

**GETTING AROUND THE NSA**

By Staff Writer Riley Wymer

Fear grasps the nation as the NSA invades our snug little living rooms and exposes every one of our idiosyncrasies via interception of our emails, text messages, phone calls and posts on social networks. With the national security breach by Snowden in June 2013, comes a personal security breach throughout the country. Across the United States teens quiver at the thought of the government knowing their high school crushes, the elderly grumble over the thought of Obama reading over their grocery list of prescriptions, and Congressmen tremble to think the NSA is perusing every nude they've sent.

However, many Americans have discovered an alternate route, the solution to all the worries cast over the nation. Letter writing has become more popular than ever before during the 21st century. Teens, adults and ripened alike are setting



down their cell phones and picking up a quill and stationery. The United States Postal Service (USPS) experienced a huge leap in gross earnings in the last year and expectations for the years to come are high. Experts say the number of patrons isn't the only reason; people have also forgotten how to write more than one thought per message, causing exponential growth in the "letters to person" ratio. One letter from Mary D. of Chicago, Illinois to John R. read "R U goin' 2 show 2nite?", eliciting the response "no". Truncated length in the average letter inspired the USPS to offer bulk deals: for every five letters sent, send another free.

The influx of letter writing fanatics is astonishing, USPS customer service reports over two thousand calls last Tuesday, all concerned about the USPS' lack of an auto-correct system (similar to those found on the iPhone). Such concern evoked positive response from the heads of the Postal Service as they recently requested counseling from the world's dominating social networks. Twitter founders suggested a stamp be required for every 140 characters, meanwhile Facebook proposed a "like" button on the back of envelopes. Certainly dramatic changes are foreseen in the future of the United States Postal Service, but what are the consequences of returning to letter carriers?

Of course, as with any system of communication, resorting to letter writing has its downfalls. Due to fear of tracking devices hidden within the contemporary mail truck, public demand resurrected the pony express, making a cross-country delivery interminable. However, Americans seem to have adapted fairly well, the "wait three days" rule popular in budding relationships transformed into "respond immediately and hope the letter makes it this year". Plans to visit the cinema

must be made years in advance, far before the movie has been conceived by a director, and Granny must now utilize her imagination by adding three years and peach fuzz to the child in the "10th Birthday" photo she received.

Isn't it worth it though? To sacrifice the luxury of instant communication for the benefit of knowing the NSA will never find out that senior Jim asked out freshman Sally, that Betty Bluehair has been prescribed laxatives and antibiotics that aren't supposed to be taken together? Security comes with a price, which to our benefit only sums up to be a couple of years, just enough time to decide if you're going to the show tonight.

BUFFALO STREETS SAFER WITHOUT BLINKING

By Staff Writer Shannon Keller

They say taking your eyes off the road is all it takes to cause an accident in a split second- and that is exactly the reason why a new bill was proposed in Buffalo Court last Monday. The Blinking and Driving Act - which will ban blinking at the wheel- will allegedly decrease the rate of accidents by up to seventy percent in the next year alone in the Buffalo area.

If you thought texting and driving was dangerous, studies show that the amount of vision loss of the road by blinking is up to sixty-eight times higher than that of texting at the wheel or changing the radio station during your average car ride. "With the new texting-while-driving law in effect as well as this blinking-while-driving act, Buffalo streets will certainly be muchsafer.." according to Mayor Byron Beige. "I'm all about making thestreets safer. Blinking while driving is a huge issue that needs to be addressed, and we continue to investigate this cause." Beige eagerly stated. Distracted driving will cease to exist!

To make sure no one blinks at the wheel, Miles Davis-an inventor-created a device enabling drivers to keep their eyes on the road at all times.

"It is imperative-" Davis stresses- "that all drivers are aware of this very overlooked cause ofaccidents." Davis derived his device from a medieval torture device used to keep peasants eyes open. "It's fantastic,"Miles says, "what history can teach us for the future of road safety!" The device will be required by every driver in the Buffalo area when the Act takes effect. Miles says he has faith that this will make a difference in society-teaching "young fellers like [his little] knucklehead" to realize how a little action can have a big effect.

The Blinking and Driving Act will take effect in the next month or so, and fines for blinking at the wheel will range from \$200-\$900 based upon what speed and location the crime is committed in. Police plan to keep eyes out for blinkers, and making sure every driver has the proper headgear to drive with their eyes open. Police Officer Waldo Shelby shares his opinion: "It's great- it really helps the community

realize hidden dangers in their neighborhoods, and eliminate dangerous drivers." Practicing safe driving and eliminating distracted driving remains an important issue in our community. Missing a split second is all it takes, so this bill remains imperative to our society as we know it. Please, don't

LASER TAG: WHY IT'S BETTER THAN RUNNING A MARATHON

By Staff Writer Carly Hoffman

Considering running a marathon in order to enhance your physical fitness? Well think again; marathons make you tired. Instead of wasting hours running 26.2 miles, hop on the bandwagon of laser tag- a fun and supposedly physically challenging activity that won't make you tired. Stud-



ies show that marathon participants are more likely to experience physical exhaustion and nausea, while laser tag on the other hand, grants you the privilege of making it look like you are actually exercising when you aren't (so who's the real winner here?). Actively participating in the art that is laser tag through summersaults and back flips in order to take down your opponent creates the skewed perception of a "gym-class hero" - which I mean, who doesn't aspire to be that? In addition, encountering numerous different colored lasers while enclosed in an entirely dark room allows a unique experience- teaching you survival skills as if you were out in the wild. Running on pavement for 5 hours teaches you nothing but physical endurance and how to focus your mind -which is obviously completely useless if you are trapped in a dark cave with people shooting laser beams at you- as we all know that is what happens when you are stranded in nature. Even more so, a recent psychology experiment conducted in Boston, MA, in 2008 concluded that 89 percent of tornado survivors just so happened to be current members of their local laser tag joint. Coincidence? I don't think so. Sure, marathon runners may have been able to outrun the tornado, but laser tag enthusiasts were able to shoot down the tornado with their laser guns; thus diminishing the tornado and saving all of humanity. So, I believe it is obvious which benefits you in the long run. Why waste your time becoming a healthy athlete when you can just pretend you are one, look cool, survive in the wilderness, and save humanity all at the same time? When all else in your life fails you, just remember, Laser tag rules.

WHAT'S THE BEST THING FOR YOUR CHILDREN? TACO BELL

By Staff Writer Megan O'Donnell

Taco Bell gives kids more than just a nutritious meal. Taco Bell gives their customers their orders in an average of 3.43 seconds. This speedy customer service and meal preparation time allows your children to have more time to play their instruments, study for finals, and practice their sports. Ergo, eating Taco Bell will help improve your child's athletic performance. Studies show that eating Taco Bell every day can save you 35 minutes a week rather than eating at an alternative restaurant. Admittedly, there are several other fast food places in the US, but not one of them is faster than Taco Bell's efficient and well-staffed assembly line. In addition, Taco Bell will help your child experience other cultures. Eating the exact same food as children in Mexico will help unite the two countries. Both the kids in America and Mexico will taste the defrosted meat, overloading mild sauce, and the grease oozing out the back of the taco. Nothing unites different cultures like being able to enjoy the same foods. Taco Bell strives to make its meals identical to the ones eaten everywhere in South America. Taco Bell's healthy, tasty, and addictive food kids every day learn more about this amazing culture which gave the idea for this amazing food. Studies show that 21 out of 100 people feel the need to study Spanish and the Mexican culture after biting into Taco Bell's unbeatable Taco. In addition, Taco Bell's tacos are not only for eating. That mouthwatering grease can also be used to exfoliate for your skin. Nothing improves a child's complexion like rubbing left over taco grease on it. This not only benefits the children, but also the parents and teens too! Got a hot date coming up with a cute guy but you break out an hour before? Run over to Taco Bell and you can fix that skin in less than five minutes. If you let the juice drip out of your taco onto your napkin, you can rub that napkin across the biggest of pimples and it will disappear in minutes. Everyone knows grease is the best cure for bad skin, they just fail to realize that Taco Bell's grease is the most effective. Taco Bell's benefits more than just your taste buds. If you chose Taco Bell, you ensure your child, as well as yourself, better grades, better athletic skills, better understanding of other cultures, better understanding of Spanish, and better skin.



Let's be Real, Is Global Warming Really a Bad Thing?

By Staff Writer James Czora

Global Warming has been deemed a "serious problem" lately, and many must have the same question that I do, WHY? Global warming is a great thing, who cares if the average temperature around the world is climbing in a prolific manner, who cares if the 20th century's last two decades were the hottest in 400 years and possibly the warmest for several millennia, who cares if the average temperatures of the coldest places on this earth have risen at twice the global average, who cares if a rctic ice is rap-

idly disappearing and the region may have its first completely ice-free summer by 2040, who cares if Polar Bears, Coral Reefs, and other living animals are suffering from such drastic changes, were only human anyways right? Even though yearly emissions have gone up by about 6 billion metric tons since 1990 its no big deal, as long as we can still amass our harmless garbage and waste into beautiful land-fills, pump scenic clouds of green house gases from our beloved factories, and hop in our flashy SUV's to go to the store, who cares. How about we truly reflect on all of the positive motivation that we have obtained from global warming now. For some reason global warming has been receiving a lot of bad publicity in our innocent society, when really, it should be praised. First of all it has forced about 1% of Earth's loyal population to stop watching television and think, did you hear me, TO THINK! Apart from the "tree-huggers" in this world, men and women, motivated by global warming, have created inventions such as the modern windmill, the electric car(which actually produces more pollution, when manufactured, than it will deter), bicycles, and the concept of recycling. Why are all of these super inventions so significant, lets find out. If we didn't have windmills... then we wouldn't have cool things to look at and say "woooooow" while we are creating pollution by driving in our overrated vehicles. This would lead to an overall increase in the "death by boredom" phenomena, which occurs when people are so bored while they are driving that they become suicidal, not cool. Its not really a big thing now, but if windmills were eliminated from our driving views, it would become popular, just saying. Wow, life with out the electric car, lets skip that one, I am one-hundred percent sure that our lives would all be devastated with out them. If the .000001% of people in this world that ride bicycles, didn't, there would probably be an even larger obesity epidemic than there already is. Though an even bigger concern should be, what that one person who rides there bike to work every day would do. This one is really hard to imagine though, no recycling, what would we have to do if there was no recy-



cling in this world? Would we really have to throw our plastic away, our styrofoam away, our paper away? No, we would never ever do such a thing, well not if this world meant anything to us. We can also thank global warming for reluctantly bringing together the stubborn countries of the world on their agreement that global warming is happening. Truly, global warming should not be blamed for anything, it should be thanked. Just keep that in mind next time you hear of animals dieing, or glaciers melting, or temperatures rising.

Pollution and Obesity: The Only Things that can save the World

By Staff Writer Amanda Anstett

Studies have shown that 100% of people who breath air die. Yet, now people are living longer than ever! What has changed? Well, of course, it is not the technological advances in medicine or higher living standards or anything of that matter, it is clearly only the product of two very paramount



things: the rise in percentage of body fat and the pollution that surround you and I. In the Dark Ages of Europe, the lifespan was a wee age of 25ish. The bubonic plague was coursing through the nation. In the early American society, people of the Chesapeake Bay Colonies also experienced this abysmal life span! Well, obviously, during these times, your neighbors, your mom, and your children were dying of hunger left and right and air pollution was nonexistent due to the lack of technology. So, people were very thin and weren't breathing in 'harmful chemicals'. Evidently, nowadays, obesity rates have skyrocketed, fat people left and right, and CO2 emissions are burning a hole an atmosphere. What is the correlation you might ask? Well, people live to be 100 these days, a whole 80 years more than before, and these two factors greatly contribute to it. A study was done by Dr. Pepper(1) exhibiting how when humans breath in pollution particles, such as CO2 and methane, these particles are bind into their adipose tissue (aka fat) and enforce the body and soul of the person. So, in conclusion, the rising obesity rates of everyone in the world and the rising pollution in the air we breath is the key to immortality. Yes, you heard me correct, you can live forever. So, we should keep infesting the air with our human made 'harmful chemicals' and just keep gaining weight for days, we can keep expanding our life span until it reaches infinity and beyond! No worries for diabetes gained from obesity or cancers caused by 'harmful chemicals', if we keep on going and going the obvious correlation between both factors will increase human happiness, lifespan, and benefit the world overall!

1. Dr. Pepper Study of Obesity and Pollution: This took place in Houston, Texas, were pollution and obesity are most evident. Everyone who participated was not harmed in any way.

