

JUST FOR THE HALIBUT

Katherine Ong
Opinions Editor



For the Want of a Pill, a Baby was Born

Though some may say that the distribution of contraceptives, such as the “morning after pill” or condoms within the schools is inappropriate, the event in which a student might possibly become pregnant is arguably one that schools want to avoid. The availability of the pill will be another precaution against an undesired teenage pregnancy which is helpful since it is easier and far less traumatizing for a student to prevent a pregnancy than to pursue an abortion. In these cases, the well-being of the students should be the first priority.

Yes, the increased availability of such contraceptives may encourage an increase in sexual behavior among teens; however, when compared to the possibility of a young student, it seems like the lesser of two evils.

It’s so easy for people to say, “Just don’t have sex,” however, the warning isn’t easily obeyed. The paradox of being a teenager is that the more we are told not to do something, the stronger our urge becomes to proceed anyway regardless of the consequences, because our inherent instincts are to defy authority. Add hormones into the mix and we are as unpredictable as they come. Without contraceptives as a safety net, we may very well see the birth of another baby boomer generation before we see a decrease in teen sex.

PETA: Let the Games Begin

SARAH TAHKAR
Staff Writer

When someone mentions Pokémon to me, the last thing that comes to mind is cruelty and abuse toward animals. However, it has been deemed as such by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). While I completely respect the plea for fair treatment of animals, I do not understand how PETA thinks that Pokémon teaches children to be violent to animals.

In all of the Pokémon games—whether it is through Team Rocket, Team Galactic or Team Plasma—there is a strong organization that tries to take away Pokémon’s freedom just so the unit can exploit them for their own group goal. It is then up to the player to save the Pokémon and teach the nefarious association how to live properly in harmony with the creatures, since it is emphasized that they have feelings, too. To me, it seems that the game promotes caring for all living things.

However, PETA’s game

attempted to represent what Pokémon is really about. In doing so, they misconstrued what actually occurs in the game and in the show. PETA depicted humans

neglect are never advocated. In the show, the protagonist, Ash Ketchum, is portrayed as compassionate toward Pokémon and he objects to any mistreatment

As a person who has grown up playing these games since I was five, I find the parody to be an attack on my childhood. I feel as if PETA’s accusa-

point where it loved me. In my perspective, the game has always been about this trainer/pokémon bond, not violence. Regardless of PETA’s intentions, the parody accomplishes nothing but insult Pokémon enthusiasts and tarnish their own reputation.

This attack on Nintendo follows up on another parody against Mario and his wearing of a raccoon’s skin. In all of the Mario games, he collects different items, like the raccoon costume, that give him upgrades to beat the level. PETA’s argument against Mario is that the hero promotes wearing animal fur to gain strength. In that case, we better watch out for children who look for fire flowers to attack their “enemies.”

As a whole, the creation of this parody seems frivolous because PETA is trying to promote awareness of animal cruelty. Although the original idea was applaudable in attempting to stop animal abuse, there are many other ways to encourage adolescents against abusing animals than inventing a parody that misconstrues the intent of an animal-friendly game.

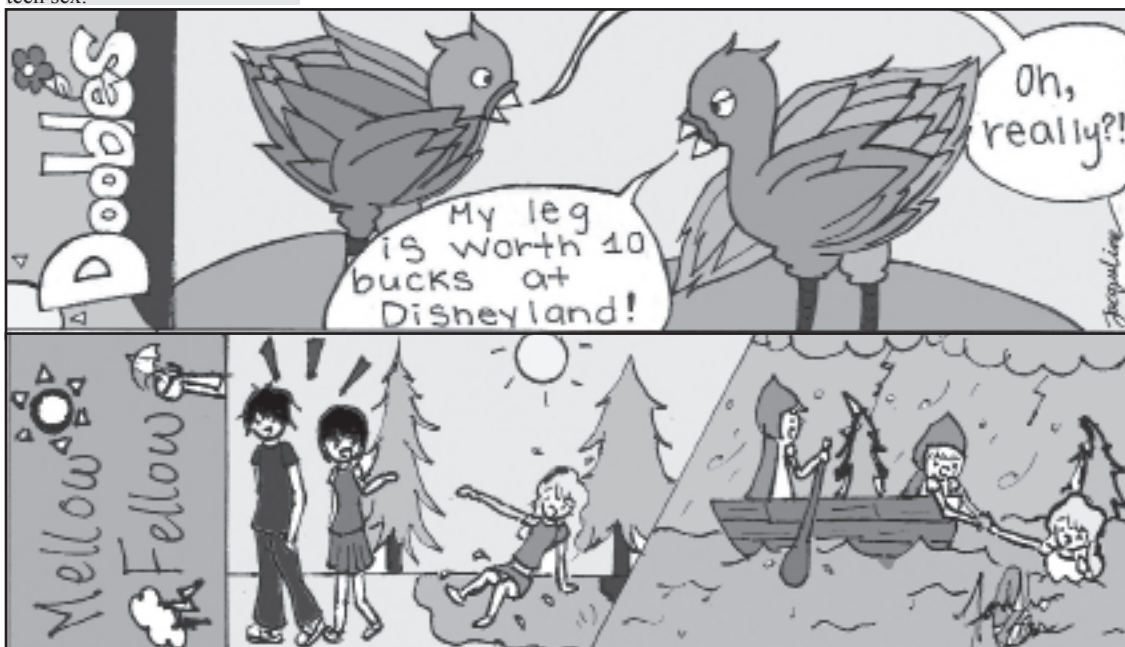


in Pokémon to be trainers with clubs and whips, corrupt scientists and drunks, all of whom are specked with blood. To be honest, I cannot recall a single time in the game where I have seen these characters.

Although Pokémon are forced to fight, abuse and

of them. PETA’s interpretation of Ash was completely off the mark in that he beats his Pokémon and forces them to fight. In actuality, Ash has always asked his Pokémon what they wanted and let them decide what to do because he treats his team in a caring manner.

tions are directed at me, a Pokémon fan, and that I am being accused of animal abuse. In fact, what I enjoyed most was taking care of my Pokémon. Yeah, I know it’s cheesy, but my favorite part of the game was when I was able to raise a Pokémon to the



Oh Administration! You’re Such a PSATease!

SYLVIA WINSTON
Staff Writer

“What happened?” “Why did it happen?” “Why weren’t we informed?” These are a few of the many questions that arose after the delay of the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) on Oct. 17.

It wasn’t until recently that administrators stated why the PSAT was delayed. It started off with a couple of rumors: technical difficulties, lack of preparation and other various reasons. According to the Assistant Principal of

Guidance, Phuong Ngyuen, the PSAT regulations stated that the test needed to be administered in the morning before 12 p.m. Now the question is, why was this overlooked?

The administrators were notified the same day and were surprised as well; nevertheless, rescheduling the PSAT to the following Saturday frustrated many, including myself. I had studied for more than three weeks and I was disappointed since I had to attend a volleyball tournament. Likewise, the same day, numerous students were unable to take

the test. A makeup for those students has not been announced resulting in desperation among those students who may qualify for the National Merit Scholarship.

Now, will an act of negligence like this repeat itself? Such a careless mistake not only caused anger within the affected students, but skepticism as well. To avoid such an event next time, administrators should verify all PSAT guidelines beforehand and any notice for a makeup should be announced at least a week in advance.

Strict School Rule...r?

JENNIFER THAI
Staff Writer

In Utah, there were two cases where complaints were made by students being banned from their own Homecoming dance due to dress-code violations. The situation brings up the question of whether the schools’ decision to ban the students from entering the dance was reasonable. Over half of the dancers could not attend.

The students of Stansbury High and Grand Blanc High had their night ruined due to the ambiguous interpretations of what

best interest, those enforcing the rules have the final say. One must consider the fine print, like in Utah’s case, as to what would be considered “suitable.”

Like schools across the nation, Alhambra High has their own set of rules that students must follow. For example, contracts are required to be completed by all students who wished to attend any school dance this year. These contracts are meant to keep the students in check with their fees, grades and attendance. However, they may have affected their decision to attend our Homecoming dance. Additionally the extra work could have caused students to procrastinate on completing the form on time, thus barring them from attending the dance.

School rules are made to be followed, right? These procedures are for the betterment of the student body. However, there needs to be a limit to the extent administrators are allowed to regulate their students’ wardrobes. As students, we must be allowed to exercise our rights of expression, even when the violations are not as severe as administration perceives them to be.

