

AVENUE B

Yes, I Wasn't: A Ballad

"Don't you talk back to me."

These words (or any variation of them), spoken in any language, have probably been heard by the majority of hot-blooded teenagers roaming the planet. I've heard them spoken in harsh whispers—this delivery is usually most effective by parents reluctant to cause a scene—and in be-hemoth tones within the comforting walls of my own home.

Needless to say, our responses instantly switch to a defensive tone and the exchange of heated banter ensues. As volumes rise so does blood pressure and you can say goodbye to lunch money for the rest of the week.

Shortly after these bouts of 'yes you were' and 'no I wasn't' are over, it feels as though parents automatically resort to labeling their child as going through that hormone induced 'teenage rebellion' phase, and it's time to take the locks off their bedroom doors.

Either that, or their little angel is using hard drugs in between study breaks.

Yes, it's true that among us there are little hell-raisers and those who live for the thrill of arguing, but I attribute this to more of an act of self-realization rather than a case of teenage disgruntlement.

Please allow me to elaborate.

At this time in our lives, we are barely scraping the surface of what it means to be independent. We are now pumping our own gas, preparing to move out/go to college, piercing things and—hopefully—by now we've established our own bedtimes.

When you really stop to think about the fact that this is your life and you are living it at this very moment, it's difficult to willingly let someone dictate what you do, even if that someone changed your diapers back in the day.

Is it selfish to start thinking more about yourself? Am I being self-centered and deranged by the pressures of life, so much so that my normally cool as a cucumber composure is failing me?!

I hope I'm not alone in my revelation that my attitude isn't changing, like my parents say, but that I am.

Victoria Gavia,

Opinions Editor

Don't Be Racist, Be Politically Incorrect!

JOHNNY HUYNH
Staff Writer

On March 13, a University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) junior political science student named Alexandra Wallace was pushed to the breaking point. In her video "Asians in the Library," Wallace expressed her frustration toward the Asian student community, a population on the UCLA campus she claims is defenseless and lacks "American" manners. Though she does recognize that she may sound distasteful throughout the video, she refers to the recent tsunami in Japan and persists on making generalizations of far-eastern Asians, who she asserts talk loudly on their cell phones in "ching chongs" and are immigrants.

With millions of views, in addition to several parodies and video responses, Wallace has definitely struck a few nerves and attracted immediate widespread attention. The responses range from humorous critical-analytical perspectives to a plain four-second video of a guy and his middle-finger. The amount of dislikes on YouTube shows the audience's sentiments toward her output.

As an American-born citizen of Chinese descent, it is hard to make absolute sense of rash opinions similar to those in Wallace's video. However, her ignorant stereotyping is not novel, as there have been generalizations of every racial group portrayed in all types of media. In this case, several Asian stereotypes are summarized



and concentrated into one rant. Her audacity to make a video on the Internet and be very frank only highlights an ongoing conflict that occurs on and off the web among an array of ethnic groups.

She briefly states the video is not intended towards her presumably Asian friends (if she has any) and it applies to everyone, although she encountered such a problem while studying and having an "epiphany." She also assumes that Asians "can't fend for themselves" and invite everyone in their family tree to their dorms.

By trying to push a non-offensive stance, she should have realized she needed to think more clearly. Instead of leading on with a trail of contradictions, she could perhaps emphasize her discontent towards some individuals rather than an entire race and the prejudices that are branded on them. In addition, this "polite, nice American girl" continues to the next level into ridiculing Japanese tsunami victims, who might as well "freak out" elsewhere as long as they are away from her.

As ignorant as Wallace sounds with

her racist banter, she does make some points. It is indeed customary, within the bounds of etiquette, to restrain from being loud where peace and quiet is desired, such as the library. It is also presumed that becoming a college student is an initiation to self-reliance and responsibility, which is defeated by receiving constant supervision from family. So, those still sucking from a bottle should probably pick themselves up and get on with living the magical world called "adulthood," in which you wash your own clothes and get your own food. Furthermore, there are many foreigners who aren't familiar with American customs and need a wake-up call, or at least, someone to defend them in their lack of alertness.

In spite of all this, she lacks a great amount of responsibility herself. She establishes Americans as the Gold Standard of etiquette, good judgment and righteousness, which itself is far from true on the world-wide scheme. This is a concept that she doesn't really live up to either. Her escalated frustration is understandable for dealing with such annoyances repeatedly, but she is also a political science major; she should try to be "politically correct," especially in a speculative comment. Likewise, her logical failure to recognize an overall problem doesn't apply specifically to an entire race of people, but specific individuals, challenges the idea that she could even be admitted into a prestigious educational institution like UCLA.

Moor vs. Moor: Government Killed the Radio Star

The House of Representatives recently voted to cut government funding for the liberal-biased National Public Radio. This issue brings up the question of whether or not government-supported institutions should have content with any bias.

Though silencing the liberal-biased news reporting of the National Public Radio (NPR) was not the Republicans' official reason for cutting NPR's funding, the House of Representatives' decision sent the message, intended or not, that free speech can be suppressed by manipulating legislation and money.

Those who voted for the measure say that this decision would save taxpayer money; however, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office found that there would be no net savings from cutting spending on NPR. A more likely reason for House Republicans' hostility is their long-standing grudge against NPR's liberal slant—they were considerably colder toward NPR after Executive Ron Schiller was caught on film calling the Tea Party "scary" and "racist" in an elaborate sting operation set up by conservative journalist James O'Keefe.

In this case, these Republicans are only attempting to deprive Americans of a media outlet and a reliable source of news. By cutting funds from NPR because it has a bias, they violate the freedom of the press—whether government-funded or not, NPR does have the protection of the First Amendment as a news organization. NPR is an example of the thriving media and expression of opinion in America, and should continue to be funded by the government that claims to protect that precious right.

Catherine Chiang,
Opinions Editor

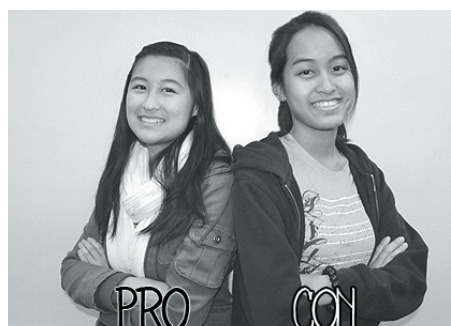
In our country's state of economic crisis, it is a wise step for the government to cut the \$90 million dollars that goes into NPR. As the means for informing on the subject of politics is not solely confined to the radio to begin with, this would not be as much of a loss as it seems.

With budget cuts left and right affecting our schools, prisons and communities collectively, it would be almost a luxury to have such an expensive radio station funded by the government—a luxury for those who are represented positively in light of the broadcast. Many Republicans called foul play when NPR's CEO was "caught" in what seemed to be an edited sound clip of himself commenting on the Tea Party when confronted with an undercover conservative activist. When there are people behind the curtain attempting to fool the audience with tricks such as these, listeners do not have a clear sense of who their broadcasters and respective parties are.

Republicans have also complained about the liberal slant of NPR, meaning that there isn't an accurate representation of voices in the political scene.

In addition, NPR only receives about 5.8% of its funding from federal and local government, according to their website. If funds were to be cut completely, it wouldn't exactly cripple the organization.

Daisy Prom,
Opinions Editor



Gotta Get Down

JAMIE NGUYEN
Staff Writer

In the age of Twitter, Facebook and YouTube, viral hits quickly become overnight wonders. Talent is no longer a necessity; now it only takes money and good publicity.

Meet Rebecca Black, who paid \$4,000 for the rights of two songs and to shoot a low budget video that to date has 98,859,889 views. She offers insightful information, from cleverly stating the days of the week to contemplating whether she should choose the seat in the front or the back (which is irrelevant when we see that 13-year-olds are now driving Porsches and "partyin' partyin'").

Although Black is the most popular of the pre-teen pop stars, 12-year-old Jenna Rose is catching up with her single, "My Jeans," in which she claims Hannah Montana and Ashley Tisdale are sporting her jeans. The songs share a repetitive beat complemented with meaningless and trite lyrics.

It's a sad wonder that production companies willingly exploit young girls to be publicly humiliated in order for them to make a quick buck. Plagued with bad lyrics and autotuned singing, these "pop stars" will never gain anything but more dislikes on YouTube. Somebody, please bring back the 90's!

