



# ABC CLARION

High school students are welcome to send articles or comics to [clarionabc@gmail.com](mailto:clarionabc@gmail.com)

## Does it really matter where we go to college?

by Nicole Cheng

College apps, college apps, and more college apps. It seems that everything that we do throughout our academic career revolves around one sole purpose — getting into a good college. Yeah, sure, it's absolutely great to be able to say to people, "Oh, yes, I graduated from Harvard," but in the work world, does it really make an impact?

According to Jeffrey Selinger from the Washington Post, there is a huge disparity between the groups of people attending elite colleges versus average colleges. The distribution of students all leads back to demographics. A much larger percentage of the upper class attends the best school that they are able to attend, whereas the percentage for the lower class is tiny in comparison. There are several factors that play into this, including tuition, dorms, the need to stay near home to help out with housework, jobs, and much more.

It has become an increasingly prevalent issue, much of it leading to more affirmative action, which gives an advantage to underprivileged minorities in terms of admissions and financial aid. In addition to that, companies that originally only scouted for new employees in the best, elite schools are now expanding their horizons to find equally qualified students from other institutions. This will help combat the issue at hand — the need to go

to the best college to get a good job.

Regardless, that is no excuse for you to slack off with college applications. Sure, you could be just as successful at a mediocre college as someone graduating from an Ivy, but if you have the ability and the opportunity to attend a more elite school, it could grant you many more advantages. For example, attending a huge school like Harvard or Cornell will give you a much greater expanse of opportunities and resources to choose from. You will definitely have fewer restrictions — not to mention that large schools are often in a college town, meaning everything around you is essentially catered to you and your peers. That usually translates to much better-tasting food, by the way.

All in all, those you turn to for advice are right when they tell you to go somewhere that will make you happy, especially since the job market should be the least of your worries as long as you work hard. But in any case, by "happy", they don't mean the easiest place. They mean a place in which you can enjoy your studies and nurture your love for learning. While you're in college, you might legally be an adult, but the fact of the matter is, you're still growing. Chances are, you haven't discovered yourself. You haven't discovered your passion. Maybe you need to go to a huge, amazing school that will be able to challenge you and keep up with your radical needs. Or maybe you just need a small, liberal-arts school that will give you extra attention, smaller classes, and a closer-knit campus community.

## One Tired Student

by Audrey Zhou



## New or Old

by Max Chien

This is the end  
And  
Modern music is best  
No longer can it be said that  
Classical music is good  
My friends and I think  
Mozart can't compare  
It's not true that  
Modern music is strange  
Now  
Is more important than  
History  
I have to say  
Tech is good  
And it's just not true that  
Everyone listens to piano  
Baroque is boring  
And you should never think  
I advocate classics  
What I really hope you get is  
My viewpoint  
What's important to me is  
How you think of me  
And I really don't care all that much  
What Bach composed  
I think it's unbelievable  
That someone's listening  
What's important is  
I know you're listening

Now read from the bottom upwards

## The Geeks Shall Inherit the Earth

by Victoria Tian

Everyone has experienced the feeling of not belonging before. For some, it persists throughout adolescence due to the constraints of school. Cliques abound, excluding anyone who may appear to be different in the slightest way. Being mean to others and, at the same time, ingratiating to a select few to claw the way to the top has become a common practice. People who were previously friends may be cold-shouldered and forgotten during the quest for popularity. Self-esteem dips with lack of acceptance from peers and the persistent sensation of always being an outsider. As a result, young people have a choice - they can either conform to fit in, or stay true to themselves and remain ostracized.

Alexandra Robbins expertly highlights this struggle in her 2011 book, *The Geeks Shall Inherit the Earth*, which explains the sociology behind high school life and seeks to prove that the qualities which set some students apart in school are precisely the same ones that will allow them to become successful later on in life (an idea she dubs "quirk theory"). She follows seven real people with very unique personalities for a year, observing the reasons why they are overlooked by the popular crowd and reporting on their progress with an individual challenge that forces them to move out of their social comfort zones. Robbins interjects her narrative with informative segments that utilize psychology and science to answer important questions such as, "Why do social labels stick?"

and "Why are popular people mean?"

This book intelligently addresses all of the topics that people who feel-or felt-like outcasts in school want to know about. *The Geeks* successfully disproves any beliefs of inadequacy or social failure that those who have been ridiculed or even completely dismissed may harbor. After going into the minds of these seven students and investigating who they are beyond the superficial labels they are given, readers begin to like all of them and recognize the valuable traits they possess that will serve them well outside of school walls. Examples of popular, successful celebrities such as Lady Gaga and Bill Gates, who were disparaged when they were younger, are given to prove this point as well. Alexandra Robbins is both insightful and reassuring in providing the big picture of high school social dynamics. Similar to the style in which *The Overachievers* was written, *The Geeks* consists of a well-crafted combination of storyline and research that makes it engrossing and very entertaining to read. It is nonfiction presented in a well-organized and much more appealing and accessible way.

Although a bit too idealistic at times, *The Geeks Shall Inherit the Earth* is an eye-opening read for anyone who wants to expand their mind to become more accepting of others and, more importantly, themselves. I would highly recommend the book for a wide range of readers-teenagers, parents, teachers, and even school administration.

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