

## Embrace failure: make mistakes while you are young

by Shasta Webb  
Editor-in-Chief

As high school students, we are often encouraged to act like mature, responsible adults. Teachers, parents, and bosses give us responsibilities equivalent to their own. With such high expectations becoming the standard, some high school students grow up just a little bit too fast. However, we must remember that we are still young, we are still learning how to act mature and responsible, and we still have time to make mistakes before we are punished too harshly for them.

Although many adults often ascertain that "youth is wasted on the young," it is their high standards that prevent the youth from indulging in their vitality and sharpness of mind. Youth is the time for children and teenagers to experiment and make mistakes without harsh reprimand. Children learn valuable lessons through trial and error, so high school students should have the same right. Of course some guidance is necessary, but restricting what teens can do to a severe extent can prevent them from learning from their own mistakes. Additionally, teens often feel a need to rebel when parents attempt to impose rules that are too strict. We as teens learn best from our own experiences, so adults should let us do so, rather than simply telling us the correct way of doing something.

In fact, rather than be scolded for making mistakes, students could do better by embracing failure. By learning how to overcome and accept a D- on a test, or a rejection to a prestigious college, teenagers can better prepare themselves for mistakes they will make in the future. One silly Calculus exam, or one "denied" letter will not ruin a student's teenage years, but other serious errors made later in life certainly could have more drastic consequences.

Learning how to maintain an optimistic attitude earlier in life will prove beneficial for difficult situations later in life. In a competitive society where perfection is the ultimate goal, some teens feel the pressure to be flawless individuals and subsequently punish themselves for making even the slightest mistake. This path is dangerous and unhealthy and sets too elevated a standard. We are still teens so we still have time to mess up.

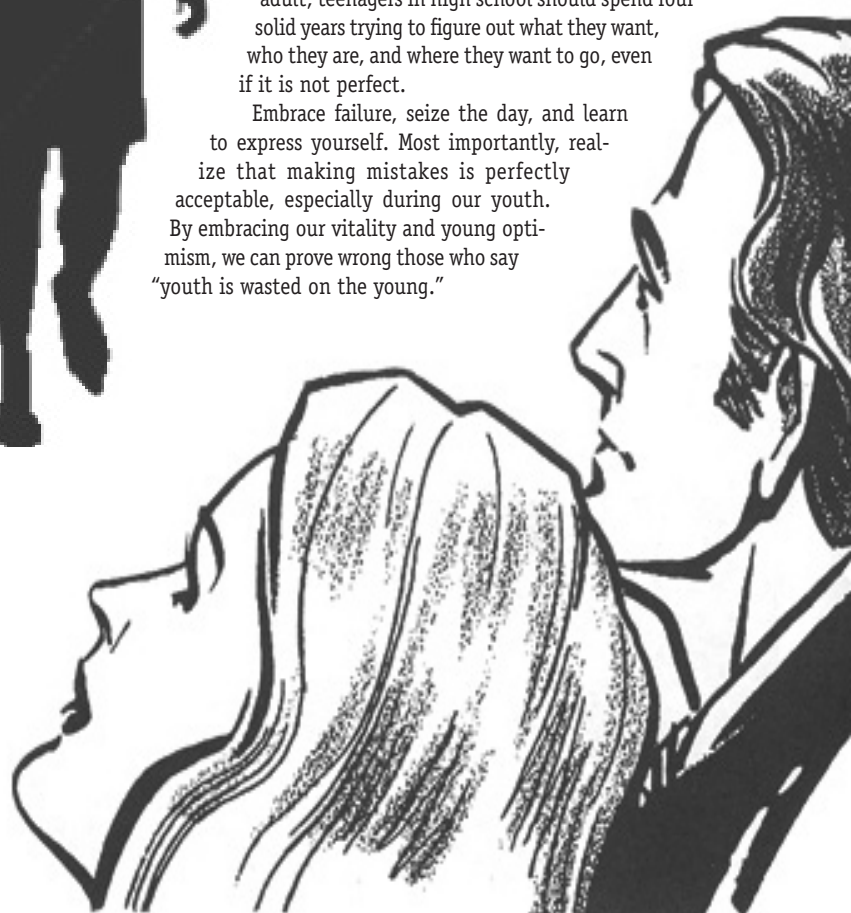
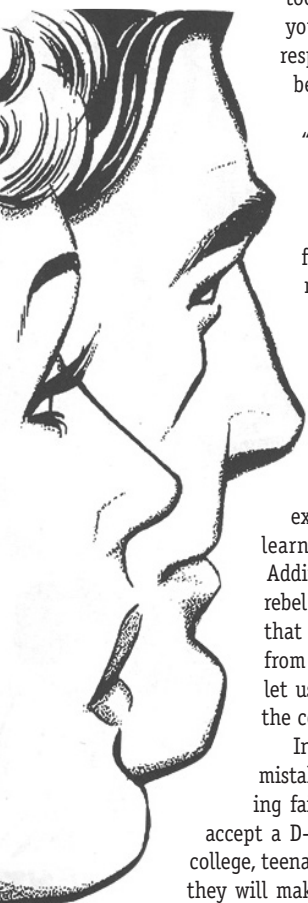
As well-roundedness goes hand-in-hand with the "ideal teen," students also fear feeling outcast because of their appearance. Those brave enough to exhibit their own styles of clothing or hair deserve praise. Those who choose not to be expressive should realize that youth is the time to try out strange clothes or dye hair weird colors. Of course some students choose to express themselves in ways besides outer appearance, but rather than label individuals who look different as "weird" or "outcasts," people should appreciate their ability to break away from the status quo.

In addition to experimenting with self-expression, young people should absolutely seize every opportunity the community or school provides for them. So many adults, or even recent alumni agree that they

should and could have done more with their four years of high school. Often they do not say this in regard to achieving perfection, but rather in regard to focusing on things they like instead of what looks appealing on a transcript. LGHS is unique in its identity as a public school that provides courses or extracurricular activities that some private schools lack, so students should appreciate and take advantage of what is made available. Take a course that sounds interesting, join a club that sounds absurd, audition for a play, or try out for a sport! Experiment now so that you know what you want to do later. High school is the perfect time to figure out who you want to be so that later in life you are not faced with identity questions. Try not to live according to what older people tell you. Listen to their advice, but ultimately do things that appeal to you. If you make a mistake or fail, all the better, because you realize that thing does not work for you.

There are so many reasons why teenagers need to lighten up on themselves and not waste their youth. Perhaps both teens and adults can assist in lowering the "ideal student" standard. Challenges are healthy and motivational no doubt, but when students arrive at school having literally not gone to bed, it raises a red flag. Rather than spending four solid years trying to be the perfect adult, teenagers in high school should spend four solid years trying to figure out what they want, who they are, and where they want to go, even if it is not perfect.

Embrace failure, seize the day, and learn to express yourself. Most importantly, realize that making mistakes is perfectly acceptable, especially during our youth. By embracing our vitality and young optimism, we can prove wrong those who say "youth is wasted on the young."



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| November  |                       |           |                           |           |                    |                                      |                     |           |                           |           |                                    |
|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|---------------------------|-----------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|---------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|
| SUNDAY    | MONDAY                | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY                 | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY             | SATURDAY                             |                     |           |                           |           |                                    |
|           |                       |           |                           |           |                    | Frosh Volleyball Tournament <b>1</b> |                     |           |                           |           |                                    |
|           |                       |           |                           |           |                    | Fall Play 7 PM                       |                     |           |                           |           |                                    |
| <b>2</b>  | Late Start            | <b>3</b>  | G.Volleyball at Palo Alto | <b>4</b>  | CAHSEE-sophomores  | <b>5</b>                             | ASB Meeting         | <b>6</b>  | Field Hockey vs. Leland   | <b>7</b>  | <b>8</b>                           |
|           | Red Cross Blood Drive |           | B/G Wtr. Polo Finals      |           | CAHSEE- sophomores |                                      | School City Council |           | G.Volleyball at Palo Alto |           | Football vs. Monta Vista 5/7:30 PM |
| <b>9</b>  | Late Start            | <b>10</b> | Veterans Day              | <b>11</b> | G.Volleyball CCS   | <b>12</b>                            | CASA 10 AM          | <b>13</b> | <b>14</b>                 | <b>15</b> |                                    |
|           |                       |           | No School                 |           |                    |                                      | Comm. Rm.           |           |                           |           |                                    |
| <b>16</b> | Late Start            | <b>17</b> | Frosh Skills Parent       | <b>18</b> | <b>19</b>          | <b>20</b>                            | AIDS Benefit        | <b>21</b> | AIDS Benefit              | <b>22</b> |                                    |
|           | G. Soccer at Aptos    |           | Night Library 7:15 PM     |           |                    |                                      | Play 7 PM           |           | Play 7 PM                 |           |                                    |
| <b>23</b> | Late Start            | <b>24</b> |                           | <b>25</b> | No School          | <b>26</b>                            | Happy Thanksgiving! | <b>27</b> | G. Basketball at Alisal   | <b>28</b> | <b>29</b>                          |
| <b>30</b> |                       |           |                           |           |                    |                                      |                     |           |                           |           |                                    |

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