

The Platypaper

Thoughts on Makers Day

By: Ursula Denholm

On September 14th 2016 Paulo Freire Freedom School organized it's very first Makers Day. A day solely devoted to learning about a new area of expertise and designed to veer you away from your comfort zone.

"I think it was a cool opportunity that most schools don't have the chance to do, but it would've been better with more time." said Ruby Lenertz, a paulo Freire student. Many students reactions were positive but there was a consensus on that it could have been better with more time.

The Makers day options they offered ranged from 3Dprinting, to raspberry pi, scroll saw, and sewing. With each of these options we had a Wednesday (8:30 to 1:45) to learn about and create

something related to your area. Final products were something as big as starting a chair or sewing a stuffed animal. But not every Maker's day got the chance to make something.

A few students reported being disappointed with the fact that they never got to actually make something, all they did was observe and listen.

Another popular opinion was that the choices could have been more widespread, and that students could have had more freedom to pursue their interests instead of sticking to a set lesson plan. The controversy with that is the safety precautions associated with most of the powertools Maker Days. If the students were free to use the tools as they desired, injuries could have occurred.

Makers day was like a mini Intersession, full of great, not so great, and different memories for every person, which is what makes an

experience really have meaning and an effect.

"Imagination will often carry us to worlds that never were, but without it we go nowhere." Imagination was a big factor of Makers day and I have no doubt that the ideas spawned that Wednesday are or will be displayed in many people's everyday life. Their imaginations shall run wild.

Mental Health Patients Rights

Ruby Lenertz

Every mental health patient has the right to be treated as a human being but many patients don't even realize they have that right. There have been many accounts of assault in psychiatric hospitals across The United States. People have reported watching patients die while staff members ignore them, others have reported being assaulted and then offered drugs or food to keep the secret.

down because of the conditions. The Kings County Hospital in New York says on their website that they “take pride in providing our patients with the highest quality care” but after a long investigation the hospital was described as a nightmarish place. Patients were not correctly treated or not treated at all for suicidal behavior, the staff used physical restraint to subdue patients, and patients were usually abused by other patients. The hospital is still running.

An ex-psychiatric patient recently told her story of how she was assaulted almost every night by a senior staff member. She was admitted into the Little Brook Hospital in London for a case of developing anorexia and had been having multiple nervous breakdowns. She said she was looked at as an easy target. "It's a group of people who are probably the most vulnerable in society with regards to being open to abuse and then subsequently being believed." she said in an interview. The hospital

refused to comment on this woman's story.

None of these cases are as severe as the stories from the Pennhurst Asylum. The Pennhurst Asylum was a state funded school and hospital, it is now commonly referred to as the “The Shame of Pennsylvania”. The asylum was opened in 1908 and was pressured to accept most people who did not have housing, it soon became very crowded. They only had 9 medical doctors and 11 teachers, some situations got a little out of their hands. Some of the staff tried injecting patients with drugs that would harm them but not kill them, they did this so patients would leave staff and other patients alone. Other forms of abuse included restraints, punishment wards, metal cages. The forms of abuse here were horrific. Pennhurst finally closed it's doors in 1989.

Another case happened right here in Tucson back in the year 1999. Desert Hills was a psychiatric center for teens. It ran for 26 years until it was shut down due to many

Many psychiatric hospitals have been shut reports of abuse and several deaths. The death of Edith Campos caused the facility intense scrutiny in

1998, a year before they closed. Edith Campos died from “restraint asphyxia” or suffocation after being pushed on the floor by a man twice her size when she refused to give up a picture of her family. The director of businesses for Desert Hills, Kirke Cooper, defended his staff. “It was a tragedy that this girl died in our care. But I don’t feel there was any wrongdoing on the part of our staff. They are all well-trained in physical control and seclusion.” Although many of the reports are about staff members abusing patients, patients have been found guilty of assault. Two patients were arrested when reports came back about a boy’s skull being fractured with a baseball bat. Desert Hills was sued and their doors were closed June 30, 1999.

Much has changed since 1908 to now. There is now less reports of abuse coming from mental health patients. There is also more efforts to create safer places where mentally ill people can get the help that is needed.

Environmental Sustainability and How it Relates to Our School

By: Erika Vargas and Danny Rose

Environmental sustainability is a huge topic surrounding our planet. Environmental sustainability is basically just using our resources wisely and taking care of the world we live in. When we litter, we're ruining a small piece of our home. You might think, "oh, it's just a candy wrapper, right?" Wrong. When millions of people think the same thing, (it becomes millions of "just one wrapper" that creates a small island in the middle of the ocean of "just one wrapper") it's not just a small piece of our home. Imagine you're sitting in your house, reading a book or something, and

your house will fall to the ground. It's the same thing with Earth. That small trip to the trashcan is nothing compared to the end of the world. But, there's still the problem of after things go into the trash bin they get taken to a dump where they still affect the earth negatively so stop using so much plastic guys, geez. This is the only planet you get, and even if it doesn't affect you much in your lifetime respect the fact that people come after you. We are future ancestors, do we really want to be remembered as the generation who destroyed our home?

Products are a problem for sustainability, the things that people already buy that aren't sustainably made, like pens or mechanical pencils. Some brands of pens are made out of used plastic water bottles but most people will stick to a brand they have used in the past /already trust such as Bic pens. They are made of cheap things that aren't good for the planet, such as difficult to find metals and polystyrene. Polystyrene is an inexpensive

resin per unit weight. It is a rather poor barrier to oxygen and water vapor and has a relatively low melting point. Most school supplies are similar in that sense because they need to produce so many pencils, pens, binders etc. so maybe use tape to fix up a small crack on your pencil or a tear in your binder rather than buying a whole new one and throwing the old one away.

Another huge issue is food. A lot of food, such as fruit and vegetables are biodegradable. However, other foods aren't, like twinkies. If you compost a twinkie, insects that help decompose other compost might get sick and die or the twinkies will create unnecessary chemicals that we do not want. When we eat lunch at school every day, the school does a great job of composting and keeping our environment safe. But lately, our compost rate has gone down quite a bit. Not to mention, we have also been eating quick microwavable foods that aren't good for the environment. Instant ramen cups are made out of

someone comes in and destroys all of your support beams, slowly but surely, styrofoam. Styrofoam not only harms the environment, but it harms humans and other living things as well. You might have heard that styrofoam causes cancer. Scientists aren't certain if this is entirely true. Styrofoam may not cause cancer, but it does cause irritation of skin, eyes, and upper respiratory tract. It has also been discovered that it has various effects on the nervous system such as depression, weakness, headache, fatigue, and it has been known to have minor effects on kidney function. A way we can prevent this is being more aware of the things we're not only putting out into the world, but putting into our bodies as well.

When you see someone littering on the ground, what is your first instinct? Who are you in this situation, the person who notices it but does nothing? Someone who picks up the trash and throws it away? Or are you the person who littered? It's important to think about these things because who do you

what the clouds look like on that day? I'm not saying you should beat yourself up over the fact that you have probably littered before in your lifetime. Most people have. Saying that we can live in a world where there is no trash on the ground is an unrealistically high expectation. But we can reduce it to the point where it's not as big of an issue, and you won't have to think about the person you'll be in that situation. Because it won't happen.

Environmental Sustainability is a an immensely important action that we all need to take part in. The world we litter on, strip down, and pollute will be left for our children, and their children, and their children to clean up. Is that what you want for generations to come?

Cinema

By: Ursula H. Denholm

Our story begins with a man called Giovanni de Fontana, who illustrated *Liber Instrumentorum* published circa 1420. This picture shows a man holding a lantern with a devil projected

onto the wall in front of him. If you look closely you will find an outline of the very same creature on the wall trapped in the lantern, therefore suggesting the lantern caused the projection. The expression at the bottom of the folio reads, "Apperentia nocturna ad terorem videntium". or 'A nocturnal appearance for terrifying viewers'.

We fast forward in history about 160 years to find Giovanni Battista della Porta. In 1589 he published *Magiae Naturalis Libri Viginti*. In this text he described the technique of projecting mirror writing.

Now it's 1646 and we see the man who is most often credited for the invention of the magic lantern, Athanasius Kircher. Athanasius Kircher was a German priest who published *Ars Magna Lucis et Umbrae*, a book based on della Porta's work near 60 years previous. This text explained and gave examples as to how to make this type of projection. Kircher described that using a light source you could project transparencies onto a certain surface.

"Give them pleasure. The same pleasure they have when they wake up from a

want to be? Do you actually want to make a difference? Or are you more interested in nightmare.” said Alfred Hitchcock. In 1895, what was considered the first horror movie was exhibited to the public. Auguste and Louis Lumière had filmed a train pulling into a station. Paris audiences, convinces the train was going to crash through the screen, fled in a panic. This particular example shows how media has been toying with audiences emotions since the beginning.

We sure have come a long way from a few books on speculation to some of the greatest movies such as Casablanca, West Side Story, all of Charlie Chaplin's, and so many others.

With all of the amazing movies out there I can't help but notice how few female directors I find or people know of. All of the great Classic films are directed by men. The blatant racism, sexism, and homophobia, is impossible to overlook. “Usually when you see females in movies, they feel like they have these metallic structures around them, they are caged by male energy.” said Björk.

Maybe you think of Audrey Hepburn , Rita Moreno, Myrna Loy, Julie Andrews, and Elizabeth Taylor. But count how many men's names come to your head. Cary Grant, James Stewart, Humphrey Bogart, the Marx Brothers, Charles Chaplin, Dick Van Dyke, Buster Keaton, and out of those men and women, how many are of color.

Cinema has many problems to it, granted it has gotten better we still have a long way to go.

In this day and age we must recognise yes, the issues with cinema, but also the importance and significance of films. There are so many films and documentaries addressing different social justice topics we mustn't dismiss all films and cinema history as having problems.

“Until the great mass of the people shall be filled with the sense of responsibility for each other's welfare, social justice can never be attained.” said Helen Keller. This ties into cinema because when you see a movie that provokes you to act, that triggers your deepest emotions, and makes you feel that love. If a group of people can see the suffering, beauty, and actions of those before

and after us I feel that Social Justice can be obtained.

Alfred Hitchcock once said, “In many of the films now being made, there is very little cinema: they are mostly what I call 'photographs of people talking.' When we tell a story in cinema we should resort to dialogue only when it's impossible to do otherwise. I always try to tell a story in the cinematic way, through a succession of shots and bits of film in between.”

So much of the meaning of cinema is lost. From the beginning was about bringing people together, learning and sharing perspectives, triggering emotions, and to make art.

When you look back at the
great cinematic figureheads
what comes to your mind?
