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*The Eagle's Time*

Eagle's Landing High School

Growing up in the United States, I sometimes take for granted how unique our country truly is. One of the first privileges our forefathers guaranteed future generations was, as outlined in the First Amendment, the freedom of press. In a few modest words, the founders protected each American's right to report the news honestly and fairly without the limitation of government bans or fear of persecution for our individual beliefs.

Yet, in the realm of high school journalism, the country has slowly started to drift away from this chief ideal laid down by our ancestors. Today, many students' ideas for newspaper articles highlighting brilliant but controversial issues are shot down time and time again. Supported by the Supreme Court decision in *Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier*, school administrators act as filter, allowing only positive and inspiring messages to be broadcasted across school newspaper headlines. They shoot down any topic that may cast the school in a dim light. However, this is no way true journalism. In order to be genuine reporters, students must delve into the abyss of controversial issues and extract the stories that others dare not touch, such as social rights in the Middle East or gay marriage, delivering the readers insightful news in its purest and most basic form. Casting aside these tough issues denies our right to freely report real stories from the real world.

As a whole, our generation has grown tired of excuses as to why teenage freedom of press is delayed until we reach adulthood. Whether the issues are pleasant or unpleasant, we, the youth of America, deserve to explore the world through our own investigation. That, on essence, is the beauty of being a journalist. We are granted the opportunity to expose our classmates to snapshots of the real world every time we publish *The Eagle's Time*. Newspapers with a hard-hitting attack to all stories can lift the rose-colored glasses from the eyes of our ignorant peers and unveil the truth for all to see. As young adults, we can no longer hide under the safety blanket of censorship and filtration thrust upon us for our "protection." Instead, we must challenge adult to really protect us by upholding our constitutional right to the freedom of the press.