

Volume 27 Issue 1

March 1, 2014

Activism



A CONSORTIUM OF NEW VOICES

Kalliope

From the Editor Jennifer Mata

During my early life, I remember sitting next to my father on the couch; he would be reading the newspaper and I would be watching the news. It played in the background as the soundtrack to my childhood, though I began to despair of hearing tragedies play out nightly on my television. Despite



these anxieties, my father and I would discuss current events at the dinner table and long past my bedtime, fueling my insatiable hunger for information about what

was truly going on beyond the scope of my television. I am forever grateful to him for encouraging my quest for knowledge and for giving me the confidence to fight back.

lives and only grows larger if we turn our backs to it. You can change the future of our world, but first you must use your voice. **Say it with me: I am an activist.**

Now in my adulthood, I have been given the amazing opportunity to bring my passion to the pages of Kalliope. My only wish is to bring you, the reader, to the frontlines of worldwide activism and to feel inspired to fight for a cause you believe in. Injustice surrounds us in every aspect of our

Interns' Bios

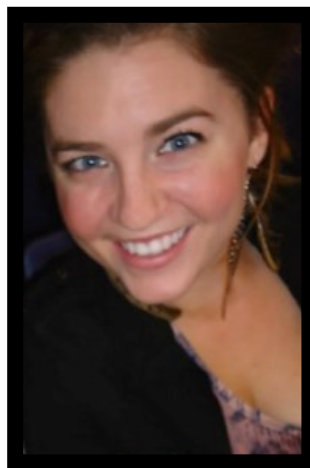
Darrell King

is a junior English Lit major at Arizona State University with a soft spot for YA fiction; one might even call it a guilty pleasure! In an attempt to



graduate early and begin a career in publishing, he has taken full credit loads each semester, including summer sessions. He even has a study abroad foreign language immersion program under his belt. This past summer, he traveled to Quebec City where he completed two semesters worth of French in just five weeks. Darrell is an Arizona native and hopes to move to New York City post-graduation.

A junior studying English Literature at ASU, **Elyse Hertfelder's** interests in reading and writing has brought her to become a bibliophile of epic proportions. J. R. R. Tolkien, Shakespeare, and Jane Austen are writers that inspire her. Her love of all that is literary fuels her hope to become an author and book editor one day.



Jennifer Mata

currently attends the Arizona State University Tempe campus as a senior

majoring in English Literature. Although she enjoys spending both study and leisure time reading, her passion remains in writing. Inspired by the outstanding writer of the Beat generation Jack Kerouac and confessional poet Sylvia Plath, she found the confidence derived from the ever-changing landscape in literature to seek out her own future in writing. Jennifer is now working towards furthering her career experience in editing and publishing.

Malala Yousafzai: A Girl with A Dream

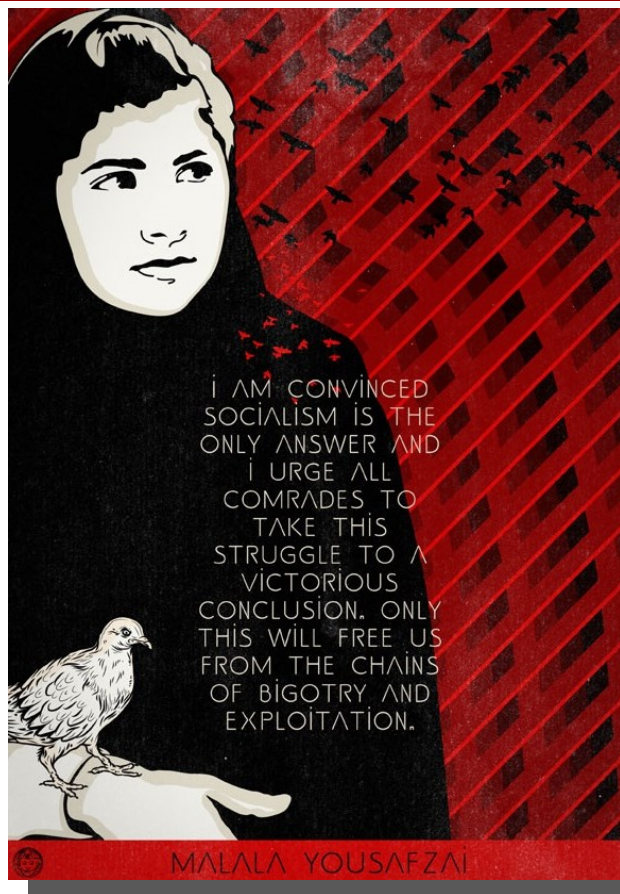
Laura Houck

On a bus ride home from school in October 2012, a Taliban gunman shot Malala Yousafzai in the head. Struggling to survive in the hospital, her story reached millions globally. The Taliban's brutal methods come at no shock to the rest of the world -- the extremist group has deemed countless insurgent attacks on innocent civilians justifiable. This targeted attack on one young girl seemed to ignite a different kind of international outrage. In response to an act that should have silenced Malala, her survival did just the opposite.

Sixteen-year old Malala Yousafzai has endured extreme physical injury and intense media attention surrounding her advocacy of female education in Pakistan. After defying national terrorist orders in the name of education equality, the young Pakistani activist has become a beacon of hope for what seems like a hopeless cause.

Using the pseudonym Gul Makai, Malala began writing a blog for BBC Network in 2009. Expressing her opinions regarding the importance of educating girls, her blog posts chronicled her life as a female student under Taliban control. Global readers were fascinated by her inside perspective; her personal accounts provided a unique insight about issues that fail to reach global attention.

In an interview with CBC Canadian Radio, Malala criticized



the extremist regime exclaiming, "They are afraid of educated women. They are afraid of the power of knowledge."

New York Times' profiled the Yousafzai family; it was apparent that Malala's father fostered her fierce love for education. He ran one of the only schools that defied the Taliban's anti-female education order in the Swat Valley, Malala's home region, where the schooling of girls must remain a secret. Eventually forced to close due to Pakistani military sweeps of the region, her family remained steadfast in their teachings. Malala continued to speak openly about her beliefs, and quickly became a prominent activist at age fourteen.

According to Brookings Institute's research of education reform in Pakistan, closing of

schools are not uncommon. It's because of these occurrences and possible deadly consequences that many Pakistani are too afraid to try teaching their daughters, leaving them vulnerable and often illiterate.

Malala's shooting shook the world. It's difficult to imagine one ever fully recovering from such an attack, but after recuperating at a hospital in Birmingham, England, her strength never wavered. A constant dreamer unafraid of speaking her mind, Malala gave the issue a face and made people listen.

What makes Malala such a unique activist is her humility and wisdom. Malala serves her cause with unmatched grace and an approach rooted in peaceful resistance. CBC Canadian Radio asked Malala what she

would have said to her attacker, to which she responded bravely, "I would tell him that shoot me but first listen to me. And I would tell him that education is my right and education is the right of your daughter and son as well. And I'm speaking up for them. I'm speaking up for peace." Her positive outlook garnered her many accolades including a nomination for the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize. Her efforts have helped launch the United Nations' global education petition aiding in the development of Pakistan's first Right to Education Bill.

Despite her catapult to international recognition, Malala remains a humble activist for universal education. At sixteen years old, she's captured the world's attention, her dream finally within reach.

Women Hold Up Half the Sky

Shavawn M. Berry

Yesterday I was feeling a bit punk - - tired, restless, missing my family -- so I puttered around the house but didn't do much. Finally, late in the day I sat down and watched the first half of the documentary, *Half the Sky*, based upon the book of the same name by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. I knew the subject matter would not be completely palatable, but I've wanted to see it since September (when PBS showed it and I was too swamped with teaching to watch it) so I settled into a chair and spent a couple of hours watching three stories in three different countries unfold.

The stories were predictably grim and hopeful at the same time. The subject matter was horrifying (sex trafficking, prostitution, sexual slavery, rape, sexual molestation, genital mutilation) but the work being done, largely by powerhouse women -- even in countries like Sierra Leone -- was absolutely awe-inspiring.

Women and girls throughout the developing world are subjected to excruciating mistreatment (often at the hands of men, but also at the hands of their sisters, mothers, neighbors) simply because they are girls. Sheryl WuDunn's research indicates that more girls disappeared (without explanation) during the 20th century (over 100 million) than the number of people who died in all the wars that were fought during that century. Think



"In the nineteenth century the central moral challenge we faced was slavery.

In the twentieth century it was the battle against totalitarianism.

In the twenty-first century it is the struggle for equality for women and their daughters around the world."

"When we speak we are afraid our words will not be heard or welcomed. But when we are silent, we are still afraid. So it is better to speak." ~ Audre Lorde

about it. That is a sobering statistic. Where did those girls and women go?

They were killed, thrown away, sold off, burned, raped, molested and beaten. They were systematically erased. They were annihilated by a system that still favors men over women worldwide.

So, today, I am pondering those stories. Stories of resilience. Stories of pain. Stories of deep compassion, resolve, and hope.

Girls as young as three are sold to brothels in Cambodia where they are subjected to repeated

rapes, STDs and even HIV. Somali Mam -- a survivor of the brothels herself -- has made it her mission to rescue and rehabilitate girls who've been sold into sexual slavery. A young woman in the Mekong Delta of Vietnam rides her bike seventeen miles a day to go to school. Another sells lottery tickets to support her family, yet still goes to school with dreams of a better life.

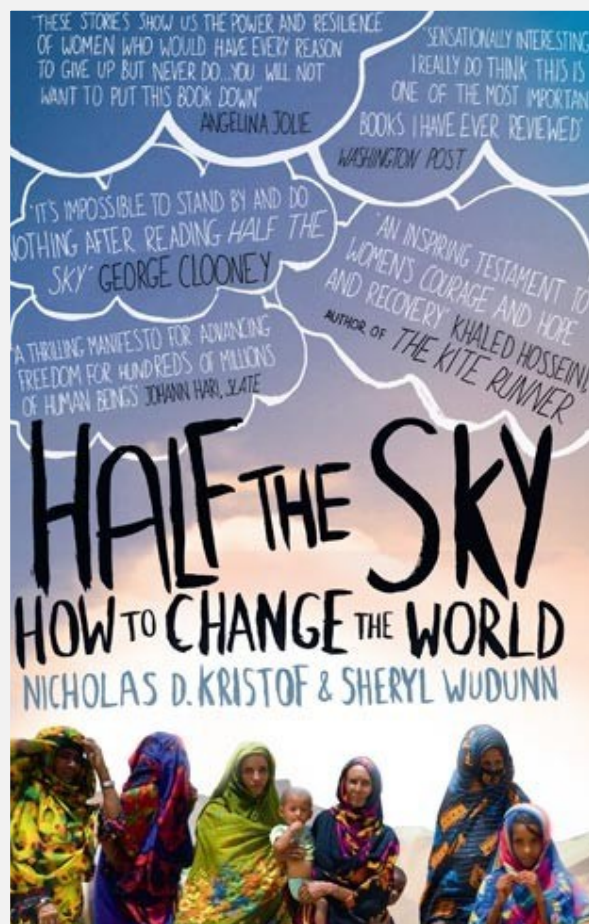
As a Western woman, by virtue of where I was born, my life contains gifts that we often take for granted. Things like access to clean running water, electricity, a warm bed, a free public education,

libraries, art galleries and theaters -- these were mine at birth. For many women around the world, this is not the case. What a gift to be born somewhere where my journey had so much inherent possibility and purpose before I took any action at all.

Imagine if all girls had the same chance!

Education is the best investment we can make in the future. This is especially true of educating women and girls.

Girls who are educated have fewer children and take better care of the children they have. They marry later and make better choices in terms of the type of person they marry. They tend to educate their own children because they understand the value of education. And they are much less likely to live in poverty.



The world that's being born [Sky](#) about ways to get involved.

needs the passion and power and tenderness of women. It needs the collaborative, nurturing nature of women. It needs the creativity and joy and forgiveness of women. It needs the solutions, ideas, and gifts that everyone possesses, but we especially need to hear from women. Women have traditionally not been given a seat at the table. And the fact of the matter is, we cannot build a new, more inclusive world without the participation, roots and foundation that women provide. I am profoundly grateful for my life as an educated woman.

I am grateful for the doors that education opened for me. I realize that much is being done, but there is still more to do. If you are interested in finding out how you can help, contact [Half the](#)

Kalliope: A Consortium of New Voices

Are you interested in gaining experience in writing and editing?
Do you want to write articles that are empowering and uplifting?

Do you have expertise or stories to share with others?

Consider interning or contributing your work to Kalliope!

College credit is available for interns.

Contact shavawnberry@cox.net

Banksy Reveals The Elephant in the Room

Alec Gebhart

Art. Activism. How are they connected? Don't know where to start? Neither do I, because art, which is typically flexible and liberal, doesn't seem like it would go with activism, which is passionate, stringent, and determined. Art becomes activism with one word, and that word is "Banksy." The infamous street artist known for his thought-provoking graffiti is beginning to converge on the two seemingly different worlds.

Banksy is not singular in his approach, performing intricate stenciled graffiti all over the world. He had the authorities and the mayor of New York searching for him, thanks to his 30-day guerilla campaign in which each day a new piece of art was sprayed somewhere in the Big Apple. He even took part in spraying a part of Israel's West Bank with anti-war graffiti. And now, his notoriety is beginning to flourish thanks largely in part to a documentary, "Exit Through the Gift Shop." Word of mouth also helps, but his identity might be the x-factor. Banksy's identity remains unknown, and this perpetuates his mystique, elevating his elusive, enigmatic persona even further into the stratosphere where CFC's from spray paint can't reach.



performance on YouTube shows bystanders watching the spectacle, dumbfounded. The bystanders are shocked because in its own playful way, it raises many subversive questions about the ethics behind slaughterhouses. Vegan or not, there is a certain creativity and bravery that lies in Banksy's work, and other artists generally not blurring the lines between art and activism like he is.

**There's an elephant in the room.
There's a problem that we never talk about.
The fact that life isn't getting any fairer.
1.7 billion people have no access to clean drinking water.
2 billion people live below the poverty line.
Every day hundreds of people are made to feel physically sick by morons at art shows telling them how bad the world is, but never actually doing something about it.
Anybody want a free glass of wine?**

In his first gallery from 2006, Banksy spray painted an elephant. Covered in dark red with elaborate gold trim, the elephant stood in the center of the gallery. As spectators walked in, they were handed cards containing the

quote in the text box.

The artwork is not easy to describe; some of it is abstract, some more concrete, literally, but nearly all of it carries a sarcastic, yet clever, political message. One of his more recent works is a performance piece, and it involves stuffed animals being transported around the meatpacking district of New York. For Banksy, a canvas can be found anywhere. Titled, "The Sirens of the Lambs," the stuffed animals poke their heads out of a van, and make loud, obnoxious squeaking sounds. Many view it as an acerbic appeal to slaughterhouses, though there are many more who are not sure what to think: the video of the

It is rare for art to be this honest, to expose the blindness and roots of society's sometimes-rotten core.

We complain, but what are we doing about it? Banksy's "Elephant in the room," asks us to find solutions, be proactive, and make things happen. Even so, many protested against his work, claiming that painting the elephant was animal cruelty, completely missing the point of his apt metaphor. Banksy brings awareness to global issues, whether slaughterhouses, poverty, or anti-war graffiti. He is an artistic rabble-rouser, and the world needs more like him.

Start Something that Breaks the Rules

Elyse Herfelder

The “one-for-one” motto for shoe company, Toms, has been bought, trademarked, and stamped onto all of its products. Founder and CEO Blake Mycoskie had the unconventional idea after several failed attempts at starting businesses.

He was introduced to the idea from a realization that there were still many children around the world who didn't have a single pair of shoes. With that thought, he knew he wanted to start a company that would give a pair of shoes away for every pair that his customers bought. In theory, it's a wonderful idea; however, with the \$5,000 that he had saved to start Toms, he was hard pressed to find good quality shoes to sell and give away.

Fast Company's Jeff Chu interviewed Mycoskie and his first hires. Jonathan Jung is the director of Toms' supply chain today, and back when the company first started, he knew then that Mycoskie needed help, “If you don't show that you care, they assume you don't care. . . Every single pair was defective in some way--glue stains, mismatched shoes, insoles that were too big for that shoe. . .” Things weren't always smooth sailing for the Toms crew, and even the owner had to get his hands dirty, salvaging what he could of the poorly made shoes.

It's a crazy thing to realize that a simple idea such as “one-for-one” has become the motto of a company that has sold over ten



million pairs of shoes. Toms donates shoes in 59 countries and has recently started providing eye care to 13. That's their newest endeavor; eye care. Another step in the right direction, forgive the pun.

If you don't know how to start a business, take Mycoskie's advice and read a book, watch an interview, or just start by breaking the rules. Because, let's be honest,

who really knows what they're doing when they start a company from the ground up? Breaking the rules is how it grows. You probably won't achieve instant success, but time will tell, and given enough, you can be as active with providing meals for the less fortunate as you can with giving shoes. Use Mycoskie's motto, start something that matters.

Start something that matters.

Chasing Greatness

Justin Peterson

Four devoted years culminate with this, the final passing through the iconic doors. Thoughts of the many schools turned down flash through his memory as he walks down the hall, his heart beating against his uniform. Eyeing the school's venerated seal emblazoned above the doorway, he reaffirms his decision and reflects on the innumerable lessons he has learned from his mentors. A sentimental picture develops in his mind of his family and their pride in him, as he is the first to attend college – not to mention on a Division-I scholarship. In his last few steps, he reviews his preparation and focuses on the task at hand. He wipes the sweat from his brow and, tucking away his handkerchief, enters the concert hall.

Contrast is a strong advocate; and the nationwide diminishing of art programs merits such advocacy. When a college quarterback and a collegiate pianist are brought into juxtaposed view, these two highly-trained individuals offer not only valuable insight into their respective talents and interests, but perhaps more importantly into college institutions and society at large.

Whether it's a blackout game or traditional concert black, the athlete and musician alike present themselves in a manner demanding attention and respect. Aside from the trivial and obvious differences – jersey number, necktie, etc. – it is the ultimate postgame/concert destination of these wardrobes that provokes discussion. The football uniform – one of many – is carelessly thrown into a basket for laundering, provided by the school; the musician takes his tuxedo – his one



and only (if he even owns it) – by hanger for dry cleaning and personal storage, all at his own expense. Imagine a football program surviving on the school's music budget.

The PAC-12 runs a commercial showing that out of the thousands of student athletes participating in college sports, the majority pursue professions outside of athletics. Knowing that sports aren't necessarily the end-all for children (or music for that matter), a well-rounded upbringing, if nothing more than one with viable options, is imperative.

At the end of his senior season, a college quarterback will walk down a similar hall one last time and see an identical college seal above the doorway. He will be met with blaring introductory music, fireworks, and thousands of cheering fans on their feet. If he's lucky, he'll spot his family in the masses. He might play well and give a post-game interview for ESPN. While just down the street, the pianist is standing at the side of a Steinway grand and taking his own bows, having completed an

hour-long set of some of the most technically demanding music ever written – all performed from memory. He receives a standing ovation of about fifteen in a hall that seats two hundred. No TV cameras, simply a quick, congratulatory hug from mom before he takes his tuxedo to the dry cleaner.

Clearly, society's affinity for sports will, without question, continue to dominate over its zeal for the arts. The idea of throwing men into an arena to fight it out is timeless, but people often overlook that music shares an equally primitive origin.

The long-term benefits of sports and music on children are apparent, though the benefits given each respective program aren't nearly as comparable. No single music director or arts advocate expects to have people valeted from parking lots to the concert hall – as is the case for some high school football programs – but the request is simple: adequate funding and program security for both the artist and the athlete. A balanced society needs both.

#areyouserious

Darrell King

One are the days when this symbol stood for pound: #.

These days, social media websites such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, amongst others, rely on the popular notion of tagging one's posts with hashtags. The reasoning behind this notion is numerous; it separates your content into easily searchable and definable groups, adds context and/or subtext, expresses emotions, or promotes oneself to potential followers, amongst other things.

Though the popular symbol has been around in the form of computer coding since the early 70s, the concept of the modern hashtag was not well-known until two years after its inception in 2007 by blogger and information technologist, Stowe Boyd, when Twitter began using hashtags to group similar posts together in 2009.

As more websites continue to support the usage of hashtags, they become more and more a global icon. In a skit on popular television comedy sketch show, Saturday Night Live, in September 2013 featuring Justin Timberlake Jimmy Fallon, the two performed a two-minute sketch mocking the over-usage of hashtags in popular culture. The content of the sketch, where the two actors play themselves, has Justin and Jimmy hold-

#your #statusupdates
#look #so #cool #with
#your #hashtags
#saidnooneever

someecards
user card



ing a conversation with each other while ironically using hashtags in real speech as if they were having a conversation through social networks. By the end of the clip they are told off for being annoying by a worker, presumably at NBC, who quite frankly tells them to #ShutTheF*ckUp.

It leaves you wondering. If a sketch comedy show such as Saturday Night Live has come to the realization that we can mock our extensive usage of hashtags in a two-minute skit, does that mean we have taken our privilege too far?

As acceptable social media practices continue to come and go, I wonder how long the hashtag has left. Whether or not the usage of hashtags will come to an end is uncertain, as they do hold a certain extent of usefulness across the various platforms. However, is our usage of the thing appropriate?

I have noticed in my time as a user of social media that I too have become a habitual user of the hashtag, plugging in even the most

remotely related tag in order to attract possible followers. As I review my posts on Instagram, I noticed the repeated use of the hashtag #hi. Does this have anything to do with the posts? No, but it is there regardless.

It has come to my realization, especially as I continue to progress with my life, that the use of meaningless things such as hashtags have

grown less and less important to my overall wellbeing. I don't feel the need to use them excessively on all of my social networking posts, though I continue to see friends and family exert every effort into sustaining their #HashtagLifestyle.

Perhaps it's because I've fallen out of touch with the things that are most important to me, but I've decided it's time to simplify my life, and I've decided to start with social media. Though I can't imagine my life without them, I don't have to let them consume my time. By eliminating something as simple as hashtags from my social media usage, I have found myself less obsessed with being on them all the time.

It's time that we find us again and stop obsessing over being connected. It's time to experience life again. If you won't take my word for it, listen to the NBC guy, #ShutTheF*ckUp and do something else with your life. Be a human again, and let the hashtag die.

Op/Ed: Media Outrage Over Racists Sustains Racism

Khayree Billingslea

Arizona State University generally overlooking larger context of event, as well as the wider implications of the event as they have affected African-American people in the past, and how they will likely affect them in the future.

officially severed ties with Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity when it came to light that a number of the fraternity's members organized and hosted a party to commemorate the birth of one of the nation's most influential civil rights activists.

Phase 5: Apologies are issued. Individual perpetrators are shamed. Back pats are distributed

The aforementioned relationship between 'shareability' and media hype finds reflection in the greater media and race issues that shape the political landscape; today, issues that affect African-American people are likely to receive media attention when a situation arises that threatens the idea that we live in a post-racial America.

From my perspective, the kind of fleeting cyclical rise and fall in media coverage of issues that affect, relate to, or reflect upon the status of African-American people in the United States is all too familiar. In my experience, the typical sequence of mainstream media outrage proceeds in the following fashion:

There is a sudden burst of outrage from 'liberals' and 'progressive thinkers' mediated via Facebook, tumblr, and/or Twitter.

Phase 2: Objective journalistic coverage of events as they happened.

Phase 3: Conservative apologists deny racist motivations of perpetrators of racist act.

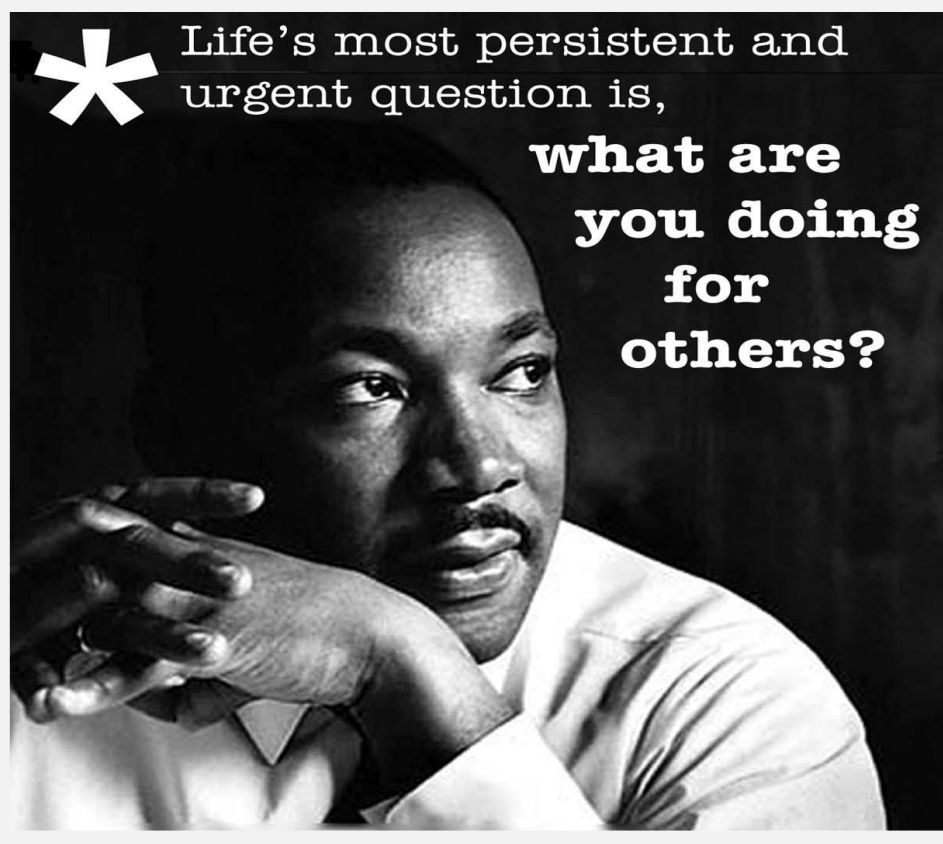
Phase 4: Discourse around event centers on moral deficiencies of individuals directly involved,

amongst the audience, and the feeling of having defeated racism makes its way into the minds into the predominantly white demographic of media consumers.

This, as we know, is the nature of media. The biggest variable determining the longevity of a news item is rarely its actual socio-historical importance, and is more commonly related to its 'shareability'—i.e., the power of an article to cast its social media-using distributor in a certain light.

in mind, I invite the reader to ask themselves the following questions:

Were the stories in the media following the TKE MLK party about racism and how the pervasiveness of this attitude could actively damage the lives of African-American people? Or were they really about one particular group of people who did something shameful?



P u t another way, heavy media outrage over moral issues directly related to race only 'matter' insofar as they relate to white people.

What Can I Do? Getting Involved in Changing the World

ACTIVISM:



problems and moving this cause higher on the public agenda.” To learn more about NO MORE and how you can help, visit their website linked above.

American Civil Liberties Union

(ACLU) The ACLU is a non-profit organization that vows to protect and defend the rights that the Constitution gives its US citizens. Using community education and litigation, they have been protecting our civil rights for almost one hundred years.

National Organization for Women (NOW)

NOW is a leader in taking action upon the equality of women in American society. Constitutional equality, abortion, ending racism/promoting diversity, economic justice, lesbian rights, and reproductive health services are the six main issues that NOW addresses through rallies, conferences and marches. Phone: (202) 628-8669

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social

Change (“The King Center”)- According to their website, The King Center is "dedicated to educating the world on the life, legacy and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., inspiring new generations to carry forward his unfinished work, strengthen causes and empower change-makers who are continuing his efforts today."

Human Rights

Campaign is the largest national civil rights organization in the United States working towards bettering LGBT rights. To learn more about the Human Rights Campaign and how you can help, visit their website or call 1 (800) 777-4723.

Today, more children than ever are fighting a losing battle with bullying in schools. **PACER’s National Bullying Prevention Center**, “actively leads social change, so

that bullying is no longer considered an accepted childhood rite of passage.” To learn more about PACER’s fight against childhood bullying and how you can help, call 1(888) 248-0822.

“NO MORE is a new unifying symbol designed to galvanize greater awareness and action to end domestic violence and sexual assault. Supported by major organizations working to address these urgent issues, NO MORE is gaining support with Americans nationwide, sparking new conversations about these

The Cost of Choice

Darrell King



was growing up. Smoking was accepted and actually considered a safe past time. Everyone from Hollywood movie stars to the local doctor smoked – while in his hospital office! Unfortunately, she didn't quit until it was too late and the effects of the poisonous chemicals which comprise cigarettes had already set in for her.

Addiction is a devious experience. My grandmother smoked for nearly sixty years of her life, fifty of which were relatively healthy. By the time she reached her late sixties, she

There's a downside to living a longer life. More time to live means more time to suffer, more time to watch your loved ones grieve, more time to wait for an ending. The hardest part is knowing loved ones face the burden of moving on after you're gone.

Two weeks passed as I sat with my family in the hospital, watching my grandmother succumb to her ever-worsening symptoms. Unbeknownst to us, my grandmother would spend these last two and a half weeks of her life in the hospital, her body failing rapidly due to the effects of the stage four lung cancer she was diagnosed with the day before her death.

By choosing to smoke, you tentatively place the burden of suffering a slow and agonizing

death on loved ones as well as yourself. Those who will watch as you cower in pain in hospital beds, struggling to breathe and unable to move due to the pain, are suffering just as much if not more for the choice you've made to engage in this dangerous act of smoking.

The life of a smoker is a cautionary tale. While there's no guarantee it will create long-lasting damage to you or the ones you love, taking the chance is gambling with the hearts and lives of those closest to you. Even if you quit, there's always a chance that there will be repercussions, much like the ones my grandmother faced toward the end of her life despite not having smoked in nearly ten years.

I don't blame my grandmother for living the way she did. Times were different when she

began having blood pressure problems. When she was 73, her right leg was amputated and she was wheelchair-bound by 76. During the last five years of her life, she was diagnosed with diabetes, high cholesterol, high blood pressure, and several other diseases, many of which can be caused by smoking.

Though it in no way makes up for the countless lives of those who have died from smoking related causes, American retail and pharmaceutical chain CVS Caremark announced earlier this month that they would halt sales of all tobacco and tobacco related content within their 7,600 retail stores by October of this year. As the second largest pharmaceutical chain behind Walgreens, this positive push towards healthier living by the company comes as a

welcome and much needed change for the anti-smoking movement.

According to the announcement posted on the company's official website, "Ending the sale of cigarettes and tobacco products at CVS/pharmacy is simply the right thing to do for the good of our customers and our company. The sale of tobacco products is inconsistent with our purpose – helping people on their path to better health."

Current statistics show over sixteen million people have at least one tobacco related disease and nearly 500,000 people die annually in the United States from smoking related causes.

As a child growing up around smokers, I learned to despise the habit. However, it does not mean that I am safe from the effects of this tragic and dangerous habit. Smoking can affect the people around you just as much as it does yourself. Children are especially prone to side effects

including asthma, pneumonia, and hospitalization with chances of developing heart disease and lung cancer later on in life.

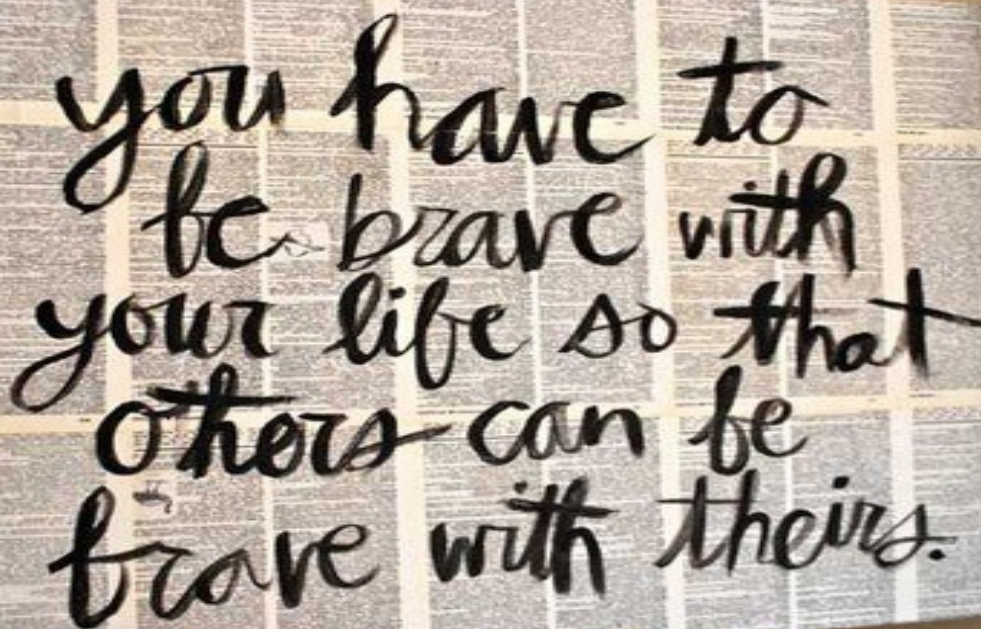
Despite the positive aspect of this decision, the announcement to halt the sales of tobacco and tobacco related products by the pharmaceutical giant does not come without its fair share of criticism. Customers have argued that though it is halting the sale of one dangerous product, the company is failing to remove other harmful merchandise from their stores including junk food and alcohol. CVS/pharmacy, which reportedly made over \$123 billion dollars last year in revenue, is expected to lose around two billion dollars a year by halting the sales of tobacco and tobacco related products.

The addiction to smoking is a vile and toxic creature that works its way in to people and consumes them from the inside out. Not a day goes by that I cannot imagine my life without my grandmother in it,

and yet she's not here. It is terrible feeling to let someone you love go when they are taken away from you by a preventable cause.

CVS/pharmacy cannot make up for the lives of all those who have been lost due to smoking, but it is paving the way for other markets to follow suit and adopt the same sales practices within their own companies. Halting the sales of tobacco products in one store will not make an immediate difference, but they are taking a stand to prove a point. While smokers know the act of smoking is dangerous, removing the harm might be the push this group needs in order to quit for good.

It's time to put an end to smoking. It's time to make a different choice, for our personal benefit and for the benefit of everyone we love.



you have to
be brave with
your life so that
others can be
brave with theirs.

Just Breathe

Shavawn M. Berry



I remember reading *Gaia* by James Lovelock as an undergraduate at New York University. I was changed by that book, as I was changed by all the books I read then. In it, Lovelock wrote of the earth as a living, breathing, sentient being. His contention was that humanity and all plant and animal life is not blasting through space on a dead rock; rather, we are swimming in a sea of numinous and numberless living creatures that are wholly dependent on their hostess. Everything from krill to shrimp to

parasites to scorpions depend on the earth as their home, their mother.

Lovelock's book was celebrated for its recognition that the earth is alive. It changed the way many people saw this planet, but, unfortunately, it didn't do much to change our behavior.

Still luminous, still spinning.

When I read that book, I was 26 or 27. I am now 53 and the earth is still alive and still luminous and still spinning through space. The

question is, will we still be here in another year, or decade or century?

Or will Gaia give us the heave-ho?

I wouldn't blame her if she did. After all, collectively we don't seem to give a shit about elephants or rhinos or polar bears or wolves. We seem to think it is OK to over-fish and dump garbage in the oceans (to the point that there are garbage floats in all of the oceans, some as big as the state of Texas). We shrug our shoulders after we spill millions of gallons of oil (most recently on the Gulf Coast) and kill

everything within several hundred miles, as well as effectively poisoning the food chain well beyond that perimeter. We allow petrochemical corporations to blast our crops and lawns and trees with enough poison to make sure every baby born for the next two hundred years will have the residue of that poison in their cells and DNA.

Many among us don't seem to understand how to live softly or sustainably. We mow through resources and guzzle water and pollute like there's no tomorrow -- to the point that there may be no tomorrow.

So where's the hope in all this?

The hope -- for all of us -- lies in the fact that we are beginning to realize we are all connected. There is no separation between us and the environment. We are this world and this world is us. If we don't change, if we don't wake up, if we don't remember to treasure this beautiful planet, we will be the ones who are gone. The earth won't go away. We will.

What can we do? Make one small change every day. Shop locally. Stay home. Drive less. Start

a garden. Read to a child. Take shorter showers. Teach someone to cook from scratch. Avoid all processed foods. Eat less meat. Join a book club or a peace group. Volunteer at a food bank. Give away belongings we are not using. Clean our homes with baking soda and vinegar and water. Put out water for the birds. Feed feral cats and get them neutered or spayed. Teach someone to read. Pick up trash. Clean up a river or stream. Use less water. Make art. Sing. Celebrate small joys. Write letters. Talk to each other. Really talk to each other.

Listen.

Listen to school children and lions and tigers and bears.

Listen to the tide and the rush of the ocean.

See each other as collaborators rather than competitors.

Our whole economy is based on the idea that more is better. Consume more. Buy more. Eat more. The problem is, we are running out of space and resources. We cannot just continue to rapaciously consume. We must become

conscious, awake, moral, ethical, responsible stewards for this planet.

And I believe we can do that. I believe we can change. I see it happening. I see the capacity that my students have to be shaped, to be changed by a good idea, a good plan, or a good cause. I see it in the openness that some among us have toward others. Not everyone possesses this level of tolerance or this ability to embrace change, but more people are waking up every day.

So, these days, I remind myself when I am hyperventilating in fear:

Just breathe.

Just take one step.

Just take one action.

Reach out to one person. Open your heart. Cook one lovely meal.

Just breathe and consciously and carefully focus on the present moment and listen for its call. Listen for what to do next. If enough individuals awaken in this very way, there is nothing that is impossible.

“Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing.”

~ Arundhati Roy, War Talk

Portrait of a Whistleblower: The Ethics of Propaganda

Rylee Grafil

Coding flashes on laptop screens as two men sit facing each other in a dark room. In a few keystrokes, they've changed the world, starting a modern-day revolution. These are 21st century activists.

An organization called WikiLeaks was documented in the film *The Fifth Estate* (2013). Never heard of it? Not surprising. It was the lowest-grossing, wide-release film last year.

No one was more critical of the film than the central character, Julian Assange himself. Assange, the founder of WikiLeaks, read an early draft of the screenplay in 2012. He called the movie a "serious propaganda attack on WikiLeaks and the integrity of its staff." In an open letter to actor Benedict Cumberbatch, who portrayed Assange in the film, Assange stated that the film grossly distorted and "[smothered] the truthful version of events."

It's easy to dismiss his claims. Assange is famously critical of depictions of WikiLeaks in pop culture, and made similar accusations against the documentary *We Steal Secrets: The Story of WikiLeaks* also released last year. While Assange is certainly a polarizing figure, he makes a strong case against *The Fifth Estate*.

The film's portrayal of Assange is less than kind, to put it mildly. In the beginning of the film, he and programmer partner Daniel Berg are portrayed as renegade journalists, exposing corrupt Swiss Banks. As the film progresses, it begins to paint a less flattering portrait. Assange becomes increasingly abrasive and paranoid. He's a narcissist with delusions of grandeur when it comes to WikiLeaks. He compulsively lies,

and he has little regard for people whose lives are affected by his actions.

Contrast this with the vastly more positive depiction of the United States government. One of the film's many subplots centers around three State Department officials desperately trying to protect an informant caught in the crossfire of the 2010 leaks. The government officials are willing to sacrifice their reputation and jobs in order to protect this man, whose identity was made public.

It also adds in incorrect details. In a scene towards the end

lies about his white hair. The film shows him dyeing it its famous hue; also untrue. There are also subtle implications that Assange was raised in a cult, for which there is little evidence. Perhaps most seriously, many people claim that the film's depiction of Assange as someone who has little regard for consequences, who whistle-blow first and thinks later, is patently untrue.

Whatever you think of Assange, WikiLeaks changed our perception of wars in both Iraq and Afghanistan. In fact, WikiLeaks has been called the future of journalism



Assange stated that the film "smothered the truthful version of events."

of the film, Daniel Berg and other members of the WikiLeaks team tear down the website, shutting Assange out in a desperate attempt to stop him. It's tense and gripping; however, it's not true. In a sort-of running joke, Assange frequently

and the most dangerous website in the world. The 2010 leaks are widely regarded as one of the most significant news stories of the decade. Whatever you decide to call it, there's no denying its impact on the world.

Check Your Charity

Elyse Hertfelder

We're told to think twice about lots of things. Think twice before you say something rude. Think twice before you post something on Facebook. You should even think twice before you take that last bite of chocolate cake. I'm sure everyone thinks twice about spending and investing their money, but what about giving it away? Who would tell you to think twice about giving your money to charity? Me.

Charities are supposed to be non-profit organizations that give to those who can't help themselves. When we give fifty dollars to help fund a cure for cancer, we want that entire fifty dollars to go into the charity's pot, not to the salary of its leader. Unfortunately, this is not always the case; know where your money is going.

Colleen Kane's article from CNBC quotes Vice President of Marketing & CFO of Charity Navigator, Sandra Miniutti saying, "... that the typical charity spends 75% of its budget on programs, 10% on fundraising and 15% on administrative. . . Donors should look for groups that hit or come close to this benchmark. . ." Because the salaries of the charities' workers are figured into that 15%, be sure you know exactly how much they are spending on them. In fact, you can even find

their IRS records on the Foundation Center's website.

By now, you're probably wondering which charities are trustworthy, which is a valid question. In short, don't succumb to the charities that use telemarketers begging for donations; they're probably the least trustworthy. Between 20-90 cents of that dollar you're giving is being put into the pockets of the telemarketing company.

Those that are best at giving money directly to their cause are those that aren't well-known. In that same CNBC article, Daniel Borochoff, President of the American Institute of Philanthropy, says, "Usually less popular causes with built-in constituencies that are more targeted in their fundraising and therefore have lower fundraising costs, e.g. gay, African-American, Hispanic rights." Sadly, the ones that receive the least amount of help give more money toward their actual cause.

Now, you would think the big budget charities that gain awareness by having marathons every year that have the ability to spend all that money on their cause would give most of it toward research or the homeless, but the fact of the matter is that's just not where it's going. I get it, running a multi-billion dollar organization is

hard work, and why not get compensated handsomely for it? Seeing as it's a charity, there are some things that donors will always view as wrong.

Kane writes, "... leadership compensations that have raised controversies on the Charity Navigator website include major names like the American Cancer Society, which inspired 81 donor comments, overwhelmingly critical of the Deputy CEO's \$1,027,306 compensation, as well as Save the Children (\$365,130), Susan G. Komen For the Cure (\$531,924), Boys & Girls Club of America (\$593,926), and the American Heart Association (\$1,089,331). The USO's CEO pulls down \$435,762 annually. . ." These salaries may be justifiable, and they may not anger many of you, but for those that find these tremendously large, you're not alone.

I want everyone to be aware of how important it is to know where your money is going. You have the ability to change lives with it, not line someone's pocket. Be knowledgeable with giving it away and in caring where it goes. Keep your eyes peeled, your ears open, and when you feel like something isn't right, go with your gut. Think twice and donate carefully. You won't only be helping yourself, but those who need it most.

CHECK YOUR CHARITY

Below are a series of websites dedicated to ensuring charitable organizations are valid:

- Charity Navigator, Guidestar, Better Business Bureau, and Great Nonprofits: these organizations list tax exempt status and IRS filings, attach a rating system to charities, keep listings of complaints, and provide user reviews for more in-depth experience analysis.

Contributors' Bios



Justin Petersen is a senior at ASU and will graduate in May with a degree in Linguistics. Upon graduation, he plans to pursue advanced degrees in Linguistics and to work as a collegiate professor. In addition to his academic studies, Justin has collaborated with several music students as a pianist, performing in ASU's Recital Hall, Katzin Concert Hall, Organ Hall, Evelyn Smith Theater, and Gammage Auditorium.



Khayree Billingslea is an English Literature student at Arizona State University. When he's not looking into his computer, he's at local DIY music shows, waiting for the next opportunity to look at his phone without missing some important part of the act. His interests include technology, philosophy, and conceptual art.

Rylee Grafil is a junior majoring in communication with a concentration in society, technology, and culture at Arizona State University. She hopes to go in to the public relations field in the future. In her spare time, Rylee enjoys reading graphic novels, being part of the ASU Model UN Team, and cuddling her Boston terrier.

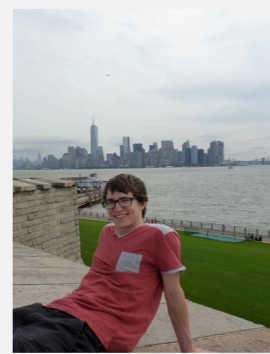


Laura Houck is finishing her last



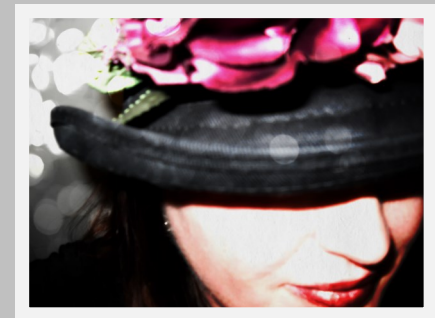
semester at Arizona State University and will graduate with a BA in English Literature and a minor in History from the Barrett Honors College in May. You can usually find her getting lost in BBC period dramas or with her nose stuck in a book. After graduation, she hopes to work with talented writers and someday own her own giant library.

Alec Gebhart is currently working on getting his bachelor's degree in English Literature. After graduation, he hopes to teach high



school English while working on his master's degree, so he can eventually teach at the college level.

Alec hopes to travel after graduation as well, with Macchu Picchu, Peru, being the first stop on the list. In his spare time, Alec enjoys writing short stories and performing stand-up comedy with his friends.



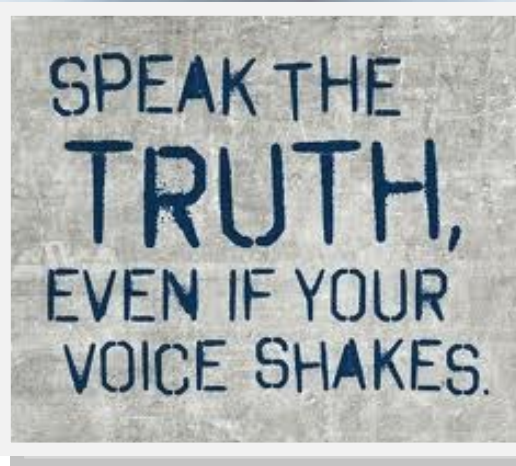
Shavawn M. Berry, Managing Editor is also a writer and a poet. Her work is forthcoming or has appeared in *The Huffington Post*, *Journey of the Heart—Women's Spiritual Poetry*, *Black Fox Literary Magazine*, *Olentangy Review*, *Rebelle Society*, *Vagina—The Zine*, *Poet Lore*, *The Cancer Poetry Project 2*, *Ebsco Poetry database*, *Westview*, *California Quarterly*, *Synapse*, *Poetry Seattle*, *Blue Mountain Arts*, *North Atlantic Review*, and *Concho River Review.*, to name a few She teaches writing and editing fulltime at Arizona State University. Her blog, *Falling Into Wonderland*, has thousands of readers throughout the world. *Kalliope* has been, and continues to be, a labor of love for her.

The Day We Fight Back

Jennifer Mata

On Tuesday, February 11, 2014, the Internet helped launch a collective scream against invasive international spying. Known as “The Day We Fight Back,” organizations such as the Electronic Frontier Foundation, Demand Progress, the American Civil Liberties Union, and a multitude of major Internet websites posted banners on home pages declaring their stance on fighting mass surveillance. While the day’s events meant to focus on the U.S. digital privacy invasion, particularly targeting the National Security Agency, countries worldwide supported the call to end secretive government-sanctioned spying of citizens.

The organizers of the event chose February 11 to commemorate and honor the late activist Aaron Swartz. Swartz was a dedicated visionary in protesting against the Internet privacy acts SOPA/PIPA and spreading awareness about attempts by the government to access personal information without public knowledge and permission. In 2011, he was found guilty of illegally downloading thousands of articles from JSTOR via MIT and threatened with substantial prison time. Succumbing to the pressure,



Swartz took his own life on January 11, 2013.

This particular fight against the National Security Agency has come to a head over the past year thanks to one man who decided to drop the dime on his own employer. Former NSA analyst Edward Snowden released his entire collection of top-secret, classified documents to journalist Glenn Greenwald at the UK-based

G u a r d i a n, outlining a series of global surveillance programs used to collect digital information from cell phones and computers.

The extent of the leaks became headline news as soon as Greenwald began publishing the documents in June 2013. Media outlets reported the NSA programs had been actively collecting emails, text messages, and phone calls for years. In the second article published by Greenwald on June 6 he writes, “The program facilitates extensive, in-depth surveillance on live communications and stored information. The law allows for the targeting of any customers of participating firms who live outside the US, or those Americans whose communications include people outside the US. It also opens the possibility of communications made entirely within the US being collected without warrants.”

The release of these documents has been devastating to international trust and levels of security. For the first time, no matter where an average citizen turned, the scandal was front-page news and those unaware of the government’s Big Brother peek into their personal lives caused outrage.

Kalliope: Beautiful Voiced

“There's nothing more dangerous than someone who wants to make the world a better place.” - Banksy

Leaders of digital privacy advocacy groups such as Demand Progress and the EFF banded together to create “The Day We Fight Back” as a way to use the Internet as a weapon against its enemies. The website created for the event ([The Day We Fight Back](#)) has tallied the numbers of e-mails sent and phone calls made to Congress demanding an end to these surveillance programs. The site claims eighty-nine thousand phone calls were successfully placed, over five-hundred thousand e-mails were sent to state and federal representatives, and more than three-hundred thousand signatures were collected among various organizations “demanding privacy as a human right.” Founders remind those willing to speak out that this is not just a one-day event but must continue to be brought to the attention of the mainstream media.

Of course the movement received harsh criticism from skeptics. Several media outlets reported these events would have little to no impact on the state of such corruption itself. In terms of Internet blackout protests, such as

those against SOPA and PIPA bills, the protest numbers fell short of expectations. *The New York Times* even called it “the day the Internet didn’t fight back.” Activists worldwide held fast, however, claiming that the need to fight for a better future has to start somewhere.

The United States government is hell-bent on control of information and has been for decades, although the extent of collected information since the 9/11 attacks has spurred citizens to realize that their right to privacy no longer exists. When it comes to “matters of national security,” rest assured—you don’t have any right to privacy. It shouldn’t be this way and it doesn’t have to be. Citizens should not need to feel completely exposed and violated for a group of people who claim the need-to-know is more important than the basic principle of privacy. The global digital connection is fighting back in a big way, not only for themselves, but also for those who have sacrificed their lives to inform us Big Brother truly is watching us day and night.

Be a
voice,
not an
echo.

KALLIOPE
A CONSORTIUM
OF NEW VOICES

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