



The Immigration Series

Safe Havens Offered to Immigrant Families
Facing deportation, people find sanctuary in Catholic churches

By **ESTEFHANY HERNANDEZ**
 Staff Writer



Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum

Using a national arts grant and a generous private donation, Los Angeles Leadership Academy 10th grade students participated in an acting performance of Macbeth by William Shakespeare. For three weeks, students received training from professional actors. 10th graders chose to interpret important scenes from the famous play. Parents and faculty went to the outdoor theater in Malibu canyon to see the performance.



UCLA Peer Mediators Challenge

The UCLA Peer Mediation Project continues its partnership with Los Angeles Leadership Academy. This year, UCLA students arrived at the high school to build relationships with students. The mediators planned a Challenge Day for high school seniors. Held on the basketball court, 12th grade students shared their reflections in a special assembly. The emotional event included relationship building activities that brought the class of 2015 closer together.



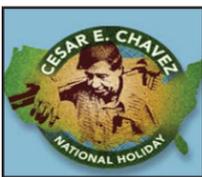
8th Grade High School Visit

The middle school's 8th graders came to visit The high school campus. They were received with Presentations about Current clubs at the School and other activities.



Cesar Chavez Day

Students and teachers Alike got into the Cesar Chavez day spirit and went out into the community. Advisories went out to help different organizations as a way to celebrate Cesar Chaves Day .



Econ students to Junior Finance

Los Angeles Leadership Academy seniors went to visit the JA Finance Park with economics teacher Phyllis Rosen sometime last month. The activities at the park helped the students to realize how important a budget is and to agree with the institution's motto: "Pay Yourself First"



Recently there has been an immense amount of undocumented immigrants looking for a location safe from deportation, as well as one that provides help for their immigration status. Officially called "Safe Havens", churches have always been open to the public. For political reasons, churches and other "sensitive locations" are not raided in search of undocumented immigrants. The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has a policy that does not allow them to invade these sensitive locations without authorization from the higher-ups. Therefore, immigrants can evade the police knowing they will not get arrested inside a church. Along with that, in California, many LAUSD schools have also offered services to immigrant families. LAUSD schools sent out a letter earlier in the school year informing families that the schools would be providing consultations with immigration lawyers in order to discuss any immigration status questions. Apart from these resources there are many non profit organizations that would willingly offer refuge to hiding immigrants or just immigrants in general who need help. Churches have been the main resource for many runaway immigrants, since they will openly

give their assistance. When asked if he felt whether or not some people take advantage of the fact that church is open for anyone Pastor Edgar Flores from Iglesias Nueva Vida, said that "Some people do come in and abuse the use of our resources or some of the free things we offer, but honestly it does not bother our church because we are glad to see people seeking our help in general." However, there are risks for churches. According to Sanctuary 2014: Q and A by the Catholic Immigration Network Inc., 8 U.S. Code § 1324 makes it a felony to bring in and harbor undocumented immigrants. Well, depending on the state the church is in. 8 U.S. Code § 1324 is enforced differently in the 50 states, and churches have striven to find a loophole. In states that belong to the second, third, and sixth Circuit Courts, it is a felony if the immigrant is being harbored if s/he is being housed SECRETLY from the authorities. It's circumvented by publically announcing the housing of the immigrants. However, in the fifth and ninth Circuit Courts, which California is a part of, just housing an immigrant is considered a felony.

Another important resource are lawyers who

work or volunteer their own time to help Dream Act students or Dreamer hopefuls. Immigration Lawyer Rudy Monterrosa said, "Honestly I live helping out immigrants with anything. I want to be able to see our people succeed as well as any other races and by us lawyers offering help we create a bigger possibility of our Latinos having a brighter future." Rosalinda Garcia, an immigration consultant who offered a workshop at Los Angeles Leadership Academy High School, offered services to all of the dreamers that asked her for information on one topic or another. She was open to giving her email and phone number so students and their parents could contact Miss Rosalinda Garcia for any further questions and even offered a personal meeting for in depth help on how to file for certain help.

Many immigrant families have taken advantage of the resources open to them. Refuge is an important factor for these families because without it they may be easily separated from each other. The main reason for these asylums being open is to help those in need, which have increasingly included family men and women. As for those who are not yet runaways, they have many opportunities to search for free help.

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Viewpoint

My Take: Migrating into the Military
Though many disagree, there are benefits

BY CESAR ATRIAN
Staff Writer

When the U.S. military is mentioned, controversy follows. For Latinos, the question debated is whether a Latino should join the U.S. military. I believe they should. When Latino parents hear anything about their kids joining the U.S. military they think the worst, such as PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder), at least my parents do. However, I see an opportunity to learn discipline and a chance to go to college for free. The main reason why I chose the military is for the educational opportunities. Joining the U.S. Army Reserves (USAR) is a positive because of the tuition assistance, meaning they will pay for part or all of your college tuition depending on a variety of factors. The U.S. Army Reserves branch interests me because of its tuition assistance. Another branch that offers tuition assistance is the National Guard. Like in the USAR, most in the National Guard stay in the United States, ready to protect the country from foreign attacks. Those two branches would be best for people who are seeking to get a higher edu-



cation. Another branch that caught my attention is the Marine Corps because of the intense training they receive, but they do not offer tuition assistance like the USAR does. The Marine Corps is mostly used in combat on foreign soil. My goal is to be prepared for any obstacle life throws my way, and that's what I expect to learn in the military. It's not always a bad idea to join a military branch. Latinos and Latinas should take advantage of the

opportunities they offer in the military and should read about each branch of the military to see which fits best them, if they are looking into joining the military. So far getting prepared for the army has been decent. Reading "the ASVAB for dummies" has been a big part of my preparation, next to doing push-ups and pull ups everyday. The jogging hasn't started yet because of the time I have once I get home, but it will become a habit once graduation is over.

Have an opinion?
Write for The Voice

Submit your opinions to
the editors at
thevoice@laleadership.org

Upcoming Event

- 4/10 UC Merced Rep visits high school
- 4/10 Senior field trip to Southwestern Law
- 4/21 Senior Portraits
- 4/23 Senior field trip to First Century Bank
- 4/24 15-week Progress Reports
- 4/24-4/25 City Debate Championships

Who Am I?

- My birthday is April 17
- Favorite Drink: Cactus Cooler
- I went to Bishop Montgomery High School
- I was a Boy Scout
- Favorite Film: The Big Lebowski
- Motto: Believe in Yourself
- Favorite music: Reggae
- Favorite book: *Treasure Island*
- SDSU and LMU graduate

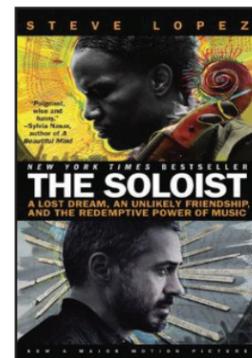


The Voice Ch-Ch-Ch Challenge

April's Challenge

The first student to answer the clue will receive:
Special Prize + *The Soloist* by Steve Lopez
Clue: Who Am I?

The first student to tell the Journalism teacher the answer
will receive the prizes



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The Voice is a student newspaper produced by students at L.A. Leadership Academy. This paper is published to inform, educate and entertain the student body, faculty and members of the community of Lincoln Heights.

Students, faculty and community members with strong opinions are highly encouraged to write a guest commentary or a letter to the editor, which may be published.

Send letters to the editor:
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Community College is Latinos First Choice Research Studies Prove Worrisome Trend

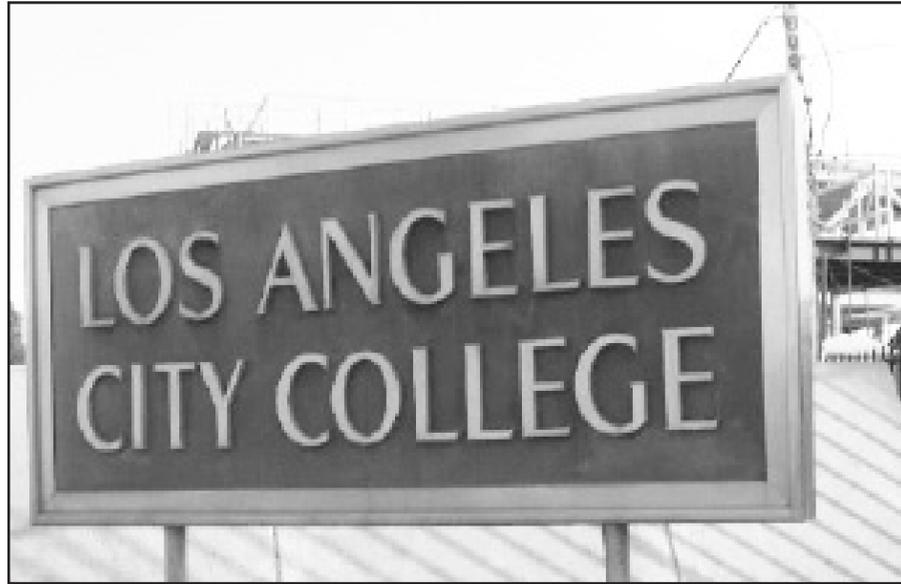
BY RANDY GUZMAN
Staff Writer

Latinos attending high school have long been recognized as a struggling community in the education system. Underachievement is not an unknown word amongst these Hispanic scholars who struggle to even get admitted into college. However, according to a recent study done by the Tomas Rivera Policy Institute at the University of Southern California, even Latino students who attend high-performing high schools in the state of California are more likely to attend community college than a UC or a Cal State.

It has been common to learn that Latino students, because they tend to attend schools in low-income communities, are not taught with the proper tools necessary to succeed. However, the study conducted by Lindsey Malcolm-Piqueux, has alarmed many who believed only impoverished schools had a problem with Hispanic college enrollment. Jose Gomez, parent of a student attending Gretchen Whitney High, a school in Cerritos that has one of the top API scores in California, said that that study is worrisome. "I had the fortune to be able to enroll my daughter in a good school (Gretchen Whitney High). Nonetheless, it can be troublesome when you hear that even good schools can have students who aren't encouraged to attend a 4-university, and end up going to community college."

According to the study, "more than one-third of Latino high school graduates enroll in the state's community college system, compared with about one-quarter of their white, Asian, and African American counterparts." A separate study by Lindsey Malcom-Piqueux, PhD, found that 46% of Latinos who graduated from high schools with the top API scores wound up enrolling at community colleges.

In an interview with television station KPCC, Malcolm-Piqueux explained that per-



haps certain college pathways are promoted for different types of students. "We know that tracking is real. We know that differential expectations for academic performance based on things like race and class are real." She stated that she found similar college enrollment trends at high performing schools all over the state. "Other factors, including family finances, could also lead students to choose to start at a cheaper, two-year college."

Orly Frank, mother of three university students in the state of California says that she wishes she could've encouraged her kids attend community college first and then transfer to a UC. "Granted they'd missed out on the big college experience of moving away from home, living independently for the first time, etc; in the end they'd also be free of the 4 years of student loan debt they are now saddled with."

Despite the fact that these recent findings may seem to place a negative assumption on community college, it is important to remember that community college can always be a viable path to those who cannot afford to enroll in the multi-millionaire UC institutions. Dr. Adrea Head, who after attending community college, transferred to Berkeley, believes there is no problem with attending community college. "The first 2 yrs of college is a wash due to the general education requirements. I think CC students are smart to knock these out at less cost/debt and then transfer if they've found their passion."

Though college enrollment can be linked to Latino student underachievement, in the end, perhaps Latinos agree with Dr. Head, only to realize that very few community college students transfer out to a university too late.

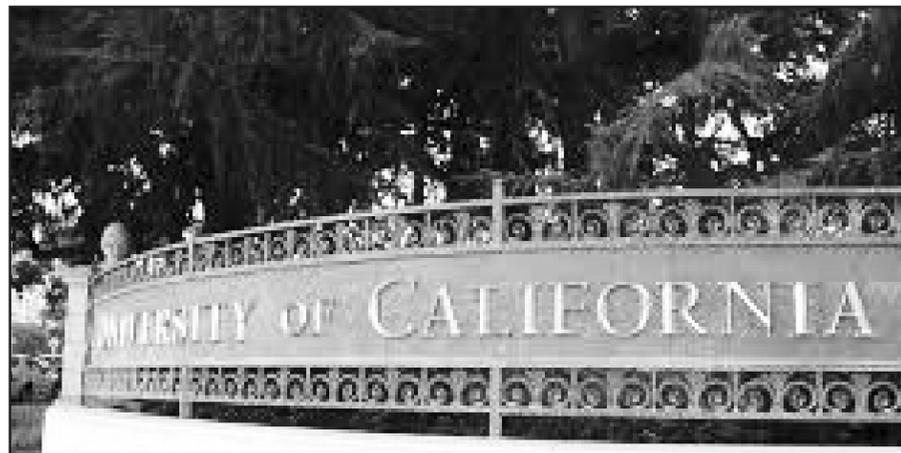
Foster Youth in College Foster Youth Seek Higher Education

BY KEVIN FERMAN
Staff Writer

As seniors all around the country receive college acceptance letters and financial aid packages, they are thinking about their next step in life: either a two-year or four-year university. While some may have their parents and have a plan for paying for college, what happens to those that don't have that same support, that don't have parents to rely on and help pay for their college expenses? Foster youth go through a variety of situations such as abuse, neglect, death of a family member, and/or other family issues that cause them to go through the foster care system.

According to The AFCARS Report, in 2013 there were about 402,378 Americans in the United States foster care system, of which 106,705, or 26.5%, are between the ages of 13-18 years old. Anywhere from 10,000-25,000 foster youth will age out of the system at age 18 or when they complete high school this year.

According to Senior Researcher of Foster Youth at the University of Chicago, Amy Dworsky, youth may struggle to adapt to life after foster care due to the neglect, abuse, or other trauma in their childhood that may have affected their development. In addition she claimed, "Most young people can rely on their parents or other family members for support, both emotional and financial, even long after



Colleges like the University of California have programs in place to help foster students.

they turn 18 years old, but foster youth aging out of the system don't have that support." As for why foster youth tend to struggle to get to college she stated, "Foster youth who have a high school diploma may not be prepared for college work because of placement instability that led to frequent school changes and disrupted their education, or that they were not tracked into college preparatory courses."

To help struggling foster youth transition from the system to college, some college campuses offer foster youth support that offer counseling or other services to ease their transition into college. One way California's

government is trying to support foster youth seeking higher education and support them get to college is by offering financial assistance for them. Foster youth are given a specific grant called the Chaffee Grant, offering up to \$5000 a year for job training or college expenses. The grant is given in addition to other financial help that a student might receive through FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Some universities also offer their own forms of financial aid for foster youth, including the University of California, Irvine which awards \$5000 in financial aid to any foster youth that went through foster care in Orange County.

Homes for the Homeless

BY MARIA RIVERA
Staff Writer



Many people come to America to look for their own version of the American dream. Sadly, what they don't realize is that many Americans don't even have that white picket fence or anything close to it. All across the United States, there are homeless people roaming the streets, begging or asking for money.

Many pedestrians walk by and ignore the cry for help from these people. Local Los Angeles pedestrian, Rosie Rodriguez walks to work and notices the increased amount of homeless people. "I feel sad when I see a person sleeping on the streets especially when they're much younger than me. I know I complain about not having the luxuries that most people have but when I walk in the streets I tend to forget about that." She also stated that whenever she can, she offers them her left over food and a dollar or two.

The overall opinion of people in the streets is sad. "One time a man I had seen sleeping in the streets before approached me and asked for some money, I didn't have any so he went on and asked someone else. That person then came over and said that since the homeless man was so young, he's just being lazy and could work and that he just wants the money for booze and drugs." Contradicting this belief, Housing Specialist Elizabeth Contreras said, "Not a lot of people know that a lot of the homeless are mentally ill and that that's the reason why they are homeless. It's not because they are lazy, it's because their mental illness or whatever disability they may have doesn't allow them to work." She also said that having a mental illness is an obstacle because it prevents them from being independent.

Elizabeth works for Pacific Clinics and their main objective is to take homeless people off the streets and place them in a home they can call their own. "The way we find clients is by outreach. We actually go on the streets and look for them. We approach them and offer our services to them. We ask them if they are interested in going into permanent housing." The social workers provide information and wait for the homeless people to make a decision and then help them out. If they do, "Then we place our clients in a shelters or transitional housing." Shelters and transitional houses are temporary. "The process can take from four months to possibly four or five years. It depends on the clients."

Adjustment can be difficult after years on the street, however. "I had actually managed to find an affordable apartment for a client of mine and two weeks later I went back for a home visit and he was literally sleeping inside of a tent in the living room. I talked to him and he said he wanted to go back to the streets. The transition is hard but necessary so they can have a place to sleep." The crux of the matter is that the American Dream is difficult for even Americans to achieve.



News & Features

Earth Day is Every Day

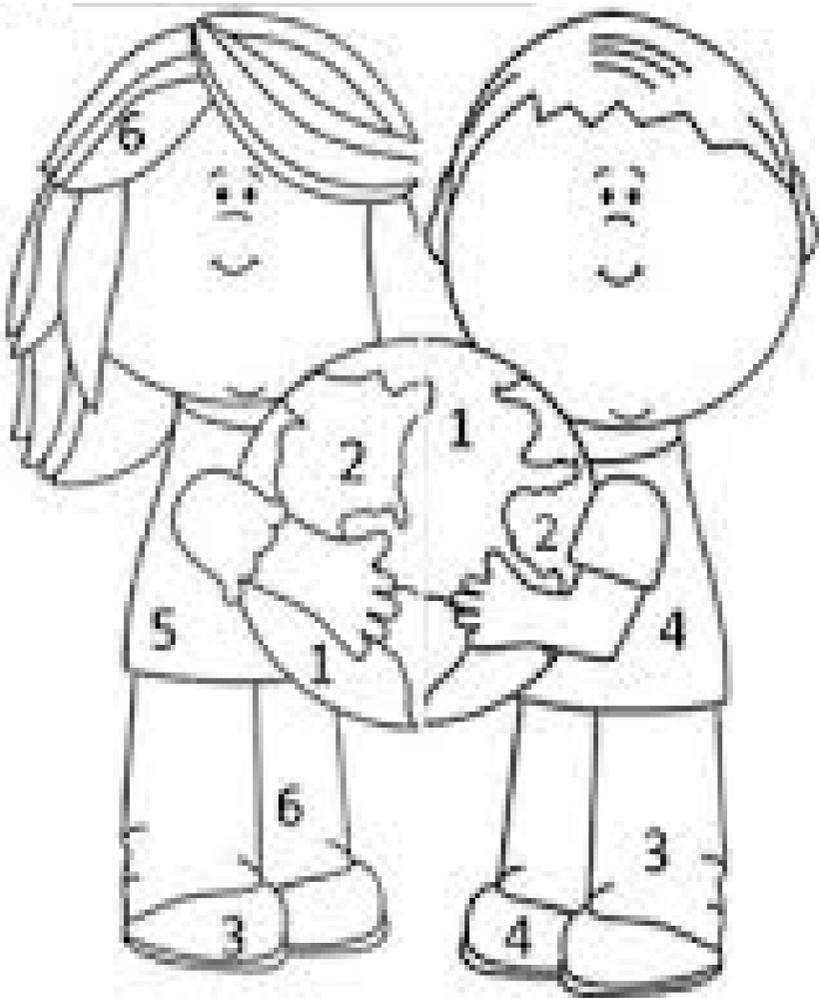
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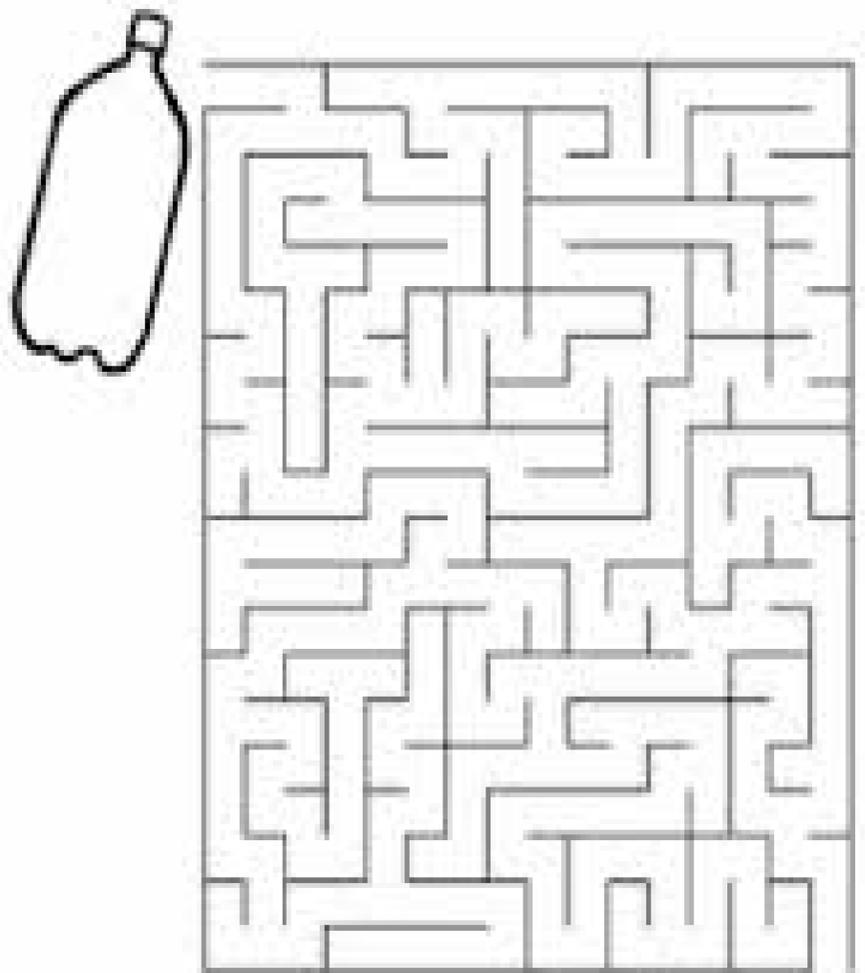
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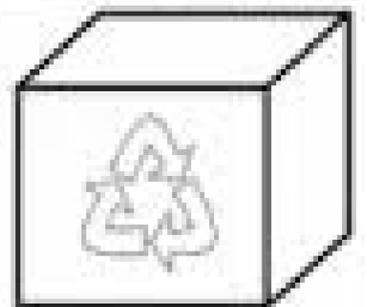


Love Our Earth

- 1- blue 2- green 3- brown
- 4- red 5- yellow 6- orange



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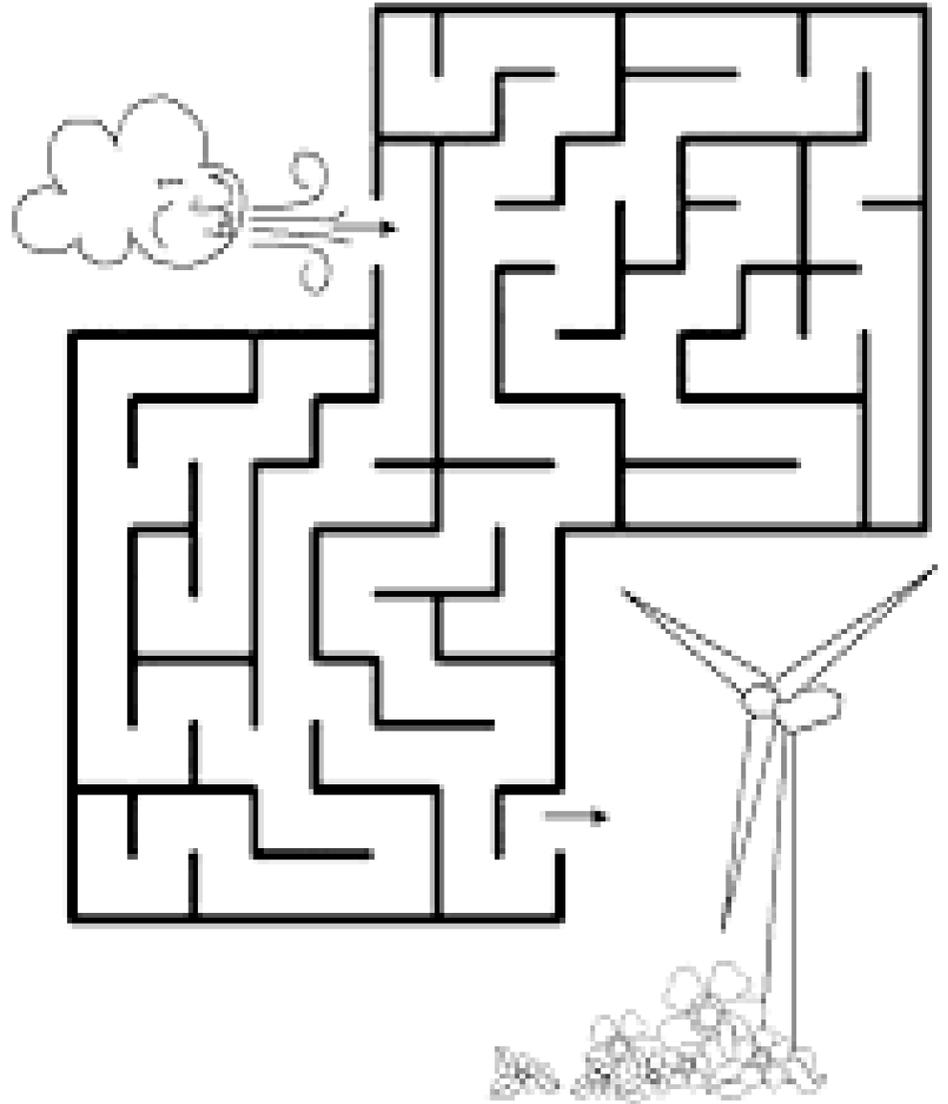


What I love about the Earth....



Earth Day Maze

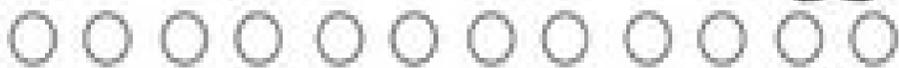
Help the wind blow the turbine to make wind power.



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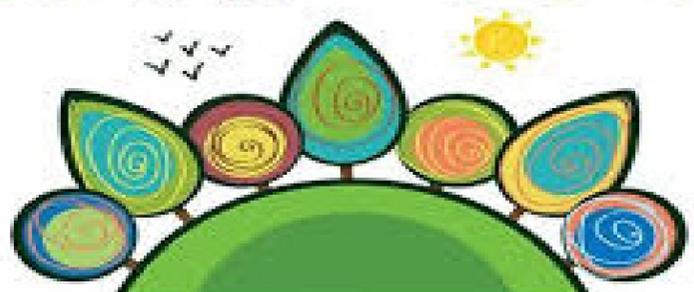
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earth day





Should Kids Be Medicated?

BY SANDRA SANCHEZ
Managing Editor

America is growing and with it is the number of children and teenagers who are taking at least one form of psychiatric drug.

The teenage years is a 7 year time frame that starts once a child turns 13 and ends once a child turns 20. A lot of things happen during this time. Children are hitting growth spurts and have their hormones all over the place because of puberty. There are countless places and people that inform parents about the teenage years and what to expect. Many mention mood swings and rebellious phases as common things to expect, but more and more parents are finding that their teenage children are having more than just the normal mood swing.

About 11% of youth between 9 to 17 years old, approximately 4 million people, have a major mental health disorder that results in significant impairments at home, school, or with peers. (Surgeon General, 2000) With so many kids showing signs of a mental health disorder or another, a growing number of caretakers are taking their children to psychiatrists. A psychiatrist is a physician who specializes in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of mental health and emotional problems. Psychiatrists are certified doctors and are the ones who prescribe medication

to those who may need it. In this case, they are prescribing medication to children and teens that have some type of mental health problem.

For some parents, taking their kids to seek treatment with a psychiatrist is preferred because there is a solution to the problem. However, not all parents agree with the medicating of children and teens. Mother and current college student Ana Chacon said, "I think that they should take steps before deciding to give them medication. They need to find the source of the problem and try to help them fix it. Every child and every teen reacts to each situation differently, you can't simply give them pills and wish their problem away."

A 2014 story published by Health Day stated that, "more than 7 percent of American schoolchildren are taking at least one medication for emotional or behavioral difficulties, a government report revealed." The same report, authored by LaJeana Howie, a statistical research scientist at the U.S National Center for Health Statistics, found that 7.5 percent of the U.S children between the ages of 6 and 17 were taking medication for an emotional or behavioral problem.

Although it appears that an alarming amount of children and teens are taking a psychiatric drug for one reason or another. It is important to understand that there are other professionals that provide help without medication.

SCFFAA Foster Care the Right Way

BY OSCAR ISEM
Editor-In-Chief

The Southern California Foster Family and Adoption Agency (SCFFAA) is a hidden gem in America's foster care system. The SCFFAA operates in L.A. County, one of the biggest in the nation. It's the foundation for a better tomorrow. It's a second chance for those that deserve it the most-children.

In a recent audit by the L.A. County Department of Children and Family Services, the SCFFAA passed with flying colors. It received a 92% approval rating, nearly twice the norm for L.A. County. "In this audit they reviewed our files, they reviewed our case planning, our foster homes, talked to foster parents, to individual children," said Andrew Bridge, CEO of ITS IN YOUR WALLET. "We also have the highest conversion rates of parents who actually adopt a child when it becomes clear the child will not be allowed to go home... at 62%" as opposed to a national average estimated to be around 20-30%.

The SCFFAA accomplishes this with a rigorous screening process for prospective foster and adoptive parents. There is a decided emphasis placed on "a thorough assessment of their ability to parent, of providing an environment where the child will feel secure." It establishes a relationship between parents and the SCFFAA, allowing contact with the family and the child. The bond means it's not



unusual to hear from foster children in their twenties.

The SCFFAA's status as a diamond in the rough was further enhanced in 2009 when it was awarded the "All Children-All Families" seal (the second one to be awarded nationally) from the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, recognizing the agency as a leader in supporting and serving LGBT families," according to the organization's official website. The SCFFAA, founded in 1994, has become a symbol of what the foster care system should look like. It does not use group homes, but rather makes sure that each child is well cared for individually, as well as regularly checks up on its constituents. It's time the rest of the system took notice.

ACE Test

The Most Important Test You Never Heard About

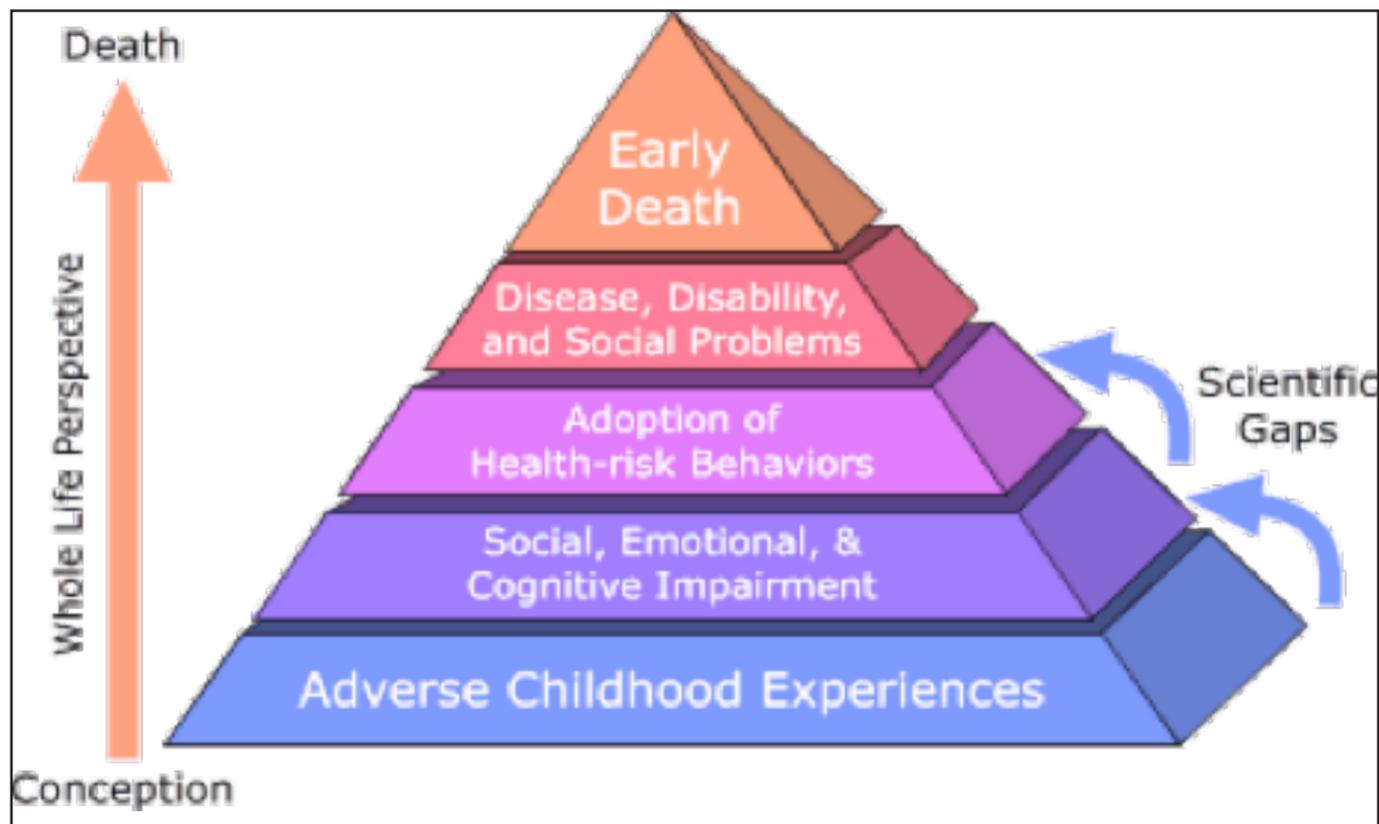
Childhood abuse, neglect, and exposure to other traumatic stressors which we term adverse childhood experiences (ACE) are common. Almost two-thirds of our study participants reported at least one ACE, and more than one of five reported three or more ACE. The short- and long-term outcomes of these childhood exposures include a multitude of health and social problems.

The ACE Study uses the ACE Score, which is a total count of the number of ACEs reported by respondents. The ACE Score is used to assess the total amount of stress during childhood and has demonstrated that as the number of ACE increase, the risk for the following health problems increases in a strong and graded fashion.

The ACE Pyramid represents the conceptual framework for the study. During the time period of the 1980s and early 1990s information about risk factors for disease had been widely researched and merged into public education and prevention programs. However, it was also clear that risk factors, such as smoking, alcohol abuse, and sexual behaviors for many common diseases were not randomly distributed in the population. In fact, it was known that risk factors for many chronic diseases tended to cluster, that is, persons who had one risk factor tended to have one or more other risk factors too.

Because of this knowledge, the ACE Study was designed to assess what we considered to be "scientific gaps" about the origins of risk factors. These gaps are depicted as the two arrows linking Adverse Childhood Experiences to risk factors that lead to the health and social consequences higher up the pyramid. Specifically, the study was designed to provide data that would help answer the question: "If risk factors for disease, disability, and early mortality are not randomly distributed, what influences precede the adoption or development of them?" By providing information to answer this question, we hoped to provide scientific information that would be useful for developing new and more effective prevention programs.

The ACE Study takes a whole life perspective, as indicated on the orange arrow leading from conception to death. By working within this framework, the ACE Study began to pro-



gressively uncover how adverse childhood experiences (ACE) are strongly related to development and prevalence of risk factors for disease and health and social well-being throughout the lifespan.

The initial phase of the ACE Study was conducted at Kaiser Permanente from 1995 to 1997, and more than 17,000 participants had a standardized physical examination. No further participants will be enrolled, but we are tracking the medical status of the baseline participants.

Each study participant completed a confidential survey that contained questions about childhood maltreatment and family dysfunction, as

well as items detailing their current health status and behaviors. This information was combined with the results of their physical examination to form the baseline data for the study. The prospective phase of the ACE Study is currently underway, and will assess the relationship between adverse childhood experiences, health care use, and causes of death.

International interest in replications of the ACE Study is growing. At present we are aware of efforts to replicate the ACE Study or use its questionnaire in Canada, China, Jordan, Norway, the Philippines and the United Kingdom. In Puerto Rico, the link between women's

cardiovascular health risks and ACEs has been examined. The World Health Organization has included the ACE Study questionnaires as an addendum to the document Preventing Child Maltreatment: A Guide to Taking Action and Generating Evidence. (October 2006[PDF - 2.44MB]) Additionally, efforts are underway in many municipalities and treatment communities to apply ACE Study findings to improve the health of adult survivors. Notable efforts are included in the "Related links". In 2010, five states collected ACE information on the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS).



First Amendment Fight:

As school officials work to counter cyberbullying, state lawmakers ensure student off-campus privacy isn't trampled

BY BEATRIZ COSTA-LIMA, STUDENT PRESS LAW CENTER

When Riley Stratton was called into the principal's office, school officials didn't search her backpack or her cellphone — they searched her Facebook account.

A parent had complained to the school that her son and Stratton, who was in sixth grade at the time, had talked about sex on Facebook. In response, school officials questioned Stratton about the conversation and demanded she turn over her username and password; they searched her account, including Facebook messages and quizzes she'd taken on the social-networking site.

While school officials often say such searches are necessary to combat cyberbullying and other illegal activity, several lawmakers and free speech advocates argue efforts to regulate off-campus speech are an invasion of students' privacy.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Minnesota filed a lawsuit in 2012 against Minnewaska School District on behalf of Stratton. The lawsuit was settled in March and, in addition to paying \$70,000 in damages, the school agreed to change its policy regarding student privacy, according to documents filed with the U.S. District Court in Minnesota.

While technology and the way students communicate can change quickly, the law hasn't always changed at the same pace, said Oamie Amarasingham, public policy counsel at the American Civil Liberties Union of Maine.

"Social media and other personal internet accounts are in a gray area," Amarasingham said. "People have an expectation of privacy in the same way they would with their diaries or regular mail, but the law is not so clear."

Currently, 12 states have laws that say school officials cannot require students to provide access to social media accounts, and in some cases email accounts and other forms of electronic communication. Louisiana and Wisconsin were the latest states to enact password-protection laws for students, both establishing their own versions in 2014.

Similar legislation has been proposed in 11 other states, but was unsuccessful. Nineteen states have laws that prohibit employers from requiring passwords from employees and job applicants.

Issue finds state-level support

In 2011, former Maryland corrections officer Robert Collins tried to obtain recertification for his job after taking a leave of absence. In the process, his boss asked for his Facebook username and password during a recertification interview.

Collins approached the American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland after the incident, and nearly a year later, Maryland became the first state to prohibit employers from requiring that their employees hand over social-media account information and passwords.

Following a burst of media coverage about the issue, social media privacy laws began to take off, said Jay Stanley, a senior policy analyst at the ACLU.

Sen. Ronald Young, a Democrat from Maryland, also tried to pass legislation that would have extended the law to students and schools, but the bill never made it to a vote.

However, Collins' story and the new law in Maryland, along with multiple stories of student athletes having to turn over account information, sparked a slew of similar bills in state legislatures nationwide, said Ed Yohnka, Director of Communications and Public Policy at the ACLU of Illinois.

"The genesis of these laws came in a couple of things that coalesced together," Yohnka said.

In Illinois, a password protection law for employees followed media coverage of the issue and constituents raising concerns to Rep. La Shawn Ford, a Democrat. It was his bill that inspired a similar bill protecting students, Yohnka said.

"When the employee bill was being debated, in the classic legislative process the topic of students was brought up," Yohnka said. "As an advocate, it's what you like to see because legislators involved themselves in the issue, they found other areas that they could legislate."

Rep. Zachary Dorholt, a member of Minnesota's Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, sponsored a student password-protection bill in his state this year, but it never made it to a vote. But, Dorholt said he plans to pursue the bill again next session.

Dorholt said school administrators aren't the only ones looking to access students' social media accounts. In some instances, he said, teachers require students' passwords as part of a school project or assignment. Regardless of the reason, however, it still disrespects the students' privacy, Dorholt said.

"The student-professor relationship needs to have privacy," Dorholt said. "Social media accounts are one way for a school staff member to gain access to unnecessary information."

Rep. Ted James, a Democrat from Louisiana, said his bill, which became law last year, was a response to password-protection laws in other states, he said.

"I heard about the case in Michigan and I started to see what some other state legislatures were doing," James said. "I had conversations with high school students in my state and the issue came up. We didn't have a widespread problem in our state, but I wanted to be on the front end of this issue."

Privacy, safety at center of debate

It is difficult to determine how often school administrators demand students' social-media passwords, Amarasingham said, "because there is no legal recourse."

"Since there wasn't a law on the books," Amarasingham said, "schools weren't technically in violation of the law if they did it."

But the issue became clear when school administrators expressed opposition to the law in Maine, she said. School officials argued the

bill raised safety concerns.

During a committee hearing, Elaine Tomaszewski, associate executive director of the Maine School Management Association, said the bill would prevent schools from asking students or teachers for access to their social media or email accounts "when we believe a student is at risk of harm, or when a tragedy, like a school shooting, has occurred."

While officials with the Wisconsin Association of School Boards didn't oppose a law safeguarding job applicants' social media accounts, the restrictions on access to students' accounts brought some worry, said WASB Spokesman Dan Rossmiller.

"We did have a strong concern in the competing interests between privacy and protecting children," Rossmiller said, adding that the law "could hamper schools' ability to investigate student misconducts such as cyberbullying."

Tomaszewski made a similar argument in her testimony, arguing that the legislation would make cyberbullying investigations very one-sided.

Rossmiller said that he didn't see any reason school officials should be barred from asking for passwords in situations where there would be no penalty for the student providing access, or in other words, asking the victims of cyberbullying for access.

"It would be a different thing if we were asking the perpetrators of the misconduct," Rossmiller said.

However, Amarasingham said that that giving administrators the right to access students' social media accounts not only compromises that student's privacy, but also the privacy of anyone they communicated with.

"To give schools carte-blanc power to say, 'someone accused you of something, we need to see your account,' compromises every aspect of that student's privacy," Amarasingham said.

Stanley, the ACLU policy analyst, said people have an expectation of privacy when it comes to their personal internet account passwords.

"I think there is a belief that it would be beyond the pale," Stanley said. "If administrators shouldn't be allowed to ask to read diaries or listen into private conversations of students to all of their friends, they shouldn't be allowed to do the electronic equivalent of that."

While many of the laws prohibit officials from asking or requiring access to accounts, they don't prohibit students from printing out copies of messages or posts they've received, or willingly showing them to official.

Password-protection laws shouldn't be viewed solely as a way to take away power from schools, said Bradley Shear, a Mary-

land-based attorney who specializes in social media law and helped write the Maryland law. While they do protect students from having to turn over passwords, they also take some of the burden off schools that feel they have to monitor everything.

"The goal of this legislation was to protect students and employees but it was also to protect schools and employers," Shear said. "If schools don't have the legal duty to scan this stuff, then they can't get in trouble for not doing it. It works as a legal liability shield. My whole idea was to create legislation that was a win-win for both sides."

Shear said that ultimately, the way to improve students' behavior on the internet is through education, not monitoring their accounts.

"You have new technologies where educators and school districts can't control them," Shear said. "When you don't know about something, you try to control it."

Vermont's password-protection bill failed after being proposed in 2012, but the issue will probably rise again in the coming years, said Dan Barrett, staff attorney at the ACLU of Vermont.

Barrett said that as schools battle cyberbullying, there is an overall concern that school administrators try to be online police. While educators need to address concerns of cyberbullying, they shouldn't be overstepping their bounds, Amarasingham said.

"It doesn't make sense for schools to have access to things that the police would need a warrant for," Amarasingham said.

High-schoolers not protected

While password protection laws are a step in the right direction, not all of them protect every student, Yohnka said.

Currently, more than half of student password-protection laws only protect college students, leaving younger students vulnerable.

"I find it troubling that we are not extending these same protections to high school students," Yohnka said. The feeling of "being watched or controlled" in high school, he said, "is not good for society as a whole."

Yohnka said that if state legislators in Illinois proposed legislation protecting younger students, it probably wouldn't garner the same level of support that the other bill, which provided protection for college students.

"Too often there is this idea from parents that we have to rein in students," Yohnka said.

But allowing the persistence of policies that violate students' privacy can send the wrong message, Barrett said.

"When you subject young people, our future voters to situations of pervasive surveillance, you habituate them to the idea that their expression is going to be constantly monitored," Barrett said, "That gives them the message that Americans don't question their government."



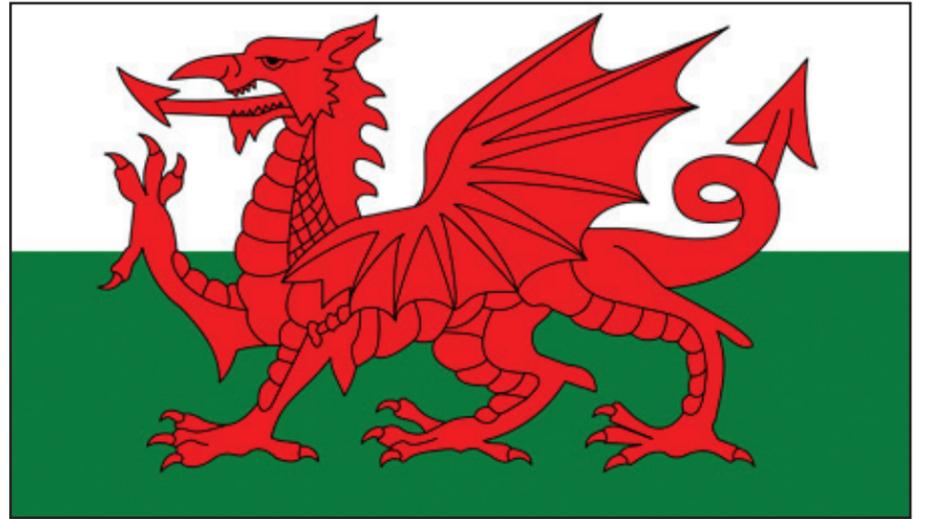


Dragons: Why are they everywhere?

BY ROBERT VASQUEZ
Staff Writer

Most people would describe a dragon as a flying, fire breathing, magical, and god-like creature. The dragon is one of the few creatures that is spread out and seen all around the world. Europe has its own legends and myths. Samantha K. Herrick, professor of ancient and medieval Europe, stated "Well, there are lots of legends that mention dragons. The first story that I'm aware of to mention one is the Bible. The most famous one is probably from Apocalypse 12:7. But the original languages in which the Bible was written would have used different words."

Europeans saw dragons as a giant evil that must be slayed. They could breath fire and fly. There were others that could breath poison, disease, death, and plagues. "In medieval saints' legends, dragons are known mainly for having deadly breath. They killed people just by breathing on them, or even just by breathing nearby. Their breath was said to carry disease and to smell terrible." said Samantha. Some types of dragons look different and have certain specialties, like wyverns are dragons that have two legs and two wings. Regular dragons would have 4 legs and 2 wings and would appear much larger compared to other dragons. There were even some that didn't have wings or limbs, looking more like a serpent. "I don't really know many types. The ones I've read about in saints' legends are all pretty much alike. They tend to be weird mish-mash of other animals (part lion, part fish,



part serpent). Sometimes they are also called serpents." said Samantha.

Dragons were involved with religions and historical people. "The ones I've read about are mainly in Christian texts, but the Jewish Bible also mentions them. Lots of saints - some of whom are "historical," some not. And often what we know about saints is a mixture of fact and fiction. Some of the more famous dragon fighters are: Michael the Archangel, St. George, St. Marcellus of Paris, and St. Martha." said Samantha.

Dragons are also integrated into the history of nations. For example Wales has a flag with a green and white background and a red dragon in the center.

Some people have a hard time determining if the mythical creature in Europe really did exist or was just symbol to represent something, like Uncle Sam who symbolizes the United States of America. The people still think the dragon existed either because of Charles Darwin's theory of "Evolution" or from religious beliefs. "Well, it depends on what we think they were. If they were just another word for snake, then yes. If they are a metaphor (for disease or paganism) as often seems to be the case, then sort of (metaphorically). If we are thinking of real monsters, then probably not." said Samantha. Most would she with Samantha, although it is strange that dragons are found in the mythology of so many cultures.

Poetry

A Form of Oppression

My life is a catalyst
and your judgement is the trigger

I am whole
comprised of small pieces
of ancient history
of my mother's misery

I am my father's daughter
I own his genes
his nose
and his culture

I am oppressed
You are oppressed
fellow human we are both
subjugated to prolonged cruel
AND unjust treatment

No matter how you word it
repression
suppression
these are all just smaller forms of
oppression

It's the government
your neighbor
the up scaled clothing stores 30
minutes
from my neighborhood

It's in cruel smiles
in belittling sneers
you will find it in my tears
when i am fighting

When i have nothing else left to
give
when they've taken everything
and all i've got left is this will to
live

My life is a bad reaction
caused by your misinterpretation
your misleading roles
and your sexism

Come closer and i'll show you
how the oppressed fight
how the minorities take their
words
bal them up in their fists
and punch you with them

Take a step forward
and ill introduce you to revolution
ill show you our ways
our radicals and all of our times
new roman, 12 point font essays

We are a new generation
we will turn our oppression
into our liberation

Trust me in this
we are broken
but we still work
we can still fight

And fight we will

Cheap Laughs

