

Blinded By Sight: The Affect on Us



Dominique Lopez
—Section Editor—

I've recently started my high school swim season and I must say it is a whirlwind to be in. Especially when my mom thinks that listening to the news is more fun than music on our drives.

This time though it was different... she convinced me that I needed driving hours and that I should drive. In utter dismay I drive with the realization that she will play something I don't want to listen to because I must say having access to the AUX cord is what makes car rides so much fun.

This time, though, it was something I was actually interested in and the most compelling part about this podcast was that a blind man was coaching collegiate swimming while I'm nervous as all heck worrying about how to cut time and make it to state.. (It was like she was reading my mind.) Distracting my brain from my own self-doubt, I had an inkling that I should write about this later because it was so interesting.

This NPR podcast made me realize that there are many things us, as humans, especially teens take for granted. One of those many things is our eyesight.

This blind collegiate swim coach, Tharon Drake, uses his hearing and other senses to coach 28 swimmers. He said that every swimmer has their own sounds based off style and technique. The ability to determine each swimmer through sound allows him to grow as a coach doing something he never thought he would be able to do. He is given a greater advantage to coaching because he is able to recognize mistakes without eyesight (Del Charco).

Do you ever wonder what life would be like without your eyesight? I know I do. When I think of what it would be like to not have any of my five senses or what life would be like I feel as though I would be deprived of opportunities.

My current lifestyle includes learning how to drive, swimming five days a week and going to competitions, as well as going to school and confirmation

classes and allowing myself to grow as an honors student who almost never gets sleep.

I realize that there are alternatives to these events if I didn't have my eyesight but without these parts of my life I still wouldn't know how to enjoy what I have without feeling a sense of being deprived.

Even though this is just how I feel I still find it hard to imagine a type of lifestyle without being able to see the world that I currently live in. I use my eyesight in my everyday life, all the time, from being able to see the flags or the black line on the bottom of the pool that all swimmers dread, to execute the right turn, to see my homework to complete it, or even just being here to share these stories with you today.

I do realize that if I didn't have my eyesight I probably wouldn't have discovered what I have discovered now, but I am one in a million people in this world who is just overlook the blessing of eyesight.

We as humans find ourselves taking so many things for granted without the

realization of there being other people who don't have the luxuries we have.

This swim coach is one of the many examples of people pushing past their disabilities to find a new lifestyle. He competed in the Paralympics with a successful career and continues to keep swimming in his everyday life.

Taking our eyesight for granted allows us to find that these people in our lives who don't have eyesight may or may not have an advantage to not seeing the world we live in.

If you think about it how much different would the world be without eyesight? Our decisions are all based off of what we see and without this simple thing that we take for granted we would be a plain world.

From colors to style, our decisions deprive us of seeing past what or who they really are and into the important features: purpose and personalities. Looking for beauty and a solidified happiness in how it would look in our house or how our life would look with that object or person, we avoid the obvious im-

portance of the object or person.

Basing everything off of what we see is where we find it hard to realize the difference of our world if we were to suddenly to lose our eyesight.

Our world would be blank and we wouldn't base everything off of what we see. Maybe if we lose our eyesight, even temporarily, it will change everything we think and our decisions will be looked into deeper than just by what we see.

Maybe we wouldn't be able to see but we might be more welcoming and happier without the stress of hurting someone else. It's not just one or two actions we choose; it comes from everything we choose and everything we say.

Through simple actions and the loss of our eyesight, real or metaphorical, we might just become a better more tolerant world not just based off of what we see because we are looking deeper. So next time you see something or someone, don't take it for granted and realize that there's more to it than what's on the outside.

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COLD AS ICE- Alamosa Ice Beavers are midway through their second season. Be sure to check them out at the Alamosa Parks and Recreation Ice Rink.

The Alamosan is published by students of Alamosa High School, 805 Craft Drive, Alamosa, CO 81101. The Alamosan is typeset by the staff and printed by the Valley Courier, Alamosa, CO. The Alamosan is a member of the Colorado High School Press Association and the Quill & Scroll Society. **Letter Policy:** All letters to The Alamosan must be signed and not libelous or profane. Letters must fit the space (250 words max) and are subject to editing and style. Signed editorial opinions are those of the writers and do not necessarily represent those of The Alamosan or Alamosa High School. The Alamosan is an expression made by the students in exercise of freedom of speech and freedom of press, and is not an expression of the RE-11J school district.