There is no doubt that the LGBTQ+ community has increasingly become more accepted in our society, but there are still issues for specific groups of people to live the way they live. Gay or bisexual males encounter hate more frequently and are seen as the black sheep of the group. As a result, it’s a lot more difficult to be an openly gay or bisexual male due to the frequency of harassment. Frequent, is the key word because discrimination can be equally harsh to all members of the LGBTQ community, but it happens more often to men. The use of the word “gay” as an insult and how people believe lesbian couples are more capable of raising children than homosexual men.

An article by Philstar Global reports that “38 percent of gay men said that, in adulthood, they had been victims of vandalism, theft or violence - hit, beaten or sexually assaulted - because they were perceived as gay. About 13 percent of lesbians said the same.”

Not to mention, many high-profile female athletes come out and still stay and play their sport for a living, while men wait till after they retire to show who they are.

For instance, according to Carina Julig, author of “Out Lesbian Athletes to Watch at the 2018 Olympics,” during the 2008 Olympics 11 out of 12 people that came out were women. One French tennis player, Amélie Mauresmo was one of the first female athletes who

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Sydney Shepard is a sophomore who has played the piano for two years. She participated in the recent talent show here at Hancock where she sang and played an original song. She wrote the song this past July based on a recent fallout she had with a dear friend of hers.

For many teens, friendships change unexpectedly. This song was a way for her to express her feelings about this difficult situation. Sydney realized we should bring ourselves up rather than down.

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Why is it easier for a young woman to be openly gay or bisexual than it is for a young man?
Why Is It Easier?
From page 1

came out and went on to win a silver medal in the 2004 Olympic games in Athens. Continued on page 2
She even said, “being open about her sexuality made her a better athlete.”

Meanwhile, according to a podcast called “Gladiator: Aaron Hernandez and Football Inc.,” they discussed the life of the former NFL star athlete, Aaron Hernandez. They talked about how he came from an extremely abusive home, where the word “faggot” was used regularly by their father, and they were strictly taught what a man has to be. As kids they were forced to play and train to join football. Aaron originally wanted to be a cheerleader, but his father did not allow that.

While he was a freshman in high school, Aaron was the best. He was faster, stronger and overall had an advantage over all the other players. He became close with Dennis SanSoucie, their other best player. They would hang out regularly until Hernandez’s father passed away during his senior year. Even then, he still couldn’t impress his dad with everything he achieved.

After high school, Aaron would go to start his NFL career, while Dennis joined the US Marines. Later in Aaron’s life, he became a highly successful player for three seasons and then on June 26, 2013 he was convicted for first degree murder. He hung himself on April 19, 2017 and was reported to have written letters. One rumor was that there was a letter for his “gay lover” and at first the media was very confused. Soon enough, Dennis came out to his father, and told the press that he felt he had Aaron’s blessing to explain who the football player truly was.

They would have sex as friends during high school, which explains why Hernandez would try to prove himself as the alpha male anywhere he went. Drinking underage at bars, getting tattoos were all ways to cover up his true identity. The news shocked many and left them wondering how Aaron’s father would’ve reacted.

According to a current senior at Hancock, Yami, a supporter of the LGBTQ+ community, he said the reason there is hate towards the group is due to conflict in morals and religion and because people don’t understand why hiding is challenging. Yami also stated that “as Hispanics, men are programmed to be straight -- to like women, be as masculine as you can be and that can cause toxic masculinity which outcasts those who are different.” He suggested that there should be more early exposure to people about same-sex relationships, so that they can grow up with an open mind.

This necklace—a gift from a teenage girl’s Godmother—is a representation of her relationship with God.

She received the sacrament of confirmation and is ready to, one day, have a wedding ceremony in the Catholic church.

Caption and Photo by Yesenia Monroy-Salas
Gillette Commercial Wasn’t Fair to Men
Opinion by Andres Valencia

The new Gillette commercial inspired by the MeToo movement portrays all men as bullies, perverts against women, and insensitive ignoring all other exceptional men in society, resulting in a massive backlash from people against the ad. The new Gillette commercial has been making headlines recently and causing controversy for its MeToo inspired ad based campaign. There is a social public war over the message of the ad. Some people see the ad as inspirational and motivational for men to take action against other men that are displaying sexism in the workplace; at the same time, to help amend younger men’s behavior. However, there are other people who see this ad as portraying all men with the same brush of sexism.

In my opinion, the problem with this ad is the condemning of all men for the actions of only a few men in society. The commercial was trying to highlight toxic masculinity in society. However, the ad needed to specifically highlight men in our society that have done those despicable things; at the same time, displaying the great men in society. I think the worst part of the ad was how there were all of the stereotypical things expected a man should show. The ad was showing only the worst aspects of men and did not highlight the positive aspects of being a man. For example, men who are respectful, loyal, loving, and compassionate. There was a collective guilt that was placed on all men, which is not necessarily truthful or applied to every scenario.

According to the article, “Backlash Erupts After Gillette Launches A New #MeToo-Inspired Ad Campaign” by Tovia Smith, Gillette’s spokesman responded to the backlash by saying that “If we get people to pause, reflect and to challenge themselves and others to ensure that their actions reflect who they really are, then this campaign will be a success.” In my opinion, this shows the blind spot of the commercial because the target of the ad was all men in society. Furthermore, in the same article Gillette’s spokesman said, "setting a new standard for our brand...to encourage and inspire the next generation to be its best.” I think this was the correct message Gillette needed to portray in the commercial, inspiring positive traits in the men of society— not to group all men in the same painting.

Another problem I had with the ad was the central message towards the end which was “The best men can be.” I think this is problematic because the commercial was already assuming the men who were watching were terrible people. The word men in the central message of the commercial can be replaced with any word, and it would still apply to any group— not just men. There are phrases in the ad that were problematic as well. For example, there is nothing with the phrase “boys will be boys.” However, I think the ad took the phrase out of context and utilized it to associate the behavior of despicable men with the act of being a man.

Some people will see the commercial and think the commercial was only positive and did not offend men, but what I say is that they need to reflect and think about the emotions of men in the United States who are decent human beings. These decent men were not accurately portrayed in the commercial. I think the people who do not understand why men are upset with the commercial need to ask this question, what would have been the reaction of the public if the same message in the commercial was depicting another type or group of people?
Six Things Young Adults Need to Know about Money
By Esperanza Vega

Life after high school requires young adults to educate themselves when it comes to financial literacy. It’s important to know what we can do to avoid debt and the habits we need to form in order to prosper. I interviewed David de Santiago to ask for some financial advice. He is a Financial Representative at the Country Financial office (5716 S. Pulaski Rd.). Here is the advice he gives to students and young adults:

1. **Stop Being So Materialistic:**

Mr. de Santiago mentioned that in some cases where people are struggling financially, he has noticed that they spend money on many unnecessary things. For example, there are people who will spend all their money buying a nice car, but they live in a bad neighborhood. Others spend all their money trying to wear expensive shoes, but they live in a small apartment with 5 other people and can’t afford to buy anything they actually need. It is important to use our money in an intelligent way by only spending money on things we need.

2. **Don’t Use Your Credit Card for Everything:**

Credit is important, so you need to make sure to not ruin it. Don’t purchase small items and ruin your credit over something little like that. Make sure to pay your bills on time and to not allow yourself to have a lot of credit debt.

3. **Have a Plan: Always Have a Plan**

You need to have a plan for what you are going to do with your money. Mr. de Santiago explained the 3 boxes, a simple method he uses to effectively plan how he will use his money. One box is for emergencies. Most of your money should go here, this is where you put away money in case you ever need to spend a lot of money or in case you ever have a struggle. Another box is for the money you need for bills, food, and necessities like that. And the third box is the money you invest. This way when you need to make big purchases, like buying a house, you have money saved that you can spend without spending it all.

4. **College Isn’t For Everyone- And That’s Okay**

College is expensive, and it is more difficult now than it was before to find ways of getting money without high interests. There are many people who don’t go to college and they still make good money. There are also programs that can help you get into a good paying job. The important thing is to know what you want to do and to have a plan so you can start working towards your goals.

5. **Look for Scholarships:**

It has gotten more difficult to get approved for loans. Loans used to be low-interest, so they were more convenient than they are now. Look for as many scholarships as you can. Some corporations have scholarships which they can give to the children of their workers. Look up scholarships specific to you. For example, scholarships for minorities or scholarships for the specific career you want to study.

6. **Learn from How Your Parents Spend Money**

Another important thing to remember is that we learn from our parents. So, parents need to set a good example of how money must be handled. If parents have poor financial habits, their kids will grow up to develop the same habits.

A Google Search on “How to Set Up a Personal Budget” produces these suggested allocations for how we should—and shouldn’t—spend our money. Now you can do the math.

Sit down with your parents or guardian and see how your family’s spending fits with these suggestions:

- Housing: 25-35%
- Insurance (medical, auto, home, life): 10-20%
- Food: 10-15%
- Transportation: 10-15%
- Utilities: 5-10%
- Savings: 10-15%
- Entertainment: 5-10%
- Clothing—which includes those Yeezys: 5%
The grave held a person whose heart still beat underneath the heavy weight of the earth, a pair of eyes opened from a deep sleep. The girl pounded her hands at the casket. Of course, it didn't budge with the weight of dirt pinning her down.

Days passed on with the girl trying in vain to open the casket. She tried screaming for help; however, she found that her voice was gone. Then one day, she felt her casket be carried away and then she pushed.

The girl tumbled out of the coffin only to hear someone scream. She looked at her saviors. Or were they her enemies? She tilted her head at them in curiosity. When she offered her hand, they ran away screaming, “Demon!”

Then the girl looked in the mirror and saw her reflection. The creature that stared back at her didn't look human. Instead, the other face in the mirror was someone whose skin turned green, her fingers bruised, and her teeth were yellow. She was in a sleeveless red dress, and her short hair felt dry.

She had rotted away.

She had lost her voice.

She remembered her death vaguely, but she knew it happened.

So if she had died was she truly human?

She wasn't buried alive for she had died and yet now she suddenly came back alive.

She looked human yet she wasn't beautiful. Instead she had become a stranger to herself, a stranger in her own body. A person that wasn't human but looked the part. She moved her legs and they stiffly carried her in the direction she wanted to go. She looked towards the mirror until she let herself fall. It hurt because there was nobody there to catch her or to tell her everything would be alright.

If she didn't remember being human then maybe everything would be okay. However, she did remember being human and it coarsed through her body.

Along with a feeling of newfound energy, the girl felt a memory that surfaced into her mind.

She had an image of a six year old girl opening presents on Christmas day, the little girl smiled as she climbed on a chair where another girl held her tight.

"Helia, do you want me to tell you a story?"

"Yes, sister I want to hear a story one with a princess!" The girl now remembered her name was Helia.

"Alright here's a story it's about reincarnation. Now nobody knows what will happen when we die, but some say there are people who will never leave earth. They are either ghosts, or they go into the afterlife. Eventually, they come back."

"Why?"

"I'm not sure why, but someone out there wants them to live on earth again so they come back. Sometimes if they're lucky, they remember their old life." That was all Helia got back from her memories.

She began to walk outside the cemetery silently passing tombstones carrying names of those long forgotten and then she felt the sun on her face again. She looked at it and smiled because it was a long lost friend just like she was.
Ya know we gotta get all “educational.” Figure out who or what this humor—and, yes, it’s humorous—is criticizing. What change is the comic suggesting in the subtext? (Look it up. The word. Not the answer to the question, cuz . . . uh . . . you won’t find it. Yeah. So . . . )

A SATIRE PIECE

By: Miguel Vazquez
The Mad Dog of Shimano

Goro Majima--better known as the leader of the Tojo Clan's Majima family

Pencil on paper by Jose de Jesus Garcia
**Tape Art Installations** By Ms. Rosenbaum’s Art Classes

Joshua Ramos is a senior who designed a muscular arm using tape to create a source of self-empowerment for young men in the Hancock community. His artwork is installed in the second floor, west wing, near the fire alarm. The location was chosen by the artist to exemplify how one can tame the fire of problems, obstacles, issues with a strong self-esteem.

Joshua shares through his artwork that self-esteem is an important idea for young men to have because without a strong self-esteem, it is difficult to conquer one’s goals.

Roberto Gonzales represented the stress students feel from deadlines and projects. The figure in the stopwatch represents the student dealing with stress. The original location was to be the auditorium so everyone can see it but was changed to the stairway by the lunchroom because the auditorium space was not available. Gonzales wants students to understand to persevere even when school or life gets stressful.