

Nice day over the Bay



A little boy walks across the Golden Gate Bridge between Sausalito and San Francisco on a beautiful fall day last September in this award-winning photograph taken by Krissy

Garcia of Holy Spirit School of Fairfield. The image earned Krissy a third-place in the middle school division. Krissy is a student in Julie Thompson's classroom.

Padan still dealing with the tragedy

By Marina P. Camacho
Honorable Mention
Featuring Writing
Division: 5-6 Grade

On Oct. 19, 2005, a devastating accident occurred just as school was let out.

Two special and wonderful children died on this day, and some other children were injured.

Many people witnessed this horrible accident. But will they live to see a time when they feel better?

Well, that's up to the world around us.

Kassandra Rocha, one of my best friends, survived this accident. But now she lives with one leg.

Many of her good friends at Padan Elementary, including me, support her in everything she does.

I asked her if her life is going well.

She replies, "My life is going good and I'm fine the way I am."

The children at Padan Elementary know all about that tragic day. But will they ever be the same?

Some say this accident never should have happened. Other say it was just God's will.

If I could turn back time and change what had happened, I would in a heartbeat. But I can't.

Don't you think the same?

For those who had witnessed this horrific and life-changing accident, many other people like you know how you feel.

For those wish they could have witnessed this accident to be able to change something that happened, I believe that you have a good heart.

The author is a fifth-grader in Richard Oates' classroom at Eugene Padan Elementary School in Vacaville.

Gay students still fighting for respect on campus

By Jennifer Smith
1st Place, Featuring Writing
Division: High School

Rodriguez High School junior Zach Glubka first realized he was different back in middle school. Many of his friends were starting to become attracted to members of the opposite sex, but he just didn't seem to be feeling the same way. What was wrong?

"I realized I was gay my seventh-grade year. I kind of always knew, but I fully accepted it then," said Zach.

"In the beginning, it wasn't a big deal, but as more people found out, everyone started getting more interested in my business," he said.

Other students would join in with the usual name-calling. It didn't bother him as much as it surprised him that they cared so much about someone else's life.

"We've been called a lot of mean things ..." said Zach.

Why do teens disrespect their peers?

While no incidents have occurred recently, problems have arisen in the past for gay students on campus. During Zach's sophomore year, he was approached by a male student while in gym class. The student was interested in an intimate relationship, but Zach wasn't, so confrontation was born. The student continued to harass Zach over a period of weeks and it got to the point where he became physically violent.

"I got pushed into lockers," said Zach. "I also had things like flour and syrup poured in my locker."

While not condoning violence toward gays, senior Ryan Lapid thinks homosexuality is wrong.

"Males should be intimately connected with females and not with people of the same sex," he said, using the Bible as his evidence.

"God hates sexual immorality, which is why the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed. I still respect them (gays) as people; I just don't agree with it (homosexuality)."

Coming out to friends and family is a huge obstacle in itself. There's always an anxiety about the reaction you might get, Zach explained.

"My mom kind of knew. She asked me if I was gay, and I told her I was," said sophomore Joey Musiello.

As if being condescended to by fellow students isn't hard enough, finding a way to stay accepted within a family can be a problem as well.

"My mom was mostly OK with it. My dad was not comfortable, but he had told me he would learn to eventually accept it," admits Zach. Since many teens aren't comfortable with being open with their homosexuality, they find amity in their friends.

"I was surprised, but nothing had changed. He was still the same person to me," said sen-

ior Anna Fassho after finding out one of her friends was gay.

Rodriguez High School students apparently are more comfortable with the idea of women being lesbians than they are of men being gay.

Out of 300 students surveyed, 287 said that they feel that female homosexuality was acceptable. However, only 104 said male gayness was OK.

"I think lesbians are accepted because that's how society has made it. Nobody wants to see two guys together, I know I don't," said junior Trenton Chambers.

"I feel as though the ways of nature naturally only allow for a male and female relationship," said senior David Khedry.

Sophomores Breanna Ruiz-Martinez and Rochele Hernandez are a lesbian couple.

"We've been dating for about three months," said Breanna. Finding a partner was drastically simpler for this couple in comparison to males finding a partner because females are easier to talk to about things like sexuality.

"She just started talking to me, not even knowing I liked girls," she said. Breanna said she has been open about her sexuality since sixth-grade when she came out to her parents and friends.

"I just knew; I thought girls were attractive," she said. Both of her parents were accepting of her choice, as were the parents of Rochele when she came out her sophomore year.

Although many female friends of homosexuals understand, it is more difficult for the male equivalent to be as accepting. Not for Michael Tablan.

"I would still be friends with someone if they told me they were gay," said the senior. "You could change the adjective from gay to black and say he was suddenly black, it would still be weird to find out something different from what you thought you knew about your friend," he said.

Intolerance is a large part of why homosexuality is frowned upon. Out of the 300 people surveyed, 240 said they had been raised in a household in which homosexuality was talked about as something bad.

Zach Glubka and Joey Musiello were an openly gay couple who recently broke up.

"We're just as normal as everyone else. We have fights like every other couple on campus does. There are things that are different, but that's expected. We've been going out for a year and four months and we generally don't go places alone. We avoid large groups of people where we know confrontation could be made," said Zach.

The author is a senior at Rodriguez High School in Fairfield. She is a student in Becky Bowen's journalism class. This article first appeared in the campus newspaper, The Stampede.

Design-an-Ad winner

Party Rentals
You Call, We Provide!

Call us!
@
(707) 422-8013

Address: 640 Broadway Street
Fairfield, California
Fax: 422-4815

Third-place in the high school division for The Reporter's Campus Star Design-an-Ad competition went to Wilbert Cheng, a freshman at Buckingham Charter Magnet High School for

this advertisement he designed for Party Rentals business of Fairfield. He is a student in Ms. Long's classroom at Buckingham in Vacaville.

Puzzles, Games, Comics winner

Vacaville Schools

Q	S	V	A	P	R	T	N	L	M	F	R	N	E	C	G
K	H	Q	V	W	V	Y	I	C	N	A	L	A	M	O	H
T	G	T	B	A	A	Z	K	O	I	T	L	P	O	W	
M	I	S	M	U	C	X	C	N	V	R	E	W	N	P	I
T	H	P	A	C	A	U	O	A	A	M	T	H	O	E	L
W	E	Q	R	K	P	I	L	W	V	O	A	D	S	R	L
Y	L	Q	K	I	E	K	N	A	W	N	S	R	P	M	C
N	L	L	H	N	N	A	M	O	T	T	S	A	E	I	W
O	J	R	A	G	A	B	Y	L	L	I	A	H	J	A	O
T	V	D	M	H	E	C	N	S	I	B	S	C	S	T	O
S	A	I	C	A	L	L	I	S	O	N	E	R	I	I	D
P	C	N	L	M	E	E	I	T	L	T	S	O	L	O	H
P	A	I	A	Y	W	L	N	T	C	H	T	I	L	F	E
I	V	Q	M	H	E	M	L	O	C	K	H	A	I	R	I
N	W	T	H	E	A	T	S	B	S	E	H	A	W	E	M
I	B	R	O	W	N	S	V	A	L	L	E	Y	Q	T	W

- Alamo
- Callison
- Fairmont
- Orchard
- Vaca Pena
- Willis Jepson
- Browns Valley
- Cooper
- Hemlock
- Padan
- Vacaville High
- Buckingham
- Elm
- Marakham
- Ulatis
- Will C. Wood

This puzzle based on Vacaville schools won a third-place in the high school division of the puzzles, games and comics contest for Halley Rosin of Buckingham Charter Magnet High School. She is a student in Stephanie Oates' classroom.