



Youth of Today
Hope of Tomorrow



Bullying and Bystanders



Tyler Allen
Gus Garcia YMLA

A repeated problem facing students is bullying. Most adults say that bullying has always been around. They also say it is not going away. The rich bully the poor. The big kid do it to smaller students and shorter ones. It goes on and on. Even some bully grow-up and them selves

become bullies. I find out that it is only part of the problem. The other is that others stand back and just watch.

Often they smile and laugh while these acts are carried out. Some when questioned about these incident will not want to get involved. This often cause the problem to get worst. When talking this over Bullying/bystanders with adults they give you an adult answer.

Most say the problem has been around forever. They say it is because good people too often stand around and watch things happen to others. But do nothing knowing what is happening is bad. One more week to "Summer Break".

What Can Be Done to Reduce Police Brutality?



Lacey Johnson
Connally High School

Police brutality has been an outraging and ongoing topic throughout our modern world ever since the easily avoidable death of an African American citizen was recorded and broadcasted to the world. As viewers, we watched in despair as 4 Minnesota deputy officers aided in the death of an African American man, 1 officer stressing a barricade in the victim's throat, while the other 3 observed with no sense of remorse. Despite the victim in the famous Minnesota case being an African American, police brutality throughout its history has shown no bias for any of its victims, however, in more recent years we can conclude that a high amount of the abuse is towards African Americans. This stages an obvious issue amongst black citizens as it creates a stigma of fear for themselves, their families, and their children against the people who are supposed to be their protectors. Police brutality needs to be put to an

end because police officers are staining their relationships with black citizens and they see all people of color as a threat. What can the police departments across the country can do to stop this outrage abuse of power and authority. One thing they can do is to stop hiring racist officers.

There is no doubt that the ongoing bloodshed of African Americans is due to police brutality and it is causing a major problem within the black community. Ana Sandoiu, the author of a 2018 study, shows that "police kill an estimate of 300 Black Americans — in any event, a fourth of them are unarmed — each year in the USA." With these statistics it would not be abnormal to claim African Americans are feeling paranoid every time they encounter police. They feel as if their life is in danger over something as little as a traffic stop. Imagine the constant distress and anxiety they get when simply stepping outside of their homes or taking a walk in their neighborhood. Police officers are brutalizing their own image to American citizens, specifically the Black community.

In various literatures regarding racial inequality, we see a high number of unjust police brutality cases toward African American compared to the white population. These numbers show that it is common

2nd Pfizer Vaccine



Sarah Robertson
Connally H. S.

After waiting around three weeks from my first Pfizer Vaccine I received my second vaccine.

This time around I wasn't nervous about getting the shot, I was more worried about the symptoms afterwards. From what I heard from various sources that the vaccine symptoms are more pronounced after the second dose. After I got the first dose, all I felt

was pain and discomfort around the injection site that lasted only about a day. That was similar to what I felt for the second dose, however I also felt drowsiness the following day.

I would encourage everyone to go out and get the vaccine, you are not only helping yourself but you are helping those around you. I got my vaccine through UT nursing, but you can get them at CVS, and pop ups around Austin. It is very important that you do research about the vaccines and which one is the best option for you, a great website is the CDC.gov and local government websites. Don't forget to wash your hands, wear a mask and stay home.

for the police to target African American citizens and people of color more often than other races. In accordance with a study done at the Stanford Open Policing Project, within a sample of 100 million traffic stops, black people were around 20% more likely to be stopped than white drivers and were searched around 1.5 to 2 times as often as white drivers despite them being less likely to be carrying illegal contraband. Seeing statistics like these truly paint the canvas of the mindset of majority of police officers. It gives the impression that the only true crime being committed in many of these stops is simply just being an African American. Change must occur and it must happen quickly. The level of inequality in policing is simply unbearable. Targeting citizens based on their skin color is a common occurrence that must stop.

Furthermore, I believe during the preparations of officially becoming an officer, going through the individual's social media accounts, and requiring more training that reveals officers' true moral intents should be mandatory. Staunton News Leader, William Ramsey, wrote an article titled *White Supremacist Cops*, where the focus lies on a post deputy named Heather Taylor. She describes scrolling through multiple present officer's social media accounts and finding a bundle of Confederate flags, anti-immigrant, homophobic, and racist

rhetoric posts." This is a disturbing matter. What makes it more ominous, and appalling is the fact these individuals are the protectors of our neighborhoods. I believe seeing such heinous materials beforehand would eliminate a large majority of the police brutality we see today. The police departments simply do not do enough background checks to eliminate these types of officers from being hired. Therefore, we need to dive into our officer's background and social media and not hire them if their background suggest that they are racist and bias and they cannot serve and protect all races, gender, nationalities, and disabled citizens of America.

In closing, though police brutality has already caused a considerable amount of damage to people's loved ones, it is never too late to halt the damage that has already occurred. Doing so, would restore a more neutral relationship between police and black citizens, end police stereotyping of black citizens, and gain more openings for cops who truly have a moral deed to breed peace in our communities. As beautiful as all of that would sound, it begins with change, and change is simply right around the corner. All we must do is believe in it and engage. Although we can never bring back the life of the fallen black citizens, we can bring them justice, and eliminate the term "police brutality" for our future generations.

First Time Mowing



Aiden Loyden
Teravista Elementary

Sunday was my first time ever mowing a lawn! I mowed my backyard. It was cool, soothing, and satsafying. I started at the right and zig zagged all around. I pushed it up and

down trying to cut the tall weeds and grass. The grass was blowing on me the whole time but it smelt good though. I would have a hard time turning it so it was hard going up and around. It was cool seeing pieces of grass and weeds blow against the fence and house. My hands were hurting a lot because I had to hold down a bar so it wouldn't stop. My parents came out a couple of times to give me tips.

After my mom went inside, I went over the yard again and got some more grass and weeds. I had fun mowing the lawn for the first time.

Regional Track Meet



Ava Roberts
Pflugerville H. S.

Region III's 5A & 6A Track Meet took place on April 23-24 at Turner Stadium in Humble, TX. Athletes from my school participated in several events. Girls competed in the 3200 Meter Run, 100 Meter Hurdles, 100 Meter Dash, 4x200 Meter Relay, 200 Meter Dash, Pole Vault, and Shot Put. Boys participated in the 800

Meter Run.

My team was excited about qualifying to compete for a spot in the State Track Meet. The first day of the meet had severe thunderstorms and hard rain throughout the day. But the meet was not cancelled. Many events were rescheduled for later time slots or moved to day 2. Day 2's weather was very hot and humid like a summer day in July.

I competed in the Shot-Put event on day 2. Although I did not qualify for state this time, I will continue training. I felt good about my performance and am looking forward to the 2023 track and field season.

Texas Hospitals Require Employees to get Vaccinated



Ruby George
Cele Middle School

A hospital system in Houston is requiring all of its employees to get vaccinated against Covid-19, making it one of the first major hospital systems in the US to mandate vaccination among employees and move to fire them if they don't comply. Houston Methodist, a network of eight hospitals that has 26,000 employees, said it will require every employee to provide proof of vaccination by June 7. If employees aren't vaccinated before the June deadline, they'll be suspended, without pay, for two weeks. If they're not vaccinated within that sus-

pension period, the company will "initiate the employee termination process," according to the company's new HR policy, implemented this month.

"As health care workers we must do everything possible to keep our patients safe and at the center of everything we do," Houston Methodist CEO Dr. Marc Bloom told employees in an email. "By choosing to be vaccinated, you are leaders, showing our colleagues in health care what must be done to protect our patients, ourselves, our families and our communities." Employees have until May 3 to apply for exemption for religious or medical reasons. If their request is denied, they're expected to get vaccinated before the June deadline.

The hospital system already mandated the vaccine for "Phase 1 employees," which included new hires, executives and managers. They were expected to provide proof of vaccination by mid-April. About 89% of all employees have been vaccinated so far, Bloom said in the email.