

## CAT-ASTROPHIC No 'Boobies' for You

With this generation's shortened attention span, the only things that effectively catch our interest are shiny things and sex. So it shouldn't be a big surprise that the Keep a Breast Foundation, which raises money and awareness for breast cancer, strayed from the conservative path of pink ribbons and decided to print, in large font, "I heart boobies" on bracelets. Keep a Breast states that their provocative slogan is supposed to stimulate conversation about breast cancer.

Unfortunately, the bracelets have raised more controversy than concern for breast cancer. In many high schools, administrators banned or requested that students remove the bracelets because they may be "interpreted as disrespectful towards women." Other administrators fear that students are too immature to wear the bracelets, and that students will have sexually harassing conversations.

These concerns are legitimate to some extent. Before a student or faculty member realizes the intent of the bracelets, they may be offended. These administrators were trying to avoid incidents and complaints. And though we like to assume the best of people, chances are that some students aren't just supporting a cause, but pushing the limits of propriety in schools. After all, it's not entirely necessary to wear accessories emblazoned with "BOOBIES" just to spread awareness.

Yet this also brings up questions about the First Amendment right of free speech. In *Tinker v. Des Moines*, a case over whether a school could restrict the right of students to wear armbands protesting the Vietnam War, the court ruled that the school could only do this if it was disrupting education.

I doubt that the "boobies" bracelets cause many disciplinary problems at school. However, students should use mature judgment in choosing to wear the bracelets. Though the cause is noble, the thought and intention are stained when your teacher thinks you heart her boobies.

Catherine Chiang,  
Opinions Editor

## 'Skins': Kiddie Porn Hits Cable Television

DAISY PROM  
Opinions Editor

There is nothing new about the drug-abuse-party hardy-active teen sex-lives factors of American television; if that's the case, then why are so many adults concerned with the new scripted MTV series "Skins"? The Parents' Television Council (PTC) is saying that this particular depiction of high school sex is really pushing it.

The American series was a spin-off of the popular British version of the same title. "Skins" is actually a British slang for papers used to roll a joint, but with many (sexual) connotations going back to the word, it's probably safe to assume it's along the lines of some mythical triple entendre.

Although the British original was considered a hit since its debut in 2007, the American audience has received it in a less accepting manner. The pilot first aired in early January with a comfortable 3.3 million viewers, in comparison to a continually popular MTV reality show "Jersey Shore" with 1.4 million viewers in 2009. It is complete with under-aged sex, drug abuse, grand theft auto and something about disobeying parents.

Shocking. But the main focus should be the breach of child pornography laws.

Most of the actors are actual teens in real life, many of them under the age

of 18—hence, not legal adults. According to the Justice Department, child pornography is defined as "a picture of a naked child... if it is sufficiently sexually suggestive," and in "Skins," the 15- and 16-year-olds having sex qualifies as "sexually suggestive."

President of the PTC remarks that this is the "most dangerous show for children that we have ever seen," because most kids' shows we've seen on MTV are easy on the sex and hold off on the marijuana.

Even Taco Bell withdrew its ads from the broadcast, as fiscal gains are not worth it in the face of this uproar. MTV is asking the producers of the show to tone it down—and something is serious when the same network that broadcasts shows like "The Real World" and "Jersey Shore" asks one of their shows to tone it down.

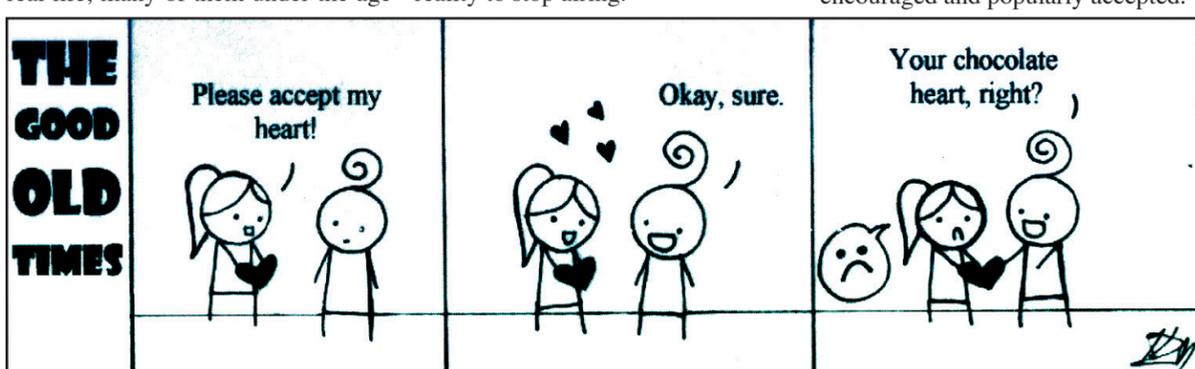
Family therapist Terry Real commented on the show, and was disturbed at how reckless the show was. Supposedly, these actors are sending the message to American teens is that if you don't do any of the aforementioned "cool" things, then you're not normal. Actual teens defended the show, saying that *television* doesn't make teens do bad things—*teens* do. Though the series is considered to be the edgier part of the true-to-life genre, the PTC demands the parodied reality to stop airing.



Perception is one thing; however, the issue that these kid actors are, well, kids is something to change the focus to. With all of the ruckus of the possible corruption of our pure youth, people seem to forget that this show is child pornography in the making. In fact, MTV could be facing some charges, as they consented to the filming of nude, kid actors taking on the roles of nymphomaniacs. Child porn is a serious issue, and the rules don't change just because it happens to be featured in an official television program. The actors do not mind the filming, but that is not to say it should be encouraged and popularly accepted.

In Britain, the actors were also under 18 when the series first aired, but it was more widely accepted than in the States. British TV critic Patrick Smith boasts that it is a proud Brit trait to appreciate the genuineness of a series that means to be accurate. Besides, the characters are "too complex to be considered role models," and this is coming from an adult.

MTV has not pulled the show, and maybe this is good. The message of this overblown issue may teach us a lesson if we choose to learn from it: Child pornography is bad and appreciating the art of televised entertainment is good.



## Living in a Chinese Bowl

CYNTHIA LUONG  
Staff Writer

Many people have criticized Amy Chua, an author and professor at Yale Law School, for her memoir, *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother: Confessions of An Ex-Tiger Cub*. In her book, the Asian mother blatantly states: "Chinese parents believe they know what is best for their children and therefore override all their children's own desires and preferences."

However, being a mom does not mean that she can completely plan out her youngsters' futures. Everyone is born with their own minds, entitled to their own thoughts—they possess the ability to choose what they want to do. By being able to make their own decisions, they can find their passions which will develop them into individuals who can think for themselves.

Chua offers many approaches to parenting, yet many of her resolutions are extremely harsh. For example, to many parents, calling a child "trash," is unthinkable because it will lower self-esteem, but Chua does it anyway, not caring about her child's feelings. As a result of too much stress, perhaps from this parenting style, suicide tends to be the third leading cause of death among Asian American girls aged 15-24.

Since this "superior" Chinese mom believes that "nothing is fun until you're good at it," she forced many activities and strict rules upon her children. While this method of parenting worked for her, it may not be so for others. A true parent is one that offers unconditional and sacrificial love to their children, but at the same time nurture and reinforce their kids' behavior.

## Letter to the Editor: Moor Feedback

Dear Editors,

I'm writing this letter concerning the news article about the spring elections controversy. My name is Andrew Torres, and I am a Latino student in my junior year. I was one of the students who ran during the spring elections. For clarification, "United Through Our Diversity" was a shared slogan that appeared on our posters, not the name of our group. The point of the slogan was to show that Executive should be diverse. There's nothing wrong with our current student government, but a more diverse government would show a more united school and represent more of the student body. We never wanted to cause conflict or controversy; we just wanted to run for a student government position with equal opportunities. During the campaign, many issues arose such as illegal campaigning and help from teachers. We should try to get facts and opinions from both sides. Even though this caused conflict, I believe there

was one achievement all candidates accomplished, and that was more than tripling the number of average voters. As this controversy continues, I hope our school can resolve our differences and become more united. The newspaper shouldn't stop running this story because it is a big part of our school. I'd like to see more facts from people directly involved in the elections.

Sincerely,

Andrew Torres

If you have any concerns or comments, we'd like to hear your feedback. Submit your letters to Room C225.

