

AESA JOURNAL

Volume 1/Issue 11

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AESA JOURNAL

FINAL ISSUE

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The Girl who Scared an Emporor-Jack Yioutas

On the run from an evil empire, my hair is a mess, and oh yeah, right, a bunch of people want to kill me! What could go wrong? Well, a lot of things it turns out. The soldiers were in fast pursuit, and I did not have much time. I quickly scanned the street for inspiration, a bar, whatever, at least the doors would be unlocked. (I would later find out that there bars in district 21 were criminal hubs). I opened the door and ran inside. The bartender was a grungy sort of man, comically short, and looked straight out of a cartoon.

“Listen little girl-” he said, before I interrupted him.

“Are you blind or just stupid,” I said, looking back on it probably not the best decision. “I’m a freaking fifteen-year-old.”

“Then you tell me this,” he said, not at all worried as I rose to my full height and revealed myself to be about half a foot taller than him, “are you naive or just stupid, did you really think it is safer in here than out there?” he asked, pulling out a knife.

Everyone else in the bar pulled out their knives and one man in the back even had a blaster pistol. I ran to the door. I could pull out my T-17, but it would be useless. There were way too many. But when I swung open the battered door, I saw to my horror five Imperial soldiers in menacing black and red armor holding radiation rifles. Suddenly being stabbed repeatedly did not seem too bad...

I made a desperate run for the backdoor as the Imperials opened fire. The barman and several of his clients fell to the ground in pain, but I was able to get to the backdoor along with his fleeing customers. I grasped my pistol and shot several blasts at random to add to the confusion. We were all running for it like a herd of zebras. More were falling all around me. They would not die in peace. We poured out of the backdoor as the blood continued to fall. Eventually, there were only three of us left. One was a middle-aged man with a horrid scar across his eyes. The other was a young man about my age. I vaguely wondered how he had got tied up with the scum in that bar.

“We have to split up,” said the scared one.

“Meet at the old factory in the East Side?” asked the younger one. I could not be sure, but I guessed he was talking to both of us. Perhaps he was decent enough after all.

“Agreed,” I said. Why not? I turned around and ran down main street, ignoring the shouting of the homeless and drunk. Two flame soldiers were chasing after me. Not good, but better than dying slowly and painfully of radiation. They all knew who I was. There was no way they couldn't. Not after what I'd done to them.

“Freeze, National Enemy 0-0-1, said one of the troopers. Flame troopers always came in groups of two with one senior and one junior trooper. I thought he was the leader. I complied with his order, he would only give it if he had locked on to my fife-signal, flame trooper protocol. “You are now a prisoner of the empire, Ziira Jade.”

TEACHER'S CORNER: LET'S TALK ABOUT HOMEWORK-BARBARA GARZA

Homework. Just saying the word can bring a frown and a downward spiral of feelings to students of all ages! Homework really became important to the United States during the Cold War with Russia in the 1950's when Russia on October 4, 1957, launched Sputnik; the first artificial satellite. This successful launch shocked military and scientific experts and also the citizens of the United States. Americans had always assumed the United States would accomplish this scientific advancement first; which sparked fear the United States was falling behind.

All the sleeping children nestled in their beds would have never guessed an object weighing 184 pounds launched into space could lead to a massive intensification of homework for them and future generations in the United States for decades to come. I hail from a long line of educators. Sitting at the dinner table listening intently to all of their stories was amazing to me. From Grandma Hertha at age 17, teaching 28 students in a one room schoolhouse, grades 1st-12th all by herself; to Uncle Jerry teaching in East St. Louis rescuing the teacher next door after a student had stabbed the teacher's hand to a desk; all these stories made a huge impression on me. So, I have been fascinated about educational topics like homework for a long time.



With the launch of Sputnik, many aspects of life in the USA intensified. The powers that be, felt the children of the United States needed to be better educated and lead the United States into this technological and scientific race with our enemies. Hence the push for increasing the number of hours a day a student would be studying...homework!!! Initially homework was more for the older students but as the decades progressed even now you see 1st graders having homework. For decades research has proven one aspect of homework time and time again, and that is if a student does a small amount of Math homework daily, they will improve their standardized testing Math scores. That's it folks, right there, nothing else.

As a long-time educator, I have always been obsessed with the homework debate and not allowing schools to give busy work. In 2013, Austin Family Magazine approached me and asked if I would be interested in doing a homework policy article comparing AESA's homework policy with that of St. Stephen's Episcopal School in Westlake, my old stomping grounds, and that of St. Andrews. Of course, I said yes. You all know our homework policy... we want the majority of your learning to take place in the classroom and not as homework. The primary reason a school really needs to have students do homework on a regular basis is if their class sizes are so large that students do not have sufficient time to ask questions in class and teachers do not have sufficient time to "check for understanding" for all of their students in class. Plain and simple! We do have homework but certainly not on a regular basis in Elementary School and not much in Middle School. For High School we are able to cut their homework in half compared to AP classes in public schools and larger private schools that hang their hat on the amount of homework given as a sign of their academic rigor.

I have always believed there are activities such as passions to pursue, traveling, and time with family and friends that are equal importance, and actually enhance your college admissions and certainly your life. AESA is able to maintain its stress-free environment due to the fact that our classes are a size that allows substantial learning to take place in the classroom and not outside of it. Now this only works if each of you are putting forth the effort inside the classroom on a daily basis, putting your best foot forward. If you are...fantastic!!! If you are not..., who are you hurting?... obviously, yourself...only you can change that ☺

-Barbara Garza, Head of School

KIRCHNER COLLUM

The Full Plot to Kill Lincoln

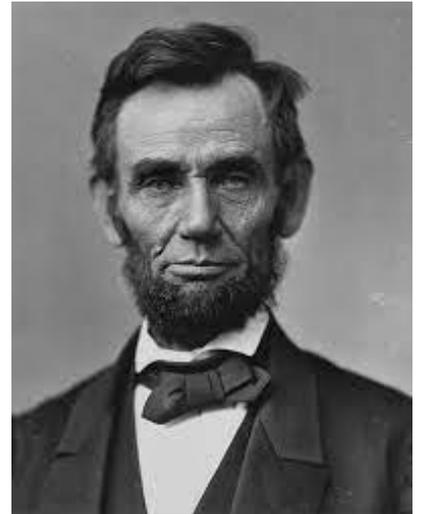
Andrew Johnson was a racist scumbag who was responsible for nationwide chaos after the civil war. You can see I have a strong opinion on Johnson, but he often isn't considered the worst. That title normally goes to James Buchana for his methods during the lead up to the civil war. I however hate Johnson more, and what makes me angriest is how he even became president.

You're probably wondering, "If this guy was horrible, how was he even elected?" The answer is he wasn't. He was Vice President under Abraham Lincoln, who made the horrible decision of picking Andrew Johnson as his running mate. It is well-known that Abraham Lincoln was a Republican, but what if I told you that Andrew Johnson was a Democrat? That's right, Lincoln, a Northern Republican, picked a Southern Democrat as his Vice President. Now you might think that this isn't too bad of an idea, which it always isn't, but when you have a country heavily diverse, it generally isn't best to pick someone with opposite views as you for your successor. So, why did he pick him?

Lincoln was one of the most incorruptible presidents. He believed that parties should not be a division between Americans, just like George Washington. This led him to picking a Southern Democrat as his running mate so that he could gain influence from both sides. Normally, this wouldn't be a big problem, but you know what happened next.

A plot formed to kill four people, President Lincoln, Vice President Johnson, Military General Ulysses Grant, and Secretary of State William Seward. At least one assassin was assigned to each person on the same night. We all know what happened to Lincoln, but what about the rest?

The person assigned to Seward broke into his house and had a brawl. Although he failed to kill him, Seward and his family were scarred for the rest of their lives. As for Grant, he was simply out of town, but here's the ridiculous part. The person assigned to kill Andrew Johnson went out to drink the night before he was supposed to kill him. When drunk, he got scared and chickened out! If he simply hadn't gotten drunk, we wouldn't have gotten one of the worst presidents in the history of the U.S. and we would've gotten Speaker of the House, Schuyler Coflax as President instead.



ARTS AND CULTURE SECTION



Mikah Liu



Maria Russel



Sunny James



Owen Radigk



Jackson Kilgo

Ups and downs... but mostly downs

What is love? I like to think of it as an illusion; one that is not to be ignored though. Love, like most emotions, is just something to keep species alive; but love serves a special purpose; it is present to perpetuate a species. Love is just a feeling that drives an organism to reproduce; and it's mists fog the mind of every sentient being. Love is different with humans though, as we are intelligent life, and somewhat adroit at reasoning and logic.

Because of this, we (usually) don't act on our rapacious urge to (forcefully) reproduce, as there are laws which govern us, and don't let us mindlessly rape. Ultimately, love is an illusion; something that drives humans to reproduce, and is something that can be purchased at a brothel for two dollars. All this taken into account, love inexorably makes the human race do some downright retarded stuff. This may seem to be a bold claim, but great men like William Shakespeare concur with my thesis, (with the occasional discrepancy on smaller and inconsequential matters).

For the longest time, the greatest philosophers and thinkers have been trying to conceptualize and fathom why people do such mad things in the name of this foolish, inane, and carnal thing called love. After studying the conclusions of these philosophers, I realized the perfect way to describe love; it is like meth, once you start, you can't stop. Going for prolonged periods of time without seeing your lover results in a strenuous detox, and you long to see them again, thus destroying your independence; you and all of mankind are a slave to this vile instinct, ever since the mother of man partook of the forbidden fruit.

Despite how destructive the ramifications of loving are; some good comes out of it. If your relationship manages to thrive, then you are under the illusion that you are happy; albeit with too much carelessness and passion, it can be easily overturned and ruined. Love is a delicate thing, and as Friar Lawrence once said in William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* "These violent delights have violent ends, and in their triumph die, like fire and powder which as they kiss consume, the sweetest honey is loathsome in his own deliciousness, and in the taste confounds the appetite. Therefore, love moderately, long love doth so, too swift arrives, as tardy as too slow." He is warning to love in moderation, and the stupid, blinded, lovestruck, pedophilic, couple obviously doesn't listen, resulting in their subsequent death.

As I mentioned earlier, love is like a drug, Romeo's suicide is a testament to it. He thought he would never see Juliet, (what he was addicted to) ever again, so he had nothing to live for. If he never met Juliet in the first place, he would still have had reason to live.

The one good thing that comes from love is the illusion that you are satisfied and happy, but still blinded. As we see with Romeo and Juliet though, they seem to be having the time of their lives while they were in love, and they did everything they could to preserve it, even though their families were bickering, and they were star crossed lovers, they managed to make it work for 3 days. Still longer than most grade school relationships though.

-Aaron Barclay

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