Point / Counter-Point

Censorship: Just Say No

Allowing Prior Review Represses Students' Expression

Renee Macdonald
Layout Editor

The First Amendment gives the right of free speech to everyone, including students. And yet students in some high schools, including ours, are repressed from publishing what they wish. This is all thanks to the Hazelwood Standard, which states that the school can censor students if the school can present a reasonable educational justification for censorship. Some high schools are under what is known as the Tinker Standard, in which the school can only censor if the publication would cause a substantial material disruption of the school day, or invade the rights of others.

High school is supposed to teach us our rights in the constitution, not deny them. We as Americans have a right to the freedom of speech, and having that taken away by our school systems is counter-productive to the rights the constitution gives us. School is supposed to teach us our rights and how to use them productively.

Bill number 5214 is on its way through the governmental system to be voted on by the legislature. This bill will eliminate prior review, and reverse the Hazelwood ruling for all students in the state of Michigan. Those that oppose this bill claim that students will abuse their power of free speech but the schools are there to teach us how to be professional in our publications. There should not be worries about students abusing power. Guidance by qualified teachers and advisors to write and express themselves legally should be provided by the state.

Repressing the entire student body leaves many opinions unheard, and students start censoring themselves before they even try to get anything published. Censorship scares the students because challenging the administration is too complicated, and then certain things that are on the students' mind are never voiced.

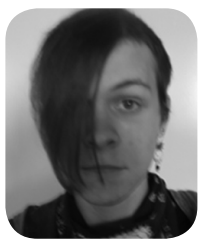
Schools should be supportive of the student opinion, not dismissive. Ridding schools of prior review gives the students a more authentic view of real publishing jobs. If complaints are made about the newspaper's content, it is the student's fault, not the school's.

Students deserve their first amendment rights, and the schools should not keep students from practicing their right to free speech.

Students: Step Up

Students Are Responsible for Censorship

Sean Stoto
A & E Editor



There is a grim reality to the world of student journalism. That reality is, of course, prior review. No student actually likes prior review, that's a given. It restricts students' first amendment rights, it makes the printing process infinitely more difficult, and the school basically dictates what can and cannot be published. Prior review just isn't American.

Students rant and rave all the time about this, and with good reason. They blame the administrations and representatives who just don't care about freedom of speech. It's time students look at the papers that don't have prior review. These papers have the privilege of not being reviewed and censored by their respective administrations. While that is all well and good, many student papers take advantage of this.

Teenagers, as a general populous, aren't at the peak of their maturity. Many teens find things funny that many adults and other readers in general would not. One example of this is satire in teen-based publications—oftentimes the joke just doesn't get through, and in the end somebody, or many people, are very offended by what has been said. This is a liability to the school, to the students' advisor, and to the students' reputations.

In a Michigan-based student newspaper, a satirical article was written about goth students. In the article it said that all goths should be piled into a cannon and fired over to Africa so they can know the true meaning of suffering. In the same issue, a supposedly satirical article was written about how the Asians had the great tsunami coming to them, and that they were using it as a pity excuse.

The editor-in-chief of "Knight Life" at the time was terribly offended by the latter article, as it made mention of mass genocide, something her own ethnic group experienced. She sent in a letter to the editor, condemning them for publishing such material without any thought to the feelings of others. That letter was printed, of course, but not in its entirety. The editor in chief of the offending paper had abridged it, only printing the parts he chose and claiming that the rest was irrelevant whining.

While this case is one of great extremes, this is the reason we have prior review: many students don't know where to stop. The articles mentioned were offensive, didn't report any news, and seemed more like an inside joke than significant publications, even of satirical value. Nobody benefited, and people were hurt.

Again, I personally support the abolishment of prior review, but if students are to have freedom of speech they should use it with restraint and reason. If the content is going to needlessly offend without getting a significant point across, it has no reason to be printed at all.

Say Nothing?

Downloading Music Eliminates the Crucial Social Component of Music

Downloading At Norrix

264 LN students were polled:

- 212 Students own iPods/Mp3 players (that's 80% of surveyed students!)
- 160 Students get the majority of their music online
- Only 40 students could remember the last time they went to a CD store to buy music.
- Only 42% of students with Mp3 players talk to their friends regularly about music.
- 68% of Students without Mp3 players talk to their friends about music regualrly.

Christina Pillsbury
Opinion Editor

You see it everywhere. It's as if they have taken over the streets and college campuses across the globe. Today has become the golden age of the "iPod Bopper." It seems as if anywhere you look, you see those music lovers who walk down the street with their ears covered, the signature white cord dangling from their head. No longer do we have John Cusak standing with a boom box above his head playing "In Your Eyes." In today's version of the film Say Anything, Lloyd would simply file share the song to Diane, eradicating any need to see the girl he is courting.

For the most part, music lovers in today's world have conformed to the golden age of instant-everything and seem to have lost the essential social element of music.

Despite the convenience of simply clicking a button and popping in ear pods, some people seem to overlook the downfalls of isolating themselves in their own music worlds. We have entered into an "everyman is an island" world of music. What happened to sharing music with friends and sweethearts?

My own mother remembers when record stores were the place to go, in a time when (horror of horrors) you had to physically walk, drive, or bike to the record store, but it was worth the effort.

Record stores in the sixties were the "cool" place to hang out. Kids and teens went to the stores often and spent a lot of time there to score the latest record. Today, you can just pop onto the web and download anything you want--pronto. Downloading and ordering music online simply eliminates the need to share the experience of music. And you cannot deny the fact that it is easier, faster, and cheaper. With everything else becoming instant, it's just natural that music has become the same way. Unfortunately, today's technology makes music less fun. In today's "gimme-it-now" world where a new type of iPod comes out faster than most people can figure out how to use the old one, does anyone still have fun with their music?

Three men in East Lansing, Michigan, will not be giving up their vinyl records or 45s or CDs anytime soon, because of how fun their old music artifacts are. Dave, Dick, and Jon, all with varying degrees of musical experience, own and run the store Flat, Black and Circular (known to the regulars as F.B.&C), on the campus of Michigan State University. The store is similar to those stores in the 60's; a fun, cool place to be. Their excitement for music and sharing it with others is contagious. Yes, these three men love their music the old-school way, clunky and inconvenient, and their customers whole-heartedly agree.

When you first make the ascent up the two flights of stairs to F.B.&C, you may want to look at the eye-catching band posters screaming with bright colors on the walls, or the hypnotic album covers that also decorate the shop. These albums include all genres, from The Chemical Brothers to Bruckner's 9th Symphony to Pink Floyd, and even Akon and Eminem. However, the most eye-catching part of the store is the customers. The customers are just as diverse as the music selection.

One older gentleman with a youthful bounce in his step was quick to tell me about his music experience as he ransacked through the old rock vinyl albums. From underneath his khaki fishing hat, he asked me if I had ever heard of the Beatles. It delighted me to see the relief in his soft blue eyes when I told him that I indeed, do enjoy that particular band. He told me about the band's concerts he attended in California, including the foursome's final concert in Candlestick Park in 1966. He told me that he had a very large collection of vinyl records that he played on his record player. He furrowed his gray brow and asked me how much CDs sold for today. The fire in his eyes revealed his passion for music, and it was something to be admired. This man, in just a few words, showed me what a big part of his life belonged to music. This passion is conspicuously lacking from my generation of down-loaders; there are unlimited copies of every piece of music on the web, so no one has to work very hard. Another customer at F.B.&C. showed me how much fun finding your own music can be.

A young man caught my attention when he almost jumped for joy after finding the record of his dreams, looking a bit like a leprechaun with a childish grin on his face below his tousled red hair. He told me that he had been looking for it for ages. Although he could have downloaded the same music online, with arguably better quality, he told me with twinkle in his eye and a smirk upon his lips, "I refuse to let downloading off the internet interfere with my joy of rifling through old vinyls at F.B.&C."

He and his friend are quite the regulars at F.B.&C, and enjoy the company of the owners, finding new music, and traveling outside of the comfort of their own houses to do so. This type of excitement

See **DOWNLOADING** Page 12

Props

PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA PILLSBURY/ KNIGHT LIFE

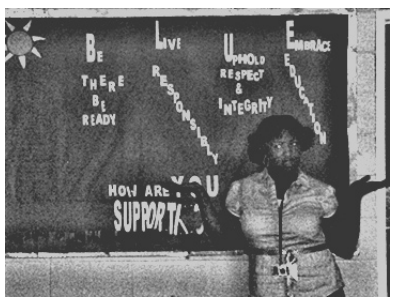
The Ecology Club- Here's to anyone who's making our gardens look good.

Senior Courtyard- We love the rest of you, but after 3 years, we deserve it.

New Student Leadership Opportunities- Now that the freshmen are all alone, they'll have someone to look up to.

Stops

Summer Being Over- Did it seem too short to anyone else?



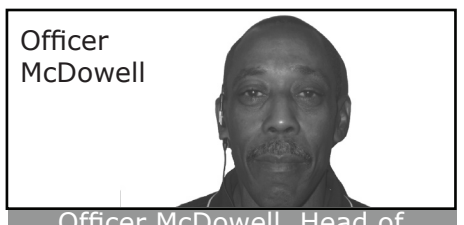
BLUE- Good idea in theory- but who remembers what it means?

1 Stop: No Fries At Lunch

Loy Norrix Students Are Tired of Having Incomplete Lunches. Here's What They Have to Say.

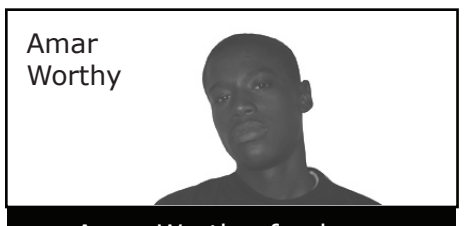
"It's crazy, Central still has them [fries]- If they want kids to eat healthier, why would they only take them away at one school?"
-Ariel Spinks, Junior

"I like fries a lot. The rest of the food isn't that good."
-Aviona Gaines, Freshmen



Officer McDowell

Officer McDowell, Head of Security
"No. It takes all kind of training. I don't believe teachers have the time. A lot of them don't have the desire to go through all the training."

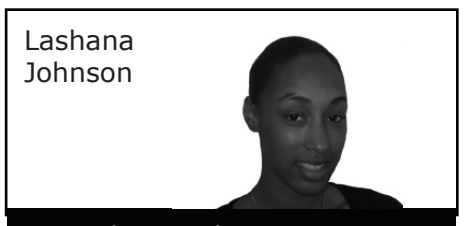


Amar Worthy

Amar Worthy, freshman
"No, because if we can't have one, they can't have one. It is dangerous. What if they don't like the students?"

Kami Flegel

Kami Flegel, junior
"No, because it is unsafe and students can find the gun and shoot people."



Lashana Johnson

Lashana Johnson, senior
"I don't think so, because school is supposed to be a safe environment.