



Nostalgia is necessary in life

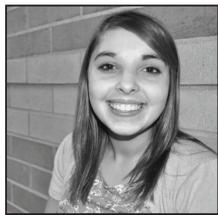
Janica Kaneshiro



Candidates attempts at youth vote polarize

Thom Carter

COLUMNS



High school girls lose their innocence too soon

Julia Halpin | Associate Editor

“You’re so innocent, Julia.”

I’ve gotten this line from people throughout my high school career, more times than I can count.

My tendency to wear floral and my naturally small stature seem to give off a naïve vibe, whether I like it or not. (Though identifying myself as Christian probably doesn’t help either.) Those who don’t know me very well shriek when they hear me say a curse word, and sexual references do have a way of going over my head. My peers who take time out of their day to note this about me, usually get the same response:

“Sorry?”

I can’t seem to find more words than that. Should I be sorry that I appear innocent? That maybe I don’t give off a “been-there-and-done-that vibe”?

I haven’t been-there-and-done-that. My high school career was never filled with wild parties or a new boyfriend every couple of months to have at my disposal. And, for some reason, I don’t think that’s a bad thing.

Girls in high school seem to strive for this sophisticated, grown-up mentality by wearing as little as possible and posting not-so-flattering pictures of themselves on Facebook. Our generation of women seems to think that “hot” is more of a compliment than “respectable.”

I don’t want that. I don’t want to leave high school and have people remember me as the girl who was too intoxicated to remember most of her weekends; I never desired to be the girl who the whole football team thought was “hot.”

So, I’m okay with being innocent. At eighteen years old, I don’t need to have partied or had sex, or any of that. Being called innocent is a small trade-off for being viewed as more than just something for a guy to gawk at.

Innocence, maybe, should be something we try to keep more of. Like saving your gas until your tank lands on ‘E’, our generation of women should save their innocence, rather than throwing it away at the first invitation to a high school party. Some say I won’t be prepared for college, that I’ll be eaten alive by the swarms of beer cups pushed my way. To them, I would say that I think I’m better off because I didn’t lose every ounce of innocence I had in my four years of high school.

And, in college, I’m still going to wear my floral dresses.



Ninja Turtle capitalism: a love story

Branden Labarowski | Staff Writer

I have stared into the abyss. I have seen production stills from Nickelodeon’s new “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles” cartoon.

They got everything wrong. They gave half the Turtles different weapons. They gave Donatello buck teeth. They threw out the series’ old hand-drawn animation, dripping with integrity, in favor of stilted CGI.

They turned April O’Neill, the Turtles’ twentysomething human companion, into a teenager, just to make her more relatable to “the kids.” It’s as if they were trying to shell out (pun intended) the wholly inspired piece of work that was Peter Laird and Kevin Eastman’s original “Ninja Turtles” graphic novels to our modern, mass-produced world of frivolity in the worst way possible.

Maybe I wouldn’t be so angry if not for the fact that the whole fiasco represents a disturbing trend in the media world. Anyone who’s followed “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles” as long as I have can tell you that the franchise has stood as a fine example of the American Dream in action since day one: Eastman and Laird, after all, got their starts as mere starving bachelors, but their love of comics managed to propel them to worldwide success—success that they wouldn’t give up for all the money in the world. That is, until 2009, when Peter Laird, after nearly 30 years of neglecting his family and home life to manage his sprawling multimedia empire, finally sold the rights to his brainchild. Now he, like so many other unwitting victims of surprise success before him, can only watch on as the moneyed megacorporation alters his life’s work at whim, pasting buck teeth and CGI wherever they feel is appropriate.

Whether I like it or not, though, “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles” is now the property of Nickelodeon®, a subsidiary of Viacom™, and one of the last creator-driven franchises in entertainment media has fallen. And that’s just the problem with our system of economics and intellectual property: as perfectly tailored as it is to helping young aspirers like Eastman and Laird achieve their goals, it seems designed to yank them away in the end. The creator is always doomed to die a literal or figurative death, leaving his or her work in the hands of suits and sophists who could care less about the original creative intent. Just look up the other properties that make up Viacom’s \$22.801 billion net worth sometime; it’s a sobering experience: they lay claim to everything from “Raiders of the Lost Ark” to “Dora the Explorer,” and behind each and every property is a fallen creator whose life’s work has been seized by the tentacles of corporate greed.

Hundreds of years from now, when our society is long forgotten, archeologists will dig up a book holding all the information they ever could’ve wanted about the culture of our day. A veritable Codex Gigas or Nag Hammadi library of the 21st century, this book will detail everything that ever entertained or educated in our time. Adorning its cover will be the words “Copyrights Registered to Viacom, Inc.,” as well as an illustration of a CGI Donatello baring a bucktoothed grin.

Seriously, whose brilliant idea was that?

WHAT YOU THINK

compiled by Chloe Knue



“Being a junior there is a lot more pressure. I am excited to be an upperclassman but I feel like the school work is going to be harder [next year]. It will be the last year with my brother in the same school as me, but he will still drive me next year so I do not have to drive and I can have a senior spot. I am going to live it up next year because I am just going to.”

Alison Ebel, sophomore

What expectations do you have for the upcoming school year?



“I expect to have a lot more responsibility but also a lot more freedom. I am also expecting to learn a lot about who I am. I am going to learn a lot about growing up.”

Morgan Liddic, senior



“I think about having to prepare for the OGT’s. Sophomore year, I think is the year you start thinking about colleges and worrying about your grades more.”

Daniel Blust, freshman



There will probably be a lot more homework next year. There will be a lot of studying for the SAT/ACT, and you know, stress preparing for senior year. I am excited to be an upperclassman and become a role model.”

Panos Skoufalos, sophomore



“I think [senior year] you have to become more of a leader in the school. You could take track and field as an example, [as seniors] we will have to step up and show the freshman what to do, and

Jasmine Robinson, junior



“I am excited and nervous all at the same time. I am excited to be a senior and be on top of the food chain but nervous to get out of here [MHS] and start a real life... Growing up is a huge responsibility.”

Peter Mintz, junior