



Life of a Returning Student

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Last week was pretty interesting on campus. Classes have definitely gotten more hectic as midterms are in progress, but as a whole, it's a motivating experience.

Tuesdays tend to be my most stressful day as I am usually at school from 8:30 a.m. to around 10 p.m. but this past week was not nearly as stressful for some reason.

I decided to make realistic goals for myself regarding my school work, and then make more difficult goals once those goals had been completed. Having constant tasks to meet severely helped my mental mindset.

I honestly put a lot of work into meeting my goals.

Like anything in life that you want to be successful at, practice is pivotal to achieve that success. I can only hope that the amount of time that I have put into my classes will translate to success.

With the amount of fun and exciting things going on around campus last week, school felt more like a carnival than a stress-filled place of learning.

I am learning that time management is more important than ever as the amount of things that I am involved in on campus can sometimes take away from my studies.

However, when I learn better time management, I should have

no problem balancing all of my campus-related activities.

Ironically, it would be fun to be involved in more of the things that our school has to offer.

I am not sure if it is realistic to think that I can balance my family life, school, as well as my professional life, while taking on more outside of what I already take on, but it would be fun to try.

One of the most exciting things for me is being able to use my life experiences to help people around campus. There is something about knowing that I am being helpful to others that is very inspiring.

Later in the week, a stranger came up to me on campus and randomly asked me about my faith. Somewhat puzzled by the question, I answered that I am a Christian. This person responded, "Makes sense, you are very helpful."

It struck me as a bit odd because I had never so much as seen this person around campus, yet they knew of me and of my faith.

I was then asked if this was my first time in college. I responded that I previously graduated from college and that I am a returning student. This person again responded, "Makes sense."

As I walked away from that brief conversation, I felt a small sense of accomplishment, and an even greater desire to be that same person as that stranger saw me, but to be that person for as many people on campus as I can.



FROM WWW.KONY2012.COM



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Why are we concerned with Kony 2012?

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Where's the campaign for The Tamil Tigers in Sri Lanka? The campaign for the Drug Cartel war down in Mexico? Only a few hundred miles away from our own border. What about the charities for the families, towns and lives lost in recent tornados in our own country?

You see, with these stories you have to get familiar to both sides.

You have to dig deeper into research, to find out what's going on in this world past the emotional but yet terribly one sided stories such as Invisible Children where they present some facts, but leave out other necessary facts and information.

Kony was charged with crimes against humanity by The International Criminal Court in the Netherlands on Oct. 6, 2005. An alleged child abductor who brainwashes children to fight for him and sells them as sex-slaves.

But why the sudden need? Why the overnight global interest? Why has it become a priority to everyday people like you and me?

Is it similar to Egypt's overthrow of its president, Hosni Mubarak?

The Occupy wall street protests and other social media upbringings around the world?

Kony and his LRA vow to overthrow the Uganda government, they proclaim to be fighting for the Ten Commandments, perhaps something that a lot of us Americans believe in.

Briefly, the LRA now resides in South Sudan, parts of The Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, and Sudan, not Uganda.

Where in fact Kony and the LRA have disbanded since 2006, This invisible children movie was filmed entirely in Uganda, not where the problem that they campaign about really is.

If you research this Uganda problem, this did not arise three weeks ago. It's been something our government knows about,

In 2008 The U.S. reached to provide assistance financially and logistically to the Ugandan government by giving equipment, fuel and intelligence but was still unsuccessful in capturing Kony.

The result of these acts were more funding for the Uganda government and 100 military advisors that were specifically ordered not to engage in direct combat against Kony's forces unless in direct self defense, their purpose

was to inform, prepare and advice nations in Africa to partner against the LRA.

Do you endorse an all out war in small countries?

Do you endorse the killing of innocent wives and children who have no choice but to be under Kony's rule?

Think about that for a second before you share that video, By now you Probably think I'm supporting Kony, wrong.

If you look at Invisible Children's financials from last year, they spent nearly \$9 million, but only about \$2.8 million of that went to "direct services" which means only \$2.8 million went to Uganda.

Ben Keesy, CEO of Invisible Children, earns \$88,241. Jason Russell, Co-Founder and filmmaker earns \$89,669, Laren Poole Co-founder and filmmaker earns \$84,377.

Combining for a very generous \$262,287, with a million more in transportation costs because Invisible children isn't based in Uganda, it's based in San Diego, with most of rest going to staff salaries, film production, travel, etc.

Be aware of where your money goes, a wristband and a few superstars aren't going to solve this problem. Making Kony famous does not help the problem.

The trash is piling up



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Littering has always been an issue for the urban environment.

There really is much to say about why people shouldn't just stop and throw away their trash.

In the neighborhoods throughout the city, there isn't as much trash as there is in a public place like a shopping center or a park.

The city is your home, so stop trashing it up.

You wouldn't trash up your own house now, would you?

There are many trash cans around so just take the time to throw out your trash please.

Georgina Pinanuri psychol-

ogy major expresses how she feels about the situation, "is it really that hard to throw your trash away, I really hate seeing people not picking up after themselves."

At the Student Center, there is a problem with littering, and it needs to stop.

The Student Center is not a big dump.

Ricky Pacheco health major explains why there might be as much trash in the student center, "there are a few restaurants at the Student Center and I have seen a couple of students not pick up after themselves."

"It just seems kind of wrong to leave your trash any place you want."

Keeping the campus and classrooms neat is an important part of being a student, because Cerritos

College has to be presentable.

Since the Student Center attracts more people than anywhere else on campus due to the game room, ID center and food court, it is important to keep it as clean and as presentable as possible.

Elois Joseph adds why she thinks there is more garbage around the student center, "I am usually around the student center because a couple of my friends like to play pool in the game room and it seem like there are more students around there than anywhere in the campus."

"That's why I think there's more trash there than anywhere else."

Students, pick up after yourselves, it is not that hard.

"There are plenty of trash cans around, toss your garbage there not on the floor."

Outdated popularity contests



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After senior year of high school, you would think that college students would be over the whole voting for king and queen of the school stuff and it would just end there, but it doesn't.

We have homecoming courts and Mr. Cerritos instead, which are pretty much the same thing as what we dealt with every year of high school.

It is so outdated, ridiculous, a complete waste of time, and serves no purpose to our college campus.

Why are people so intrigued with who the most popular or most liked student is?

Are we still stuck trying to relive our high school glory days?

Honestly, most people could care less who the homecoming queen or who Mr. Cerritos is.

The only people who really vote are people who know the running candidates, just like every election at school.

What does the Homecoming Queen or Mr. Cerritos do for us students?

Absolutely nothing.

It doesn't help us out with paying for our classes or helping us pass our classes.

So why have these court elections? It doesn't affect any of us so

why should we care who wins and who loses.

It's exactly like high school, one night where the court gets all fancy and dressed up, the winner gets crowned, and then you go home.

Is that really something people should look forward to?

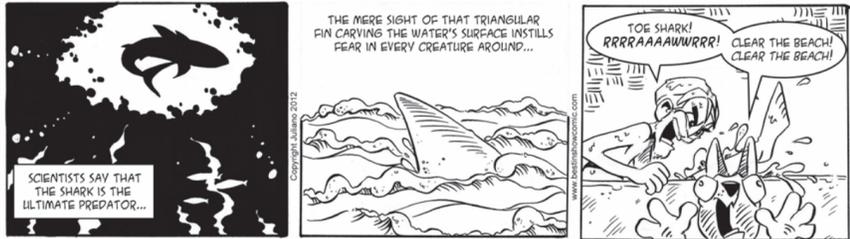
If they want a crown so badly, they can go buy one at Party Warehouse for 12 bucks and walk around school, doing the Princess Diana wave.

If the student government wants the campus to get involved so badly, it should think of something other than what reminds us of why we found high school to be nothing but a popularity contest all four years.

BREWSTER ROCKIT: SPACE GUY BY TIM RICKARD



Best In Show Comic



RALPH AND CHUCK BY TOMMY GROOMS



Calamities of Nature by Tony Piro



GREEN APPLES BY JEFF HARRIS



Welcome to Falling Rock National Park by Josh Shalek

