



MOUNTAIN LION TALK

A STUDENT PUBLICATION FROM MIRA LOMA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Part of the Jurupa Unified School District

Volume 2, Issue 7

May 15, 2008

A Social Groups Experiment...

By: Dennis Tran & Karissa Loo

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There are many different social groups at our school, and usually they just keep to themselves. Our newspaper staff decided to do an experiment with our very own MLMS students' social groups. We divided up some of our journalists and made them hang out with groups they have never socialized with before.

The reason for us doing this experiment was to test our hypothesis of human behavior. Our hypothesis is that groups most likely will not accept other people into their little social clique. The labeling and grouping on our campus tends to put you in one group and keep you out of others. Everyone knows where they are "supposed" to hang out, or "where they belong" and where they're accepted."

Truly things don't have to be the way they are. Doing this experiment gave us some knowledge. We discovered that their reactions were based somewhat on their personalities, but also it depended on how "closed" the group was.

Our staff shared some of their very own experiences, such as Gareth Brooks (tester). In sitting at an unfamiliar table at lunch, he felt uncomfortable and ignored. The group he was with finally got so irritated with Gareth sitting there, that someone actually threw milk all over him.

Another tester had a really extreme experience when she sat at



Karissa Loo and Dennis Tran, along with the Journalism Class.

an unfamiliar table. A girl at her table was very upset about something. She said something, and then she purposely cut herself at the lunch table.

Even though some of our experiences were bad, there were also a few that were really good. Veronica Soto (tester) sat at a table full of guys she normally does not hang out with. She says, "The guys were really nice, we just acted like friends right away." Our Journalism class thinks that any table full of guys would be more accepting just because they would like the "extra attention" from a girl. Jackie Flores (tester) had a similar positive experience with the a table of girls though. Jackie says, "They were really cool, friendly, and they accepted me."

We had other testers that had both a good and bad experience. Dennis Tran says, "I experienced

a little bit of half and half, they were nice, but they kind of ignored me. Also, when I got on their nerves they tried to throw a milk container at me telling me to shut up."

As you can tell, our hypothesis was only partially proven to be true. We learned many things by doing this experiment including the fact that it's a lot easier for a girl to be accepted into a guys group than any other mix of personalities.

Besides testing out our hypothesis, we hope that by doing this experiment we have shown people that it's okay to go to different groups and meet other people. We suggest everyone mix it up a bit at some time or other. While you might experience some negative reactions like we did, you might also make new friends that could last a lifetime. Peace!

"...it's okay to go to different groups and meet other people..."

Abortion: Right or Wrong?

By: Jacqueline Flores & Mayra Fausto

Is abortion right or wrong? Imagine how you would feel if, out of nowhere, you're getting parts of your body chopped off, or you are poisoned, or anything else it takes to kill you? Well, this happens. Those were all examples of abortion. If an abortion is performed at 11 weeks or younger, doctors believe the baby probably won't feel pain due to their poorly developed nervous system. Once a baby hits 12 weeks though, it has many of its characteristics and has most of its senses.



Jacqueline Flores interviews MLMS Science teacher Jennifer Griffin. Seventh Grade Science teachers recently taught a Family Life unit that covers fetal development.

The statistics on abortion are scary. Here in the United States, there are approximately 3,700 abortions per day, 1.3 million abortions per year; worldwide, 126,000 per day, and 46-million per year! According to <http://abortionno.org>, 52% of all abortions occur before the 9th week of pregnancy, 25% between the 9th and 10th week, 12% happen among the 11th and 12th week, and 11% happen when they're about 13 weeks or older.

From Mrs. Griffin's point of view, there are circumstances where she understands why

people have abortions. Mrs. Griffin said that she values pro-life because life believes in exception; babies deserve a chance to live. We asked her if it would change her thoughts towards a person if they aborted, and her response was, "No! Not in the least because life is hard and you don't know how you're going to react until you go through the situation; if anything, I'll feel sympathetic for my students." Abortions don't necessarily have a bad side to them, though it does seem harsh because you're killing the life of an innocent child; that's why you need to stop and think before you take such an action.

The Illegal World of Cockfighting

By: Cristian Valencia



"A month ago there was a big bust here in Mira Loma where 50 people were cited. They also got their money taken away..."

Deputy Aguirre

Cockfighting is an illegal activity done all over the United States. It is a very common activity in Hispanic neighborhoods, but it is illegal. Cockfighting goes on in organized places where people gamble.

People do this by getting two roosters and making them fight until death. Deputy Aguirre, Resource Officer for Mira Loma Middle School says "A month ago there was a big bust here in Mira Loma where 50 people were cited. They also got their money taken away."

The deputy also said that a big party is usually part of cockfighting, and the people who organize these events often illegally sell food and alcohol. The people arrested at cockfights also frequently carry drugs and weapons, making it that

much more dangerous for everyone there.

It is common for Mexicans and Filipinos to be involved in cockfighting events, and many times the boarder patrol is a part of



the bust.

Many MLMS students have been to these events. An anonymous 8th grade student said these activities are very well planned. This student spoke about secret hideouts and the planning of derbies. In the en-

trance, there are people who charge 20-30 dollars to see the cockfights, complete with special parking places. Inside, an organizer plans a derby of up to 30 teams or more who each

put 1,000-2,000 dollars on their roosters. Because of the huge amount of money gambled (\$30,000-\$60,000), armed people may steal the money that is put into the derbies. There is also the other risk of

being cut by the blade attached to the rooster's feet if the rooster gets out of the arena.

Even though it may be very dangerous and illegal, cockfighting still goes on all over the United States.

Visit us on our Rockin' web site! <http://mlmsrocks.com>

Teens Who Cut...

By: Cassie Moore

Did you know that self-injury by cutting is becoming so increasingly common among girls ages 13-19, that it's actually starting to be called the "new-age anorexia"? And no, unlike what most people think, girls aren't the only ones who cut; guys do it too. There are many different reasons people choose to become 'cutters', but usually it is associated with a personality disorder. Cutting is a way for them to release tension caused by life at home, school, or both. Sometimes they feel guilty about something and choose to deal with it by cutting. According to Dr. Charles Goodstein, "Cutters learn

how rapidly they can gain release and almost look forward to it. Once it becomes this, it's some-



thing that's done repeatedly – out of the view of others." Cutting becomes an addiction and takes months to overcome. In some cases they want attention and can't find a better way to get it, but this is rare. Usually the cut-

ters are actually ashamed of cutting, they keep it a secret.

Dr. Charles Goodstein says "Cutting has lifelong psychological implications, but with treatment, the cutting behavior can stop...In the course of therapy they can learn how to tolerate intense feelings."

There are better ways to deal with life than just resulting to hurting yourself. Please call one of these hotlines, tell an adult, or go to their websites for more info.

If you are trying to help someone that you know is cutting, please talk to your school counselor. It's not being a snitch; it's called being

For More Information:

<http://www.selfinjury.com/>

1-800-DONT CUT
(1-800-366-8288)

National Adolescent
Suicide Hotline:
800-621-4000

Or see your
School Counselor.

a good person and caring about people who are having problems.

The Lost Art of Sewing

By: Chelsea Garibay

Sewing isn't just for old ladies and it's much different than knitting. If there is a design in a clothing store that you like but cannot afford, you can make the design yourself and with any color pattern you want so you're not limited to the ones at the store. However, you cannot make the exact design and try to sell it as an original. That's illegal and you may be charged for copyright. What you can do, though, is



Chelsea Garibay, Writer and Seamstress

really have fun and create something no one else is wearing. It's a good feeling when you've made an original design and everyone else loves it too. As long as you are the true owner of the design, you may profit off your dolls, clothes, or anything else you decide to make. Sewing isn't just for girls either. Boys can do it too. My brother has made a few things for his girlfriend. It's actually a good idea for

guys who can't afford what their girlfriend wants. If there is a doll or shirt you see her admiring, but you check the price and it's over your budget, you can make one for her. You can even put your own personal twist to it. So, no matter if you're old or young, male or female, you can still show your creative side through sewing.

Love, Obsession, or Mercy?

By: Veronica Soto & Devon Walton

Have you ever been deeply in love, obsessed with someone, or even went out with someone just because you felt sorry for that person? For some people love is a feeling of caring for another person.

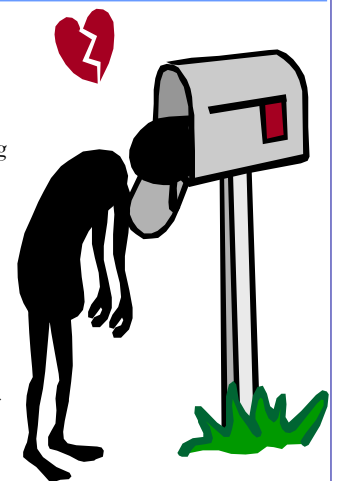
Dahlia Ott, an eighth grader at MLMS says, "Love is when two people have compassionate feelings for each other no one can describe; it's when you find yourself thinking of that person every minute of every day." This guy says he likes this girl and he says, "I like her." On the other hand this girl says, "Loving

someone at this age is a waste a time; you're going to end up with a broken heart at the end because relationships don't last forever."

Obsession is a different story and some people mistake it for love. Being obsessed is unhealthy. It makes you want to know where that person is and what they are doing twenty-four seven. You also get jealous when that person talks to other people and you can't stop thinking about that person. You should feel comfortable when going out with someone.

Some people go out with someone else because they feel sorry for them. Dahlia says, "That's pretty messed up. If you don't like that person, don't risk doing something stupid that will mess up your friendship." You need to be honest with them; don't send them mixed messages because you are afraid you'll hurt their feelings by saying no.

So when you tell someone, "I love you" be sure you mean it or you may end up hurting that person.



Student Spotlight: Daniel Esqueda

By: Carl Hernandez & Jocie Bernal

Daniel Esqueda is an eighth grader on team Taz. He has been playing bass guitar for two years, and he has even been featured as a soloist. He has also played many other instruments. He has even played with a musician from the band A-Ha, (famous for the 1980s song "Take On Me")

In school he is equally active. He threw a pie at Mr. Ruiz during the pie throwing day and described it as "very fun". He gets straight A's and has a

4.0 GPA. In the future, he wants to go to Corporate America and become a video game designer.

Daniel has a few hobbies. He enjoys playing video games that involve fighting and shooting. He doesn't spend all of his free time behind a game controller though. He also plays hacky-sack, but his favorite sport is soccer.

Daniel's sister, Leticia Esqueda, has a few things to say about him. She said, "He

is very kind and caring, and an awesome person." She also said his favorite clothing brands are Quiksilver and Billabong, and his favorite clothing store is Zumies.

"Daniel is a smart, respectful, and hardworking student," says math teacher Mr. Parker. All of his other teachers have very similar comments about Daniel. Daniel's friends say he is very generous to them and that he is funny. Daniel seems to be a positive student as well as a good friend.



Daniel Esqueda prepares to throw a pie at a teacher...

School Vandalism

By: Garet Brooks

Every year, our school has to deal with the effects of vandalism. As you may know, two seventh grade teachers, Mrs. Walker and Mrs. Holt, had their classrooms vandalized over spring break. Someone broke into the pod, which is the room in the middle that connects classrooms together, by breaking the door window. From there, they entered classrooms and damaged class records and teacher materials, as well as other classroom items. They poured coca-cola all over student papers that hadn't been

graded yet. They also wrote with dry erase markers all over the desks. In one room, they also ripped a U.S. flag in half. Both Mrs. Freeman and Mrs. Schanz agreed that this act of disrespect was very sad and disappointing. "Whoever did this has absolutely no respect for



teachers," said Mrs. Freeman. Money that could be paid to improve things in the school such as new technology items has to instead be used to repair damage in classrooms that have been vandalized by low-life pranksters. Vandalism has a major effect in many areas of our communities, not just schools. We could

probably have more money for improvements to things like streets, parks and other public places if we didn't have to repair vandalism damage. Depending on the extent of the damage, vandalism can be a felony. If you or your friends ever are tempted to vandalize anything, turn those thoughts around and do something positive and helpful instead.

REWARD!

Report criminal activity by calling
WE TIP: 1 800 78-CRIME
(1 800 782-7463)

Texting Addiction

By: Yvonne Robles & Janelle Gama

Over 80 percent of the world has cellular phone coverage where they live. Even though some people find it fun to use their cell phones, doctors think it may cause injuries to hands and fingers. Another thing doctors are worried about is getting a mental illness from too much texting without rest. One man actually went as far as to murder his daughter when he found her text messaging a boy.

Texting while driving is especially

dangerous. When a seventeen year old high school cheerleader received a text message, she stopped paying attention to the road to read the message and had a head-on collision with another vehicle. Four other cheerleaders in the car died along with her. Texting-related pedestrian accidents have actually gotten so bad in Great Britain that they are putting padding around the metal light poles so that texters don't hit their heads.

Besides accidents, doctors are concerned because too much texting without rest can lead to numb thumbs. Thanks to askmaggy.com, here are some tips to keep yourself healthy while texting. When your hands hurt, stop texting and let them rest! Another way to keep your hands from hurting altogether is to abbreviate. It helps you text faster and will help stop pain in the wrists and thumbs. So if you follow these tips, you can prevent pain in your thumb and wrists and accidents from happening.

