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Man's Best Friend by Hannah Katz

We have all heard that a dog is a man's best friend. They provide comforting cuddles when their owner is feeling down, and know how to brighten their day; giving merit to the statistic that 47% of all American households have a pet dog (ASPCA). Yet there is another side to these canine friends that isn't seen as often. There are many emotional and physical benefits reaped by dog owners in everyday life. Along with domesticated pets, both trained service and therapy dogs serve important purposes within the lives of many people seeking outlets for medical and personal reasons. Service dogs, or a type of assistance dog specifically trained to help people who have disabilities, help people suffering from visual impairment, hearing impairments, mental illnesses, seizure disorder, mobility impairment, and diabetes. More specifically service dogs have made great strides assisting people through depression and anxiety along with mental disabilities such as autism. Therapy dogs on the other hand provide affection and comfort to people in hospitals, retirement homes, nursing homes, schools, hospices, and disaster areas. Both service and therapy dogs have beneficial physical and emotional effects on people suffering from many types of ailments; service dogs aiding those who face depression, anxiety, or mental and physical disabilities, and therapy dogs providing comfort to those in hospitals, or within hospice care.

Human Trafficking in Southeast Asia by Amal Ahmed

Human trafficking is one of the most challenging global rights issue in the world. A violation of basic human rights, human trafficking is defined "as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs" (UNODC) The awareness of human trafficking in areas where human trafficking occurs is fairly low and it is important to understand that each nation has its own

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unique situation and understand why human trafficking occurs. Southeast Asia has been identified as one of the world's regions where human trafficking is most prevalent. Nations in Southeast Asia, such as Myanmar, Indonesia, and Cambodia, policies must begin to look at country specific needs and work to create awareness of what human trafficking is.

The Psychology of Catfishing by Gabby Blume

Social media has a tremendous impact on our everyday lives without us even noticing it. Whether it is checking Facebook or making sure that you don't lose your Snapchat streak, people are constantly on their electronic devices communicating with one another. But how do we learn and love in an era of social media? What if the person you are communicating with online is not truly who they say they are? A catfish is defined as "a person who pretends to be someone they're not, using social media to create a false identity, particularly to pursue deceitful online romances" (nevschulman). The term was coined from Nev Schulman's 2010 documentary *Catfish*, which started the whole phenomenon. After this, many people started coming to Nev with their own similar stories that have since added to the concept of catfishing as a whole. Although it may seem unfathomable, people do form relationships online with people they have never met, and there is often a catfish involved. But why do people lie online? And why do others fall so easily for it? The psychology of catfishing shows the reasoning of people, identifying why some take such extreme action to deceive others online and how anyone could be so easily fooled by it.

High Times: Why Marijuana Should Be Legalized by Jonas Intner

The drug Cannabis, also known as marijuana, has created a lot of controversy throughout the United States. In 1996, California was the first state in the United States to legalize the use of medical marijuana. The United States first legalized Cannabis for medicinal use only. Now, the use of medical marijuana is legal in 28 states and the use of marijuana for recreational purpose is legal in 8 states and The District of Columbia. Currently the Federal Government classifies marijuana as a schedule 1 controlled substance. A schedule 1 controlled substance is defined as "The drug or other substance has high potential for abuse" (Ossola1). There is a controversy

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throughout the United States about legalization of marijuana for recreational purposes. Many people support legalizing marijuana because of its medicinal purposes, and they see it as a way to increase government revenue. Others support the legalization for psychological purposes such as stress relief and pure enjoyment. On the other hand, some people are against the legalization of marijuana because research proves that its use can negatively impact the brain and causes people to become impaired while driving. There is a great deal of illegal, recreational use of marijuana in the United States. The United States should legalize the recreational use of marijuana for adults throughout the country because the medical, economic and personal benefits outweigh the potential dangers.

A Checkup with History by Will Funk

A south american coati, an incredibly adorable mix between a racoon and a monkey, leaps from tree to tree on the tapestry of branches that make up the vast canopy in their native forest until one particular tree catches its attention. The coati moves towards the trunk of the tree and begins to rub its fur along the smooth minty and resinous base. In another part of the forest a white-faced capuchin rubs the leaves of the piper plant along its irritated skin. What exactly are these peculiar animals doing? The answer lies within the chemical makeup of these plants. The minty resin that the coati coats its fur with contains a chemical used to deter fleas, ticks and lice. Similarly, the capuchin rubs the antiseptic chemicals of the piper plant onto its fur to deter insects as well as bacterial and fungal infections. Our earliest human ancestors have carried on this primal practice of self-medication with natural remedies throughout history. At least twenty-five percent of all modern medicines are derived from plants, yet only a small percent of the vast variety of nearly fifty-thousand medicinal plants have been analyzed in a lab. With more and more bacteria growing resistant to synthetic antibiotic treatment, the new age of medicine must come from the old. By studying the ancient practices of humans from around the world, new plant species can be identified and analyzed in order to extract chemicals and compounds which hold the cures for a vast number of evolving diseases. At the same time, humans must be able to combat against the rapid climate change that has the potential to eliminate a plethora of undiscovered medicinal plant species.

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History and Science Behind Health and Fitness by Jakey Mohamed

Fitness (*noun* fit·ness \¹fit-nəs\), defined by the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, is the quality or state of being fit. Merriam-Webster also defines Fit (*adjective* \¹fit\) as being adapted to the environment so as to be capable of surviving. Fitness has allowed humans to reach the level of survival that we are at today. Throughout history, civilizations have proved how powerful they were because of their level of fitness. Even the Olympics, created by the Greeks, showcase the fittest athletes from each team. Along with well-being, health has also played an important role throughout history. During the times when most humans were hunters and gatherers, health was a main component of survival, and therefore reproduction. While both have their benefits, they also have certain drawbacks. Some downsides to an extreme concentration on well-being are chronic pain, and muscle imbalance. The importance of health and fitness has both been interpreted differently in different human civilizations throughout time. They have both been highly emphasized throughout the course of human history, they still remain relevant in modern times, and health and fitness both affect humans daily, whether it be from the benefits or drawbacks.

Creating a Financial Empire by Myffanwy Cheng-Thomas

Many people have a dream of starting and running their own businesses because for them, creating a product or service that is consumed or enjoyed by customers will provide a very satisfying sense of independence and accomplishment. This feeling cannot be met at a job in which they work for someone else. According to Forbes, “approximately 543,000 new businesses get started each month but more employer businesses shut down than start up each month” (Jason Nazar). The elements necessary to starting a business are more than just an idea, creating a business takes a certain type of personality, proper planning, financial funding, resources, hard work, and creativity in problem solving.

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Scientology: The Art of Deception by Bri Vasquez

Religion is a system of symbols which acts to establish powerful, pervasive, and long lasting moods and motivations in people by formulating conceptions of a general order of existence and clothing those conceptions with such an aura of factuality that the moods and motivations seem uniquely realistic (Marcus). The top three most common religions in the world today are Christianity, Islam and Hinduism. These religions have been around for thousands of years, and have millions of followers worldwide. The Church of Scientology was founded about 60 years ago, in 1953. Since its birth Scientology has been at the center of controversies, and has made many people question the validity of its status as a religion. Scientologists believe that they are immortal alien beings (thetans) trapped in human bodies on earth because they have forgotten their true nature. Scientologists are taught that Scientology is more important than anything else, and the survival of Scientology goes hand in hand with the survival of the universe.

Scientologists are taught that Scientology can do no wrong, and will do anything to protect the image of the religion. Although Scientology has legal religion status, it should not be considered a religion because it does not put their members spiritual journey first, instead the religion is run as a business, and open only to the lucky few who have the money to become scientologists and become spiritually pure.

How to Start a Cult (For Dummies) by Scout Stratford

Take a moment and be honest with yourself-- what would you do for power? Not superhero powers, mind you. What extremes would you be willing to pursue to be considered a god among mortals? What ideology could you 'sell' to the public? How could you assume total control over a select group of individuals, turning their unique minds into a single entity? If you actively ponder for answers to these questions, you're likely looking to start a cult. But how do cults work? Why do people stay in them? How do cults differ from mainstream religions? Look no further. If you're either looking to avoid falling victim to cult-like mindsets or are interested in starting one yourself (for legal reasons, the author has to point out that she does NOT recommend you start one), here's the short answer: cults gather their followings and power through indoctrination, control, and overall fear itself.

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Dreams and Their Meaning by Katie Novarro

You wake up the next morning and remember the craziest dream and want to share that dream with all of your friends. Many people can relate to this and have experienced this once in their lifetime. Maybe it's a dream of flying around the house, or maybe a nightmare where you are getting chased. These dreams mean something in your life even if you don't realize it. Dreams are a major component of people's lives, whether they are asleep or awake. A majority of people don't even know that dreams have an impact on their daily life and how they act. Ever since the beginning of time, people have wondered about dreams. Even in the Old and New Testament, God spoke to men and women about dreams. Ever since, scientists have had an interest in dreams and are trying to figure out the science and meaning behind them. Some scientists have the job of analyzing people's dreams. This is a tough job because dreams are very complex and individualistic. Each dream has a different meaning, depending on the person. This means that everyone has their own experience while dreaming, based on their background and memories; people have different dreams based out what happened during their day or their thoughts before going to bed. However, the science and mechanics behind dreams are the same for everyone. There are many components of dreaming like, lucid dreaming, why some people remember their dreams and others don't, and the difference between a child's dream and an adult's dream. Dreams have a deeper meaning in your life and are able to convey our true personalities, wishes, hopes, deepest thoughts, and biggest fears.

Zodiac Signs by Sydney Seiff

According to the dictionary astrology is, "the study of the movements and relative positions of celestial bodies interpreted as having an influence on human affairs and the natural world" (Merriam-Webster). Zodiac signs are a type of astrology. There are 12 zodiac signs that relate to the 12 lunar cycles. It takes 10 lunar cycles for the sun to return to its original position. It was developed in Ancient Egypt and was taken on by the Babylonians. The first time astrology was discovered was over 25,000 years ago with markings carved into caves and bones. Zodiac is derived from the greek word for "circle of animals." Zodiac signs have affected the way people live their lives. Based on what personality types or character traits each sign has people are more

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likely to start associating themselves with those traits and mold themselves into their typical zodiac sign. People start to pay attention to their strengths and weaknesses more and more. There are four different types of zodiac signs: Fire, air, water, and earth. “They identified 12 constellations that they observed were linked to the progression of the seasons and assigned them names of certain animals and persons (in Babylonia, for example, the rainy season was found to occur when the Sun was in a particular constellation which was then named Aquarius, or water bearer)” (American Federation of Astrologers). This is why there are four types of zodiac signs. Fire, water, air, and earth. This is based on the season that the zodiac sign is in. The fire signs are Aries, Leo, and Sagittarius. The earth signs are Taurus, Virgo, Capricorn. The air signs are Gemini, Libra, Aquarius. The water signs are Cancer, Scorpio, Pisces. Each of the elements have their own set of personality types and character traits.

Free Speech or Danger? Hip Hop Lyrics and Our Judicial System by Kofi Keteku

Freedom of speech is a value ingrained deep into the foundation of this country. It is the first amendment in our country’s constitution and it defines us as a free western nation. Every day across America, citizens are allowed to express their positive or negative opinions about anything without fear of persecution from the law. Art is also seen as a form of free speech because the artists are expressing themselves through their form of art, either for their own personal reasons, or for the entertainment value. Hip Hop is one of the most popular genres of music in the United States. Hip Hop, like any other genre of music, is an art form. Recently though, we have seen hip hop lyrics being used in court as evidence in real court cases. This revokes the artist’s right to free speech by creating a scenario where all that is said in their music is to be taken literally. By viewing lyrics used in a song as descriptions of real life situations artists can no longer say whatever they want. Therefore, hip hop lyrics should not be used in court cases because hip hop is an art form and shouldn’t be used as evidence of a crime or ways to judge one’s character.

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This Title May Offend You by Max Brown

As defined by English Oxford Living Dictionaries, political correctness is “The avoidance of forms of expression or action that are perceived to exclude, marginalize, or insult groups of people who are socially disadvantaged or discriminated against.” While a good idea in its core beliefs, this leads to many people taking extreme positions on the topic. On one end, there are people who believe that right thing to do is to monitor what people say and do so no one gets offended. Some people will also tend to disregard the opinions of others that they feel have a social advantage of some kind. Regardless of whether it was a joke or not, if what was said is offensive, it should therefore be treated as such. On the flip side, many believe that the idea of political correctness is just taking away from the Constitutional right for freedom of speech. As an American, they have a right to exercise freedom of speech, and that is not something that should be taken away. It’s your problem if you don’t like what’s been said. It is very common for people of such a mindset to dismiss what they said as a joke, be it one or not. Given that these examples are extremes, many people will tend to fall somewhere in between, and it is our duty as American people to find the happy medium. How far exactly is too far, in either direction?

The Mind of A Genius: How Can We Achieve it? by Dominique Aruede

How a genius thinks has been a very elusive concept. While it has been so prevalent in our world since the beginnings of civilization, and has shaped our society into what it is today, it still remains a mystery for the most part. How does a genius think? What makes a genius a genius? The brain itself can make billions of connections per minute and is the powerhouse of the body, able to interpret art and produce emotions. One of the most mysterious processes, however, is how the brain creates ideas. Creativity has been the fundamental process behind each great invention, equation, and artistic piece. The phenomenal feats achieved by genius occur when creativity is expanded to reach extraordinary levels. Even though scientific research has determined that a genius typically totes an IQ of at least 140, the truth of the matter is that genius can’t be measured by any single parameter. There are, in fact, many different types of genius. Of course, there are those who seem to be natural-born geniuses. It’s arguable that genius can also be developed by anyone, according to their skill set. By analyzing the deepest level of the neural

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basis behind extraordinary creativity, a person might indeed be able to achieve their own individual genius. Surprisingly, there is a lot a person can do to enhance their creativity; learning something that is totally out of your area of interest, training your mind to observe small things rather than dismiss them, asking questions, reading, and even just meditating daily all helps to enhance creativity. By exploring the minds of various geniuses throughout history, and creating a deeper understanding of the science behind genius, we can unlock the genius within ourselves.

Success is Not Stress by Chloe Yoon

The very foundation that America is investing an endless amount of resources and time in, is failing everyone. America's education system is ultimately hurting students instead of helping. Children are being roboticized to memorize information, rather than view the information being taught as opportunities to expand their knowledge of the world. Excessive amounts of homework, standardized testing, and pressure is adding to the weight that is crushing students. The future generation is being held to standards that are nearly impossible to uphold- which results in physically and mentally stressed out students. These health issues have proven to show that these problems will not only stay with them in high school, but through adulthood as well. Schools in countries such as Finland are advancing in the classroom and in knowledge, as America lags behind. Finland's model of school reveals that less homework, less school hours, less stress, less pressure, and perhaps most importantly, an emphasis on creativity results in successful students and results. Many schools in America have just the opposite of this model, including our very own, Edgemont. The results in student's health are taking an alarmingly dangerous turn for the worse and it needs to be fixed. America's schooling standards should be adjusted to ensure that each student learns in a productive manner while continuing to stay physically and mentally healthy.

The Real Dark Arts of Harry Potter By Ryan Turell

J.K Rowling's Harry Potter series has been distributed in over 200 territories, translated into 68 different languages, and has sold over 400 million copies worldwide. While many people around the globe know the story of Harry Potter, however, they probably do not realize how similar the

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magical world of Harry Potter is to our world. American society in the 1930's as well as Europe during the Nazi regime, can be compared to the Ministry of Magic, which is the governing body of the wizards, and the wizarding world of Harry Potter as a whole. Furthermore, by comparing the characters in Harry Potter to notable historical figures, such as Adolf Hitler, Neville Chamberlain, and Winston Churchill, we see that there are many parallels. Rowling's ultimate point in making the comparisons between the magical world and the real world, as well as comparisons between the characters, is to illustrate that societal problems are universal and still relevant and the importance of awareness and collaboration to overcome social ills.

Torture: Not Just an Interrogation Method by Cyprien Debargue

In the Bill of Rights, written by James Madison and one of the first documents of law written for the at the time newly founded country of the United States of America, the eighth amendment states that no cruel or unusual punishment shall be inflicted. The United Nations has made it clear that torture or this "Enhanced Interrogation Techniques" goes against basic human rights. All of these documents have made it clear that torture is not a method of interrogation that is or should be allowed to exist, yet the United States of America and the C.I.A. have been using it for years in order to procure information that they have deemed was necessary to keep their country safe against more potential terrorist threats. But what has made the use of torture rise, what event made the use of such gruesome and inhumane torture? The answer is one the most known and infamous events of the United States history. The destruction of The World Trade Center on September 11th 2001. This led to wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and ultimately the rebirth of modern torture. Terrorists had already made their mark on the world by that point and the United States had been victim of other acts of terrorism yet the one that has truly marked the United States and the rest of the world would be the attack on the World Trade Center. Following this event not only had the United States wage war on Iraq but also the entirety of NATO followed up and joined them in the fight against terrorism. This war is what ultimately gave the U.S. "permission" to throw away their stance on human rights and the Bill of Rights at the time and do what they had to do for the "greater good" of this country and as might be argued, the rest of the world.

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Sexual Assault on College Campuses by Liv Rodnick

In recent years, rapes on college campuses have been the recurring headlines on the national news. Although we constantly hear about sexual assaults on college campuses, all too often, students are clearly still ill-equipped to prevent them from happening, and it is important that students become more aware of the effects of such irresponsible actions. According to www.justice.gov, The United States Department of Justice's website claims, "Sexual assault is any type of sexual contact or behavior that occurs without the explicit consent of the recipient. Falling under the definition of sexual assault are sexual activities as forced sexual intercourse, forcible sodomy, child molestation, incest, fondling, and attempted rape". One out of every five students face some form of sexual assault throughout their college experience. The alarming statistics have reached an all time high. It is crucial that campuses implement effective rules and regulations throughout their campuses. Ultimately, increasing the student body's respect to these safety measures. It is also necessary for the university to respond appropriately to every case, despite their efforts to strategically act upon, or not upon, cases that potentially devalue their reputation throughout the media. There are organizations to assist those who have been a victim of sexual assault. Greater preventative measures should be implemented throughout college campuses and if those are not followed then, the justice system should enforce stronger repercussions for such offenses, despite that student's BAC levels.

The Killing of Killers by Tess Jameson

What are serial killers? And why are people so intrigued by them? According to a 1998 federal law, serial killers are people who kill more than three people in a period of a "cooling off period." Hollywood and Television have made people obsessed with serial killers. American Society is also interested in how these people work because their actions are abnormal and morally unexplainable. They do not understand how a human can have such little regard for human life. Some psychologists believe that serial killers are created by their brain function and genes, while other analysts say serial killers are created by abuse and or neglect in their environment. To figure the cause of serial killings, case studies have been done on famous serial

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killers such as Ted Bundy, Albert DeSalvo, David Berkowitz, Richard Speck, Aileen Wuornos. Child development and upbringing are the most important factors that lead to a person becoming a serial killer.

A Glance into International Healthcare by Gabbi Kaspi

In a heated political global climate, the term “healthcare” is thrown around quite frequently. Images of malnourished and injured refugees and citizens of “faraway” places litter the news, with headlines scorching governmental systems and their crumbling health-structure. Recently, in the election year, the U.S’s healthcare system had made its way center focus on television and on newspapers. Claims of improper coverage or reckless federal spending accompany the term “healthcare” in almost every headline. But what really *is* healthcare? And, perhaps more importantly, how is healthcare practiced internationally? There is a plethora of systems that various countries have put in place to provide their citizens with some sort of coverage-- some as comprehensive as providing breakthrough mental health services, while others remain undeveloped, barely providing its users with clean water or access to vaccination. Privatized, universal and every other scenario of a nation’s healthcare seems to rest on on the same two legs: political and economic stability and structure. Understanding what healthcare in the United States has, and perhaps more importantly, does *not* have, is the first step in enhancing our programs. Currently, the US Department of Health lists the following: insert fact form CDC here. In order to stimulate and foster a more comprehensive healthcare system within the United States, it is imperative to learn from international examples of other health systems. The United States is the wealthiest, and inarguably the most powerful country on the planet, and yet, the WHO ranks our healthcare system as number 37 in overall efficiency of healthcare (WHO, 2016). With such strong political and economic foundations, it seems as though the problem with domestic healthcare practices is not the *lack* of resources, but is the misuse, miss practice or adoption of methods.

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More Than Just a Perfectionist by Casey Thayer

OCD is the inability to fight a bully living inside your head. You end up feeling like your brain has given up on you. I have been battling symptoms of OCD since second grade, and I was formally diagnosed three years later. When most people think of Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder, behaviors including, excessive hand washing, skipping lines on the sidewalk, and overly organized perfectionists may come to mind. While these are definitely symptoms of one type of OCD, there are many classifications of the disorder, which impact people differently. Furthermore, there are two parts of Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder: obsessions, and compulsions. Obsessions are irrational ideas or thoughts that ruminate and preoccupy a person's mind. Compulsions are a strong, usually irresistible, impulse to perform an act, especially one that is irrational or contrary to one's will. Therapy and determination can not only make OCD tolerable, but it can even make life seem "normal" again. Obsessions and compulsions can make daily activities impossible, but through hard work and dedication, the weight of OCD can be lifted. In fact, 39 year old Danielle Elias's OCD has actually benefited her in positive ways. Danielle said, "My OCD is positive because I am totally organized, structured, on top of things, and aggressive about results. I got promotion after promotion and was great in school. People still volunteer me for projects." Although it might appear that OCD is a lifelong disability, through therapy and determination, many people learn to embrace their OCD, and integrate the symptoms to lead productive lives.

Edward Snowden: American Hero or American Traitor? By Gabi Falk

Snowden is somebody who put everything on the line in order to benefit a cause much greater than himself. While his story has become quite a controversial one, sparking numerous debates, conversations, and even fights among those who disagree; there is one commonality between all the disagreement. Snowden's story has ignited a fire within citizens to speak up for themselves and let their voices be heard loud and clear. Snowden has brought issues previously not spoken about into the forefront of the conversation; prompting everyone to formulate and express their own unique opinions. Edward Snowden is an inspiring role model because he took dangerous

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risks to stand up for a cause he believed in, in order to bring the country to light about issues often kept in the dark.

Journey to the Center of the Earth by Frankie Sayegh

Could the Earth actually be hollow? For years, people have been convinced by science that the Earth is solid, filled with rock and molten. The crazy thing is that there's another theory, that has been long ignored, and even considered insane by people when they first heard of it. Before writing this theory down as impossible and stupid, just remember that there was once a time when the whole world was convinced that there was nothing west of Europe. The Hollow Earth Theory was first created by a man named Edmond Halley in 1692. Halley was a very famous astronomer, geophysicist, mathematician, meteorologist, and physicist. He is the reason Halley's comet is called Halley's comet. Reports of this comet were seen in the 1500's and 1600's. He was the first to discover that all of these sightings were the same comet, and was able to predict when it would come again. This helps to show how reliable of a source he is because this was a huge scientific discovery and probably the biggest that he can claim to be his. It is now the most famous and well-known comet today. He wrote a paper on the Hollow Earth Theory and based it off of the value of lunar relative density. The theory states that the Earth is actually hollow, and the crust is about 100 miles thick. Although this is where the conversation started scientifically, it did not stop and has been mentioned throughout history and religion throughout the past thousands of years. There have even been people in history who claim to have explored and seen the Hollow Earth. The theory goes even further to say that there may be an advanced race living in this Hollow Earth, with some form of civilization present. The most popular belief is that this interior civilization is named Agartha. Many trusted and famous people in history have delved into this theory and some even believe it to be true. While there is no hard evidence of a Hollow Earth, just by looking into history and all the research that has been done, this theory will definitely open minds to what could be possible in our universe. Although largely accepted by the public that the Earth is a solid sphere filled with rock and molten lava, a lot of scientific and historic research has been done that could help to prove that the Earth is actually hollow with a form of life and a world much like ours.

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Happily Ever After...Or Not by Ciara Butler-Boyle

Disney is very present within our everyday lives. Whether it's hearing the child sitting behind you on the plane singing "Let it Go", seeing a trailer of some upcoming Disney movie on TV, or even walking into a store and seeing shelves upon shelves of Disney related goods. It's important to realize that Disney represents societal ideals, love, cultural identity, gender roles, and age stereotypes in particular ways and the movie characters tend to reflect current societal norms. Children identify with these characters that they watch on the T.V.. Clearly, Disney movies make an impression. The images and underlying messages can be powerful and for this reason parents need to be aware of these "role models" in order to protect and/or correct some of the messages their children receive from these movies.

Our Heroes Have Lost Their Way by Toby Charnizon

The world around us often feels bleak and miserable; it seems the good guys never win and bad acts always go unpunished. For these reasons many lose faith in the real world and choose to temporarily abandon it from time to time and instead through comics and media exist in a simpler place where good will always inevitably triumph evil. Since Superman first dawned the outside-the-pants-underwear in 1938 comic book superheroes have been a staple of American society and culture. In the early days of superheroes, comic book storylines were simple and almost every comic would fit in a clear lesson aimed towards America's youth about the importance of being a good person having strong morals. During World War II and the Cold War it was extremely important for kids to be reminded by comics that heroes did eventually win and it payed to be a good person especially when the nation was horribly lacking hope. In the modern world superheroes still attempt to inspire children. Now, however, almost every other hero has a tragic origin story, teaching children to perceive through tough times. More importantly though a tragic backstory sells comics, people love to see a phoenix rise from the ashes and comic book sellers know this capitalize on generic storylines that they know people will buy regardless of story quality. In the early 90's there was a boom in comic sales. This happened because people believed some day their comics would become extremely valuable. The surge in sales lead to an

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increase in the number of comics published and a decrease in the quality of the stories.

Superheroes have served as icons of hope to America's youth for almost eight decades in times of crises, but their purpose has changed over the years, sadly superheroes today are used to make money instead of hope.

Street Art and Graffiti by Lucas Bayuelo

Since the beginning of human time we have been painting on walls. Known as parietal writing the desire for humans to decorate and shape their environment is "a practice that is as old as human culture itself" (Schacter 9). The cave paintings in France known as Lascaux provide a beautiful example of how our early ancestors made art and how they expressed what they saw in their everyday lives. While, the modern form of street art didn't appear until the 1960's it has without a doubt played a major role in our societies. Nowadays everywhere you go, big cities, small towns, and even in rural communities you can see some type of street art. The question that comes to many is whether or not street art is a real form of art, and a means of expression, or if it is illegal and considered vandalism. In today's society street is used as a means of expression and has gained a lot of popularity with young adults. Even though the act of street drawing in many places is still considered illegal there are many benefits it can have for people and a community when done the right way.

The Neuroscience of Music: Effects on Health, Brain Development and Learning Skills By Olivia Kelly

Music is an art that expresses emotions, thoughts, and ideas through harmony, rhythm, and melodies. Music is a key essential to bringing the world together in peace, love, joy, happiness, and harmony. Music is a vehicle through which people experience various strong emotions - happiness, sadness, stress. Music also teaches life lessons about the world around us. Often, people relate a moment in their life with a piece of music. All of these reasons make our society wonder, how does music emotionally connect with us as people? Music that people listen to has been shown to have a major effect on the human brain. Music can reduce stress as well as increase the ability to sleep. Additionally, music can also reduce anxiety, seizures, pain,

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improve reading skills, boost brain memory and increase brain development in both children and adults. These examples show how profoundly powerful music really is. Therefore, music is beneficial to our society because it can improve a person's health, brain development, and learning skills.

The Shield of the Great White Continent by Max Markowitz

In many ways, Antarctica seems like it exists in its own world, completely separate from the rest of the conflict-ridden, fast paced, modern world that has claimed the remaining six continents. Walking amongst millions of small flightless birds, or climbing to the top of a glacier and looking out at the great white canvas reaching out as far as the eye can see, one can easily forget about everything else and completely immerse yourself in the pure silence. This extraterrestrial landscape is partially a result of the geographic and natural forces acting on the land for millions of years, and also thanks to a set of regulations put together by an international coalition for the sake of preserving this land for the future. These regulations, collectively known as the Antarctic Treaty, or the Antarctic Treaty System, have been credited with being one of the most successful international agreements and have now been in effect for 55 years. Although many major powers in international issues have conflicts raging throughout the world, the Antarctic Treaty System has been upheld and supported by all parties, regardless of other disagreements or disputes. Through the Antarctic Treaty, the signing parties all display their desire to safeguard the last pristine continent on Earth for the benefit of all mankind. The Antarctic Treaty System has, for the past 55 years, been the system which has "governed" this vast international territory; however it is up to the future governing bodies of world powers to decide whether it would be more beneficial to humankind to maintain this abstract system or to exploit the land as most the rest of the world has been already.

Has American Foreign Policy Helped or Hurt Iraq by Arjun Miller

In the past four decades the country of Iraq has been the site of numerous wars, crises, and interventions. Almost all of these events have been affected by United States of America. Throughout the numerous wars and insurgencies in the country the question can be asked has the

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involvement of the United States helped or hurt the country of Iraq. Through careful consideration I have come to the conclusion that the United States Involvement in Iraq has been detrimental to the welfare and happiness of the people of Iraq.

Was Notorious Serial Killer Jeffrey Dahmer a Psychopath? By Shan Stickles

According to the Oxford Dictionary, a Serial killer is defined as “A person who commits a series of murders, often with no apparent motive and typically following a characteristic, predictable behaviour pattern.” According to Psychologytoday.com though, a psychopath “Can appear normal, even charming. Underneath, [he] lacks conscience and empathy, making [him] manipulative, volatile and often (but by no means always) criminal” Jeffrey Dahmer meets every standard of a serial killer, his proven murders reach up to 16 victims (more than the required three to become a serial killer), but there are possibly more unproven victims. Psychopath, now being diagnosed as an antisocial personality disorder, is classified as a mental illness in the DSM 5, so why was Jeffrey Dahmer deemed not mentally insane by the courts people? By diving into Dahmer’s life and psychologists opinions, there is proof to show Dahmer was not mentally stable while committing these murders, and instead of prison, should have been sentenced to a mental hospital to treat his psychosis.

Come Down Off the Spaceship Charlie by Ian Gordon

Looking back, the 1960s are remembered as the decade of love and peace. But by the end of the decade, a group had formed that was so opposed to society and their choices that they planned to exterminate the majority of it. Originally, Charlie was just a boy being raised by a single mom in Ohio. Later in life, Charles Manson would attempt to start a race war that would have resulted in the extermination of all white humans. Eventually, at 36 years of age, he would be sitting in court, smiling and regretting nothing as the judge read through seven counts of murder and one of conspiracy. The reason he attempted to kill off the majority of society was due to his Messiah complex, his interpretations of The Beatles’ lyrics, and his interpretation of the New Testament.