



**TEA TIME WITH TINA**

**The Unadmitted Rape Culture**

**TINA CHEN**  
Opinions Editor

The impunity of rape in patriarchal countries is sadly prevalent. The National Crime Records Bureau has reported that West Bengal has the highest crime rate against women, where a woman is raped every 20 minutes, and the number of children raped has increased by 336 percent in the past 10 years. Why? Because men “believe that women do not have the right to say no.”

While we are aware of rape crimes in other countries, what about our own? By the time you finish reading this column, someone in the U.S. has been sexually assaulted. According to Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network, 207,754 people are sexually assaulted annually—approximately one assault every two minutes.

In almost every aspect, the U.S. is a huge advocate of human rights. However, when it comes to laws protecting individuals from sexual assaults, we are virtually archaic. It wasn't until 1993 that marital rape became illegal, and many Republican Party leaders have given misguided statements on rape. Fox News newscaster Liz Trozz, even said, “women [...] should expect to get raped.” When women live in a society that believes their own people are bound to get raped, what message are we sending across to the guilty? Are we telling them it is okay to continue with what they do and the increase in sexual assaults will be seen okay, because it is now “expected?”

The truth is, America is suffering from an unadmitted rape culture. When 54 percent of sexual assaults are not reported to higher authority, it is clear that the media is sending the wrong message to females.

So why is all of this so unheard of in the land where we protect “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness”? In recent years, society has been objectifying women, holding victims accountable for crimes committed and offering forgiveness to rapists. Girls are said to have been “asking for it” because their skirts were too short. Women are also criticized with, “Are you sure you didn't say no? You were pretty drunk” instead of, “You must report it, because that's not okay—it's far from okay.”

We shouldn't allow rapists to roam around and believe that committing such heinous actions is not a crime and that rape happens because the victim does something wrong. As a whole, we are good at noting other countries' abhorrent laws and treatment of individuals and yet we overlook our own. As a country, in order to stop this rape culture, we must first learn to admit to it.

MOOR graphic by SIMON ZHAO

## Love Food, Abhor Waste—Don't be Trashy!

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Staff Writers

The metaphor, “you're flushing money down the toilet,” while true in essence, should be changed to “you're throwing money on the side of the street.”

Although millions of Americans are struggling to put food on their tables, 40 to 50 percent of the food harvested in America is going to waste, according to the New York Times.

The U.S. annually spends \$1 million just to dispose of food waste. According to the National Defense Resource Council, more than 20 pounds of food is wasted each month for each of the 311 million Americans. An estimated

amount of food that Americans waste daily can fill the Rose Bowl. That is just a little too much food and money wasted, but that could just be us. Many resources, such as water, energy, pesticides and fertilizers, are also used to grow the food we eat. This means

that when we waste food, we are also wasting the resources needed to grow the food. 90 percent of Americans toss good food into the garbage because they think that the “sell by” and “best before” dates on food containers indicate safety. In reality, none of them relate to edibility and safety reasons. Most foods are edible 1-2 weeks longer than what the expiration dates say.

Some think that food can be decomposed and therefore believe that it is okay to send it to the landfills. Food needs light and air for proper decomposition and landfills do not have that available. Instead, as the food decomposes, it releases methane, a greenhouse gas that traps 23 times as much heat in the atmosphere than the same amount of carbon dioxide.

While 50 million people in America do not have access to enough food, the ones who have food waste it. One in three Americans are in poverty and are food insecure, meaning that they do not have the resources to obtain the sufficient vitamins which are crucial to maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Such a diet can result in health issues—the worst case scenario being death from dehydration or starvation.

An average family of four throws out an estimated \$1,350 a year. Reducing food waste will not only help the environment, but it may also help financially.

One of the many ways to reduce food waste is by writing a shopping list and then sticking by it. Do not be tempted to buy too much food since there is always the option to return for more groceries if necessary. Additionally, using leftover ingredients for future meals is an excellent way to minimize waste. For instance, some scraps of vegetables from today could be used to make a delicious soup for tomorrow. Making just enough food to feed your family—smaller portions with an option of minimal second helpings—is yet another method to decrease waste. Additional financial benefits come from reducing waste; some trash haulers do not charge as much if food waste is separated from other trash and sent for composting instead of sent to landfills. Since some food waste cannot be avoided, a compost bin can be set up for any biodegradable edibles. The resulting rich, valuable compost will benefit plants as well as finances.

Together, if we can slowly reduce food waste over time, we will not only be helping ourselves financially, but we will also be helping our environment and the hunger crisis in America. Don't you think that this is worth the effort to at least attempt to reduce our waste?



### CHEERS & JEERS

**SUSANNA AIGA**  
Opinions Editor

The Moor Newspaper is now the Moor Weekly, one of the few high school newspapers published weekly in California.

There is a new, aesthetically pleasing school website, which is easier to navigate than the old one. No glasses or contacts necessary.

Food fair is back, benefiting both the clubs on campus and our teenage appetites.

Sushi is back on the menu, wasabi and soy sauce included.

MOOR graphics by SIMON ZHAO

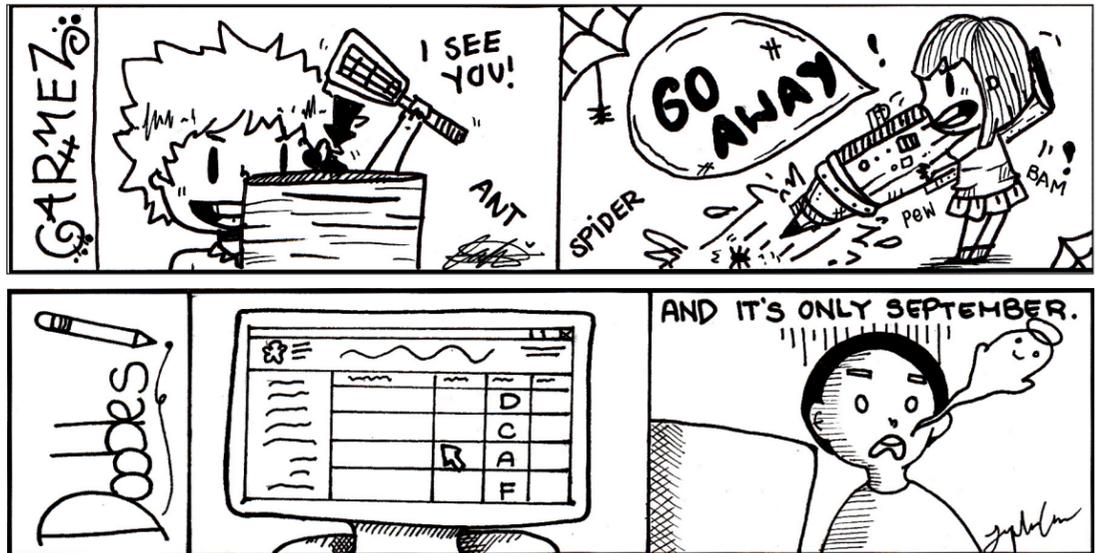
The chaotic crowds, general confusion and miscommunication, the disaster drills were the real disasters.

The football team experienced discomfort after its former coaches were fired, following a “brawn over brain” decision in distributing creatine to team members.

Two words: lunch lines. The waiting time for getting lunch has doubled since last year.

Former Principal Brad Walsh “graduated” along with the class of 2013.

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## Blurred Lines Should Not be Crossed

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Amidst the countless pop songs on the radio, there is one that stands out, and not in a good way. Although the song is catchy, the lyrics to Robin Thicke's “Blurred Lines” are extremely questionable. They perpetuate rape culture, and the lines between rape and consent should never be blurred.

Thicke's lyrics echo many rapists' excuses. The use of the line “I know you want it” undermines a woman's agency to consent, automatically assuming that a woman wants to have sex with someone merely because she

talks to or dances with them, and regards her as “owing a favor.”

The line “you're an animal” reduces a woman to nothing more than a piece of meat for pleasure without any consciousness of consent. However, she is not an animal and should not be reduced to one; she is a woman who deserves respect and should not be subjected to unwanted advances.

Another problematic lyric is “you're a good girl,” assuming that a woman rejects a man's advances because she is shy rather than because of her lack of interest. This reiterates society's appreciative attitude toward virgins and its disgust of women who are sexually active. The lyric main-

tains sex as something for women to be reserved about, whereas it is a point of pride for men.

When asked about the nature of his song, Thicke responded, “What a pleasure it is to degrade women.” It has been made evident that Thicke, despite being married and having children, does not seem to believe a woman's consent is important in the act of sex and that women are subordinate to men.

“Blurred Lines” is vexing due to its lyrics promoting rape culture, reinforcing society's double-standard of sex and the sexist intentions of the song. These lines should not be anything else besides clearly defined.

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