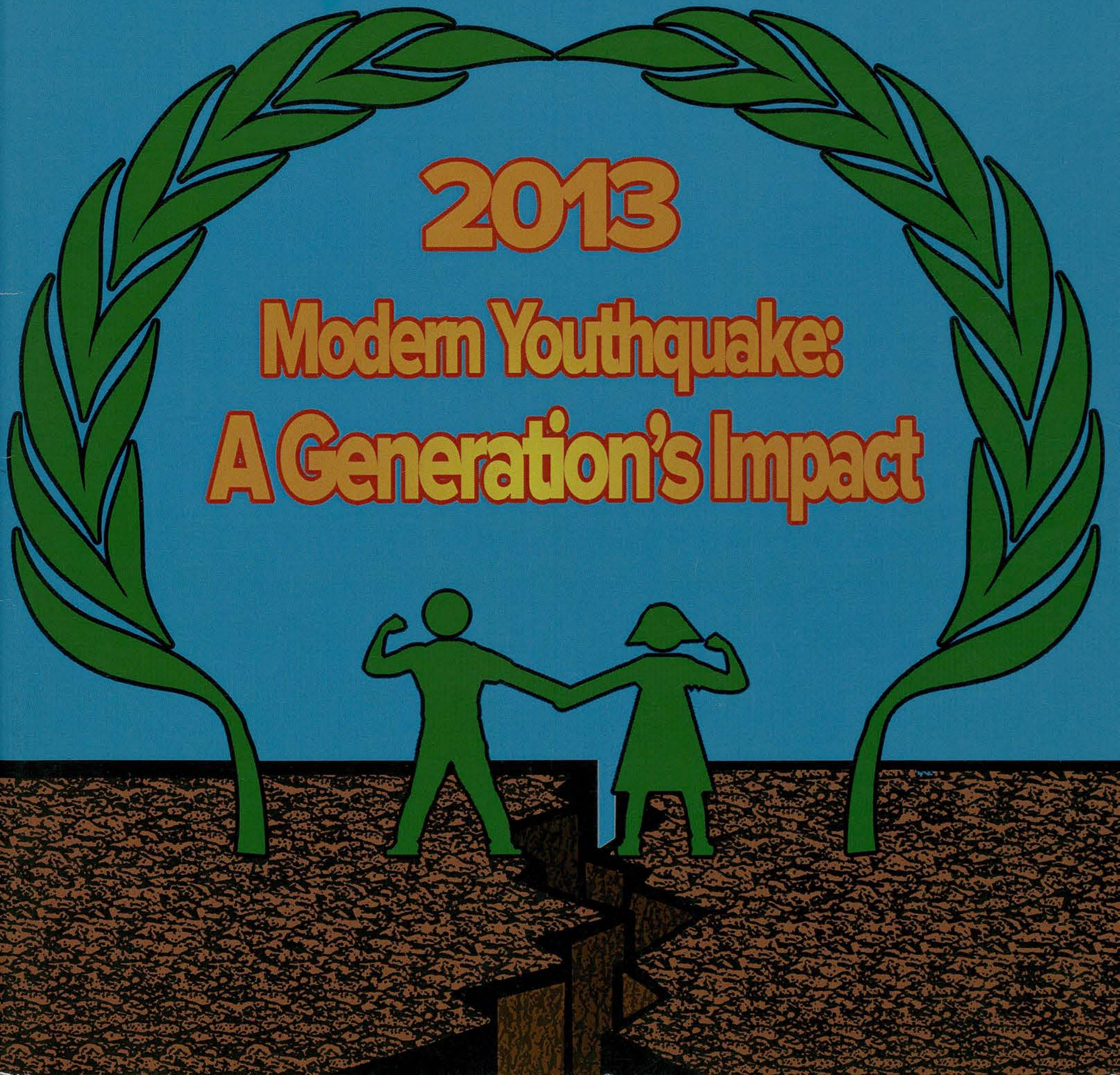
The 37TH Annual

UNIS-UN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CONFERENCE WORKING PAPER

2013

Modern Youthquake: A Generation's Impact



The 37TH Annual

UNIS-UN STUDENT CONFERENCE WORKING PAPER

Modern Youthquake | A Generation's Impact

make a difference | be inspired



March 7-8, 2013

General Assembly Hall

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FOREWORD

In our increasingly globalized and culturally integrated society, the younger generations' impact will become more apparent in the coming years. The title of this year's UNIS-UN conference is "Modern Youthquake: A Generation's Impact". This pays homage to the Youthquake Movement of the 1960s, a cultural development spearheaded by Diana Vreeland and Andy Warhol. The movement was characterized by youthful energy and spirit. Traits of the Youthquake can be seen today, all across the world, in the younger generations who are rising to spark great changes. To this day, they have continued to disseminate new ideas, ignite revolutionary movements and initiate humanitarian action and institutions.

The emerging generation has made great leaps in social, environmental, political, humanitarian and cultural change. Issues such as bullying, obesity and suicide have marred society in the past decades. The youth are now taking a stand against these problems through awareness campaigns and initiatives. The political climate has changed dramatically as well. There have been worldwide Occupy Movements, education protests in Santiago and Canada and uprisings in the Middle East. These political changes have captured the attention of the international media and have also allowed the previously unheard voices of our generation to be acknowledged. Individuals have stepped forward to innovate new, dynamic ways of helping the less fortunate. This is seen in organizations such as TOMS, Jatalo and Hoops of Hope, which are devoted to aiding communities in need of support. Humans of New York is an example of a cultural initiative that is gaining traction with this generation. The idea of self-awareness and individuality, combined with a sense of community and acceptance, is one that not only drives the Humans of New York blog, but one that represents the youth of today.

These changes and trends have become a major part of today's society and will continue to evolve and play important roles in the world for years to come. In this working paper, we hope to exhibit the most important transformations this world has seen thanks to the efforts of our generation.

CHAPTER 1: SOCIAL ISSUES

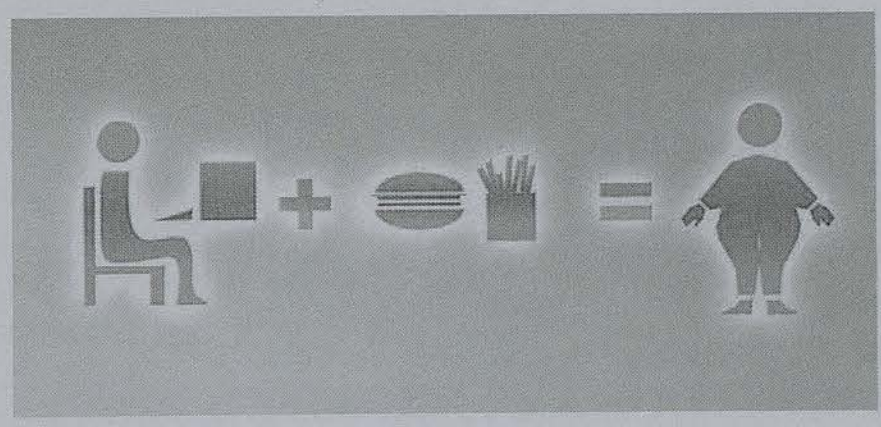
OBESITY

Obesity, the deadly "epidemic", is on the rise. It is a medical condition when the ratio between one's height and weight is over a certain number, and that could lead to dangerous effects on an individual's health. This in turn leads to reduced life span, increased health problems such as arthritis pains and the inability to move around freely. Obesity also increases the chance of asthma, cancer and heart attacks. The following are specific reasons for obesity unhealthy lifestyle, stress, as well as an individual's genetic and family history.

One third of all children, adolescents and adults are now obese. Obesity is a worldwide phenomenon, but the country with the most obese people is the United States of America. Many Americans are not physically active. One of the leading causes for this is digital distractions such as television, computers and handheld devices. Because of these distractions, people tend to work and move around less, since now everything is accessible to them from where they are using their devices, or they are just so addicted they cannot stop. The lack of physical exercise is a huge contributor to obesity in kids as well as adults. Other reasons for not being physically active are using a car instead of walking, and in the case of children not having enough physical education at school.

At least 2.8 million people each year die as a result of being overweight or obese. It is the fifth greatest cause of death worldwide, surpassing malnutrition-related mortality. It has only recently been realized that the type of people affected by obesity differs from country to country. As many may think, the people who become obese are not necessarily very wealthy. In developed countries like America, it is usually poorer people who become obese. This is because the only food they can afford is high in calories and is very fattening. On the other hand, in developing countries like China and India, children of wealthier families have the luxury of eating over-processed, fatty and sugary food, and end up eating too much. Obesity is a growing public health problem worldwide that needs to be actively addressed for the good of the global society.

As a global community, we need to take action immediately to fix this public health problem. On the individual level, people must take care and have pride in their own bodies. They need to limit energy intake from total fats and sugars, engage in regular physical activity, strike a healthy balanced lifestyle and maintain a healthy weight for their height. We need to promote regular physical activity and healthier dietary options, while ensuring that they are affordable and accessible to all - most significantly, the poor. We tend to blame obese people, accusing them of not being able to say no to food.



On the other hand, the food industry is forcing them into this way of life; the industry needs to make some serious changes. It should have regulation to reduce the fat, sugar and salt content of processed foods and make sure that nutritious choices are available to all consumers. For example, if we can treat sugar like the tobacco industry and tax soda or educate—and warn people, we will have made gains in the fight against global obesity.

In this modern era, initiatives have been taken to combat obesity. New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg recently imposed a ban on the sale of large sodas and sugary drinks at restaurants, street vendors and movie theaters in order to curb obesity. *Let's Move!*, an organization launched by First Lady Michelle Obama in 2010, calls on parents, schools, community leaders and even elected officials to promote healthy living. It aims to "solve the problem of obesity" in our generation so that children and young Americans can lead healthier lives.

LGBT

LGBT is an internationally recognized acronym that collectively refers to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. In recent years, LGBT rights and awareness have gained worldwide focus. Earlier this year, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, while addressing the first-ever UN Human Rights Council session on sexual-orientation-based discrimination, called the torture of persons based on their sexual orientation "a monumental tragedy for those affected and a stain on our collective conscience." He noted that this kind of discrimination is a violation of international law and urged the Human Rights Council to take action. In the United States, the younger generation has already taken up this call, advocating for LGBT rights across the country.

According to statistics released by the Pew Forum, attitudes on gay marriage in the U.S. have shifted quite dramatically over the past decade with significantly more people voicing support now than ever before. In fact, based on national polls, almost 50% of Americans support gay marriage today as compared to only 33% ten years ago.



The younger generation voices the strongest support for them. Many experts agree: "Folks of that generation know more lesbian and gay individuals, because people feel more comfortable coming out," says Jay Irwin, of the University of Nebraska at Omaha. "That exposure to individuals has helped to normalize them and remove some of the mystery." The increased exposure has helped to de-stigmatize LGBT individuals, resulting in greater acceptance and support for their rights. Research also suggests that the younger generation has had more exposure to the media normalizing LGBT issues.

Even the President of the United States, Barack Obama, recognizes the shift in attitude towards LGBT rights, stating that America's attitude on the controversial topic has been gradually shifting toward approval. Every year the support for same-sex marriage moves closer to approval, as the younger generation

continues to make a difference. It appears that it is only a matter of time before same-sex marriage is legalized in every state, mainly from the impact the younger generation has had on gay rights. One of the ways the younger generation of America has made this progress is through rallies. One of the biggest ones was the Gay March in Washington on October 11th, 2009, that was a protest to push the Obama Administration and Congress to live up to promises made to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community to advance civil rights. The average age of the people who organized the rally was under 30. This is one of the ways that the younger generation has made a difference, but not by just participating in an event that was for gay rights, but to actually organize one and start one. It is with rallies like this that the younger generation was able to make a substantial difference for gay rights. This also allows people to voice their own opinions and advice.

Although there is still much work needed to further support this basic human right of LGBT individuals, the right to marry, it is also worth noting the strides made in the U.S. There are other countries in 2012 where LGBT individuals continue to be criminalized and attacked for being who they are. In fact, there is a list of seventy-six countries where being gay is even punishable by law. When the Secretary-General made his historic speech to the UN Human Rights Council, several members of the council staged a walkout, a reminder that several governments across the world fail to award equal human rights to all individuals.

On the issue of gay marriage, shifting attitudes in American society as a whole reflect a move from active resistance and even hostility to tolerance and acceptance. Of course individual pockets of discrimination remain, but LGBT pride is now an important issue, certainly one that many American youths advocate for passionately.

ANTIBULLYING

Antibullying awareness or the Antibullying Movement, gained popularity in the early 2000s but since then has become an issue of global importance. Antibullying is the prevention of the use of strength or power to harm or intimidate those who are weaker. Antibullying has severe consequences and many foundations and associations have been created in order to raise awareness and prevent Antibullying. But apart from these initiatives, what other ways can people use (or are being used) to raise awareness?



Bullying is found in many forms. The six most common types of bullying are physical, verbal, indirect, social alienation, intimidation and cyber bullying. Physical bullying involves any physical contact or actions which would injure another person. Taking something that belongs to another person would also be a form of physical bullying. Verbal bullying alludes to name-calling, offensive remarks or insulting someone in any other way. Examples of indirect bullying include spreading rumors as well as actions like exclusion from certain groups. Social alienation also pertains to social exclusion although it includes spreading rumors about someone as well as making fun of someone due to their differences. Intimidation refers to threatening a person for personal gain. Cyberbullying is done through

the Internet by sending messages, pictures and anything that might be offensive with the use of social media and is amongst the most used bullying 'methods'. Cyberbullying is a growing issue and is an issue of global importance. It is also becoming more common because of the evolution of social media.

More and more people are now aware of Antibullying and what it is. However, bullying and the Antibullying movement isn't something new that happened over overnight. It is an issue that took time to get across and ways are still being to raise awareness for this cause? The media is one of the most common, if not the most common way, used to raise awareness for this cause. The Internet is one of the most powerful tools in the world; through websites like YouTube and Facebook everyone is connected, and people are now more aware of what bullying is and what the Antibullying movement is. Published works like newspapers and magazines are read and distributed daily, easily spreading a message such as Antibullying. Therefore, billions of people have become well informed since they have access to these types of media. Schools are also taking initiatives to stopping bullying by enforcing rules, ensuring that students are in a safe and comfortable environment by emphasizing the support of their peers, friends or teachers.

People are beginning to take positive action to stop bullying by using a variety of methods stated above. Foundations and associations have been created specifically to prevent bullying. For example, musician Lady Gaga started her own foundation with her mother called the 'Born This Way Foundation,' named after one of her most popular songs. The aim of this foundation is to "foster a more accepting society, where differences are embraced and individuality is celebrated." The Foundation is dedicated to creating a safe community that helps connect young people with the skills and opportunities they need to build a kinder, braver world" (Born This Way Foundation). In addition, since 2008, the International STAND UP to Bullying Day has been held annually by people from around the globe. On this day, participating schools, workplaces and organizations hold events to develop effective support for bully victims. This includes wearing a pink "pledge" shirt which identifies peer support to victims of bullying. So far, the International STAND UP to Bullying Day has been observed by 25 countries and continues to grow.

SUICIDE AWARENESS

Suicide has become a growing issue in recent years, particularly among teenagers and young adults. The suicide rate is increasing extremely fast pace, and currently around 3,000 people commit suicide each day throughout the world. Suicide is now the third leading cause of death among teenagers and the second leading cause among college students. It is a sad state of affairs when our youth feel so depressed that they feel the only way out is death.

Two of the main causes of suicide are anxiety and bullying. Students in high school and college are constantly exposed to social pressures, in addition to an enormous workload, and this sometimes leads to stress and consequently, suicidal thoughts. Bullying is somewhat connected to anxiety, because bullies physically or verbally antagonize their victims to such a degree that they are driven to desperation, putting an end to their lives.

Awareness of these problems must be raised in order to deal with them. First of all, schools should try to put an end to bullying acts. Help should be given to victims of bullying. People with suicidal thoughts should

always feel that they can talk to someone, particularly those who care for them. A suicide victim's loved ones will despair as long as they live, if they know that they could have helped to prevent a suicide.



One can pick up signs that a person is suicidal, through signs of depression, mood swings and possibly a general lack of interest in everyday activities. One should not be afraid to directly ask a person whether they are suicidal and show they care, as it could help prevent a life from being taken.

There have been steps taken to raise suicide awareness on a larger scale. World Suicide Prevention Day is commemorated every year on September 10th to raise awareness of how to deter suicide. On this day, a range of activities show people how suicide can be prevented, which has proven to be very effective. There is also a Facebook page where people can share tragic stories of their lost loved ones. This is used to help other people realize the suffering they would put their family and friends through, if they undertook such a drastic and terrible step. There are also various suicide hotlines that are available to people who feel that they need them, and this enables people to get help.

More awareness programs will have to be provided for the younger generation before the suicide rate can drastically be lowered even more. Apart from this, the government should launch initiatives to deal with the issue. Awareness could be provided in the form of conferences, seminars and public lectures. This would help people to understand the irrevocability of suicide and the tragedy of it.

Raising awareness is essential and the first step that should be taken in the process to reduce and eventually stop suicides. When there is less anxiety, pressure and bullying in the world then our lives will improve in positive way, and no one should go through life in fear. Suicide can only be prevented when people become more aware of this problem as well as take action in order to prevent suicides from happening.

SOCIAL MEDIA

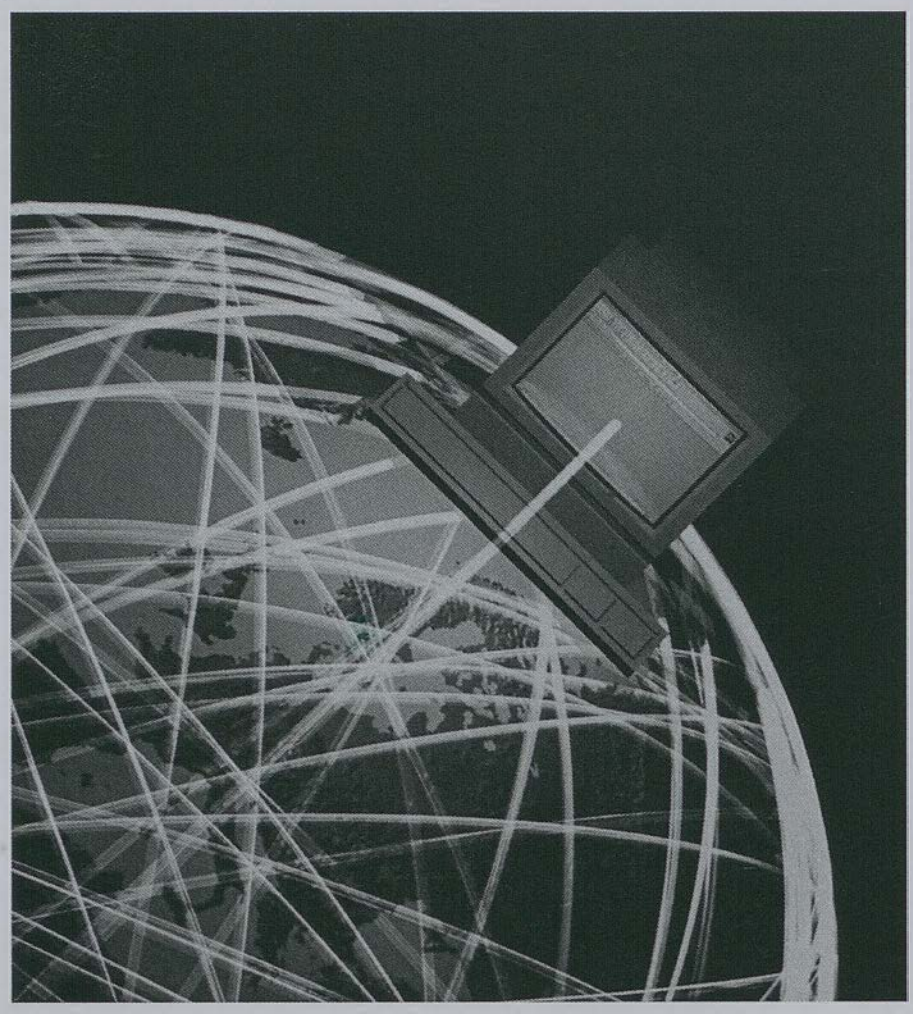
Social media has had an incredibly significant impact on society, the younger generation in particular, in the past decade alone. Facebook, Twitter and YouTube dominate the Internet as among the most used and popular websites: 69% of all websites consist of assorted social media forums. Currently the second most popular website in

the world behind Google is Facebook. Facebook recently reported that the site now has over one billion users – one seventh of the world's population. It is clear that social media is becoming a necessity for the entire global population.

Social networks are valuable for many reasons. First, social media is a way for people around the world to stay connected to each other. Anyone with access to the Internet has a free, instant link to news, gossip and other contact across the globe way. Also, social networks have become a resource for business advertising and promotion. Studies have shown that customers would rather give money to businesses with an active Facebook page rather than a business without one, especially since print media has largely lost its appeal.

Perhaps most notably, social networks have become a way for people across the world to unite, in movement or even in revolt. One example of this is the Trayvon Martin case. In Florida in February 2012, seventeen-year-old Martin was shot and killed by local patrol officer George Zimmerman. While Zimmerman claimed that he had acted in self-defense during a violent encounter with Martin, protests ensued against Zimmerman's actions. Facebook and Twitter played a very active role in organizing the "million hoodie march" in Union Square, New York City, which raised awareness of the controversy. Another instance of social media's enormous effect on current events is the Arab Spring of December 2010. In a single week, 'tweets' about government protests increased from 2,300 to 230,000 per day, and the top 23 videos related to political commentary on the situation were viewed almost five and a half million times each. The Arab Spring soon resulted in the Egyptian government being overthrown and civil wars in Libya and later Syria.

Unfortunately, social media does not consistently work to the benefit of society. It is true that social media does keep people, especially children and young adults, in touch with their peers and online entertainment. It is proven, however, that social media can act as



a distraction for students in their schoolwork. It has become a tendency among students to ignore their schoolwork in favor of perusing Facebook or YouTube, thereby frittering away time, energy and concentration. Despite a greater connection to the world at large, students absorbed in social networking generally have lower grades than those who focus more intently on schoolwork. In addition, social networks often have privacy issues, because they allow people who are not real friends, or even formally acquainted with each other, to communicate online. Someone giving away their personal information to an online 'friend' is in a potentially dangerous situation, as that 'friend' could use the other's identity for a variety of criminal activities.

Social media has drastically changed the way people communicate globally, as well as how people interact with each other. People across the globe can now share thoughts and opinions, discuss and influence global issues and even organize major protests. It is marvelous that global interaction can take place so smoothly, yet online communication between people who are not mutually acquainted or friendly has the risk of a dangerous outcome. At times, it is unclear

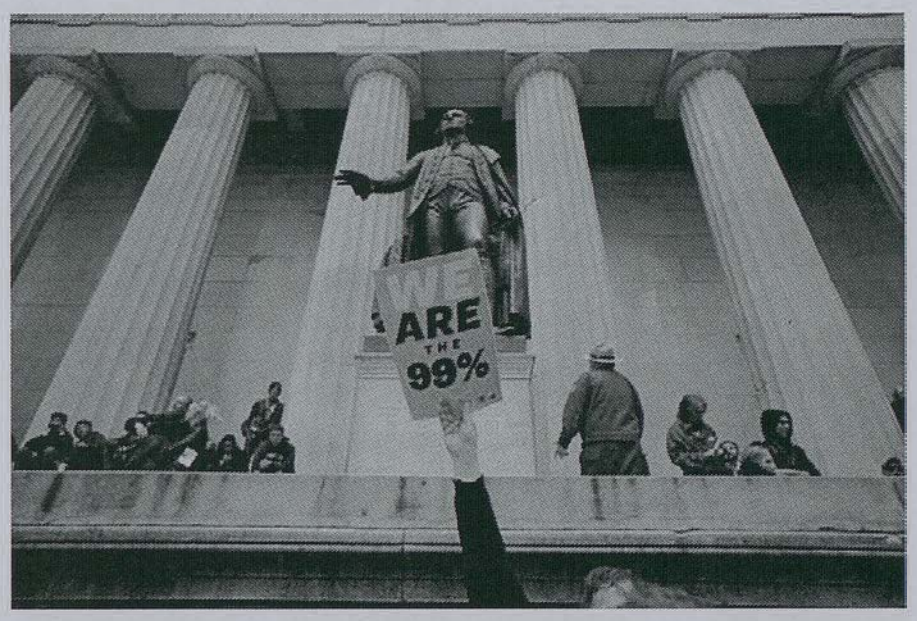
whether social media is a blessing or a curse. Overall, social media has enhanced our society to a great extent, and with global Internet access quickly improving, will continue to do so in the future.

CHAPTER 2: MOVEMENTS

OCCUPY MOVEMENTS

The Occupy Movement is an international protest movement that works to make young individuals' voices heard. It is run by individuals who strive to create social, political and economic change. The Occupy Movement encourages individuals to come together to be the change in the world. It works towards the goal of having a solely democratic system, where the interests of the people are the priorities. It disagrees with the inequality of wealth, power and influence between the working class and the wealthy. The Occupy Movement revolves around several issues such as corporate authority, student debt, health-care, budget cuts, corruption in large businesses and potent banks. Its slogan, "We are the 99%," was created on a Tumblr page; the 99% pertains to the individuals who have a lower income status in the US while the 1% alludes to corporations and people with the top income in the US.

The Occupy Movement was started in September 2011 in New York City by Adbusters, a Canadian non-profit organization that is anti-consumerism and anti-capitalism, and has a distinct flavor of communism attached to it. It brought together a group of people to make a statement in the financial district by protesting in Zuccotti Park, in downtown Manhattan against large businesses which were running their corporations in a non-democratic way, and to stop political corruption. It quickly attracted a lot of attention in a small amount of time.



The protesters, in part, are asking for a complete reevaluation of the current democratic system and free market. They imply that the democratic governments and free market economic systems of the United States and other countries run need to be completely reshaped into something that is truly run by the people.

A controversial Occupy Movement protest was the incident at the University of California, Davis. The Occupy Davis protest was a movement against increasing tuition fees of the university but represented the voices of students across the nation. Tents were set up on the quad on November 15th after the protesters had a rally, but were later taken down. The protesters reset up their tents two days later.

The protesters were asked to take down their tents before 3:00, but they did not respond to the request. At 3:30, police officers arrived at the encampment and started taking down the tents. There was a group of students who sat on a walkway linking arms, who were asked to move several times but remained

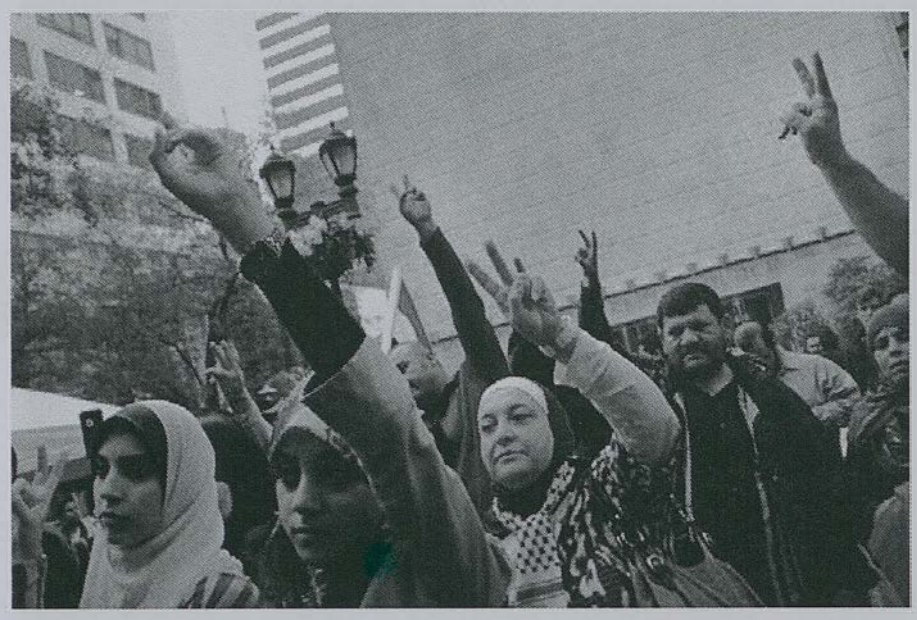
there. Two officers began spraying pepper spray in the students' faces. The incident was filmed, which gave outsiders insight into the event. It became a controversy where some people were justifying the policemen's acts, while others were enraged and disgusted.

This violence and protesting attracted a lot of attention so quickly that it lost its true message. The control of the media in this way has affected the point of view of the general public. However, while the focus of the media has been on the US, there are still many protests in other countries, all about how the economy has taken over democracy.

It is a movement that has been building up until at one point, everything boiled over and the Occupy Movement started an inundation of anger against everything. The Occupy Movement is an example of how the theme "Modern Youthquake: A Generation's Impact" is not an unrealistic, far-fetched idea. The Occupy Movement attests that young individuals, like ourselves, can make a monumental impact when we come together for a central cause. "We will be the change we are seeking in the world."

ARAB SPRING REVOLUTIONS

The Arab Spring Revolutions is a term given to the revolutionary uprisings and demonstrations in the Middle East. These revolutions were believed to have been sparked by Mohamed Bouazizi in Tunisia on December 17th, 2010. He was only twenty-six and had burned himself alive in front of a police municipal office. This occurred because a police officer excessively beat him for not having a driving permit at hand. He complained and was ignored by the workers. He was fed up with the way he was treated and set himself on fire. The Tunisian people were appalled and soon realized they too were frustrated and



believed something needed to be done. Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali was the president of Tunisia for over twenty years. However, he failed to improve living standards, unemployment, police violence and seemingly absent human rights. Bouazizi's sacrifice was the spark that began the Tunisian revolution and an attempt to overthrow Ben Ali. On January 14th, 2011, Ben Ali was forced to flee the country to Saudi Arabia, leaving the protesters victorious and inspiring other Arab countries. The uprising in Tunisia influenced the protests in Egypt, Libya, Syria, Yemen, Algeria, Iraq, Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco and Sudan. Some of the more victorious countries were Egypt and Libya.

The uprisings in Egypt began on the 25th of January 2011. The protests were mainly non-violent civil acts such as marches, and labor strikes; however, these protests were not always peaceful and harmless. An estimated 840 people were killed and 6,000 left injured during the assaults of the people by law enforcement. The populace was focused on overthrowing and removing President Hosni Mubarak from office. A new regime would focus on ending police brutality, creating emergency laws, allowing freedom of speech, holding free elections, improving the economic state of Egypt, diminishing unemployment and lowering the price of food. On February 11th, 2011, Hosni Mubarak gave up his presidency and resigned.

Libya was also a victorious country; however, they had a more difficult fight on their

hands against Muammar Qaddafi. In February the revolutions had begun in Libya and took a very violent turn by early March - rebels were taking up arms against the army, and foreign media deemed the revolution a full-fledged civil war. In October of 2012 Gaddafi was captured and soon after killed - giving the people of Libya their first real chance at a democratic government.

The revolution in Syria was far less successful. Their uprisings began on March 15th, 2011 and still continue to this day. The Syrian people demand the removal of President Bashar al-Assad and an end to 50 years of mistreatment by the Syrian government. In April of 2011, the Syrian army open fired on protesters, killing many innocent people. Later, this struggle turned into an armed rebellion. The United States, European Union and other countries have denounced the violent acts toward the protesters. In spite of this, Russia and China have objected to aiding the Syrian rebels.

The Arab Spring Revolutions are an exceptional example to upcoming generations. People must stand up for what is right, and the revolutions are proof that the Middle East and the rest of the world can stand up to dictators and tyrants alike. For the first time in history, Internet social media such as Facebook, Twitter and other online messaging websites played a significant role in a revolution. In recent years, social media has been known to be dominated by young people. “According to a Feb. 2010 Pew Research poll, 73% of teens and 72% of young adults use social networking websites.” Many movements have been started by young generations through social media. It may be the path towards the smallest and sometimes most important voices being heard.

SANTIAGO/QUEBEC EDUCATION PROTESTS

Since August 2011, students have been leading protests across Chile to demand a new framework for education in the country. A main goal is for more direct state participation in secondary education and an end to the existence of profit in higher education. Currently in Chile, only forty-five percent of high school students study in traditional public schools. Most universities are also private, and Chileans spend thirty percent of their income on high school and college level education. No new public universities have been built since the 1990s, even though the number of university students has increased exponentially.



The development of the ongoing protests has been attributed to several causes. The BBC has attributed students' anger to "a perception that Chile's education system is grossly unfair – that it gives rich students access to some of the best schooling in Latin America while dumping poor pupils in shabby, under-funded state schools." Beyond the specific demands regarding education, there is a feeling that the protests reflect a "deep discontent" among some parts of society.

It began as a series of peaceful protests calling for reform of the Chilean government's

education system, with students staging mass kiss-ins, dressing up in superhero costumes and running laps around the presidential palace. But later these surreal protests exploded into violence as school and university students clashed with police, resulting in 874 arrests and damaged property.

In April 2012, Education Minister Harald Beyer proposed a new university funding plan, which would remove private sector banks from the process of granting student loans and reduce interest rates on loans from six to two percent. Gabriel Boric, President of the University of Chile Student Federation, rejected the plan, stating: "We don't want to trade debt for debt, which is what the government is offering us."

A national student strike was organized for June 28. The strike was marked with a march in Santiago which was attended by 150,000, according to the demonstration's organizers. In August of 2012 a number of schools and universities were occupied by students. The UNESCO seat in Santiago was also occupied by secondary students aiming to speak against the Hinzpeter Law, a policy that created harsher penalties for occupying schools and hospitals, at the UN.

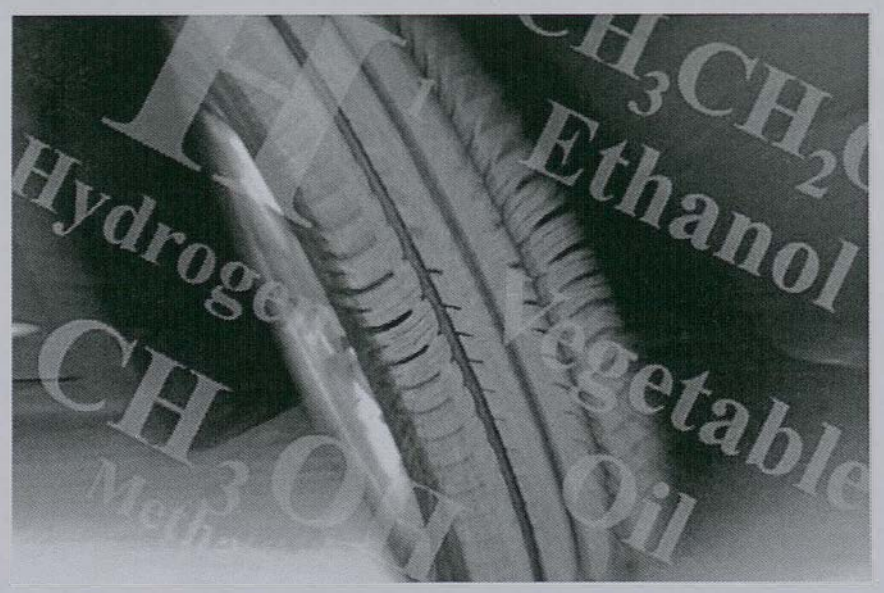
They are not alone as on the other side of the hemisphere, student associations in Quebec are protesting against school's tuition prices as well. According to students, universities proposed to raise their tuitions from approximately 2,200 Canadian dollars to 3,800 Canadian dollars in the next five years. This sparked students from the University of Laval to go on strike, followed shortly by faculty members. In the coming months, about a third of the province's students boycotted classes for three months, disrupting universities and junior colleges. Similarly to Santiago, protesters have battled with the police and even smoke bombed Montreal's subway station. There were nearly 2,500 arrests during the education protests. Although there were many troubling events in the way, Quebec set up a poll for voting if the people of Quebec wanted to accept the proposals or deny them. Fortunately for the students and faculty, the proposals were denied and the protests are now over.

Although the education protest held by our generation for our generation had turned into violent clashes, there are positive things to take from this. These strikes show people the change that is occurring between the old and the new. Our generation is illustrating the importance of education to form a persona for youth, to gain the right to learn and prove ourselves. We have seen two different examples of this drive to learn. Our generation has evolved, learned to work together and succeed.

CHAPTER 3: ENVIRONMENT

ALTERNATIVE FUELS

Alternative fuels are energy sources which serve as a substitute to fossil fuels such as coal and oil. Types of alternative energy are renewable energy, green energy and clean energy. The burning of fossil fuels has caused and continues to cause damage to the Earth's



atmosphere, for example acid rain, the ozone layer, and the greenhouse effect. Global warming is occurring faster due to the release of greenhouse gases from burning carbon fuels at a faster rate possibly leading to unpredictable climate change. Gasoline, a refined by product of oil, is required by automobiles, buses and trucks, and other types of diesel contain chemicals that, when released in the air, have a negative effect on the environment and air quality. Our way of living is killing us, polluting us, and it is destroying our world.

The prevention of the destruction of our own planet can be the use of an alternative energy source instead of gasoline to power our machinery. Examples of alternative fuels are biodiesel, electricity, and ethanol. These fuels emit less carbon and pollution than coal and oil. There are alternative fuels suitable to power different things. For example, biodiesel, made from vegetable oil or animal fat, serves as a replacement for gasoline in trucks, and electricity can be used to power cars. Also, the use of alternative sources of energy lends itself to reusing resources; for example some restaurants contribute their excess oil to make biodiesel, putting waste to use and avoiding disposal. Every time we "step on the gas" in our conventional cars or buses to go to work or school, carbon and chemicals that pollute our air are emitted from the exhaust pipes of our cars. This could be avoided with electric cars that don't emit any exhaust.

Innovative scientists have introduced more alternative energy sources that do not emit carbon into the atmosphere nor contribute to pollution: wind, solar, and hydro energy. We are currently over the limit of the safe amount of carbon dioxide per million molecules in our atmosphere. If we don't change the way our lives are powered, more carbon dioxide will accumulate in our atmosphere causing our planet to up and in turn creating a prime environment for damaging natural disasters across the globe. Our generation is going to be the one responsible for replacing fossil fuels with sustainable alternative energy sources because our innovation fuels the future, and the future is in our hands.

RECYCLING

Recycling has become quite an important aspect in the lives of today's generation. We've all heard about the benefits of placing our plastic bottles into the blue bins and the consequences of throwing used newspapers into the trash. We see the recycle symbol, three bent arrows in a cycle representing the main terms of the recycling method (reduce, reuse, and recycle) on everything from grocery bags to backpacks and t-shirts. Recycling is no longer just the act of reusing materials, but is considered to be a pop culture movement.

What is the exact appeal of recycling for the youth today? It is important to teach the habits of recycling at a young age, and that is exactly where the root of our answer can be found. Government campaigns are now increasingly focusing on educating schoolchildren on the significant role they play and how they affect others' lives on a global level, especially when it comes to recycling. Children are, after all, the future. This form of education gives them the opportunity to carry out their knowledge and apply it to different aspects of their life, and it also allows them to create new and original ideas using a very basic concept, for example, turning unused hotel soaps into a lifesaving resource for children in poor areas who often die due to the lack of hygiene.

In the past, recycling was seen as the last option for the disposing of used materials due to the society viewing it as inconvenient and inefficient, and this still seems to be the case in many small towns and suburbs. However, the new communication methods used in this age of modern technology makes everything, including raising awareness and

creating interest in this issue easier and can be initiated on a more widespread level. People around the country are making an effort to make the recycling movement easily accessible to everyone, and making it part of a daily routine instead of making it seem like a burden. This eventually leads to the growing interest of the younger generation's knowledge of not only where their "trash" goes, but also new ways to use renewable resources in their daily lives.

The main reason for the increased attention that recycling has received may be due to the growing awareness of the negative consequences that the future generations will face due to the lack of recycling. The act of recycling is also about finding a balance between separating happiness from material goods and realizing how, at times, people seem to be unaware of the implications that come from the daily misuse of specific materials such as paper and plastic.

In cities like New York, people have stopped seeing the act of recycling as an option, and regard it as more of a necessity. With today's new technology, many societies have become more aware of the direct and indirect effects of their actions globally. The younger generation seems to be the ones who tend to have the most exposure to it. In today's world, there are even people who go as far as to live amongst the garbage, devoting their lives to finding reusable items, and this too leaves a strong impression on the society and the role they play in recycling to improve the world as a whole.

Polls taken in the 90s show that anywhere between 50% and 75% of Americans consider themselves to be environmentalists. It is young people's tireless vitality that brings innovation to what would ordinarily be considered a chore, and communities manage to not only create much needed items, such as soap for the needy out of discarded hotel commodities and paper out of the street trash in Cairo, but also art. In the long run, "Green is a lifestyle, not a color."

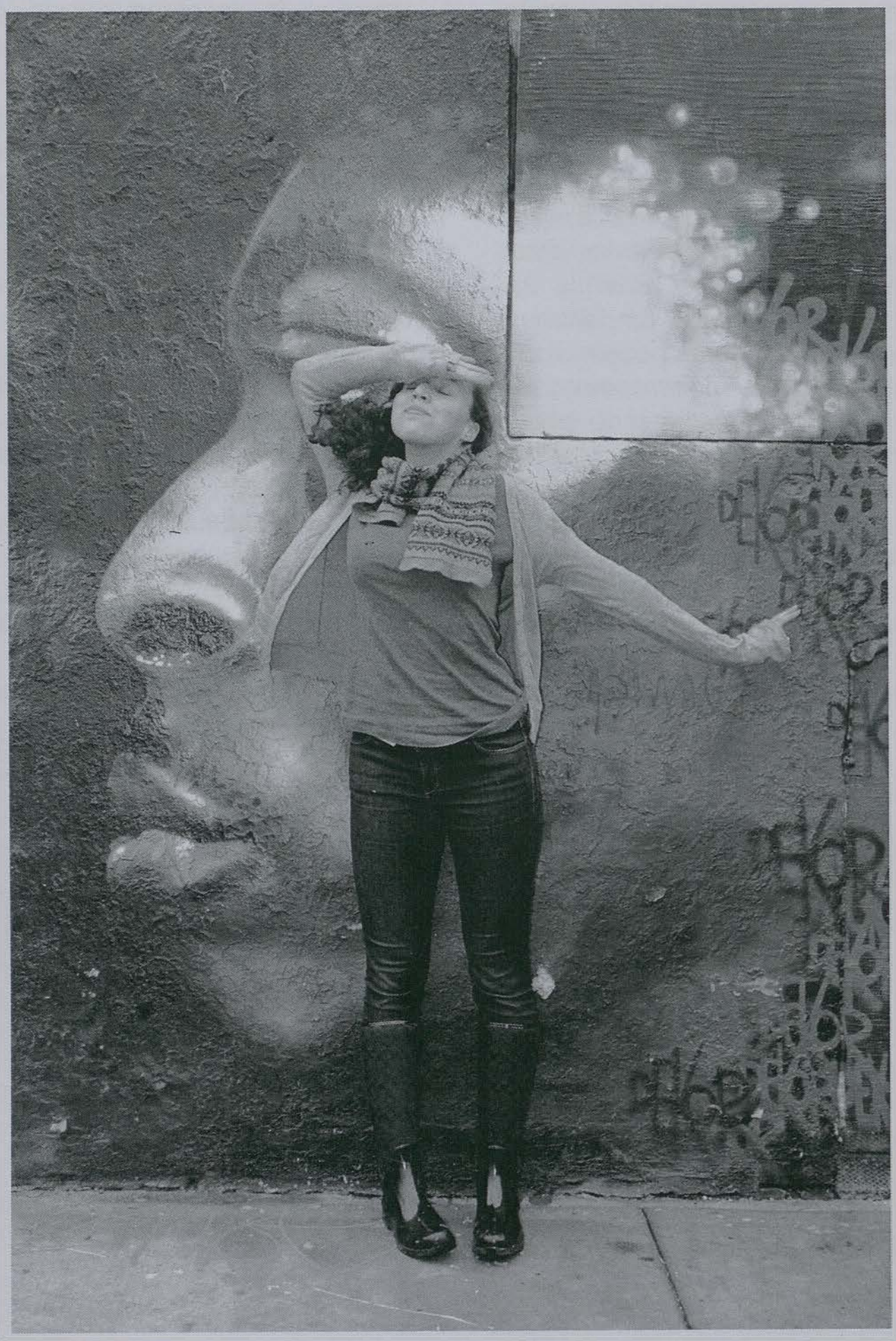
FRIENDS FOR CHANGE

Disney's "Friends for Change" was founded by Disney Channel in the summer of 2009; as of then, 17 Disney characters and 12 Disney Channel casts (known as the Friends for Change ambassadors) have joined to promote the organization. 'Friends for Change' is an organization designed to inspire fans of Disney to try and make a difference in the world. To join Friends for Change, fans must either start their own project that benefits any type of community, or volunteer/help at a Friend for Change planned event or project.

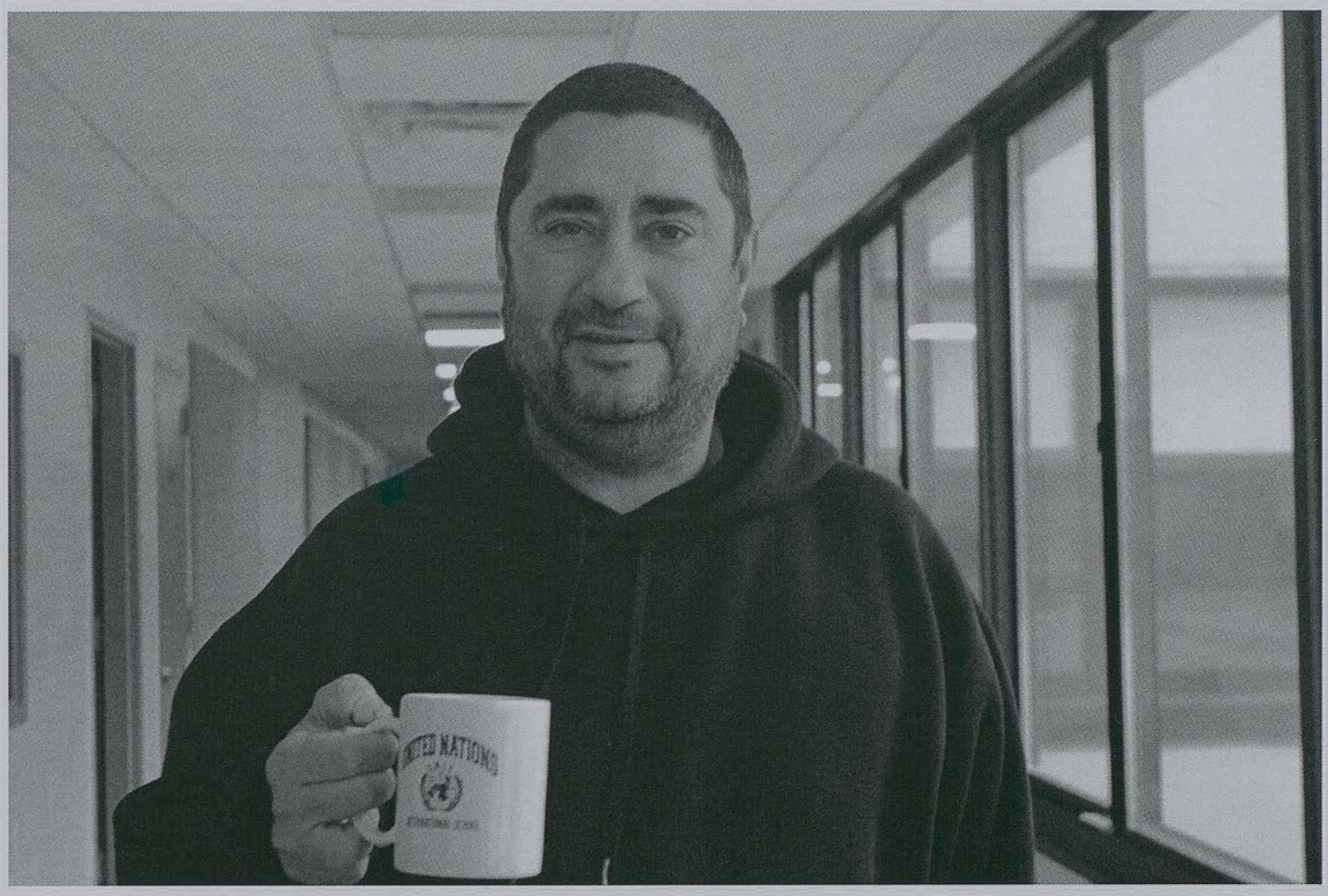


The Disney Channel is currently one of the most watched children's television channels over 60 million children. Since Friends for Change is in a partnership with the Disney Channel, they are able to air hundreds of televised advertisements daily, on top of the plethora of advertisements they already broadcast on radio and post online. With marketing relationships like that, Friends for Change is one of the most known youth organizations of its kind. With such a vast influence, Friends for Change is able to affect the lives of many young people. Friends for Change does this in many ways for Change affects the future lives of young people as it might influence them to be more community service oriented rather than aspiring to get a paying job. Friends for Change also can affect the personalities of its young followers by making them more social through communication with other volunteers and/or making them more philanthropic people. As mentioned before, Friends for Change is an enormous organization that is constantly growing. So, a frequently asked question is: Can it fail? There is not much reliable evidence to suggest a near downfall to the organization, but like many organizations it may become less influential over time. Another commonly asked question is whether Friends for Change is effective in inspiring young children to get involved with helping. The answer is yes, Friends for Change is effective as it constantly influences more and more children to join the cause and become more involved in making the world a better place. An example of Friends for Change's success is its recent donation to the American Red Cross. This donation exemplifies Friends for Change's success because the money was raised from its millions of young followers. In addition to its great contribution to the Red Cross, Friends for Change's success can also be justified in the high number of televised and radio advertisements they put out. These advertisements also depict how Friends for Change is successful because the advertisements portray an array of followers who have become active in bettering the world. To obtain more information on Friends for Change, visit their website directly or find their website through the Disney website.

CHAPTER 4: HUMANS OF UNIS



"The profile in the background was just asking for a dramatic pose." By Nikhil Vanderklaauw T3

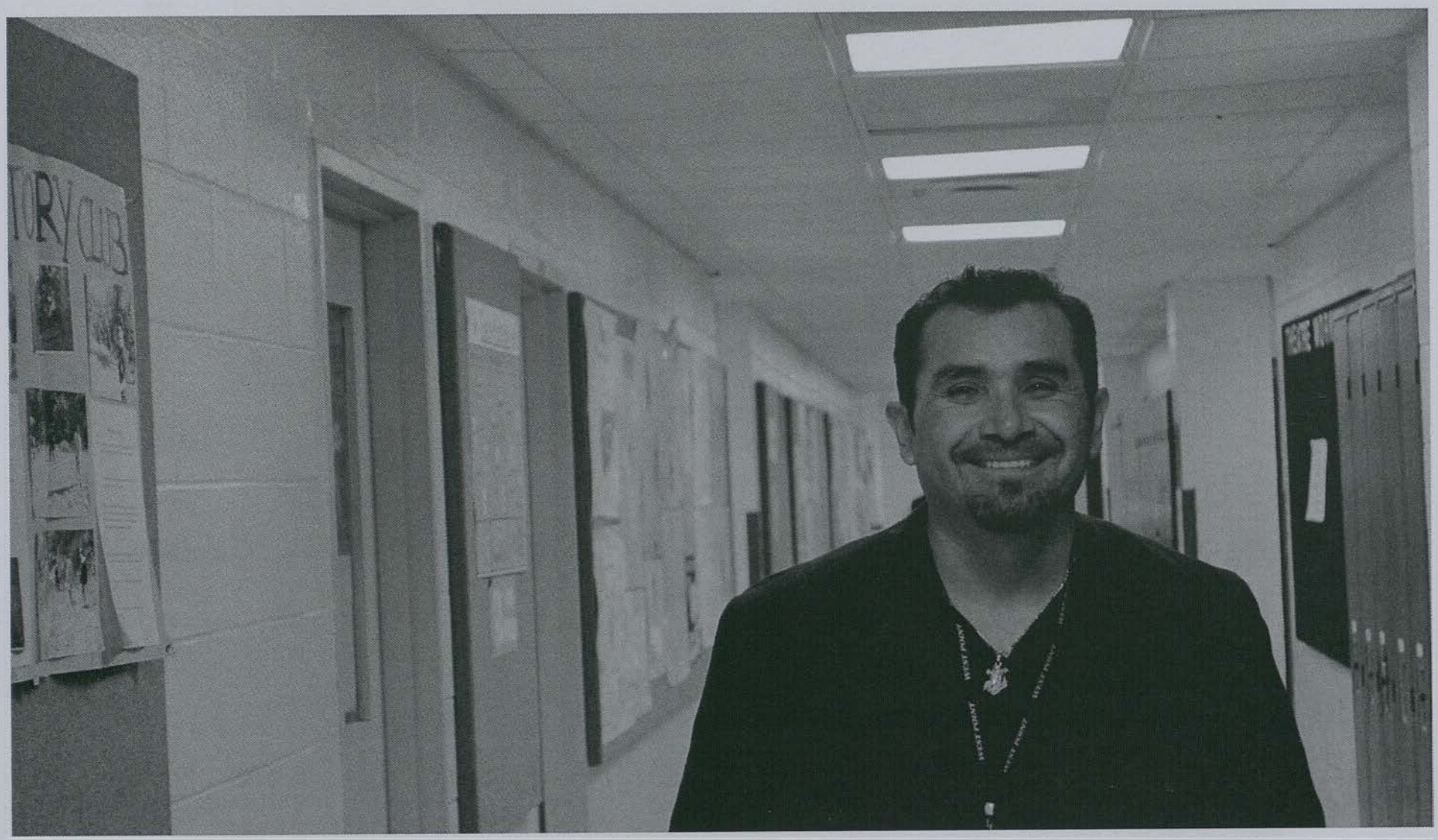


"Drink more coffee. Help the Brazilian economy." By Alex Lee T3

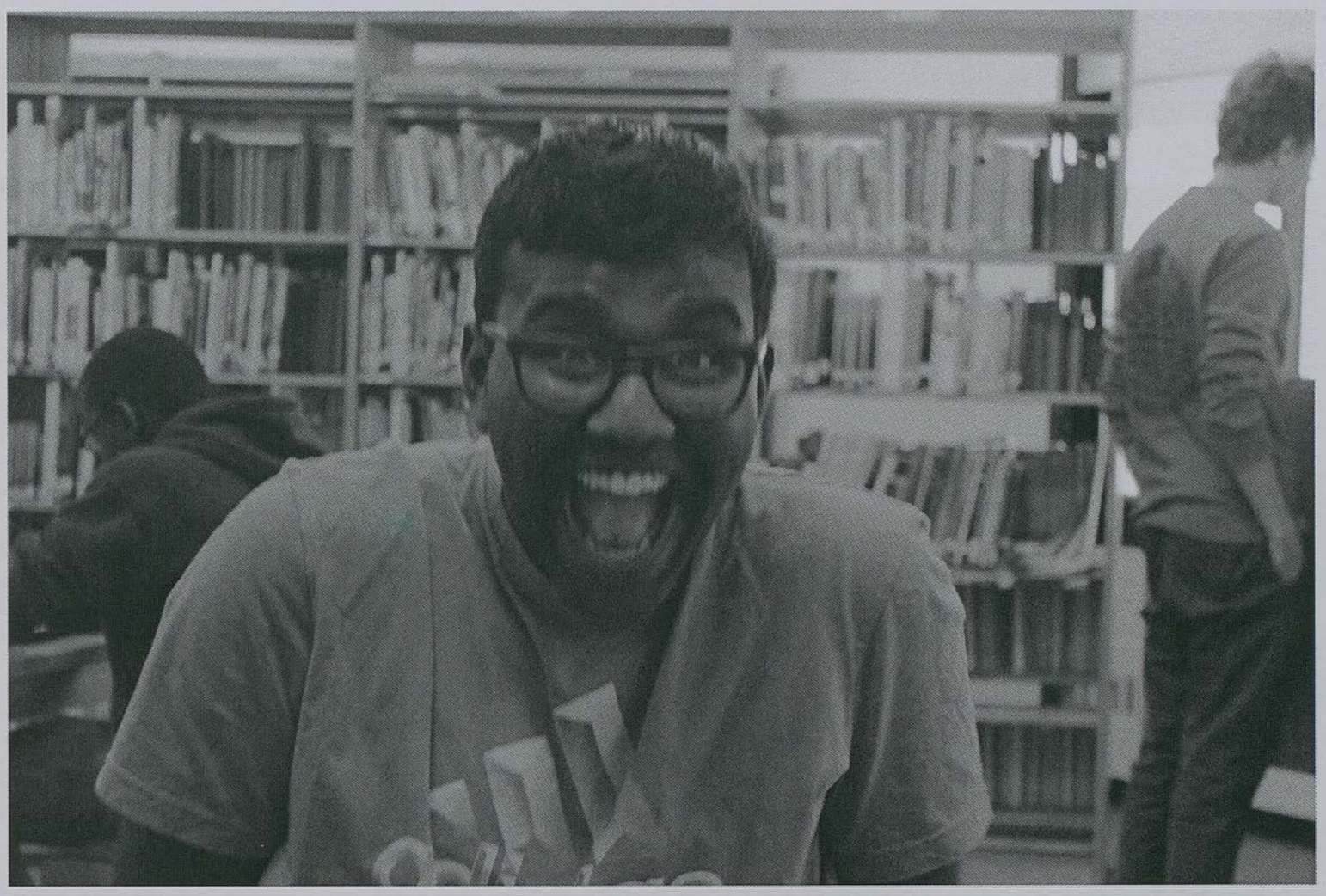


-"What do you enjoy drawing?"

-"Um... well, I guess I like to draw weird and abstract things. And make them... weirder? It's hard to explain. Surrealism, is that it?" By Ali Hendra T4

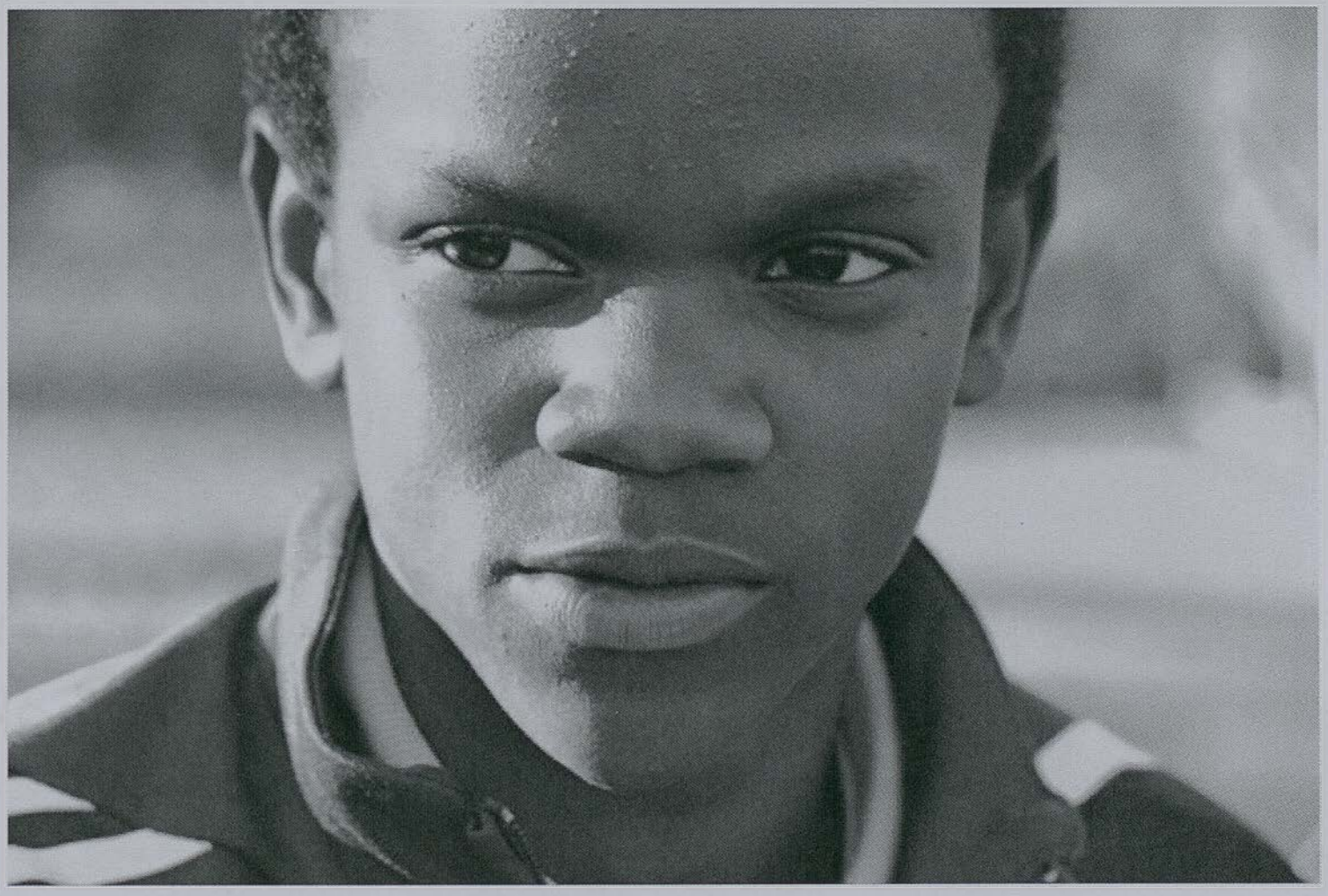


"So, what should I do? Poker face? Smile? No but for real, I was actually a model in Mexico for 5 years. On the runway and everything. We used to do this thing with our coat where we put it over our shoulder..." By Ali Hendra T4

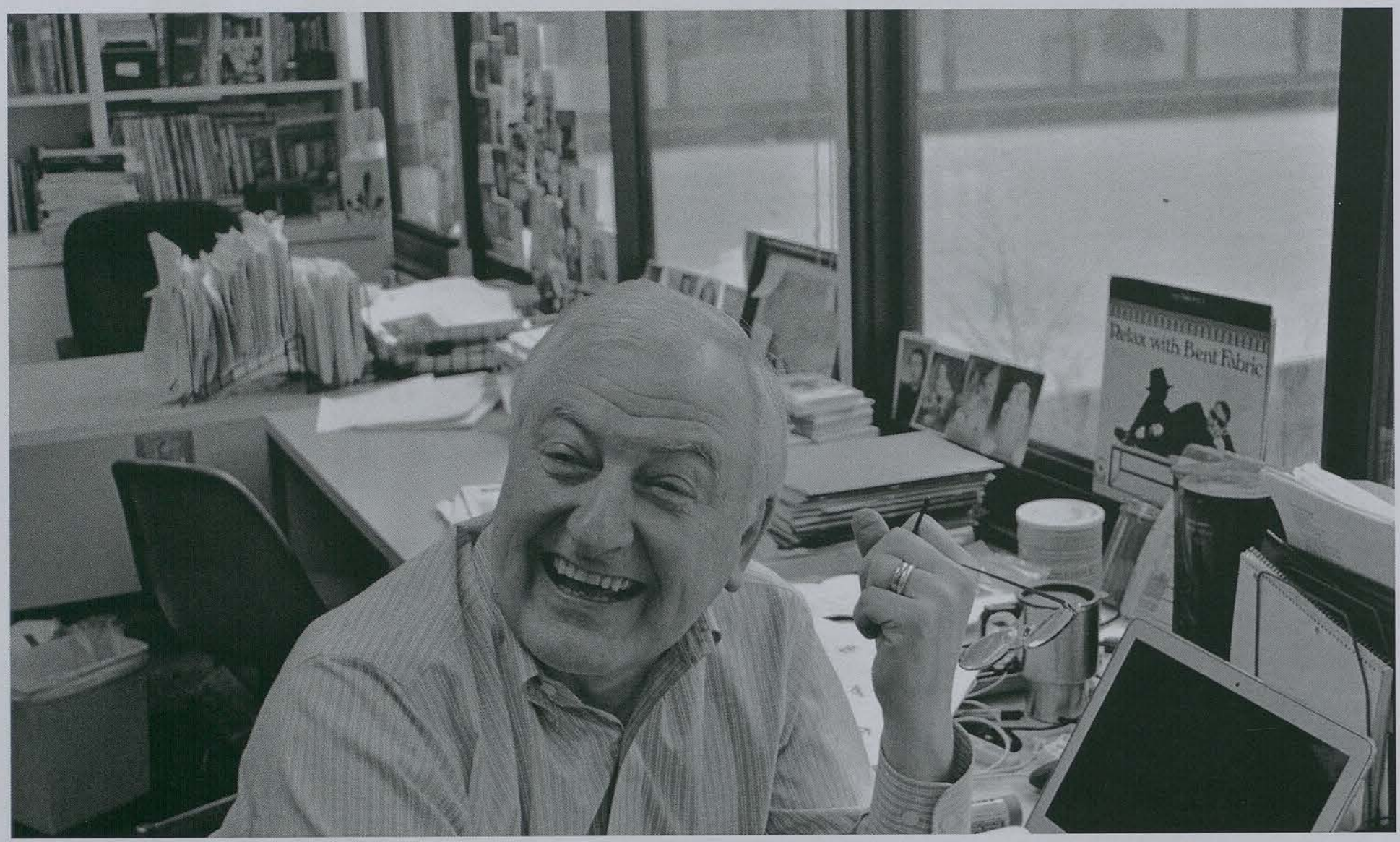


-"Nikhil! Giggle! Giggle more!"

- (giggling) "MORE?!" By Frida Perez T4



"Dude, take a picture of my serious face!" By Vardan Vandelaer T1



-"How long have you been working at UNIS?"

-"22 years now."

-"And if you could be any actor in the whole world who would you be?"

-"That's so hard to answer. I would probably say Marlon Brando. He's definitely got that sexy look, he's the best." By Ali Hendra T4



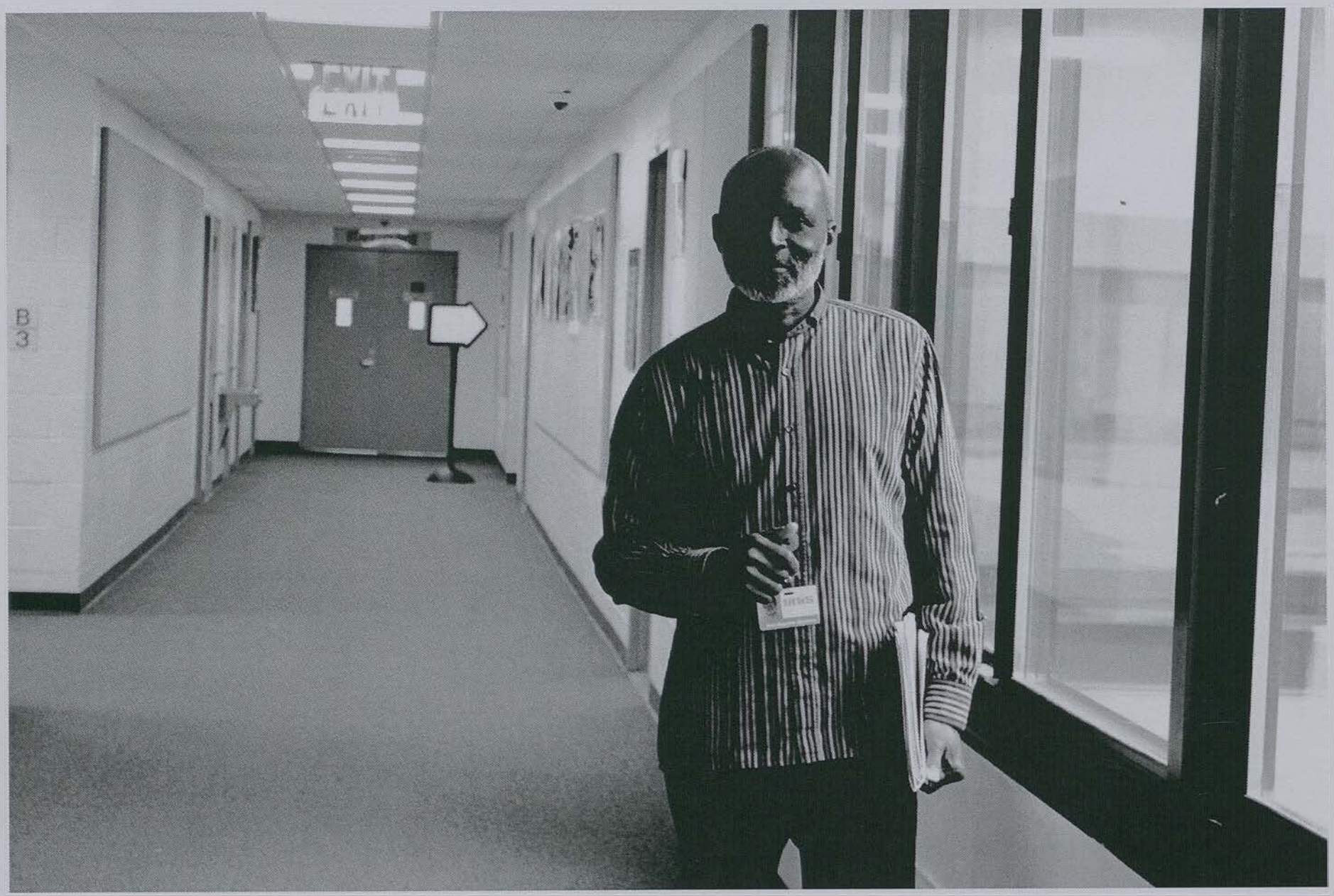
-"Does it suck being short?"

-"Sometimes.. but then there are people like you who kinda make it worth being short." By Olivier Streitz T4



-"You look kind of angry."

-"Yeah that's my regular face" By Alex Lee T3



-Monsieur, est-ce que je peux prendre une photo de vous? (Can I take a photo of you, Monsieur?)

-Oui, mais il faut que mon stylo rouge soit visible. (Yes, but make sure to get my red pen in it.)

By Frida Perez T4



"Seen at Randall's Island" By Emery Olson T3



"My future heads of UNIS-UN" By Dyana Saiful T4

CHAPTER 5: HUMANITARIAN

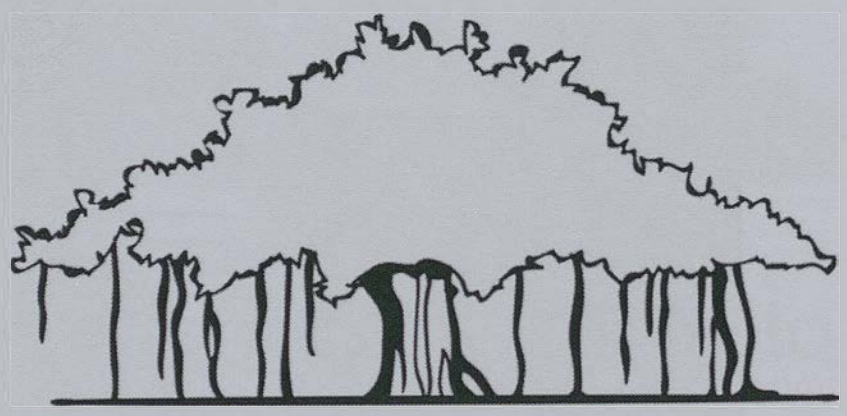
JATALO

In today's world, many young adults are involved in humanitarian efforts to help people in need. One such person is Aditya Viswanathan, an 18 year old from Carrollton, Texas. Two years ago, during December of 2010, he was in India visiting relatives when he saw something that changed his life: a group of children gathered around a schoolhouse, trying to look into a lesson being taught within. He went closer to the children and upon speaking to them, learned that many children in the area were unable to go to school because of the price of textbooks and lack of materials needed for school. Alarmed by this issue, he spoke to local administrators about it and learned that some children were funded by generous teachers who gave up their salaries to buy textbooks. Many of these children even went on to college and began their own careers.

Viswanathan was shocked that children so eager to learn were deprived of an education due to poverty. If these children had the chance to receive an education, they would grow up to do great things in life. Viswanathan felt an astounding need to do something about the problem. "All my life, I've wanted to start something of my own," writes Viswanathan on his blog. So the high-school senior, faced with the chance to make change, came up with a plan.

Viswanathan, inspired by the TOMS model, decided to sell backpacks for $60 and bracelets for $6 to send the much-needed textbooks to the children. Backpacks funded textbooks for a year, while the purchase of a bracelet sent one textbook to a child in need. Viswanathan named his company "Jatalo," which means "banyan tree" in Sanskrit. "In a lot of cultures, the banyan tree is symbolic of a wish-fulfilling tree," Viswanathan said. "In several Asian communities, educational seminars and classes were held in the shade of the banyan tree."

Currently, Viswanathan uses our generation's social media to advertise his business. His efforts and his products have been surfacing on Facebook, Tumblr, Twitter, and other blogs/social networks. "I see kids who use Facebook on a day-to-day basis for communicating and talking to friends and for the social aspects," said Viswanathan. "It was interesting to take it from the complete flipside and see how social networks can be leveraged for business." Through these social medias, kids in our generation are becoming aware of what Viswanathan is doing and are more likely to contribute to the cause.



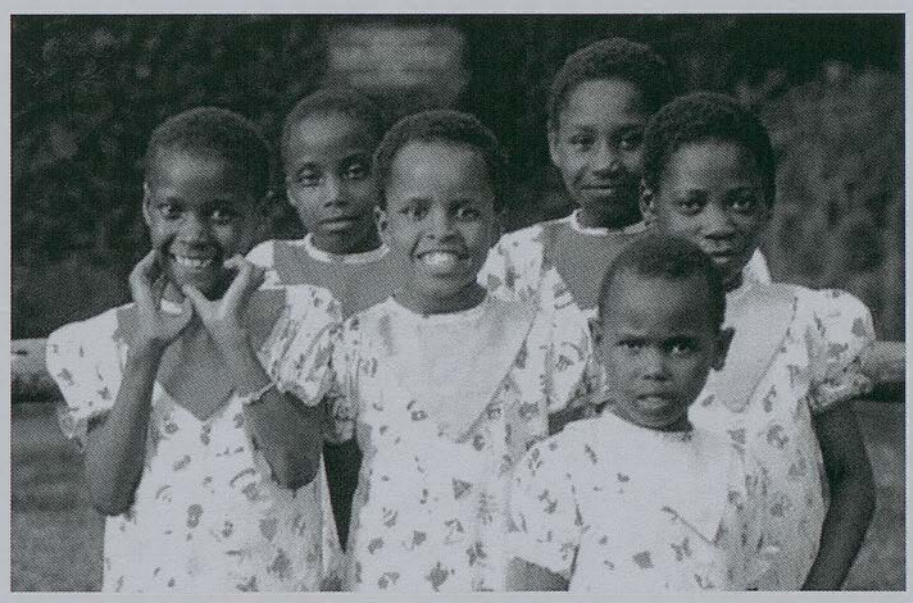
Viswanathan has many plans for expanding his business, which he intends to continue through college. In the next couple of months, Jatalo will expand to other regions around the world, and the company will continue to build their public relations. He has already reached out to college students to establish "College Ambassadors;" students who will serve as spokespeople for Jatalo. The company also hopes to expand their line of products and their scope of influence. They aim to reach as many children as possible, giving the gift of learning and education and building a generation to change the world.

Viswanathan's achievement says a lot about our generation's initiative. It shows that together, we can make a difference. While individuals themselves cannot fix all the problems in the world, a lot can be done with a combined effort. Laura Maczka, Executive Director in the Dallas office of the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship, encourages entrepreneurship such as Viswanathans' at a young age. "If you can capture that spirit early on and encourage it, while the risks are fairly low, you can light the fire and keep it," she said. "If you've an idea, go for it."

In an era of problems such as hunger, poverty and global warming, achievements like Jatalo are representative of our generation taking initiative, solving problems, and defying odds, one child at a time. Jatalo might just be one small company out of hundreds of thousands around the world, but regardless of size or fame they are sending what is needed to the people who need it. Even though this process might just seem like making and selling backpacks, changing the life of a child on the other side of the world is what ultimately counts. As reflected from Jatalo and the children in need who have been given the tools for success, with enough motivation and a good dose of hard work, one can do anything. Two years after its inception, a small company started by an 18 year old has developed into an enterprise that has literally changed the world, one textbook at a time.

HOOPS OF HOPE

When nine year old Austin Gutwein watched a documentary highlighting the devastation caused by AIDS, he decided to intervene and improve the livelihood of the suffering young children who were losing their parents as a result of the virus. Young Austin contacted "World Vision," the creators of the documentary, and together they struggled to find the best possible way to fundraise for, and benefit, the African communities. As a fan of basketball, Gutwein was inspired to shoot 2,057 hoops, in honor of the 2,057 orphaned children in Africa who had lost their parents to HIV/AIDS. On December 1st 2004, otherwise known as World Aids Day, Gutwein, sponsored by a group of local people, successfully shot all 2,057 free throws, raising $3,000; enough to help eight orphaned children. The next year, he gathered 1,000 other children to join him in shooting free throws, and the year after that, in 2006, Gutwein collected over $200,000; enough to build both a school and hospital in Zambia.



Today, "Hoops of Hope" has expanded to a global level, and many schools and hospitals are being built as a result of Austin's simple, yet powerful idea. AIDS awareness has spread not only to the children in Africa, but also to the adults, through the introduction of medical centers and schools. "Hoops of Hope" has raised over 2.5 million dollars, and has helped orphans by giving them proper access to shelter, food, clothing and education. Today, more than 550 children are being properly nourished each day in Malawi. Gutwein and his organization have now expanded their aid to India, where a school is being built.

In the past nine years, "Hoops of Hope" has done exemplary work to aid needy young

children in Zambia. It has already provided countless orphans with food, shelter, clothing, a new school equipped with a computer lab, dormitories, teacher houses and medical testing facilities. The organization hopes to raise one million dollars by their tenth year anniversary.

To think that this idea started with a nine year old's imagination shows how anyone, no matter their age or skill set, can make a difference. It demonstrates the impact young children have on today's society and the ability they have to do something many adults would not have thought of. "Hoops of Hope" takes a very basic idea, and adds to it a whole new cope and dimension. The straightforward act of shooting free throws, one of the easiest, most influential aspects of basketball, can inspire a generation in aiding children affected by AIDS. "Hoops of Hope" proves how even the smallest and simplest of ideas can be extremely powerful and beneficial to those in need. It shows that you do not have to be old or rich to make a difference; you need only an idea, a drive, and a sound execution

(RED)

Every seventy-two seconds, a child in Africa is born HIV positive. HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) is the virus that causes AIDS. HIV damages the immune system, leaving the body at higher risk of infections and cancers. The body is left weak, and unable to fight off viruses and bacteria that lead to disease. As of now, no cure has been found. (RED), a nonprofit organization founded in 2006 by Bono and Bobby Shriver, aspires to eliminate AIDS by 2015 by raising awareness of the situation and raising funds to help the extermination of AIDS in Africa.

(RED) products were launched to raise money from various popular brands, in order to fund AIDS drugs for those in Africa who could not afford them. The color red was used to symbolize the emergency: the tragic deaths of 6,000 people a day from lack of medication to treat HIV. (RED) has partnered with numerous iconic brands such as Apple, Beats by Dre, Starbucks, Coca-Cola, Burton, Verizon, Gap, Converse, American Express and various others. These brands would release a line of products in (RED)'s name, coloring the products in red in order to symbolize AIDS awareness. Whether it was the introduction of (RED) in the form of the color red, to Apple's iPods, iPads and iPhones, or simply putting the word (RED) onto shirts, the money raised from these products increased both the awareness of the organization and funding for those with AIDS. One hundred percent of the money raised went towards Global Fund programmers, which then provided medical care and support services for those affected by HIV or AIDS. Treatment to prevent HIV transmission from mother to child costs only 40 cents each.

Since its creation, (RED) has raised about $200 million for HIV/AIDS treatment in Africa and is the largest private donor to the Global Fund. It has helped over fourteen million people in Africa.

Criticism has been made against Product (RED) by those who argue that the concept of retail being used to get people to donate to a charity is unnecessary, and one should just donate money themselves. Furthermore, Product (RED)'s expansion into traditional funding techniques, such as art auctions, undermines the organization's claim to want to be different, and to have a more

sustainable approach to raising money for AIDS. Many also accuse the campaign of using the disease as a way to profit through the marketing of the products released and sold. In the Stanford Social Innovation Review, Mark Rosen man wrote of the organization being an "example of the corporate world aligning its operations with its central purpose of increasing shareholder profit, except this time it is being cloaked in the patina of philanthropy."

The National Labor Committee for Worker and Human Rights also criticized Product (RED) for the ties it had with Gap, as Gap is known to be a target for sweatshop labor. Clothes made by Gap for Product (RED) are made in Lesotho, as opposed to in China (which would bring the best price), thus going beyond the requirements of Product (RED). (RED) has been criticized for not ensuring the protection of the rights of workers who make their products.

Regardless of the criticism towards (RED), it has nevertheless impacted society in a way that few other organizations have. It shows people that anyone can make a difference, however small, and help in the elimination of AIDS. What people choose to buy may help in the healing process for someone on the other side of the globe. We take for granted the basic necessities of life and fail to realize the extent to which others struggle just to get through the day. (RED) highlights the irony between consumerism and reality. It is ironic to think that through purchasing expensive gadgets such as iPods, watches or headphones, we are actually helping people in Africa. Just the price of an iPod could pay for the immunization of seven hundred human beings in Africa. (RED) influences the youth in the hopes of both sparking innovation for the future and creating a better world today. Product (RED) continues to fight for an AIDS free generation and still hopes to be looking at an HIV and AIDS free generation by 2015.

HOPE FOR HAITI NOW

Within the last few years devastating natural disasters such as hurricanes, tsunamis and earthquakes have become increasingly common. One of the most devastating occurrences in the recent past was the deadly earthquake that struck Haiti, the poorest country in the western hemisphere, in January of 2010. With a magnitude of 7.0 on the Richter scale and a total death toll of 316,000, the devastation inflicted upon Haiti was unimaginable, and recovery is still ongoing.

In order to raise funds to aid the suffering Haitians in the aftermath of the earthquake, various celebrities, from singer Wyclef Jean to former President Bill Clinton, began asking for and gathering donations. George Clooney began the organization of "Hope for Haiti Now," a two-hour televised concert that took place ten days after the disaster in several major cities, from New York to Los Angeles to London, and watched by about 83 million viewers in the United States alone. Its aim according to Clooney was to speed up relief efforts and to "raise money, period." and featured many performers including Alicia Keys, Bruce Springsteen, Stevie Wonder, Taylor Swift, Coldplay, Rihanna, Jay-Z, U2, and Justin Timberlake among others. Viewers were encouraged to donate online, by calling toll-free numbers, and via texting and email. Recordings of the live performances were also made available for purchase on iTunes for $0.99, and the proceeds went to relief efforts. Many of the songs even remained in the iTunes top 10 best-sellers chart over the next couple of months. The concert was screened on over 30 networks, both on standbys (ABC, CBS and NBC) and cable stations (CMT, VH1 and MTV)

in addition to other major networks. It was the largest humanitarian response to the Haitian earthquake in addition to being the most widely distributed telethon in history. All the funds raised by the telethon, both from the event or through iTunes, were distributed to seven non-profit organizations in charge of relief work for Haiti; these organizations included The Red Cross, UNICEF and Partners in Health.

One of the ways "Hope for Haiti Now" was able to broaden the donation spectrum was by engaging the power of pop-culture; by having popular musicians and celebrities attend, it brought awareness to the younger generation as well as demonstrated how aiding others can be fun and exciting. Bringing the world together under the leadership of celebrities that they know and love for one worthy cause, the "Hope for Haiti" Now telethon was able to receive 60 million dollars in donations which was then used for immediate relief actions and to help the citizens of Haiti affected by the disaster. "Hope for Haiti Now" has created a ripple effect in youth culture. As a result of celebrities' involvement in Hope for Haiti Now, young adults were compelled to become part of an effort that was not only helpful, but also "cool." The idea of doing something as simple as buying a song appeals to the public because it is an easy and effective way of making a change. Hope for Haiti Now was the largest grossing one-day pre-order album and had a number one song in twelve different countries. It also took advantage of the social media phenomenon, receiving donations from all the medias we use most to communicate: calling, texting, using the internet. This was an incredibly simple, powerful way to get people involved. In addition to the 60 million dollars raised via the telethon, "Hope for Haiti Now" involved and mobilized a whole wave of people who it inspired to make a difference within their means and to help however they could. Their influence will never end with the music they made or the money they sent, because the seeds of caring and compassion that is at the heart of humanity has been replanted.

TOMS

TOMS is a shoe company founded by Blake Mycoskie, a well-known entrepreneur, author, and philanthropist. It is based in Santa Monica, California, and is known as "TOMS and Friends of TOMS" respectively. It opened in 2006 with designs based on the Argentine alpargata shoe, and for every pair sold, Friends of TOMS donates a pair of shoes to a person in need. The idea of TOMS has helped bridge the gap between consumers in commercial countries such as the United States with impoverished children and families in emergent nations.

Mycoskie and his sister were members of the CBS reality show, The Amazing Race. After coming in third, he decided to vacation in Argentina with his sister in 2006. He volunteered one day giving out shoes in Buenos Aires. Mycoskie said the experience was an "epiphany" and made him realize what he wanted to do in life. TOMS, shortened from "Shoes for Tomorrow," was founded under the motivation to create what he disputes is not a 'charity' but an organization to combat a foot condition called podoconiosis. The condition, also known as "mossy foot," is a severe and dangerous ailment that occurs by walking barefoot in rich soils. Blake chose shoes because soil-transmitted diseases are a leading cause of sickness in developing



countries. Shoes prevent these diseases as well as prevent cuts and sores that could later on become infected. Another key reason that children are in need of shoes is that some schools require them to have shoes in order to attend. If they don't have shoes, these children cannot get an education. Therefore, the purchase of TOMS helps children around the world stay healthy as well as gets an education. Since then it has spread throughout countries around the world, selling and giving shoes after the "one-for-one" model.

Not only was this an original and entrepreneurial idea, but it also brought a new shoe design to the United States and the rest of the world. Mycoskie based the shoe off alpargatas, "resilient, lightweight slip-on shoes with a breathable canvas top and soft leather insole traditionally worn by Argentine workers." He had been wearing these throughout his time in Argentina and believed their sale would be lucrative in the United States. TOMS is the first company to successfully accomplish, "one-for-one. While other philanthropists have attempted this, TOMS is the longest lasting successful business to match each product sold and donate it. This does not only inspire and edify consumers; it also encourages other businesses to donate at least a fraction of their products or earnings in the same spirit.

Though TOMS started out as a small shoe company looking to give back to the international community, it has grown popular and created a new range of products. The company now also sells hoodies, T-shirts, hats, and caps. Their shoes have also advanced with new styles despite staying true to their classic canvas construction. Since its founding, TOMS has successfully gifted and donated over two million pairs of shoes.

Mycoskie also explored the idea of further expanding the TOMS brand to donate not only shoes, but other things that are needed, normal, but yet hard to obtain when in poverty. With his insight into the need for eyeglasses in impoverished areas around the world, TOMS new accessory 'eyewear,' glasses are now being donated alongside the original shoes to over 50 countries.

"Eighty percent of Americans are likely to switch brands, if comparable in price and quality, to one that supports a social cause." More and more brands are catching on to this statistic and on average donating more now than ever before. Some say companies are only adopting this generous attitude to gain more wealth, and that they do not actually care about the social issues the world is facing. Whether or not these companies care, the good they are doing in donating products or money to people in need is still good, regardless of motive. Companies inspired by the TOMS business model include Warby Parker and Ikea.

`This life-changing organization, started by one man on a trip to Argentina, demonstrates how with the idea of one person and the support of millions worldwide can make a difference. Walking down a street today, it's hard not to find a young person wearing a pair of TOMS, and the idea of fashion for a cause is one that is growing just as big as the company behind it. A company with a creative way of helping others has started a movement that is helping change lives and change minds for a better world.

CHAPTER 6: CULTURE

HUMANS OF NEW YORK



"Humans of New York" (also known as the HONY project), is a photography blog of expressive portraits taken in New York City. Photographer Brandon Stanton started the "Humans of New York" project in November of 2010. Stanton studied history at the University of Georgia and during his senior year of college, then, during the 2008 presidential election, he took out a three thousand dollar loan and bet it on Barack Obama. A friend had heard about this and got him a job trading bonds in Chicago. After three years at the Chicago Stock Market, things began to go downhill. Brandon lost his job and moved to New York to become a photographer.

Stanton compares his project to having a love affair. When he first started his blog, he walked around taking pictures eight hours a day, seven days a week. The intensity of his photography has decreased somewhat since the project's inception. Now he walks through New York City for a few hours each day on the lookout for interesting characters. Today, Stanton has taken over 5,000 portraits and continues to explore the streets of New York searching for people to photograph. He has been quite successful with social media and has over 200,000 Facebook fans, as well as a HONY website and Tumblr.

The portraits Stanton takes are artistic, unique and expressive, and the people he photographs each have their own story to tell. This has taught adults and kids to embrace their different backgrounds and uniqueness. There are many images of people expressing themselves through music, dance and doing what they love. Stanton wants to show that being truly successful comes from happiness and being yourself. He is a role model for younger generations as he aims to make a difference in society by showing others that they can have a positive impact on the world if they stay true to themselves. Stanton was virtually unknown prior to "Humans of New York" but by following his dreams and aspirations he has made a significant difference in today's society. Through his photographs, he is able to capture the unique nature of his subject, and through captions, the audience is allowed insight into the subject's psyche.

Not only has "Humans of New York" been active in social media, but it has also helped develop and promote a younger generation of artists. "Humans of New York" wants to change the perception of younger generations in a way that it would enable them to be motivated to bring about change in the world. The photographer wants to show the youth of today that having a title is not essential in bringing about change. Small ideas and projects can turn into great initiatives, and "Humans of New York" exemplifies this. A simple yet innovative idea, such as taking photographs of ordinary New Yorkers, has turned into a major aspect of culture that encourages the future generations to be individuals.

Hurricane Sandy was the most recent natural disaster to hit New York and HONY was quite involved in the recovery efforts. "Humans of New York" was used to help raise

money for people who had been affected, encourage volunteers to give their time to help clean up and rebuild the city, and assist the most needy victims. Stanton mentioned that he wanted to use the blog to share stories about survivors of Hurricane Sandy, and by doing this he hoped to raise awareness of the scope of the disaster and to help the people who had been greatly affected by it.

Brandon wishes to further influence younger generations with the "Humans of New York" blog. Stanton's long-term goal for HONY is to transform it into a global database and rename it Humans of the World. He encourages people to create their own version of HONY in other countries but refuses to promote their work on his websites until they show enough commitment and artistic vision. He even published a list of tips concerning his work, including parts on how to approach people and what to do when you are turned down.

As a result of his innovative ideas and hard work, Stanton's simple passion has become a worldwide sensation, which people admire.

In an interview with the New York Post he stated, "I just kind of hope that they provide a way for people to connect to the people that are passing them on the streets every day."

CELEBRITY CULTURE

Celebrity culture refers to the culture of popularizing famous people who have certain attributes that the society dreams of and wishes they could have. All famous athletes, actors, painters, singers, authors and dancers must have a unique aspect in order make a name for themselves in the celebrity-centric world. Celebrity culture seems to play a permanent role in today's society due to the impact celebrities have on our culture and the continuous influence they have over a great number of people simply by what they do, think, or dress like.

When Madame Tussaud opened her wax museum in 1835, it was a huge success, with people lining up just to look at wax figures of famous people. Although society has always been fascinated by the lives of the rich and famous, we have never been so inundated with an endless flow of information about the lives of celebrities. Magazines like People and US Weekly as well as TV shows like "Access Hollywood" and "Entertainment Tonight," along with blogs such as "Perez Hilton" are popular sources of celebrity gossip that our society consumes daily. In the magazine Psychology Today, author Carlin Flora claims that celebrities captivate people because of their affluence, attractiveness and achievement. The world of celebrities seems unrealistic in the eye of the average person – fancy beach houses, luxury cars, red carpet walks, private jets and high fashion are several of the many illustrious aspects of celebrity life.

We put them on pedestals, idolize them, follow their every move and treat them as modern gods but by observing their every move, we expose the humanity inside them, and then tear them down when they show that they are, in fact, normal human beings like the rest of us.



Celebrities are popular and known for doing something well, be it a talent or just great self-marketing. We are naturally attracted to celebrities who do things that we ourselves are interested in and wish to be good at. We admire and look up to celebrities for what they have achieved. However, we must be careful as to whom we view as inspirations, and we also have to be aware of the negative influence of celebrity culture. As celebrities are constantly in the media, they have become role models for adolescents and teenagers. Nowadays, celebrities are notorious for the malevolent ways they influence the modern youth. Innocent teens are now copying stars from reality shows just for the sake of having a chance at being on television shows or on the news. Young teenagers have been arrested for unethical behavior that ruins their lives because a star they idolize has done it. These events have raised a number of issues that are severe and have caused huge debates.

As images of celebrities appear in various forms of media, it is hard to ignore the pictures of people who are considered to have the ideal body. These figures influence the modern youth into striving to obtain such bodies; this type of influence can put a person's health in danger as this may instigate the development of eating disorders in attempt to lose weight. Celebrities are also able to manipulate our consumption behavior. We are more willing to spend our money on products that advertisers claim can help us achieve the physical perfection we see on T.V, billboards, or in magazines.

Another huge flaw in the celebrity culture based society we live in today is that the public, rather than focusing on people with incredible talents, tend to be more attracted to those who are willing to disrespect the ethical boundaries and are the most aggressive in self-promotion. As you see in reality TV shows such as "Jersey Shore" and "Big Brother" the actors will go above and beyond to get any attention, whether it be positive or negative.

As proven, celebrity culture is a structure that inspires those deemed celebrities. The media and paparazzi portray even the most innocent and kind celebrities in a negative light. Young kids are easily influenced by these celebrities, and when favorite idols turn to drugs, alcohol and sex, it is likely that these young followers may do the same. There will always be a celebrity to idolize, but a difference can be made if society changes its attitude and perspective towards celebrity culture.

FOOD CULTURE

"There is no love sincerer than the love of food" stated George Bernard Shaw. Food culture became a large part of social culture in the past few years, especially within the youth (students ages 14–30).-According to the YPulse Report, 67% of male students and 65% of female students enjoy cooking. This new appreciation may be partly a result of social media (Facebook, Twitter) and high resolution camera and smart-phones. Due to new technology, it is easier for the current generation to share thoughts and pictures of recent dining experiences they have had. Nowadays, it is very easy to have access to delicious, good quality food without going someplace fancy (as places of very "high class" don't really appeal to youth) or paying a hefty price.

The youth's newfound interest has spread across the world. When something is posted on a social network it has the ability to be seen and spread by people anywhere. There are also popular food-themed TV shows ("Top Chef", "Chopped", etc.) and YouTube videos that are watched worldwide. Today's social media has allowed for easier exposure to the food industry and has made food a hobby for urban youth.

The youth's food culture also has an important effect commercially and economically. Restaurants have increasingly become focused on the younger generation rather than just adults. Although young people tend to earn less than older workers, they are still the greatest percentage (42%) of people reported to be visiting casual-dining restaurants at least once a month. The youth are therefore very important for the food service industry of the economy. One recent article from the website "moneytalksnews.com" cites Sara Monnette, a research director at the food industry research group Technomic, who says, "Millennials are a critical consumer group to the foodservice industry, and finding ways to



market to them can be difficult because they have high and varied expectations."

The young generation represents the greatest percentage of restaurant-goers who choose a restaurant based on the healthiness of the menu. Eating healthy has become a significant factor in the lives of the younger population. Although food culture has expanded culinary knowledge amongst youth around the globe, it has most significantly affected their food choices, and this will most likely continue with them into adulthood. By paying more attention to their diet, students will advance their health and avoid health risks. In fact, students are aware of their weight, even during their years in high school (13% boys and 18% girls), and these numbers continue to rise with their transition to college (18% boys and 24% girls). The expense of eating healthy and organic is of course, much pricier – something that is an obstacle for students living off of loans and working part time jobs.

Money spent on food and eating out can be a problem financially for young people. In places like New York City, youth report spending about one quarter of their earnings on good meals and restaurants. This shows that eating good food is important to the youth. However, many among the younger population enjoy cooking for themselves even if they aren't very experienced cooks. Sixty-one percent of students cook for themselves and twenty-five percent also cook for their families.

Food, depending on the case, may or may not affect the youth's financial status.

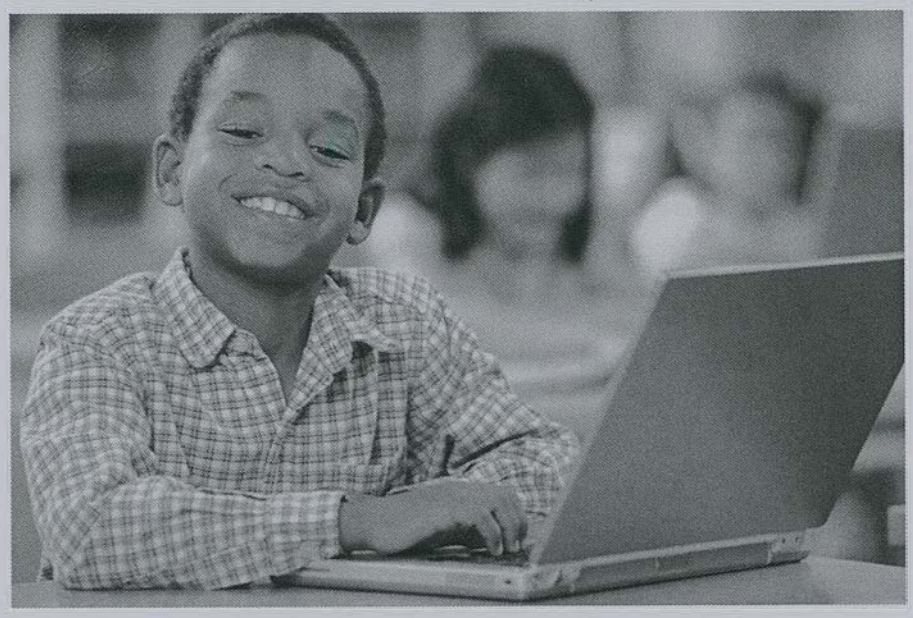
Young people's interest in food culture is also seen in the growing popularity of cooking schools that teach classes specifically for younger audiences. Many summer camps are not only beginning to serve refined meals prepared by chefs for the campers, but are also teaching the youth how to prepare their own meals. Many young people are looking towards being a chef and working in culinary arts as a profession; this has resulted in increased competition in top culinary schools.

Youth today are much more picky and health-conscious about food. This is seen as a positive change and will lead to stronger, healthier people who can live longer. The love of fine food is also something that can bring young people together from around the world. The youth's interest in high-quality food could also influence different food industries to produce healthier and organic food, rather than the unhealthy junk food. The interest in dining out in nice places will be very helpful to the foodservice economy around the world. Enjoying excellent food is a delicious experience that should always be a part of everyone's lives.

TECHNOLOGY AND EDUCATION

There have been dramatic improvements in computer technology in the lifestyles of many households, but their potential is just now being realized in the classroom. It is only recently that educational institutions have begun to embrace the complete benefits of computer technology in augmenting their curriculums. When used with the appropriate care and management, computer technology has an enormous and varied range of applications in education. Incorporating technology into school systems allows for a viral transfer of knowledge. This transfer can, in theory, create links between schools thousands of miles away, hospital operating rooms, and even archaeological excavation sites and a student's bedroom or classroom anywhere in the world.

When given access to vast



information, like those that have proliferated across the Internet, students can learn to be even more independent and resourceful. They can manage their learning resources in a more efficient manner by means of electronic textbooks and other important electronic documents, as well as conduct in-depth research due to increased speed and increased availability of quality research material. Online databases, for example, are widely endorsed and used by researchers and in some cases, pose an even better alternative to more conventional researching. Advancements in computer software have added an additional dynamic to the learning process, as seen most prominently in the tremendously useful and revolutionary Microsoft Office Software, which is ubiquitous in the realm of computer-mediated education. Improved computer software allows for more creative approaches to already existing, or newly created artistic endeavors. In the modern digital world, nearly all-artistic fields, from design to music, have significant computerized components that serve to enrich them.

Another vivid example of how technology has enhanced the educational process is through the concept of "playful learning". This approach/philosophy focuses on the tremendous upside of maximizing the joys and wonders of playful discovery and incorporating this into the educational process. Its advocates believe that it may make a far more effective contribution to education. Computer technology not only provides utility for students, but also has a whole array of benefits for all teachers, from elementary school teachers to college professors. Instead of pursuing antiquated methods, teachers now have the potential to create a more interesting, interactive learning experience. Computerized teaching resources have evolved to a point where teachers can continue their teaching outside of the classroom and are far less affected by time constraints. The ease of delivering learning materials, assignments, and in some cases, even examinations, has never been easier; not to mention the environmental implications, as all these features entail large cuts in paper and energy. Even that does not include the true potential of computerized education, as its true benefits lie in its accessibility via the Internet from any location in the world. In a rapidly globalizing world (which is, in itself, fueled by technological advancements), the propagation of culture, ideas, and knowledge across borders is crucial. Several decades ago, it would be inconceivable to have a class with students participating simultaneously from every part of the globe, but today, it is a reality, and one that is well regarded. Today, nearly everyone recognizes the value of bringing together the bright young minds of every corner of the world and allowing them to develop using cheaper, higher quality and more widely obtainable learning resources.

Technology has its advantages in education, and they are evidently numerous, but to truly appraise the value of such an important tool, one must be objective. Technology has to be used properly to be successful, but unfortunately it is quite easily misused. The freedom it offers is figuratively speaking, a double-edged sword. Responsible users can effectively use the freedom in learning it provides, but some users will have a tendency to engage in the more distracting features of computerized technology; this is most apparent in Internet use, which provides a plethora of distractions away from education. Furthermore, critics of this system make the argument that technology promotes superficiality in learning, not efficiency. Instead of substantiating their knowledge, students would much rather prefer to use technology to learn the bare minimum of what's required, usually a few key points, which leads to only a shallow understanding. This problem plagues subjects like history and literature, which involve large amounts of reading and understanding. Of course, one can make the counter-argument here that these issues are not directly related to technology itself, but rather its users (or abusers). The fact remains that computerized technology is a wonderful gift for education, when used to fulfill its proper purpose. It solely depends on its users to develop and modify it, in order for it to continue benefitting our education system.

VALUE OF MONEY

Young people, it seems, have begun to lose their sense of the value of money. As more young adults begin to take advantage of their parents' financial support, the motivation to create their own income is lost. Those who come from middle or upper class families are rarely denied small amounts of money to spend on things that seem trivial to us, such as video games or a spree at the mall. Since they are privileged enough to have a home, food and an education (among other things) in this day and age, they seem to forget about the important things. The younger generation is becoming more and more entitled, feeling the need to buy things that they don't necessarily need. As they tend to take money for granted,

once they leave the household, they are unable to manage after relying on their parents' money for so long. According to a survey on NBC's *Today Show*, six out of ten teens aged 13 to 18 know how to spend money however only four know how to balance a checkbook—this can be a problem if they are not tracking what they spend. They will eventually realize that the stream of money to their wallets does not flow endlessly.

As time has progressed, so have our perceptions. Most teens have little to almost no understanding of money, its values or its limits. Due the development of the first world, children from the middle and upper classes are not required to make money, buy their own groceries or contribute to paying for their education. In the twenty-first century, the modern perspective of money has evolved and is very different than the one of the previous generations. The value of money varies from one individual to another. For example, an individual who has spent time in an environment where money is scarce is more likely to understand the value of money. However, in a world where having money seems a natural part of a person, it is likely that they will not recognize and understand the plight of those for whom money is not a natural right.



Due to the recent economic downfall, an unfortunate number of students stay at home throughout their higher education years. The lack of jobs being offered after college encourages graduates to do the same. One of the main issues is that the middle and higher class youth do not feel pressured to leave their homes, and this leaves them unprepared to be financially independent. A recent study from *Time Magazine* shows that 85% of graduates move back in with their parents because unemployment rates are high, despite their diplomas. It seems that being jobless is what it takes to make them more aware of the value of money.

Due to the youth in the middle and upper class having rarely been under tight budgets, they naturally tend to spend money without considering the consequences. Both small businesses and international corporations benefit from the mindless spending of teenagers and young adults that are supported by parents. It has become increasingly difficult to raise teenagers in this day and age because of their exposure to today's materialistic society.

There are several things that pose a threat to the ability of youths' financial management. One of them is that their own parents appear unable to manage money themselves. Most important is the lack of financial education offered to today's youth. Only several states require high school seniors to complete a course in money management. These courses have proven effective. If adolescents learn how to manage their money, they would be able have a better perception of the value of money. Individuals will truly understand the difficulty that comes along with making money when they are forced to make their own. For these reasons, it is absolutely essential that people in our present day take the time to instill the worth and value of money in their children.

In order to improve on the youth's perception of money, perhaps schools should introduce mandatory economic classes in order to educate the youth financially. If the young generation had a stronger understanding of money, they would be able to make smarter decisions dealing with money. The lack of financial education has caused our generation to be ignorant in decision-making that can

affect our future. Not only is it important for students to study economics, but also for them to travel or educate themselves about the different societies and classes we have in our world today. It is of significant value to someone who is wealthy to be exposed to the lives of the people less fortunate than they are.

It is essential for the youth of all social classes to understand how to survive financially in a situation that is different from the one they were raised in. It not only gives them a better understanding of the world/of life, but it also helps them become aware of the state of their own wealth and its value.

STUDENT LOANS

According to Children's Right Portal and UNICEF, education is an inalienable right, and it must be accessible to all. It is safe to say that it is inhumane to refuse a child minimal education, not only in developing countries (where education is most desperately needed) but also in developed countries, such as the United States, Canada and England. The average student that graduated in the U.S. in 2011 has a student debt of $26,500. This is roughly a 5% increase from the previous year, and about two-thirds of the graduates that received a bachelor's degree graduated with loans. Student debt is now greater than credit card debt, and it is regarded as the biggest source of unsecured consumer debt. All of this is due to the fact that tuition is rising, and there are many factors contributing to this increase. Due to the economic crisis of 2008, total funding for higher education has decreased by about 15%, (New York State's public funding went down by about 8%). The problem of student debt today is due to the private student loans from banks and other non-governmental, private institutions. From 2000 to 2008, education loans became increasingly privatized, leading to a higher interest rate and less consumer protection, and eventually leading to debt. When students are lent money from private lenders, there is little that the government can do to protect them from the effects of economic volatility such as rising interest rates or falling credit ratings.

Student loans have lower interest periods and an average grace period of ten years following the graduation of the students. Loans such as the Perkins and Stafford loan offer a low-interest rate for students who desperately need financial support to succeed in their academic and life goals. If young ambitious students want to try and obtain self-



actualization, then we as a community must give them the chance to do so. According to a CBS news article, 10% of all college students borrow $39,300 or more for their graduate education. Two thirds of all college students graduate with substantial student debt. For many job requirements today, the minimum that is required is a bachelor's degree, and many jobs are starting to require a master's degree. The privatized field of student loans is now responsible for $150 billion dollars (out of $1 trillion total) of student debt in the United States, and in a world where college education is necessary to receive decent pay to live, it is difficult to avoid being a part of this debt. The companies that offer loans to students are also the ones that go after the money and make it difficult for the students to negotiate a repayment plan. Students who are fresh out of college are often unemployed, underemployed, or are dealing with financial hardship. Students

initially applying for student loans have limited credit history, making the interest rates very high. Even after they graduate and secure their credit profile, they are still not allowed to refinance their debts at a lower rate, thus making it difficult for them to repay their debts. Due to this, many students are forced to file bankruptcy, worsening their credit reports, despite how responsible they are with money.

In today's world, it is essential for individuals to have an educated workforce to be able to sustain a wealthy and functional economic system. Student loans are a great initiative, but the banks' motives in profiting are quite obvious. If there was a way for the students to pay off their loans without any interest, then this would drastically help the educational system not only in the U.S but globally.

The high interest rates of student loans have caused protests to erupt. A very notable protest that started last year (2011) in New York City was "Occupy Wall Street". Although the campaign wasn't specifically about student debt, many protesters were there for that particular reason. Smaller protest groups have emerged, including "Occupy Student Debt", which is a campaign to fight student debt. They stand to spread the message that once one million people have signed the petition, they will stop paying for their student loans. In other words, education is a right, and therefore they should not have to be unemployed and in debt because of it. They also state that all current debts should be written off, and that in the future, student loans shouldn't have any interests. Since loaning services are now privatized, it is difficult to remove the large interest rates that come with these loans. In the coming years, alleviating the burden of student debt will be a crucial step in fighting to create a better future for the current and upcoming generations in which they can take out better, smarter loans.

AFTERWORD

Over the past years we have been able to attack issues that plague our society by informing the masses through media and new initiatives. We continue to take action against detrimental trends in the environment and look to the future for potential solutions. All around the globe, the younger generation has risen up to protest and challenge traditional political institutions and policies. Moreover, grassroots humanitarian organizations have grown and become widespread thanks in part to individuals of our generation. These organizations have been largely successful in reaching out to many corners of the world and helping the impoverished, needy or unheard. New ideas and values have formed in the past few decades, changing the coming generations' perception on all matters social and cultural.

It is perceptible that in the world in which we live, change is inevitable. However, we have little to no control over the effects of the changes we encounter and even pioneer. In fact, some may view these generational changes as having more adverse effects than beneficial ones. For example, the months after the 'success' of the Egyptian Revolution have been shaky if not tumultuous. Many people, native and foreign, question whether the revolution was truly a great change in Egypt's politics or whether it was the destruction of a stable, albeit totalitarian, government. However, if we have no way of knowing the after effects, how can we know whether our own personal revolution of thought could be what sparks a change somewhere in the world? Maybe the change we pioneer in our own backyards could grow into a worldwide movement.

The largest, most amazing innovations all started with one personal and rudimentary idea. They all began in the heads of individuals as simple ideas; perhaps as questions or speculations on the way things are, and as decisions: decisions to change, fix, oppose, stop, or help something. If living in this world means dealing with constant change, how can an individual contribute to their own societies? How does one succeed in making this positive change? Today's generation will have to face some of the most important issues that need to be dealt with. We hope that the stories that you have read in this working paper inspire new perspectives and thought. The people who change the world are the people who see things a bit differently — "differently" in the sense that, instead of seeing things for what they are, they see things for what they could be.

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