

The English Division

In today's information age, reading comprehension and writing skills are essential for everyone. The AHC program includes courses in literature and critical thinking, reading and writing to enhance communication skills, to provide a breadth of knowledge appropriate for many degree and vocational programs and to prepare students for transfer to four-year institutions. English majors often enter fields such as law, education, public relations, human services, journalism and corporate communications. To ensure that their transfer objectives are being met, English majors should consult with an academic counselor. English 103 focuses on induction/deduction, logical fallacies, and close textual analysis.

(source: AHC English webpage)



Photo: A. Halderman

Campus Talk

What's your favorite rhetorical technique? Why?

"Active voice. Powerful and provides a strong platform." Jessica Byrne, Psych

"The rebuttal. The author can best show arguments." Lupita Leon, Kinesiology

"Ethos. Authors need to establish themselves as an experienced source." Emery Knotts, LibArts

"Evoking the senses. It emotionally invests the readers." Jessica Gonzalez, PreDental

"Logos. I like solid evidence and logic." Brandon Vistro, ElecEngineer

"Alliteration. It rhymes and catches our attention." Mayra Torres, Kinesiology

A comedic combination of logos and pathos. It's intriguing." Jennifer Harper, Bio

"Parallelisms. An interesting foregrounding effect." Linda Chang, Nursing

Security or Freedom?

By Andrew Sainz, BusAdmin

The argument that personal freedom and liberty must be sacrificed in exchange for security has existed since the beginning of civilization. Whenever this perspective becomes the prevailing view, society inevitably suffers. It was seen in WWII in the treatment of Japanese Americans at the hand of their own government. The extreme cases of fear induced oppression include Nazi Germany and Stalin's Soviet Union. Millions were killed in the name of a safer society. I am not suggesting that Florida's DMV denying Lakiana's a driver's license because of her veil is a precursor to genocide. I am merely suggesting that we be more cautious when denying ourselves rights in exchange for a sense of security. In the words of Benjamin Franklin, "Those who would give up essential liberty, to purchase a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety."

Cruel? I Think Not

By Sandy Blair, BusAdmin

Some would be surprised at the corrective effects embarrassment may evoke in a person. Surely the solution of incarcerating offenders need to be revisited. Imagine an idle youngster in the devil's playground burglarizes an elderly couple's home under the influence of peers. He's caught, judged, and sentenced to six months in juvenile detention. Upon release, he quickly reconnects with those he's missed to reminisce on the glory day and receive his praises of stardom.

Now imagine that same youngster was caught, judged, and sentenced to a swift public flogging on the front yard of the victim's home. The youngster feels remorseful, and shame for humiliating his family and neighbors as well as himself. These feelings do not diminish into adulthood. They are magnified. Bring back flogging? Absolutely!

Fighting to End Violence

By Aliya LeCover, Sociology

Jeff Jacoby's thesis in *Bring Back Flogging* is that we should combat violence and crime by essentially beating criminals.

Jacoby misguidedly thinks that causing criminals physical pain will deter them from committing further violent acts. This belief is profoundly untrue. As many studies have shown, violence begets violence. Flogging criminals will lead to an increase, not a decrease in the rate of repeat offenders. Furthermore, flogging prevents any rehabilitation of the criminal.

I agree with Jacoby that the justice system in our country is badly broken. We need to be rehabilitating prisoners, not flogging them. We cannot beat criminals into being productive members of society.



Transparency

By Jamie Cole, ArtsHumanities

With the advent of the internet, it has become increasingly difficult to keep anything a secret. Yet, the availability of more information has engendered in the population as ever-growing sense of entitlement. Photographers take photographs of Hollywood actors' children without permission. When Wikileaks information was published, large numbers of people cheered, in spite of the vast list of soldiers endangered by it. We must ask ourselves, do we have a right to all this information? Is it serving a purpose other than curiosity and entertainment?

Many aspects of the government could do well with more transparency. I agree, but publicizing executions of prisoners is something that should remain behind closed doors. It shows respect for the victims and the seriousness with which the decision to take a life should be addressed.

One Nation

By Matt Gray, CompSci

Markstein's comic has without a doubt created a clever piece which succeeds in making the reader think "one nation under nothing in particular" is a reference to the growing number of bored suburban residents who think God should be deleted from our Pledge of Allegiance. Not being religious myself, this has never mattered to me; however, this comic has changed my mind tenfold. The teacher's reaction and the sad, droopy American flag makes a strong statement. The pledge itself is meaningless without "under God," which unites us as a nation. Although I've never thought of this, I agree completely. The use of God in the pledge is not about a single religion running the country, but rather an heirloom connecting the generations. We need God in the pledge or we jeopardize the integrity of what country is, and has been, all about. We must not lose sight of where we come from.

Legislation, Regulation, & Govt' Intervention

By Ben Kiger, AgSystems Mgt.

I was driving down an apparently deserted road, on the northern coast of Florida, in the middle of the night. My phone buzzed and I swiftly took a glance. The apparently deserted road was not at all deserted. The second I looked up from my phone, a giant armadillo stood in the middle of the road. I quickly swerved missing the armadillo as well as the line of trees on the roadside. I almost died the fateful night.

The question is would government involvement in my habits of being a distracted driver change anything? My answer is a simple no! No law, regulation, municipal code or any other government involvement would have changed a thing I did that night. Big government always enjoys trying to interject anywhere it can to solve the world's problems. However, it seems to make things worse. There was a time I could simply answer my phone, talk, and be done. Now the phone is connected to my car, and I have no idea how to answer it. I was distracted multiple times more than if I just simply answered my phone. Had advanced car safety technology been in my car that fateful night in Florida, I might have hit that armadillo, or worse yet, it could have been another person or car.

Heroes from the Home

By Logan Scheiner, CompSci

Kids are unavoidably bound by the whim of their parents, and where the kids go to school is rightfully the parent's choice.

Homeschooling only puts more of a demand on the parents, after all. The kids, however, should not be punished by exclusion from voluntary after-school activities in the public education system. These activities are primarily sports, instruments, or intellectual teams. Alleviating a child from the public school system only makes class sizes smaller, a much sought after concept, for teachers and students alike.

In fact, for their service of reducing class sizes, homeschool children should be highly regarded as heroes, not exiled from the opportunity to participate in team-based activities. Let homeschool kids participate in public after-school extracurricular activities!



Special Note

This newsletter isn't an official English Division document. Instead it only serves as a class assignment for Halderman's English 103. In order to preserve the authenticity of the students' writing we have kept their original word order and sentence structure.