



Aigat Your Back

Balancing Passion and Pay

SUSANNA AIGA
Opinions Editor

I envy those privileged few whose dreams are financially stable. Many of our dreams, however, are much more difficult to make a living off of. Herein lies the ultimate choice, especially for many of us preparing to take a step into that void called adulthood. Both survival and personal fulfillment are equally important, but survival means money while fulfillment often means, well ... not money. Ideally, one would reach a balance between the two, surviving *and* living. However, this line of balance often seems impossible to maintain, especially if we do not want it enough.

Yes, it will be difficult to maintain the discipline, drive and resources required to pursue our dreams, but it could be worth it in the end. Our only failure would be in not putting in the effort needed to make it work. As Brandon Stanton, photographer and blogger of Humans of New York, a blog compiling photographs and interviews of the people of New York, once said, "There are so many people that use 'following your dreams' as an excuse to not work, when in reality, following your dreams, successfully, is nothing but work."

Protecting Life, Liberty and Right to Yelp

REBECCA ZENG
Staff Writer

The First Amendment is probably the most well-known amendment of the Constitution. It states that the government cannot interfere with individuals' rights to freedom of expression, among other things. However, the right of free speech and self-expression has limitations, such as bans on slander and libel.

In 2010, Jeff Cullen wrote a scathing review on Yelp about Dr. Parsa T. Zadeh; Cullen's wife, Elise Golbert, was unsatisfied with her treatment at Dr. Zadeh's clinic. Now, the couple is being sued for libel by Dr. Zadeh for that Yelp review.

In this scenario, the customer is right. The First Amendment protects the freedom of speech to voice an opinion and though calling someone a "butcher and crook" is harsh and melodramatic, it is still an opinion.

Some may say that because of this Yelp review, Dr. Zadeh was defamed and should sue the couple

because of the defamation. On the contrary, there are other reviews, some positive, some negative and some with

experiences similar to that of Elise Golbert's experience. The point of visiting an online review website is to express and review both the pros and cons of various businesses, not just the pros of the businesses.

In addition, though some may claim that the couple's Yelp review

was libelous, it was not. Rather, it was an honest opinion on a dentist and his work, even though

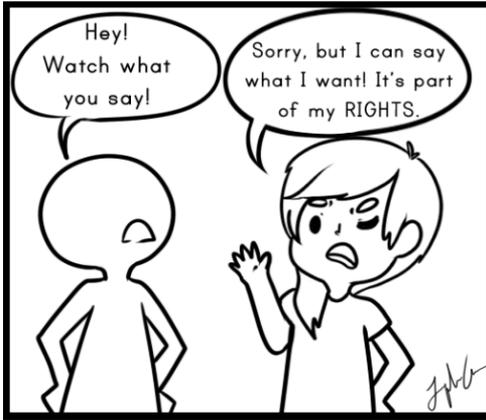
the opinion was seemingly dramatic. Claiming that the dentist is a "butcher and crook" may be theatrical, but the review showed that the couple was not out to purposely defame Dr. Zadeh, but to tell others of their experience and dissatisfaction with his work.

However, the lawsuit sent at the couple may be stopped entirely; before the lawsuit, on Sept. 9, Governor Jerry Brown signed

a California bill that protects customers from being sued by companies over bad online reviews. Now, it is more difficult for companies to stifle bad reviews.

Nonetheless, customers should take responsibility and be honest in their online reviews; they should not exaggerate a miniscule problem just because they believe they can get away with it.

The First Amendment is no doubt a wonderful amendment—it allows citizens to speak their minds without fear of being punished. However, it holds a foundation of trust for citizens not to abuse their rights. It is appropriate to cite the First Amendment when needing protection for voicing out an opinion, but it is inappropriate and even insulting to cite the First Amendment when blatantly lying or falsely accusing someone. In the case of Dr. Zadeh, opinions from past customers should not be stifled, but clarified and discussed.



Immigrants Stand On Border of Education

JACQUELYN LOI
Staff Writer

Many students in the United States often overlook the importance of education. However, for some, even becoming a student and attending school have posed a problem. According to the New York Times, dozens of Hispanic children who recently arrived from Central America have been barred from public school classes in Long Island, New York.

According to the Student Advocacy Center, free public education from kindergarten up until the age of 21 is guaranteed by law to immigrants and non-English speak-

ing students. In addition, the U.S. has ruled that undocumented children have the same rights as U.S. citizens and permanent residents to receive a free public education.

However, according to News Day, in 2010, 139 school districts were found to have restrictive policies ranging from asking for birth certificates to requiring Social Security cards to asking about the child's immigration and citizenship. While this information may be important to identify the child, the information should not be used to make enrollment decisions. If the lack of a formal guardianship is presented after, it still should not hinder the process of enrollment for a child who

entered the U.S. as an unaccompanied minor.

Many children enter the U.S. for new opportunities and better lives than the ones they had been living before. America should not be known for raising barriers against undocumented immigrant children who just want to receive the public education they are entitled to have.

A child who resides in the U.S. should not be deprived of their rights because of their background. All children, regardless of their national origin, citizenship or immigration status, hold the right to have equal access to a public education and secondary education; and it is our job to make sure that every child gets this opportunity.

MOOR graphics by SAMMIE CHEN

On the Wrong Page: Less Potential With Popular Novels

ELTON HO
Copy Editor

Reading has always been regarded as a valuable method for students to stimulate their minds. However, the types of novels typically popular among teenagers, such as *Twilight* and *The Fault in Our Stars*, are hardly ones that teachers would want to touch. This raises the question of whether teenagers should be encouraged to read the books they enjoy regardless of their quality. Popular novels do have their place as a form of entertainment, but they should not be considered worthy educational tools.

Genre fiction, plot-driven works that fit into familiar categories such as romance, fantasy or mystery, often appeal to young readers because of their potential for escapism—readers can enjoy losing themselves inside an imaginative world. Unfortunately, these popular novels could lack literary quality. They may sacrifice realism for entertainment and advocate questionable morals, distorting young readers' ideas about life.

Additionally, they are not as effective in developing linguistic skills as other novels may be. Potentially simplistic or poor quality prose becomes accepted by the reader, hindering their reading and writing abil-

ity, and insufficiently preparing them for more difficult texts they may come across in future studies.

While recognized classics are often more difficult to understand, they are more enriching. The culture and ideals of the time period are preserved for students to study. Also, they often demonstrate complexity, allowing readers to develop a nuanced understanding about a topic.

Ideally, novels studied in the classroom will be interesting as well as illuminating, but that is not always the case. Ultimately, teenagers should not be deterred from reading what they would like, but they should remember to think critically about the text while doing so for the maximum benefit.

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