

## Staff Editorial

### Is Restricting Language Among Cafeteria Workers Helpful or Harmful to a School Community?

Discrimination has been an underlying, systemic problem since the beginning of time. Whether it involves race, gender or even age, there seems to always be a prejudice towards something in society. Language is a societal aspect that is no exception. Restricting language in public workplaces, for example, comes off as harsh and unwelcoming to the workers involved.

In October, when students and kitchen workers at Harvard Elementary School saw fliers notifying them of the school's new "English-only" policy, they responded with shock and dismay. Though the school stated that the policy is mainly for safety reasons when handling food in the kitchen, United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) protested against the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). How would it be safer for workers to communicate only in English when the majority of the staff is fluent in Spanish? As a community composed of mostly Hispanics, it does not make sense to alter existing ways to communicate. After all, bilingual and multilingual skills should be celebrated, not denied.

To the LAUSD, enforcing an English-only policy ensures efficiency. Cafeteria workers will be able to communicate to students without any problems, helping to relay instructions easier and faster. However, the instructions that workers say while serving food are generally

simple and short. They already direct and caution students on a daily basis; this essentially questions why the policy was added in the first place. There is no purpose in requiring English only when cafeteria instructions are already sufficient and effectively communicated.

Restricting language in a school cafeteria workplace ultimately sends an unwanted message. Though English fluency is an understandable requirement for workers, declaring that it is the only language they are allowed to use comes off as an unnecessary partiality. The word "only" creates an unwelcome atmosphere and implies that other languages are not held to the same standard. The goals of expanding parent engagement and building stronger ties with immigrant communities are objectives that most school districts have. However, English-only policies are not solutions to accomplish these goals.

If the district was working to primarily enforce safety, the opposite of an English-only policy would be needed. All languages should be used so that speakers of various tongues are able to comprehend cafeteria instructions. Considering that no recent incidents compromising student safety have been brought up, there is not much justification for this policy. It guarantees that students will hear "Hot plate!" or "Watch out!" in English, but it is at the cost of the reputation and relationship schools will have with parents, students and their cafeteria staff.

MOOR graphic by LESLIE HWANG



## CROSSING THE CARO-LINE

### Banned Words, Mouth Shut

CAROLINE REN  
Editor in Chief

In November, Time magazine created a poll of "words to ban," including the word "feminist." While Time did apologize later after significant backlash from readers, the matter remains: why is feminism still viewed so negatively?

While every movement or group that has ever existed has contained radical thinkers or extremists, feminism is particularly targeted in this regard. The public's view of the movement for gender equality assumes, or fears, that feminists seek to invert social power structure in a way that places women above men, rather than equal to. Or worse, that equality already exists and no further change is necessary.

Accepting the media's skewed portrayal of feminism, including Time's poll which implies that we as a society should no longer discuss the implications of the feminist movement, only worsens the problem. If we do not candidly converse about socioeconomic and political gaps between men and women, we cannot hope to close them. Nor can we pretend that feminism is somehow no longer relevant, or forget the progress it has made for women throughout the nation. Readers' immediate outcry is commendable; Time magazine claims it only "meant to invite debate about some ways the word was used this year," but without meaningful context, the inclusion of "feminist" on the poll only appeared dismissive of a significant movement.

## Prop 47 Sets Safety Aside

JACQUELYN LOI  
Staff Writer

Many have different ideas when asked to establish a line between what is and is not violent. On Nov. 4, Proposition 47, a proposition which changed the legal classification of "non-serious and nonviolent property and drug crimes" from felonies to misdemeanors, was approved on the statewide ballot. However, by passing this proposition, it will only mean that we will now face greater threats in California than before.

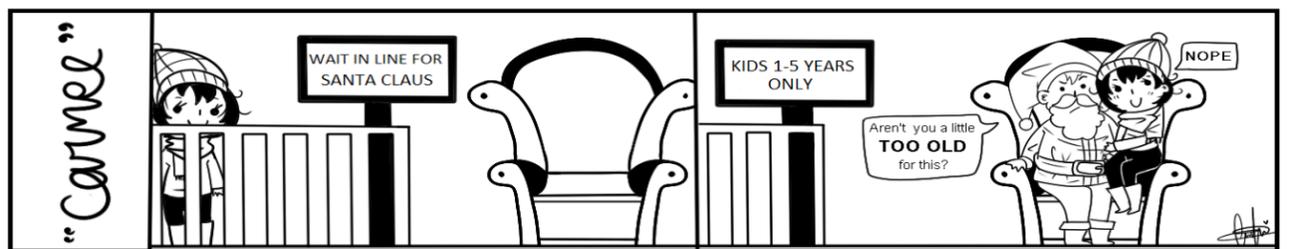
Proposition 47 will result in shorter prison sentences for those who commit or have committed crimes such as stealing firearms, committing identity theft and possessing dangerous narcotics. Those who are already convicted and serving jail time for these crimes will be punished with only a probation or a sentence of one year, at most, in a county jail.

Through this, Prop. 47 ultimately undermines laws against sex crimes, reducing the consequences of drugs used to assist the progress of date rape, such as Gamma-Hydroxybutyric (GBH) Rohypnol, Ketamine and any other drug designed make a victim helpless to just a simple misdemeanor. According to California Votes, the times a suspected sexual predator has been charged with possession of date rape drugs will not matter because the judge will still be forced to sentence the criminal as if it were a first offense.

California continues to make an effort to lower the possibility of rape; however, Prop. 47 will only delay our state from reaching our goals of decreasing the amount of rape incidents. By allowing those who possess date rape drugs to suffer only minor consequences, Prop. 47 may increase the number of rape incidents and future rapists.

On the other hand, Prop. 47 will help to ease California prison population overcrowding by allowing current inmates to receive a resentencing. Yet, this will result in the release of thousands of potentially dangerous inmates who may fill the courts with resentencing hearings.

Considering how hard California is working to push forward, Prop. 47 will only set us back. It will rewrite our laws to help benefit criminals rather than help to establish a safe environment.



## Protests Toward Ferguson Case: Essential or Detrimental?

PAULA KIRYA  
Staff Writer

In 1955, the Montgomery Bus Boycott captured America's attention when civil rights activists, including the leading Martin Luther King, Jr., showed all Americans the effectiveness of nonviolent protests. 59 years later, after the ruling of the Ferguson shooting, black Americans are seen damaging and terrorizing their own city in an attempt to defend their rights, succeeding more in harming their communities than aiding their cause.

Countless acts of violence have transpired in response to Michael Brown's

death and officer Darren Wilson's acquittal, ranging from robbing businesses to setting buildings on fire. The rage Ferguson protesters feel is understandable as there is evidence of possible prejudice towards the predominantly black community prior to the shooting. Seen in questionable arrests and accusations, it seems that the St. Louis city's underlying issue of discrimination is nothing new. The incident between Wilson and Brown was only the catalyst for Ferguson's citizens to react. The case even caught president Barack Obama's attention; although he doesn't support the violence,

he agrees that "communities of color aren't just making these problems up."

Nonetheless, it is still difficult to understand why protesters would turn their frustrations toward the demolition of their own city. These protests are only impacting their community negatively. Moreover, the protesters' heinous actions taint the image of the black community. Though Ferguson citizens are expressing their opinion on Wilson's acquittal, many of their actions can be considered misdirected. The lack of reason, control and the extremity of Ferguson protesters may cause people to question the extent of their rationality.

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