

'LADY' WARRIORS ARE WARRIORS

You know this is sexist, right? by: Anna Olson

After decades of referring to its women's sports teams as "Ladies," Baylor recently became the latest major university to stop using the term, rightfully calling all athletic participants at the school just the Bears.

Popularized in the 1970s, the term "Lady" has been used to separate women's athletics from men's.

This term isn't just used by colleges. Here at Arapahoe, female athletes around the school have been referred to as "Lady Warriors" instead of just as "Warriors."

When someone says the word "Lady", the dictionary definition--"a woman of refinement and gentle manners"--comes to mind. That's not exactly a word that describes an athletic, competitive spirit of a "Warrior."

Because the male athletes are referred to as simply "Warriors" and not "Gentleman Warriors," when people call female athletes "Lady Warriors" they are differentiating them because of their gender. Adding the word "Lady" infers that they are outside the norm and that they don't deserve to be grouped with the male athletes.

According to athletic director Pat McCabe, the term is not sanctioned or encouraged by the school, and its use is more of a societal issue. But despite that, the term is sometimes still used at sporting events, around the school and in the larger community.

Recently, McCabe made it clear that both boys and girls athletic teams and individual athletes should be referred to as just "Warriors," and rightfully so. However, students, parents and community members still need to be educated about the term.

If major universities have retired the use of the term then it's time for everyone in our community and in society as a whole to do the same. It sounds ridiculous to call the football team the "Gentleman Warriors" or to hear the "Gentleman Warriors baseball team" be announced. "Lady Warriors" is not officially sanctioned by our school but awareness still needs to be raised about the issue. Warriors should be Warriors — their gender shouldn't dictate their name.

I DON'T WANT KIDS

by: Lily Stintion

And I'm not going to change my mind.

I don't want or see kids in my future and that's more than okay!

Why can't people just accept that and move on instead of giving their unsolicited opinions about how I'll change or how I'm wrong in the situation.

But this is about more than just the passive aggressive comments said by adults every time I say the words "I don't want kids."

There's a lot of contradiction with adults telling young women what they should be focusing on in their future. They say things like, "You should live your life and not worry about kids," but also "You'll miss out on life if you don't have kids," or my personal favorite that really gets my blood to boil, "You'll change your mind," or "You don't know what you really want right now." And of course they'll also tell you that "You shouldn't waste your youth having kids."

But let's flip the situation onto the male counterpart. When a man says he doesn't want kids 99.99% of the time there's no reaction and no one gives their two cents, but when a young woman says she doesn't want kids, suddenly it becomes everyone's personal problem.

Here's a short list of some of the reasons I don't want or see kids in my future:

A) Do you know how much kids cost? Like, actually cost? They're literally just black holes for your bank account. I know money doesn't solve your problems or make you happy in the end but it sure does make things a lot easier. I want to travel and have a life when I'm in my thirties and forties. People have called me selfish for not wanting kids but it's not selfish. I don't want kids and knowing that and choosing not to bring kids into the world is intelligent of me, not selfish.

B) Do you know what birth does to your body?

Actually being pregnant and growing a human being inside of you not only terrifies me because growing something inside of you is the start to every creepy creature murder movie, but it wasn't until recently when I truly found out what happens to your body and hormones during and post pregnancy. To keep this short and sweet, there's no way I want to go through any of that.

C) The world we live in. There's two sides to this thought -- some people see how utterly screwed up our world is and want to bring kids into it to try and bring more good into it. And then there are the people who don't want to bring kids into the world because of how screwed up it is. My thought is why would I want to bring a living being into this world so they can experience trauma, heartbreak, death, insecurities and mental illness. Personally, I've been through a fair share of sadness and trauma and would never want anyone to experience the types of pain I have.

As much as I try to imagine it, I can't envision having kids of my own anytime in my future. I'm planning on going to college in California, graduating and working in the journalism field. I can see myself living with three roommates in an apartment that is way too small and priced way too high because California living expenses are crazy. I can see myself having a very successful career in whatever I choose to do, eventually living alone, with a great dane and probably a pitbull as well. I know that I'm going to be that cool aunt for my cousin's kids. I come from a family with a lot of people. I don't want kids and I know I'm not going to miss out on it because of the big family I have.

So please, stop telling me I'm selfish or wrong for not wanting kids. It's not what I want.

THE LAS VEGAS WATER SHORTAGE

Why Las Vegas is a selfish city

by: Zenaida Benavides

What first comes to mind when you hear the city name “Las Vegas”? The gambling? The casinos? The chance to win big or lose it all? When I think of Las Vegas, I think of a city that is single-handedly the one of most embarrassing things to come out of this country.

Not only does this city use up so much water with such entitlement. But, they don’t seem to offer anything in return except for shattered dreams and a demand for more water.

According to The Nevada Independent, there have been “nationwide news reports of the first-ever declared Tier 1 water shortage in the Colorado River, which reduces for the first time the amount of water Arizona, Nevada and Mexico can claim from the river.”

If you’ve ever flown over the city of Las Vegas, you would notice hundreds of thousands of pools, green lawns, and fountains as far as the eye can see. Yet, have you ever thought about how much water goes into making those things happen not just anywhere, but, in a desert?

You may be wondering where Nevada gets all their water? KTNV Las Vegas claims that “Las Vegas gets 90% of its water from the Colorado River” But, what will happen when there’s no more water left to take?

The people of Las Vegas are using water like it is an unlimited resource; like they are the only people in the country to use water. But, this issue is not unique to the state of Nevada at all, in fact, many dry states including Arizona, California, and Colorado should not be using the amount of water that they use.

I don’t understand why this country is holding itself back by using an unsustainable resource for such an insatiable city? There is a tremendous difference between needing water to drink and wanting it for maintaining a healthy lawn.

Something as precious as water should be used for necessary purposes such as consumption, hygienic standards, and putting out fires. Water should not be used for a personal pool in the middle of a desert wasteland that is the city of sin.

BREAKING DOWN A VILLAIN

by: Justus Brocka

A look behind the decomposition of a villain

Villain breakdowns. Dangerous and possibly world ending. Let’s look into this trope that most of us have seen since childhood without even knowing it. A villain breakdown is when the opposing character quite literally breaks down and loses it as their plan begins to fall apart.

In my opinion, villain breakdowns are one of the most satisfying parts to the end of a story. There is almost something cathartic about watching a villain lose it after spending the whole narrative being one step ahead of the hero. This is especially true with chess master archetype villains. These types of villains are master strategists who always plan to out think the protagonists. These plans usually involve multiple contingencies ensuring their ability to manipulate their way through any story.

A villain’s breakdown can range anywhere from being comparable to a toddler throwing a temper tantrum, to a crisis with world ending consequences. This can also be seen in the final form, where the

villain changes into a monstrous form that no longer appears human. This is also commonly exemplified in video games. A good example of the final form would be the Joker at the end of the game Batman Arkham Asylum, where he injects himself with the titan formula, temporarily turning him into a hulking beast.

If you’ve ever heard a villain yell something like, “I should have killed you when I had the chance!”, “Why won’t you just die already!” or anything else along those lines, then you’ve seen an example of the villain breakdown known as the third act. This usually happens at the end of a story when a villain’s grand plan starts to crumble around them. This third act breakdown isn’t unique to just villains. In fact, the occasional hero has been known to experience this. However, it is not usually to the same extent as the villain’s third act.

In conclusion, a lot of villains seem to have an ineradicable god complex, and these characters will not lose with grace. This is why the villain breakdown is one of the most satisfying parts to a story.