

Caribbean Chronicle

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CIPLC:
COLEGIO INTERNACIONAL
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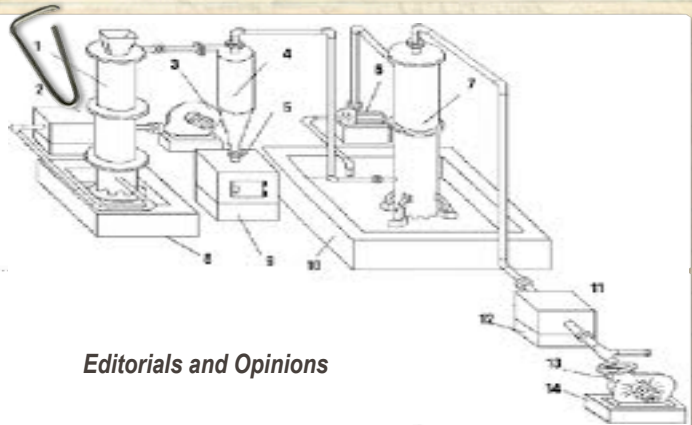
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Notes on a Multi-level Collaboration: The Caribbean Chronicle was written by the members of the HS Journalism Class with Ms. Lingenfelter: Baylee, Jessica, Melissa, Sebastian, Alfredo, and Daniel. The layout was done by members of the MS Digital Arts Class: Eileen (Editor in Chief), Juan, and Luca.



The possibility of success or failure on the Gas project of “Gasificación de La Vela de Coro” located in the state of Falcon is unknown. Knowing the country’s previous failures, who knows what will happen!

By: Sebastian Rusic

The government of Venezuela has begun the second phase of a special project called “gasificación de La Vela de Coro” in which the government is installing gas connecting pipes that will help activate around 1000 kitchens in the state of El Falcon. The project has reached its second phase and it’s said completion will take place in 2013.

The funding money for this project reaches about 56 millions of Bolivars. It is said that the production of this project is very important for the company since they put high quality workers in it. The project is being handled by PDVSA and “Complejo Refinador Paraguana” (CRP). They say the final result will have no flaws and that it will be completely safe.

Even though they approve of this system and believe in the people who are handling it currently, it is quite doubtful the program will run smoothly. If we look at Venezuela’s history, the government has made many mistakes on what they construct. Bridges fall, roads crumble, and much more. These are just a few examples of the country’s construction imperfections.

However, the people working on this are people from that state, so who knows? It is a possibility they might put forth extra effort to create something durable that works for the people of Falcon. Regardless, this is just one of the possibilities since the other is that the system breaks down after a few months due to lack of maintenance.

What the whole situation implies is that the government is actually working on a large project or at least finishing a started project. Unfortunately, this can go fantastically for the people of their state, or it can break down and go horribly wrong. It is well known that in Venezuela the government builds quantity but lacks quality in many of their construction efforts. With luck, maybe the country’s workmen will finally use this opportunity to prove themselves worthy.



The South American Model United Nations

By: Daniel Finco

CIPLC Students Model United Nations in South American Conference

High school students traveled to Caracas to represent their school, “Colegio Internacional de Puerto la Cruz,” in a South American Model of the United Nations. This conference, abbreviated under the name “SAMUN,” took place in the school “Colegio Internacional de Caracas” in the county of Baruta of Caracas, from Nov. 10th-Nov.13th

It is an academic simulation of the United Nations, where students from different schools represent countries from around the world as delegates who come together to deliberate and build consensus on current global issues.

The opening ceremony was introduced by the Secretary-General Michelle Suniaga, who announced the principal theme of this year’s issue: arms proliferation. She defined the issue as “a global threat that future leaders will solve at the cost of great passion and sacrifice.” The ceremony concluded with a speech by James M. Derham, who is currently working as the “Chargé d’ Affaires” at the American Embassy of Caracas.

The conference held 250 secondary-level students along with their directors who traveled from roughly 13 schools in Venezuela. The student delegates typically represented 30-40 different countries from most regions of the world. CIPLC students participated in the committees: Security Council, Historical Security Council 1994, International Atomic Energy Association, World Health Organization, and Counter Terrorism Task Implementation Force. After the first two days of conference, the delegates of all the committees were rearranged into two different General



The General Assembly.

Assemblies in which CIPLC students worked collectively to write the final resolutions.

In the closing ceremony, honorable mentions were given to delegates who exhibited the best participation in the most professional manner. The winners included Ily Park representing Pakistan, Juan Andres Rodriquez representing Haiti in the first General Assembly, Nicolas Raga representing New Zealand, Diego Troconis representing the UK, and Sai Zhung Ho Representing Russia in the second General Assembly.

To celebrate the gathering of the students from many different schools of Venezuela, a party with a local DJ was hosted by CIC in Sunday night before the General Assemblies started.



The True Costs Of Death

By: **Melissa Rodriguez**



The term capital punishment comes from the Latin word “capitalis,” meaning head, because of the historical practice of removing one’s head as a form of ultimate retribution. While this correctly

reflects not only the brutality of it all, “Capital” could just as easily be understood as “money,” for the exuberant monetary prices—among other costs—that this ridiculous act entails. Forget about the fact that this practically primitive way of dealing with criminals is completely hypocritical—prisoners punished for a crime, with a crime—but statistically speaking, simply makes no sense.

For starters, the cost of housing an inmate prisoner is exorbitant. The additional costs of housing a death row prisoner averages out to about \$90,000 per inmate per year. At this rate, in California alone, tax payers pay 64 million dollars every year for capital punishment incarceration. Texas, known for its deep-rooted support of the death penalty, has paid approximately 183 million dollars over the past 6 years for only death row prisoners. And in Florida, the cost of each individual execution is 3.2 million dollars.

The above costs do not even include the costs of trials of death penalty cases. One trial can be \$100,000 or more. If California abolished the death penalty, it would find itself 78 million dollars richer a year from the money saved just on trials. The argument that rather than supporting a prisoner for life is that it makes more sense to just lose that

burden altogether. However, capital punishment prisoners on death row usually find themselves waiting for execution for 14 years. This means that the state will have spent, on average, about 4,810,000 dollars for this one individual inmate in less than 2 decades, not including trial costs. On the other hand, the average age of a person incarcerated for multiple murders is 27.5 years, and the life expectancy of a healthy adult male in the USA is 77.5 years old.

Assuming that all lifetime sentenced inmates would live up to this age—50 years of imprisonment—the cost of sustaining that individual at \$50,000 a year (which is the most it would cost to house per prisoner, per year in the USA) would be \$2,500,000, or 2,310,000 dollars less than the expected cost of housing and executing a death row prisoner.

Moving away from money logic, if we really want to punish one for their crimes, why not force them to live with what they did for the rest of their lives, in a grungy prison cell with minimal social contact, rather than threaten them with murder... for murder? That seems far worse than a quick lethal injection to me. And in the end (if what people really want is a person to die for their crime) a person sentenced to live in prison will die—so it’s the same outcome, only with more punishment for their crime because of all the miserable conditions in which they would live. So the latter is the obvious alternative and a better solution.

The United States of America—highest economy of the world, and arguably the most advanced nation, home of the free and the brave, is still primitive in its punishment of certain prisoners—even if it does take them 14 years to do it.

But that doesn’t include Texas. The lone star state has a fast lane.

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Houston Texans Dominate NFL in All-Important Sack Differential

By: Baylee Carter

This year out of nowhere the Houston Texans have come out of the corner swinging, capturing ten wins so far and only one loss. Even though they have never been to a Super Bowl, the Texans have pulled through on top of the whole NFL in a nine-game winning streak and they are looking to only move forward with no ruts in the road.

This season the Texans have only suffered one loss to the defending Super Bowl Champions, the Greenbay Packers. However, they are leading in sacks completed and have the least sacks allowed. These accomplishments play a key role in their success so far this year, proving that the Texans have a nearly solid offensive line that does a stellar job protecting the quarterback. It has been said, since the beginning of football, that the key to winning in the NFL is to run the ball productively on offense and find a way to detain it on defense. On the contrary, the NFL's recent years have proved otherwise, that the league has somehow morphed into a quarterback-centered pass game instead of the original hand off or toss plays. Consistent with this trend of changing game tactics, in this season so far the Texans have thrown for 2,758 yards while rushing for only 1,585.

When I asked secondary math teacher at CIPLC, Mr. Ski, if he thought that the Texans would have a perfect season, which means going all the way to the Super Bowl with only one loss, he said, "I doubt it because when the playoffs start, the teams from the southern division play the teams from the northern division, and the real competition will begin. Just because they have dominated their own division doesn't mean they are the best." This shows the negative reputation that the team has brought on itself in its ten years of being a team.

All football fans are questioning whether or not the Texans will come out on top with an almost undefeated season with their first ever Super Bowl. But, we can only wait and watch the team's performance to determine what will transpire.



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Caribes de Anzoátegui Visits and Wins

By: **Alfredo Quilarquez**

The nontet of Anzoátegui began the eighth week of the 12/13 edition of the Venezuelan baseball Professional League, after dominating Leones del Caracas seven by four in a rough duel taking place at the Park of the University City.

Yadel Martí's solvent output, having 15 strikeouts in a row against the fierce Leones, allowed him to register his first victory of the season and also extended the number of consecutive victories of the tribe to five. The Cuban pitcher released the ball for six episodes, accepted four unstoppable and a couple of runs, with five air swingers and a couple of passes to 1st base.

The Caribes started the actions in the first inning scoring a couple of runs against the opener from Leones, Gallagher. Niuman Romero opened with ticket to the 1st base. Gorkys Hernández followed him with an intangible to the Center field and Hernán Pérez, leones' shortstop, made an error that brought horror to the team against a soft rolling from Alexi Amarista perfectly set for the double play. He left two in circulation and drove Romero to the home plate. Base per ball to José Castillo followed by a solid drive through the center-left field by Luis Núñez produced the second run of the inning.

Caracas discounted in the bottom of the first with the unstoppable of Jesús Guzmán with Franklin Gutierrez in the second base moving him to the plate. Avisail García and Eduardo Escobar combined by hitting a double and a hit in the respective order for Caribe's third run.

Later in the game, Gustavo Molina scored a solo home run in the fourth inning. José Castillo also un-sewed the ball hitting a far home run with one aboard in the fifth, giving them the advantage of five runs to the Caribes, which was enlarged in the sixth by a hit by Gorkys that brought Molina to the plate. Leones built one in the sixth with an unstoppable drive by Jesús Guzmán against the pitcher Martí and then they scored two more to Pedro Rodríguez at the bottom of the eighth. Jon Meloan launched from the mount on the ninth, putting his seventh rescue in his pocket. With this victory, Caribes rises to second place in the standings with a record of 21 won and 17 lost.

The Aboriginal lineup continues its week away from home, visiting Navegantes del Magallanes on Thursday, with the left-handed pitcher Renyel Pinto in the mount measuring abilities against the ex tribe and Chicago Cubs pitcher Carlos "El Toro" Zambrano.



The End of the Cullens and Bella Swan (*Finally*)

By: Melissa Rodriguez

Our generation has survived through countless films throughout the year: *The Breakup*, *Bruno*, *National Treasure*, *27 Dresses*, etc. But not even the positively atrocious filmography, disastrous story lines, and excruciating acting added up from each of those movies could sum up to that of the *Twilight* saga.

Jurassic Park was made in the year 1993 and featured enormous dinosaurs killing helpless visitors and leaving horrific paths of destruction. But even this predictable, slightly corny movie had better sets, costumes, and effects than the vampire movies. Take, for example, the costumes of the vampires out to get Edward Cullen, blood-sucking “heartthrob.” Was anyone truly believing that James’s wig was really hair? And what about the edits that enabled the Cullen family to appear to be running at hundreds of miles per hour? A blurry background won’t cut it when the actors are moving unbelievably slow. Maybe they don’t run fast because they aren’t required to exercise, as was clearly evident in the positively disturbing air-brushed abs of Robert Pattinson in the second movie. No wonder he couldn’t move faster than the speed of his co-star Kristen Stewart’s delayed reaction time, which was painfully slow even in the “heart wrenching” ‘I-love-you-Bella’ scene in the hospital.

But her acting was simply insufferable throughout the entire saga. Forget that Stewart clearly missed the day that they taught actor cues in film school: her general acting credibility is unconvincing with a forced performance. One would imagine that playing a role that is exactly like your actual persona—a teenager—would be easy, but apparently even such a role was too intricate for Stewart to grasp. Maybe she should have stuck to the nonspeaking roles of her “*The Thirteenth Year*” Disney Channel years. Stephanie Meyer and this group of *Twilight* actors literally sullied the name and reputation of monsters. Yes, of monsters.

And speaking of monsters, vampires *and* werewolves? When will the torture stop? Before we know it, the “Lochness Monster” and “Big Foot” will be prancing across the screen (with killer abs, of course) in a 5th *Twilight* movie that will, based on the uninventive titles of latter films, be named “*Even Later Dawn*”

And for those who argue, “The book is better, read the book!” Well I have read the book—all four actually, and I still failed to discover their appeal. In fact, the books are wordier, making them feel like they are longer than the film saga. So the anguish and cruelty that that entire *Twilight* concept instills into its readers and viewers seems to only last longer. But by the end of the movie, the creators of the worst series of all time honestly did succeed in one goal: making a movie where vampires kill other humans by sucking the life out of them. However, the makers probably didn’t mean for it to be the audience.



People Spotlight- Mr. Tibor Besskó

By: Jessica Duque

A much needed attribute for the school, Mr. Tibor Besskó has already been of much help to the CIPLC community. For several years now, our school has lacked the help of a counselor and this year we are lucky to welcome one again.

"The best part is that we didn't only get a counselor, we got a friend," says Melissa Rodriguez, a senior at CIPLC. Mr. Tibor is approachable, and always there when you may need him!

As we can assume from his name, Mr. Tibor Besskó was born to Hungarian parents in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. He went to college at Colorado University at Boulder but he affirms that it was not the right school for him. "It was too big, too much of a party school," he said. This is why he only stayed there for 2 years and he subsequently transferred to Community College in Washington for two trimesters to finish his Associates of Arts Degree. Right after that he transferred again to Evergreen State College for two years to finally obtain his Bachelor's degree.

While obtaining his Bachelors degree, he was also working in Alaska as the course coordinator of Serve Alaska Youth Corps for two years. This association works to improve lives, lands and communities in Alaska. While living there, he lived right next to a glacier. Although he hasn't been there since 1999, he's excited to visit again this summer.

In 1994, he attended a school of massage therapy in Eugene, Oregon, and even though he is licensed, he has never assumed the profession. Fortunately for his friends and wife, he has given massages whenever they have needed his assistance!

His experiences in Alaska and Oregon inspired his interests for the psycho-emotional aspects of education.

This is why he decided to go for a major in counseling at Oregon Pacific University, which he finally obtained in 2002. His first experience as a counselor was working at five different schools providing Mental Health Counseling from 2002 to 2004. He then transferred to South Eugene High School in Eugene, Oregon where he worked as a high school counselor for 8 years before he decided to move to Venezuela by the sea.

When asked what was the greatest experience of his life, Mr. Tibor told me about his acting career. Yes, we can call it that given that he dedicated 8 years of his life to improvisational theater with Playback Theater Network which bases its performances on life stories from audience members. He classifies this experience as the "greatest risk" he has ever taken since he admits acting scares him. However, he found himself performing in front of large audiences monthly for 4 to 5 years. "You never knew what was going to happen... I had such stage fright" he says, "but the fact that it was challenging motivated me to continue."

In the future, he would love to own a sailboat and sail around the Pacific Rim and along the inner passage of Alaska. You guessed it right: life here at Puerto la Cruz is sure to open some doors for him.



People Spotlight: Mr. Ski

Full Name: Eric Alan Grochowski,

Occupation: Math Teacher

Teaches: Geometry, Algebra 1 & 2, Pre-Calculus, AP Calculus (AB)

Mr. Grochowski, or “Ski” as we all know him, has been arguably one of the best teachers in CIPLC history. Despite his enormous responsibility—teaching 5 classes that range from Geometry to Advanced Placement Calculus AB, he manages to motivate all of his students into genuinely wanting to excel in the subject of mathematics—a domain that generally doesn’t receive much enthusiasm in this school. Additionally, he is a friend to all students, implementing strictness and structure where it belongs but leaving room for sympathy and flexibility as well.

His intelligence and success in his own high school years along with his sincere and caring advice inspire all to work harder in not just the area of math, but to apply themselves in other academic aspects. The coach of the 2-year Boy Basketball Champion team administers his uplifting attitude to the students in class, extracurricular groups such as MUN, and during sports practices and games. In return, his students value him extremely highly and reciprocate the respect he gives to them.

Not many teachers truly foster the success and well-being of their students nor find themselves unaffectedly disappointed when their students suffer, but Mr. Ski certainly does. This is why he will be sorely missed as a teacher, mentor, and friend when he leaves this year to satisfy his goal of traveling as much as possible before moving back to his home country.

What did you first think of CIPLC when you got here?

Ski: First I thought they made a wrong turn because it didn't look like a school from the outside. Where I came from high schools are very different. I was amazed at how small it was—and then I got to meet the students. That's when things got really positive. I was really impressed with the diversity of the student population and just the outgoing, friendly nature of everyone. I was really happy to see that. On top of that, I really like the fact that the students had a wide range of intelligence. Not just, you know, hardcore studying and memorizing, but the ability to synthesize information as well.

Have your opinions of it changed since?

Ski: My opinions have really only changed for the better. I really, really like the students here. They're friendly, fun, and like I said, very diverse. I find once you develop a relationship with the students here and they trust [me] and I trust them, they really open up and are very interesting and fun to work with.

So that already answered my questions of what you think of the students and what your favorite part of the school is, that is, what you'll miss the most when you leave. What do you think CIPLC needs most in order to improve?

Ski: (laughs) I guess a proper campus. A proper school I think would help. Not just for athletics, but just to give the school a more professional feel; a school to go to and be proud of. It would be nice for the schools to be more separate. I feel that sometimes it kind of takes away from the high school atmosphere when you have to sit around with the little kids too.

Where would you like to go after CIPLC?

Ski: The places I'm interested in are mostly south East Asia and Eastern Europe.

Why these places?

Ski: Because I haven't lived in either one of those places. South East Asia has some of the best diving in the world along with some of my favorite food and travel destinations. As for Eastern Europe, I've been

to Europe a few times and I just enjoy Europe.

What are your plans for the future as far as teaching?

Ski: My plans right now, and of course this is always going to change, is to teach for 2 more years and then return to the USA, hopefully near or around my parents and family [in Minnesota]. And hopefully pursue a PhD in economics. I haven't decided the focus yet but I think I have the general feel.

How do you feel that you are one of the favorite teachers among the students at CIPLC?

Ski: Obviously that's a nice thing to hear, and trying to be humble I do play that down. But that does give me a good feeling that it's reciprocal—that I like the students and hopefully they like me. It's not something I set out to do necessarily, to be the favorite or the popular teacher, it just, I guess, happened naturally. So I'm glad, but it certainly wasn't one of my goals. It's nice to hear though; it always makes you feel good.

What is your home town?

White Bear Lake, MN

Where did you go to college?

Undergrad: University of St. Johns (MN), Grad: University of St. Thomas (MN)

What's the best advice you ever got growing up?

Once you know what you want, be fearless in pursuing it.

Who was your role model growing up?

Joe Montana and my dad

What is your favorite book?

War and Peace

What is your favorite song right now?

"Wonderwall" Oasis

What is your favorite movie and genre?

Star Wars 4-5-6 (only), Comedy and Drama

What is/are your favorite show/shows?

Family Guy, Real Time with Bill Maher, Rome, Breaking Bad, Game of Thrones

Who is your celebrity crush?

Olivia Wilde, Anne Hathaway, Beyoncé

What do you consider your worst habit?

Playing with my hair ~~etc~~

What style of clothing or piece of clothing do you swear by?

Long socks, very baggy jeans



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Dear Bobby!

Dear Bobby is an advice column that takes after the popular Dear Abby in the *Chicago Sun-Times*. Dear Abby was written by two sisters, Esther Pauline Freidman Lederer and Pauline Ester Friedman Phillips, of Sioux City Iowa. The women are known to the world as Ann Landers and Abigail van Buren, their pen names.

Dear Bobby takes anonymous submissions, questions seeking advice, and gives advice. If your submission is not answered in the issue, just wait! Dear Bobby will include it in the next issue.

What should I do when my parents are too strict and don't let me do anything because they do not trust me?

Whenever it comes to your parents and the way they treat you, all you need to do is think why. For example, why would they take your TV away? Or punish you at all? The reason: the TV could distract you from doing your homework or any other chores. They do it because they love you and want the best for you. Their main purpose as your parent is to make you an even better person than they are in every aspect possible, so they want to do everything they can to make sure that happens. Sometimes the methods implemented might be a little bit too extreme and make your blood boil, but you always have to see the bright side. They are guiding you towards a life of excellence. You also have to understand your parents. They truly don't want anything bad to happen to you.

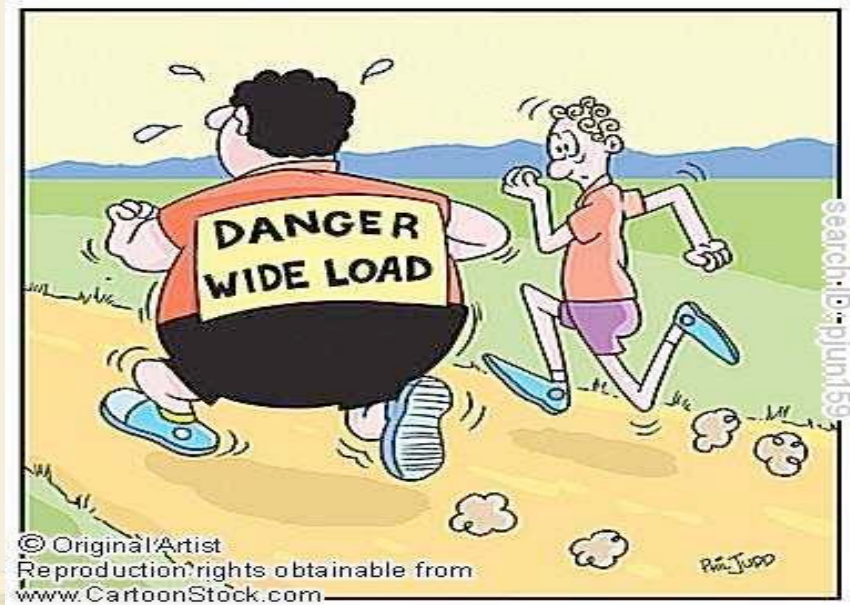
On the other hand, as a teenager I have to admit that sometimes parents are too overprotective or strict and this is one of the worse choices parents can choose for the mental development of their children. How do you learn how to avoid bad things if your parents don't even show you what the bad things are? In some aspects, it is always good for parents to set their children free. As a parent, or a boss or figure of authority in general, the hardest thing to do is to calibrate and find the balance between being strict and letting go. You have to talk to your parents about the fact that they have to let you go so you can learn from your own mistakes and show them that you are mature enough to make smart decisions.

In the end, you have to remember that all your parents do is so you don't make the same mistakes they did. You have to understand them and always know that they do it for your own good, and if you don't like it, then talk to them about it and things definitely will change. Remember, to your parents, you will always be their little baby no matter how old you are. Once you talk to them and let them know you have changed and that you have grown and like different things, they will understand. Don't forget this: Always let your parents know how you feel so the balance between holding on and letting go finds a natural, neutral point benefitting both your parents and, most importantly, YOU!

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Dear Danny...

By: Daniel Finco



1) Dear Danny, what can I do to improve my fitness and control my body weight?

The first step to take is to stop eating fried empanadas every morning in the school cantina. They might be very delicious and full of taste, but they are one of the greasiest and fatty foods you could ever eat from the Venezuelan menu. They are full of taste because they are fried and have special ingredients inside. But that is also why they have so many calories. Stop having empanadas for breakfast and you will see the long-term difference.

The next thing to do is one of the simplest of them all. Stop being lazy and sign up for the sports that CIPLC offers every season. It doesn't matter if you are not selected to travel to any silly championship, you will still be doing a good amount of workout that lowers your body weight. Don't fool yourself by thinking that staying after school will take away time to do your homework, because the first thing you do when you get home is take a nap because you naïvely think you are tired. Sports or exercise should be a part of everybody's life.

In a nutshell you will improve your fitness and control your body weight once you commit to yourself and follow a constant routine of eating better and working out. Stop saying that you can't, because you are the only one who can stop you from doing anything.

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By: Baylee Carter



An old adage goes, “When in Rome, do as the Romans do”

Some disagree with this statement. They believe that they need to be safe and stay inside their little bubble. Maintaining their own backgrounds and possibly being set in their ways makes it difficult for them to make the transition. It’s easier to never go out or meet new people, and just stay at home and not assimilate to the different atmosphere surrounding them.

If you live in a foreign country that is not where you are from, and expect to get the full experience, it is important that you surround yourself with natives. Otherwise you

will never get the actual understanding of the place, its culture, feel, and the customs. Say you want to learn the language. If you stay in your house with your family and never go out, you will never gain anything.

Take living in Venezuela for instance. Say there is an American boy that wants to learn how to speak Spanish. He will have to go out and hang out with Venezuelans. He will have to see how they talk, what they converse about, and make note of the accent or vocabulary. This will take time and it cannot happen over night, but in the end it will help you succeed in learning a foreign language.

For learning the culture and customs, you must go to events that portray them, like the Festival for Virgen del Valle, in which they have parades, parties, concerts, plays, or anything that you could think of for a religious holiday. You must try new foods that you hear about or see. Here in Venezuela they make certain foods for different times of the year such as Allacas or Pan de Jamon (ham bread) during November until January. Partaking in these events make you feel incredible. If it is your first time you will defiantly have a new understanding and your mind will be blown. The sensation of doing something new and being nervous around people you don’t know is what makes the event that much better. Because after your first time, you know what to expect and know what not to do for the second go around.

To understand the people and how they act you simply just have to take the time and observe them. Find someone that you work with, go to school with, or a person that speaks your language you meet in the street. Don’t be afraid to ask questions and show them that you want to be educated on their people and its country.

In Venezuela they have a saying, “Join with the good men and you will be one of them.” Another way to think of it is if you come to Venezuela, you will become a Venezuelan. No matter where you are from, Venezuelans will give you a chance with open arms into their culture, people, and the beautiful language. Assimilation is the key to education.



Creative Writing: Two Roads **By: Daniel Finco**

"Two roads diverged in a yellow wood, and sorry I could not travel both" quips the famous poem. My education and life experiences have thrust me, whether I chose it or not, into these crossroads. Similar to the theme of the poem, this decision will not be easy. Both diverging roads have their benefits, and both seem equally appealing for different reasons. One path is "the road less traveled by" and the other is the path that represents the mainstream cog in the wheel that keeps society functioning as is.

One side of me is drawn to the road less travelled--the one that avoids the wheel altogether, but chooses to take its own car on its own road. This road involves being able to say on my deathbed that I have made my mark on this world and enhanced it for upcoming generations. I would focus all the energy of my work into fixing the world issues that nowadays pose a threat to future generations. I would seek to participate in the community of people that work together to fight global warming. To avoid the use of this generalized term, my life would be dedicated to the discovery and possibly the invention of innovative ways that help diminish the amount of CO2 emissions to the atmosphere while maintaining the commodities that we most enjoy in our modern life. In other words, if I dare to take the road less traveled by, I would walk through a road directed to the discovery of more sustainable sources of energy that can support our needs without exploiting the little virginity there is left in our planet earth.

This road would completely change the way I live my life in a hundred and eighty degree turn. Many things that I used to consider hobbies and entertaining things that filled voids in my life would now all remain in the backgrounds of my subconscious. All of these sacrifices are paid off for solely one reason—the passion to exist and leave behind a legacy of improvement and work dedicated to our only home—Earth.

The other side is comforted by the cog in the wheel. This would keep the money flowing predictably. This would bring material pleasures, a house, a wife, and later kids. This would be safe. But the tracks of this road are way more eroded than "the less traveled by" because it is a path of routine and monotony that has sporadic burst of happiness. If I were to pick this road, the formula would compute simply: Monday through Friday I would work in a regular job that could be somewhat entertaining, have some different plan for the weekend to distract the mind from a whole week of repetition, and start again. In a proportionally larger scale, a whole year working pays off in a summer with a couple weeks of vacation.

As the road elapses physically into time and space, the years go by and life slowly but steadily reaches its end, leaving behind a track of repeated steps that have very small variations among each particular one--so little variation, that the tracks don't even seem to differentiate from those of the masses that monotonously walk through the eroded road.

There is no reason to say that this lifestyle is negative or detrimental in any way whatsoever. On the contrary, a lot of people enjoy living it, and I can even consider myself one of them to some extent. The difference between me and all of those who have taken the most travelled road, is that they do not have the conflict I just recently started contemplating. In a simple question with some existentialist touch I pose the conflict: “Do I have the ideal mental and physical capabilities to live a life dedicated to a profound and purposeful cause? Or should I follow the “off beaten path:” most of man’s deepest, most common, desires and only seek to feel pleasures and entertainment under the confines of the changing mainstreamed society?

