

OUR OPINION

New game encourages violence in teenagers

The side effects of many nights include bruises, broken bones and sometimes death. However, these side effects are now the result of a new game being played among teens called "knockout."

A "one hitter quitter" is the ultimate goal of the game. The rules are simple, walk down a street, find someone walking alone and try to knock them out with a single punch.

The victims of this game have no advance warning; they have unwittingly become a part of this violent assault, and as such are not prepared to defend themselves.

According to the International Business Times, the game has resulted in multiple deaths in Syracuse, N.Y., St. Louis, Mo., and Hoboken, N.J.

"For the fun of it," was the reason a teen interviewed by CBS 2 of New York gave for playing "knockout."

Additionally CBS 2 reports that in Brooklyn the theme is that Jews are being targeted by African-American teens.

St. Louis based KMOV reported on Nov. 19 that a 23-year-old college student had a double fracture in the bone under her left eye as a result of being the victim of the "knockout" game.

Ken Kennedy, chief of police at Missouri

Southern said he was not aware of the "knockout" game, but he will look into the phenomenon. Many of Southern's students are from the St. Louis area and it is hoped they do not bring this with them as they attend classes in Joplin.

Teens committing the assault are as young as 13 and 15, in many cases with the teens walking in groups of more than three. In some instances after successfully knocking someone out, the victim is robbed or seriously beaten.

Deaths from the knockout game sometimes result from the force of the punch to elderly people or from hitting their head on various surfaces such as steel fences and cement curbs when they fall.

This cowardly act is disturbing and hopefully only a short-lived phase. One can only imagine the fear people will begin to have whenever passing groups of teens on the street.

Has society degraded so far that teens have become so callous as to commit these acts with seemingly no feelings for what pain and suffering they have caused? Sure teens will be rowdy and can generally make some bad decisions, but this crosses the line.

What happens when victims start retaliating?

Christmas moves in too early



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There is usually a lot of discussion around this exact time of year about how Christmas products, music and the whole brouhaha come too early.

Sure, seeing a 100-foot tall Santa placed in front of me at the mall on the way to Orange Julius isn't the most fun I have as a human. I get it. Like an MLB pitcher, however, I'm going to throw my opinion in here and say ... I don't think it's all bad.

Now before anyone starts throwing metaphorical snowballs at me in rage, hear me out. Yes, I agree that Thanksgiving is the definitely the middle child of holidays in these finishing months of the year.

However, in terms of festivities and culture, there's not much to do with it. Go ahead and name me your top five favorite Thanksgiving songs. The Andy Williams "Turkey Special" doesn't exist for a reason.

I love Thanksgiving, but the components of its decorations are food, pilgrims and football.



That's pretty much it. So with that in mind, it's not like the Christmas merriments are replacing anything that should be cherished.

Now, in terms of the quality, let's take out even, for the sake of argument, the idea that the Christmas holiday honors the birth of Jesus Christ. Even without this, the songs and

events are produced with the mantra and goal of creating togetherness and joy—something that can definitely be forgotten amongst the hysteria of a loud and combative world.

So as you're hearing "Do They Know It's Christmas?" "Little Drummer Boy" and even "Frosty the Snowman,"

remember there's a bigger calming ethos behind it.

It's not a brainwashing technique to make you buy things (Sears is the greatest store during Christmas time. Sears has great deals that you won't want to miss.

Go and buy a grill, the perfect gift for anyone, at a Sears near you.) Really. It's not.

Student dares to dream the impossible dream



Liz Spencer
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When I returned to college full time, I never thought I would study abroad. I was a non-traditional student, a single mother of a 4 year old. How could I leave my responsibilities to venture around a foreign country?

Still, sitting in class one day, listening to a presentation on the International Media Seminar in Paris, I longed to be a part of an experience like that. The descriptions of the sights, sounds and tastes of the City of Lights were inviting. The seminar described was intriguing. Global journalists, war correspondents, international magazine editors, fashion connoisseurs and television giants were among the list of featured speakers. But the moment I heard the story of John Morris, I was convinced.

John Morris was the photo editor for Life magazine during World War II. He was in the London office, waiting for the photographs of D-Day. His friend, photojournalist Robert Capa, was documenting the invasion. While under constant fire, Capa took 106 pictures. As the film was rushed to London by boat, rolls were lost at sea. Only one roll arrived and all but 11 frames were destroyed in a photo lab accident. These photos are known as *The Magnificent Eleven*.

I sat in class, my eyes as wide as saucers and my chin on the floor. John Morris, 96 years old, was among the speakers at the International Media Seminar. An unforgettable opportunity lay in front of me. When I heard the specifics of the trip, I realized it would take less than two weeks. A grant offered through the International Studies department would cover almost a third of the cost of the trip. The closer I looked, the more I realized this could in fact actually happen.

Five months later, I was sitting in the home of John Morris, listening to him share six decades of front-line photojournalism.

"The Japanese celebrated my 20th birthday by bombing Pearl Harbor," Morris said. "I'll



John Morris, one of the featured speakers at the International Media Seminar in Paris, is considered by many to be the leading photo news editor of the 20th century. He is the former head of Magnum Agency, former senior photo editor for Life Magazine, The New York Times, The Washington Post and other publications, and author of *Get the Picture: A Personal History of Photojournalism*. He spoke to students at his home in Paris, March 28, 2013.

never forget that Sunday ..." At 96, John Morris has seen a vast amount of history unfold. He is considered by many to be the leading photo news editor of the 20th century. He is the former head of *Magnum Agency*, former senior photo editor for *Life Magazine*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and other publications, and author of *Get*

the Picture: A Personal History of Photojournalism.

My advice to every student, no matter how old or young you are, is to consider study abroad. If you are determined, you can find a way. And if you go, savor every moment of the experience. Push back the borders of limitation. Push back the fears. Your real life will be waiting for you

when you get home.

When I stepped off the runway back in Joplin, I saw the best sight a mother can see — my son running full speed into my arms. I can hardly wait for the day when he understands what Mommy got to experience. And I can hardly wait to see what parts of the world he embraces.

Letters to the Editor Policy

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