

Opinion

The velodrome needs community focus

by Taylor Farnsworth
special to *The Trumpet*

The influential, late Bob Rodale funded and built a velodrome in Trexlertown, Pennsylvania in 1985; it is often considered the most renowned velodrome in the history of American cycling. A velodrome is a slanted, oval track on which cyclists race bikes which are fixed gear, allow no coasting, and have no brakes. Since the Valley Preferred Cycling Center (formerly known as the Lehigh Valley Velodrome) was built, it was open to the community providing programs such as Air Products and the Bicycle Racing League to learn to ride the track just like the pros.

In recent years, the facility has become less community oriented and more focused on the pro cyclists. The

programs to “try the track” are offered less frequently and the “community hours” at the velodrome are now being invaded by pro cyclists who could pose a danger to any inexperienced cyclist riding at the facility.

A solution to this problem would be to have a few hours set aside each week, monitored by a staff member to allow for a safe environment for the community to participate outside of the offered programs. If monitored hours are added, pros and experienced cyclists can be denied access in order to re-create the community environment prevalent in previous years.

Over the years the community programs have had hundreds of participants, with at least fifty continuing to national and international competitions. Some have even competed and medaled at the world

championships and the Olympics. The facility has failed to realize that the kids entering these programs are the future Olympians and need guidance from the facility to succeed.

Although it may be said that there is already adequate time provided through the offered programs and the “community hours,” these hours are not being used for the community, but for the sake of already experienced cyclists. Yes, the more experienced athletes also need to train, but there are many more opportunities for them to get training time than there are for inexperienced riders.

Bob Rodale left behind his legacy and this facility to the community to have it prosper for years to come. A more community-oriented atmosphere is much needed at the velodrome. Young cyclists are the future pros; why not nurture them to succeed?



Youth riders race around the velodrome in a competition held between professional races.

Photo Courtesy of Mark Sestel

Hats off to students successfully fighting cyber bullying

by Sean Tony
special to *The Trumpet*

I would like to thank a group of Parkland students who have teamed together to stop cyber bullying within the school.

Over the past month, several ‘battle’

pages have appeared on Facebook. The pages created an image of two students, usually without consent, and encouraged everyone to vote for who was better, stronger, cuter, nicer or whatever else they wanted.

Upon their creation, a good majority of students realized that these pages would cause nothing but more trouble. So they rallied up, shared their opinions

with the pages and a few of the pages actually shut down. Another solution was pursued by an anonymous student who created a ‘compliment’ page, which did the exact opposite of the ‘battle’ pages. It complimented anyone who asked for it.

The response to the ‘compliment’ page was overwhelmingly positive. Compliments to the ‘complimenter’ started pouring in. After the page was made,

the battle pages started to disappear. By the following week, nobody even seemed to worry about these pages.

Acknowledged or not, the students of Parkland High School fought against cyber bullying effectively. Watching an entire school get together to stop something such as this is truly heart-warming. I tip my hat to you, Parkland High School students.

“Meh” “Inner Artist”? I think not.

by Cain Azar

“My band is better because they aren’t on the radio!”

“No, my band is better because nobody has ever heard of them!”

We have all heard this argument at one point. For whatever reason, students have an impulse to like things that nobody else does, hoping it will make them cooler. But what exactly is the point of liking something just to be different?

I have no idea. But what is worse, this seems to have led to a recent obsession with discovering one’s “inner artist.” To bring a dose of reality to the situation, some facts:

Taking random photographs of ugly things does not make one a photographer.

Re-posting the poetry one made back in sixth grade on Facebook does not qualify one as a published poet.

Updating one’s status with the lyrics of an emo song does not mean a person is artistic.

I think it is about time we all take a chill pill and realize that we are... students. Sure, some kids can paint. Sure, some kids can color (inside the lines), but does this really make us artistic individuals? No. We are all in high school, and honestly, no matter how much we try to be different, we just end up molding together.

So do not dress in rags because the idea of buying clothes from a store that (gasp) another student shops at is terrible. Admit to friends that *Jersey Shore* is secretly a great show. Do not hate on movies just because they were not created by an unknown indie director who filmed it with a camcorder.

By all means, I am not suggesting that we dress identical and walk around laughing at things that are not funny and liking things simply because they are “mainstream.” I am just suggesting that we realize that being similar to other people in certain ways is not always such a bad thing.

Walking inside American Eagle will not turn a girl into a plastic barbie doll; listening to Ke\$ha and Bruno Mars will not be the death of one’s “musical taste.”

Meh!