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Julia Rae Carroll (9th)
Eagle Rock Jr. High
208-357-8616, or this email (juliahooles-13@hotmail.com)

How Diversity Improves our Community

Ah, diversity. The cornerstone of growth and learning. After all, without diversity, what would the world be? Maybe we take it for granted that we can walk along the road and toss a coin into a guitar case for a musician who is performing an original song, right there on the street (yes, even singing!). Maybe we don't appreciate that we have not only the decision, but the very ability to decide what to read, what to watch, what to enjoy. A foreign exchange student from Korea came to my junior high school one day to talk to our Multi-cultural club about her own culture. Martial arts, she explained, was an available course in her school, much like our weightlifting or P.E. courses were. As she spoke, I listened, but others around me subtly held their phone behind their leg as they texted their BFF about how OMG math was impossible. I'll admit that I engage in the occasional cellular communication during school hours, but I didn't understand how anyone could not be enthralled by our Korean speaker. Slightly linguistically challenged though she was (who wouldn't be?), her simple-worded images of her home were vivid and remarkably descriptive. Although what she said to us will someday not be remembered in my own mind, I took one thing from the speech that will always remain—
"no matter how different two cultures may seem, they all have some similarities; but at the same time, no matter how close two regions may be, no two cultures are exactly the same."

But of course, being diverse isn't always easy. An experiment was conducted in which there was one test subject and a whole class of others with the subject—we'll place you as the subject, shall we? An image was projected onto the screen in front of you and your classmates—on one side of the screen, it showed a five-inch tall, one-inch thick bar, labeled Bar 1. On the right of the screen were three other options—there stood Bar A, a five-inch tall, one-inch thick bar, perfectly and very obviously symmetric to Bar 1. Beside it was very nearly ten inch tall Bar B, also only one inch thick. After that,

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naturally, there was Bar C, the end of the bars. It was about two inches tall, and, once again, one inch thick. Your class was told to choose one that was the same as Bar A. Then, you and your colleagues were instructed to raise your hand when the letter of the bar you chose was called. Now, everyone else in the room, before you had arrived, was told to raise their hand for either B or C, purposely erring. You hesitate as you begin to raise your hand for A, and look around at everyone else, none making a move to indicate they agreed with you. You know you're right, but peer pressure, even such a passive kind, could make you change your decision. Reminisce of 1984? Think long and hard—what would you do?

Then again, sometimes conformity is mandatory. During formal classes, martial artists are required to wear a gi and belt—the color of the gi depends on which martial art you are training in, but they're typically black or white. We've all seen them—in the martial arts movies where the words are poorly syndicated with the film. Yes, despite the advantages and pleasures of having the freedom of choice, some form of accord is occasionally in demand, and reasonably so. Suppose soldiers in the military could wear whatever they liked? Or if every town had different driving-age law requirements?

Though diversity is excellent, uniformity isn't always a terrible thing.

So throw an extra coin into the guitarist's case; read the different book. Diversity isn't just being yourself. It's finding yourself.

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How diversity Improves our ^{9th grader} at Bonnell community by Teigha Patience

Diversity covers many different subjects of cultures and subcultures. Some of the things Diversity covers are languages, values and religion.

Languages are important because they are part of our heritage and cultures. National languages are important because if we didn't have national languages we would all speak differently and couldn't understand each other.

Values are also important. There are many different types of values. There are family values, church values and many others. Values improve our community by letting people believe in what they want to believe and if they follow those values their life will be better.

Religion is also very important to some people. There are many varieties of Religion including mormon, catholic, and christian. These are just a few examples. Religion is also important because it gives us values. Some of the values some mormons have are don't date till your 16 and go to church on sunday.

Finally being different in schools some times being different in your school can be hard like you can be made fun of because your different. I know one person who made fun of Jewish people and I think thats rude. It doesn't matter what race or religion you are were all just people.

In conclusion being different
isn't that bad.