

# 2 OPINIONS

## Oklahoma Gives American Exceptionalism 'a Push'

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Staff Writers

History classes in America are apparently not made to teach history, but rather the exceptionalism of our country. According to the Huffington Post, Oklahoma state legislators have cut funding for the Advanced Placement (AP) U.S. History program because it does not emphasize "American exceptionalism," believing that too much time is spent on negative subjects such as slavery and the treatment of Native Americans. While our history is riddled with mistakes, they cannot simply be forgotten or left uncorrected. Instead, they must be learned from. Depriving students of learning infringes on their right to the truth. All countries have made mistakes, and some affected more than just themselves. The instigator of World War II was Germany who, over the course, committed some unspeakable war crimes. However, Germany does not

cover up their history. According to a documentary featured on PBS New's "Frontline" program, teachers try to educate their students about the historical events to the best of their abilities. Although the inclusion of this history is partly because the world never lets them forget it, it is also because they recognize that history repeats itself and the only way to prevent that is to learn from past mistakes. The Dachau concentration camp has the words, "Never Again" written on the memorial. If the bill passes in Oklahoma, it will be a loss for our country. America is supposed to be a shining example of a free coun-

try and although our light has dulled somewhat, trying to push our mistakes to the back burner makes the country look worse. Since its creation, the U.S. has been winning battles, and it is said that history is written by the victors. However, it should also be said that the victors have a duty to tell the truth. An example of this is the history of the Native Americans, who lost the fight for their land. In kindergarten, Thanksgiving is taught only as a time when the pilgrims and Native Americans came together to feast. What schools fail to mention, however, is that most of the Native Americans had their lands stolen through trickery, intimidation and brute force. Despite this, America is not a terrible country today and has



NO  
'HO'LDING  
BACK

## Part of the Noise

ELTON HO  
Copy Editor

13th century poet Rumi once wrote: "There is a community of the spirit. / Join it, and feel the delight / of walking in the noisy street / and being the noise." This welcoming invitation has struck me ever since I first heard the lines. I wonder, however, if becoming part of the community is as simple as it sounds. As an introvert, it is a prospect that is both intriguing and repelling. Popularity among peers is often presented as the ubiquitous high school goal, the principal measure of success and happiness—and indeed, I'd bet it's great to live life when you know people already like you. As for me, while I really do appreciate most of the people I know, at times I unfortunately cannot help but feel burdened by their presence. It's nothing personal; it's just that I feel limited by an obligation to conform to others' expectations of me. Writer and researcher Susan Cain has advocated for greater appreciation of the power of introversion. One of her claims is that people tend to instinctively follow the opinions of others in a group, especially the most dominant or charismatic person. She reminds us that while sharing ideas is great, we should also value occasional solitude and take the time to develop our own ideas free from others' influence. Rumi's poem continues: "Open your hands, / if you want to be held. / [...] Why do you stay in prison / when the door is so wide open?" At times, introversion can definitely feel as confining as a cell. However, rather than always feared, it can and should be embraced as well.

## Equal Restrooms for an Equal America

DEREK WU  
Staff Writer

With a population of over seven billion people, there will always be diverse and unique groups in the world. One group that is frequently harassed and hurt is people who are transgender. Transgender people have a high rate of being targeted in violent hate crimes, and according to the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, 344 transgender people were targeted for hate crimes in 2013. These situations and cases make it hard for transgender people to feel safe, which brings up the important issue of gender-neutral bathrooms. Forcing transgender students to choose a gender-specific bathroom constantly excludes them and singles them out to the public; however, with gender-neutral restrooms, everyone is welcomed. Gender-neutral restrooms are an important implementation in ev-

ery social setting as it will allow students to freely to choose a restroom which will make more students feel more equal. This will benefit not only their day-to-day life but also improves their self-confidence and relieves their anxiety and fear because they are not forced to come out as transgender. Everyone in this society deserves to feel safe in their own community and nobody should feel excluded. Gender-neutral bathrooms have grown in popularity in recent years, but we should make this a national effort to for all Americans to feel safe. More than 150 Universities across the U.S. have gender-neutral restrooms, according to the Huffington Post. We, as a nation, should further this movement and require all public settings to have gender-neutral restrooms to be included with the average two gender restrooms in order to ensure a safer society for all Americans. MOOR graphic by SAMMIE CHEN

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Alhambra Educational Foundation Office  
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## Justice in Obama's Immigration Plan

BARRY CHEUNG  
Staff Writer

Over the past year, President Obama has planned to use his executive powers to create a new immigration plan in order to protect millions of undocumented immigrants from being deported; however, a 26-state lawsuit has opposed his actions, according to the New York Times. The states' actions went as far as to threaten Obama with impeachment. Obama's actions may be rash to go against 26 of 50 states, but that does not mean that he is necessarily wrong. According to the New York Times, a Texas federal judge, Judge Hanen, postponed Obama's actions because he previously felt as if the policy was an invitation to some dangerous criminals who would endanger America. The immigrants who have traveled to America came

for a reason: to start a new life or live a better one. They strive to live up to the standards of the "American Dream." These families who come to America in hopes of a better future are not all made of true felons. According to Reuters, the plan Obama wanted to place into effect would have given deportation relief to the undocumented immigrants and would have authorized the ability of these immigrants to work. The plan mainly included families whose children are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents. If those immigrants are deported, then many children could experience the life of an orphan. The immigrants should not be deported and Obama's actions serve the public justice by defending the minorities who have faced further struggles than most of the community.

