

## Americans need to start thinking more globally

by Anna Esslinger  
Culture Editor

While watching the news earlier this year, I realized a disparity between time spent on different stories. CNN news anchor Wolf Blitzer spent about thirty seconds on an school massacre in Nigeria that left 50 people dead and then proceeded to spend five minutes going into minute detail about another criminal trial regarding Michael Jackson's death.

While CNN was telling me information on Michael Jackson's doctor that I did not care to hear, I could not help but think that the Nigerian massacre was under-covered. If the event had happened in the United States, there would have been a national outcry, public vigils in every state, and countless hours of news coverage reminiscent of the Sandy Hook or Columbine shootings. Instead, it got thirty seconds of airtime at three in the afternoon.

It seems as though Americans only care about news that happens in the United States or involves the United States. This US-centric attitude leaves us uneducated and ignorant about global problems. Yes, the United States is the only superpower left and yes, our news is important, but that doesn't mean other countries are insignificant or irrelevant. Because we focus heavily on national issues, we often fixate on less

important domestic stories, as opposed to very important international stories. The first example that comes to mind is the Casey Anthony trial.

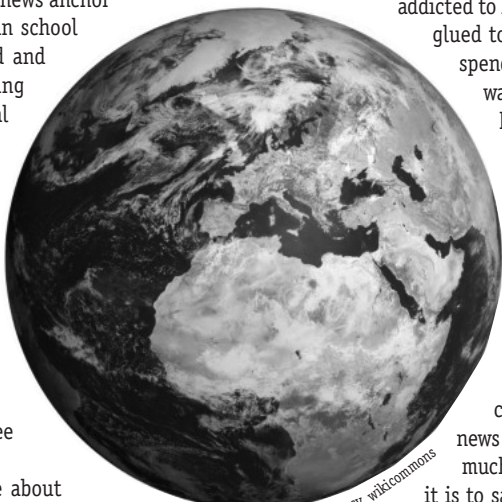
In the summer of 2011, the nation was addicted to Anthony's story. 5.2 million viewers were glued to their televisions watching Nancy Grace spend weeks discussing Casey Anthony. I too was hooked to the case, watching countless hours of superfluous trial coverage. I now realize that the trial was insignificant compared to other news during that summer. While 5.2 million Americans watched Nancy Grace fixate on Casey Anthony's tattoo, South Sudan, a new country, was formed; an E Coli outbreak started in Germany, affecting 3,950 people; and there was a mass shooting in Norway. None of these what I consider incredibly important pieces of news were featured or cared about quite as much as the Casey Anthony trial. As sad as it is to say, the death of one little girl in Florida is not considered as news-worthy as 80 people being shot in Norway, an outbreak of E. Coli, or the formation of a new country.

Most people in America have a fair amount of political efficacy regarding our own politics, but do not know nearly enough about other countries. In other countries, almost everyone knows that Barack Obama is

the president of the United States, but if you ask most Americans who the president of Brazil is they will probably be at a loss for words. The only reason why most Americans know who Kim Jong Un or Bashar Al-Assad is is because the US is heavily involved with their countries. Although it is more important to know about our own country, it is vital that we understand the politics of other countries, whether we are involved with them or not because it allows us to be involved in the global community and not just our own country's community.

With news of the recent natural disasters in the Philippines, there has been an underwhelming amount of support and coverage coming from the American people and media. After Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Sandy there was an incredible amount of effort to help the victims. There were commercials, countless organizations, and fundraisers established after these domestic natural disasters. But when an equally horrific event happened outside of the United States there was not nearly as much support coming from our country. This double standard is not only seen with the typhoon in the Philippines, but also with the earthquake and tsunami in Japan back in 2011 and countless other international natural disasters. Just because these natural disasters did not happen in the United States does not mean that they do not deserve equal support.

Americans should think more on a global level than just a national level. Yes, a fair amount of patriotism is good, but that does not mean that other countries' problems or news should be pushed aside and considered less important. Although some news may not directly affect you or your country, it is still important to our global climate and deserves recognition over less important domestic affairs.

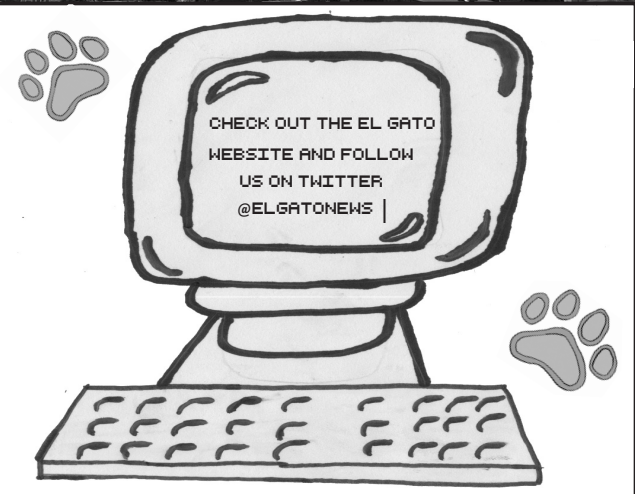


all photos courtesy wikicommons



## DECEMBER/JANUARY 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
15	16	17 First Semester Final Exams Girls Basketball v. Willow Glen (LGHS Large Gym)	18 First Semester Final Exams	19 End of First Semester First Semester Final Exams Girls Basketball @ Soquel High School	20 No School for Students - Staff Work day	21 Girls Basketball v. Pioneer @ EV Wrestling Viking Ladies Wrestling Challenge
22	23 Winter Holiday Break	24	25	26 Girls Basketball Tourney (JV Presentation V Del Mar)	27 Girls Basketball Tourney (JV Presentation V Del Mar)	28 Girls Basketball Tourney (JV Presentation V Del Mar)
29	30	31	1	2	3 Wrestling Ruppel Memorial 2 <sup>nd</sup> Man Tourney (2PM - 9PM) (Cupertino High)	4 Wrestling Cupertino Memorial (9:30 AM - 9PM) (Cupertino High)
5	6 First Day of Second Semester	7 Girls Basketball v. Palo Alto (LGHS Large Gym)	8 Boys Basketball v. Palo Alto (Large Gym) Junior Tutorial Meeting (9:30 AM - 10 AM) (Theater) ASB Meeting (11:45AM - 12:20PM) (L5) School Site Council (7PM) (Career Center)	9 Wrestling v. Gunn (5:30 PM) (LGHS)	10 Boys Basketball @ Saratoga Girls Basketball @ Gunn	11 Wrestling Wildcat Invitational (9:30 AM - 7PM) (LGHS)
12	13 Girls Basketball @ Mountain View Board Meeting Saratoga (6:30 PM) (SHS Library)	14	15 Boys Basketball v. Mountain View (LGHS Large Gym)	16 Home and School (8:45AM) (Community Room)	17 Boys Basketball @ Homestead	18 Wrestling Jim Root Classis (9AM - 7PM) (Prospect High School)
19	20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Observed)	21 Registration Assembly (9:30 AM - 10 PM) (Theater) Junior College Planning Workshop Session 1 - Parenting Continuum (6:30 PM - 9PM) (Library)	22 Registration Assembly (9:30 AM - 10 AM) (Theater)	23 Registration Assembly (9:30 AM - 10 AM) (Theater) Wrestling v. Wilcox (5:30 PM) (LGHS)	24 Boys Basketball v. Milpitas (LGHS Large Gym) Girls Basketball v. Milpitas (LGHS Large Gym) Registration Assembly (9:30 AM - 10 AM)	25 Girls Basketball @ Saratoga Wrestling Shark Shootout (8AM - 8PM) (Oceana High School)
26	27 Junior College Planning Workshop Session 2 - Parenting Continuum (6:30 PM - 9PM) (Library)	28 Girls Basketball @ Lynbrook	29 Boys Basketball @ Los Altos	30	31 Boys Basketball v. Saratoga (LGHS Large Gym) Girls Basketball v. Gunn (LGHS Large Gym)	



## EL GATO

Los Gatos High School • 20 High School Court  
Los Gatos, CA 95030 • (408) 354-2730 ext 285  
Editors-in-Chief  
Quincey Klein  
Haley Wade  
Hana Beach  
Advisor  
Doug Garrett  
dgarrett@lgsuhsd.org  
lghselgatochiefs@gmail.com

**News Editors**  
Hyuntae Byun  
Madison Prestine  
Natalie Domengeaux

**National Editor**  
Jonathan Friedland

**Editorial Editor**  
Maddie Abene

**World Editors**  
Violet Wallerstein  
Kelsey Fleming

**Center Editor**  
Montana Fowler

**Culture Editors**  
Anna Esslinger  
Sarah Bainbridge

**Humor Editors**  
Aidan Adams-Campeau  
Sean Clark

**People Editors**  
Ruth Murai  
Ari Sweedler

**Sports Editors**  
Liat Rubin  
Brian Schunk  
Rheagan Rizio

**Business Manager**  
Jonathan Friedland

**Opinion Editors**  
Niamh Doyle  
Rachel Salisbury

**Web/Graphics Editors**  
Justine Reyes  
Setareh Raygani  
Michelle Huang  
Lauren Finkle  
Lauren Fredericks

El Gato is an independently funded publication of the Writing for Publication class at Los Gatos High School. Editorials reflect the majority opinion of the staff. El Gato is an open forum for the exchange of ideas and welcomes signed letters and e-mail. Names can be withheld upon request. All stories, graphics, and layout are done by El Gato staff. We reserve the right to refuse ad contracts.  
Subscriber \$30, Patron \$65, Sponsor \$105.