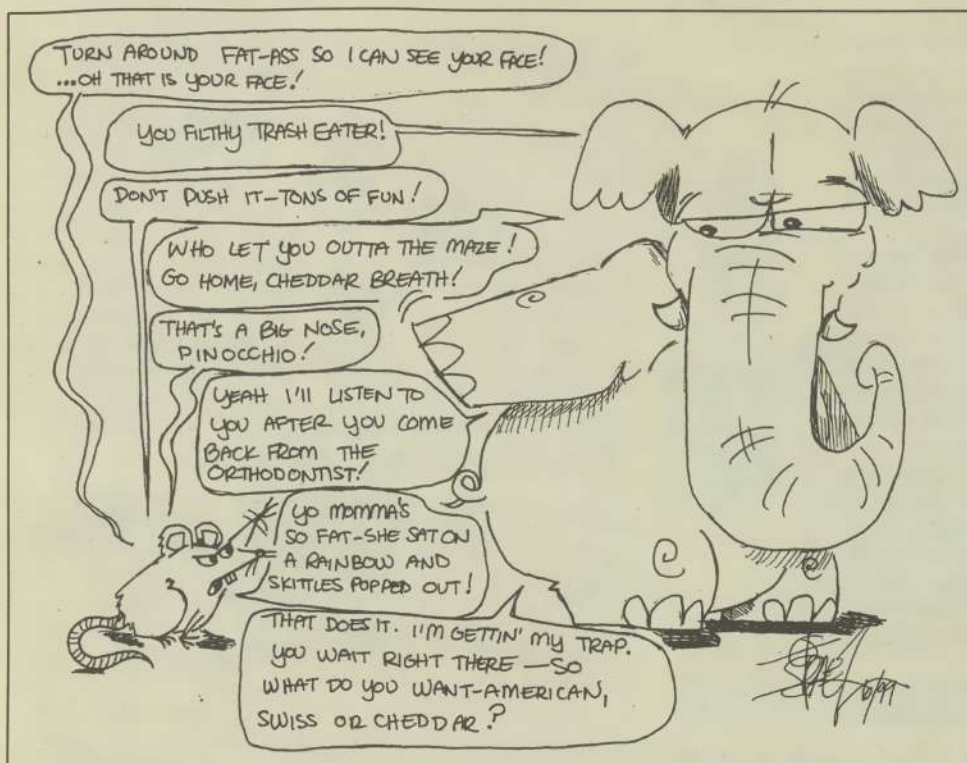


Sticks and stones may break your bones, but names still hurt



Violent tendencies are created in our children, not born in them.

We've all heard the old saying, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me."

The rash of school violence

waiting to go off.

Society has left us with many wrong ideas about values and morals, leaving room for sadness and low self-worth to enter the lives of today's children.

Blood of innocents is spilled every day. We know what we create and still we taunt and tease causing the anguish of others. Should we be

at fault for the sadness and violence we have created? I think so. Many innocent lives were shattered because instead of saying a thoughtful word about

someone we chose to ignore or even taunt one of our peers. Think for a moment if the shoe was on the other foot. If someone called you fat or ugly, would it be so easy to turn the other cheek, laugh it off and walk away? Probably not; you'd cry, gnash your teeth and even go as far as to say, "I'm going to kill you!" But could we ever do it, really?

The next time we choose to taunt, tease or be mean to others, we should stop and think of the possibility that we could be creating another act of violence in today's schools. After all, sticks and stones may break your bones, but names really do hurt.

Make a Statement, Be Heard...

SALENA DE LA CRUZ

Staff Writer



that has occurred the last few years has proved that names do hurt and people do feel. Every report that I have seen on television supports the wrong in the old proverb. Every child who had their heart broken or self-esteem shattered, has shown us the error of our ways.

We are what created the misunderstood children who have been taunted and teased about how they dress or act. We as a society have created the evils that have made children act in such violent ways. "Fatass, slut, whore, stinky, ugly, crater face, and fatty" are just some of the razor-laced words that kids are faced with every day. The outcome of these taunts and teasing is that the kid goes through life lonely, angry and depressed, a time bomb just

Teach children about life through the arts

I've been thinking for some time about the turmoil in our society today, especially concerning youths. My conclusion: It is not a bit surprising that things are out

ward path and showed them that there are opportunities in the world for everyone. Now, where do the students who don't do well in a classroom environment go? They

turn to drugs, gangs and even sex to keep their time occupied. The majority of them drop out of school, a few are scooped up by alternative learning programs, and a couple may attend community college in-

stead of high school, as a means to continue their education.

If we plan to continue teaching children about life, shouldn't the creative arts be part of that? A student goes to school at least eight hours a day, seven days a week and nine months out of the year. There definitely needs to be some outlet for their emotions. Art, drama, photography, journalism, etc. are all classes that have been cut because schools do not receive the proper funding. If these programs are cut, then the emotions and feelings expressed through them just build up inside. Think about that for a moment, reflect, do more research if you like, but don't be surprised when an increasing part of the news is about students acting out, begging from society for attention.

America needs to take action. Teach youths with music, art, woodshop, even home economics and you will be surprised how

things will change. Condition every person to be the best that they can be. Reinforce that being an individual is the greatest thing in the world. As soon as this takes place, hatred for others will start to diminish and society will start to work together as a productive, progressive group of individual people. Ok, maybe I am pushing it a little. But be aware of the messages sent to youths today. Don't be naïve about the situation—for that only increases the problem everyone is struggling to solve.

SOMETHING TO PONDER ...

MEGAN OLDENSTADT
Design Editor

of control—teenage pregnancies are now quite common and even violence in the schools has become more frequent.

With the most recent of these events America was appalled and shocked. Security was upped in schools and gun laws were cracked down on, but I have yet to see a solution.

The youths of today, often labeled "Generation X," are conditioned to act out, to beg for attention, recognition. Sure, violence in television and movies play a part in it, but I am focusing on the American public school system. Budget cuts over the past ten or more years have led to the cutting of arts and vocational programs. Where are students who are not interested in sports or other school programs supposed to go; what direction are they pointed in?

Auto mechanics, wood shop, even jewelry classes once drew in many students who were on a way-

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