

The background is a dark, textured night sky filled with numerous white stars of varying sizes. A vibrant rainbow arches across the center of the image, transitioning from blue on the left to red on the right. Below the rainbow, a dark, jagged silhouette of a mountain range spans the width of the image. At the very bottom, a horizontal band of color represents a body of water, with blue on the left and pink on the right, mirroring the colors of the rainbow above.

reflections

november 2018
eagle eye

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Season of Thanks: A Time for Giving Back

By: Avinash Kumar

With holiday spirit in the air, 'tis the season for huge turkeys, parties with relatives, and, of course, deals on just about anything. In fact, with the way retailers emphasize the shopping aspect of Thanksgiving, we start to forget about what the holiday is really about: "giving" back to society. How exactly can we do this? The easiest, and often best, way is to volunteer and help out others in our communities. There are numerous options when it comes to volunteering, so here are a few fun and rewarding ideas for you and your family to make "Thanksgiving traditions."

Deliver meals to people in need.

If you like being behind the wheel, consider delivering meals to those in need. While there are tons of organizations that deliver meals on Thanksgiving, Meals on Wheels is a great option with local branches all over the country. Meal delivery is a great way to make an impactful contribution to your community and meet new people at the same time. Along with donating your time, you can donate food to your community's branch too.

Serve dinner at a local soup kitchen or homeless shelter.

When it comes to soup kitchens and homeless shelters serving meals on Thanksgiving, there are numerous ways to get involved. These facilities are often in need of volunteers to not only cook and serve the meal, but also collect the food and ensure there is enough to go around. Setting up the service area, greeting and seating visitors, and cleaning up afterward are also ways you can contribute.



THE TOP 7 ESSENTIALS FOR A MILITARY CARE PACKAGE

BEEF JERKY

For a midnight snack to keep our stomachs from waking our bunkmates

CHAPSTICK

One can never have too many chapsticks...

HANDMADE SCARF

To keep us warm and toasty when the weather gets rough

HAND-WRITTEN LETTER

To remind us that people at home are always thinking of us

RAZOR

To keep the stubble in line

BEANIE BABIES

To help us make friends with the local kids wherever we go!

HAND SANITIZER

To keep the dirt, dust and grime at bay



www.endicia.com

Send care packages to troops.

If you don't have time to volunteer on Thanksgiving day, don't fret — there are still plenty of ways you can get out and help. One option is putting together a few care packages and sending them to troops deployed overseas. You can also donate to the Homefront America's "Giving Thanks to Heroes" program. This initiative provides Turkey Certificates to military families to go grocery shopping for their Thanksgiving dinners.

Donate to your local food bank.

Did you know one in eight Americans will face an empty plate this Thanksgiving? By donating to your local food bank, you can give the gift of meals and memories to families struggling with hunger. In fact, with every \$1 you give, you help provide 11 meals through the Feeding America network of food banks. You can also reach out to your local food bank to find out which foods are needed through donation.

Free Speech and the Media: A Reflection

We all know that the media is biased. It's clear to anyone who's watched at least a tiny bit of the news that Fox News leans right and CNN leans left. Most people can live with this, but what's more troubling is that media outlets sensationalize stories to the point where most of the "facts" are anything but true. However, this, once again, is nothing new. In fact, sensational stories have been around since the turn of the 20th century.

What should be noted is how this general environment surrounding the media has affected the mentality of everyday Americans, creating somewhat frightening consequences. Rather than relying on logic and reason, many Americans rely on what *they* want to hear and what seems like the nice, moral thing to do.

The American public, coupled with the power of the largely left-dominated media, has created an environment, in this day and age, where people can't say what's on their mind. In a country where freedom of speech is a founding principle, this may come across as unbelievable. But when you look around, the truth may scare you.

Take the recent Kavanaugh case, for instance. The entire ordeal was based on uncorroborated accounts and no hard evidence. This doesn't mean that Ford was lying when she gave her testimony, and it doesn't mean that everything Kavanaugh

said was true. But what it *does* mean is that it doesn't make sense why many Americans were banging on the doors of the Supreme Court viewing Ford as a saint and Kavanaugh as the spawn of Satan. What should have been a debate about Kavanaugh's experience as a judge quickly spiraled into a debate about a high school yearbook, all sparked by an allegation that

may or may not have been valid.

The truth is that many Americans, especially those on the left, preach ideas of openness and

"...this general environment surrounding the media has affected the mentality of everyday Americans, creating somewhat frightening consequences."

acceptance. At the same time, however, they are quick to demonize those who disagree with them and, in some cases, promote violent and/or libelous attacks against them. The sad thing is that this sort of behavior is supported by the media, which also creates drama out of thin air and bashes anyone in its way.

Additionally, the concept of "hate speech" is utterly ridiculous. While nobody wants to promote violent or obscene acts, most of the time the speakers and

politicians labeled under “hate speech” aren’t doing anything wrong. Sure, they may speak of ideas that a lot of people don’t like, but that doesn’t mean they can’t make their case in a *logical* manner (as most of the people supposedly spewing “hate speech” do). Perhaps we can learn from what Enlightenment writer Voltaire once said; “I do not agree with what you have to say, but I’ll defend to the death your right to say it.”

Some speakers will be pro-choice, and others will be pro-life. Some speakers will be open to the transgender community,

while others will be adamant that there are only 2 genders. Whatever the case is, people need to learn that sometimes hearing what the other side has to say can be beneficial. However, any hope for this sort of discussion and sharing of ideas is destroyed when faced with Americans who view it as “hate speech” and a biased media which silences any opposition.

So what world do you want to live in? One where reason prevails and debate is open, or one where false claims are promoted and people are silenced?

Lefty/Communist Garbage	Hyper-Liberal	Liberal-leaning	Minimal Bias	Conservative-leaning	Hyper-Conservative	Conservative/Nationalist Garbage
       	        	        	       	    	      	     

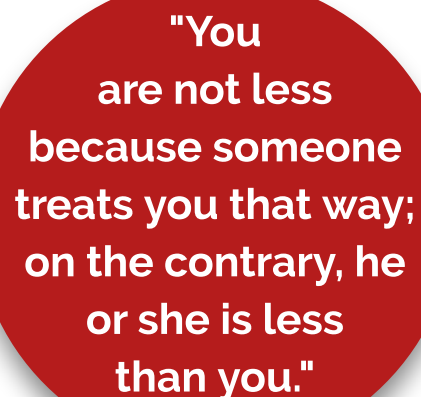
Respect is... Earned?

Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary defines respectable as "decent or correct in character or behavior." Nowhere does it include a certain age at which people become "respectable." Now, don't get me wrong. I completely understand the need for young adults to respect their elders. But at what point does one lose their esteem? At what point can a person my age decide that a teacher or boss does not deserve his or her respect? And what should he or she do in that situation?

My whole life, I have been taught two, sometimes contradictory, statements: respect your elders, and stand up for what you believe in. Now, if someone treats me in a way I don't believe I deserve to be treated, simply because of authority, should I stop showing respect or simply roll over and take it? It's a tricky situation, because in some cases, such as work environments, fighting for yourself could lead to ugly consequences and silent grudges.

Adults can recognize the amount of issues teenagers must face, especially bullying. But what I don't see is an adult who identifies that bullying does not exclusively occur within a certain age group. It is entirely possible and unfortunately, common, for an adult to be a source of intimidation for a student. I don't mean the "I'll beat you up if you don't hand over your lunch money" way. The harassment from adults in power is more subtle but ultimately just as, if not more, devastating to young adults. In cases of bullying by peers, speaking up is hard because of the possibility of ostracization but speaking up against those directly in authority is almost unheard of due to the potential retribution.

Sometimes, I am forced to swallow rude statements because I don't want to make things worse. Considering the person I am, it's almost impossible not to lash out at an adult treating me disrespectfully but I simply think, he or she is not worth my reputation. It's true that I could blurt out the first rebuttal that pops into my head when they attempt to make me feel small so they can feel big, but there is some sense of satisfaction in acting cool-headed in a situation like that because you, the teenager, will be portraying greater dignity than the adult. You are not less because someone treats you that way; on the contrary, he or she is less than you. I want to urge students to remember this throughout their school years, and subsequently, their future careers.



**"You
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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ACADEMY EAGLES' 2018 SEASON

By: Roshan Patel

The 2018 Academy Eagles Season was one to remember. As time went on and we continued to play, a small set of individuals unified to create a cohesive team, one in which players had faith in each other's abilities and trusted one another. We may not have ended up in the top of our division, but we still enjoyed playing with one another and being a part of the Academy Eagles.

1. A New Goalie

On October 15th, as the Academy Eagles played JP Stevens, a new goalie emerged. On the day of the game, we had only 11 players and no substitutes. In addition, we did not have our goalie. Avaneen Pinninti volunteered to play goalie and awed us with his innate skills and ability. Although he had no prior experience in the goal, Pinninti made 17 total saves on his first day playing in the goal. This game marked only the beginning of Avaneen's career as a goalie, and Avaneen ended the season with a total of 43 saves.

2. The First Game

Another memorable moment during the season was our first game. In the first half, we were rather nervous about the match against Perth Amboy Tech and had not yet scored. As time went on and the second half continued, we felt more comfortable and began to play as one cohesive unit. Our passing and fitness paid off, and we beat Perth Amboy Tech by two goals, one from Arihant Gupta and one from Anish Rane. Both goals were assisted by Aditya Jain.

3. Woodbridge Academy (October 1st)

Playing our longtime rival, Woodbridge Academy, was a major highlight during our season. Having never played the team before, we did not have a full picture of what we were going up against. Soon, however, we were able to read their



passes more easily and manipulate their backline, leading to goals from Aditya Jain and Anish Rane.

4. Aditya Jain's Hat Trick

Besides knowing that East Brunswick had a loud fan base and many supporters, we knew very little about the team and its players. From the moment the first whistle was blown, we aggressively pursued the ball and made numerous great attempts to score. Yet by the end of the first half, we were still down. In the second half, we finally fell into our groove. Aditya Jain scored a hat trick and Vignesh Kumar also added a goal. The game was a major victory for us because we had come back from being down to emerge victorious in the end.

5. Calvary Christian

Our second game against Calvary Christian was our highest scoring game. In total, nine goals were scored by four different individuals and six assists were made by three

different individuals. During this game, our team shared the ball and was not afraid to shoot at the goal. This game marked a momentous shift in the way we played, and also served as a mid-season confidence boost.



Microaggressions

Microaggressions are indirect, statements, or actions that communicate hostility and discrimination against a marginalized group, such as an ethnic and racial minority. In recent months, the debate about microaggressions has become more common, and the definition has only become broader. Now, many phrases which were previously considered to be commonplace in an academic environment are now found to be hurtful.

Several universities have been creating databases to decide what constitutes a microaggression. According to the University of Denver, actions such as repeatedly mispronouncing someone's name are considered microaggressions. Often microaggressions are intentional, however many times they are often innocent remarks. Another example of a controversial microaggression is asking someone, "Where are you from?" The question can imply that someone is not an American or does not deserve to reside in the country. To sum up, the once fine line that existed between offensive and kind statements is now a grey area.

In the Academy, we have a large minority population. Sometimes, people make unintentional comments that can be offensive. An example of microaggressions in our school is calling out the primarily Indian community. I have only been a part of the Academy for a few short months, but I have seen instances of microaggressions on a daily basis. Our school is special because everyone knows everyone. We are more comfortable with our peers because of our close-knit environment. Because of this, we become more careless in our speech. We should ask ourselves whether this carelessness affects some of our fellow peers negatively.

I have created a short survey, which I hope will shed some light on microaggressions at the Academy. It is entirely anonymous, and a great way to see the effect microaggressions have on the atmosphere. The link is <https://tinyurl.com/mcaeagleeye>.



THOUGHTS ON CRYPTOCURRENCY

By: Pranav Anthapu

“Cryptocurrency” is not as cryptic as it sounds. It is similar to any currency, except it does not have a physical existence. The algorithm behind this currency is called Blockchain. Suppose, each person maintains a spreadsheet with their transactions, called a block. In a blockchain, these individual blocks are connected. Each person controls their block, using an unique encryption key. Unlike regular currency, these blocks are not controlled by any central authority. Due to the secure nature of the algorithm, banks initially adapted this method for maintaining ledgers. Eventually, during financial crisis in 2009, people lost trust in banks and gained confidence in cryptocurrency. In order to generate a new block, a computer must “mine” it by solving a math problem. After other miners check if it was solved correctly, they allow the block to be created.

The popularity of cryptocurrency is due to its simplicity. Due to a decentralized process of storing information, the trust is in technology rather than an institution. The value of the cryptocurrency only depends on the investors and the users. This liberal idea of exchanging transactions with a hidden identification is attractive to

many individuals. As the value of the currency rises, more people will start to use it. Moreover, they can exchange their cryptocurrency for US dollars, making users rich instantly. Kathryn Huan, a once renowned prosecutor of Bitcoin crimes, turned into an investor herself. According to her, cryptocurrencies are “society’s saviors: a last great hope at reclaiming power gobbled up by greedy banks and Internet monopolists.”



Cryptocurrency comes with its own share of complexities. As mining cryptocurrencies uses a lot of processing power, users need to have powerful computers. This requirement makes cryptocurrencies hard to mine for regular citizens. Because government has no control over these transactions, it is difficult to impose taxes on the profits gained. These illegal transactions can lead to



criminal activities, like terrorism funding. Initially, many companies offered various incentives like free virtual currencies. However, as they realize the impact of the problem, are discouraging clients to refrain using these. The spike in profits from investing in Bitcoins lured many to invest and created inflation. Many financial firms, major companies, and governments are against the cryptocurrency now.

As the future generation of the world, it is our responsibility to understand technological advancements and being a responsible citizen. Educating ourselves with the latest technology is very crucial. Before being a user of the cryptocurrency, it is very essential to recognize where we are investing and the outcome of our investment. We need to educate on how to pay taxes for the profits made. We have to think beyond monetary benefits, and abide by the laws that are imposed on these transactions. We should own our actions in real world and virtual world.

The Academy "Family"

"In last place is..."

The seniors.

We're a class that has gained notoriety for consistently placing last in BOTC competitions and getting in trouble for random stuff. But for me, this class has been a lesson about people.

In freshman year, I felt that my grade was impossible to connect with. Yet still, I decided to give it a chance, believing that one day, the class would grow into the Academy family that is advertised so often by our school. Looking back, the grade hasn't become what I expected, but what's a family without some dysfunctionalities?

I've met so many different kinds of people here, from the grade-obsessed to social butterflies. Although it is true that I would have met such a wide variety of people at a normal high school, the small size of the student body really made me understand others. Understanding how everyone thinks and acts has been interesting. For example, understanding why someone may constantly joke about sensitive matters, or not stand up for his/herself has helped me understand and accept people a bit more.

More importantly, I've realized what friendship is. It's kind of weird coming from me, especially because I'm not a very social person.

But I feel that I've established a ground for what a friend is: someone who is empathetic, kind, and accepting. And by taking the time to get to know everyone in my grade, I see how important accepting others, for their good and bad, is crucial to a great friendship.

Although we seniors didn't end up as family, I'm glad that I've learned a bit more about others, and have matured to accept the differences we all have.



THE DARK SIDE OF BLACK FRIDAY

By: Reema Sharma

You may be a veteran Black Friday shopper with the inside scoop on the greatest deals and strategies — but how much do you really know about the day itself? The term Black Friday has been used over 2 million times on Twitter in the 24 hours leading up to Thanksgiving but its massive popularity has a dark side. The vast volume of shoppers has led to chaotic scenes and outbreaks of violence. There has been an online backlash against the day's rampant consumerism, to the extent of groups campaigning for a "Buy Nothing Day" to allow shop workers to spend more time with their families.



Whether or not you've participated in it, you've definitely seen the reports of people going from being their best selves on Thanksgiving to being their worst selves on Black Friday. This is why some genius person in Canada invented something different. If you're wondering what Buy Nothing Day is, this Black Friday alternative also happens the day after Thanksgiving, but it doesn't involve trampling people to get a deal on a TV. According to a video from TicToc by Bloomberg on Twitter, the anti-shopping day began in Canada 25 years ago to protest mass consumerism, and it quickly spread around the world.

In 2015, roughly 102 million shopped during Black Friday weekend. That's roughly 32% of Americans and it's not a surprise that the number of shoppers has increased since then. Seven people have died and 98 have been injured in the U.S. while Black Friday shopping since 2006, according to news reports compiled by Black Friday Death Count. Stampeding crowds and angry, violent shoppers are usually the reason, but in 2009 a shooting broke out in the checkout line in a California Toys 'R' Us that left both gunmen dead. After the violence in 2009, here's what took every news outlet for a spin this year: "Man Shot At New Jersey Shopping Mall, Chaos Erupts On Black Friday."

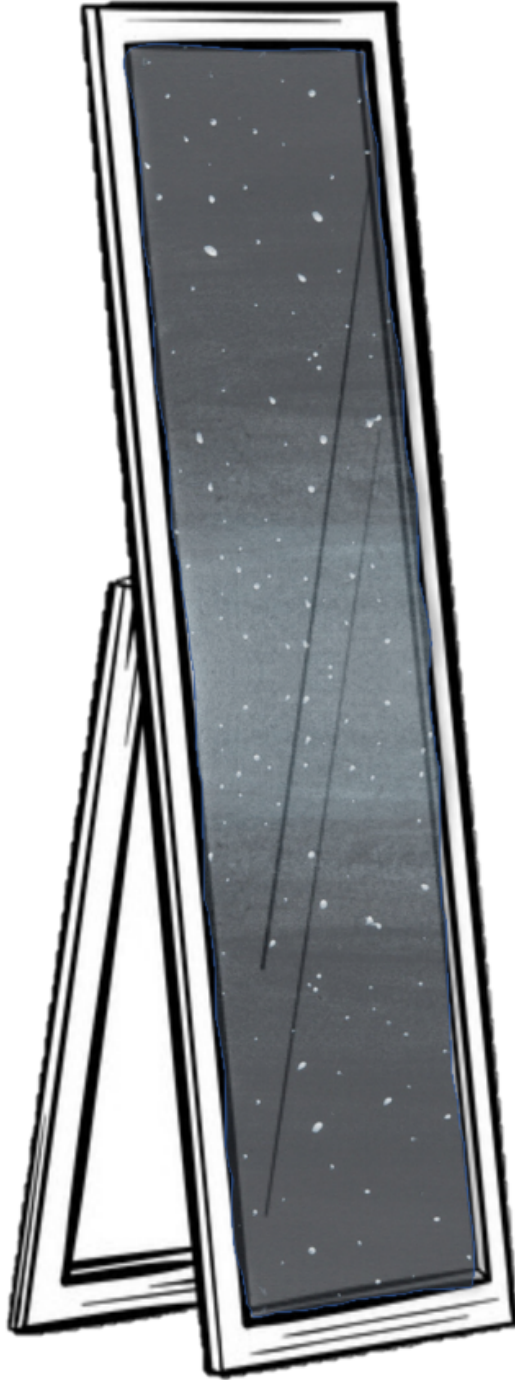
Mall employees said they were surprised when all of a sudden they saw chaos break out. "Out of nowhere we just saw people running, screaming and begging to be let into the

store," one employee said. Another employee said he witnessed families crying as they banged on the doors and begged to be let in. When the the mayor of Elizabeth updated the rest of the world on Twitter, it became much more of a reality, taking one too many citizens by surprise. This isn't even the only news. Two men were stabbed during Black Friday shopping at a central New York mall. Syracuse police told local media outlets the stabbings happened around 4:15 p.m. at Destiny USA. Police and the mall's management said the dispute began at a Macy's store. According to AP News, "officers found one man stabbed in the abdomen and another man wounded elsewhere on his body."

In the end, Black Friday may be the day for the greatest deals and offers but take a look at this offer: is it worth risking your life for that new pair of Gucci slides?



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