

Living with his seizures

By Emily Schmidt
Honorable Mention, News Writing
Division: 3-4 Grade

Before my brother started having seizures, I didn't know what to do when someone had a seizure. He had his first seizure in March 2005 and still has seizures.

It was very scary. There was someone there who had experience with seizures. She helped us a lot. To me, she is a hero.

There are many types of seizures. If you see someone



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having a seizure, do not put anything in the person's mouth. Just make sure there is not a hard object that they could hit with their head, arms, or legs.

My life has changed, living with a person with epilepsy. He has to take a lot of medicine with bad side effects, such as drowsiness and not talking. You can grow out of seizures. My family and I hope my brother will grow out of his seizures.

We can't do some things because of his seizures, but that is OK. Having seizures is not contagious. Someone with epilepsy is just like any other kid. No matter how long my brother has seizures, we will always love him the same.

The author is a fourth-grader at Notre Dame School in Vacaville.

Parasol pose

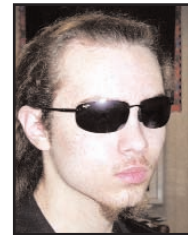


This photograph of Emma Thompson, posing with an umbrella on a grassy hillside in Fairfield, was taken in February by Luke Thompson of Holy Spirit School in Fairfield. The photograph has earned him a second-place award in the Campus Star photojournalism category in the middle school division. Thompson is an eighth-grader in Mrs. Thompson's classroom.

Some complain that ID badges are a waste ...

By Mark Gilbert
1st Place, Opinion Writing (tie)
Division: High School

We all hear it every day: "Put on your ID!" We all find it annoying, and we all wish we didn't have to wear them. But why do we have to? The answer we keep being forced is that it is for our safety. We wear the badges to distinguish us from possible intruders, supposedly. You have to admit, it makes showing someone else how to spell your name a lot easier.



Mark Gilbert

This is beside the point. Let's examine the logic of the alleged security the ID cards bring us. The cards separate, ideally at a glance, students from non-students from personnel.

Are we assuming that any and all possible threats to the school will come from someone who is not in any way involved in the school? Apparently. That is despite the fact that in the majority of the shootings, vandalism, and arsons in schools, the guilty party is almost always a student, and obviously would have an ID card.

The primary reason for IDs is to spot trespassers, but I'm sure you've noticed that IDs are worn far more often in class than out. Most students pocket their IDs

upon emerging from a classroom, and slip it back on just before entering. Indeed, the classroom is where you most often hear that dreaded phrase: "ID Check!"

Quite frankly, this makes no sense at all. If anything, students should put their IDs on as they leave the classrooms, and taking them off as they come in.

After all, why are IDs necessary in closed classroom where a stranger would be quickly and easily identified? During lunch, unless an

administrator is breathing down their necks, most students seldom wear the cards, and this is the environment where they might have some miniscule iota of practical usefulness. Yet it is only upon entering class, when the IDs become superfluous, that most students feel compelled to throw that lanyard over their heads.

We live in a world well practiced in accepting things that don't make sense, but maybe it is time for this particular policy to be re-evaluated.

The author is a senior in Rebecca Bowen's classroom at Rodriguez High School. This article was originally published in the school's newspaper, *The Stamped*.

... but others defend their value on campus

By Jessica Guffey
1st Place, Opinion Writing (tie)
Division: High School

Complain, complain. Identification badges can't be that bad. Right? Right.

They're not as horrible as a lot of kids think they are. Sure, they can be annoying, but they are for our safety. They identify who is supposed to be on our campus and who is not. They make sure nothing starts at school — such as fights, gang-related activities, and soliciting of items not allowed on campus.

The top reason teachers give is that they need to easily be able to identify a student, tell what grade a student is in, and confirm that the individual belongs on campus.

There are a number of reasons why we have identification badges. Unfortunately, some

Rodriguez High School students fail to realize why we have them and how they are not really so bad.

Besides, more companies are requiring employees to wear I.D. badges, so it is good practice for the future.

The bottom line is that complaining about wearing IDs is just a waste of time because the school district is not going to change the rules just because some students don't like to wear them.

Wearing the badges is for our own good. Case closed.

The author is a freshman in Rebecca Bowen's classroom at Rodriguez High School in Fairfield. The article was originally published in the school's newspaper, *The Stamped*.

Lunchtime is a great time for some fun

By Wilfred Manzano
Honorable Mention, News Writing
Division: High School

For most students, lunchtime is arguably the best period of the school day. Essentially everyone has a purpose during lunch, whether it is to socialize, be productive, or load up on extracurricular activities.

Most people associate lunchtime with socializing time. Since many students do not have several classes with their close friends, they use lunchtime to simply hang out.

Sophomore David Pineda said, "I only have one class with some of my good friends, and even if I do have a class with them, I don't really have an opportunity to talk with them."

Other people see lunchtime as the

time to get important matters out of the way. Several people work diligently in their cars, or use a table in the quad, or in the library, among other places, to do homework, projects, and other school work.

"I like finishing my homework in the library since I'm pretty busy," sophomore Alisha Fernandez said. "That way, I'll have more free time when I get home, which I can devote to extracurricular activities and other priorities."

Lunchtime can also be considered as club time. Many people consider



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this the period to load up on extracurricular clubs and activities to boost their college applications. Jordan Jadreau, who is a member in Key Club and National Honor Society, among other clubs, said, "I use my lunchtime to try and be productive. It'll help in the future."

Whatever the case, most people simply try to have fun, escaping the rigors, stress, and monotony of the rest of the school day.

Senior Phillip Zabat said, "I just want to make the most out of my high school lunches since I'm already a senior and no one can repeat his or her high school years."

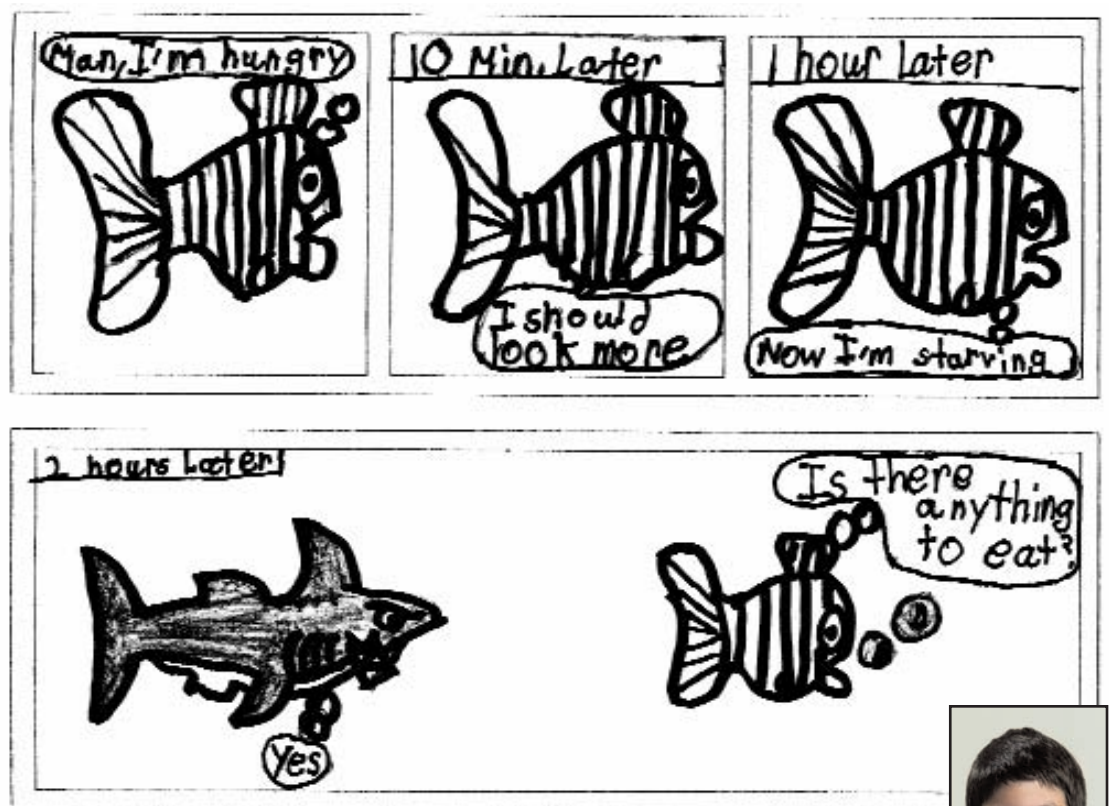
The author is a sophomore at Armijo High School in Fairfield.

Design-an-ad winner



Erykah Williford earned first-place honors in the 3-4 grade division in the Campus Star Design-an-Ad competition for this advertisement she designed for Party Rentals. Erykah is a third-grader in Ms. Hall's class at K.I. Jones Elementary School in Fairfield.

Puzzles, games, comics winner



Jared Vitug earned a first-place honor in the 3-4 grade division in the Campus Star puzzles, games and comics contest for this fishy funny. Jared is a fourth-grader in Wendy Heinz class at Notre Dame School in Vacaville.

