

# One Fine Wire

## What if you died tomorrow?



Kissa Fletcher  
*Columnist*

Everyone thinks they are invincible. No one thinks that they will be struck with the terrible realization that the life they know could soon be over. We sit staring at the clock waiting for those next twenty minutes to just fly by so that we can move on with our schedules. But what if those were your last twenty minutes? What if you walked out the door, got into your car, and an accident ended your life? Those tedious twenty minutes are quite valuable now.

Just like a quote from the character Alice in the movie *Alice in Wonderland*, "I try to believe in as many as six impossible things before breakfast." I believe this statement applies to life. If we attempted to perform six impossible things before breakfast, imagine what things a person can do

with their whole life. I like to think about each day as if it were my last and try not to regret any goal I set out to do. A lot of people's goals in life may include extensive traveling or acquiring impressive careers and awards. These goals are amazing things to live out and I would gladly accept the opportunity to do both. However, I believe there is nothing more important to do in life

than to live out my beliefs and be close to the people I love. I believe spending time with the people in my life makes my life worth living. Life should not be wasted away. If you died tomorrow, what legacy would you want to leave behind?

A legacy is something handed down from the past and in this case it is your story. It is what people will look back on you life when they remember you. It is what lessons, characteristics, and values made you who you were. What exactly do you want people to see? If people recalled memories of you, what would they say about you?

Realize that you are in control of your own legacy. Reach out to those who need a helping hand while you are able to do so. It will be too late to personally reach out to people after this life is over, however your legacy might be able to do that for you.

# The Reversing Mirror

## Stereotypes



Rebekah Allen  
*Freshman Columnist*

A stereotype is a commonly held public belief about specific social groups, yet many miss classify people in these groups only to do harm to them. They include: Preps, Jocks, Emo, Loners, and Goths.

A "Prep" or "Jock" would be a cheerleader or someone involved with sports. Jocks and Preps are portrayed as snooty, stuck up people who do not care about anyone but themselves. They dress in shorts, t-shirts, tank tops, and other sporty outfits because of that form of clothing is their personal preference.

Emos are seen as people who are in danger of committing suicide and who cut themselves often. However, it is just a name.

Emos feel as if they were never supposed to live in this world. They might wear dark colors, such as purples and blacks, along with long sleeved shirts. They may

dress like this because they are having trouble at home or they lost someone they really care about. It could also be the fact that they are trying to be different or maybe they just like the style.

Loners are portrayed as people with no friends; they do not look out for anyone except themselves. Yet these people may have millions and millions of friends and they probably have someone they really care about.

Goths are extremely different from Emos. They may wear the same dark clothes, but they do not have the same look on life.

Goths do not care about anything. Whether it is about life or people in general. It is as if they are empty and lifeless. They seem like they have limited or any emotions or feelings about anything.

I have never really liked stereotypes. They brand a person based on their looks and not who they are as a person.

Being called any one of these names might hurt someone's feelings. You can only imagine what goes through a person's mind when you brand them with a name they are not based on the clothing they are wearing.

I hope that this shows that are just names.



Gene Smith  
*Columnist*

Life is a very precious thing, and if you are not careful everything you have ever worked for can be gone in an instant.

People make dumb decisions every day, and those dumb decisions can result in them hurting themselves and the people around them.

One of the millions of bad choices people make every day is drinking and driving.

You hear and read about it all the time. Pictures and news articles in the newspapers, and on the televised news station showing people in an accidents because they were drunk or because the person that hit them causing the accident was drunk.

Hundreds of people die every year because of drunk



Mickey Biggs  
*Managing Editor*  
*Columnist*

The vast majority of adults tend to look down on a person because of his or her age, especially when the person's age is followed by the suffix "-teen". As a teenager, I am offended when I attempt to add to a conversation with adults, but am quickly shut out because I do not have the years under my belt to have a valid opinion or argument. Granted, those with a higher age have more knowledge concerning the ways of the world; however that does not suddenly mean teenagers do not have a unique view of the world

# Gene's Column

driving.

According to www.buzzle.com three out of fifteen people in the U.S. are involved in accidents related to drunk driving at least once in their lives. Also accidents related to drunk driving take place every 45 minutes in the US.

According to this website, in the year 2002, 159 million drunk driving trips were undertaken by Americans. Out of these 159 million trips, 10 percent were by people in the age group of 18-20 years old.

Around 275,000 people got injured in accidents related to drunk driving in 2003. In the year 2006, 1.46 million people were arrested for driving under the influence of either drugs or alcohol. What this means to me is that behind every 139 licensed drivers in USA, one was arrested. The year 2008 saw a decline of 9.8 percent in accidents related to drunk driving in comparison to the previous year.

So now you are wondering where am I going with all of these facts from this website. I gave you some facts about national drunk driving statistics, lets bring it home to Willows, CA.

The Willows Unified School District administered the 2009-2010 California

Healthy Kids Survey that surveyed 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students on their usage and knowledge of substance use, violence and safety. This report showed 15 percent of 7<sup>th</sup> graders, 32 percent of 9<sup>th</sup> graders, and 40 percent of juniors have gotten drunk and sick from intense drinking. Of the WUSD students taking the assessment 35% percent of the 7<sup>th</sup> graders, 67 percent of the 9<sup>th</sup> graders, and 68 percent of 11<sup>th</sup> graders have used alcohol and other drugs at least once in their lives, and have used alcohol within 30 days of taking this survey; 28 percent of the 7<sup>th</sup> graders, 44 percent of ninth graders, and 32 percent of 11<sup>th</sup> reported their usage.

The drivers at our school is mainly 11th and 12th graders. Get my point now? We all know teenagers drink, but do you have to drive. Make the choice to say, NO.

Nothing good comes from drinking and driving. The only thing you get from drinking and driving is jail time or worse.

And remember, if you see a drunk driver, call the police. That is just another drunk driver off the streets and away from your friends, family, and fellow civilians.

# The Mouse Hole:

## People are people, no matter what race, gender, or AGE.

worth acknowledgment.

High school students have a different view of how the world currently functions and do not deserve to be kicked to the curb just because we are trying to be included into a world we will soon be thrown into.

It is interesting to me that once a college age person officially enters the adult workforce they become of value in that they are no longer invisible, but now have a voice and are heard. Whereas, a teenager is typically shunned from such a scenario. Why is it that teenagers are viewed as young and have no substance when discussing politics, the economy, stressful situations, or ideas for the future?

As the youth of America, we teens have fresh ideas that would be beneficial if they were only heard. We

are people too. We have eyes, ears, and functioning brains. We live in this world and feel the consequences of choices and decisions made. We have insight on a new and fresh perspective in this technologically advancing civilization. Combine these facts and there is a viable opinion and viewpoint that should not be merely disregarded.

Granted, not all teens make the best decisions consistently. It is a phase of trial and error that each person must experience to learn how to handle themselves and the world around them.

To all teens reading this article, persevere if you feel no one is listening. Do not give up and do not lose heart. To adults, keep an ear open to us teens, to help guide us if nothing else. We understand more than you think.

# The Most Optimistic Pest



Stephanie Jones  
*Columnist*

The majority of the people in this world worry about things that are not even affecting them when they could be focusing on more important and relevant issues.

I could care less about global warming or the poor little animals being killed by the recent BP oil spill. If you care about this kind of stuff, then good for you, but do not

## Why do People Care so Much?

judge me. Call me whatever you want because it does not bother me. I am not arguing with you that I am an ignorant person, because I know that I am.

Everyone is always debating whether or not global warming is real or just a hoax. Why does it matter? If the effects of this global warming are not even going to cause damage for a super long time in the future, what is the point of stressing yourself out by caring? Believe what you will; I think you are wasting your time.

Why would I worry about things that have nothing to do with me? The day when this world turns into the scene from *The Terminator*, where all the kids and parents on the playground are fried to a crisp, is the day when I will care about global warming. Until then, I am

going to deplete our ozone layer by spraying as much hairspray as I want. I will waste electricity until the day I die because I am too dang lazy to get off my butt and turn off a light in the kitchen.

To prove my point just a little bit further, nobody in the government is doing anything to solve the problem; are they?

Catastrophic global warming is just for the peasant masses, I suppose. The big emitters, with their fuel wasting jets and obnoxiously large power plants, are not the problem; it is always the little ones. Maybe, since we are not as important as the people in office, we should all just be cut off from any form of civilization and return to the stone age.

I am down like the economy!