares?

Not to mention other students may be wearing these bracelets for a good reason.

The Keep a Breast Foundation has an advisory board that they pass all their advertisement ideas through before they release it to the public. Many of these people are cancer survivors. Pink ribbons

might not be a good breast cancer awareness symbol for teens. The best way to educate and impact people is by giving them a symbol or talking to them in a language they can relate to.



Amber Thomas

These bracelets are a good way to fill an important gap not currently being addressed by other breast cancer awareness organizations.

Criticizing them or banning them due to their "inappropriate message" is only going to anger students and cause them to rebel.

Banning these bracelets is like banning the LIVESTRONG bracelets. They're both about cancer, they just have different messages on them. I am glad our school does not have a ban on them.

One extra note: I saw a police officer wearing one of these bracelets, so they do have a good message, and teens aren't the only people wearing them. Even people of authority are wearing them!



OPINION

Does name-brand clothing make you better than everyone else?

Alright, let's face it. Most of us all have name-brand clothing. Am I right? Yea, some of it is nice to have and we all buy it because that's what cool people do, correct?

No! Just because you buy name-brand clothing like Abercrombie, American Eagle, Aeropostale, Hollister and all of those things does not make you more cool.

Clothing is clothing. Just because it has a moose or a bird on it doesn't make you better than anyone else around you.

Nothing makes me angrier than when people walk around (even in school) and think that they



Kianna Marlatt

are the best thing ever just because they have the top-notch thing that no one else has.

Trust me. I'm pretty sure we all don't have everything name-brand. I know I don't and that doesn't bother me.

Name-brand clothing can be expensive and all you're doing is buying a shirt with a name printed across it.

Why waste your money on something like that when there are much better things to spend your money on out in this world? All I'm trying to say is don't judge people by what they wear.

Once again, clothing is clothing and it doesn't matter what they

look like on the outside.

What matters is what's on the inside.

So the next time you go to make a joke about someone and what they are wearing, just think about it first and see if you would really like it if someone said that about you.

"Alone"

By Amber Thomas

I keep my eyes closed
because I'm afraid
what I'll see
when I open them.

*I walk slowly as my life passes by
me in a rush of colors.*

Now I see that everything has
passed on, and they have left
me here as a test of my skill.

*And my will to survive with
nothing to survive
with or for.*

The days pass now with less
than boring days.

*Too many things I have to deal
with without
enough people to tell.*

If anyone understood my
difficulties, I would tell them,
but who is there to tell?

Video games' violence

Violence, from page 20

movie. Kids can even watch TV and see violence.

So where do you draw the line? Even in social studies class, we see violence because it is history. So, violent historical games

should be allowed.

Another game is Modern Warfare 2, people are actually fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan so technically it is history.

In conclusion, I feel violence in video games should be allowed.

WANTED!



According to sources close to home, Mrs. Bowser (above) is allegedly on the FBI watch list. She was recently spotted buying 1,500 eggs, 250 pounds of cream cheese, 300 pounds of sugar and 150 cans of pumpkin. People close to Mrs. Bowser say the ingredients were not intended for any type of “Mischief Night” but rather a “worthy cause.” Her whereabouts are unknown but witnesses have seen her popping into homerooms asking about “Cookies for Cancer,” possibly her next scheme of good-heartedness. She was last seen with a spatula and apron. If spotted, you are asked to simply smile and say “hello.” After all, she might have some eggs left — possibly loaded.