



FLAG FOOTBALL

WOMAN'S HISTORY MONTH

The Truth of Propaganda

PETER SILVA

In an era dominated by information, the term “propaganda” surrounds the visions of public opinion. The psychology of propaganda consists of many historical roots, dating back to the late 1800s when it was commonly used to influence people and persuade them to make mainly political choices. However, it remains a very fascinating, yet concerning aspect of human behavior, influencing perceptions, shaping attitudes toward causes, and even guiding the course of nations. Propaganda is a tactic used to manipulate individuals or entire communities towards specific ideas or behaviors by carefully taking advantage of people's psychological traits such as bias and emotions, and this is what the psychological use of propaganda affects, it influences a person's confirmation bias, their emotional appeal, and also their trust in authority

According to Leonard W. Doob, in his article “psychology and propaganda”, he further explains

what propaganda actually is, stating that, “The term ‘propaganda’ has come to mean the employment of non-logical, or affective, appeals in the public dissemination and modification of ideas, attitudes, and beliefs. It is related to ‘persuasion,’ which connotes, in addition, a more intimate contact with people and a more thorough marshaling of evidence.” This quote shows us in detail how propaganda is a well-crafted tool, that explores and influences the psychological vulnerabilities to sway people or a group of people towards a belief or action. Followed by a lot of cognitive and emotional factors, propaganda centralizes its focus on the born-given trait of humans to seek coherence in the world around them.

One of the many psychological elements in which propaganda affects people is confirmation bias. People always tend to favor information that goes along with their (Cont. Pg. 5)

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Confidence

ELIANAH WEAVER

Who comes to mind when you think about the most confident person you know? Maybe it's your best friend, parent, etc. As confident as they may seem, not one person has it all together. Everyone has their own struggles that they have to overcome, only some may be better at masking their true feelings. It's through those struggles that true character is defined. Not one person has it all together. You truly learn who someone is by how they act during those times. We can have confidence knowing that with God, we will get through whatever we're facing. Be confident in who you are in Christ. Be confident, knowing he is always with you. In him, you are enough.

Philippians 1:6 in the New International Version (NIV) of the Bible says, "Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus"



Love, Eli

Flag Football

ANDREA BALDWIN

As the Crusader's spring sports started a multiple weeks ago we would like to mention a new sport offered. In past years the only sport they have in the spring is the Boys Varsity Volleyball, but this season they have added Girls Flag Football. Thanks to our Athletic Director Rick DeOlivera and The New England Patriots the girls at SLA finally have a sport to play in the spring! It also ties in with Women's History Month.

The first day of tryouts was held on March 4, 2024. The tryouts were held in the SLA gym by the new flag football coaches Cameron Loss and Nora Renzi. Drills were done and practiced footwork, throwing, and catching. Offensive plays were even started and practiced. The first day of tryouts ended with a little group huddle about what the coaches expected for this season and their goals.

The next few days of tryouts were used to see who was good at what position. They moved people around seeing who would play their best in that spot. More practices are going to be held these next coming weeks and their first game is in the beginning of April! There are 16 girls on our new Lady Crusaders flag football team. They are the first ever girls flag

football team in crusader history!

To tie into Women's History Month, according to the International Women's Flag Football Association (IWFFA) the first ever women's flag football game was in 1974. This first-ever game was authorized by the United States Flag Football Association (USFFA). This took place in Ohio and the four teams that participated were teams from Cleveland and Akron. Before this, women weren't allowed to play because it wasn't considered elegant or a woman's place but eventually women got tired of watching men do something they couldn't do. Women were interested and wanted to play. The biggest thing was to eliminate the stereotype of girls not playing sports and the Lady Crusaders are doing just that.



Are Stanley's Worth it?

SOPHIA HOUGH

You have probably seen teenage girls walking around school or at the grocery store carrying those unnecessarily huge tumblers. You know, the ones with the clear straw sticking out at the top, with no cover, and the large handle. Don't recognize them yet? Oh, come on, you know, the gigantic multicolor water bottle that spills half its water every time you tilt it more than 45 degrees. Well, it might seem like a baby to carry around with you everywhere, from how large and heavy it is, but let's see the advantages and disadvantages of this water bottle.

Stanley began making their water bottles in 1913, expecting their products to go out to blue-collar workers. The durable tumbler was common to have in an everyday household, but it never got as popular as it did until this year. Why so?

I asked some high school students who attend SLA and questioned why they own one. The first person stated that "they just got it for the trend and that it fits well into their car cup holder", while another said "it kept their water nice and cold throughout the day but was annoying because others would just drink out of it

it whenever they wanted to", which was quite gross when you think about it. The easy access to the water was nice though.

In science class, I had a project on how much water is too much, and I found out that if you take your body weight, divide that by 2, then you turn that into ounces. For example, if you weigh 100 pounds, divide it by 2 (50), and turn that into ounces, you should drink 50 oz per day, not including physical activities. As an athlete, I have seen people using Stanleys during practice, or at a game, and without a doubt someone tips it over and they spill water all over the court. It's a waste of time to have our coaches grab paper towels to clean up the mess, while they could just have a water bottle that can fully close.

There have been rumors about Stanley cups having lead inside of the metal that keeps the drink's temperature. This created a lot of controversy between the consumers and the brand. Lead can lead to developmental problems, which is horrible, especially for the young who love these hydrating flasks. A subsequent statement posted on the Stanley website explained that "no lead is present on the surface of any Stanley product that comes into



contact with the consumer nor the contents of the product." The liquid inside a Stanley mug does not come in contact with the metal, so "there really is practically zero risk of you ingesting any of the lead that's in this cup," Jack Caravanos, doctor of public health and professor of environmental public health sciences at New York University's School of Global Public Health, said in a Jan. 31 segment on the TODAY show.

When it comes to all the brands of water bottles, it seems that Stanley has more cons than pros. However, it's clear that Stanleys the most popular tumbler out there, but like with all teenage fads, in 6 months a new brand will catch our eye, and another debate will start over again.

The Truth of Propaganda Cont.

own beliefs, allowing them to create a broader spectrum of ideas based on their own opinions. Propaganda often explores this psychological bias that people create, by presenting to them specific information that may go according to their beliefs, giving strength to people's beliefs even more. According to Daniel Kahneman, "Cognitive biases are the mind's way of taking shortcuts in decision-making, and propaganda exploits these shortcuts to shape perceptions." Based on this, knowing the vulnerabilities of our own bias may help us understand propaganda even more, and guide us into having our own opinions rather than taking the shortcuts of propaganda and being biased to information that may often be presented as untrue.

Another use of propaganda from a psychological viewpoint is its effect on emotional appeal, and how it triggers emotional centers of the brain, giving rise to fear, joy, or anger to manipulate individuals' perceptions. Emotional appeals can many times interfere with logical thinking, making individuals make important decisions based on emotions, rather than being carefully examined with critical thinking. This method used by

propagandists can be a very quick way to trigger people's emotional responses, influencing them to accept their causes with the information presented to them by shaping public sentiments.

The psychology of propaganda also influences people by making use of their trust figures of authority. Whether it be political leaders, experts, celebrities, or even sports legends, people are most likely to believe something that comes from a source that they claim as credible. Many propagandas created in the past, and even today, portray messages from the government to its people, making people just accept that information without going into further analyses, similar to the emotional appeal of propaganda. Propagandists strategically employ important figures in their art, to shape people's opinion, although it can be very easily manipulated.

In times when information is increasing constantly in our society, understanding the psychological uses of propaganda can be of crucial importance when shaping one's character and personal opinions. The use of confirmation bias, emotional appeal, and figures of

authority/trust are all psychological factors that may help a person be honest to themselves. A more educated and resilient knowledge of propaganda and its concepts inside the psychological spectrum can be shaped by people and societies as they grow more skilled at interpreting the complex chains of propaganda.

Women's History Month

MAYA THOMAS

March may not have many holidays, but it is important nonetheless. March brings us closer to the end of school, and that's always something to celebrate. Furthermore, March is Women's History Month. As we enjoy the crisp spring air, we take time to reflect on the women who inspire us. In the spirit of celebrating women, I won't be bashing any trashy celebs. Instead, I will be giving examples of women who may empower my female readers to be the best they can be. March may be over, but it's never too late to celebrate female empowerment.

Michelle Obama grew up on the south side of Chicago



with her parents and older brother, Craig. With the help of her parents and a financial aid package, Michele attended Princeton. While there, she worked at a center to help support students of color. She did this for all her four years of college. Obama was a first-generation college student and one of the only black women in attendance. Nevertheless, she persisted and graduated in the top 10 percent of her class. Michelle went on to Harvard Law School and obtained her Juris Doctorate shortly after. She worked as a lawyer for many years, before moving on to public service organizations. In 2008, Michelle and her husband (who needs no introduction) became the first black family in the white house. While serving as first lady, Michelle sought to make the world a better place. She began a campaign to fight childhood obesity, (“Let’s Move”) and another initiative to educate

young girls (“Let Girls Learn”). spearheaded the “Joining Forces” initiative, which supported military members and their families.

Being first lady is stressful as it is. The media scrutiny alone could drive a person insane. Yet Michelle did not choose to be crushed by the weight of her problems. Instead, she rose above them and tried her best to strengthen her country. Malala Yousafzai did the same.

Malala was born in the war-torn country of Pakistan and was deeply troubled when the Taliban began attacking girls for trying to get an education. At age eleven, she started blogging for the BBC, protesting against the Taliban for daring to take away her right to education. Malala received death threats from the Taliban, but she pressed on despite her fear. The terrorist organization attempted to assassinate her, shooting her while she rode the bus with friends.

She was only 15.

The road to recovery was long, as Malala was in critical condition. However, she was

able to return to school the following year. At age sixteen, she gave a speech at the United Nations, urging them not to forget that women’s education is a right, not a privilege. Malala refused to be silenced by the Taliban’s bullets and began a nonprofit organization to ensure that girls worldwide have access to twelve years of education. She opened a school for refugee girls in Lebanon and partnered with Apple to provide education for more than 100,000 girls around the globe. For her efforts to promote peace and education, Malala was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize at age 17. She is the youngest person, as well as the first Pakistani to achieve this accomplishment.

God said he created all men equally. He didn’t create women any less. If you’re a woman, you know full well that men may look down on you. They’ll try to treat you like a pretty carpet: admiring your beauty, but ultimately just stepping on you. Please, never let any man treat you like you’re worthless because your genitals are different. If you dedicate yourself to hard work, you will be just as strong, smart, and capable as any man. I know it’s impossible to make sexist pigs respect you. But you can make them wish they did.