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# The PawPrint



Member  
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## Reporters

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*The PawPrint is a publication of McNairy Central High School. The views and opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of the administration, faculty or staff of the MCHS*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### FRI Dec. 1

- SPIRIT DAY: White Lie Day
- 2:30 Pep Rally
- 4:30 Adamsville A (JV Boys)
- 6:00 Adamsville A

### TUE Dec. 5

- SPIRIT DAY: Blue & Gold
- 2:00 NTHS Induction
- 4:30 BB Scotts Hill A (JV Girls)
- 6:00 BB Scotts Hill A

### THU Dec. 7

- SPIRIT DAY: Color Wars
- 4:30 BB TCA H (JV Boys)
- 6:00 BB TCA H

### SAT Dec. 9

- 2:00 BB Dyer Co A

### TUE Dec. 12

- 4:30 BB Alcorn Central A (JV Boys)
- 6:00 BB Alcorn Central A

### THU Dec. 14

- SPIRIT DAY: Ugly Christmas Sweater
- 4:30 BB Middleton H (JV Girls)
- 6:00 BB Middleton H

### FRI Dec. 15

- UT Promise Application Deadline
- 4:30 BB Adamsville H (JV Girls)
- 6:00 BB Adamsville H

## My Thoughts on Social Media

Social media is undoubtedly one of the more gross tumors attached to the human population. It is a simple and basic concept, I would define social media as a network designed for both targeted and public communication between other users. Communication applications are notably different, only offering targeted communication as user A would need to know who user B is to contact them. Social media apps often provide this service, but they are overtly known for their public outreach. The idea is almost noble, the globe has been connected nearly instantly through the cloud and a synapse of networks, an impossible feat only mere generations ago. Self-evidently, however, this is exactly the problem. Let me tell you what happens when we give every bumbling idiot a profound voice.

Smartphones are the most reliable and available option to access social media. These sites are often free to use and individuals are encouraged to join these networks by friends, family, and strangers. As a result, these sites are packed full of individuals and groups from around the world with the ability to talk to each other near instantly. If I had a friend from Thailand, it mattered very little that the timezone in Thailand and West Tennessee were polar opposite. I could send them a message instantly, and if he was awake a conversation could occur. The freedom of communication is amazing.

It's effortless and liberating, as there will always be someone who you could commune with.

If it is so effortless, then why get off it? You have an escape from the stressful, challenging world contained entirely within your pocket. Humans are two things -- not only are they social animals, they are programmed to take the path of least resistance. I, for one, would argue even the most anti-social individuals require a form of social stimulus every once in a while. Besides, the great abundance of options for social interaction seemingly inflates the value of human connection. After all, why would you even bother spending energy managing an online relationship between another human being if there's simply so many opportunities for it? There's no point in wasting time and energy communing with someone if they could be replaced in mere seconds. It makes everything so much easier! After all, why would you care about someone if they're behind a screen? What's stopping this behavior from spreading into personal relationships with the brother or sister beside you? People will often engage with loved ones over social media to increase their communication opportunities, and while there is nothing wrong with that in itself, I find that youth will time-in-time again find themselves incapable of separating the two. They brought their loved one into the same world as infinite options, a screen, and disconnection. Because, after all, why would you care about someone if they're behind a screen? These people become infatuated with their fantasy land, their escape from real-

ity, and often see no challenge as a result of it. It makes people weak.

How liberating is it to shout out your completely unfiltered and uncensored idea from the top of your lungs standing proudly on a pedestal? Freedom of Speech is so powerful, it is undeniably a worthy cause to die for and it has been for millenia. A shining cornerstone of the country you and I stand on, even. Despite being the gun-toting American patriot I am, I would be so inclined to imply that such unrestricted freedom of speech with the absence of consequence or shame is a mistake. I could go on and on about any uneducated moron can pick up a phone and be widely accepted and their opinion regarded as undeniable and self-evident fact, some basement dweller across the world trying to tell me how my own country should be run, the absolute cowards who wouldn't even dare breathe when confronted yet all bark when behind a screen. No, it goes much deeper, and far much worse than all of that. The degeneracy found on these sites and metaphorically (and sometimes literally) put through a loudspeaker is out of control. While I would argue that society as a whole has been growing immoral and hedonistic for decades, social media gave these people an undeniably powerful platform. These people who support various forms of self-mutilation, copulation with animals, children too; these degenerates have been given community, courage, power in numbers. Someone less level-headed would be taken in by these outcasts and before you know it, they're one of them. Com-

munity is strong. Not only are these people degenerates, some of them go hand-in-hand with terror. Regrettably, these people and circles existed (often, not all) before social media, however it would take a fool to deny that social media did not amplify this degeneracy to before-unseen levels.

Rules for thee, not for me. 'Freedom of Speech' on these platforms is put within quotes. Any attempt to speak out against these aforementioned degenerates or mentally unstable individuals or groups would result in harsh penalties such as restriction from the platform or socially outcast yourself. I have bore witness to multiple circles being torn apart, like meat to wolves, for something so simple as politely stating truthful and undeniable fact. It's even easier than you think, I could state the wrong thing. For example, if I stated I enjoyed the act of drinking nothing more than milk, I am suddenly and personally labeled by a big organization to be a white supremacist. You laugh, I laugh. It's stupid, but the impressionable youth in this day and age where parents fail to be parents and let social media raise them, millions could see this and be taken in by it. An extreme example, sure, but someone had to write this article with complete sincerity. To say these idiots and degenerates aren't amplified, is simply untrue.

You would be inclined to believe that social media stays on social media, right? Incorrect, as much as I wish it wasn't. I have been locked indoors due to covid hysteria (among other things) within virtual school for three years, social media was all I had. My

*The following essay was turned in by senior Brian Ferguson for a class assignment in Coach Shirley's class.*

worldview has been warped, warped, and warped into this disfigured amalgamation. I'm lucky to have come out much less affected than most. This affects the high and the low. We, as a country, have government officials genuinely incapable of answering the question as simple as defining a woman. That didn't come from nowhere, it didn't just appear. It came from social media, and these people have been warped so much they have strength in numbers. I have yet to mention that this wealth of information at our fingertips has left us hollow and desensitized. Modesty? Honesty? Morality? Forsaken. Intercourse? Not sacred. Death? Death. Tragedy is comedy. I once saw a video of Eric Cartman, the character from South Park, put over a video laughing at a Russian soldier cowering within the dirt as grenades from drones were dropped over him. He was killed, it didn't matter what side he was on or what flag was on his shoulder. He was human, like you and me. It was nothing but a joke. Am I nothing but a sucker for edgy, over-the-top tragedy humor? Yes. Have I laughed at something as perverse as a 9/11 or Holocaust joke? Undeniably, but some people don't understand restraint. It leaves themselves and their viewer desensitized, inhuman almost. Among indifference and degeneracy, evil is brewing on social media.