

The Mouse Hole:

Micky Biggs
*Managing Editor
 Columnist*

In this fast-paced society, it is encouraged to “make it big” by earning the most green-backed-bills and owning objects that cost more than they are worth. Almost as if the person with the biggest home, the fastest car, the most exotic clothing, the newest technology, and the fanciest “bling” should be exemplified over another individual

who prefers a simple life. This shallow view has been a part of human society ever since we first walked on this planet. Greed and vanity, a formidable tag-team, have controlled human behaviors for centuries, only creating an empty hole in the depths of the human soul.

This idea of money being the power-house behind common actions is superficial and all too



accurate a description of the advertised world. From the gigantic mansions featured in magazines, and the diamond studded, pure gold jewelry, to the iPads, androids, and home theater systems, people in this world are encouraged to go to whatever lengths

are necessary to acquire these things.

What people do not see televised are the blue-collar workers who take pride in completing a service to those in the community: these people who have a sense of self importance, and care for their consumers; they are the people who are content to make others happy, fulfilled in some way; and they are the people have inner treasures more precious and worthwhile than gold, silver, and rubies. These treasures are commonly known as con-

fidence, compassion, concern, and work-ethic.

Some citizens may not own a multi-million dollar home, a rare, futuristic car, or jewelry that outshines the sun, but they hold within them something that nothing can come comparatively close to. The next time the front page of a magazine screams about who has the newest, flashiest thing, remember that people can have next to nothing of monitorial value, and be happier and more content than the billionaire in the mansion on the hill.

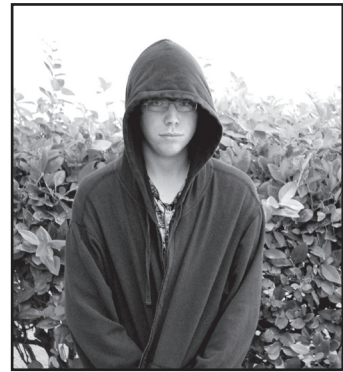
The Dark Reality

Adrew Rodrigues
Columnist

There are authors who would write about the bright and happy reality of the world. I am not one of those. My column theme is about the challengingly reality of this world and the dark reality in today's world is the effects of gangs to our schools and personal lives.

Gangs are a menace that affects the youth of our school. Nearly one third of students says their school is infected with gang activity, and I estimate about ten percent of WHS students are involved in a gang of some sort. It might be a small number, but I believe it is still a threat.

The threat is that they may start to convince other students join their gangs, resulting in rising numbers. The growth can lead to more fights and other gang related activities. This is bad news for the kids who just want to go to school, but are confronted about “what they bang”. “What they bang” is a slang term for what gang they are in. I estimate approximately ten percent of



this year's freshman students not in a gang already will join a gang by the end of the year.

Gang influence and the threat of not joining a gang can be a lot of pressure on a young person trying to stay out of a gang. Gangs have been known to threaten a young person to join their gang with the fear of hurting a family member whether a young sister or brother. Peer pressure is also a recruitment tool used to get non-gang associated teens to join their gang.

The main gangs that have infested our school are: Blood, Crips, Norteños, and Sureños. The Blood and the Norteños are representing the color red. The Crips and the Sureños represent the color blue. They are rivals, and they have killed many people who have do not have any connections to gangs in anyway.

Be vigilant and stay smart, and don't join a gang; report any gang activity or recruitment to a teacher, vice principal, principal or to the police. Keep our school

One Fine Wire Choose Happiness



Kissa Fletcher
Columnist

Every beginning of the school year, a wave of mixed emotions comes over me. I really do not know why exactly, but I just feel overcome with stress. I feel resistance towards the monotonous motions the school year and a variety of other issues bring. I lie in bed staring at the ceiling and wonder where exactly my day went.

I wake up, the day

has passed by, and then I fall asleep only to start the whole thing over again. I wonder, “What is the point of all this?” I have always thought of myself as a whimsical person and I love having a free-spirited point of view. I am not talking about “hippy” status.

I am talking about waking up on a Saturday morning, and spontaneously deciding to drive to San Francisco to walk the Golden Gate Bridge. Now, realizing that this cannot always be the case in reality, I understand there are things in life that must be done. However, I have always struggled being forced to do something when there are one hundred things I would rather be doing instead. So, lately I have been wondering, “How am I going to get passed this point and like what I do each day?”

For a Butte English assignment, I was told to read an article on a website and then write a summary on it.

I found the answer to my life question. The article was called, “Creating Our Own Happiness.” While reading it, I was enlightened that happiness was a choice. I decided that having a certain perspective, that the way you choose to react to things, can really determine how you view life. Life is not meant to be a “series of miserable tasks.” A bit of positive thinking to a situation can influence your mood into reflecting that way of thought. Emotions are ever changing and it is important to not live according to them all the time. Emotions can be unstable when overly applied in decision making. There needs to be a balance of both emotion and logic. I am very guilty of living my life in emotion, and it is hard not to get wrapped up in the pity game. But life is not horrible! Life is great! And happiness is something we can create in ourselves if only with the right train of thought.

The Most Optimistic Pestimest

Stephanie Jones
Columnist

A man named George F. Will put it best when he said, “The nice part about being a pessimist is that you are constantly being either proven right or pleasantly surprised.” As a pessimist, I am never disappointed. How can I be when I am always expecting the worst possible outcome; this is second nature to me.

The hardest part about doing something you know in your heart is right is the fear of being judged by your peers. Nobody wants to be labeled; let alone labeled a “Jesus Freak” for their entire high school career. So, the easy way out for me has been to act like I don't care about anything in the world. I try to float through the day as if nothing bothers me, but most days when I get



home I have to text my youth pastor's wife, and she helps me pull myself back together again.

If you know me, then you know I usually could care less about what people think about me. I have always presented myself as a laid-back bully. One day I am friends with everyone, the next day I crack jokes to kids I think are inferior to me. I can be mean to people for absolutely no reason other than wanting to fit in, and it hurts me inside. When I am rude to people, it eats at me and I try super hard not to let it show.

safe for all students. Watch what is happening around you and learn as much as you can about gang activity. Knowledge and reporting of gang activity on our school campus will keep you safe.

The point to this column is to let my readers in on a secret; my secret is that I know how hard it is to be nice to people, especially if they do something that constantly angers me. And there are some

people in this world who do or say things that to anger a person.

What does it solve to say mean thing to them especially when you are around other people who laugh at your comments? Making others laugh at someone with your rude comments might make you feel good right that second, but when the laughter fades, all you have really done is made some person feel terrible about himself. His feeling will not fade, and you probably feel like a major jerk on the inside. So just do what you know is right from the get-go!

The Reversing Mirror

Rebekah Allen
*Freshman
 Columnist*



It is amazing what you find in a magazine. You may stumble across new clothes, cool hair styles, and makeup advertisements. You also get a daily dose of drama and gossip, but then you also notice the people in the magazine.

The skinny and fit people in magazines always draw reader's attention to their body's build. Those pictures in magazines try to look as thin as possible even if the picture is altered to show them bounds lighter. Here's an example, there are a lot of famous people who are skinny, like Megan Fox and Halle Berry. So when teen girls open a magazine they see those famous people. Some girls will start to feel like they look to fat or weigh too much. Sadly this leads to girls starving themselves or throwing up which is a gate way to anorexia and bulimia. I've have seen girls with this problem in WIS and WHS and to be honest it is quite sad.

This is something that

I find very bothersome. Girls and boys of any age do not have to be skinny or a bodybuilder to have a girlfriend or boyfriend. All human beings are built differently and no one should be swayed or influenced by a digital picture that has been edited to make famous people skinny. Yet it happens, you can see it in the hall, and at lunch. It also happens outside of school.

If you are somebody who has these problems you should look in the mirror every morning and tell yourself I am special and there is no one like me. If you are bulimic or anorexic, please get some help because the actions you are taking are killing you. You may not know it now but you will sooner or later and when you finally notice it, it might be too late.