



Catfished for dinner

comic by Hanna Paine
Resident Artist



POWER OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Student discusses positive, negative side of online platforms

Anthony Ramos
Staff Writer

In this day and age, the Internet has propelled the world into the age of information, where 24/7 we’re constantly connected to everything and anything that’s going on in the world. Whether this is a good or bad thing, it will never be known. One thing remains certain; social media affects our everyday lives in more ways than we can imagine.

Realistically speaking, the majority of the school uses some form of social media, and it has shown through time in this school year alone. The biggest example of social media influence occurred during the situation with principal Dan Noll and the potential lawsuit regarding

the morning announcements. Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram burst with support for Noll and the morning announcements, which went from just a local story covered by KLTV, to a national story covered by major news networks. Although there was tons of support for Noll, those opposing also made their opinions known, including one person in San Antonio who threatened the school with a lawsuit.

Another example of social media influence in the real world can be found in Norristown Area High School in Pennsylvania. In response to a teacher’s racist remarks made over the Internet,

students went to Twitter to organize a “walk-out” in which students leave the classrooms and protest. Over 100 students participated in the walk-out, all of which was planned on Twitter, according to parents and school administrators.

In personal experiences with seeing how students in school use Twitter, it can be either good, bad, or ugly. More often times than not, social media is used as a sort of venting tool, in which students post about their personal feelings, thoughts, and things of that nature. In other times, students often use social media as a way to bully people or even to ridicule fellow students and staff. In the best sense, social media is used to bring people up when they go through

tough times. In times when students and teachers have lost loved ones, many flock to social media websites to send their condolences to fellow students and staff, and in doing so the community aspect of social media comes into full fruition.

Just like anything else in the world, there are pros and cons to social media. At times it can be useful and beneficial to the world, and in other times it can serve no purpose other than to cause trouble. Regardless of the pros and cons, social media is a tool that can and will propel the world into a completely different era of communication. Look at it this way; in the future, we will be glad to have platforms that allow us to communicate with people around the world.

Feminist rant

The real definition of a movement



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Do you think that it’s okay for little girls to play with trucks? Do you think that it’s okay for boys to cry? Do you think that men, women and people outside the binary should be treated with the same respect and dignity as each other? If you answered “yes,” to any of these questions, congratulations. You’re a feminist.

Now before you angrily huff that you’d never identify with such an awful word and you proceed to crumple this paper into a ball and throw it across the room so you can pout, just hear me out. I’m sure you’ve heard that feminism is a term used to describe man-hating, razor-abhorning, Internet trolls. This is, in fact, not the case at all. Of course those people exist, but they are radical outliers in a much larger group. Saying that all feminists fit this stereotype would be the same as saying that all Muslims are terrorists, that all football players are unintelligent jocks, or that all Christians behave like Westboro Baptist Church. Those would all be ridiculous generalizations, just like grouping all feminists with our movement’s outliers. I promise, feminists dislike those crazies just as much as everyone else, and they don’t represent all of us.

In Beyoncé Knowles-Carter’s song Flawless, a sample of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie’s 2013 TEDx Talk was used to define feminism. Adichie’s speech discussed the ways that gender determines how children are raised and how they’re treated, basically from birth. Girls are taught that marriage should be their ultimate goal in life and that other girls are to be seen as competitors for nothing but the attention of boys. Young girls are also taught that being strong in the physical or mental sense of the word is a thing only for boys. Boys are told not to cry like “sissies” and are encouraged not to participate in activities like dance or theatre, but rather football or baseball. This is pretty clear to us from an early age. Take, for example, the different aisles in toy stores. The aisles typically aimed at

girls are a sea of pink and purple. Dresses, play sets modeled after various components of a typical house, baby dolls and stickers of princesses on everything attack the eyes as soon as the threshold of the aisle is crossed. In contrast, the aisles targeted at boys are covered in all colors, though they’re admittedly mostly blue and green. They contain animals, vehicles like trains and boats, action figures from popular cartoons and super-interactive packaging. Why should children’s toys be gendered? Why are building blocks only a boy thing and Easy-Bake ovens only for girls? Shouldn’t boys and girls be allowed to play with whatever they want? Feminists think so.

A big problem with people’s attitudes towards the term “feminist”, and anyone who identifies as such, is the first three letters. “Fem” makes people assume that this is a movement only for women. Angry women. This is another misconception that I intend to debunk. Feminism is maybe not the most inclusive term, but it’s the only one we have. Because of that, a lot of men think that they can’t identify as a feminist because they will somehow lose their man-card, which is also super offensive because that says being associated with females is somehow wrong, but that is a topic for another time. Let’s get back to the point here. Feminism is also for men because the patriarchy also hurts men. This is because society tells us that men have to be inherently masculine in every ounce of their being or they’re not man enough. But who gets to decide what makes someone a man? If someone identifies as a man, they’re a man. If someone identifies as a feminist and as a man, they are still a man. End of story. Some men don’t want to have mountain beards and chop firewood before going to the garage to rebuild a transmission. Some would rather paint a landscape before attending a seminar about the importance of properly watering a tomato garden. The patriarchy tells us that this is wrong. Feminists disagree. We believe that anyone can participate in any activity they enjoy as long as they’re not harming anyone else. Where do you stand?

Good

Luck

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