

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Dear Editor,

I would have to say that banning yoga pants is a bad idea. Outside of the self-expression, we have other things in school to worry about. I personally don't wear yoga pants, but from one person to the next, if you ask them, they would probably say the same thing. I think it shouldn't be that big of a deal. People should be able to express their ways through clothes, hair, piercings and even tattoos. I think we worry too much about being politically correct than we focus on what's important in school. ...People should be free to do whatever they feel. Honestly, if someone told me I couldn't express myself the way I wanted to, I would do it anyways to rebel against the rules, and be who I really am, not what someone else wants because in their opinion it isn't appropriate. Everybody has their opinions, that doesn't mean either of them are right, it just...means whoever can be more persuasive will win the argument. Some argue they're not appropriate, some argue, 'who cares it's my life.' I argue focus on your own life, don't say what's right and what's wrong just to make it a rule.

Mandy Burnside, freshman

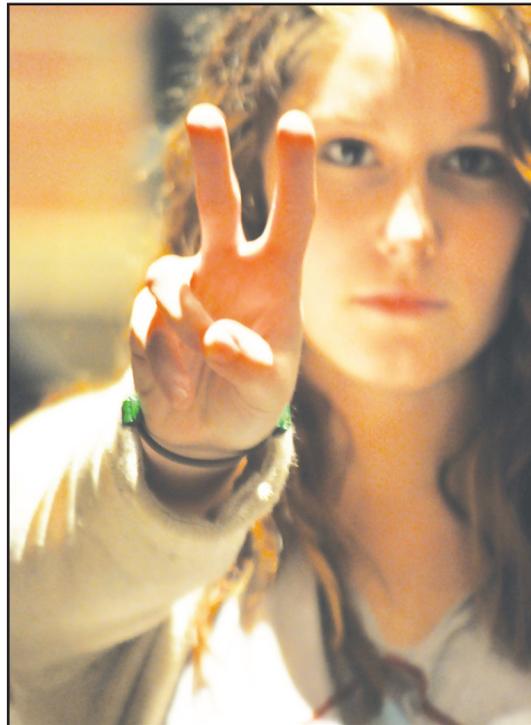
Dear Editor,

I agree with the article, "Media Bias Sways Potential Voters." Media has a ginormous effect on these potential voters. Any news station, or anywhere anyone talks politics is going to be biased, even news stations that don't claim to be biased (for example CNN) are ever so slightly biased. Honestly, I think the media goes way too far when describing an opposing party's candidate. I'm more left wing than anything, and even I can say that people have made republican Ron Paul seem like he's just a random person from the misinformed audience that presidential candidates let debate with them. Even if you switch your TV to a popular teen station like MTV around election time, they are even trying to sway viewers to the left. There is a point when we have to stop playing the blame game, and that time is now. Campaign ads really are just an attempt to turn you into a mindless zombie, always following their views. People, not just adults, but everyone, should start thinking for themselves; ignore the bias you see in just about everything you see, and start thinking what you think really happened. If people in any country allow higher-ups to start thinking for them, democracy is gone. America was built on the belief of democracy, not the belief that one or two parties should have absolute power. If you don't agree with the major two parties, so be it, at least you're thinking for yourself.

Caleb McDonald, freshman

# Taking a stand

## Students take action for Invisible Children cause



photos by Corynne Hogan

Mitchell Matacia | Staff Writer

While it may have been easy to pledge support to the Invisible Children organization as the video played in the auditorium a month ago, some students have chosen to harness their ambitions and take them a step further.

Junior Julia Johnstone is one of the students contributing to the benefit to help the people of Uganda overcome their oppression. She has created a group at Mason High School to raise money for the cause.

"We're going to try and raise the most money that we can [for Invisible Children] to be able to help as much as we can," Johnstone said.

Meagan Haberstroh, junior at MHS said that all of the money that is donated through [www.invisible-children.com/frontline](http://www.invisible-children.com/frontline) from Mason students will accumulate to a page representing Mason High School as a whole.

"You can donate online straight through Mason High School, or everyone who is a part of the Frontline Campaign can set their own personal goal to raise money, and it [will] also sink into Mason High School's page," Haberstroh said. "So, if you're a part of Mason High School, and you raise money, it also goes towards Mason High School."

According to Haberstroh, the goal of the Invisible Children group at MHS is to raise \$5,000 and hope to become a top fundraising school in the U.S. If Mason's online donation page becomes a top fundraiser, one student from the school will be elected to take a trip to Uganda.

Johnstone plans to leave Mason early to contribute

her efforts to the Invisible Children organization by becoming a roadie.

Senior Katie Schussheim, who is also involved with the new Invisible Children group, said that she is planning community events to bring attention to the cause.

"I'm currently planning an event at my church to have a movie viewing for some local people in the community who have not yet seen the videos," Schussheim said.

Jessica Miller, senior at Mason, is also aiding the child soldiers in Uganda. Miller initiated a benefit concert last year after the organization's first visit to help raise money for the cause. Miller contacted local bands through Facebook and email to ask them to play.

"We did the concert, which was really really difficult," Miller said. "It was moderately successful, [but] the turnout was less than I thought it was going to be."

Miller said the Invisible Children follow-up this past month helped reintroduce her to the oppression that the child soldiers face in Uganda.

"I think [the movie we watched] reinstalled all of the thoughts that I had before from the first [movie]," Miller said. "You forget about [the cause] because you're going through life here and you don't remember things like that, and then you're like, 'Oh yeah, that's really happening.'"

Miller said that she was amazed that people weren't taking action before the Invisible Children organization made themselves known.

"It's ridiculous that nothing was done until the people within [Invisible Children] stood up and pressured society and pressured Congress to pass a bill," Miller said. "Why weren't people paying attention in the first place?"