

YES, it's recyclable:

Paper - Dry & Clean; Loose (not in plastic bags)

- Newspaper & inserts
- Magazines & catalogs
- Junk mail, envelopes, file folders
- Office white, colored and computer paper (staples & paper clips ok)
- Corrugated cardboard boxes
- Cereal & gift boxes, etc. that tear brown or grey (remove liners)
- Paper bags & phone books
- Wrapping paper (remove metallic paper, bows etc.)

Containers - Empty & Clean; Loose (not in plastic bags)

- Aluminum cans (beer & soda)
- Aluminum foil & foil plates, etc.
- Plastic bottles, jars, tubs and buckets (such as soda, water, milk, juice, liquor, shampoo, detergent, condiments, salad dressing, yogurt, margarine, pet food, etc.)
- Metal food cans (tin/steel); metal lids
- Metal pots and pans

NO, it's NOT recyclable:

UNACCEPTABLE MATERIALS:

- Ceramics, dishes, coffee cups, drinking glasses
- Glass cookware/bake ware (Pyrex, Vision Ware, etc.)
- Window glass, mirrors, light bulbs
- Plastic bags, Styrofoam containers, packaging peanuts
- Take out containers, plastic cups, and plastic table ware
- Containers of hazardous or toxic materials
- Tissue or paper towels, books
- Tyvek envelopes, carbon paper
- Paper cartons for milk or juice
- Wax coated boxes

removeandreplace.com

The Sustainability Project Leaders want to make sure students know what is and what is not recyclable. A lot of recyclable items are thrown out either because of ignorance or lack of recycling bins. Be sure you know what can and can not be recycled. By following this simple guide, we can reduce the amount of litter on campus and become a more environmentally friendly institution.

Portrayal of social issues in popular culture misses the mark

CHERYL WANG
Staff Writer

What is more important than who Harry Styles is dating? No. It is not twerking, or selfies, or even selfies of Harry Styles twerking. These days, we are constantly being bombarded with one too many massive icons of popular culture.

From posters in movie theaters, to graffiti on the streets, to music played in malls, it seems like everywhere we go Meghan Trainor tells us that everything is about that bass while Iggy reminds us we are all too fancy for the ordinary things.

Our generation's obsession with the high-profile icons and dreamy eyed celebrities hits an all-time high upon the release of the recent young adult novel and film, *The Fault in Our Stars* (TFIOS).

In this movie of the year, author John Green tells the story of Hazel Grace, a girl with cancer, and her star-crossed love with Augustus Waters. Depicted as the epitome of male attraction, Augustus sweeps Hazel off her feet and professes his love for her despite her cancer.

From the many sobs and silent tears shed at the theater upon its release, *The Fault in Our Stars* not only grossed more than one hundred million dollars, but also made its main actors some of the most famous celebrities.

Girls across the nation are quoting TFIOS, posting inspirational lines about teenage romance, creating Facebook pages dedicated to

the characters, and ultimately, striving for a love like that of Hazel and Augustus's. However, the story's most fundamental aspect -the cancer- is lost in the drama.

Driven by the media and the buzz around the glamour, our obsession with popular culture has masked indications of serious issues such as the nature of disease and disabilities, what are more important.

The truth is, cancer is not glamorous. Cancer is also not a gateway to love. Whether the media aims to gross more money at the box office or to mollify our inherent fear of these heavy subjects, everyday viewers are often lost in the drama rather than aware of the pressing problems driving the plot.

After viewing TFIOS, tweets along the lines of "I wish I had cancer so a boy would like me" began to appear on twitter.

However, it is important to realize that diseases and debilitating physical conditions are not things that are desirable, rather they are issues to be aware of.

Consider the real story of Lydia instead:

On Nov. 11, 2011, a little girl was born in a rural town of East China. Unlike the Hollywood depiction of smiling nurses and emotional fathers suppressing a tear, this girl was born on a dirt mat in a straw hut with no one other than the mother.

Three days later, she was found in a gutter by the streets, dying. It turns out once the

mother saw her baby was born with anal atresia (rectum deform) and an intestinal fistula (abnormal opening of the intestine), she immediately abandoned her out of fear and disgust.

If it was not for the medical staff of an American sponsored orphanage who happened to be by the town, Lydia, as she was later named, would have died unnoticed.

I learned about Lydia's story on a mission trip in Beijing at the New Day Foster Home which rescued her. While Lydia certainly does not represent all of the cases around the world, her story nonetheless speaks louder than any television show or movie regarding disease and disability.

Without the drama, glamour, and media attention, Lydia's birth reveals the stark reality that Hollywood has hidden and erased in many of its most popular productions.

It is time as a technology oriented and popular culture-driven generation that we should take a step back and look at the bigger picture.

Gossiping about Harry Styles may be entertaining but sometimes uncovering what is really important beneath the glamour can prove to be more satisfying.

Social media poses hazards

By BRINDA SARATHY

Staff Writer

Social media seems to be an asset for the general public, but occasionally poses a problem for many students, especially at NCSSM. Social media is often abused and incorrectly conveys information, leading to arguments and misunderstandings.

At NCSSM, much of the school population uses Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Tumblr, to name a few outlets of social media. While most students enjoy the occasional post of a selfie or funny comment, the media Smathers use can often be unnerving, distracting, and relationship-breaking when used incorrectly and insensitively.

The majority of the school population took to Twitter and Facebook after the summer reading fiasco. Those who were outraged at the discussion called out against a variety of people for what they said, and it seemed as though the entire school was holding its breath, waiting for an outbreak of insults and dangerous comments.

Many simply commentated, and escalated the situation, while others actively participated in verbal, passive-aggressive attacking of those they felt were in the wrong. In this situation, social media was used for a negative cause, and caused angst in students whether they were involved or not.

Teenagers use social media as a means to vent out their emotions. At NCSSM, students often express their dislike of someone through a tweet, status, or slightly backhanded comment.

Sometimes, this venting appears as attention-seeking, desperate, or attacking, and students tend to retaliate with a

snappy comeback without even thinking twice. This snowballs into a long chain of discussion that leads to embarrassment and unnecessary anger.

Students don't realize the true nature of exposure on social media, and think they have a large supply of power when they are behind the facade of a monitor or screen.

They feel as though they are not responsible for their words, and they quickly put fingers to keyboard and write freely. In a way, this is catharsis, just as journal writing and blogs often are, but using one's social media platform to express these ideas can have negative effects.

The less consequential of these effects is "gravedigging" of social media, consisting of peers "liking" or commenting on one's old, embarrassing posts.

Gravedigging often proves to be funny, and most shrug it off. However, old embarrassing posts pose an issue when colleges and important future employers look through student's social media platforms and discover instances of bullying or negative use of social media.

These days, most students have access to smartphones and the internet, and it has become yet another innovative way for human communication. However, it is important to keep in mind the repercussions of using social media.

Social media should be used to communicate effectively, and insensitive posting is simply not beneficial, to peers and to the student itself.

As the school year progresses, I hope NCSSM students keep in mind that what they post on social media, while mostly helpful, can affect anyone. Students: Continue the selfie trend, but don't forget to keep it positive.

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