

Genetic Modification: New Hope for Parents

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Creating offspring is one of the amazing miracles of life and is something many couples look forward to. Unfortunately, in some cases, a woman might have defective genes in the mitochondria which makes it more likely for the baby to be born with a genetic disorder. One solution to this problem is In Vitro Fertilization (IVF), an assistive reproductive technology which would give a child three birth parents. In this process, the egg of the mother is taken and transferred into a donor's mitochondria that is free from harmful genetic material.

This is a breakthrough for thousands of women who want to have offspring but are unable to; they run the risk of genetic defect. This procedure would be no different than a sperm donation or egg donation. This method has been performed on several animal testing centers and is currently seeking ap-

proval for clinical experiments on women. Some may argue that this procedure is dangerous and may potentially harm rather than help, but the medical field would not advance unless we experimented with proper testing and research on human beings.



For some this may not seem like the most ethical solution. The argument is that this baby will ultimately not be a "normal" child as the baby was not conceived in a normal manner. Although people think modifying

children is unethical, as long as it is controlled, it could be used to our benefit. This process allows us to eliminate fatal genetic defects that are passed down from one generation to another, meaning that our offspring will be healthier after being born. On top of that, the children will still be human, regardless of how many parents the children are genetically related to. Although this process promotes genetically modifying babies, it is used to prevent illness, not to change someone's appearance. This ultimately helps humanity by preventing future genetic defects and therefore it is an ethical scientific action.

The mitochondrial donation is the best option available for many parents who have this specific disorder and want to prevent the mutation in their baby. Healthier babies and healthier families may be born from this groundbreaking technology. Many of the cons of this would most likely be forgotten once this method is mastered; at the end of the day, the result of this process will still be a baby, healthier than those who inherit sickness.

Beware of the Misconception of High School Clubs

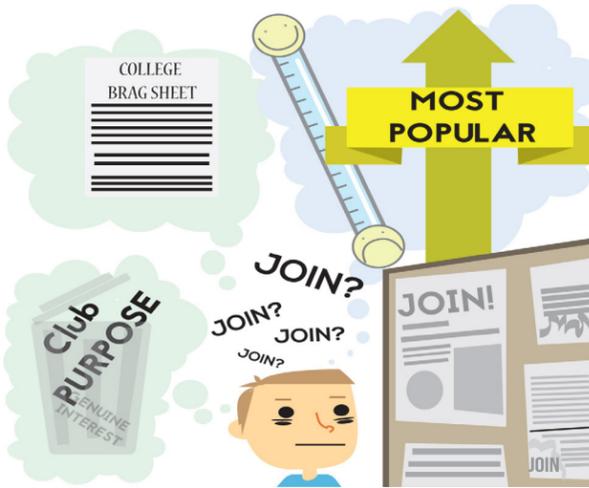
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When entering high school for the first time, most students who have watched the classic film "Mean Girls" expect to see students separated into cliques, such as nerds or jocks. In actuality, there is no social segregation at AHS. Nonetheless, it is not uncommon for students to still believe in these misconceptions. As students at AHS, it is very frustrating to see students follow stereotypes and join clubs based on the sole belief that it will be beneficial to their social reputation or college application.

High school club stereotypes influence the actions of countless amounts of students trying to decide what clubs they want to join. Some students try out for clubs that are known to be more social and popular to fit in or look better. This mentality is ultimately detrimental because it causes students to believe they are inferior to others and need to conform.

Furthermore, stereotypes cause students to believe they need to join a service club to look better on college applications. By doing so, students are misjudging what a service

club actually stands for. Service clubs should be student-led associations that promote community welfare by inspiring students to provide services, build character and develop leadership. However, due to the stereotypes that exist today, the main reason for being in a service club is no longer to help and serve the community, but rather to improve one's social status. Following these stereotypes cause students to lose sight of what their true motive for being in a club is.



The main point of joining clubs is to develop skills or learn more about a subject that matters to students. Students should embrace who they are and join a club that they find suitable to their interests and passions. Stereotypes about clubs should not be followed or believed in if it means pretending or changing who you are. When joining clubs, it is important to remember that a student's primary focus should be whether or not

they like the club and the valuable skills and experiences they can gain. Joining an extracurricular to benefit one's reputation or college application does not one a favor.

MOOR graphics by LESLIE HWANG

CAN YOU DIG IT?



Feminism in Politics

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I have been alive for four presidential elections: two of which I was only a toddler during and two I remember in elementary school. This year's presidential election marks the first in my lifetime that I have the political knowledge to understand and follow the steps of an American election. After countless political debates, controversial statements and soap-operatic events, the 2016 election has been extremely tense and action-packed. One can hardly turn on the news or read an article online without coming across something related to the hot and heavy election. Hillary Clinton, for instance, is in the limelight quite often as the leading Democratic candidate.

Besides her promises to fight for gun law reforms and to build upon the Affordable Care Act, Clinton's presidential campaign has brought up a debate over whether it is a feminist act for women to vote a woman into office.

If Clinton were to win this year's election, our nation will finally see its first female president — something that is undeniably ground-breaking. Seeing a woman in a historically male-dominated position would send a message of empowerment to the young girls of our nation, inspiration we could all use during a time of persistent gender inequality. However, while Clinton may serve as a strong female role model and even as a symbolic victory for American women, voting for Clinton purely because she is a woman is entirely condescending. Even in the world of politics, it is important to remember that gender has no correlation to ability.

Voting for a candidate based on their views and policies toward issues that matter is the only true way for equality to exist in a political race. Choosing Clinton just because she is a woman is the complete opposite of feminism. As much as I would love to finally see a female president in office, the debate over feminism in politics gets in the way of constructive talk about the candidates' views on today's prevalent issues. Whether one votes for or against Clinton this November, it has absolutely nothing to do with feminism. We must remember that feminism is not a battle between the genders; it is a promotion for equality — something we must all dig.

Superheroines to the Rescue

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Throughout history, the United States has been plagued by discrimination. The restrictions females faced in society has made gender inequality a deeply rooted issue. Women were barely granted the right to vote during the 20th century and even today, women make only 78 cents for every dollar earned by a man. It may be the 21st century, but gender inequality continues to persist today, even in the superhero industry.

For the longest time, the spotlight never strayed much from male superheroes. There have been a handful of female characters such as Wonder Woman and Catwoman, but they still did not receive as much attention as their male counterparts. According to FiveThirtyEight.com, female characters only make up about 30.9% of the DC Universe, although the ratio of female to male characters has been improving in mainstream superhero comics. On Feb. 9, the Warner Brothers announced that its Detective Comics (DC) Superhero Girls would be opening up a franchise that will introduce heroines to the young girl market. This may ultimately solve the disparity between the number of heroes versus the the number of heroines we see in the media. Women have been ignored in comic books for decades and America needs to realize that if we want to completely eliminate gender inequality, every step counts. It's important for girls to see themselves as the hero for once and as such, more and more girls will have higher self-esteem and confidence while growing up. DC Superhero Girls will offer strong and relatable role models to girls everywhere and inspire them to engage in heroic acts.

Now that the DC Superhero Girls franchise is hitting stores next month, droves of action figures, dolls, costumes and other products will divert the attention away from the usual male superheroes. Girl power!

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