

Teachers deserve our respect

by Niamph Doyle
People Editor



We are all unfortunate victims of the hyperbolized nature of teenage hatred. We all know it, we all complain about it, and yet we contribute to it as easily and thoughtlessly as we breathe. Each and every member of the student population at

LGHS has the ability to catalyze a legitimate hatred that can spread across the student body in less than a week. We overreact to minor inconveniences and take pride in complaining to one another about homework, college, or extracurriculars. On the one hand, its understandable – everyone likes complaining, and who best to complain to than those who also share your struggles? But by buying into this careless disdain, we subject ourselves to an overarching negativity that can have a detrimental effect on the way we interact with our education at LGHS.

The most blatant example of this negativity is found in the widespread disapproval many students harbor of certain teachers, despite the significant competence of the educator. By jumping on the bandwagon of teacher-haters, students block their own ability to learn from their teachers, increasing their hatred for them, and thus adding to the general student body's attitude towards the teachers in question.

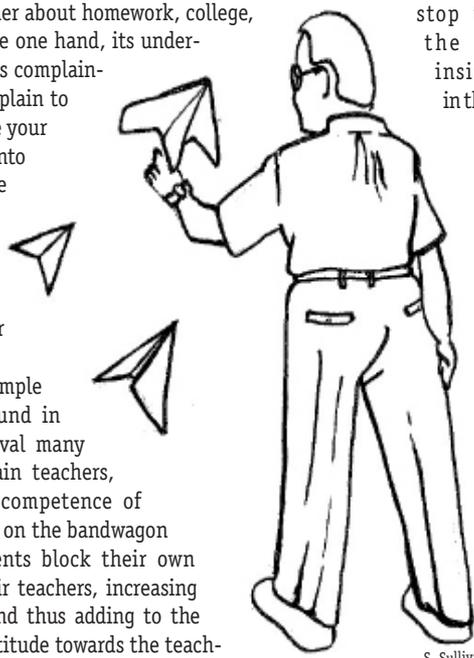
One of the saddest situations I've ever had the misfortune of witnessing is the tragic event of a teacher losing control of his or her classroom. Students watch new teachers and substitutes like hawks, waiting for them to expose even the most insignificant weaknesses before attacking with a blunt and merciless criticism that only high schoolers are capable of producing. Some kids make loud, boorish jokes regarding the teacher's slight failure, some refuse to stop talking even as the teacher pleads for students to stop, while others doodle idly on their papers, submitting to the hysteria that is soon to envelope the

entire class period. Its heart-breaking, watching an adult who is passionate about educating discover the reality of their job: teenagers can be immature, ruthless, and mean.

What I find so unbearable about these class dynamics is how unnecessary it is, and how much is lost in a class's attempt to devalue and dehumanize a teacher. In general, I think it's safe to say that teachers become teachers because they truly want to teach us teenagers about a subject that they feel passionately about. When students jump on the vulnerabilities of their teachers for the sole purpose of being able to undermine authority, they stop themselves from tapping into the wealth of knowledge and insight that these teachers have in their respective subjects. We are blinded by our addiction to hatred and conformity of interest.

Students can only tear down teachers when they are supported by the masses, making the entire situation a process of catalyzing a disrespect that can last the entire school year, possibly even transcending the scholastic year and lasting for a teacher's entire career at the school. In essence, by being hyper-sensitive to the flaws of our teachers, we prohibit ourselves from learning and allowing those around us to learn, which essentially undermines the entire point of our time as students at LGHS.

Sometimes, however, students will find themselves in a class they don't want to be in, with a sub-par teacher, with a class of students who are equally as disengaged. I genuinely disagree with the notion that this is an excuse for students to mistreat their teachers and block their own ability to learn from the class. I believe that, contrary to popular belief, it is the students' responsibility to learn as much as they can from any given class. Disrespecting teachers only makes this process harder and has a negative impact on every aspect of the LG community.



S. Sullivan

Medicine works too well

by Violet Wallerstein
Center Editor



Medicine has come a long way since its humble beginnings, from leaf poultices to antibiotics. We have learned how to more effectively and efficiently

treat infection and disease, and we can also keep comatose and cancer patients alive. However, modern medicine is working too well, and some of the practices should be stopped. We waste time and resources taking care of patients who may never recover or who should just be allowed to die.

Overpopulation is clearly a problem to any observer. The world is becoming more crowded every day, with over seven billion humans taking up more and more space. We are capable of living less wasteful lifestyles and finding renewable energy, but more people are still being born and that will inevitably increase the amount of space and resources we use. The current birth rate is 131.4 million births per year, while the death rate is only 55.3 million deaths per year. A part of the reason for that is that we are now capable of keeping more people alive longer.

I'm not saying modern medicine is the bad guy. It's good that people no longer die

from simple infections and that broken arms can be healed. However, I do believe that it is contributing to overpopulation. We spend time and resources keeping comatose patients alive and trying to set up healthy home lives for kids who were born with no brain signals. It may seem inhumane, but I believe we take care of people too well, going to extremes to keep death away even though it is the inevitable end for all of us. In some cases, it is ridiculous to do all of this for people who have little to no chance of recovery, and we should let them die.

Not only that, but hospitals also contribute to the increase in pollution. All of the lights and machines in the patient wards always need to be on and functioning, all supplies are wrapped in paper you just rip off and throw away, and all equipment needs to be cleaned often. These measures are in place to keep people alive, but also contribute to killing the planet.

In the end modern medicine is just trying to postpone death when in some cases we should just let it happen. No one lives forever, and that comatose patient certainly isn't going to learn as much as they can from any given class. Disrespecting teachers only makes this process harder and has a negative impact on every aspect of the LG community.



courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Do not ridicule Kardashians

by Olivia Pla
People Editor



If you could make a living off of making appearances, being on a reality TV show, and starting lines of products, wouldn't you do it? These days, this is the Kardashian family's source of income and is coincidentally what makes them famous. The family's faults have been distorted out of proportion by the media, causing people to focus on their issues as opposed to the positive aspects of their careers.

Unfortunately, public ridicule of the Kardashians' lifestyle began when they were brought to the public eye in the 1990s and has continued ever since. However, there has been debate over whether their fame began with Rob Kardashian's part in the O.J Simpson case in 1996 or with Kim and Ray J's sex tape in 2007. Rob Kardashian is the father of Kim, Khloe, Kourtney, and Rob, their son. Though Rob passed away in 2003 of esophageal cancer. Prior to his passing, he was an attorney and defended his friend O.J Simpson in court when he was convicted of murder. Regardless of which way the family got famous, they are still misrepresented by the media and people should look past these negative aspects and focus on their positive contributions to society.

The Kardashian's reality show did not start until right after the sex tape was leaked, leading people to believe that that made the family famous. Though the tape played a part, the family had wanted to try being on reality television for awhile prior to the scandal. Though sex tapes are generally viewed negatively, what Kim Kardashian and Ray J did in private was not the business of the rest of the country. It was an unfortunate way for Kim to become famous, and in an interview after the release she stated that "I thought I was gonna marry this guy; we were in a three-year relationship. I didn't think that our personal business would be for the world to see."

Aside from the sex tape scandal, the other glaringly negative publicity the family has received recently is Kim and Kris Humphries' 72-day marriage. Though divorce has become regular in our society, Kim's divorce was publicly mocked as many saw it as an elaborate attempt to get money. Going through a messy divorce and receiving bad publicity seems like a waste of time for someone who earns 25-30 million dollars per year. It's not fair for people to focus on a few negative aspects of someone's career when these aspects end up greatly overshadowing the positive aspects. People need to start focusing more on the idea that this is a family with an extremely strong bond, from whom we can learn countless lessons.

The Kardashians' popular show, Keeping up With the Kardashians, has continued to air because they are relatable to almost everyone who watches and are open about their issues. For example, youngest sister Khloe has struggled throughout the show with self-image and weight issues. Viewers are able to watch Khloe overcome these issues to become one of the most consistently positive and upbeat people on the show. Recently, the youngest of the four siblings, Rob Kardashian, has also had weight issues. Khloe has taken on the responsibility of trying to help Rob in his depressed state, which is something most siblings would help each other with.

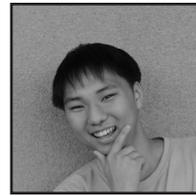
The family also donates to charity, which is something people usually overlook. On a recent vacation to Thailand, the family visited an orphanage to spend time with the children and to bring donations. They have also taken part in feeding the homeless on Thanksgiving at the Los Angeles mission, donated to victims of the Typhoon in the Philippines, and given hundreds of thousands of dollars to the Dream Foundation. However, just because the Kardashians are millionaires does not mean they should be expected to help the less fortunate any more than regular people. When we step back and look at the facts about this family, we see that they are simply real people with faults that are disproportionately publicised.



courtesy Wikimedia Commons

Act before video footage

by Hyuntae Byun
World Editor



In February, NFL running back Ray Rice was arrested for striking his then-fiancée, now wife Janay Palmer. In May, a New Jersey prosecutor agreed not to press charges if Rice agreed to enter a pretrial intervention program, which would clear the event from his record. As part of the program, the NFL enforced a two-game suspension and a fine of 58,000 dollars. The issue was put to rest, until video footage from within the elevator where Rice beat Palmer surfaced on TMZ.

The resultant public outrage forced the NFL to reevaluate its entire system of punishment, and further investigations are being launched. Rice, on the other hand, was cut from the Baltimore Ravens and suspended indefinitely.

At about the same time, on the other side of the world, the radical Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) posted two videos featuring militants beheading US journalists James Foley and Steven J. Scotloff. In the video, the victims address the camera and blame their subsequent deaths on decisions made by the Obama administration.

These videos radically changed American public sentiment. According to recent polls, the majority of Americans support US military strikes against ISIS. Following the launch of the two videos, the US quickly assembled a coalition of nations, including allies in the Middle East, and began conducting air strikes against parts of Northern Iraq.

Though seemingly unrelated, both the incident involving Ray Rice and the ISIS videos clearly demonstrate an interesting social phenomenon involving video and social media. Our society has recently tended to turn a blind eye to events around the world until the harsh realities circulated daily by newspapers are imposed upon us in the form of video or social media trends.

In the case of Ray Rice, we as a society did not respond until video evidence flashed across

our screens. In the case of ISIS, there was very little American response with regards to Syria before it became undeniably obvious that the safety of Americans was on the line. For months, articles detailing chemical bombings, millions displaced by fighting, and the rise of radical groups went largely ignored. Even as reports of possible ISIS attacks against American civilians started to circulate, there was very little action taken.

It is important to recognize the potent power of social media and video. As we increasingly rely on social media for our news, it becomes more common for articles to be accompanied by videos and photos. It's true that we shouldn't jump to conclusions with little evidence. But as the NFL fiasco and recent events in ISIS have proven, there is a large amount of danger in not responding until video evidence is released.

The fact that our response to atrocities is dictated by the presence of video evidence is a sad reflection of our societal moral standards. The availability of video evidence does not make a difficult situation more significant, yet the cases of Rice and ISIS clearly highlight an inequality in the way that we respond. The issues did not become more problematic, but evidence made it harder for us to shrug off the tremendous magnitudes of the problems at hand.



courtesy Wikimedia Commons

There are large inherent flaws in this that make our reactions both illogical and indefensible. If we continue to allow certain crises to go unresolved due to a lack of video proof, we will certainly skip over problems that hinder our present and future peace and prosperity. If we continue to set a double standard for problems, we will lose credibility due to our inconsistencies. So, if our future opinions are to hold any weight, we must change the basis upon which we formulate our current opinions.