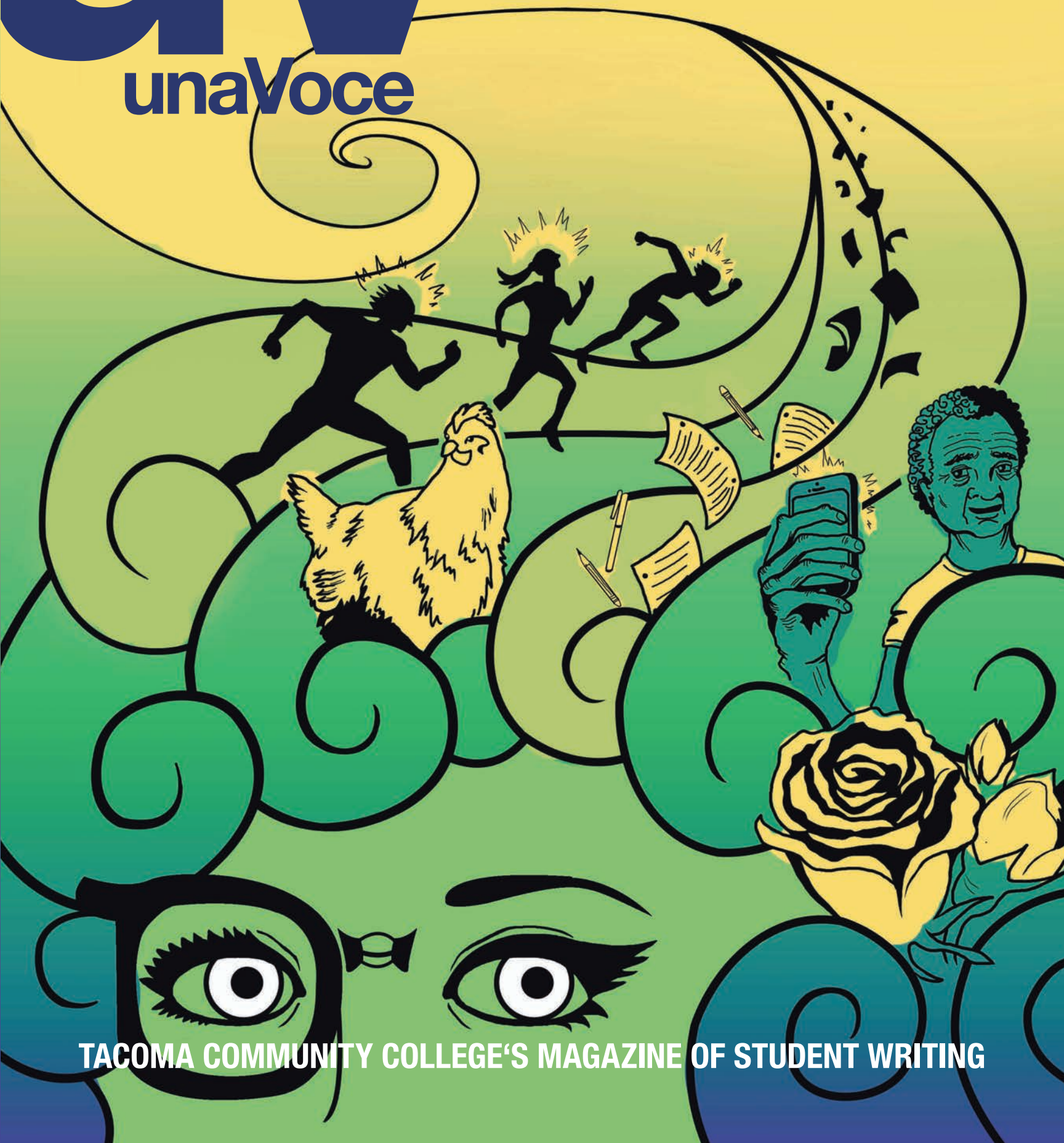


# UWV

unaVoce



TACOMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S MAGAZINE OF STUDENT WRITING



## *Un Día loco en Mi Vida*

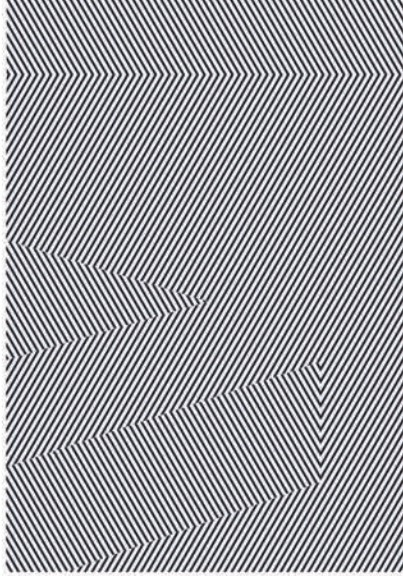
BY  
KELLI  
BUCK

## *A Crazy Day in My Life*

**H**oy, yo me despertaría y yo sería un perro. Primero, yo sorprendería mi hijo y nosotros caminaríamos a su escuela. Entonces, regresaría a mi casa pero yo escucharía a una persona – una persona necesitaría ayuda. Gritaría, “Yo estoy en camino!” Mi bufanda favorita tendría un poder especial y volaría a ayudar. Yo guardaría la persona y volaría a mi ciudad. Luego, decidiría descansar por una hora y miraría “101 Dalmatians.” Yo comería comida de la fiesta – el pavo y las papas. Luego, limpiaría la casa por mis humanos y cocinaría cena para mi hijo. Yo desearía ser una persona otra vez. Pero, saldría de la casa, pasearía y iría a la escuela de mi hijo. Los niños jugarían con mis orejas y amaría los niños. La noche llegaría, yo cerraría mis ojos y la mañana traería un cambio. Yo soy Kelli otra vez. Yo estaría muy contenta. ■

**T**oday, I would wake up and I would be a dog. First, I would surprise my son and we would walk to his school. Then, I would return home but I would hear a person—that person would need help. I would yell “I’m on my way!” My favorite scarf would have a special power and I would fly to help. I would rescue the person and would fly to my city. Later, I would decide to rest for an hour and watch “101 Dalmatians.” I would eat food from the party: turkey and potatoes. Later, I would clean the house for my humans and I would cook dinner for my son. I would wish to be a person again. But, I would leave the house, take a walk and go to my son’s school. The kids would play with my ears and I would love the kids. The night would arrive, I would close my eyes, and the morning would bring a change. I am Kelli again. I would be very happy. ■





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This edition of **Una Voce** celebrates the writing of 26 TCC students and two faculty members. We hope they inspire you to read carefully, think creatively, and write with confidence. We encourage all TCC students to submit to us good writing they have done for any of their classes. For more details, the first step is to contact us.

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**THANK YOU!**

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Tacoma Community College



The TCC Written and Oral  
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# uv

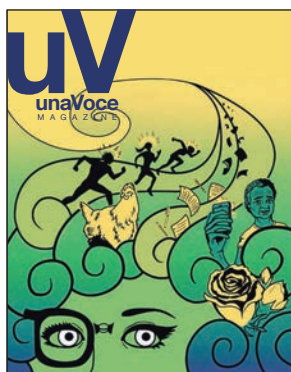


**letter from the editor**

**Una Voce** is Tacoma Community College’s annual magazine of student writing. Those of us lucky enough to be involved believe that strong reading, writing and thinking skills are fundamental to success in the classroom and, more importantly, in the big, chaotic and beautiful world that rattles and hums around our campus in West Tacoma. Our work is based on our view that learning to use words effectively is deeply satisfying, that everyone deserves the chance to practice and improve their writing skills. We also are convinced that reading the words of others helps all of us to write our own story and, in the words of Dr. Who, to “make it a good one.”



**Una Voce** authors from top left to right: Emily Cave, Bill Schwab, Nicole Kauer, Jeff Rock, Mackenzie Adix, Jessica Astin, Danielle Bourn, Adrian Brown, Brenda Kaplan, Allo David, Tommy Davis, Allie Delyanis, Timothy Duefrane, Christine Field, Figueroa Javier, Alex Flynn, Jacob Hitchinson, Kelly Buck, Andrea Jarmon, Deb Kinerk, Sorba Morgan, Diallo Josey, Seth Mulhausen, Amanda Quintana, Claudia Villa-Bautista, and Javier Wallace



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**submissions**

**Una Voce** strives to publish some of the strongest and most interesting writing being done by Tacoma Community College students and to share that writing with the community. We will begin accepting new submissions during the winter 2015 quarter. We accept work written for any TCC class. In fact, we encourage students to submit pieces from "writing" and "non-writing" classes. Our student editors select the pieces that will be published using a professional review process.

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# unaVoce

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# The Hurricane Within

BY CLAUDIA VILLA-BAUTISTA

**A**s the plane prepared to land, I heard the humdrum voice of the flight attendant say something along these lines, "Welcome to the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. We will be landing shortly, but, unfortunately, the current storm is generating some turbulence. Please remain in your seats." I didn't comprehend a single word she had muttered, so I turned to the closest thing to a translator in sight, my mother. Her tender eyes tried to reassure me that the water bullets bombarding the metal plane would surrender soon enough. Instead, her attempt had the opposite effect. Her eyes only reminded me that she had become the perfect reincarnation of one of the most important lessons I'd learned in my life, "It always rains the hardest on those who deserve the sun." Time and time again she had been forced to abandon everyone and everything she once loved. Including me. I'd spent almost my entire life away from the person whose voice cracked on the other side of the foreign phone line as she reminded me that she loved me. Then, her return only meant that I would spend the rest of my life missing those who had said those same words to me,

in Spanish. The immigrant's daughter was now an immigrant herself.

As we descended the plane, my mind and senses frantically tried to adjust to the alien surroundings. I caught a whiff of the pine-scented moisture in the air, heard the murmuring raindrops complain about the frigid sidewalk, saw the wind blow with a menacing intensity, and felt dread as I came to realize that my life would be soaked with confusion and angst from that point on. For some unknown reason, I too, didn't deserve the sun.

My eyes were two clouds heavy with teardrops. Now that they'd reached a higher altitude, they couldn't help but fall ceaselessly. If my tear supply had once been an ocean, it was now a vast, empty abyss. I could sense my mother's preoccupation as the drops flowed with the force of a flood down the land that was my face, but the moment my vision focused for an instant, I looked into her eyes. They were drowning in pain. That was another life changing moment; the moment I decided I wouldn't let the flood drown me. Instead, I would let the vital, clear liquid penetrate my skin and reside

inside me, so something entirely different would form within. I would become an unstoppable hurricane. I would dedicate my life to bringing as much sunshine as I could to those who had only known rain.

Only six years ago, I couldn't speak, read, or write a single English word. Yet, while I absorbed the acid drops of prejudice and discouragement that touched my unprotected skin, the relentless hurricane raging inside me purified them into resiliency and ambition. There were times when the sun refused to shine, like when I couldn't find ways to communicate or when I couldn't relate to my classmates' experiences. In fact, I oftentimes felt as if I was living in a world with complete strangers, and as much as it saddened me, one of them was my own mother. My experience was just one of the storms I had to face in order to become a fearless force of nature. Now, I'm applying to the best universities in the state, still in search of those clouded skies of opportunity. I was, and am, convinced that if I absorb every single drop, I will emit a graceful radiance on the outside that will shine like the sun for everyone else around me. ■



# the Writing Process



BY SAMANTHA KIMMEL

**W**hen writing, editing, and revising, I have two ways that I go about it that work best for me. It starts with a topic, either something I come up with or assigned.

The next step is the most fun for me, brainstorming. Here, I get out a blank sheet of paper and write the topic at the top as a reminder of what I'm focusing on. I write out everything that has any relation what so ever to the idea at hand. I enjoy this because it's just anything that crosses my mind. This stage is not read by anyone, so it doesn't require neatness, and I must admit I'm not a tidy person. It's also simple, and straightforward.

This done, my least favorite step follows: outlining. I have found that this is very necessary, and it doesn't matter how little I enjoy it. I've observed that the few times I don't do outlines, I tend to get lower grades. The way I go about outlining my thoughts is by placing my brainstorm sheet on a table to my left, with a blank piece on my right. I then pick through it and neatly write my thoughts in condensed or abbreviated sentences, going in order of importance, on the right hand sheet. Any seemingly random or meaningless items go to the left of the blank sheet, and the even less meaningful get eliminated. I put them there as side thoughts, in case I need space fillers, tie ins, transition ideas, or I may develop them into new concepts and examples later on.

The rest is fairly simple. Having finished that detestable bit of outlining, writing the rough draft goes quite easily. All I need to do is connect my outline with complete sentences that effortlessly form into paragraphs. It's so

simple that I find that the pen almost seems to move itself. That part is likely as fun as brainstorming, seeing as I have a specific course laid out for me. Though I may not like organizing, I do appreciate direct instructions. Now with the draft in order, I read through, revising obvious missing words and sentences.

From there, editing and the real revising come into play. I prefer to kill two birds with one stone, reading the paper to myself to check for flow and clarify while also picking through for grammatical errors. I like to go a paragraph at a time, with a colored marker, reading it several times and making editing marks. I picked up a few short cuts in a Rod and Staff English book a year or two ago that are really handy. I don't actually fix anything; I just make obvious symbols that will be easy to see when I type up the final draft. I forget the official names of any of them, just what I like to refer to them as. My squiggle-loop is a wavy line that I run through either a word or a sentence with a loop at the end, telling me to delete that section. Then of course the carrot top, an upside down V for punctuation insert, right side up V for word insert. Another is just circling a word with SP written near it, meaning that I need to spell check. I find these useful because I don't have to take time to stop and fix errors; I simply mark and move on. Once this last task is complete, I type it up either to be printed or sent in to an instructor.

I understand that this method does not work for everyone, but it is the one that works best for me, and the one that I find gets me the best grades. ■

# *Eleanor of Aquitaine* : A WOMAN OF INFLUENCE

BY JESSICA ASTIN

Everybody has heard of the tale of Robin Hood, the outlaw who, with his band of Merry Men, thwarts the plans of the wicked Sheriff of Nottingham and his cohort, the usurper Prince John, saving the throne for King Richard the Lionheart. While Robin Hood may be a figure of legend, the Prince John and King Richard were very much real, as was the struggle over the throne of England. However, instead of a noble outlaw standing up against an usurper, it was, in fact, their mother, Eleanor of Aquitaine, who protected Richard's throne from his brother's schemes. This would not be the first time that Eleanor would find herself in the middle of important events. Throughout her life, Eleanor of Aquitaine was always not only in the thick of things, she was actively involved in shaping and changing them, whether it was in her first marriage to Louis VII, in her role in the second Crusade, the dissolving of her marriage, her second marriage to Henry II, the rebellion of her sons, the rule of Richard, or the rule of John. No matter the situation, Eleanor proved that she was a woman to be reckoned with.

Eleanor's life did not begin with fanfare; historians are not even sure what year she was born, though most estimate it to be 1122 AD. She was the first of three children born to William X, Duke of Aquitaine, and Aenor, from who she got her name, which means "the other Aenor." Aquitaine was an area south of France, at the time larger than France itself, and it was known for having a culture of liveliness, wit, and was the home of the troubadour, "a type of poet in medieval France." It was in this atmosphere that Eleanor was brought up and educated, giving her a lifelong appreciation of the arts. However, her childhood wasn't all idyllic, as when she was still quite young, her brother and her mother passed away, leaving her and her sister Petronilla largely ignored by their father, who was wrapped up in his own problems. The passing of her brother had more than emotional ramifications, though, as with her father's male heir dead, she, as the eldest female, was now the next in line to inherit everything once he died. When her father did pass away in 1137, Eleanor was only fifteen years old, and found herself as "the wealthiest heiress in Western Europe." As a royal orphan, she became the responsibility of the king of France, Louis VI, who quickly decided to marry her off to his son, the future King Louis VII, in order to add her lands and wealth to the French empire. They were wed on July 25, 1137, and the very next month, Louis VI died, leaving Eleanor's husband to be king. So, over the course of one year, Eleanor found herself orphaned, an heiress, married, and then Queen of France, all before the age of sixteen. Eleanor's influence would start to spread almost immediately.

Eleanor's marriage and subsequent move to Paris came as a culture shock. While Aquitaine, her home duchy, was a cultured place which valued the arts, Paris was a much more austere city. To Eleanor, "Paris was still a primitive, almost barbaric state," and that was something that she would have to change. As queen, she brought in much of the culture which she so enjoyed, from troubadours and the culture of courtly love, to finer foods and fashions. In fact, this output of culture may be her greatest accomplishment as queen of France, as "we cannot overestimate the personal influence Eleanor had on the evolution of northern mores during this twelfth-century era when France was a kingdom only in theory and was still in search of its personality." In short, Eleanor shaped the culture of France and through it, its very identity, making it into a center of culture that would be legendary for centuries to come. However, it wasn't

only Paris which Eleanor deemed to be stodgy. Her young husband, Louis VII, was a disappointment to her. While Eleanor was vibrant, cultured, and beautiful, Louis VII was intensely religious and easily led, causing Eleanor to lament that she had not married a king, but a monk. Nonetheless, Eleanor could use his lack of leadership to her advantage, and did, persuading him to influence the church in order to grant an annulment to her sister Petronille's married lover. Such a move did not endear her to many of the king's powerful advisors, especially Abbot Suger and Bernard of Clairvaux, the latter of which telling her that she would not have a child until she patched things up with the church. In fact, after she settled her affairs with the church, she gave birth to her first daughter, Marie, in 1147. Hardly two years later, though, Eleanor would leave her child behind and ride off with her husband in order to join the Second Crusade.

For the deeply religious Louis VII, joining the Second Crusade was a simple matter of doing God's work. For Eleanor, it had to be more than that. Not only did she recruit her vassals to ride to battle and raise money to support them, she also set out on the Crusade with them, along with hundreds of women she brought along with her. Why Eleanor became the first queen to go on a crusade is debatable. While Herman and Kramer argue that it was Eleanor's decision to join her husband on the crusade, Markale states that it was the king's decision to bring his wife, in order to make sure her vassals stayed in line. Either way, once Eleanor was involved with the crusade, she threw the whole of herself into it. She was not content to sit back and let her husband take control. Although the rumors of Eleanor and her women riding horseback, dressed as Amazons, is likely false, Eleanor did have men to control, men she recruited from the duchies which she brought with her to her marriage. After she and her husband met up with her uncle, Raymond, who ruled Antioch, she had reason to use them. Eleanor was very taken with her uncle, who cut a much more masculine figure than her husband, and was very commanding. It was widely rumored that they had an incestual affair, a rumor that made Louis VII jealous. However, it was Eleanor's defiant wish to have her men fight with Raymond's men, rather than follow Louis VII's (ultimately disastrous) plan, that drove her husband over the edge, and he had her forcibly removed from Raymond's residence. As a result of their arguments, it was there the idea of annulling their marriage because of consanguinity, being too closely related by blood, was brought up. It was not acted upon at that time, as, after they visited Jerusalem and were soundly defeated on the battlefields of Damascus, they visited the pope in Rome, who counseled them to work on their marriage and told them that they were not so closely related that the church would condemn their relationship. Despite that, when they came back to France in 1149, their troubles were far from over.

Even though Eleanor and Louis VII were away from the battlefield, it did not make their relationship any less tumultuous. The birth of another daughter, Alix, born in 1150 did nothing to help the relationship. In the summer of 1151, Geoffrey and Henry Plantagenet, a father and son who had claim to the throne of England, visited the French royals. It is alleged that it was then that Eleanor decided to have her marriage annulled once and for all, and to marry Henry, who was handsome and young and everything that Louis VII was not. It was not until March 21, 1152, though, that the marriage between Louis VII and Eleanor was annulled, on the grounds of consanguinity. This was ideal for Eleanor, as an annulment meant that she could



keep her lands, lands that would have been taken by Louis VII had they divorced instead. The two daughters they shared went to Louis VII, as was the custom of the era. Also customary during the time period would be for a woman such as Eleanor to ask permission of the king before remarrying, but this Eleanor and Henry did not do, instead marrying in secret two months after the annulment without the king's consent. This enraged Louis VII, who certainly would not have permitted Henry, a contender for the throne of England and thus a politic rival, to marry Eleanor, who had considerable lands and wealth. The French king attacked one of their holdings, but was rebuffed by Henry and forced into a truce. A scant two years later and King Stephen of England died, leaving Henry to take the throne as King Henry II. At the age of thirty-two, Eleanor was once again queen, this time of England, and she showed no signs of slowing down.

By the time Eleanor was crowned queen, she had already produced the one thing she had never managed to do while married to Louis VII – a male heir. Over the course of thirteen years, she bore Henry II ten children, five of them sons, and all but one of them surviving childhood. Among the bunch were two future queens and three future queens. However, Eleanor was not the type of woman to let having children slow her down. Instead, she participated fully in the affairs of the state, acting as an emissary for Henry II, going to troubled areas when the king could not, and ruling over England while he was abroad. When she was not delving into matters of the state, she was introducing her beloved troubadour culture as well as imported items not only from Aquitaine, but from places that she travelled in during the crusades. As were most rulers at the time, Eleanor was generous with the Catholic Church, funding and founding much for its work. From most descriptions, it seemed like Eleanor's marriage to Henry II started out well. Unfortunately, some of the qualities that attracted Eleanor to Henry II – his masculine charm, decisiveness, and drive – did not translate into making him a good husband. In 1168, only a couple years after giving birth to their final child, John, Eleanor returned to her home of Aquitaine; her mission was to quell a rebellion, but after she successfully stopped it, she stayed, once more making her home a center of liveliness and culture. With her were most of her children with Henry II, and like any good mother, she was devoted to their best interests. It just so happened that they believed their best interests conflicted with the best interests of their father.

The plotting began in the 1170s, though sources vary on Eleanor's involvement. That she sided with her sons while they schemed to take power is beyond doubt; what is unsure is her influence. Markale claims that Eleanor planned to make her sons turn against their father in some sort of revenge plot against him, but not one based on a singular affair. Most other sources state that she supported and helped plot against their father, but say nothing of her instigating the rebellion. Either way, Eleanor played an important role, seeking the support of her former husband, Louis VII, to seize power from her current husband. Her sons each had their own goals; her oldest, Henry, had already been crowned in the French tradition, thanks to her, and wanted to hold the power that came with the crown; Richard, who would later be called Lionhearted, could be able to rule Aquitaine, his mother's domain, and Geoffrey could also gain power. Out of all of Eleanor's sons, only John was not included, as he was too young. Henry II heard rumors of the treachery and acted once he was able to see that the rumors were true. However, he was able to quell the rebellions and the armies of Louis and Eleanor, with the help of mercenaries, which was not a common practice at the time. Eleanor was captured and imprisoned, only let out occasionally, like for her daughter Joanna's wedding. It appeared like Eleanor's influence was over, but it was too soon to count her out.

Eleanor did not have her freedom back until the death of Henry II, which occurred on July 6, 1189. She had been a captive for well over a decade, but at sixty-seven, was still full of energy and cunning. Her eldest son, Henry, had died before his father, leaving Richard as the heir to the throne, a fact that was pleasing to Eleanor, as Richard was always her favorite son. He thought very highly of her as well, as one of his first acts was to send someone off to free her. Eleanor repaid him by rallying the nobles, getting them to pledge allegiance, and preparing her son's grand coronation. But Richard was not to be in his new kingdom for long, as the Third Crusade was formed, and he, along with the king of France, who by that point was Louis VII's son, Phillip II, charged into battle. Eleanor was left to rule England in his stead. By this point, Eleanor only had two remaining sons, one being Richard and the other her youngest, John. While Richard was known as the Lionheart for his bravery and nobility, John had a less savory reputation, being violent and unpredictable. While Richard was out on the crusade, John tried to take the throne, aided by Phillip II of France, who had come back from the crusade early. Both times, Eleanor rebuffed her youngest son and kept the throne safe for Richard. Unfortunately for Richard, not all of his enemies could be fought off by his mother, but some could be bought off. While on his way back from the crusades, he was captured by the German emperor, Henry VI, and held for ransom. The Church, which was to protect its crusaders, did nothing against the captors, a supposedly Catholic nation. It was up to Eleanor, now in her seventies, to single-handedly raise the ransom money while keeping the kingdom running, a task complicated by John's people attempting to divert the money away from Richard. Eleanor's steel will succeeded, and she personally accompanied the money and took Richard home. Almost more impressively, she was able to get her sons to reconcile. Deserving of a rest, Eleanor took a well-earned retirement, one that lasted only a few years, stopped by the news of Richard's mortal wound in 1199. Like any good mother, she rushed to his side, and was there in his final moments. Now she had another task – to settle her last son, John as king.

John was never Eleanor's favorite child, and she had stopped him from rebelling several times, but as Richard was dead and left no heir, John it would be. However, there were those that disagreed. One of his older, deceased brothers had left an heir, and many thought that he, Arthur, should be king. Eleanor was not one of them, possibly because Arthur had been raised in the French court and thus would be easily swayed by the French. Either way, she rallied to support John and the kingdom, even planning a favorable match for her granddaughter, Blanche, in the French court. Unfortunately, Eleanor could not make a good king out of her son, whose callous ways made bad situations worse, and war broke out. Arthur, her own grandson, laid siege on his eighty-year-old grandmother's castle, only being stopped by John, who killed his rival. After that event, Eleanor was more than willing to take a permanent retirement, and died a couple of years later on April 1, 1204, outliving all but two of her ten children.

Eleanor of Aquitaine lived an extraordinary life by any standard, but especially for a woman of her time. It was a world where men ruled, and yet, she didn't allow herself to be ruled. With her intelligence, charm, and cunning, Eleanor was able to change her fate and the world – she maneuvered herself out of an unhappy marriage, refused to let anyone keep her down, and in the process, brought France its sense of culture, spread the idea of courtly love, fought for her kingdom, whichever it may have been, fought for her children, and for herself. There is no doubt that she would have been a success in any era, and she deserves more mention than a throwaway line in a story. Eleanor of Aquitaine was a hero for England, and for history. ■



**O**n September 11, 2001, the United States became a victim of terrorism to the fullest. The suicide/murder plots carried out by al-Qaeda terrorists, became the most horrific acts of terrorism in the United States history, killing thousands over four states and touching every American and shocking the world. One of the sites of this debacle was the World Trade Center where two hi-

Teams of rescuers came from all over the United States to help with the search and rescue efforts in the first few days following this catastrophe while other teams came to relieve the exhausted first response teams to start the retrieval and clean-up process. A canine search and rescue team from Lakewood, WA, would report to duty at the Twin Towers six days after 9/11. Kent Olson and Thunder

pups had curled up to take a nap, but not Thunder—he still wanted to play. Kent knew at that moment this was his next search and rescue dog. Kent started training Thunder with such commands as the basic obedience training young pups go through. Once Thunder mastered those commands, Kent then started introducing him into the training to be a search and rescue dog. As a member of the Northwest Disaster Search Dogs (NDSD) Team, a non-profit organization, Kent had next started acquainting Thunder with the agility lessons he would need to learn in order to start training on the “pile”, the rubble used to simulate a rescue site. Thunder would have to learn to climb a ladder, to go over rickety debris, and even teeter-totters. These valuable lessons would teach Thunder the ability to scale objects without getting hurt at Ground Zero years later. Thunder trained for three years before he became Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) certified.

become certified through FEMA. There are two levels of rigorous certification simulations. The basic certification each canine must go through consist of a series of tests which shows the dog is obedient and has agility skill knowledge along with barking proficiency to notify the handler when a victim is pinpointed during a simulated drill. The animal must also show that he or she is not fearful of dark places or unsecured items with the direction of the handler. The handler must show control over the dog through voice and hand signals, a vital part in keeping their animal safe. The handler must also be certified through written and oral testing in relation to search and rescue procedures. This includes site briefing, debriefing from the person in charge of the area to be searched and canine handling skills to make sure the animal is safe during and after a search. The advanced certification includes more stringent simulations which can include actually trying to trick the dog into false alerting their handler. This can be done by hiding a cat or even steak in places to deter the dog from finding the victim they are searching for. If the canine false alerts, they will be disqualified from receiving their certificate. Canine teams must be certified every two years to be able to aid in a search and rescue operation.

# THUNDER AT GROUND ZERO

jackd commercial airlines were flown into the Twin Towers in New York City. The first flight hit the North Tower around the 80th floor at 8:46 a.m., with the second flight hitting the South Tower at 9:03 a.m. With all the fuel and structural damage caused from the two planes, it took less than two hours for the towers to collapse taking with them thousands of lives and accumulating well over one million tons of wreckage over 16 acres. There were thousands of rescue workers that came to scour the area, at first in search of survivors, later for retrieval of the dead. With the collapse of the towers, thousands more Americans would step up to the plate to see if they could rescue even just one person from the rubble.

formed one of four canine and handler pairs that came with a Washington team. This would be their first out-of-state work site after years of training together; however, it would also mean the Lakewood team would not be going in for rescue but for retrieval of the lost. This team would help fellow Americans by finding the remains of their loved ones in order to say good bye. In all types of disaster situations, Canine Search and Rescue Teams, such as Thunder and Kent, follow intensive training and certifications to provide assistance and were instrumental in the 9/11 search, rescue and retrieval missions at Ground Zero.

FEMA organized the response teams for the search, rescue and retrieval at the 9/11 disaster. FEMA is the government organization that handles both human and canine search and rescue units for the United States. Their mission is to supply support to Americans and search and rescue (SAR) teams to make sure that as a country we are ready and able to develop, defend, react, restore and lessen any and all peril. It is FEMA's responsibility to organize the SAR teams that will be responders to a disaster. FEMA must make sure that all teams are certified with the knowledge that will help them perform the task at hand. FEMA holds certification skill testing approximately every six months in different areas around the country.

At Ground Zero the teams would be assigned a certain pile to search before moving on to the next area. Once assigned a pile, the job of the dog is to go out on the pile and find the scent that indicates a person is buried within the rubble or that the pile is clear. Once one dog has alerted on a pile, another dog is brought in to confirm. This is achieved by factors of wind, location from which the dog starts and the dog's sense of smell. A dog's sense of smell is 10,000 to 100,000 times that of a human. The handler wants to set the dog

Image 1 displays dusty, dirty workers with a dog resting among rubble. The workers are wearing protective gear, which includes a white hard hat complete with a head lamp and knee pads. The dog, a Golden Retriever, is lying at the feet of the worker to the forefront.

It is important for teams to connect and work well together from the time the pup leaves the litter through the full training process to certification. Thunder and Kent Olson met in Coeur d'Alene, ID, in July of 1997. Thunder was a pup in a litter of five Golden Retrievers. Kent remembers Thunder as being the most lively of the bunch, as just 20 minutes into the visit four of the five

In order for a canine team to participate in a search and rescue operation they must



going into the wind so that the wind brings the scent of the person to the dog. The dog then begins eliminating other scents by "making them", putting the person with the smell. Keith Taylor, Assistant Fire Chief of the Port of Seattle Fire Department, compared this to how a human would eliminate color. If a human were looking for a pink box and they saw a green, blue and purple box, their eyes would continue moving until they found the pink box. A dog works in the same manner only using its sense of smell. They can eliminate all other unique human smells on the pile and continue looking for the person the search dog cannot identify until the dog locates the strongest point of where that particular hidden scent is coming from. Once that strongest point of the scent is located, the dog will alert its handler by repetitive barking until they receive the reward of play from the handler. Finding victims is simply a game to the dogs, but can be life or death to the victim.

The teams that were called out to Ground Zero were trained and advanced certified by FEMA. Thunder trained alongside Kent for about three years before they became an advanced certified team. Thunder and Kent stayed close to home doing search and rescue operations prior to being called to Ground Zero. This included working the King Dome implosion and river search and rescue operations. During the implosion of the King Dome, Thunder and his team mates from the NDSD were stationed at different points of the Dome for precautionary purposes. After they imploded the Dome, the NDSD used the site for more extensive training of the canines from their organization. Through this type of donation, the use of property, the teams are able to practice and simulate to improve on their skills in a different realistic environment

while not enacting the exact replica of Ground Zero, it helped them to adapt in a more stressful situation like the Twin Towers.

With the well trained sense of smell, these animals can pinpoint things from cadaver parts to victims in a disaster, much like what Thunder and Kent did during their time at the World Trade Center after 9/11. Kent recalled one find that Thunder alerted on at the Twin Towers. Once Thunder alerted retrieval equipment and workers were brought in and about 40 feet below where Thunder alerted, a fire engine was found and in that fire engine, the remains of five fire fighters were retrieved for a proper burial and closure to their families. Kent realized that when Thunder alerted, that while it would not be a joyous celebration of life found, it would still mean closure for loved ones. Without these search and rescue canine teams, many more Americans would not be able to put closure to what happen to their loved ones on that dismal day.

When Kent and Thunder arrived at Ground Zero, they found that the teams that had been on site for six days were tired and many of the canines were depressed. Kent stated that the dogs were not having many finds of what they trained to work towards and with the push to search as much ground as possible with the hopes of finding as many survivors during those six previous days, they pushed on rather than realizing the effect it would have on the teams. When the Lakewood, WA team showed up, they would start to stage finds for the dogs during breaks so that the pups would have success, therefore taking care of the dogs' emotional needs. This helped these animals to stay on a more positive note.

After these teams arrived back to their home states, the government had the canine and handler go through

annual testing to check of the long term effects of the toxins that were found at Ground Zero. Many of the handlers are still going through testing, while many of the dogs have passed away, some from old age and some from causes their handlers question. In December of 2005, Thunder Olson passed away at the age of 9 ½ years old, while not young in dog years; still before his time as a lot of canines live to be 12 years or longer. It was determined that Thunder passed away from pancreatic cancer, and while not certain it was from the toxins that this team came in contact with at Ground Zero, Kent wonders. Kent misses Thunder; however he now has two dogs, one Thunder's son, Chase, a Golden Retriever, who is now 9 ½ years old and is still an active search and rescue dog and Guinness, a 16-month old Golden Retriever, who is being trained up to be a search and rescue dog. So Thunder's legacy moves on through Chase and Guinness, as they continue their search and rescue training and work, so that they can be ready at a minute's notice to help Americans in a time of need. While the United States hopes never to go through another ordeal like 9/11, they continue the cycle to train and certify these canines to be ready to serve at a moment's notice.

When I found the image of Thunder among the disaster photos of the Twin Towers, I thought what a neat dog and I wondered what he was doing to help at the 9/11 site. While on an internet search, I found out that this cute pup was from my own backyard—immediately holding my attention. Knowing that one team from the 9/11 debacle came from the Northwest traveling more than 3,000 miles to help unknown Americans touched my heart, and secured the focus of my paper.

I was invited to view the basic certification process

supervised by FEMA which encompassed what the canine team goes through to become certified; it was not only thrilling but enlightening. It was amazing to watch the dogs run the agility test and search the pile. At one point, one of the dogs came to the edge of the pile and looked over the spectators and you could see him accounting for each person through smell. There were a couple of people sitting down low where the dog could not see them over the hill, and dog started to open his mouth to bark and then closed it, still peering over at the hill where we were. The spectators were asked to stand. Once the dog was able to eliminate the distracting people scents and focused on his target scent, he turned and continued working the pile. It was interesting to see that process in action.

When dealing with all the different types of disaster situations, from weather induced to man-made, it is good to know that Americans can count on the many volunteers around the US that make up the FEMA certified canine teams that go out and help find lost victims. The time that these teams put into these processes to learn, test and execute to participate in these operations is astronomical. They must pass all of the exams for the FEMA certification which includes pile work, obedience and agility testing through finding "victims" within scraps and slabs of concrete, plywood and barrels through the keen sense of smell that the canines possess. It is through this intense training and certification that canine teams are able to go out and help the victims of disasters such as 9/11. ■

BY  
CHRISTINE  
FIELD



# Finishing Balance at the Heart of a Bukowski Poem

In his poem “How is Your Heart?” Charles Bukowski examines how the proper worldview can be a necessity when dealing with the ups and (more often) downs of life. While he was alive, Bukowski was well-known for infusing his lifestyle into his poetry; he was an alcoholic; he regularly played the horses, he drifted from one cheap hotel room to the next, and he had more than his fair share of bad luck. While many of Bukowski’s poems tend to stem from and be propelled by the situations and events created within the hazardous lifestyle the author led, this poem is important because, through word placement, pace, and line breaks, Bukowski is able to successfully illustrate his own functional way of working through these topics.

The author sets the stage for this poem in his very first line, which reads “during my worst times.” Because we see the word “my” we know that Bukowski is taking ownership of the poem within these first few words. These were not just bad streaks; by the author’s own account they were the absolute worst times. It would not be too farfetched then, to think the illustrations specifically listed directly afterwards were instances which the author is not proud of or fond of reminiscing about. Going on, Bukowski relates how he had to sleep “on the park benches / in the jails” and that he “[lived] with whores.” This man had surely seen some bad times within his life, maybe more than others, but here he lists a few highlights for the reader to acknowledge – “park benches... jails... living with / whores;” examples which are meant to ensnare the reader with their boldness. While

none are elaborated upon for shock value, a reader may also notice how these places, none of which sit upon the same line as another due to methodical spacing, are also bold in the smooth, easy acknowledgment they are individually divulged with. This setup certainly makes this Bukowski’s poem to tell.

After giving examples of the “worst times,” the author arrives at an important connection by describing the way his outlook persisted through these periods. Bukowski talks about “always [having] this certain / contentment” and it emanates from a part of the author himself because it indicates that both he and his contentment have been there the whole time. We, as readers, do not know when he started having this peace of mind, just as we do not know when the “worst times” started (or their duration for that matter), but Bukowski’s use of “always had” is there to claim this outlook was there the entire time – from the beginning until now. He goes on to say that this was not a true happiness, but “more of an inner / balance,” the last part of which he carefully separates out onto a line all to itself to put emphasis on the word balance. This word can conjure up images of trying to balance on difficult subjects (which of course Bukowski’s worst times surely were), but, to be more in tune with the author’s meaning, it can also be taken as stillness or steadiness: balance such as maintaining stability and solidarity in light of the proverbial whirlwind of these difficult situations.

The author goes on to declare that this mindset helped during other bad

times, but he begins the transition into these with the word “and,” which the author likely uses to segregate them from being part of the “worst times.” If Bukowski’s work were simplified and linked together it would read something like “there are the worst times... and there are these other bad times.” While the factory jobs and bad relationships discussed next may be unpleasant in their own right to Bukowski, he does not view them to be as terrible as being in jail or living with whores. Also, when looking at this next list of bad things, we see that the author uses a few line breaks to space out his mention of “when relationships / went wrong / with the / girls,” which may be methodical and symbolize that the relationships themselves took a long time to end when they went bad. A reader may also notice how the author’s work would have still made sense had he left it as “when relationships / went wrong,” but Bukowski really draws it out and extends this part almost unnecessarily (possibly another reference to relationships). These lines do not seem separate, however, because the author uses the alliteration of the w-sound (“went wrong with”) to keep them bonded together.

Bukowski continues to list times where his “inner / balance” helped him, citing “the / wars and the / hangovers.” The fact that the author uses the word “and” within this line is significant because it links wars and hangovers together, whereas the next lines about backalley (intentionally forced together, possibly for an intentional dirty, confrontational sound) fights and hospitals, while certainly sounding like they go hand-in-hand, are not linked in this way.



Bukowski was never an enlisted man, so the “wars” he is referring to in this poem may, in fact, be referencing the nights he spent in drunken arguments and the fights he would frequently have with his female companions during those nights. This is also likely a use of symbolism because of the “and” connection to hangovers in the next line, which Bukowski would have likely suffered the next morning.

The preceding lines have all been about the bad times the author’s observant resolve had gotten him through, but the next lines do not seem to be so daunting. “The craziest kind of / contentment” Bukowski had was when, after waking up in “a cheap room / in a strange city,” he pulled up the shade to reveal the world outside. The author, as with many poets, would travel to numerous locations to do readings of his poetry, which matches well with his use of the phrase “strange city,” as in unfamiliar or different. If this was the case he may also have found this crazy type of contentment because he was not working in a factory or sitting in a jail – as Bukowski states in some of the poem’s first lines, his inner balance “settled for / whatever was occurring,” which would be a strange stance to take towards possible triumphs or happiness: settling for success or settling for pleasure.

After hearing, at length, about how the author filters the outside world, a reader can catch a glimpse into how the author describes himself during the next lines in which Bukowski “[walks] across the floor / to an old dresser with a / cracked mirror.” At the time of writing

this poem, the author’s face was pock-marked and unappealing. It is easy; therefore, to see how the adjectives used in these lines – the “old dresser” and the “cracked mirror” – could in fact be a representation of how the author perceives his countenance and, likely, himself as a person. He even comes out and says that he is “ugly” in the next line, but (much more importantly) he also sees himself “grinning at it all,” passing contently through his life in light of these things. The author uses this line to explain how, even in good times, he continues to use his own inner balance to keep himself afloat.

While rife with examples of the author’s ability to maintain a solid state of mind both during tumultuous events and the weathering persistence of everyday life, this poem is also geared towards investment from the audience. This becomes evident when we refer back to the title, “How is your Heart?” This can be viewed as a question to the audience which uses connotation to reach out, turning the reader’s attention back onto themselves so they wonder to what, because of the many implications of the word heart, the author is really referencing. This can also be seen as a health-related question, such as the kind you would typically ask an elderly or sickly person – how’s your heart? This type of question shows compassion and interest on the author’s behalf towards his audience regardless of the specificity of its meaning and, like the rest of the poem, it contains a similar calmness that makes it completely void of any intrusiveness.

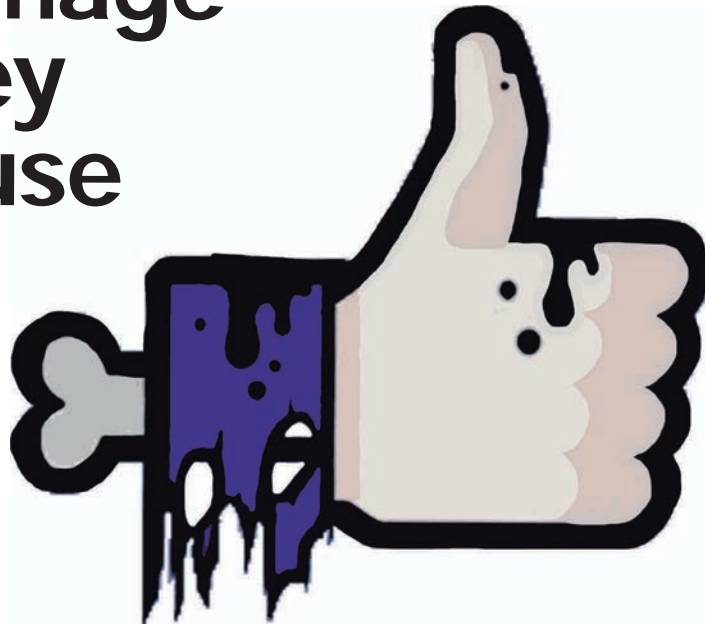
The author closes with lines that read almost like a phrase – “what matters

most is / how well you / walk through the / fire.” These lines come slow, which the author probably does to really let their weight settle on the reader, giving them time to contemplate what they have read. The poem seems to be a window into how Bukowski deals with his life and, after seeing how he continually maintains his “inner / balance” and then reading this parting phrase (which uses “you” to turn the emphasis back towards the audience), the reader cannot help but reflect and consider what tools of the personality are used to deal with the “fire” in their own life.

In his poem “How is Your Heart?” Bukowski gives his audience a meditative look into the unflinching, nearly passive way he uses his own “inner balance” to pass through the happenings of his life. While he primarily talks about his own experiences and the complacency he uses to somewhat transcend them, Bukowski connects himself to the audience by gently prompting a self-reflective reaction that causes the reader to become all the more invested in the work. The author is able to elicit great effect through decisive line breaks, keen word placement, and a calm pace that mirrors his own described composure from within the poem. Though the work may be mostly about Bukowski’s own raw, unhinged experiences, his ability to make us think about our own situation and our own response to life is really what is at the heart of this poem. ■

BY JACOB  
HUTCHINSON

# Social Networking Sites and the Damage They Cause



In today's society social networking is on the rise—pervading through both the workplace and many people's free time—and is under the control of Generation Y's tech savvy Millennials. At 80 million strong, this generation is the biggest age grouping in American history, consisting of mainly teens and 20-somethings. As Millennials grow up and enter the workplace, they bring with them a slew of innovative ways to enhance productivity and alter how they spend their free time and interact with one another: social networking sites. While social networking sites offer several distinct benefits, overall, they hinder Millennials's workplace performance and general development in numerous ways.

On the job, excessive social networking proves detrimental to a Millennial's success within the workplace. Many employees allow social media use to influence their productivity; the few seconds it takes to send a tweet or post

a photo add up over the course of a work day, and companies are beginning to take notice. Nucleus Research reported that Facebook shaves off an average 1.5% of office productivity while Morse claimed that British companies lost 2.2 billion a year to the social phenomenon. Combine all of that wasted time with the average amount of bandwidth required to stream videos or update a status and social networking begins to cost employers more than just time. Employees themselves concur; 43% agree that social networking during the work day hinders their productivity. Despite the fact Millennials acknowledge the harm social networking poses, many continue to use it. Jason Corsello, vice president at consulting firm Knowledge Infusion, explains the social networking phenomenon. "Over time," he stated, "[social networking] will become a necessary evil, just as people's mobile phones became part of corporate operations." For better or worse, social networking is here to stay in the workplace, much to the chagrin

of numerous employers. Millennials's arrival to the workforce means companies have no choice but to adapt to the highly wired young workers and the new issues that tag along with them.

Beyond the issue of lost productivity, employers also sense significantly more friction within the office resulting from social networking use. Many employees dismiss any concern regarding privacy—or the lack thereof—on social networking sites. There is a high probability of an employee treating their Facebook status as a frustration outlet, tarnishing their company's reputation and coworker relationships in the process. Social networking sites may prove a necessary evil, but this way of utilizing technology is all evil with no tangible necessity. When one employee ignores

a friend request from another, their relationship will inevitably alter, and for no real reason. This type of altercation may happen outside of the office, but its effects are felt within. Furthermore, companies are concerned about employees disclosing confidential information online. For example, an employee might take to the World Wide Web and announce the promotion he received via Facebook, and if his coworker who was also interviewed sees it before the employer lets him know, it will cause endless amounts of damage. This situation poses the risk of friction between coworkers, friction between employee and employer, and general discomfort for everyone. The simple solution is to ban all social networking from the office, but the new wave of Millennial induced technology has cemented its use within the workplace, much to the vexation of employers.

In addition to older Millennials in the workplace, widespread social networking inflicts severe mental health and developmental issues upon users still in their teens. Author Julie Spira coined the term "Social Media Anxiety Disorder," which describes people facing the negative effects of frequent and prolonged social networking use. While SMAD is not yet an officially recognized medical condition, it is on its way to becoming an epidemic. Symptoms of SMAD include, but are not limited to: compulsively



checking social media, experiencing disappointment when a post receives little or no feedback, and Millennials who wish they could bring their iPhone into the shower. Millennials fuel SMAD by constantly refreshing their newsfeed in search of a dopamine hit. Once their post receives sufficient feedback, they can rest easy and begin selecting the next Instagram photo to upload. SMAD and social networking prove so harmful because they both increase time Millennials spend in front a screen and decrease time they spend engaged in fact-to-face interaction with their superiors. Why should they leave the couch to interact with their friends, family, and coworkers, Millennials wonder, when they can achieve a similar result from the comfort of the living room? While Millennials do interact constantly—70% of them check their phone at a minimum of once every hour—they do so exclusively with their peers. Mark Bauerlin, a professor at Emory, points out that “to develop intellectually, you’ve got to relate to older people, older things: 17 year olds never grow up if they’re just hanging around other 17 year olds.” Teenager members of the Millennial generation do not seem to ever really mature; they do not receive intellectual stimulation from other adults, which consequently hinders their development. Adults who claim to have been more mature when they were 17 than today’s 17 year olds are correct, they were significantly more developed and teenage Millennials are not on track to change anything.

Moreover, these immature, needy Millennials escape to the internet in search of acceptance only end up shaming themselves when they are ignored by other users. When a Millennial’s photo receives an inadequate amount of likes on Instagram compared to that of their friend’s, they feel rejected. Millennials use Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to inflate their self esteem as if the sites were balloons. 50% of surveyed social media users acknowledge that extensive time online has had an overall negative effect on their disposition, specifically when their posts go unanswered. Promoting themselves online has become the preferred activity of many Millennials; when they are praised via Myspace, Millennials’s confidence surges, but

when they are ignored it plummets at an even faster rate. Not only is this rollercoaster of emotions exhausting and time consuming, but it’s also superficial and damaging. Social networking sites preach to vulnerable teenage Millennials that in order to retain any sort of value they must be acknowledged online. Consequently, the persona many Millennials project online completely differs from their behavior in the real world. This concrete desire for acceptance strains their confidence and fuels their search for the dopamine they find when they are acknowledged online.

Cyber bullying goes hand in hand with Millennials’s desire for acceptance online and further contributes to their mental health issues. In 2010, an estimated 42% of teenagers reported being victims of bullying via social networking sites. Both the convenience and novelty of social networking sites appeal to Millennials of all backgrounds and characters, bullies included. The relative anonymity social networking sites offer allows harassers to target their victims in a way they would never dream of in a face to face setting. Words hurt, and though the pain may not be physical, the irreversible mental anguish proves just as, if not more, detrimental to a teens’s already fragile self esteem. Online harassment leads to severe depression and anxiety amongst children, especially because the attacking can happen anywhere at any given time. The number of safe places teens have to take shelter at has been drastically reduced by the widespread availability of wifi. As long as they have access to a computer, Millennials cannot feel safe. The dopamine addiction Millennials harbor only fuels the cycle of bullying because they continue spending time online. For every one “like” their photo receives there may be two hurtful comments, but 47% of Millennials continue to post online because the positive attention makes them feel good.

Despite each risk posed by social networking sites, many offer unique benefits within our technology based world. For example, social networking sites such as Facebook and Myspace provide the opportunity to keep in touch with friends and family; tuning in

to each other’s everyday lives proves more personal than a weekly briefing over the phone. However, many people forget consider their privacy and post inappropriate photos and comments on their Facebook timelines. Often, Millennials pay no mind to boundaries and fail to consider how Grandma may react to that photo of the bong on the coffee table. Beyond family frowning upon them, Millennials also forget that their profiles can be made public to employers. Many companies check the profiles of potential employees before hiring them, and will definitely pass if they find damaging content. Social networking sites have the raw potential to solidify relationships, but Millennials often abuse and morph it into relationship causing problems.

Within the workplace, social networking sites offer irreplaceable convenience. Sites such as Facebook provide a constant meeting place for employees on the go and offer them the opportunity to communicate at any given time. However, Millennials spend significantly more time on social networking sites than non-Millennials. Therefore, the use of social networking proves beneficial exclusively to Millennials, leaving older employees frustrated and confused as to why they need to hold a meeting via Skype as opposed to in the conference room.

Millennials themselves make vital contributions to society as a whole, but they are often hindered by social networking sites. Imagine what Millennials could accomplish without the distraction of the Internet or fragile self esteem. The cure for Cancer may be trapped in the mind of a Millennial who is far too busy posting “selfies” on Instagram to get it out. While they do offer several benefits, social networking sites in the hands of Millennials does more harm than good, cause more problems than create solutions, and waste more time than they save. However negative social networking sites may be, with 80 million Millennials growing up and entering the workforce, they are here to stay. ■

BY ALLIE DELYANIS

# an alternative to how we view drug use



Nicotine, caffeine, and alcohol are all legal drugs used on a daily basis for a variety of reasons. While all are harmful if used in excess, many individuals use these drugs regularly for the purpose of focus, socializing, relaxation, and general enjoyment with little or no legal consequence. So why is it that some drugs are legal while others like marijuana, cocaine, and LSD are not? Why has society told us that these drugs are unacceptable while others are okay? I would like to question these ideas and show a more logical side to the legalization of currently illicit drugs.

Legality aside, there are multiple negative stereotypes associated with drug users that illustrate misconceptions about drugs. More generally, most people believe recreational drug users are stupid and lazy, or that they are immoral addicts who only care about feeling good. This image is regularly enforced by anti-drug advertisements from companies like Partnership for a Drug-Free America, with past ads showing drug users who are “going nowhere” and getting “dumber and dumber.” I remember growing up and watching television advertisement’s meant to instill fear about different types of drugs. A lot of times they were comical but I can see how they would influence the audience’s opinion about using drugs. There was one in particular about two teen girls who were friends and one of them started smoking pot. The one who started smoking pot was

flat and motionless on the couch and her friend proceeds to call her lazy and boring and says that all they do is sit there all the time. This stereotype may at times seem true but with moderation most actually can use in their downtime and also be productive members of society.

While studies show illegal drug use is common among those earning less than \$9,000 a year, it is also more common among people earning \$75,000 a year or more. Additionally, a more recent study has shown that casual drug users who use less often than once a week are just as likely to be employed as non-users. This shows us that people using drugs moderately are still able to lead responsible and successful lives. Some of my friends in high school smoked marijuana and had passing grades and all graduated. Most went on to college or are now working or taking care of families and still continue to smoke pot in moderation. There are numerous stories of extremely successful drug users, such as Peter B. Lewis, who is known for smoking pot on a regular basis and is the founder and chairman of Progressive insurance company. Another study done by the National Survey on Drug Use and Health estimated that 1 in 10 Americans who work 31 to 50 hours a week used marijuana in the last 30 days. Over half of those people will use more than 10 days out of the month. This evidence shows that an average person can still remain employed while still partaking in illicit drug use.

Another argument is that if these drugs are legalized



more people will try them and inevitably become addicted. Based on this belief, someone might try a drug for the first time and become addicted after one use. While there may be a select few who fit this description, it is very much an exaggeration. According to reports, only 9 percent of marijuana users fit the criteria for substance abuse set by the American Psychiatric Association. In contrast, they found that 15 percent of alcohol users fit the criteria, which is interesting because of the legal status of these two substances. If the likelihood of abuse is higher among alcohol users, why do we use the potential for abuse as an excuse to keep other drugs illegal?

Even with more stigmatized drugs such as cocaine we can see that generally cocaine users use in moderation and do not become addicted. A study started in 1987 interviewed 160 experienced cocaine users and followed up with 64 of them in 1991. Researchers found that a large majority of the users never "lost control" with their use of cocaine. Roughly half were continually using it at a stable low level and the other half stopped using altogether. Only four of them considered asking for help and just one actually did. Based on this information, people using even more seemingly addictive drugs typically still use in moderation or not at all. While many may say that the legal status of illicit drugs is the main deterrent against continuing use,

it's interesting to note that even when cocaine was legal in the United States in the twentieth century only an estimated .05 percent of the population of 76 million citizens were classified as addicts.

Opponents to the legalization of drugs also like to argue that doing certain drugs will result in health risks and even death. A lot of the time they greatly exaggerate the negative side effects of drugs. The most common beliefs about the harmful effects of marijuana, in my experience, include lung cancer, memory loss, or even just a general loss of brain cells. Not only do these claims have no laboratory evidence to support them, but multiple studies suggest that smoking marijuana is not harmful to an individual's health. Opponents also like to point out that smoking pot produces more carcinogens than cigarettes. This claim is misleading because no one smokes pot with nearly the same frequency as cigarette smokers do, which is around 20 cigarettes a day. Personally, I have yet to hear about anyone dying as a direct result of marijuana use, which seems strange for a drug that is often labeled as dangerous.

Marijuana isn't the only drug that is a victim of misconceptions. For instance, I have heard plenty of rumors about LSD causing psychosis after one use, or people imagining they can fly and jumping off of buildings. A study done in 1960 where researchers administered LSD to volunteers from

the public. They reported that only 0.08 percent of the people had a psychotic reaction lasting more than 48 hours. So we can see that a very small percentage of people actually had negative effects from using LSD. Some have even argued that the small population of users who experience psychotic breaks already have genetic predispositions to mental illnesses such as schizophrenia. Even the instances of fatal cocaine overdoses are surprisingly rare, with only 308 listed by medical examiners in 1999 when there were an estimated 3.7 million users.

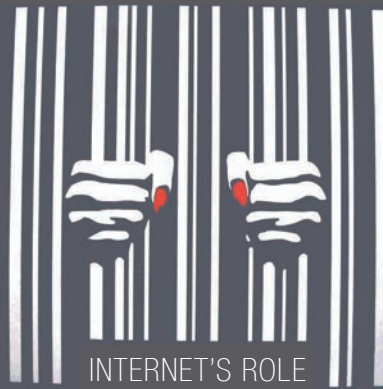
The accuracy of research on drug use is confounded by the variable of legality. In this way the results may not translate to a larger population if legalized. For this I would argue that the use of illicit drugs is more common than many would like to believe. Even the anti-drug reports from the United States National Institute on Drug Abuse in 2011 found that at least 22.5 million Americans had used an illicit drug in the past month. 18 million Americans had smoked marijuana (a number which has likely increased in recent years), and even drugs such as cocaine and LSD were used by over one million people. Considering that these numbers only represent recent use, it is likely the case that the amount of people who have used them at all is much higher.

Although drug use may increase with the legalization of drugs, it is also not unreasonable to think that people would

use them in moderation. As we have seen with alcohol, most people use with moderation, and while all that I can do is speculate, it seems as though research has given some insight into what we could expect from legalizing certain drugs. In particular, it is clear that many of the current justifications for prohibition are not soundly supported. While it is hard to imagine what society would look like with this kind of change, it is important to remember that drugs would still be regulated.

For example, sale to and use by minors would still be illegal. Driving while under the influence would also be against the law. Those who use to a degree that negatively impacts the lives of others, such as people with child dependents, would still face negative consequences for abuse. Employers would still prohibit intoxication while on the job. Most importantly, the social standards for using drugs would ideally be similar to the use of alcohol so that family and friends might discourage excessive use. In this way, it may not be such a stretch to consider the possibility of responsible, legal use of currently illicit drugs in the future. At the very least, it is worth questioning our current policies in order to encourage more research and understand the ways in which we are influenced by outdated information. ■

BY  
JAVIER  
WALLACE



## MODERN DAY SLAVERY

America's citizenry is known for its liberal protection of the environment, same sex marriage, job equality, healthcare, and other social issues. However, the majority of Americans are uninformed and blind to modern day slavery through human sex trafficking of under age children; unfortunately, a good percentage of the population understands this evil behavior. The bulk of society utilize the internet as a major communication tool; they are captivated by the internet's tools and access to the world. Regrettably, due to our consensus for free speech, there are no legal boundaries for using the internet. However, the public's need to preserve free speech at all cost has opened a gateway to worldwide child pornography, smuggling and sex trading of underage teens. In spite of the immorality and criminal conduct associated with the illegal sex trading of minors, there are a great number of people in America exploiting the internet for child sex trafficking. The current internet protocol allows the existence of child pornography—the selling and buying of U.S. children for sex—the salacious act of raping children's souls, hearts and bodies. Sex exploitation of minors through the internet is an epidemic that is ripping through the heart of America. Many Americans are in the dark when it comes to understanding the scope of human sex trading of minors and say nothing. However, by remaining silent, citizens seem to approve the huntsman game of human trafficking in society's backyard—the internet.

Society is sacrificing the safety of kids for the sake of protecting the people's right to an unchallenged internet use. We must take action to protect American's children from child predators and traffickers.

The Polaris Project, a national human trafficking help center, points out that "The internet has been identified as the number one platform that pimps, traffickers and johns [customers] currently use for buying and selling women and children for sex in the United States." Human sex trafficking is the act of intimidation to control over another for sexual criminal activity. It results in the recruitment, harboring, transportation, and abduction to perform commercial sex acts. These acts are done for monetary reasons (rape for profit) and for other gains such as the selling of drugs, sex addiction, etc. This type of exploitation is a cultural evil that leads to the destruction of human beings, the destruction of families, and the destruction of societal conscience. Many of us in our country avoid this evil by lying in the shadows, occasionally peering out with curiosity when news uncovers an incident of a child abduction or child prostitution. Most individuals stoically sit on the sidelines deliberately avoiding the reality of the existence of human sex trafficking of minors. Even if these children appear to be willing or voluntarily performing sexual acts, they are victims, they have been threatened, held in bondage, raped or manipulated in thinking the predator is their loved one. The public should not be mistaken or misinterpret

what traffickers are capable of—they are professionals with money and resources to steal and sell America's children. The children are not the problem; the real problem is that we collude as a society to buy access to sex with children.

America hasn't changed much as it relates to slavery. Slaves during the Civil War were bought and sold as a commodity. African American females were prostituted for money and sex; white men paid more if the girl was young. Fast forward to today: children of all races are being sold for sex. Like in the past, these modern day slaves have no rights with their traffickers or owners. These children are subject to abandonment by their trafficker and they do not form significant relationship with anyone. Because of the disengagement between the victims' family unit and society, this type of slavery perpetuates and causes a blind attitude to stop such a heinous crime. Human trafficking is one of the fastest growing criminal industries in the world—second only to drug dealing. America is becoming a world mecca for the trafficking of minors. Shared Hope International reveals the following: age 12 is the average age for entering into the world of porn and prostitution. Child pornography is a multi-billion dollar industry. There are over 100,000 websites that offer child pornography. 55% of internet child pornography comes from the U.S. A child is known to be sold over 10 times a day, all week long, totaling up to 14,000 sex



acts a year. Traffickers can earn up to \$400 an hour for a child. The major cause for such explosion of human trafficking of minors is the internet. The moral fabric of humanity is in jeopardy unless humankind changes the magnanimous view of the internet when it comes to stomping out trafficking of minors for sex.

The internet is like a Swiss knife with multiple tools, uses, and purposes. By design, there is no ownership or control over individual actions; unfortunately, for many, the use of the internet has become an addictive communication portal for all. Consequently, this addiction has become a huge undercurrent—like the pull of an ocean tide; a strong pull towards a very dangerous outcome. Subsequently, based on an article by Shared Hope International, sixty eight million pornographic search engine requests are made daily, equaling 25% of total requests. There are currently 4.2 million pornographic websites on the internet. Among these, 100,000 websites offer illegal child pornography. This shows that many children are being exploited daily. As a result, multiple types of internet portals or tools have been created, such as, chat rooms viruses, phishing, adware and other internet access to solicit and entrap children into the underground world of sex trafficking. Many of these children are subject to severe physical abuse, bestiality or other sadistic acts. In addition to internet pornography, sexual exploitation occurs in different forms such as websites that offer advertisement services. Internet providers provide various tools to filter immoral and criminal activity generated by the various net portals; however, there is much public debate on this subject. An expert in information technology, Dr. Eneman, Ph.D. points out, “The main argument against internet filtering is that it is a form of censorship that constitutes a threat to important civil liberties, particularly freedom of expression and privacy, which are considered to be important foundations of democracies.” Even though internet providers and trade partners [advertisers] have protected the net from filtering and censorship, the industry along with computer and software manufactures provide filtering tools in their hardware and software to minimize illegally activities.

As a result of the “civil liberties” provided to the internet community, the populace has created profit making centers of all types, such as, EBay, Craigslist, PayPal, and others; as a result, these major revenue centers and other various types of cottage industries developed. Consequently, immoral and criminal commerce found a way to establish themselves through these profit

centers. According to “The Village Voice” in the Christian Science Monitor, “In 2009, the classified-ad giant Craigslist was forced under public pressure to end its sexually related advertising, in large part because of the difficulty of blocking ads that also lead to sexually exploiting children.” There are also other sites still offering similar advertisement services, including Backpage.com, CityVibe.com, and Eros.com. These websites allow customers to browse and compare the characteristics, photographs and prices of a large number of individuals selling or being forced to sell sex.

The National Research Council noted in its latest book on youth and the internet, “Some from the online adult entertainment industry fear that efforts to restrict the access of children to certain kinds of sexually explicit material on the Internet will impinge on what they see as legitimate business opportunities to market their products and services to adults... Views in this subject area are highly polarized. Because strongly held values are at stake, the political debate is heated, and often characterized by extreme views, inflammatory rhetoric, and half-truths.

Presently, law enforcement bureaus find it difficult to investigate and charge web-based sex crimes against children due to the onslaught of self-justifying tactics by the sex predators, a shortage of computer forensic specialists and inadequately designed laws. Because of the aggressive schemes used by these marauders, police have had to resort to “sting” operations to lure these sex prowlers out from their network caves, such as chat rooms, fake businesses, fraudulent advertising, and internet brothels. These strategies allow pimps, mainly men, to find customers online and direct children to meet them at different motels, apartments or sometimes even in the victim’s own home. Meanwhile, there is a public perception that these decoy operations entrap otherwise moral and respectable citizens. In spite of the opposition’s protest of these practices by law officers, hundreds of children are being rescued from predators and traffickers.

Looking ahead, social interferences are necessary to effectively regulate the internet use of child trafficking. Families have created an environment where their kids use the internet as their personal backyard. For that reason, the public’s involvement is paramount in understanding how children manipulate the power of the internet at home, in schools and libraries. Assistant Professor of Software Engineering at Penn State University, Dr. DeFranco, Ph.D. states “Internet safety should be taught as proactively as our wood

and metal shop teachers taught us safety in junior high before we used the circular and table saws; the predators and cyber criminals are just as dangerous.” Today’s teens are supposed to be the know it all of social networking and on-line communication; unfortunately, they are not the social-net wizards that can outwit the professional well-funded cyber criminals. Often, these young victims may not know the words or have sufficient language skills to express what happens to them on the network. Educators and parents need to teach children on how to use the communication tools provided through the internet. They need to mentor their kids on how to recognize and avoid illegal activities. Moreover, local government participation can parallel the public’s involvement by changing internet policies. For example, the Christian Monitor’s illustration for the City of Seattle’s advertising policy, “In Seattle, ...the mayor has withdrawn official city advertising from the local weekly that runs adult ads...”

Sexual predation of minors requires a zero-tolerance policy by society. The public would not allow a predator to sexually abuse a child verbally or physically at a public setting nor would people tolerate predators taking their clothes off in front of a child or showing pornographic photos to a child. The predator would be instantly be taken away by security or law enforcement, if not by members of the public. The predator’s actions taken in a public setting are no different than similar actions taken on the internet—a public domain. To this end, government intervention is critical in order to stop or at best minimize the use of the internet for child sex trafficking. A legal scholar from the University of Texas Law School, Melissa Holman wrote in the Texas International Law Journal, “...the government should prescribe punishment...when there is a knowing commission of any severe form of sex trafficking; or when the victim of trafficking is a child...” With this in mind, a good start is to amend anti-prostitution laws to include a ban on websites for procuring commercial sex. Sexual predation of minors requires a zero-tolerance policy by society, media and government.

Age 12 is the average age for entering into the world of porn and prostitution. Child pornography is a multi-billion dollar industry. There are over 100,000 websites that offer child pornography. 55% of internet child pornography comes from the U.S. A child is known to be sold over 10 times a day, all week long, totaling up to 14,000 sex acts a year. Traffickers can earn up to \$400 an hour for a child. ■



# Fulfilled Intention

BY NICOLE KAUER

**S**tepping into the “Memories and Mediations: A Retrospective of Michael McKenna’s Photography” Part 2 exhibit, I felt out of place. The stark white walls with eye-level rows of framed black and white photos felt cold and overwhelming. The dim gallery lighting added to the feeling that I did not belong there; that I was underdressed and undereducated. Being a fierce lover of all things beautiful and moving, I found it frustrating that the atmosphere instantly made me feel like going through the exhibit would be a chore. With a deep sigh, I stepped up to the first row of frames, expecting them to invoke nothing more than a nod or shrug full of the standard “yup, another well executed black and white – next.” I was not prepared for how wrong I was.

Looking at the first photo, I realized that I was not looking at it, but into it; Michael McKenna’s photographs are not merely photographs, but images of another world, each its own fairy tale. Confused, I stepped back, looking around again at the white walls and framed pictures, this time seeing the room for what it really was: not a cold room with walls upon walls lined with black and white photos, but a juncture; a room where each frame is a window through which one can catch a glimpse of another time, another place. I stepped back up to the first photo, this time full of child-like

excitement and wonder, becoming instantly mesmerized. From stone battles waged in waters, to beings of unknown intention hunched alongside a darkened street, to the horrors of Nazi gas chambers, I was completely enveloped in each tale. While one part of me longed to stand there, forever imagining the goings on in one tiny world, the other part of me longed to move on, to peek through the next window.

Arriving back at the beginning of the exhibit and finally reading the artist’s statement, I could not help laughing, earning a few annoyed looks from other visitors. My laugh, however, was not one out of rudeness, but one of shock and joy. McKenna’s intention with his black and white photos is not to capture the world as it is, but to invoke the imagination of the viewer. I was utterly shocked that there was nothing else; no pompous speech extolling the virtues of blah, blah, blah. His goal is so very simple, and shared by many artists – most of whom would refuse to admit to having such a humble goal and not many of whom can pull it off. McKenna meets this goal magnificently, and tearing myself away from the exhibit was difficult. I left with a sad feeling that I had missed out on all the miniature worlds showcased in Part 1 of McKenna’s exhibit, but with all the joy and happiness and wonder that comes with having at least seen those in Part 2. ■



# Lupus

The Case of Mistaken Identity

BY BRENDA KAPLAN

Once upon a time there was a human kingdom. In this kingdom everything was going great and all the parts were working together wonderfully. The heart was pumping, the lungs were breathing, the liver, kidneys, other organs and systems were working, as were the muscles and blood system. They were all working hard to make sure that the kingdom was moving in all the right directions. Everyone was working together and it showed in how healthy their kingdom was.

One day there was a problem, not a huge problem, hardly enough to make any of the systems to take notice. The kingdom was feeling tired and having achy joints. No one was worried -- it should get back to normal soon and things would be running smoothly again.

The problem was that things didn't get better. Instead things got worse and that is when things started to fall apart. Not only were the joints achy but the muscles were now complaining that it hurt to move. The eyes were complaining about the sun bothering them, the hands were complaining of being swollen because the kidneys were not doing their part. The kingdom started to have a rash on its face. The chest was complaining of pain when it tried to take a deep breath, the hair was starting to fall out and sometimes even the fingers were turning white and sometimes blue or red. All the parts of the kingdom were starting to complain, blaming each other for their misery and pain. Someone was not doing their part to keep things running smoothly? Something was drastically wrong. But what and who was causing all the problems?

The king brain decided that they needed help determining the problem. He called in professionals to try to figure out what was going on in this usually wonderful kingdom and who was falling short of their duties. These professionals, doctors, took some of the body's blood and

tested it for ANA, antinuclear antibodies and some other routine things like a CBC a complete blood count. They vowed to get to the bottom of the problems this kingdom had been having.

It was about that time when the blood cells, the warriors of the kingdom, recognized a problem. One of the B cell team had recognized a threat and sounded the alarm. The problem was that this was a false alarm, "friendly fire" you might say. Suddenly more B cells gathered and surrounded the perceived intruder. They released their secret weapon, cytokines, their immunoregulatory protein, and started to fight this foreign invader. When the cytokine weaponry was used it excited even more of the B cells and caused them to multiply. Some of these B cells were secret agents that turned into plasma cells and secreted the antibodies and immunoglobulin. At that point the T cell team came into action, producing even more cytokines, stimulating the B cells even more. The antibodies and immunoglobulin then traveled the bloodstream binding to anything that they thought was an antigen invader, destroying healthy joints and organ cells along their way.

Now that this spiral of friendly fire had been started, how were they going to calm down all the chaos? The problem was that once this type of discord starts in a kingdom there is really no stopping it. The kingdom could try to live a healthy life by decreasing stress, stopping smoking, getting regular exercise and eating a healthy balanced diet but it can never get rid of this devastating spiral that had been started. Luckily the kingdom was able to find some remedies that treated some of the symptoms but was unable to find a cure. Using some of these medications and having a good lifestyle enabled the kingdom to move forward into a new life, never as good as before but able to function and have a good life. However, they will be ever watchful of their warriors, trying to keep any flare ups at bay. ■



# CONTRIBUTING FACTORS TO TEEN IDENTITY ACHIEVEMENT AND LATER OUTCOMES

BY AMANDA QUINTANA

**E**rik Erikson proposed eight stages of ego crises as part of life-long identity development. The fifth and most influential of his stages takes place during the teenage years and sometimes into early adulthood. This ego crisis is termed Identity versus Role Confusion. During this time, teens begin to experiment with various roles while attempting to incorporate identities from previous life stages. They are essentially trying to fit together the pieces of a puzzle (daughter, student, sister, artist, etc.) into one cohesive identity. Successful merging of these pieces leads to a solid sense of self, whereas failure to work through this crisis leads to a continuing identity crisis—an uncertainty about your own goals, abilities and associations. Dealing with an identity crisis will also limit the ability to resolve future ego crises.

Expanding on the idea of Erikson's identity crisis, psychologist James Marcia went on to define four resolutions to teen identity issues called Identity Statuses. These statuses are built on high and low dimensions of commitment and exploration. People low on commitment do not have a firm sense of self, while people high on this factor have a solid sense of who they are and feel strongly about the decisions they have made. If a person is high in exploration, they actively question their sense of self and seek to make decisions. In contrast, a person low on exploration does not ask themselves such questions.

A person who is high on both exploration and commitment is the traditional "identity achieved". On the opposite end of the spectrum, people low on exploration and commitment fall into the category "identity diffused". They haven't really thought much about their identity and have no sense of commitment to their sense of self. People who are high in exploration but low on commitment are in a category Marcia called "moratorium". These people are actively thinking about their life but are holding off on making any decisions. The final category applies to those who are high on

commitment but low on exploration. That is, while they are high on their commitment to their sense of self, they never questioned those commitments. These people are "identity foreclosed."

People in the identity achieved and identity foreclosed statuses tend to do better socially and academically during their teen years. It would appear the pattern here is the commitment to their sense of self. Rebellious teens are typically in the moratorium status though those in identity diffused also may end up rebelling due to the tendency to often be influenced by others and may be led into high risk behaviors. In contrast, adolescents who develop a stable sense of self are less likely to engage in delinquent behaviors or use drugs and alcohol. Their research also found that identity confusion is related to increased substance abuse, participation in risky behaviors and a lower self-concept.

Erikson stated that the outcome of a successful navigation of the Identity versus Role Confusion stage is a sense of loyalty. What factors contribute to success in identity achievement and gaining a sense of loyalty? Gender has been shown to play a role in reports of fidelity. Brittan & Lerner found that girls were more likely than boys to be in the highest classification of fidelity. This may be a reflection of societal expectations for girls to be more nurturing and show greater concern for others. No significant gender difference has been found in identity achievement or other identity statuses.

One study suggests that one contributing factor to the development of a strong sense of identity and fidelity is participation in youth development programs outside of school. Many programs provide opportunities for youth to express loyalty to institutions and individuals as well as to evaluate their own social and personal development. Participation on a sports team for example, encourages a teen to work for the good of the team, to create relationships and to give their best for their own achievement. One

key factor in whether a program encourages increased identity development is the presence of adult role models who may help youth look forward to the future and what they want for themselves. Participation in community programs allows the formation of pro-social attitudes and thus, encourages loyalty to themselves and others. This is true especially in programs which encourage giving back to the community through service projects.

Most influential in the development of youth identity is parental style. It has been proposed (Barber, cited in Sartor & Youniss, 2002) that there are three dimensions of socialization required for healthy child development. First is warmth or sense of connection with significant others. This relatedness is associated with positive emotion, the development of social skills and the feeling that the world is predictable and safe. This sense of security is of utmost importance for exploration and identity formation. The second element of Barber's model is Parental regulation or demandingness. This monitoring of adolescents behavior, makes way for the ability to self-regulate. Third is supporting the need for autonomy. In a healthy parent-teen relationship, a parent should provide structure but maintain enough flexibility to encourage identity exploration. In turn, a teen is able to assert their need for autonomy and establish their own identity without losing the sense of connection with their parents as they grant that independence.

Sartor and Youniss developed a questionnaire using a 5 point Likert scale to assess the success in negotiating identity achievement among high school students. They then assessed parental support, social monitoring and school monitoring. In both males and females, scores for identity development raised slightly between grades ten and twelve. School and social monitoring remained fairly stable through this time though parental support declined slightly. The association between identity achievement and parental support was higher for boys than for girls while the



associations between identity achievement and school and social monitoring were higher among girls. Associations in all 3 categories weakened between grades 10th and 12th graders. This could be why the slight decrease in parental support did not have an impact on the small growth of identity achievement during this time.

Brittian and Lerner suggest that while a high level of involvement is important in identity exploration in younger adolescents, it could actually hinder them as they get older. I think this is where the support of autonomy comes in. The parental warmth factor also plays heavily in adolescents' perceptions of their parent's motives in the monitoring of their activities. If it is perceived as controlling or intrusive rather than out of concern and being available, it will not have a positive impact on identity development. Monitoring of behavior encourages reasoning and for teens to be aware of the consequences of their actions and encourages self-regulation. Psychological control on the other hand is negate of parental warmth in its control attempts and discourages individual development.

Adolescence is typically seen as a shift away from parents and toward more peer influence. While teens do begin to focus on spending more time with their friends, parental availability remains crucial as teens are forming their identities. Adolescents reported that they tend to share life-defining moments with their family for the sake of emotional regulation while they share the same stories with peers to promote intimacy and self-communication. They also found that on average, these life-defining memories are shared with family within a week whereas the time to share with peers or romantic partners was generally over a month. The sharing of different ideas or viewpoints in a respectful and supportive environment is positively associated with a teen's willingness to explore their identity.

When individuals were delivering a narrative about a low point in their life, those with supportive, authoritative parents were able to reflect with more clarity, most often came to positive solutions and felt that they learned from their experience. In contrast, those without parental support often had issues that were unresolved and were unable to communicate their story clearly. Advocates of the narrative life story measure of identity development believe that a person with a developed identity should be able to communicate their story clearly and find meaning in it. Parental warmth leads to the feeling of security and safety that give the coping skills needed to approach difficult situations in their lives and also enable youth to explore their low point life events in an open, proactive way with clarity. Those in diffusion and foreclosure identity statuses, in particular,

were often unable to gather meaning from their low point life narratives.

Fidelity, being the product of successful identity achievement, is also directly impacted by parental warmth. Youth who reported low parental warmth, or connectedness, were increasingly likely to be classified lowest on the fidelity scale. Those who reported higher levels of parental involvement, and parental knowledge and warmth were more likely to be in the highest classification. It has been suggested that some American youth culture may not acquire fidelity and may even detest it, in favor of the fluid individualities associated with superficial displays of appearance. These individuals lack core character. These youth would be considered in a moratorium state, lacking in commitment but high on experimentation. This failure to develop a sense of identity may have negative implications on involvement within the community as youth and into the future, though no longitudinal study has been done to confirm this.

What does identity achievement mean for the future? Erikson's theory indicated that in order for one to move on to the next level of development, the previous issue should be successfully resolved. Data shows that youth who are in the diffusion or foreclosure identity statuses often move into the moratorium or identity achieved statuses over time so there is still the potential for resolution past the teen years. This means that there is hope for successful navigation of the next phase in Erikson's model, Intimacy versus Isolation. During this stage, young adults are beginning to let others in and develop intimacy, sharing with others their new found sense of self.

Orlorfsky, Marcia and Lesser suggested four different levels of intimacy. First and most desirable, "intimate" refers to those who have several close friends and typically a love relationship with a partner. They can discuss both their own and their friend's/partner's personal matters. Pre-intimate refers to those who have friends and have had some dating experience but no intimate love relationship with a significant other. Stereotyped relationships are those that are superficial and immature. Even friendships lack significant depth. Lastly, isolate subjects lack any enduring personal relationships. Those in an identity achieved status were found to have mature and successful intimate relationships as well as being more involved and successful in their relationships with their peers. They are also seen as more flexible and independent and are able to better tolerate frustration than those in other identity statuses.

Moratorium subjects were predominantly found in the pre-intimate status. They had yet to form lasting intimate relationships

but did have successful friendships. They also are characterized as the most sensitive and insightful of the identity statuses. Many also experienced guilt for not meeting parental expectations. People in the foreclosure status were generally in the stereotyped category of intimacy, that is their relationships lacked the depth of those in the identity achieved status. They did however show the highest need for social approval. This was echoed in the findings by Read, Adams and Dobson that identity foreclosed individuals are also most likely to be preoccupied with image control and practice manipulation of others. They are also those most likely to conform to the values of their parents and tend to follow the path that their parents set out for them. While they may be successful, perhaps going into the family business, the problem lies in that without going through a time of self-exploration, they are likely to have regrets in mid-life because they didn't follow their own path. Finally, those who ranked as identity diffused were the least intimate and most isolated. Read also found that diffused status women tend to be disconnected not only from others but from their past and future as well. They are also most likely to practice deception in their encounters with others. There was no mention as to whether this is also true of men.

Based on the studies referenced, it seems that it is safe to say that parenting style is key in the development of ones' identity and that it is in fact, as Erikson suggested, a vital stage in our lives. Authoritative parenting, marked by emotional support, involvement, structure and the encouragement of autonomy, promotes healthy development. A sense of safety and security developed by this method of parenting, provides teens with the foundation that enables them to be able to explore different ideas without fear. They are then better equipped to resolve conflicts that come up in their lives and extract meaning from these low points. While practicing behavioral control is beneficial as long as it is conveyed as out of concern and affection, psychological control is hazardous and restricts the ability of the adolescent to gain autonomy. For teens who do not have the support they need from their parents in order to explore new ideas, the result may be a failure to explore their beliefs and come to a sense of self. They may also be less able to cope with low points and be unable to learn from these potentially rich sources of life lessons. The promotion of community involvement is also beneficial in attaining identity achievement, which is the highest of the identity statuses having both gone through self-exploration and committed to a sense of self. This is especially true in cases where there is the presence of adult role models. ■



# People's Park

BY MACKENZIE ADIX

The van pulled up to the curb and stopped with a jolt that knocked the butterflies in my stomach into a nervous flurry. The van door scraped open, spilling all eight of us out onto the sidewalk. I took one look at the cracked, uneven concrete, scribbled with chalk designs and edged with brittle, yellow grass and I knew we had arrived in People's Park.

My mission trip team's assignment for the afternoon was to infiltrate People's Park, a haven for the homeless located a few blocks away from UC Berkeley. Our task was simple: find some people who needed something and then, using our allotted cash reserve, obtain those things for them. The prospect of being able to help someone in need was exciting. Yet, because of my chronic introversion, I dreaded the inevitable awkward conversations that we would be forced to start with every random stranger we wanted to help.

Luckily, the rest of my group seemed to have no such reservations, so we struck off confidently down the sidewalk that bordered People's Park. The park occupied one entire city block. Both ends of the park were shaded by tall trees which corralled bundles of clothing, bedding, and rubbish between their roots. Even though it was after midday, people sprawled in the dirt beneath the branches, each person sound asleep next to their own pile of possessions.

In the center of the park was a squishy green field, open to the sun. Clusters of people adorned with tattoos and dreadlocks lounged about on blankets, talking, laughing, and soaking up the sunshine. My team decided to dive into the park via the field, preferring to stay out in the open for safety's sake.

We were feeling pretty good about our chances of assisting someone. However, once we entered People's Park, our perceptions changed. The people mostly ignored us, especially those congregated in the lower, shaded end of the park. Wondering why they were so unresponsive,

I focused my attention on the shadowy area. And that was when I noticed the shoes.

Next to the trees, three pairs of sneakers dangled from the power lines by their laces, as if strung up on a gallows. Our city guide had told us that shoes on the power lines indicated a place where drugs were available. My heart dropped. When people are on drugs, they usually don't want anyone poking into their business. Our task had just become a lot harder.

With each failed attempt to engage someone, my team grew more and more discouraged. I couldn't help comparing the day's disappointment with the success we had experienced the day before. In a busy part of downtown Oakland, we had distributed a bagful of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to the homeless and had been rewarded by their smiles. I had felt so thrilled to help them, even in such a small way. But the day in People's Park brought me crashing from my high of helpfulness and left me wondering what had gone wrong.

My team exited the park, dejected. Our shuffling feet carried us down the busy sidewalk until we found a calm spot. Then we clustered into a little circle and stared glumly at each other for a moment before beginning to toss around our theories as to why success had been so elusive.

We had thought the homeless people in the park would be glad for a free lunch, a stash of snacks, or some first-aid supplies. But aside from just one woman who had needed water, nobody had wanted anything. Instead, the park-dwellers had exuded an overall air of self-reliance and complacency. They didn't want us to help them. They didn't want us to change them. They were content with their lives just as they were. I had never considered this side of homelessness before, much less witnessed it firsthand. So, when one of my team members summed up our findings in a single sentence, the realization shocked me: these people were homeless by choice. ■

# Morgan Changes My Life

I'll admit that life is amazing in many ways, some sad and some absolutely great. Mine is at this point awesome though my past hasn't been the best. I am from a family of four children: two girls and two boys and another set of two step brothers, all in Kenya. My dad is here in the states with me; my biological mum died when I was seven and my step mum lives in Kenya too. My family is from a tribe called the Kikuyus, which is actually the biggest tribe in Kenya. Our mother land has forty two tribes. I find that a big number for a single country; but, I like it because I get to interact with different people from different cultural backgrounds daily. However, every tribe speaks a different language; but, we are all united by our national language, Swahili. Our national anthem is written both in Swahili and English. It strongly reveals a true Kenyan spirit of patriotism, hard work and unity.

My life has changed through my elder brother Morgan. He got a golden opportunity to come study at TCC three years ago and became the light to our family. He had a pretty tough time catching up with things here but, he was a smart guy. He loved TCC and used to perform well especially in chemistry. In addition, the diversity here made him feel comfortable and enjoy his interaction. He was doing so well here in the US. Back in Kenya we were just celebrating that dreamboat. He was my favorite sibling and was so good-looking that girls couldn't help turning their heads whenever he passed.

Morgan's birthday was on 19th of December. In Kenya there's a Hero's Day just before his birthday. We celebrate our heroes who fought for our freedom long ago. This day people also celebrate their personal heroes, so we always celebrated Morgan as a family. We usually get all dressed up for the day. Specifically I admire a tribe called the Maasai. I am not one of them I like how they dress up for occasions. They wear lots of ornaments on the neck, hands and

legs. They are usually made of colorful beads in beautiful patterns which blend the colors of our national flag; black, green, red and white. By just looking at them you'll note it is work skillfully done. Moreover, they perform a certain dance in unison and the most fascinating thing about it is the rhythmical sounds that their ornaments produce. It's always a colorful event. Our president then gives a speech to honor our heroes in one of the stadiums.

Morgan and I always tried to keep in touch, talk on the phone for hours, cracking jokes and laughing uncontrollably. He used to tell me about the sophisticated technology in the US and I couldn't help but die to be here with him. He could joke that once I was here he could laugh at my naivety because things were pretty different, but I just laughed it off. For example I remember one conversation we had. I was about to complete my high school so he wanted to buy me a special present. He told me to think about it then let him know. I called him.

"Hello," Morgan said upon picking up. "Hun you are not asleep? How are you?" He always called me fancy names.

"Buddy I'm good I said I'll not go to sleep until I talk to you." I said.

"Well tell me what's up dear?"

"The promise, remember? I made up my mind on what present I want."

"Cool spit it out hun."

"Are you sure you'll buy it for me?"

"Definitely, I promised you so you must get it."

"Great! Please buy me a fancy cell phone"

"Honestly," He laughed "I'd guessed that already. I have one in mind".

"Which one?" I asked excitedly.

"Samsung galaxy S1."

"Oh my God!" I screamt.

"Yeah that's what I'm getting you sweety."

"I love you so much buddy. Thank you."

"You're welcome now go to sleep it's getting late."

"Alright have a good day and take care."

I completed my high school and wow!

I had done so well so Morgan decided to apply to TCC for me as well. I was the happiest girl in the planet, imagining how life would be on that other side of the Sahara, so I began to see prospects. I used to check my emails frequently waiting for my admission, but never got a response. I'd call Morgan and ask him what's with the delay, but he couldn't figure it out either. I decided to wait.

Morgan was an outgoing guy and made friends easily, so mid last year he and a bunch of friends decided to go on a road trip to Oregon beach and have some good times. The weather was just perfect. It was supposed to be a fun filled affair but it turned tragic. Morgan and his friends decided to go for an afternoon swim not knowing the peril that waited. Things were okay until the tides came up and swashed the people at the beach. Things got ugly people screaming; trying to get hold of the people they cherished most, and do nothing else but run as far as their legs could take them.

Morgan, I suppose, must have been swimming quite deep because when it all happened he was not in sight any more. My sweet brother was carried away miles from the beach and after fighting and the lifeguards trying all they could his chances of survival got bleak; finally, he passed away. When the news reached us in Kenya I couldn't believe, I tried waking up from that damn nightmare but never did. It was a fact he was gone. I was so heart broken. I felt it like a big blow right on my face. I even got irrational to people around me. Gosh! How could this happen to my favorite of them all? I asked God questions relentlessly.

Months later I decided to chase after what my brother wanted for me and surprisingly I got admitted to TCC. Here I am now always visualizing how it could be with Morgan around. That gets me crying but it has happened there's no way back. I have had terrible times but am getting through it though it hurts as much. When am walking round the college I always remember Morgan. I imagine walking on a path he had once walked on and that gets me overwhelmed. The diversity here is just as he used to describe it. It also reminds me of my country Kenya. I love the stuff her and the students are just amazing. What I've sworn to myself is to do my level best, make my family proud and most important Morgan because he initiated my coming here. ■

BY ABIGAEL KIARE



BY  
ADRIAN  
BROWN

# Wikipedia

For Individuals Looking for a Golden Retriever!

**G**olden retriever dogs are one of the most beloved canine breeds on the planet. There seems to be an enormous amount of information on television, in books, and online. For anyone considering adopting one of the many different types of golden retrievers, it would be most beneficial to seek information directly from a source known as Wikipedia. This website serves as a reliable connection that encompasses various aspects regarding the dog. It has subtopics with thorough information by experts from well-known organizations, is locked down from site vandalism, and is constantly updated with up-to-date information. In the end, one can adequately gather the necessary information to make an informed decision as to which golden retriever to choose with confidence!

## Wikipedia has Subtopics

When searching for material as a means to make the right decision as to which golden retriever to get, it is great to find the material quickly and efficiently. This will allow for ease searching specific topics, as well as, keeping a reader interested. For instance, Wikipedia - Golden Retriever retrieved from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden\\_Retriever](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_Retriever), is categorized well. If someone would like more detail on the characteristics or history of

the dog, it is very easy to scroll down on the page to quickly find the particular fields in bold print adding value to the content. Just by having this layout many will stay on the page longer without navigating away. It has been shown that the average user only stays on a webpage 10-20 seconds, but will stay longer if there is value which helps build overall regard.

Alternatively, landing on a site while looking for similar presentation can serve as a negative example of having the information not being conveniently displayed. Such websites like The Golden Retriever | Modern Dog magazine, shows how a reader can promptly lose interest without clear subtopics. The page contains well-meaning text that is not appealing aesthetically. It encourages someone to not get the desired information, thereby decreasing the chances of the page gaining online respect. If a golden retriever resource is found with clear headings, Wikipedia would still be the foremost choice in gathering data regarding golden retrievers due to contributions by experts from assorted institutions.

## Wikipedia is Developed from Experts



Searching for the perfect golden retriever to adopt, one will gather the best information from experts which can be defined as

“someone having special skill or knowledge”. These are people that know the breed inside and out. Experts tend to have many years of experience where considerable familiarity has been obtained. This intellect is gathered from having raised golden retrievers, being formally schooled, or specifically trained individually in every aspect that has to do with the breed. Experts have qualities that are filled with motivation, focus, a capacity to critically think, and a desire to continually learn and share. For anyone to earn the title of expert, it is imperative that their expertise coincides with elements that can be readily proven. Golden Retrievers on Wikipedia is supplemented with people from the American Kennel Club which possess these bearings. Having such a group on Wikipedia will also furnish credibility on the site.

The American Kennel Club was first founded in 1884. Since then, the club has earned many honors and awards for promoting top notch standards in golden retrievers in regards to the breed, breeders, community services, and sportsmanship. They are based upon years of being well-respected with a flawless reputation for offering superior quality information. It is this information that can be found throughout the Wikipedia article regarding golden retrievers. A reader will know preeminently that anything being read is true

and verifiable when it's from the AKC! Sure, there are other articles that can be found to speak on behalf of golden retrievers, but they lack the benefaction from having experts.

For an example of how an article can be written on golden retrievers where the credibility of the information may be questioned can be found at Choosing a Dog. This is produced from an individual named Candyce H. Stapen who has very little knowledge regarding choosing a dog. Her biography includes works written on topics such as pharmaceuticals, sports, crafts, holidays, travel, and many more various topics. Clearly, this person lacks core principles for being identified as any sort of expert which, in turn, diminishes her capacity for sharing valued information. In fact, the article itself lacks many details one may seek in actually choosing a dog such as temperament and other characteristic attributes. As you can see, valid contributions to articles are very important for credibility when searching for more on golden retrievers.

It is just as meaningful to be able to rely on these contributors without having to question the soundness of the content. Searching for compositions for relevant trustworthy information could be daunting for such reasons. It seems as though everyone who's anyone could develop written works and have it published. So, how do we know what we are reading

is from those that truly want to share information without alternative motives and biases? With Wikipedia, the way it is maintained and monitored leaves no doubt that publications on golden retrievers is reliable and credible.

### Wikipedia has Limits



There has been an ugly misconception regarding the worthiness of Wikipedia's articles. Some people have gone far to suggest that the articles can be manipulated easily with just a few keystrokes. Political satirist, Steven Colbert, had a short segment on his television show where he made up a statement that "Africa has more elephants today than it did 10 years ago" and insinuated an attempt to post the statement as a fact on Wikipedia. By editing a page like so, it can be deemed as literary vandalism. However, it is simply not that easy for anyone to just add random insight, thoughts, or comments. In fact, the article Golden Retriever on Wikipedia has tools in place that deters people from causing literary harm.

### Wikipedia is Protected

"Padlock" icons are placed on many of the pages found in the upper right-hand corner on Wikipedia pages. These locks provide various levels of protection from

users manipulating pages on a whim. The levels range from being fully-protected to having only portions of the page under such security (Wikipedia Protection Policy, 2013). They are identified by the color of the padlock that ultimately prevents users from making any additions or deletions. This means that content that is contributed goes through a critical process advocating neutrality and is verifiable. Golden Retrievers on Wikipedia is semi-protected with a silver lock in which edits are restricted to registered users that have a history and have been established over time. These edits are merely a request for the page to be updated with the content provided. Registered users have their computers IP Address identified and are able to be banned should the platform be abused. It is with these forms of prevention tactics that help make Wikipedia a reliable source for individuals looking to find the perfect golden retriever! Besides the reasons above, there are other reasons why Wikipedia is the trusted source to gain information on golden retrievers. It is a site which there is accountability for what is being posted on the pages.

### Wikipedia is Proactively Managed

Others suggest that Wikipedia is managed by individuals which can leave room for

human error or self-serving tendencies. Fortunately, these misrepresentations can readily be disproven and promptly diffused. Since there are millions of articles, some of it is managed robotically by keyword and phrases in order to sufficiently cut-out common words known as "noise". It is these words that tend to prompt opinions or prejudices. If you take a look into the "history" tab found on Wikipedia's Golden Retriever page, several opinion related contributions are shown to be omitted. Likewise, the individuals that do have a direct hand into what the page on golden retrievers publishes have themselves earned credibility through the many dynamics of the online community where one has to show answerability to their own thoughts and processes. After the mechanics of Wikipedia is disclosed, it is rather easy to see how anyone searching for a golden retriever can gain the wisdom for picking the perfect dog. The website can be deemed trustworthy especially since there is accountability. This understanding is continuously reinforced by the continuity of the content.

### Wikipedia has Up-To-Date Information

From health concerns and temperament to history and different fur coats, golden retrievers on Wikipedia has much detail. These elements

can develop further as time permits changing aspects such as coloring, medical breakthroughs or demeanor of the dog. Therefore, it is critical for anyone looking for a golden retriever to know the latest intelligence as it pertains to the canine type, otherwise, the particular golden retriever may not suit an individual's desires. While the article, Flat-Coated Retrievers by Cindy Moore (1995) offers legitimate information, it is nearly 20 years old and suggests hopes for the future of the dog which nowadays may have been accomplished. Of course, the quality of the content will also contribute to the dependability of Wikipedia. This means that it needs to be written well with common words so that it can be easily understood by laymen.

Overall, anyone looking for a golden retriever will benefit the most by gaining information from Wikipedia. While there's a ton of assets as it pertains to this certain breed, it has been demonstrated that there are many more bad resources to draw from. As you can see, Wikipedia is the all-encompassing database where folks can search the topic of golden retrievers with confidence while obtaining complete and thorough data. By deviating from searching for golden retrievers elsewhere, one can ultimately give up interest and should expect much less credibility or content. ■



# Move Forward But Look Back: My Path to Tacoma Community College

**E**ducation saves lives. It saved mine. My understanding of the value of an education was born on the axis of the intersectionality of poverty and violence. Now, it didn't come to me immediately, but once I understood that it could be the pathway to moving forward, my life was forever changed. I remember the very day that it changed. Indeed, I remember the person who became the greatest source for my understanding of the powerful role education can play in the transformation of not only one's material circumstances, but even the way one sees herself in the world.

When I set foot upon the campus of the University of Washington in 1995, I was eighteen years old, a single mother, and homeless. And yet, there I was...like I belonged, like I was destined to be there. However, I had not arrived there on my own. Far from it, I had been carried; partially dragged; and occasionally kicked in the behind—metaphorically speaking. Her name was Julie Zarelli. I had met her at what I call saving ground—the campus of a local community college. Now, you learned quickly not to be mistaken by her short height, petite size, blond hair, and blue eyes. She would shift discourses like a television remote—quoting Shakespeare in one moment, and then, in her own words, threaten to “blast” students if they dared “try” her by missing her class, which she considered to be a “personal diss.”

She was like an odd

combination of Betty White (without the potty mouth), that intimidation factor immediately invoked by almost any Samuel L. Jackson character, and the gentleness of none other than Winnie-the-Pooh! She was extraordinary and mind boggling. Can you imagine Betty White entering the dark driveway of the infamous Holy Park neighborhood in the south end of Seattle in the late 1990's? That was Ms. Zee, as we called her. Her mission—finding her students who missed school.

It was this same lady who would for reasons that I have yet to understand, tell me, “We are going to move you forward and the only thing that I ask is that you occasionally look back.”

We had some bumps along the road, like that little unexpected baby in my arms, but true to her word, she had me on the UW campus, just one month after baby was born and with every expectation that I would be in full time classes. It was hard. My schedule was hectic and emotionally draining, with work in the early morning, afternoon classes, work again, and then home to tend to the energetic and insatiable needs of a toddler who had no understanding for the sentiment “Mommy's tired.” On a good night, by midnight, I could tend to my studies, working through the night until done.

Occasionally, me and the dozens of other poor single mothers I attended school with would laugh, but only half-heartedly, at our routine of rotating between the phone

and heat, trying to stretch our budgets to make ends meet. There was not a day that went by that we didn't reflect upon our status as poor women and the ways in which our bodies were marked by the rest of society. It was the era of welfare reform and everywhere was the prolific imagery of the welfare trope. Yet, that imagery was far overshadowed and overpowered by Ms. Zee's voice—forever championing our cause, making us hold firm to the belief that our pursuit of an education would not only allow us to defy and survive those stereotypes. It would save us and allow us to flourish. As if she could see into the future herself, she would always end by saying, “But remember what I said...move forward and then occasionally look back.”

I did move forward. I completed my undergraduate studies and again with a little gentle firm push from Ms. Zee, continued on to law school. After law school, I immediately started my legal career, working as a city prosecutor. A few months later, Ms. Zee passed away. Her service was one of the most beautiful things I have ever seen in my life. You looked across the church and you immediately knew who this woman was, how many lives she had touched—from school leadership officials in suit and tie, to the youth dressed in baggy jeans and bandanas, to those like me, who had come from broken homes and violence—she had touched and perfected our lives and while we were all so very different—she had been our commonality—a union between our humanity.

I was never the same after she passed. I had made great strides. I had married, had children, and purchased a home. I went on to practice as an Assistant Attorney General. I was moving forward. Yet, even as I loved my life and very much loved the practice of law, I was bothered. There was something that I was missing. And then I came across the posting for a position with Tacoma Community College as a full time tenure track instructor in the Paralegal Program. I think my heart literally soared as I heard her voice, “Move forward, but look back.” I immediately knew what I was supposed to do.

Education not only saved my life, but has now become a means of honoring a life. This is my story. This is my journey to Tacoma Community College and to teaching. It has only begun. Fall Quarter 2013 was the beginning of my second year of full time instruction, bridging my passion for the law and teaching. Every day that I walk through campus, I see the rainbow of community that I saw at Ms. Zee's service. I am inspired all over again at the power, beauty, and greatness of the community college setting.

It is here that I have come to understand the most important lesson that Ms. Zee sought to imbue within all of us—look back and when you move forward, bring someone with you. ■

BY ANDREA JARMON

# Politics, Leadership, and Conflict in the Dobe

BY DANIELLE BOURN

Once called the “harmless people,” the Ju/’hoansi serve as an excellent rebuttal to the common misconception that hunter/gatherer lives are “nasty, brutish, and short.” They are also a perfect example of how a community can live relatively harmoniously without an official government or state. Canadian anthropologist Richard Lee examines how the Ju/’hoansi live so peacefully, looking closely at the leadership and social control tactics they use, the role of hxaro, and the rare cases that violent spats did arise.

The Ju/’hoansi have no official government, police officers, judges, kings, or queens. When asked if headmen exist, as previous writings might suggest, a Ju/’hoansi man jokingly replied, “Of course we have headmen! In fact, we are all headmen...Each one of us is headman over himself!” (Lee 124). Without headmen, chiefs, or a state, relative peacefulness is achieved through defusing conflict before it escalates. How this is accomplished varies based on the level of conflict that arises: talking, fighting, and deadly fighting. Talk begins with horehore or obaoba (“talk” or “yikity yak”) often resulting from disputes over laziness, stinginess, or improper meat distribution. Other times, the argument takes place just for the sake of having an argument. These are strewn with laughter to try to lighten the subject and cool off its partakers. However, laughter may not always work, if anger replaces humor, and the argument can spiral to n.wa (a more serious “talk”) and further to za (verbal sexual abuse). Physical fighting is the next stage, and can happen man to man, woman to woman, or man to woman. Third parties get involved to break the fighters apart (or egg them on). The violence is then suppressed further by use of fission, or leaving the situation. The person who started the fight, by use of fission, will leave the area to visit other camps and may be gone a week or months. This gives all involved parties time to cool off, allowing for a quick forgiveness upon the departed’s return. The next stage is deadly fighting, usually man to man, involving combat with deadly weapons, mostly poisonous arrows. Poisonous arrows are used so often as they are available and potent. Being hit with one has an unlucky 50/50 chance survival rate. When a member in this kind of conflict is killed, a feud can ensue; though there is little to do in persuading the angry parties from fighting, but there is a way to end feuds, preventing violence from ensuing in the long run. This method is called a “trump card,” meaning an execution. The tribe may collectively execute the person

responsible for the first death, ending a feud and evening the score. Tactics have become less gory in recent years; however, as outside influence of the Tswana and Herero people have established a sort of unofficial court to settle disputes without bloodshed.

Preventing conflict, maintaining social relations, and continued giving are also achieved through the Ju/’hoansi’s hxaro exchange. In this practice, one individual will give to another, and receive the reciprocal gift later. This could happen the next day or months after, but generally a longer wait portrays a closer relationship (or further geographic location). The goods traded don’t need to be of equal value to each other, though they usually balance out in the long run, because the trade isn’t focused on the goods but rather the social relationship between the people giving them. As a Ju/’hoansi man !Xoma puts it, “You see, we don’t trade with things, we trade with people!”. Another important function of hxaro is the allowance of a “cool off” period, where hxaro serves as a viable excuse to remove oneself from a conflict to ease emotions and to maintain social ties at another camp.

Despite these efforts, there have been some accounts in which violence has occurred. In one occurrence, a young beautiful wife accused other young women in the camp of sleeping with her husband. She made verbal sexual insults and even attacked some of the women. The dispute was defused by her husband taking his wife to another camp for a few weeks to settle, later to come back and obtain immediate forgiveness. This was not an unusual occurrence, and though they are rare, unspoken outbreaks of violence has occurred in the past. Richard Lee reports that between 1920-1955, 22 cases of homicide and 15 woundings turned up, with poison arrow fights averaging once every two years. This leads Lee’s readers to believe that, though occurring less often than in some Western communities, Ju/’hoansi disputes are escalated beyond Western standards.

Despite these bouts of conflict, the Ju/’hoansi are a relatively peaceful people. Through tactics of fission, laughter, and hxaro, they maintain social control and order without an official government. Perhaps they don’t completely live up to the reputation of “the Harmless People,” as human nature inevitably gets in the way. Still, their relatively harmonious society is one to be studied and understood. ■



# The Influence of Gekokujo on the Rise of Militarism in Japan prior to WWII

BY TIMOTHY DUEFRANE

The time is late 1920s Japan. The country has risen quickly from a nation self-isolated to the first true Asian nation that has started to earn the respect of the Western powers. The nation has sacrificed much to gain the technology and power that has made it a nation worth equal treatment by the Western powers of Europe and America. The country has suffered and its people look to its leaders to help them. However, the help is not forthcoming; many of the nation's leaders have become jaded or corrupted by the same western ideals that propelled the nation into a position of power. What can be done then by the government to help the people? It is not that the Emperor does not wish his people to be successful and happy, it is the bureaucrats and powerful families or merchants he is surrounded by that are making the people suffer through their decisions. What could a young, loyal Japanese soldier do to show his support for the Emperor, nation and his people? Why disobey orders and rebel in the name of the Emperor of course! Join with other young men of like ideals, create secret societies and plan to overthrow those in power who corrupt and hurt the nation. This is the setting of Gekokujo in late Taisho era into early Showa Japan. Unrest against the corrupt parties in control of Japan rose into rebellions, kidnappings and even murder in the name of the Emperor and the nation. The emergence of Gekokujo in late Taisho into early Showa Japan became a major influence on the young military officers of the nation and was a major influence on the rise of Militarism in Japan prior to WWII.

Gekokujo translated into English means insubordination. In his book *The Rising Sun*, American author and historian John Toland provided a lengthier and more accurate description of Gekokujo as the criminal act of insubordination made in an attempt to "redress the social injustices in Japan through force and assassination" (5). This insubordination could originate from any level and all classes of society. However, in the late Taisho into early Showa periods of Modern Japan it is generally used to refer to insubordination within the Japanese Army and Naval forces. The term Gekokujo actually originates back to 15th century Japan and refers to the insubordination of Samurai and Daimyo in disregarding orders from the Shogun and of the Shogun ignoring orders given by the Emperor. Over the many centuries from the 15th century to the Showa era of Japan the occurrence of Gekokujo was known, accepted and eventually became a part of Japanese tradition over many years. While Gekokujo was accepted traditionally it was not widely acted upon nor did it have a major influence on the course of Japan after the 15th century until its reemergence in the Showa era.

When Gekokujo did reemerge in the 1920s era Japan there were multiple occurrences of varying levels of effect. Two of the most influential events of Gekokujo were the Manchurian Incident and the May 15th Massacre. Both events were organized and for the most part carried out by young military officers going against orders to do what they believed to be the best for the nation.

Few men as influential to the young men of 1920s Japan then Ikki

Kita. Ikki was a fierce nationalist and revolutionary who talked of implementing a program that combined the government styles of imperialism and socialism. In 1923 he wrote a document called the "General Outline of Measures for the Reconstruction of Japan." While this document was initially banned in Japan it still found its way to and "was devoured by radicals and worshipers of the Emperor alike" (Toland, 6). In this document Ikki explained his plan to remove all of the barriers he believed existed between the Emperor and the people of Japan and the "reconstruction of the nation around the military and an awakened citizenry" (Yanaga, 492). This document was broken down into eight sections: section one discusses the Emperor of the People, section two is the Limitation on Private Property, three is the Three Principles for Disposition of Land, four is the Control of Large Capital, five relates to the Rights of Workers, six discusses the People's Right to Live, seven explains the Reorganization Plan for Korea and Other Present and Future Possessions, and lastly eight discussed the Rights of the State. His proposal began with his belief that there should be no barriers between the Emperor and the people and his wish "to establish a firm base for the national reconstruction" (Ikki, 411). His government reform proposals were extensive and covered all areas that Ikki felt the state was failing the Emperor and the people.

While Ikki's proposals were seen as radical to some and a threat to others the real effect of them was to be on the young military officers who read his work and felt strongly that they too wished to help make their nation stronger and better. Two specific young Army officers who came to follow Ikki's teachings were Lieutenant Colonel Kanji Ishihara (or Ishiwara) and Colonel Seishiro Itagaki. Both of these men were from families who had been Samurai prior to the edicts of the Meiji Restoration. Ishihara was a "brilliant, inspired, flamboyant, [and] a fountain of ideas" (Toland, 7). Itagaki on the other hand "was cool, thoughtful, a master organizer" (Toland, 7). Both of these men knew of the struggles of the people and the troubles they suffered from their own lives and from stories from the men under them. They were upset with how the government had taken steps to take care of the big zaibatsu after the Great Depression but had not done much to better the place of the common people. In the late 1920's both men were assigned to the Kwantung Army which was guarding Japanese interests in Manchuria. While in Manchuria both men came to see Manchuria as a means to relieve the poverty issue in Japan. They had seen the effects of the money that Japan had poured into Manchuria. How the growth of the railroads had increased the numbers of Japanese, Chinese, Korean and other traders and settlers that flooded to the region to take advantage of the natural resources there. This led Ishihara and Itagaki to envision Manchuria free of Chinese rule where it could be a free state where all ethnicities would be welcome. They believed that the Kwantung Army could make this happen with the blessing of the Emperor and the War Minister. However, neither the current War Minister nor the Emperor was willing to give their blessing to this action and risk angering the Western Powers. Still strongly believing that their idea was right and good for the nation Ishihara,

Itagaki and their followers decided to go against their orders and move on with their plan. Up to this point in the 1920 there had been multiple examples of Gekokujo in Japan, both military and civilian uprisings that had met with very limited success and while they play their part in the rise of militarism none of them had the influence of what Ishihara and Itagaki were about to do.

Starting in June of 1928 men under the command of the Kwantung Army staged a sabotage of a train transporting the ruling Chinese Warlord Marshal Chang. The attack was successful and the Warlord was fatally wounded. Following the success of this first action and in disregard of warnings and orders from Tokyo the Kwantung Army continued to act as the personal Army of Ishihara and Itagaki. Finally, in the summer of 1931, the Kwantung Army was ready to make their final move to securing Manchuria for Japan. The bureaucrats in Tokyo were not happy with the actions of the Kwantung Army and were putting pressure on the War Minister to control the Army. This was all the bureaucrats could do to the army; they had no direct control over them! This lack of control over the Japanese military goes back to the Meiji Constitution. In Articles 11 and 12 expressly grant control over the Army and Navy to the Emperor only. The Bureaucracy cannot issue orders to the military, they must appeal to either the War Minister (usually an Army General or Navy Admiral) or to the Emperor himself. The War Minister finally sent a Maj. General to Manchuria to attempt to reign in the rampaging Kwantung Army. However, the leaders of the Kwantung Army were prepared and were able to distract the general with drinking and geisha.

The final attack of the Kwantung Army was a repeat of the first, a railroad bombing that would be blamed upon the local Chinese garrison and give the Japanese Army the right to move in to protect its interests. The action was a success and the Kwantung Army had completed their goal of establishing the Japanese control of Manchuria without the authority of the Bureaucracy in Tokyo. The Gekokujo of the Kwantung Army was received with great support from some political parties in Tokyo such as the Social Democratic and the Japan Nation Socialist Parties (Yanaga, 481). In the end the bureaucrats were forced to find a way to rationalize the actions of the Kwantung Army to the world and put it in the best light for the nation.

The other major incident during this era was the May 15th Incident. This incident was a result of unrest after the ratification of the London Naval Treaty of 1930 which implemented additional restrictions on the military and would give the Bureaucracy power over the Military. This impingement on the autonomy of the military angered a lot of military officers, some of whom formed groups or societies of like minded officers. These groups varied greatly in their ideals and methods. One such group is the Sakurakai (Cherry Blossom Society) which believed in territory expansion and internal reforms to relieve Japan's problems. Others such as the Tenketo and the Blood Brotherhood League believed in more direct action and even assassination as the solutions to political issues.

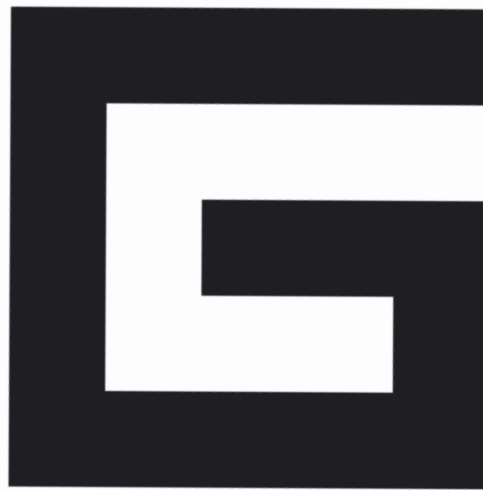
In the months leading up to May 15th 1932 members of the Blood Brotherhood League designed a plan where "influential members of political parties, the financial clique, and the privileged class" were singled out for assassination for being thought to be responsible for corruption in the government and the poor conditions of the common people of Japan (Yanaga,

502). This plan had multiple parts that were to be carried out over multiple dates. One assignment of the plan that was carried out successfully was the assassination of Baron Dan Takuma of the Mitsu zaibatsu family on March 5th. This assassination had come right on the tail end of the earlier assassination of the Ex-Finance Minister (and former Governor of the Bank of Japan) and Chairman of the Election Committee of the Minseito (a political party in the Diet), Inoue Junnosuke (Yanaga, 501). When the plan for May 15th was put into effect, nine Naval and Army officers (some reports also state they were accompanied by civilian supporters) went to the Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo. There they prayed and received charms from the attending priest of the shrine. The officers next went to the residence of the Prime Minister, Tsuyoshi Inukai, and forced their way in. The Prime Minister led his assailants into a traditional Japanese room and is believed to have tried to reason with them before they started yelling and opened fire on him (Toland 12). Prime Minister Inukai had been targeted for his steadfast refusal to support the Kwantung Army's actions in Manchuria and the Manchukuo government it created.

In the case of the May 15th Incident the trials afterwards caused more stir than the actual incident. After leaving the residence of the Prime Minister the assassins went to the local police and Bank of Japan. Here they threw a couple bombs and scattered propaganda before turning themselves in to police. The ensuing trial of the assassins is where popular support of the radical actions of these young military officers. During the trials the defendants were allowed to use the stand to declare their loyalty to the nation and the Emperor. They were able to declare their regret that Inukai was "sacrificed on the altar of national reformation" (Toland, 13). Support for clemency of the defendant ran so strongly that over 100,000 petitions were received that were signed or written in blood. "Nine young men from Niigata asked to take the place of those on trial, and to show their good faith enclosed their own nine little fingers picked in a jar of alcohol" (Toland, 13). The people of Japan were impressed with the lengths these young military men would go in efforts for the people and the nation. They became martyrs, figures of strength in a time where the many suffered and the few at the top of society prospered.

These two incidents highlight the influence of Gekokujo on the rise of militarism in late 1920 to early 1930s Japan. There were many other incidents that were also Gekokujo and influences on the rise of militarism, however, the two discussed here were what I believe to be the most prominent of the era. These examples showed how the act of Gekokujo was seen by popular culture in Japan and how it was used by those involved to address the social and political problems of the nation at the time. The Manchurian Incident was an attempt by a few within the Kwantung Army to provide a means of economic support for those in Japan who were suffering. The May 15th Incident was the actions of a few who believed that the answer to what they believed was political corruption was to remove those who were corrupt and preventing the Emperor from working with the people by assassination and force. Both groups willingly went against orders believing they were acting in the best interests of the nation. Popular support of both actions showed how the people of Japan believed that the instigators were truly acting within the national spirit and in a few cases were seen as martyrs of the people. Continued popular support by the people of these and other acts of Gekokujo is what I believe was a strong factor in the rise of militarism in Japan prior to WWII. ■





# GRAMMAR: *What's the Fuss?*

BY WILLIAM SCHWAB

**T**he appropriate use of grammar helps individuals properly convey information that they are trying to pass along with intent to convince or to simply inform. Some individuals feel that using grammar properly is of the utmost importance while others do not share that same level of concern. Even though grammar has gained importance dating back to the beginning of the 18th century in the United States, the exact origin of grammar is difficult to discern. One author claims that grammar originated with

pre-human primates 4 million years ago and has increased in complexity ever since. With the history of grammar not being fully understood and people either adamantly supporting proper grammar usage or taking a more casual understanding, what then is causing the fuss about grammar?

The history of grammar does not provide a clear path to what exactly led to its importance. Several authors have different points of view as to the beginning of grammar. For instance, in his

book *Origins of Grammar: An Anthropological Perspective*, the author Martin Edwards states that the genesis of grammar, in theory, could be dated back 4 million years when primates communicated via signals such as making sounds to inform another member of the species about a potential threat or raising their voices to stress the importance of reacting quickly. Both scenarios require a message sender and a message receiver both of whom need to have a general understanding of their common language.

In this chapter Martin speculates that as humans evolved from primates, language evolved and as the complexity of the individual increased, the necessity of communicating clearly became more important. As communicating became more complex, such as when humans traded goods for services and had to convince the other of the value of his or her good or service, a structured form of language, involving grammar, became increasingly important (136).

Although the exact origins

of grammar are speculative as stated by Edwardes “it is possible that we will never have a satisfactory answer to the question of where language grammar came from” (144) it is clear that properly using grammar has become widely known as necessary. For instance, In *The Rise and Fall of English: Reconstructing English as a Discipline*, Robert Scholes writes that in response to the increasing importance of understanding English, in 1767 English grammar, language and composition were first offered at Yale University. Scholes further states that other colleges including Rhode Island College (later to be renamed Brown University), was founded in 1764 and similar to Yale, acknowledged the importance of English grammar by including it into its curriculum (3).

To further expand on the increasing importance of introducing language grammar, George Krapp writes that in September of 1780 John Adams wrote a letter to the “President of Congress” suggesting that a public institution be established to focus on “fixing and improving” American English by stating “so that to this day there is no grammar nor dictionary extant of the English language which has the least public authority.” Krapp reports that John Adams continues to stress the importance of having a “public standard” in regard to properly using the English language in that the “eloquence will become the instrument for recommending men to their fellow-citizens, and the principle means of advancement through the various ranks and offices of society.” (7). In this passage John Adams states that knowing and being able to effectively utilize the English language can prove to be beneficial for the individual.

Similarly, although 50 years later, the author of *English Grammar in Familiar Lectures*

presents a series of grammar related lectures and in the text preceding the lectures he notes the importance of grammar: a knowledge of grammar is indispensably requisite; for it opens the door to every department of learning. . . you may rest assured, that this is a branch of education essentially useful to all, even those who are destined to pass through the most humblest walks of life (15)

It is evident that during the early 18th century grammar, in the English language, gained great popularity. This popularity continues to this day with some individuals taking a strong stance in the support of proper grammar usage. For instance, Lynne Truss a bestselling author in the United Kingdom and the United States proclaims that she is a “stickler” for grammar and in one of her books titled *Eats, Shoots and Leaves* provides a significant number of examples where she expresses her annoyance towards grammar related errors. On one occasion the author noticed a banner at a local gas station that read: “Come inside for CD’s, VIDEO’s, DVD’s, and BOOK’s” (1). To stress her frustration with the grammatical errors on the banner, Truss states to the reader that if he or she did not experience some form of adverse reaction after reading the sentence then the reader “should probably put down this book at once.” (1). This is not only an example of Truss’s strong appreciation for grammar, but it also implies that the readers need to possess sufficient understanding of grammar in order to appreciate her book.

On a similar occasion where Truss comes across a grammatical error that upset her, she noticed a sign on a window of a charity shop that read “Can you spare any old records” (pg. 4). Truss continues and expresses her frustration with this sign as it did not contain the required question mark and states “It

is appalling ignorance.” (4). Truss debated whether or not to enter the establishment and bring this mistake to the shop keeper’s attention, but refrained as she expected that the clerk would tell her to “bugger off, get a life and mind your own business” (5).

On the other end of the grammar “stickler” spectrum is June Casagrande who acknowledges the importance of properly using grammar, but does not feel as passionately about the grammar mistakes she encounters. June is the author of *Grammar Snobs are Great Big Meanies: A Guide to Language for Fun & Spite*. Casagrande begins her introduction with an example of a piece of her work that was called into question by a person who belongs to a group that Casagrande refers to as “Grammar Snobs”. At the time of this reported potential grammar mistake, Casagrande was writing a weekly grammar column for the Los Angeles Times. The author provides the individual’s explanation for why he or she feels the author has made an error. The author then offers her rebuttal in her column and writes:

Dear Mario and Spgs: Please open your dictionaries to the word ‘wrong.’ Please see that, following the first cluster of definitions under ‘adj.,’ adjective, comes the abbreviation “adv,,” Adverb. ‘Wrong’ is an adverb. And you are both wrong. (xvi)

Casagrande uses this example as satire aimed at the individuals who make an effort to prove that their understanding of grammar is superior to others. She refers to these people as “bullies” who, she claims, often lack the proper understanding of the errors that they find in others’ work. These errors made when reporting another person’s mistake is a common occurrence and the author states is due to “a little bit of grammar knowledge in the wrong hands is a

dangerousthing” (xx).

On a similar occasion where the person reporting the error made an actual error themselves, Casagrande recalls that while she and a colleague were working at a newspaper, her colleague received a letter from a reader. The letter contained an article that her colleague had written with an error the newspaper editors overlooked. The error was circled and next to it was a hand written word “Idiot!”. Although the reader located an actual error, the author found it humorous as well as ironic when she quickly noticed an obvious mistake in the reader’s letter to her colleague. The reader typed “This is now a real journalist deals with ‘scary’ letters.” (xx) The reader typed the word “now” instead of “how”. The author reveals the grammar snob’s mistake not only as a form of satirical retaliation, but for the reader to heed her warning when attempting to correct another person’s writing because, the reader may then inadvertently be assuming the role of the grammar snob.

Although the history of grammar is not certain, what is a clear result of possibly 4 million years of grammar evolution is that we continue to use grammar in order to provide a more accurate message in what we are trying to communicate. The development of grammar and the benefits of being able to apply one’s knowledge of grammar properly has gained significant attention. Whether or not a person is on one side of the fussing-about-grammar spectrum or the other, one simple truth remains: we all make mistakes. Therefore, the fuss about grammar cannot not be considered merely an activity that one participates in in order to display his or her grammar knowledge, but rather an ongoing practice to help us learn from and correct our mistake. ■





their debut during this golden sci-fi era. These films are now cult classics and can still be seen on the big screen during special midnight showings all across America. Countless children, including myself, grew up on these movies. To this day I can't seem to turn the channel when one of these classic sci-fi movies is on, no matter how terrible the special effects.

Star Trek has influenced today's culture and technology perhaps more than any other TV show to have come before it. Star Trek the original series only ran for three seasons in the late 1960's before being canceled due to a lack of viewers. Today Star Trek has spawned four subsequent series, and twelve movies, the latest of which, Star Trek: Into Darkness is coming out this year and is jam packed with big names (startrek.com). Trekkers are everywhere, with their Starfleet coffee mugs and pointy Spock ears, but what you might not know is that Star Trek influenced technology is, if anything, even more common. Walter De Brouwer, inventor of a real life tricorder (small hand held analyzing computer) told USA today reporter, Eliza Collins, in an interview: "Star Trek has been the inspiration for many inventions -- just look in your pocket and you're probably carrying a 'communicator' -- your cellphone. The iPad was a datapad in the series; the replicator was an inspiration for 3-D printers. Star Trek has reached the hearts and minds of millions, and influenced us in ways that many of our population don't even realize to better ourselves and the world around us.

My mother and brother got to go on the ultimate geek pilgrimage a few years ago: San Diego International Comic-Con. Comic-Con is a veritable Mecca for all things geeky or nerdy. Whether you like comic books, video games, TV, Movies, Manga (Japanese comics), Anime (Japanese cartoon movies), Sci Fi, Fantasy, or all of the above, it's there. The very first Comic-Con was on March 21st 1970, and only had about 100 visitors. Today Comic-Con has expanded from one room to a sprawling network of buildings, and you can expect anywhere from 125,000 to 135,000 people to cram themselves into the venues trying to get a glimpse of their favorite comic artist or celebrity (Comic-con.org). I think that Comic-Con is the perfect analogy for geek culture as a whole. We've gone from a relatively small and shunned sub culture, to a thriving and popular community.

Today, sci-fi has reached a greater peak of popularity than ever before. Battle Star Galactica, a TV show that had a humble, campy beginning burst back in to popularity with its remake just a few years ago. Fringe is a TV show about sci-fi friendly subjects like cloning and parallel universes on FOX network and is still immensely popular. There is even an entire network on cable that was built around the demand for more of this interesting and endlessly imaginative genre fittingly titled Syfy. It seems like every channel has its own sci-fi show,

which shows just how much the American audience has embraced the genre formerly dominated by geeks.

### Revenge of the Computer Nerd

One of the foundations of this change in social stature is probably rooted in the fact that we now live in the information age. Science and technology are parts of our everyday life in ways we couldn't dream of fifty years ago. Laptop computers, iPhones, Bluetooth, MP3 players, and the internet itself have elevated our society to an all new technological high. The land rover Curiosity is exploring Mars and sending us back high definition images of a completely different planet over thirty million miles away, and it's our geeky generation that's put it there. In Beyond Geek Chic, Corey S. Powell, an Editor at Discover magazine, observes something that I find truly insightful and explains what the geek culture is all about. "The triumph (of geek culture) goes deeper than just fondness for comic books and fantasy novels, but (it's) a wholesale embrace of scientific thinking in popular culture." I find this statement to be a profound and discerning observation of what has happened in our society to raise up those who used to occupy the bottom rung of the totem pole.

### A Geek's New Hope

All of these technological and sci-fi oriented advances help to show that there has been a down trend for several years regarding the persecution of geeks and nerds, starting with the evolution of the way people thought about the word geek. Geek used to be used as a synonym for freak or loser, but now it seems there's almost a sense of admiration associated with the term. In 2010, a study was published in Aviation Week and Space Technology in which a demographic of students and young professionals was polled to get their opinions on the connotations of the words geek and nerd. Forty-nine percent of young professionals thought of the word nerd as positive, and 42 percent of students thought the same. The word geek was like wise viewed as positive by 44 percent of young professionals and 35 percent of students. The ridicule has not completely died out, but when does it ever? What this study showed was the fact that there is far less negativity associated with the words geek and nerd than there used to be.

Another clear indication of the lessening of negativity against geeks and nerds is in the fashion industry. Accessories like Converse sneakers and bowties have been popularized by Doctor Who, a BBC (British Broadcasting Channel) sci-fi show about a time traveling alien. The Big Bang Theory, a



T.V show about a group of friends who are scientists and nerds, has made superhero shirts and hoodies go on trend. An article in Men's Health Magazine observes this newly chic style, and the fact that cool kids are now voluntarily wearing glasses. I remember when it was the ultimate fashion suicide to have glasses. Those weird knitted animal hats with the long paws hanging down, "Keep Calm" t-shirts, and kids dyeing their hair all the different bright neon shades of the rainbow all used to be geeky styles, but now you see them every day on the streets.

### The Geek and Nerd Strike Back

As I've noted, in the past the geeks and nerds sat in the back of the cafeteria, but today we're sitting at the cool kids table in the lime light. There are many examples of the geeky guy making good. Take famous Pixar chairman and CEO of the world famous Apple Computers Steve Jobs. The recently deceased computer giant had humble beginnings, but who hasn't seen an iPhone, iPod, or Mac computer? Jobs managed to reach the top of the computer technology field, and then topped it off with Pixar, a Disney affiliated digital animation studio responsible for hits like A Bug's Life and Toy Story. Apple and Pixar are now every day household names, and they were started by a geek. Bill Gates, the founder of Microsoft, dropped out of Harvard in order to peruse his love of computers. An Ivy League college dropout, a geek with a dream that seems too big, ends up one of the richest men in the world. These two people went from little know geeks to worldwide sensations gracing the covers of magazines, and this story is no longer unusual.

### Return of the Cool Kid

It's not only computer geeks that are going up in the world, everything geek seems to be coming into its own so recognizably that Time magazine has published an article on it. In The Geek Shall Inherit the Earth, published in 2005, author Mr. Lev Grossman speaks to this distinct change in the perception of what was once traditionally considered the geek and nerds purview. "What was once hopelessly geeky- video games, fantasy novels, science fiction, superheroes- has now, somehow, become cool." Mr. Grossman is an author and longtime columnist for Time magazine that has written much about geeky subjects like technology, and reviews geeky movies like the Avengers, and Prometheus. I for one, think he's right about the geek trend. Everywhere you look there is superhero merchandising, a new hi-tech nerdy device like the latest incarnation of the iPhone, or something with a dragon or The Hobbit quote on it. Grossman

points out that the entertainment industry has its phasers locked onto the geek demographic, having discovered what a profitable market we are.

There are, however, arguments that "geeks" don't even exist anymore. In his article in the magazine Wired, Wake Up, Geek Culture: Time to Die, Patton Oswalt discusses the topic at length. Oswalt, a self-confessed geek, is a professional comedian and actor. He postulates that geek culture was based on being the exception to the norm, and that now that the geek culture has become so integrated the fad needs to die in order to maintain its very geekyness. It's his position that being a geek is all about having knowledge of various little known, but interesting things, and obsessing over them. When a lot of people obsess over them, then it's not really unknown, and ergo, are not geeky (Oswalt). N'Gai Croal, a video game consultant and critic, discusses a similar view point in his article, You Don't Have to be a Nerd (Croal). Genres that used to be the sole domain of geeks and nerds, such as video games, have been branching out into more easily digestible formats for people who would not traditionally be interested in that particular demographic. Are the geeks losing their geekyness, or is the rest of the world finally just realizing how awesome geeky stuff truly is? Perhaps society simply needed a chance to catch up. Maybe geeks and nerds were just ahead of the recent fashion, media, and technological trends all along.

Geeks and nerds have their fingers in a million different pies. We are on TV, in the movie theatre, in the work place, and on the internet. We've conquered it all. Whether you're a geek or not you've probably seen Christopher Nolan's Dark Knight Trilogy about Bat Man. Stars like Robert Downey Jr., who played Iron Man, and Daniel Craig, who played a Western Gunslinger fighting off spaceships in Cowboys vs. Aliens, are now geek icons. The IT guy who fixed your computer, the girl with the Star Wars tattoo that made your coffee, and that dude you saw walking down the street with the Green Lantern hoodie, now the essence of cool, were all once upon a time geeks. When you turn on your T.V. you'll see shows like The Big Bang Theory, or the new reality show coming out on TBS called King of the Nerds. You don't have to be a geek to read Harry Potter, and you don't need to play video games or read comic books to go see a superhero movie, but you probably can understand where those of us who do are coming from. When someone wears a bowtie, because bowties are cool, you can't automatically point at them and call them a loser even though once upon a time it was a foregone conclusion. We've become a nation that embraces our superhero t-shirt sporting, glasses wearing, wand waving, Guitar Hero plying geeks, and you know what? That's super cool. ■

# CHICKEN RECOGNITION OF ITS AERIAL PREDATOR'S CALL



**M**uch research has been conducted on the chicken's reaction to visual stimuli (Evens, Macedonia, & Marler, 1993), but far less on auditory stimuli. Birds have a similar frequency range to humans, but because they do not have a pinna, or external ear, they cannot locate sound sources very well. My experiment sought to answer whether chickens could recognize a raptor's call, and I hypothesized that if chickens recognize a raptor call, then the chicken would react to the call by becoming alert. In other words, I predicted that the chicken would react to a raptor's call by freezing and looking up slightly. As stated above, much research has been done on chickens and visual stimuli and the tonic immobility in chickens, and learning if and how they react to sound expands our knowledge of their behavior.

## Methods

The experiment was conducted in a 5 foot by 4 foot wide and 3 foot high box with a screen on top to prevent the chickens from escaping (Figure 1). A heat lamp was used to keep the area warm. The speakers were placed right on top of the screen, and a video camera recorded the reactions of the chickens from the top edge of the box. A recording of an American Robin and a Red-Tailed Hawk was played for the experimental groups. The recordings' volume was set to a moderate volume. The call of the robin was the "zeeup" communication call, and the hawk's call was a typical hawk's scream. Two chickens, one three month old Golden Buff and one six month old Cuckoo Maran, were placed, one at a time to prevent aggression or distraction, in the testing area. Each of these chickens was exposed to the robin's call first, and then the raptor's call. Each call was separated by one and a half minutes. Two other chickens, also one three month old Golden Buff and one six month old Cuckoo Maran, the control, were then placed in the testing area after the experimental group was tested, but exposed to no sound. Both Golden Buffs have not been exposed to an outside environment. The chickens of both groups were kept in the testing area for eight minutes. After a day, the chickens in each group were swapped with the other group and the process was repeated. A curious reaction is defined as the chicken searching for the source of the sound, without freezing. An alert reaction is defined as the chicken freezing and looking up, as in Figure 2.

## Results

Figure 3: Chicken Reactions to Auditory Cues. No sound was played for the controls. A total of four chickens were used: two each for the experimental and control groups. Values shown are averages

The chickens showed considerable – above 0.7 reactions – curiosity about the robin call and alertness to the raptor call, while neither reacted to the robin with alertness, nor to the raptor with curiosity, as depicted in Figure 3. This is demonstrated in Table 1 and 2, which indicates that seven out of eight times the chicken demonstrated curiosity about the robin call, and six out of eight times the chicken was alert to the raptor's call. Figure 3 also shows that there were reactions in the control groups, though they stayed below 0.3. Table 2 also demonstrates that there were very few reactions in the control groups.

## Discussion

Even though Griffin, Evans, and Blumstein states that "predator recognition is based upon experience," this experiment has found otherwise: that the two chickens that had not been outside could recognize the call of a raptor. Similarly, the other two chickens could also recognize the hawk. Interestingly, the chickens showed substantial curiousness to the robin call. The most likely explanation for this behavior is that they were simply curious as to what the animal was (Pisula, 2009). And with the results in mind, the hypothesis of this experiment was accepted on the grounds that the chickens could recognize a raptor by becoming alert. But even with the hypothesis being accepted, there were problems with the experimental design: the experiment could have used more chickens to provide more accurate results, and could have been done in a quieter environment with fewer distractions.

Table 1: Data collection sheet.

This chart is of curious and alert reactions to auditory cues. An "x" denotes a reaction.

Experimental Group	Control Group
Chicken #:	
Sound	
Reaction	
Chicken #	
Reaction	
Curious	Alert
Curious	Alert
Chicken 1: Robin	x
Chicken 3	x
Chicken 1: Robin	
Chicken 3	
Chicken 2: Robin	
Chicken 4	
Chicken 2: Robin	x
Chicken 4	
Chicken 1: Raptor	x
Chicken 3	
Chicken 1: Raptor	x
Chicken 3	
Chicken 2: Raptor	x
Chicken 4	
Chicken 2: Raptor	
Chicken 4	
Chicken 3: Robin	x
Chicken 1	
Chicken 3: Robin	x
Chicken 1	
Chicken 4: Robin	x
Chicken 2	
Chicken 4: Robin	x
Chicken 2	
Chicken 3: Raptor	x
Chicken 1	
Chicken 3: Raptor	x
Chicken 1	
Chicken 4: Raptor	
Chicken 2	
Chicken 4: Raptor	x
Chicken 2	

1no sound was played in the control group. Chickens in the control and experimental group were swapped for replication. A curious reaction is defined as the chicken searching for the source of the sound, without freezing. An alert reaction is defined as the chicken freezing and looking up.

Table 2: Total number of reactions from Table 1.

Sound Played	Reactions
Curious (Out of 8)	Alert (Out of 8)
Robin	7 0
Raptor	0 6
Robin Control	1 0
Raptor Control	2 1

2no sound was played in the control groups ■

BY SETH MULHAUSEN



# What is the History of the Holocaust?

## **A Review of Some Sources**

The Holocaust is remembered as one of the most horrific and unjust events in history. Movies, such as *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* and *Schindler's List*, were made in remembrance of the Holocaust. Books written involving the Holocaust, such as *Night* and *The Diary of Anne Frank*, show the bravery of the innocent who were caught up in the monstrosity of the Holocaust. I have always found an interest in the Holocaust and how society was brought down to that depth. I have read several books about Anne Frank, a teenage girl who, in the chaos of it all, was able to write a journal during her hiding from the Nazis. I have visited The Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C. and was fortunate enough to get a personal tour from a Holocaust survivor. Through these experiences, I have wanted to dive deeper into the formation of the Holocaust and some of the major events during this catastrophe. I believe this event is important for society to remember so that we can never allow it to happen again. This paper will discuss sources that could fulfill the understanding of how the Holocaust came to be and recognize some major events that illustrate what the Holocaust truly was. Each of these summaries review specific articles about the Holocaust and create a better image of the greatest destruction known to man.

## **Hitler's Rise to Power**

Smith described the steps taken by Hitler to slowly gain power and take over Germany. One of the first causes of Hitler's popularity was the violation of the Versailles Treaty. The Versailles treaty, a contract stating that Germany was to blame for WWI, impoverished Germany and left them with heavy reparations. Germany, growing increasingly bitter towards the treaty, felt desperate for a strong lead to fight against the treaty and get power back to the country. Hitler was appointed Chancellor on January 30th, 1933. With his incredible speaking skills, Hitler quickly gained supporters from socialists and promised to restore Germany's economy and authority. With the overwhelming support, Hitler destroyed the country's Parliament building and called for a state of emergency in which he single handedly diminished German

democracy. With speed, Hitler's violations were quickly made from then on. Actions such as mobilizing German military and taking over the Sudetenland were violations of the treaty and quickly made him seem powerful to the rest of Europe. On September 1st, 1939, Hitler made a surprise attack on Poland that took an incredibly short amount of time to win. This surprise attack began WWII. While building his territory, Hitler simultaneously shared his hatred for Jews and other minorities. He spread his idea that only pure Germans were a superior race and encouraged the hatred of Jews, homosexuals, and Roma. He then implemented Final Solution, the execution of all Jews to purify the German race. This is where the root of racism in the Holocaust had started.

## **Auschwitz Concentration Camp**

Anonymous described what historians found after discovering photographs taken by Nazis at Auschwitz concentration camp. Lili Jacob, while searching through an old SS barracks cupboard, came across pictures of Hungarian Jews in Auschwitz. In these pictures, Jacob was shocked to find friends, family, and even herself revealed right in front of her. Jacob was a prisoner at Auschwitz in 1944 but was transferred to Dora-Mittlebau. She donated these photographs to The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes Remembrance Authority. These 40 pictures displayed nearly 3,500 Hungarian Jews at the Auschwitz concentration camp. Pictures showed the arrival of prisoners, the selection process, and individuals being examined for their physical fitness. Auschwitz, built in Oswiecim, Poland, was chosen as a concentration camp because it was secluded from the rest of Poland. When prisoners arrived in cattle wagons, they were immediately separated by who was fit to work, and who was not. Those who were young and physically able were chosen to live, those who were elderly or physically weak were taken to gas chambers. All children under the age of 16 were also selected to be executed. In the 1,100,000 Jews taken to Auschwitz, only 200,000 were chosen to live and work. In total, nearly 1,500,000 perished at Auschwitz. Divided into 40 sub camps, Auschwitz became the biggest death camp in Poland. In fact, it was the biggest mass murder in history.

BY EMILY CAVE

Gas chambers were constantly working, and over 4,000 individuals were killed every day.

### The Nuremberg Race Laws

“The Nuremberg Race Laws” explained the racist laws presented by Nazi’s in 1935 that took away the rights of the Jewish residents in Germany. On September 15th, 1935, laws declared that Jews may not marry any non-Jew. This law applied to those who were only Jewish by a relative or those who had only Jewish grandparents. Even those who were not religiously Jewish were considered Jews if they had any Jewish ancestry. On October 18th, the same year, the Law for the Protection of the Hereditary Health of the German People was established. This law banned the marriage to anyone who had an illness, a contagious disease, or impairment so that the German people were kept pure. Jewish doctors were only allowed to perform on other Jews. Jewish lawyers were only allowed to represent other Jews. Finally, anyone who was considered a Jew under German law was required to wear a red ‘J’ at all times so that they were easily separated as Jews to Nazi officials. On top of which, Jewish people were forced to change their middle names to Sara or Israel so that they were more easily identifiable as a Jewish person. Hitler reduced these laws during the Olympic Games so that he did not receive negative attention from the world, but quickly and more strictly enabled the laws as soon as the games were over. These acts were only some of many headed towards taking away any political, social, and natural human rights away from Jews.

### What Can Be Learned | The Night of Broken Glass

These sources that gave a brief history of the Holocaust can lead us to some conclusions as to what we should remember. Smith gave an overview of the steps Hitler took to overpower Europe and took advantage of Germany’s weak state to take complete control. Just like Hitler’s quick rise to power, it is important to make sure not one single person has complete control over the people. It is easy for politicians to manipulate people in order to gain authority. It is better to have the

influences of all the people rather than one. “The Nuremberg Race Laws” explained the laws made to exclude Jews and isolate the Jewish people from the rest of the world. These laws lead to the racist hate crime of the Holocaust, and can be applied to today’s politics. It is imperative that laws are never made to isolate or segregate certain people from the rest of society. Finally, as described by the horrors of “The Night of Broken Glass” and Anonymous, the Holocaust was full of hatred and violence. Anonymous painted a picture of the absolute horror imposed on the Jews and the crimes against humanity. The Holocaust seemed unbelievable to many people at first, and many refused to believe such terrors could have occurred. We must remember that these occurrences are able to happen again, and that we must take such threats seriously.

“Kristallnacht” detailed the night of November 9, 1938 when the Nazis terrorized the people, destroyed shops, synagogues, and homes of the Jews. This night is described as the “Night of Broken Glass” because of the overwhelming violence and destruction of the attack. This attack sparked after a Jewish boy shot a German official in response to the brutal treatment of his family. In October, Nazis forced over 15,000 Jews were forced out of Germany in boxcars without notice. Hitler used this incident as an excuse to retaliate against the Jews. Nearly 7500 Jewish shops were destroyed, windows smashed, and completely vandalized. Over 267 synagogues were burned to the ground. Jewish men were beaten and 91 killed, while women and children were terrorized. Over 25,000 Jewish men were captured to be taken to concentration camps. A few days later, on November 12th, Nazi officials held a meeting to discuss further steps to get rid of Jews. Reinard Heindrich, one of the top Nazis, suggested denying Jews access to transportation, hospitals, and schools. Joseph Goebbels, another Nazi, wanted to force Jews to clean up the remains from the Synagogues and make that land into parking lots. Ultimately, they decided to get rid of Jews from the economy and replace original Jewish shops with Aryans. Jews, consequently, would have to pay for the damages made by the Nazis. ■



# Young Folks

AND

# Old Folks



BY ALEX FLYNN

**T**he generation gap is a serious issue that causes problems around the world, from home to the workplace and back again. Six sources, from an analysis of modern black culture to one of Millennials and higher education, were interpreted in terms of their authority, accuracy, currency, relevance, and bias. All of them were found to be useful, though none perfect; the flaws and shortcomings of each are listed to ensure the most informed use of each source by later readers. Even so, these sources cannot offer a solution to the generation gap. It is not something that can simply or easily be closed, and will likely continue to live on and be reincarnated with each new generation differing from the last—mankind will always change, and our cultures with it.

## Young Folks and the World of Today

Hais and Winograd; Hoover; and Knudsen, Lofgren-Mårtenson, and Månsson among them: Many contemporary authors collaborate to delve into the topic of our two youngest generations - Generation Y and Generation Z - and how they not only face the modern world, but how they shape it. "Millennials," as they are called, is a bit of a misnomer, actually - it can refer either to Generation Z or to both the generations as a collective: the kids who are growing up into the turn of the century, with technology as the backbone and the forefront of their society. As such, Generations Y and Z are largely one and the same for the purposes of these

authors, with birthdates ranging from 1985-2005.

In his article for *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, Eric Hoover analyzes how the Millennials approach the idea of college, universities, and higher education as a whole in a world where the only economy

they are familiar with is a failing one. One of the handful of parallels he can draw between the Millennials and Generation X is this: both are born into a time of frenzy and change (the counterculture of the 1960s and the beginning of the internet age in the late 1980s and early 1990s), and both grow into adulthood in the midst of financial crisis (the energy crisis of 1973 and the economic crash of 2008).

Hoover's article, however, sets its sights decidedly upon college, not the generation gap - its scope is narrow, as any good article's should be, but too narrow for the purposes of this paper. Hoover offers little in the way of comparison and parallel between the Millennials and Gen X, and even less concerning anybody born before 1960; it's difficult to try and use "The Millennial Muddle" to close the generation gap, and for good reason: The article simply isn't written as a retrospective of X-to-Y culture. Instead, it is an analysis of Millennials and higher education, and a fine one at that.

Millennial Momentum is a positive analysis of today's youth, citing their religious, social, and political toleration and openness as key signs of change and new leadership in America. They predict an optimistic future (along with things like comprehensive health care) at the hands of Generations X and Y, saying such an idea isn't just

“pie in the sky” - and that it can and should happen because of an interesting proposed theory. Authors Hais and Winograd claim that every fourth American generation is born on an upswing, bringing the country up and out of whatever mess it has found itself in - it was true for the Revolutionary War veterans, and those of the Civil War. The question that remains is whether or not this theory will hold water with the Millennials.

However, the book fails to investigate the negative attributes of Generation Z, especially neglecting to acknowledge the flip-side of each positive it listed: so many of our youngest generation are still flamboyantly racist, sexist, and classist - many still hold the same begrudging political views and honor the same stereotypes as their parents and grandparents. Depending on when in the Millennial birth range they were born, any Y-er on Z-er will find at least one of the “downturn” generations at home, so one must question how they can turn America around with such negative influences. The Millennials may very well hold the aforementioned positive attributes, though - perhaps they’re just masked by the negative ones.

In the Danish Generation P? Knudsen, Lofgren-Mårtenson, and Månsson dive into uncomfortable territory: the analysis of pornography and youth. In the section “Porno-chic,” the Danes examine how pornography is portrayed by the media; in “Porntopia,” how popular it is among adolescents and young adults; even how it affects males differently from females in “Detours for heterosexuality,” but they do little to investigate its effects on the older Generation X, which is slowly becoming more tech-savvy and realizing how accessible pornography - a commodity afforded to them only in magazines and pin-ups - is in this day and age.

As a solid, empirical-based study of pornography and youth, the most glaring problem with Generation P? is its age: The studies were conducted in 2005, and though eight years may not seem like much, it is several lifetimes in the age of the internet and pornography. (It is said that any given piece of technology will be outdated or obsolete within eight months of its release.) Furthermore, the studies were conducted in Nordic countries across the Atlantic - half a world away - but it seems that youth around the globe are quite similar. Also, though additional research would be required for a statistically valid comparison between Millennials and their parents and grandparents, it’s easy to see how differently Generations Y and Z react to pornography than the Silent Generation and Generation X.

### **Young Folks, Old Folks, and the World of Yesterday**

On the other hand, some authors attempt to dissect the differences between younger and older generations and sometimes find out how to cope with or even solve them. In *Post Black: How a New Generation is Redefining African American Identity*, Womack explores recent changes concerning the identity of African-Americans. Filipczak, Raines, and Zemke analyze the hostile generation gap in the workplace, from Normandy veterans to “Nexters” in *Generations at Work*. Salkowitz even offers a solution in his manual *Generation Blend: Managing Across the Technology Gap*, wherein he talks about how the information age has negatively and positively affected the modern workplace. Though nobody has “closed” the generation gap, per se, these authors all help us to comprehensively look at and understand it.

*Post Black* puts black Millennials under the microscope with a scrutiny of modern hip-hop and rap culture. Womack, a Chicago native, looks into just how and why today’s African-American youth are so vastly different from the proponents of the Civil Rights Movement and counterculture nearly fifty years ago. She cites the new music itself as one of the underlying causes, since it has sexualized black culture and made it violent beyond repair since its

advent in the late 1980s, spawning today’s “gangsta rap” ethnology. But why are the black Millennials enticed by this? Womack surmises that, still victims of racism and stereotyping, African-Americans today have little elsewhere to go and be accepted by their peers.

Just outside the age range of those she is investigating, Womack does display a bias concerning the subject of modern black culture. The trade-off of this is that the book was published recently enough to examine the bulk of the factors in changing black culture, from Wu-Tang Clan and N.W.A. to Barack Obama’s presidency. Womack’s authority comes from experience: Living in Chicago most of her life, she has a first-hand understanding of the subject matter of *Post Black* that few others could claim.

Filipczak, Raines, and Zemke shift focus from the street to the workplace in their observation of what has changed since the Silent Generation (and why). *Generations at Work*, while not a guidebook, offers solutions to the generation gap at work that so often causes problems between today’s youth and their elders, especially concerning ethics, morals, and politics. According to *Generations at Work*, the G.I.s of WWII and Generation X, so typically conservative, often come to head with the liberal-minded Millennials, and this obviously causes problems - Filipczak and co. theorize on how to fix them.

Though their book boasts some genuinely helpful solutions and accurate analyses of the generation gap, two of *Generations at Work*’s three authors are virtually unheard of. The only one holding any credibility is Zemke, with a line of previous manuals published concerning workplace etiquette. Despite a revised version of their book slated for publishing sometime in 2013, few credentials appear to assert the authority of any of the three authors, and as they are all of Generation X, the likelihood of bias is high.

Rob Salkowitz’ *Generation Blend* revisits the topic of generations in the workplace, but is more current than 1999’s *Generations at Work*. In his book, Salkowitz discusses drawbacks and possible benefits of the technology age gap, calling into question the effectiveness of young workers in the information age and perhaps the revitalization of older, Gen X work ethics. (It is often said that the Millennials are much lazier and more entitled than their parents.) *Generation Blend* takes an informed look at both sides of the tech barrier, from the

### **Baby Boomers to the Generation Z.**

Salkowitz often collaborates with other authors to study technology and how it affects today’s youth. Shorter works of his have been published in the *New York Times* and *Bussinessweek*, and he is a specialist in his field. However, *Generation Blend* is quickly becoming outdated; just since its publication in 2008, the user-friendliness and cooperativeness of computers and software has been vastly improved. Despite this, his research and past knowledge come together to create a solid look at the technology gap that is only now starting to show its age.

### **What Does it Mean for Us?**

These six references, while comprehensive and helpful, are by no means a solution; they do not close the generation gap. In fact, it is unlikely that the generation gap will ever be definitively closed, as there will always be new gaps and points of contention between every generation that is or will be born. However, despite the bleak outlook concerning the generation gap, an infinitely useful insight is provided. With these sources, we can look informedly at the generation gap and try to figure out how to work with, across, and around it - these references will serve to be very helpful. ■





BY JEFF ROCK

**S**tanding in the conference room waiting for roll call to start, Sergeant Green entered and asked me a question. "Did you hear that Mike died last night?" I thought he was joking. I answered with a smile, "You are funny." "I am not kidding," he replied. "Mike was in a car accident last night." In disbelief I left the room. Finding a corner in the hallway, I sat down on the floor, knees to my chest, elbows on my knees, and hands around my head. "What just happened?" I asked myself. "Mike's not dead; I just saw him before he went on leave to Arkansas. There must be some mistake."

Sitting in the corner, I heard a voice, but ignored it. "Sergeant Rock, did you hear me?" "The commander wants to see you." I looked up to see my supervisor, Master Sergeant Cousins, standing in front of me. "What does the commander want to see me about?" I asked. "I cannot tell you." "Am I in trouble?" I thought to myself, please let me be in trouble. "No you are not in trouble; just come with me." My heart started to sink as he reached out his hand to help me up.

Standing in front of the commander's door, I knocked once. The door slowly opened. When I entered his office, I was surrounded by a group of people. None of the people in the room were talking and they just kind of stared blankly at me. As I surveyed the people in the room, I noticed that these were no ordinary people. In the office stood the Base Commander, Deputy Commander, and their assistants. As I was trying to get a grasp on what was happening around me, a man approached. I noticed as the man was walking toward me that he had on his lapel a shiny silver Christian cross. It was the Base Chaplain. That is when tears started streaming down my face. That is when I knew my best friend had passed away.

A half hour later I was in a staff car headed to Mike's house to

comfort his wife. I felt numb as we pulled up to the driveway. I felt like I was in a dream. As I walked into the house, I saw people surrounding Susan, Mike's wife. Now I was angry. What the hell were all these people doing here? Why don't they give her some room? her husband just died! What the hell! Susan, seven and a half months pregnant, walked over and hugged me. She started crying uncontrollably, telling me how much Mike loved me. All I could say in return was, "I know. I know." The people in the house explained to me they were from Family Advocacy and they were there to help with funeral arrangements.

Two days later, we (our squadron) drove to Arkansas for the funeral. No one really said much on the way there. We just listened to music. We played the Eagles; it was Mike's favorite band. When we got to the hotel, I called Mike's mom. We talked for a few minutes and then she asked me to be a pallbearer. I started to weep. "What is wrong?" she asked me. "Nothing," I replied and told her how Mike and I promised to be a pallbearer at the funeral should one of us die.

Standing in the cemetery, I watched as Mike's body was being lowered into the ground. "Amazing Grace" was playing while the United States Air force honored him with a twenty-one gun salute. When his casket was resting in its place, the pastor asked us to throw a rose on it. I wondered that night why we were asked to throw a rose on top of Mike's casket.

I guess a couple of months passed. I was sitting in my apartment thinking about Mike, the funeral, and the rose. Then it hit me. Smell the roses. You know that old saying take time to stop and smell the roses? That is what it meant! Take time out and forget about all the negative things going on around you; focus on the good. Life is such a delicate thing. We need to enjoy our lives while we are here. Appreciate the roses of life. ■





# Mandala :

## Expression of My World

BY ALLA DAVID

**T**hinking about my mandala, I did not think about my family, friends or the community I am living in. All my focus was on my consciousness and self-esteem. For my mandala, I chose four elements that represent my inner world and, its relation to the material world. For example, one of them is a blue circle in the center of the mandala symbolizing my soul, heart or in other words, my inner world. For me, the pleasant light-blue circle means my self-awareness. It's like a statement, "I am," "I am here," "I am here in this world."

The second element is a rose. It's located right in the very center of my soul and represents love and resurrection. I believe that I was placed in this material world, purposely. According to my beliefs, I have a task for my life that is to improve my heart's ability to love. The more I see others' needs and take care of them, the more I think about others' comfort and happiness, the more my rose blooms and makes a luscious, magic smell which spreads around and makes the air clear and light.

The next element on my mandala is the square which is a symbol of the four directions, the four elements (water, fire, ground and air) and the material world. All of these elements are needed for my existence. I live on the earth; I breathe with the air; the fire warms me up; the water provides my body with the moisture I need to live. The square is my environment.

Lastly, the five rotating arrows represent the five sense organs. Through vision, hearing, touching, tasting and smelling I connect to this world. I can listen to the sound of the rushing waters of a mountain's river or wild waves of the cold, awesome ocean hitting a shore with huge power. I can hear many sounds of life that happened around me. My eyesight gives me the ability to see the beauty of nature and the lovely faces of my kids and friends. All five senses in their turn work on my feelings and perception of the world. They bring me revelations about myself and others. They change my outside and inside life and bring the "water" to my inner rose to help it to grow and become strong and a beautifully developed undying soul. ■

*"Life's most persistent  
and urgent  
question is 'What  
are you doing for  
others?'"*

- Martin Luther King Jr.





# WHO IS THE STRONGEST TRANSFORMER?

OMEGA SUPREME, METROPLEX, TRYPHTICON, STARScream, UNICRON, OR PRIMUS

## What are Omega Supreme's Capabilities and Purpose?

### What is the Background of Transformers?

The story of Transformers starts with the battles of Primus against Unicron. Primus's alternate transformation is to change into the planet Cybertron. He is the creator of all of the Transformers. These Transformers were created for the purpose of helping him to defeat Unicron. Cybertron started out as a peaceful place until Megatron decided to betray Optimus Prime. When this happened, on numerous occasions, the Decepticons sought to overthrow the Autobots. According to Wikipedia/Primus, "Primus, however, elected to create a race of guardians to defend the universe against Unicron, transforming his own asteroid into a metal world be later known as Cybertron. On that world he gave birth to the Transformers, bestowing the race with his distilled genetic Matrix." Over the years, there have been a total of thirteen primes. The leader of the Autobots always had the possession of the Matrix of Leadership. The officer in Transformers Dark of the Moon says "The Matrix is the only thing in the universe that can revive a Transformer's spark." We learn that a Transformer's spark is the one thing that keeps a Transformer alive.

When we understand general knowledge for Transformers: the Transformers consist of two sides, Autobots and Decepticons. The Autobots leader's name is Optimus Prime, who is one of the thirteen Primes. He is the most known out of all of the primes. A war was waged between the Autobots and the Decepticons for Cybertron. In, "Optimus Prime finds himself at the core of Cybertron talking with Primus, and Primus gives him the Matrix of Leadership. 'Will you accept this calling?' Optimus Prime then becomes the Autobots' leader." The Autobots are the good guys in this battle.

Since we know that the Autobots are the good guys, now let us examine the Decepticons, who are the bad guys. According to Wikipedia/Decepticon, "The title Decepticon is derived from the word 'deception' in the English language" (Wikipedia/Decepticon). They seek to overthrow the Autobots for control of Cybertron. Megatron is the leader of the Decepticons. Megatron's right-hand Decepticon is Starscream. At times, Megatron seeks guidance from the all mighty Unicron. Megatron is later destroyed, but he is revived has Galvatron and comes back as a more powerful Decepticon. Wikipedia helps us to understand that "within the fiction, he is often said to have named himself after legendary Megatronus Prime, and similarly inspired the name of a villainous character." Megatronus Prime was one of the thirteen Primes

and was also known as the Fallen. He was seen in the movie, Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen. Megatron is one the highest ranking of the Decepticons, and that is why he is the leader.

Some people would say that Omega Supreme is the strongest Transformer. When the Decepticons defeated Zeta Prime, he gave them what they thought to be the Omega Key. The Decepticons thought this was the key to access the Cybertron's core, which is also known as Primus; in reality, it was the key that activated the Autobots most powerful weapon, Omega Supreme. Omega Supreme was now on a hunt to terminate Megatron. According to Planet Transformers, "Omega Supreme is one transformer who lives up to his name. He is very literally the last and the best when it comes to defending the Ark." Omega Supreme's sole purpose is to be the last line of defense for the Autobot race when all else fails. He is known to be the strongest Autobot. Some people may argue that Metroplex is the stronger Autobot. Metroplex came into the storyline later on. Only one transformer stands a chance against him, he is known as the Devastator, another name for Unicron.

Omega Supreme can transform into a tank train that defends the Ark and he can also transform into a rocket that the Autobots use for transportation. Planet Transformers states that "whatever form he assumes, Omega Supreme will wait until the end of the universe itself for a chance to destroy the Constructicons." He has made it his personal mission to track down Megatron and eliminate his spark. We conclude that Omega Supreme is argued to be the strongest Transformer; as a result, he cannot be matched by any other Transformer, and only the Devastator stands a chance against him.

### Who is the Stronger Transformer Between Metroplex and Trypticon?

We begin to examine Metroplex, and why he could be the strongest Transformer. Metroplex has three alternate forms of transformation. He can change into a battle station for the Autobots, Scramble City (Autobot City), or a giant robot. He is known as the Autobot Earth Commander. Wikipedia makes one thing clear about Metroplex: "His armor is the equal of any Transformer's; to merely scratch it would require at least a low-yield nuclear explosion." We realize that Metroplex is practically indestructible when referring to the power of a nuclear explosive. According to tfw2005.com, "Metroplex is slow to anger, but when he converts to combat mode he becomes

one of the most fearsome opponents any TRANSFORMER has ever faced.” The sole purpose of Metroplex is that he is an Autobot City, and because of his wisdom, he has the knowledge to defeat practically any enemy that comes his way. We conclude that Metroplex’s strength is more powerful than most transformers and he is the largest Transformer, third to Unicron and Primus.

Through discussing Metroplex’s strength and his reasons for his strength, we realize that Trypticon is his equal. Examining Wikipedia/Trypticon, “Trypticon is the Decepticons’ principal command base.” Trypticon is seen as the lethal Transformer when he is in his dinosaur mode. He is mostly known for his battles with Metroplex. In 1986, we realize that the Decepticons finally have done something right by creating Trypticon. Similar to Metroplex, Trypticon can transform into a large Decepticon city. His sole purpose is to be a battle station and a command base for the Decepticons. Trypticon’s armor is so strong that any regular Transformer, such as Optimus Prime or Bumblebee, cannot penetrate his armor with their weapons. We conclude that Trypticon’s strength is only matched by Metroplex’s, but Metroplex has him beat with intelligence, wisdom, and situational awareness.

### **Between Unicron and Primus, Who is the Stronger Transformer?**

Unicron can be argued to be the strongest Transformer, for he is the eater of planets. Order and Chaos existed since the beginning of time. They are also known as good and evil. Unicron and Primus was created by them. Unicron was also known as the Devastator, the Destroyer, and the Bringer of Chaos. He lived up to his name having the ability to eat any planet in his path. His twin, Primus, was also known as the Lord of Light. Primus realized that Unicron was a corrupted being, thus the battle beginning. These two characters battled for a very long time. We understand that Primus was not stronger than Unicron in battle, but he could travel within in all universes, while Unicron was limited to certain amount of universes. Unicron was soon sent far away. Then Primus learns of how to transform into a planet, so he transformed into the planet Cybertron. By doing this, he form his self with a metallic lining, which kept Unicron from being able to lock onto his location in the universe. Primus created a race that was able to transform just like him and Unicron. This race’s way of survival is based upon his life force; this is known as the All Spark. The Matrix of Leadership was given to the leader of the Autobots and Primus slept. According to Wikipedia, we found out that “Primus was the guardian of his new creation.” Many people have tried to find out exactly who is the stronger being, but this is very hard to do. We know that Unicron is stronger in battle, but Primus is the more intelligent being. Both are able to wield any weapons into existence. They were known as the gods of the universe.

### **What Makes Starscream so Powerful? Why?**

Starscream displays his strength and power through intelligence, resilience, situational awareness, and his Null Ray. Starscream is Lord Megatron’s second in command. His will have always been to overthrow Megatron and become the new leader of the Decepticons. In Season One Episode One, Starscream’s will to overthrow Megatron is present. He quotes, “Everyone has a weakness.” This shows us that Starscream has a passion for control just like he had before a long time ago on Cybertron. Before Starscream joined forces with Megatron, he was the air commander of his own personal squadron of energon seekers. When we go further into the Transformers franchise, we realize that Starscream gains immortality; as a result, this makes him indestructible.

Starscream has two alternate modes. He can transform into a flying robot or a jet. With this alternate mode, he already has an advantage over the Autobots. Most of the main Autobot characters cannot fly; whereas, Starscream and his squadron of energon seekers can fly. The higher you are to your opponent, the better your advantage is. He possesses one of the most powerful weapons, the Null Ray, a small laser blaster that is the equivalent to a Mark-Nineteen military weapon. We realize that only Starscream has possession of this weapon. On the video game, we see that one blast of Starscream’s Null Ray destroys opponents with only one shot.

When we examine Starscream, we realize that he shows his resourcefulness by tricking the Autobots and brutally wounding the female Autobot, Arcee (Davis, 2011). For anyone who watches this franchise, there is the realization of Starscream using trickery to overcome adversity. We know that Starscream is an interesting character because of this quote, “I have been a fool, made mistakes, monumental ones, but I have gained a clear understanding of my place in this Universe, of who I am. Starscream, aligned with no side, servant to no one!” In the Best of Starscream comic book, in the Stargazing section, he displays his goals and what he wants to accomplish. Victory in the war against the Autobots would be his major goal, and with his resilience, he can accomplish it. Starscream’s intelligence will eventually eliminate the Autobots and the Decepticons; furthermore, making him the only one true power in the universe. Starscream shows his intelligence and resilience, “And now, happily, the two sides no doubt slaughter each other—because no one had the will, the guile, the vision to do what I am about to do—and then no Autobot, no Decepticon, no force on earth—nay, no force in the UNIVERSE—will be able to stand against the power of Starscream!”

### **Who is the Strongest Transformer? Why?**

Even though there is evidence of other Transformers being the strongest in their own ways, I still maintain that Primus is the strongest Transformer. Primus stays asleep in his alternate form, the planet Cybertron. Wikipedia states that “Cybertron is the home planet of the transformers and (usually) the body of their creator, Primus.” Primus, like his twin brother Unicron, can wield anything they think of into existence. When we think about the ideas of good and evil, we refer to Christianity. We remember how God created Heaven and Earth and everything in between. Christians always speak of how our Lord God is powerful and he is the almighty savior. Let us compare this with the story of Primus. Primus created the planet Cybertron and all Transformers on the planet. We can say that Primus is the almighty being of the universe, because he is known to be the bringer of light; he shows his mercy and grace by creating the race of the Transformers.

Also we understand that all the other Transformers among the high ranking are strong, but there is no way you can defeat a being with such intelligence; furthermore, there is no way you can destroy a being that is a giant that can transform into a planet. Primus has created a whole race of Transformers to aid him in the fight against Unicron when he does return. Others may argue that Rodimus Prime is the strongest Transformer, for he is the only one who was able to defeat Unicron. A counter argument to this could be that Optimus Prime and Primus both helped in the defeat of Unicron. This does not really make him the strongest, because Primus can transform into a planet. Although others have their opinion of who the strongest Transformer is, I still maintain that Primus is the strongest Transformer in the universe. ■

BY TOMMY DAVIS



# A DIFFICULT DECISION

BY DIALLO JOSEY

**A**t the moment I heard the description of the assignment, my vision shifted. I was transported to an undisclosed location, outside of time. My hand selected an arrow from a quiver at my side. I heard my instructor's voice asking for "...description and detail of events in your life you'd be willing to share." Notching the arrow, I welcomed the somehow familiar strain as I drew the bowstring with my full strength. Her voice echoed in my head, "a formative event in your life", and I released. Not stopping to contemplate the impossibility of my sight, I see what the arrow sees. Flying true. Past the birth of my daughter, a marriage or two, streaking past accomplishments and disappointments alike. The term, 'a formative event' took shape before me as a target.

Truth be told, my target was a series of events that form the answer to the questions "who am I", and "still who do I want to become"; of "why am I here today" and "what is the source of my passion that drives my current direction". This is the tale of a decision that shook me to my core, and even now I feel the aftershocks. Simply stated, a life for a life; and for me I saw no winning way. What made me who I am today was the choice between two once-in-a-lifetime opportunities: A possible future as an Olympic athlete or a father to my 8-month-old son. An arduous situation for a 17-year-old boy. ↵

It was as if I were Dragon born. I couldn't possibly exhale anything but fire. Every cell of my being was in revolt from exhaustion ↵ — I was spent. As my teammates carried me off the track, I hung on them like a fresh wrung shirt put out on a clothesline. Vision blurred, and in my immediate earshot, I captured only my own labored breath: ragged and worn, hot and heavy with the dissatisfaction that came with insufficient oxygen. "Why had I done this to myself? What was I thinking?" Caged in my own head, my voice clamored with unmistakable clarity, but undulating underneath were excited tones from familiar voices: friends, teammates and Coach. "Coach Ring, I'm sorry. I know you told me to start off strong and in the end ease up. I know I wasn't supposed to run that fast the whole way. I don't know what came over me. Did I finish...?"

The look on his face was not the one of disappointment I was expecting. It was elation, and I saw the words before I heard them: "44.69". It was an overcast day in early June 1989, Lincoln Track, Tacoma, WA, and I had done more than finish; I just tied the state record in the 400m open race as a junior, in the process stunning the crowd and myself. The rest of that day was a blur. I know we won that meet, and it was made official: I became, and remain, the youngest 400m open record holder in the state. I was aware that Coach Ring would not rest until he had notified his college connections that there was someone to see at Wilson High School. I had already decided on pursuing a career in Engineering, specializing in Robotics, and even had visited a few schools in North Carolina. I was pretty sure that was where I was headed, plus both my fiancé, Jennifer, and I had family in the area. My destination was soon confirmed when North Carolina Agriculture & Technical University invited me to attend a summer training camp with a full scholarship option after high school graduation. During the training camp that summer, I ran more than I ever ran before, and I loved every minute of it. I trained twice a day and ate about six to seven times daily. I did have one class I attended, just as a precursor for the academic side of school, but it was clear — I was there to run. Competition was to be my lifeblood and winning my sustenance. That was the school's wish for me, and they said everything they needed to keep me satiated. They did not,

however, keep one thing in perspective. His name was Darien. He was the reason I ran like I had nothing to lose that day in Tacoma. I ran my best that day, unsure if I would have another opportunity in the future. He was my heart. I had left for the summer with the intention of coming back and moving Darien, Jennifer and me, as a family, to North Carolina after we graduated from high school. At the summer's end, while finalizing my arrangements, I heard the phrase, "We need you to give this your full attention." It was like my stomach had become lead. I knew what they implied. Everything I'd dreamed, shattered. I understood then that my coaches, trainers, even the school, saw my son as a distraction rather than the very reason I ran full tilt without reservation. I swallowed my rebuttal and returned home to complete my senior year of high school. I spoke to no one in hopes that the distaste of that final meeting would go away. The problem was, I knew it was more than I could outrun. It was a terrible decision that I alone would have to face. In those days, our families were not poor; in fact we were very comfortable. Yet, we had made a promise, to our parents, not to use their resources to raise our child, to live up to the responsibilities of our premature adventure into adulthood. Until that point, I had been successful at keeping that promise, despite the doubtful glower I regularly received from each of the new grandparents. I went to school, worked, ran and trained. Every spare moment I spent time with my son and his mom, taking care of each of my responsibilities. All the while, the freedom I felt from the summer past, when I was away being an Olympic hopeful, sickened me. Made me feel selfish, unworthy. As my senior year moved on, I found less joy in running and more work in parenting. I trained less and less, and sought more hours at any job I worked. I figured out how to attain my high school credits early and managed my time between parenting, working and local technical college classes. For me, the meaning of my purpose was in my action, and with the approach of spring and the final season of my high school track career, my locker was empty. I did not compete. I could not accept the scholarship. Even after vigorous efforts to come to an agreement, I would not attend North Carolina Agriculture & Technical University.

The minute I saw what that competitive lifestyle would cost to sustain its existence, I realized no other choice but to let it go. I hurt deep and long. And still I know the runner's place— it holds the gnarled, dark and dormant seed which rests inside my bosom. However, I knew the price was too high for my personal glory, and who I was, who I hoped to become, would not fund that venture with the moments I would have never had. Because of family, my vision was clear. To see my future through Darien's eyes was a goal worth running toward. I saw my son's first steps, heard his first words and watched him grow into a man who holds the ideals I displayed in the choice I made so many years ago. They are dear to his life: a life of principle. A life of passion.

To choose the path of father over Olympic hopeful was difficult. I've always loved running. But running in my own direction made me who I am. A father. It helped me raise a man of principle and guides me now to who I still want to become. As I stand firmly on the decisions I've made, I see the target now, closer, clearer than I ever have — ↵ I see as my passion sees. I have learned to run for something of more value, not just competition, glory, or even my life. Since running will be the way my life will forever be defined, I chose and continue to choose to run with passion for my life, my family. ■

**A**s a freshman at the University of Washington, I landed B's and C's in English for the first time in my life. It was crushing. In my first essay, I had tried to be funny. The professor was not amused. Next I aimed for wisdom; she accused me of triteness. Then she dropped the final bomb: our third essay assignment was an in-class response to an essay we had been assigned to read the night before. I hadn't read it. With only an excerpt from the assigned reading to draw on, I studied it intently, frantically digging for any scrap of material I could work with, knowing all the while that I had already dug my own grave. I was about to earn a failing grade my first quarter and most likely slide on out the exit in another quarter or two.

The essay came back the next day with a grade of A+ and the comment, "Why don't you always write like this?" I was astounded. Why did my best attempts at writing result in mediocre grades and my final act of desperation reap such praise? Too shy to ask, I went my way mutely. I had no idea what, out of the welter of half-thoughts and emotions and confusions that ran through my head, was of value to "them" and what was not. I believe that most beginning college students are in the same state of mind.

I know now that I had much to lean on as I wrote then. One of my core beliefs, as a teacher, is that every one of my students has a deep and complex inner world to draw on, as well. I believe that between the time they wake up each day and the moment they walk into the classroom, each of my students has had hundreds of thought-beginnings that could blossom into living, full-bloom essays. The trick is to learn to catch those thoughts as they come into being and blinker back into non-existence almost invisibly. In a word, I believe that, to write well, my students must read well, and no manuscript is more important to read with respect than their own minds.

All well and good, in the abstract, but how to lead students to draw forth an essay from that well of consciousness? That is the question. After years of teaching composition, I have no pat answers. Some activities help. I can have students watch their own minds as they read and annotate in the margins. I can give them guidelines on how to hold a seminar about the article they annotated, sharing their responses to the reading with each other. I can teach them to conduct writing groups, in which

they record their own responses to other students' writing and tell the author what they thought and felt about the essay. But, ultimately, I cannot teach my students how to read their own minds and detect, out of the confusion and tumble of thoughts and feelings they experience, the fetal ideas that could give birth to a full-blown essay.

Simply observing one's own mind and recording the results will never produce a pulsing essay. That comes only with the courage to question one's beliefs, to push the questions about one's beliefs to the place where certainty no longer exists. Uncertainty is discomforting. It can trigger depression. But it can also unleash you from the tethers of your own unquestioned beliefs and expose you to the bracing winds of your own mind finding its own way. That, for me, is probably the most difficult understanding to bequeath to students. Yet it is the most important one. It's not that students don't experience uncertainty. It's that they shy away from writing about ambivalence, ambiguity and seemingly irresolvable contradictions for fear of not knowing. I often find myself, when students and I are conversing, saying excitedly, "That's a great idea for an essay," and every writing instructor knows that the writing in students' journals produces some of the most promising, alive writing of the quarter. Why is it that this evidence of complex thinking so seldom dominates an essay? More than any other reason, I believe, it is that students feel free, when conversing spontaneously or writing non-stop in their journals, from the constraints of writing formally for some authority figure who is going to reward with the highest grades those papers that exude certainty—"author"ity. So back to that English paper I mysteriously aced as a freshman in college. I know now why it received that grade. Forced to study that small excerpt with great concentration, I was pushed to think beyond the immediate and obvious.

I worked it like a whittler works a piece of wood. I asked if it could mean this or whether it might also suggest that. I questioned those possibilities and raised others. I concluded with uncertainty but hazarded a guess as to which of the ideas I raised in the paper seemed most promising. In other words, I wrote without certainty. If I can ever learn to teach that, I will retire with a great sense of satisfaction. I don't expect that, though. Writing is too messy a business for such rewards. ■

# The Art of Mind Reading

BY DEBBIE KINERK





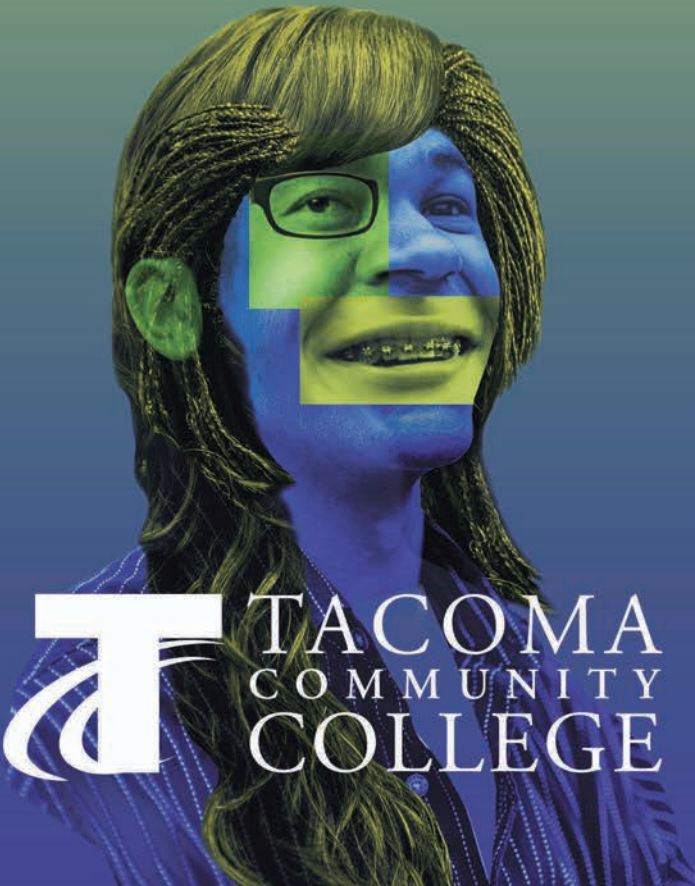
means

**“one voice”**

**All of us together should make  
the wisest choice**

**All of us together can speak  
out with one voice**

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