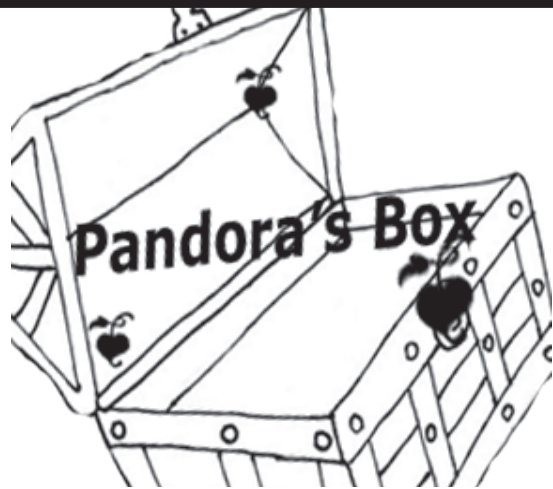




Danielle Schmidt
Editor in Chief

I recently watched the new movie *Angels and Demons*, which is the sequel to the *Davinci Code*. For those of you who have not seen neither movies or read the books, the plot basically revolves around the argument of whether science is correct about the human race's origins or if religion is right.

I have dealt face to face with this argument myself since eighth grade life science. Everyone is entitled to their own opinion on the subject,



but for some reason when one states their opinion other people who believe differently become offended.

I am one of those people who believe that God created the universe including humans. I also believe that science explains certain things about our creation. I am not a religious nut like some people assume because of my believing in God and Christianity. A simple fact that people need to realize is that believing in God does not make you religious. A person can do anything religiously. The definition of religious is the practice of your belief. Practice meaning repeatedly. A person can practice anything. Having faith in God and/or the Bible does not make a person "religious". If a person

Religion vs. Evolution

has a set of beliefs they follow why should they have to defend said beliefs to explain themselves to others? If a person has issues with your opinion or way of following things that is their problem not yours.

The theory of evolution is one that depicts our origins stating we evolved from animals over time. I am not disagreeing with this theory, but I am also not agreeing with it.

I understand the proof of evolution; yes animals and people have changed over thousands of years. If we did not I would be a little worried. I for one would not want to have the brain capacity of a potato.

Has anyone ever wondered if maybe we were meant to change over time? That possibly human beings and other species evolving was God's plan for life?

One more point I would like to make is that if a person believes in God: great. If they do not: great. A person's beliefs are not up to other people. The way they live or explain their existence is their own choice.

I hate it when people get into heated discussions about whether

religion or science is right. Here is a thought; maybe they are both correct! Why bother arguing with someone if they are just as stubborn and believe just as much that their view of life is right?

Another thing, do not bash on someone else if they have different views or opinions than yours. As frustrating as it is, in most cases a person cannot change someone's personal opinion.

Faith or "religion" is a personal choice, biblical beliefs have just as much proof or evidence as science does. Science is fact. I deeply wish people would stop being ignorant and become more open minded to this epiphany; science and faith are both correct. Of course each one has flaws because we are human, we are not meant to understand everything because if we did there would not be any room for curiosity. I am not going to argue with people about my views, and everyone else should not have to either.

People need to respect other's opinions; whether they believe in science, God, or both.

Through the Looking Glass To All Those Dealt an Unfair Hand



Matt Martin
Column Editor/Lead Columnist

It seems that the best of people are doomed to be unhappy. As a general rule, people who are more caring and considerate end up worse off. People who run through life stepping on fingers end up being movie stars, lawyers, and government officials. Contrariwise,

those who show empathy end up having horrible childhoods, worse school lives due to instability during puberty, and suffering due to abandonment later in life.

All of my friends whom I consider wonderful people have led depressing lives. They suffer loss of family members or good friends, and are generally spat on by life. Sometimes these hardships get to them, but most of the time they walk around with a big goofy grin, caring, giving, loving, and otherwise redefining the word "remarkable."

Regardless of how good they are, I am sad to say, life constantly allows their dice to come up snake eyes. They play black jack, hit on 15, and get a seven. They think they get a great hand with two pairs in poker, but their opponent always gets that three-of-a-kind. If you are unaware of the significance of these metaphors, the gist is that they just happen to lose every time. People who care keep playing and losing the game of life at their own expense, just because they like it

when others win.

I have always really tried to be a caring person. I listen to people's problems, and I do my best to provide what they need and want. Usually, it works. A lot of people tell me that I am very nice, and that I make their life just a bit better. And yet, I have yet to see anyone truly make me happy. I cruise through life, going through the motions, doing what people want. It feels nice to make others happy, but it gets really hard at times to just keep going when life keeps mauling you at every turn.

So, for the sake of all of us truly nice people, as much as you may think we are evil because we occasionally strike out at how messed up our situation is, give us a break. If you know someone who tries their very best whenever they can to make life good, rather than giving a normal effort to be nice, do something good for them. Pat them on the back, tell them that they matter, and do violent things to people who try to bring them down.

Beyond the City Limits Christmas, 'Tis the Season



Tim Danelly
Executive Director

It's amazing how much people these days take for granted. I may sound like an old grandfather, but everyone, not just kids my age, need to look around and appreciate everything around them.

I especially think about this around Christmas, when I have to listen to everyone complain about how they didn't get everything on their list. Not just kids, but even adults whine about how bad Christmas with the relatives has been in the past, or how it didn't live up to their standards.

Christmas is the time of the year where we should all be happy to be alive. Even if you don't get everything on your Christmas list, there are people out there in the world who are happy just to get a meal on this day. But instead of just being thankful for a warm house, if we're not showered in expensive things that we forget days later, it is as if the world is coming to an end.

Another thing I hear everyone gripe about is having to spend time with relatives. Here's a question for everyone who has ever said this, including me. What if you were to never see that person again after Christmas, if they passed away somehow? Just think about it. And while you complain about how you don't like that family member, remember, they could be gone in the blink of an eye.

So this Christmas season, I'm begging people, especially my graduating class, to not take everything they have for granted. Complain a little less, smile a little more. Get in the spirit of the season, and have a Merry Christmas everyone.

The Mouse Hole: New Title For an Old Decade



Michaela Biggs
Columnist

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year wish from the Mouse Hole. This is not any simple New Year right around the corner, though. We are heading straight for a new decade, double digits. Previous decades, in the 1900's, have had some way of being defined. So it begs the question, what will define the

2000-2009 decade?

As any American knows, the fifties, sixties, seventies, eighties, and nineties are known for a different reason specific to that decade. Whether they were known for the styles they wore, the music they listened to, or something original that that occurred at that time.

If the 2000-2009 decade is going to be defined by styles, I expect for that to be known as the retro decade. Through these ten years, styles reflected what was worn in the past to a watered-down effect. All the colors, designs, and shapes of the clothing we wear were re-vamped for the "modern" times.

If this last decade is going to be known for the music that was recorded at that time, it will be known as the eclectic decade.

Between country, hip-hop, rock, rap, pop, and any combination imaginable, this decade was definitely a mish-mosh of rhythmic sounds for entertainment.

However, this decade could be known as the fast-food/diet fad decade. Consider all the fast-food restaurants that maintained a steady incline of customers over these ten years. Along with all the outrageous diet fads that emerged and increased in customers as steadily as fast-food restaurants.

There has been a lot that this decade will be remembered for, between the music, movies, fads, styles, and the election of the first black president. Whatever this passing decade will be called, we, the Willows High School students, have assisted in defining the 2000-2009 decade, whether you believe it or not.