



## Calls for Help

Kristy Twaalfhoven, Senior Reporter

If you've been following the news lately, you are probably aware of the US-bound caravan of migrants. If not, here's what you need to know: For the past month, a caravan of thousands of migrants has been moving from Central America towards the US-Mexico border. Nearly all of them are from Honduras, though some joined from Guatemala and El Salvador. Though groups of migrants arrive at the border almost daily, this is one of the largest to date. It has even drawn the attention of President Trump, who threatened to "Close our Southern Border" in a recent Twitter post. As of last week, after covering thousands of miles on the journey, more than 7,000 migrants have reached the border. They were staying in temporary shelters in the border cities of Tijuana and Mexicali, but Tijuana has just shut down its shelter, forcing the migrants to move farther from the border.

There is a variety of reasons behind why the migrants left their homes. The common theme is the hope of building a better future for themselves and their families. Many are threatened by criminal gangs in their hometowns and want to protect their children. Others desire a higher paying job, or any job at all, and some have plans of sending the money they earn home to relatives who stayed behind. There is also a fraction of the group who have relatives in the United States that they want to join or who have been separated from them.

So, what next? The migrants who have reached the border plan to claim asylum in the United States. Claiming asylum means that they are asking for political protection from another country because they cannot return to their own country. To do so, the migrants must prove they faced persecution in their home country due to race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinions. Meanwhile, according to Honduran officials, 7,000 Hondurans have turned back and returned to Honduras, choosing to avoid the potentially dangerous risks ahead.



I encourage everyone to pay close attention to news on the migrant caravan over the next few weeks. I believe that this situation is a crucial reflection of how the United States responds to calls for help. The future of thousands of people is at stake, and I am eager to see how the affairs proceed.

## Awareness vs. Understanding:

*How social media affects our perception of global issues*

Sophie Hauck, Sophomore Assistant Editor

Throughout 2018, American teens have worked to prove their investment in this world and its well-being. Young people take interest in a wide a range of issues, but inevitably some headlines spur greater passion than others. In recent weeks, one matter has risen above the rest: rhinoceros poaching. Americans have long been aware of the dangers facing this species, but a recent social media campaign has prompted teens to readdress the issue. On November 25, Sam Kolder, a filmmaker and photographer best known for his online presence, posted a video about the subject. Kolder shows footage of harmed rhinos that he believes, "the world needs to see." These dramatic images, coupled with the startling statistics Kolder reads, ask for a strong reaction. The video progresses towards a theme of empowerment, asking viewers to spread the message by reposting the video. Kolder hopes increased awareness will provide, "the funds needed to win this war."

Many organizations work to fight rhinoceros poaching but often follow different strategies. While some support first-aid teams specialized in the treatment of harmed rhinos, others work to track potential poachers. Vetpaw, the organization Kolder features in his video, focuses on this same offensive approach, combining the militarized tracking of poachers with an advanced treatment that reduces the value of the rhino horn. By injecting a non-harmful dye into the rhinoceros horn, Kolder claims the rhino loses its value to poachers. It is unclear if this treatment is indeed effective, as rhino carcasses can still be sold for large sums of money, with or without the horn.

While support for these organizations is promising, it is unclear whether Vetpaw is the best outlet for change. The Vetpaw website describes the group as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization, a label signifying that it is a charity. In order to remain tax exempt, charitable organizations must annually file a Form 990 N, providing a review of how they handle and distribute money. According to Charitynavigator.org, an online resource that evaluates charities based on their finances, Vetpaw has not filed this form since December 2015. Based on this information, there appears to be no independent party monitoring Vetpaw, suggesting that Vetpaw is not the most reliable organization for rhino protection. In spite of this, Kolder reports that Vetpaw has received over \$100,000 in donations over the past week, "because of the video." This video gained almost 4.5 million views just in one week, with over one million likes and countless reposts, each advocating for further donation towards Vetpaw. Perhaps this signals that social media users, many of whom are teens, do not perform extensive research when it comes to making donations. This signals a greater lack of understanding on how charities utilize their donations.

This awareness-driven campaign also raises a question regarding the productivity of awareness. After all, while Kolder's video was an important reminder of the hazards rhinos face, it is unclear if reposting this video can improve the issue, especially if in doing so, viewers support an untrustworthy organization. For many accounts, their reposts mark the end of their action against rhino poaching. However, if teens truly care about an issue, social media campaigns should be only their first step in making a difference. Activists must continue to learn about the issue and, based on further information, work towards a positive solution. Of course, I, myself, don't know the answer. However, I hope that those who take an interest in rhinos will pursue an informed solution that dismantles the rhinoceros poaching culture. By doing this, teens will ultimately prove their investment in this world and its well-being.



Illustration for Sam Kolder's video on rhinoceros poaching

## Lunch & Learn Series

Marblehead High School

The "Lunch & Learn" vocational series is a new initiative at MHS. Bring a brown bag lunch and come get answers to questions like:

- \*A resume? ~ Why do I need one -I'm in high school?
- \*Soft Skills & Executive Function? ~ What are those?
- \*Interviewing? ~There's a before/during/after process?

- \*Cover & Thank You letters? ~ Emails are OK, right?
- \*Personality, Strengths/Weaknesses, Career interests? ~ How do I recognize mine?



Each presentation will be repeated during all three lunches. Mandatory sign up will be in the cafeteria two days before the event. Attendance is limited to 15 students.

- Dec. 12.....Personality, Strengths/Weaknesses & Career Interests
- Jan. 9.....Soft Skills & Executive Function
- Feb. 13.....Resumes
- Mar. 13.....Interviewing - Part 1
- April 10.....Interviewing - Part 2
- May 15.....Cover & Thank You Letters

Please contact Mrs. Ford or Ms. Martin (x2116) with any questions.

## Headlight's Quote of the Week

"Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

~ Thomas Jefferson

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