Student Reporter

The Insensitivity Displayed in Media



Ashley Seong Grade 10 Ruben S. Ayala High School



All forms of social media display comedic content proved to be insensitive [Source: Author, Ashley Seong]

The breakthrough of technological advances in the late 20th century prompted social platforms to become a global cultural institution. Acquiring positive effects, online consumers were new opportunities for communal collaborations, comedic enjoyment, and an assist to pursue career paths for passionate artists. These positive implications associated with social media have diminished the effects or consequences of cohesive conceptions. Mass audiences of the media have been projecting insensitive comments on events revolving around great dejections and troubled states. This immunity drives the attainment of comical relief in earnest situations, which exemplifies how exposed online consumers are to horrific acts.

A prominent example that exhibits the immense lack of empathy towards sorrowful circumstances like those seen after the loss of the

submersibleOceanGate. The disappearance of the underwater vehicle instantly attracted attention from various social networks, including new outlets and various social platforms. The tragic incident that followed five explorers into the depths of the ocean resulted in catastrophic losses when trying to transverse to the Titanic. Before the conclusion made by the U.S. Navy that the submersible suffered an implosion, the span between the Sunday of June 18th, when they were stated to be lost, drew substantial conversation online. The largest source of inappropriate interactions with the news stemmed from TikTok, one of the biggest social media platforms for the majority of Generation Z.

Strolling through the app, constant posts of comedic content provoking an uprising for teasing and criticism towards the five onboarders of the submersible was a sickening act of inconsideration. Massive mockery of expenses of the exploration, as well as the continuous jokes on the people aboard, seemed to be acceptable for the mass audience, collecting large amounts of views and likes on the app. The lack of empathy for the people involved in this tragedy, as well as critiquing and exclaiming their stupidity for obligating in agreement to join this mission with very little knowledge of the exhibition itself, is an extremely degrading expression.

Instead of gathering more information about such events as these, where undergoing immense pressure in the depths of the ocean is a slowly growing and testable process, people in the media are seen forming a closed-off perspective. Honoring or remaining respectful of the people who lost their lives is common decency which seems to be clearly excused from discussions with people who want to pull any aspect of comedy into circumstances. Using the appealing and often positive aspects of social activity online for the better good, to spread support and respect within horrifying incidents, should be implemented into the social norm more immensely.

Student Reporter



Caleb Lee Grade 12 St. Francis High School

Choonghyun Mission Church's VBS Turns Out A Success!

On June 15th, 16th, and 17th, Choonghyun Mission Church hosted its annual VBS, being made possible with the hours put in by the volunteers. What is VBS? Vacation Bible School (VBS) is a religious program that many churches follow during the summer, which connects children and families within communities through games and other activities. This year's theme for VBS was Stellar, with its motto, "Shine Jesus' Light."

Before the actual event, many volunteers, commonly students, take time to build decorations around the church and practice dancing for body worship. This year, the student volunteers ranged from 6th to 12th grade. While much of the planning was performed by adult volunteers and members of the church, the heavy lifting was predominantly done by students who took a part of their summer vacation to



Body worship was a vital aspect of VBS in which a handful of high school and college student volunteers participated, taking the most time off to practice on days before the event. [Source: Author, Caleb Lee]

serve in this event. Why would they take so much time out of their summer vacation for this? Surprisingly, many of the volunteers proclaimed that they decided to help by choice and wanted to take time off their break to participate. their childhood. When asked, one student explained the joy he experienced in VBS during his elementary days, and wanted to "give back to help grow the younger generation." Other students proclaimed

Stepping forward and serving the community during summer break may seem tedious, but in actuality, many of the volunteers enjoyed their time well spent and the presence of other volunteers. During the preparations for VBS, students bonded with each other from moments like setting up decorations or moving supplies across the church. The process itself seemed to be a motivating factor for volunteers to sign up, as, in fact, serving the community was simple in the eyes of these people. Though Choonghyun Mission Church is a considerably large community, being one of the few most populated Koren churches in Los Angeles, serving does not need to be done on an immense scale. Taking time off to help a local library or summer program can grow both you and the "younger generation." So why not take just a little time off your summer break to help out your community?

Despite the many reasons for volunteering, ranging from growing their religion to being bored over their break, students aligned their commentary as they expressed nostalgia for VBS from simply that they have been "doing it (their) whole life," and desired to keep that tradition going for both them and the children participating. This trend among these volunteers points towards the impact previous students had on them in their own childhood.

Student Reporter



Seoyoon Kim Grade 8 South Lake Middle School

Roaming Giants: Bears in Yellowstone National Park

known not only for its magnificent view of geothermal features but also for its diverse wildlife. The park is home to many animals, like bison, bobcats, moose, coyote, elk, black bears, and grizzly bears. Bears symbolize the wilderness of the park and its extraordinary ecosystem. However, it is very hard to encounter a bear inside this park.

Yellowstone National Park is

Yellowstone National Park has implemented measures to protect both visitors and wildlife. These include rules and regulations to keep one at a safe distance from bears. Restricted access and limited human presence in certain areas secure that the bears' natural behavior and habitat are not disrupted, but it also reduces the chances of encounters. When I visited Yellowstone, my family and I encountered a cub climbing on a tree. Many people parked their cars and took pictures of the bear. However, it didn't take that long for the rangers to come and order people to get into their vehicles. Many people were dissatisfied that they could not see the bear anymore. Still, it was necessary to protect people from encountering the mother bear, because they can be very aggressive when they feel like their baby is unsafe or threatened.

Even though you may be brave enough to risk your life and encounter a bear near you, you won't like to get the fine associated with this. While specific fines can vary depending on the jurisdiction and the severity of the offense, getting closer than the recommended distance to a bear (such as 91 meters) can result in penalties. In the case of Yellowstone National Park, violating the distance regulations for bears can result in fines and legal consequences.

Bumping into a bear in a na-



A black bear crossed the road, surprising a lot of people. It didn't show any aggressive behavior, but we were still very careful and worried while taking the picture from inside the car. [Source: Author, Seoyoon Kim]

tional park is lucky but also very risky because, most of the time, bears think their territories are violated if humans are close to them. If you encounter them, keep a safe distance of 91m, both for you and the bear. But if you meet it closer than the distance and the bear is in an offensive position, try spraying bear spray if you have it. You can easily buy bear sprays in general stores and gift shops. Report bear sightings to the park authority or visiting center so that the park can monitor bear activities and keep people away from them to insecure accidents won't happen.

We should remember that we are visitors to the bear's home, and it is our responsibility to keep nature clean and leave no footprints behind. By respecting the rules and nature, we can preserve it for the animals and also the next generation.

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Student Reporter



Trinity Lee Grade 11 Interlake High School

HOSA ILC 2023



Students pose for photos in front of the HOSA sign while at the convention cen ter. [Source: Author, Trinity Lee]

This year, I had the privilege of attending the HOSA International Leadership Conference,(ILC). HOSA, otherwise known as Health Occupations Students of America, is a student-led organization that ranges all the way from elementary students to adults that are either interested in or are already a part of the biomedical or healthcare field. As someone who has always been passionate about pursuing a career in the medical field, I found myself enjoying HOSA and the healthcare-related opportunities it offered. However, HOSA does more than just introduce students to the medical field.

Every year, HOSA offers a variety of events that pertain to specific specialties, such as HOSA Bowl or Forensics. In each event, students compete by taking a test or teaming up to present or demonstrate healthcare-specific skills. Each event has different guidelines and regulations, and the top 3 in each event from an individual state or country outside the US are ultimately selected to go to ILC to compete once again.

This year, ILC was held in Dallas, Texas, from June 21-25. ILC spanned for five days, with different events being held on each

day and a variety of workshops being offered to students. On the first day, there was an opening ceremony, where different states and countries, including South Korea, China, Puerto Rico, and Canada, were introduced by their individual flags. The opening ceremony was very exciting, with all attendees dressed in professional attire and cheering with colored lights. The next few days were much calmer, with students spread out across the entire convention center, touring the attractions that the HOSA organization had prepared. As my event, HOSA Bowl, spanned for a total of two days, I, unfortunately, was unable to attend the attraction offered at the center, such as HOSA Expo, as much as I wanted to. However, after the stress of competition ultimately disappeared, it was an absolute highlight to finally be able to tour the convention center, meet and chat with others from all over the globe, and also tour the many $attractions offered at HOSA \, Expo.$

On the last day of the trip, HOSA had organized for all students to attend the Six Flags amusement park in Texas. This was the absolute cherry on top, providing every student with fun and food as an ultimate reward for all their dedication and hard work. After spending most of the day at the park, the HOSA ILC conference finally ended with its closing ceremony, where the top ten teams or individuals from each event went on stage and received their awards. Just like the opening ceremony, the closing ceremony was just as lively and wild. However, the fun did not stop at the end of the ceremony, as there was a final Gala for the students to dance and enjoy themselves. Though the trip in itself was exhausting due to the sheer amount of walking and the intense beat down of the Texas weather, HOSA ILC 2023 was an amazing experience that I recommend to all. If you have a passion for healthcare, competing in HOSA might just be your cup of tea and also a great opportunity to have some fun and socialize with others from all over the world.

Student Reporter



Hannah Lee Grade 11 South High School

The Art of Poetry

Beginning with haikus, sonnets, and limericks, all the way to freeverse, there is an incredibly wide range of verses of poetry a writer is encouraged to try. In spite of this, some types of poetry are harder than the next, but it isn't a challenge that poets aren't willing to take on.

The list of poetic forms is up to 168 at the moment, but most types of poetry are grouped into three main categories. Narrative poetry is telling a story, whether it is a story that directly occurred in your $life \, or a \, fictional \, story that \, may just$ have popped into your head one day and led you to start writing. Dramatic poetry is when a story is told through emotions and behavior, as in a way to show case a play or a repetition of hand motions. This type of poetry is stimulated to help new poets understand the technique of properly demonstrating



If you want to try or continue your path with poetry, it's great to borrow poetry books from the library to review examples.

[Source: Author, Hannah Lee]

etry when first trying out this art, since there are a variety of methods to express oneself. A rising junior from South High School, Zuzu Jenni, states, "I don't really have a favorite type of poetry, so I just flow where the words take me," and after, she adds, "But, inspiration-wise, typically there is a topic given, such as 'your place in the world', and I try to think of how I view myself in the world but through unconventional methods, almost as if I'm picturing myself as a kid again." Many excellent ways to collect inspiration would be from your surroundings and available resources, such as the amazing poets that cast themselves as role models to many youths. Another rising junior from South High School, Maggie Gerlach, explains, "Free verse poetry has to be my favorite because it allows for freedom of structure

when writing, and I adore Amanda Gordon's work."

The inspiration for poetry can truthfully sprout from everything and anything. Sometimes, I just stare at the peaches on the breakfast table and sort out different adjectives and sensory details into a well-structured poem. Although poems seem like random words clustered together, it is actually quite the opposite, and there is usually a meaning hiding behind them.

There is such a variety of ways poetry can leave an impact on you or the countless ways that YOU can leave an impact behind with your writing. It may be challenging in the beginning, as is everything, but once you find your path, it can become much easier and a fun pastime activity.

emotion and physical language. Lastly, lyrics poetry is a type of poetry that is telling a story in complete first-person.

It's natural that many student poets test out different types of po-

Student Reporter

A Memorable Trip with the KW Center for Leadership



Hannah Chae Grade 10 Larchmont Charter School

The KW Center for Leadership is a non-profit organization offering youth leadership training and educational programs to encourage community organizing. The center tackles deep-rooted problems in the Korean American community, particularly the lack of leadership. By taking deliberate steps to develop and support the new generation of Korean American leaders, this program provides an opportunity to develop leadership skills, explore their culture, experience hands-on community organizing, and develop a larger perspective of the community surrounding oneself. KAYLT (Korean American Youth Leadership Team) is open to high school and college students and runs for eightweeks.

Upon joining the program, I decided to learn more about the community around me. Every dayfor three hours, different guest speakers came in to discuss certain topics. For example, one presented the issues with the garment worker industry, and another talked about his 20 years spent in prison for a murder he did not take part in. From discussing the deep issues within our community, I began to realize how no significant action was put toward these problems. Alongside guest speakers, a three-day retreat to Big Bear was planned for the second week of the program. The purpose of this retreat was for the students to feel more connected as a group, hold workshops, and start community planning.

The workshops included an identity workshop and a family workshop. The identity workshop was more for introductions, while the family workshop was to create a sentimental time. For the identity workshop, students were asked to draw something that represented themself. Each person had their own unique and funny drawings. As an example, one could draw a Tetris game, which signaled their



The refreshing sight of the lake during the Big Bear retreat held for the KW Center for Leadership. [Source: Author, Hannah Chae]

adaptability to any given problem in their life. Like Tetris, in life you are given a random block, and it is your job to place it where it best fits. On the other hand, the family workshop evoked strong emotions for most people. From discussing hardships between family and competition between siblings, it was a vulnerable moment for others. To be able to open up about family history and shed tears, the group was able to feel closer as a community.

Finally, at the end of the retreat, the students got into groups and discussed different community projects they could work on. For my group, we talked about public welfare and the main issues within our healthcare system. Some of the problems we have pointed out were language barriers and struggles within low-income families. The other groups worked on social awareness and drug/substance abuse. After presenting our ideas to the board members, we received notes on making our projects more interactive and organized. By the end of the week, we were able to choose a single project from the groups and will put it into action over the course of eight full weeks.

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