

Editorial/Opinion

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Dear Students,  
Get a job

Dear fellow WHS Student,  
Having a job and going to school is working full time. High school students tend to spend a lot of money for several reasons. Many students however depend on their parents to financially support them because they are still in school. Guess what people; your parents are not always going to be able to support your financial habits.  
Once you turn sixteen you should start looking for a job. Having a job in high school is taking responsibility for your finances. Most students would not do half of the things they do if they were the ones working for the money they spend. Being in school is no excuse to not have a job. Many students at this high school attend school daily, play sports, and work. Having a job and attending school is not a hard thing to do.  
Taking this responsibility just means you have to manage your time more wisely, but most high school students would rather hang out with friends and have fun. There is still time for fun but you need to learn responsibility for when you have to support yourself. Instead of partying on the weekends get a job and work.  
Getting a job and being responsible is not a hard concept but many students find the idea difficult to comprehend. Once you turn sixteen and are able to work you need to. Mommy and daddy will not always be there, remember that. Take some responsibility and get a job as soon as possible.  
Respectively,  
Morgan LaSorella

Editorial: The roots of the rumor weed

Michaela Biggs  
Staff Writer

Rumors are a seemingly natural part of the high school experience. However, rumors are not an enjoyable part, as many students have discovered. Rumors tend to be vicious and twisted way out of proportion. Rumors hurt the people involved as well as people who are close to them. How can a person solve this problem? Determine the source.  
The source seems to radiate from eavesdropping and assumptions. There are times where eavesdropping is accidental, however the statement heard is still

susceptible to becoming a rumor. This is where assumptions take control and cause more questions and bigger issues to arise than necessary.  
If a student eavesdrops, intentionally or otherwise, that student only hears a portion of the total conversation. No matter how convincing the statement is, one statement is still only one part of the conversation. Once that statement is heard, an assumption is made on the persons whom the statement is about. Without speaking to the persons involved, there is no way to prove the statement true.  
There are times where those involved will refuse to explain what

happened. If that occurs, a smart plan is to simply back away and stop snooping. This makes the drama much less intense for those involved as well as the person asking the question.  
Once the assumption is stationed inside a persons head, the thought does not just stay there. The thought spreads to an innumerable amount of people, many of whom have no part in how the conflict turns out. However, those people who heard about the story spread it to others who may know the persons involved, if not, the story is always seen as juicy one that needs to be told, true or not. I am a firm believer that if people would let certain issues slide, life

would be much easier, with fewer friendships breaking because of rumors and hear-say. In order solve the problems caused by rumors, rumors themselves must be solved. That problem can not be solved by one or two people. Therefore, students and others affected by rumors daily must take the steps to squelch the power rumors have by not assuming what was said or heard is true. Think about what was heard or said and whether it is plausible, and then don't go spreading it around to people who probably don't care. Stop spreading the pain rumors cause.

Hurting Lives Don't Need Suicide

Katrina Jackson  
Photo Editor

Everywhere I go I can not seem to escape the sound of depression. People are always complaining about their relationship, home life, a bad grade, or someone dying. No matter how hard I try to avoid it, it always gets to me in one way or another. I am a very compassionate person, and if someone around me is hurting, then I hurt with them. It is common to hear people trying to calm those who are complaining and give them solutions to their problem, but is it sometimes better for everyone to just stay out of it?

When one person tries to help another with their problem or worry, they are sometimes told more than what was needed to know and becomes overwhelmed with the knowledge. The overwhelmed person may tell someone the issue in confidence, that confidant may then tell another, who will tell another, etc.

In Willows word gets around fast about people who have anything going on worth talking about, and when this news hits the person of which the story is about it can make matters much worse than it already was at the beginning of the situation.

All too often it seems that people come up with one main solution to fix all of their problems within a matter of seconds.

Obviously I am talking about suicide. A person thinks that they have hit rock bottom with no way out, they think that suicide can make it all better by stopping the pain they feel from the hurt in their lives. THEY ARE WRONG!

What happens if your act for suicide does not work, then what? The answer is you will have to face people with stories about what you did. Especially if your actions are noticeable, then the after effect of dealing with your actions being worse than it was before you tried to end your life.

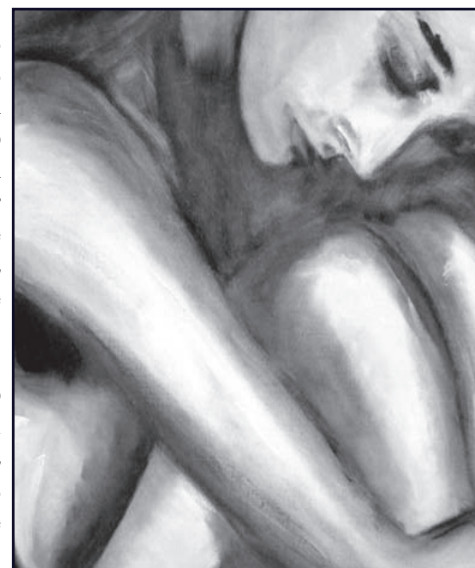
If your death attempt does work, then your loved ones are left behind to deal with the mess you left for them to clean up. Your friends will suffer with the loss of your life. It is never easy to lose someone you love, and not one should have to because of suicide.

No one should have to resort to killing themselves to get attention or relief from anything. If you think that suicide really is all that is left; you still should not take your life.

Your friends and family cared about you before you tried to end it all, and now you are making their life harder by being suicidal.

If you need someone to talk to that will not tell others you know, go to your counselor, a teacher, or if you still do not feel sure call The Boys And Girls Town National Hotline any time at 1-800-448-3000. They are all confidential and wanting to help you out of a seemingly hopeless situation.

Just remember, no matter how hard your life may seem, there is ALWAYS someone somewhere who is in a worse situation than you. A hurting life does not need suicide.



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Emotional Masochism: Facing the truth

Matt Martin  
Columns Editor

Sometimes, a relationship is easily observed as a happy and close unity, but it may be quite one-sided. One partner may speak highly of the other and be quite attached, while the other takes advantage of the devotion and disparages them or treats them like dirt. I like to call the person that allows them self to be abused as "emotionally masochistic."

This condition is rather like Stockholm's Syndrome, in which an abductee or hostage develops feelings of attachment for their captor. The partner, male or female, but primarily the latter, is deeply attached to their significant other, and comes up with excuses or ignores their rude behavior. They feel too close to the other person in the relationship to really end things with them, but they feel like what they are going through is wrong.

Although the abused partner may be quite attached, there is obviously deep psychological issues involved in refusing to separate yourself from emotional or physical abuse. It may be from negative childhood experiences, obsession, or other unhealthy factors. If you find yourself caring about someone who does not really reflect your emotions, and all of your friends say that you should separate yourself from your significant other, you may need to reexamine your feelings.

Although a breakup may

not be necessary, you should definitely consider why you are still with an emotionally or physically abusive person. Some positive solutions may include talking to the person and trying to persuade them to change their behavior, taking some time away from the person, or breaking up with them and really reconsidering what you are attached to in a significant other.  
Being a kind person is good, but accepting someone who takes advantage of your kindness in an extremely negative fashion is a sign of serious mental instability. So, to make sure that you are truly happy in life, find someone who never takes you for granted. If you have to question why you are with someone, you probably should not be with them.

time you heard a good story from Iraq? All the uplifting stories are swallowed by the frightening stories that get the headlines. Do not believe me? Look at the past H1N1 outbreak a couple months ago now. There has not been anything but pandemic, pandemonium for a solid month or two. And in reality, this flu needs to be treated like the Asian Flu, West Nile Virus, and any other flues now considered as influenza.

Ladies and gentleman, do not buy into this fear brought on by the media.

The only thing to fear is fear itself

Tim-o Danley  
Executive Director

"Fear; fear is the most valuable commodity in the universe. Turn on the TV, and what are viewers seeing? People selling their products? No, people selling the fear of consumers having to live without the advertisers products: fear of aging, fear of loneliness, fear of poverty, and the fear of failure. Fear is the most basic emotion we have. Fear is primal. Fear sells," Author, Max brooks stated in his book, World War Z.

Author Max Brooks strikes a very good point. I have read and re-read this book, and this passage sticks with me through every reading. He is completely right. Try doing what the quote says. Go home, turn your TV on and watch the commercials. Credit scores, medicine, diets, cars, food, the list goes on and on! Open a fashion magazine; the whole thing is one big scare-fest for self-conscious teenage girls.

Even the various forms of media sell fear. When was the last time you heard a HAPPY news story? When was the last

time you heard a good story from Iraq? All the uplifting stories are swallowed by the frightening stories that get the headlines. Do not believe me? Look at the past H1N1 outbreak a couple months ago now. There has not been anything but pandemic, pandemonium for a solid month or two. And in reality, this flu needs to be treated like the Asian Flu, West Nile Virus, and any other flues now considered as influenza.

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Winter Icon: Santa Claus

Damian Chanthapaseuth  
Staff Reporter

Have you ever wondered if Santa Clause was real? There are many questions that are needed to be answered about this happy fellow.

In my own perspective I have found to believe that Santa Claus does not exist. There are clues that can lead to this cause.

The Christmas holiday is the best time of the year, because it brings families and friends together. The point of Christmas is to give and receive presents from or to other people. Warm food is put on tables for the family to enjoy. Everything is great on the day of Christmas, but there is one thing that should not belong in the category. That one thing happens to be our very own Santa Claus.

Santa Claus was named after a minor saint from the fourth century named Saint Nicholas. He was born in the ancient Lycian seaport city of Patara and he traveled to Palestine and Egypt. I am not sure how everyone believes in a man who was from the fourth century.

Drowning in the Holiday Season

Michaela Biggs  
Staff Reporter

The Christmas season is now upon us, and dances around us since the day after Halloween. I find that a little extreme. Marketing has stretched the holiday out so much; many believe that the holiday spirit is dying because of such overbearing market strategies.

We seemingly drop into Christmas six weeks before the day itself and two and a half weeks before Thanksgiving. There is no other holiday with such a preparation time. This time begins with decorations and advertisements from businesses before we have time to recover from candy collecting. If businesses could wait until after Thanksgiving, or at least closer to Thanksgiving, to put up Christmas decorations and advertise for Christmas sales it could provide the boost necessary to reboot the Christmas cheer that seems to be disappearing.

There was a time when we were allowed to experience the other holiday between Halloween and Christmas before bright and cheery decorations were set out. Slowly the advertisements arrived sooner and sooner. Decorations followed suit not long after the advertisements. Many people fear a green and red film will soon coat the black and orange holiday.

All the Christmas hype dumped on us every year for such a length of time, no wonder a holiday "scrooge" is becoming more and more common at this time. However, Christmas is a wonderful time of year, remember that fact. Yes, businesses unknowingly drain the Christmas spirit, but if the reader can hold onto the Christmas story and the love that surrounds each individual on that special holiday, maybe the Christmas hype will be forgotten, and the love and togetherness of the holiday will shine through.