



Aigat
Your Back

The Fault in Our Media

SUSANNA AIGA
Opinions Editor

I understand that the media's intent is not always to present us with reality. I know that it is inevitable that reality is often lost to cinematic effects or some other aesthetic appeal in the name of art. However, in terms of mental or physical illness, with which real people are struggling every day, doesn't it seem rather insensitive that what we are labeling as "cancer," "depression" or other various diagnoses rarely match the horrors of what these real people are seeing in the mirror?

Even the film adaptation of *The Fault in Our Stars* seems as if it missed the mark in providing an apt representation of cancer patients. While Shailene Woodley's Hazel seemed to have been immune to the side effects of her cancer treatment, I'm sure that is not the case for most cancer patients.

I am not asking the media to show us everything; it would understandably be very difficult to watch some poor soul experience the grim effects of cancer. However, it is disappointing that some filmmakers seem to see illnesses such as cancer as an "economical dramatic device," according to Time magazine, rather than a serious condition plaguing various individuals.

Don't get me wrong, I enjoy *Breaking Bad* as much as, perhaps more than, the next person but when does romanticizing illness become excessive? The least we can do is be aware that what is portrayed on paper, screen or the Internet is not necessarily reality—that the sick do not exist for the sake of storytelling and that nobody's suffering should ever be diminished.

Administrator Stability Lost in Shuffle

ELTON HO
Copy Editor

With countless tasks to be managed and a large faculty that needs to be supported, all schools benefit from a strong principal.

However, with the national principal turnover rate being as high as it is, many schools across the country find themselves struggling to find consistent leadership. New policies or curriculums like the famous Common Core Standards are still meaningless if there is nobody to oversee their implementation. Thus, the issue of principal turnover is a priority that must be addressed when it comes to our education system.

One reason district officials replace principals is their need to see urgent change; if test scores do not improve, they may immediately seek another leader. While there is nothing wrong with an occasional new face, frequent shifts in administration actually hinder long-term programs and effectively halts momentum. In fact, student achievement tends to dip during a transitional period, according to Chalkbeat. Academic improvement is a gradual process, and principals

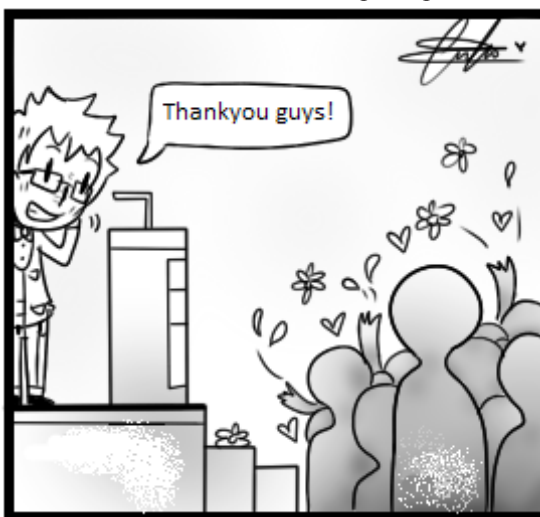
need time to settle into their position before positive change can begin. High turnover only leads to a vicious cycle, dragging low-performing schools lower and lower.

A constant rotation of principals also

from forming. A principal lost in an unfamiliar environment will hardly appear authoritative to a student who has known their school for years longer.

As turnover involves leaving positions voluntarily, principals should be given enough assistance to feel secure in their job. According to the School Leaders Network, principals often leave schools because they face excessive pressure; when issues arise, they are held accountable regardless of their actual involvement in the matter. Another key reason principals leave is the lack of support and professional development provided, according to Education Week. After preparatory programs and possibly two years of coaching, principals are left alone to manage affairs. Despite their authoritative reputation, we should not expect that principals can manage everything required of them without adequate support.

The continual churn of principals holds the nation's schools back. A principal's potential may not be immediately evident; they should be seen not as an instant stimulant for a struggling school, but as a worthwhile investment for fostering future growth.



affects relationships among students and staff. Principals are the face of a school; staff members rely on them for support and students rely on them for encouragement and motivation. Frequent turnover prevents these connections



Universities Grading Social Lives

PAULA KIRYA
Staff Writer

Living in a technological world connected through multiple platforms comes with its advantages. Our constant advancements make communicating with one another a seamless, elementary task. At nearly any time or place, a person may study, research, discuss or mingle with little trouble. However, such simplicity facilitates the easy access of private information and for college students, invaders may be closer to home than expected.

College administrators around the country have been using digital resources to track the activities and behaviors of their students. There is evidence that some students have benefited from this practice. According to the New York Times, Arizona State University's data analyst eAdvisor system helped increase the graduation rates of low-income students by monitoring student progress and helping students find suitable majors.

Yet other institutions go too far when attempting to better the progress of their students. Some colleges are convinced that students who are socially involved in college life are more likely to earn their degree. According to the New York Times, Ball State University tracks how frequently students swipe their ID cards to moni-

tor the social lives of their students in an attempt to ensure campus engagement. Furthermore, those who do not meet these expectations are contacted by a retention specialist to analyze their condition, sending a message to introverts that they are at fault if they do not conform socially.

Not only does this endanger the confidence of students who are uncomfortable in social situations, but it encourages those wary of college parties to attend when they have reason to be uncomfortable. The distribution of basic contact information is acceptable, but the power to nearly track a person's every move can easily be abused by wrongful administrators. Regardless of whatever authoritative position one may hold, permitting any group of people to have access to more information than necessary endangers the safety of these students.

Although some students voluntarily permit administrators to access their information, it is probable that they do not understand the consequences of loosely distributing such details, for these are the same people who skip the never-ending "terms and conditions" of various social media platforms. These colleges defend their actions by claiming they are trying to make their students' college experience easier, but it dismisses the privacy students have within their social network and applications.

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Caught in the Inter'net' of Online Freedom

JACQUELYN LOI
Staff Writer

The Internet has become a necessity in everyone's lives, so much so that we cannot fathom how we could go on without it. Currently, a monthly fee is charged for our Internet connection. However, all of this may change if our government does not take action soon to protect network neutrality principles that allow for all websites and services to be used freely and openly and allows us to keep our free speech on the Internet.

According to Save the Internet, on May 15, 2014, Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Tom Wheeler presented a plan that would allow Internet service providers (ISPs) to discriminate against different online services and websites. This would mean that companies like AT&T, Comcast and Verizon

would have the ability to charge someone depending on what online services and websites they use and then manage their internet access. For instance, these companies could block services such as Google Maps or websites such as YouTube and charge a person independently.

Many people depend on the open Internet to express their freedom of speech, circulate ideas and promote their companies. What the ISPs want to do will restrict people of their freedom and our privileges by setting up barriers between certain online services and websites and charging people extra.

The Internet should remain a framework for innovation and free expression. It allows everyone to connect, grow, learn and inform. Now, we are not only fighting for our freedom, but the openness of the Internet. There should be no barrier between people and their favorite online sites and services.