



Guilt forces people to give more during holiday season

Staff Editorial

'Tis the season of guilt-filled giving. Fa-la-la-la-la.

The holiday season is viewed by many as the season of giving rather than receiving. What people do not seem to realize, however, is that people are in need throughout the whole year not just during Thanksgiving and Christmas.

During the holiday season, it is not uncommon to see people thrusting their money into donation baskets and spending a small fortune on gifts for needy families. However, if one were to ask them what kind of charity work they did the rest of the year, he or she would most likely be met with blank stares or awkward shrugs.

Part of the reason for the excess gift giving during the holidays and the deficit of giving the rest of the year is that a lot of organizations do not have many fundraisers outside of the holiday season.

People are also more empathetic because they know that while they are sitting at home warm and full of food, there are others not as lucky.

The main fuel for giving, however, seems to be guilt. Most people find it hard to just walk past people raising money for those in need when they are going to buy toys, clothes and electronics.

It is easier for people not to care when they are not constantly being reminded of how many people there are in need.

What many people do not seem to realize is that if we gave a little all year, the need would decline.

Instead of just giving two months out of the year, we need to work on fixing the problem throughout the year so that there are less people in need of food and shelter.

Everyone needs to understand that there are still people in need outside of the holiday season.

People are hungry more than once a year. People are cold more than once a year, so we should help more than once a year.



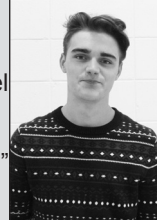
How does giving to charity make you feel?



"It makes me feel humble because I am giving back."
-Javion Riley, 11



"It gives me a warm feeling inside and I feel like I am making a difference."
-Abby Hubbard, 9



"It makes me feel warm and tingly on the inside."
-Josh Mixon, 12

Staff Speaks

Boy Scouts allow girls to join

Anna Persons
Staff Reporter

In America, a girl stands in front of her mirror in a Boy Scout uniform with a smile on her face and pride in her heart, and the world outside her screams. She is wrongly criticized for the desire in her heart and her mind to be someone more than average and "just some girl" and should be allowed to be more.

Over the past few months a trivial issue has been debated and scrutinized by the public and the press. Everyone is in an uproar about the

Boy Scouts of America allowing females to join their organization.

Of course, this has also caused a backlash with the Girl Scouts. The Boy Scouts represents amazing values any female could adopt and learn from in their life.

As similar as Girl and Boy Scouts should be, they are entirely different when comparing what each organization actually accomplishes.

Over 100 years of tradition is not something that can or will change overnight, but it does not mean it should not change. The American youth deserve opportunities

to make themselves and the world better and more productive. Sometimes traditions need to be broken.

Refusing any females to a great program and a chance to become a more educated and motivated citizen is the American people limiting an entire generation of youth.

The public should not be concerned about the gender of the adolescents in the Boy Scouts but about the future generations of America. We do not want to end up on the wrong side of history because of a backwards society or turning a blind eye to the truth.

Hollywood destroys self-esteem

Haley Berry
Features Reporter

"You are beautiful and an important part of society."

These are not common words that sound in the minds of girls across the globe.

Instead, the voice of damnation and hate pierces their ears and distorts the image they view in the mirror.

They glance at their reflection and see the body that they despise so greatly and turn away quickly.

The feeling of inadequacy when in the presence of others places a silent comparison in their minds, resulting in low self-esteem.

The monstrous voice of insecurities convince them that they are imperfect humans, creating a raging war within.

This lack of confidence is cre-

ated when social media advertises the image of a face in Hollywood painted with makeup and without blemish, becomes a girl's daily reminder of something she is not.

Insecurities are also stemmed from a demeaning voice that may come from an authoritative or important figure in the girl's life. The lies take root and become a reality, causing the ability to hold her head high impossible.

The Dove Self-esteem Fund reports that 62 percent of all girls feel insecure in some way. Seven in 10 girls believe they are not good enough or do not measure up in some way, including their looks, performance in school and relationships.

Feeling unimportant to society is a real mentality for most girls. Every girl is important to society and

should be treated as such. Bashing her for her way of thinking or viewing herself will not bring healing but only more damage in the end.

What girls need to hear is a voice of praise from someone that will help build up their confidence rather than lower it.

Boosting a girl's confidence should not always be up to someone else; girls also need to believe that life is not about how thin her body is or how tan her complexion may be. Life is about more than looks and body image, it is about the heart and the things within.

We have a choice in life, and confidence is without cost. It should be obtained by every girl and only then will the female gender become unstoppable and achieve great things for themselves.

Multiple mass shootings show America's indifference

On November 5, residents of Sutherland Springs, gathered in church without realizing the death that was about to be wrought.

Later that day, when I discovered the tragedy that had happened, I thought of how little time had passed between Las Vegas and the Sutherland Springs shootings.

After learning of the Las Vegas attack, my only thought was "oh." That all the empathy I spared for the people who lost their lives.

I realized then that the death of 58 people should never seem normal, and I wondered when I let it become normal for me.

Only a month later, 27 more innocent lives had been taken.

After the Las Vegas shooting, I waited for someone to mention it.

No one said anything, and now the same silence and indifference is still plaguing our halls.

On social media, there was immediate outrage after both shootings. There were people calling for gun control and politicians were saying that it was not a time to discuss guns but instead a time to offer sympathy. People were asking how the United States let this happen again.

However, the outrage did not last



Societal Shortcomings
Makayla Steede

long for most. A few days later and the discussion was simply over.

Some members of the government talked about what they could do to prevent more senseless death, but they did nothing. It was not long before they dropped out of the conversation as well.

Society has become so desensitized to death and violence that we simply do not care anymore. Compassion has a time limit, and Americans have let their expire.

Some people will say this article is too late. They are right; it is too late.

It was too late when 26 people died in Sutherland Springs, it was too late when 58 people died in Las Vegas, it was too late when 49 people died at a nightclub in Orlando, it was too late when 32 people died at Virginia Tech and it was too late when 27 people died at Sandy Hook Elementary.

Now is not the time for half-hearted condolences; now is the time to do something. Otherwise, we are sitting here waiting for more death.

All stories on this page are opinion in nature and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Student Press newspaper staff, the adviser or school officials of George County High School or the George County School District.

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