

Spread love this season

By Lexie Julbert

The man blurted out, "Rib slices with a roll!" at the cashier. Then he accused her of withholding other sides from his order. I forgot to ask him his name, but his wrinkles and the scars on his skull were clues to his complicated past.

I met the man near a downtown parking garage.

An abrupt "Excuse me, sir; sir, excuse me," interrupted the light-hearted conversation between my significant other and I. Turning to look at this man, he pleaded: "Would you buy me dinner? Please sir."

He showed us the loose change in his worn hands: "I can give you this."

Unwilling to accept the man's offering, my boyfriend, Kyler, immediately said, "yeah of course"

He led us into a barbeque restaurant where we would leave him to enjoy his meal like any other customer. The man said thank you repeatedly and promised Kyler a cold beer if they met again.

According to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., "Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." This quote began to invade my everyday thoughts having fed a homeless man.

"Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

-Martin Luther King Jr.

I first heard that quote from my AP language teacher **Susie**

Schoch as she read aloud "Letter from Birmingham Jail," pointing out significant phrases to consider for examples demonstrating a reluctance of people to "Choose kindness."

I cannot sit idly by as people ignore those in need, including the man who called out for a meal a couple weeks ago.

Kyler and I agree that we will buy more meals for homeless people in the future. I believe in helping people who face hardship, loss or misery.

The Perry community includes many generous students and faculty, but I encourage those of you who have not helped someone recently to lend a hand. Whether it be in a class competition, an everyday setting or a random situation: Choose kindness.

Apology

By Ximena Alaniz

In the Nov. 17 issue of the *FOCUS*, in an opinion headlined: "Teacher opinions: professional vs. personal," I apologize for not interviewing English teacher **Rick Swengel** for my column. I understand that as a student journalist, I should have interviewed Mr. Swengel to give him an opportunity to comment regarding a student's criticism of him advancing his own viewpoints in his classes. My intention was to show ways a student is affected by a teacher's voiced opinions. Although I apologize for not seeking Swengel's opinions, I do not apologize for being a platform for another student's voice.

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS FOUNDATION®

The Random Acts of Kindness Foundation is a foundation based out of Denver, CO. According to their website, their goal is to "make kindness the standard in every aspect of life." To find ways you can make the world a better place, visit: www.randomactsofkindness.org

the CROZ NEST



Adam Crozier interviews senior **Tyler 'Siggy' Sigmon**, who will join the Army after he graduates and hopes to become a Green Beret.

How has your academic workload influenced your decision to enlist?

It's given me more education—a broader view of how the world works. This will help me have a broader background than just what military leaders tell me.

How do you reconcile military and diplomacy?

One of the pillars of the military is actually diplomacy. I think of the "speak softly and carry a big stick" quote. Applying that to my life, it means being kind, but also using any means necessary to execute an objective. Being kind or softspoken isn't always the right way. You have to have a plan B or backup plan.

Why do you want to be in the Army?

I believe I was put on this Earth not only to protect my country, but also to help people who need protecting.

Earlier you mentioned one of Theodore Roosevelt's famous lines.

Do you see any contradiction between that phrase and rhetoric used by the current Commander in Chief?

Times have changed. Technology has increased. My decision to join the military wasn't really political. Life is too short to overcomplicate things. Live fast and hope to live a full life. In order to live a happy life you need to do your part and carry your weight.



TWEET OF THE WEEK



carli moriarty
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me: i kinda wanna lay on the mat

ajeya: i kinda wanna dive head first into some concrete

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