Editorial for the Salisbury Flyer

September 2012

**Has Society Found Common Sense or Just Stopped Caring?**

Turning on the television, radio or even searching any media distribution site today, you may encounter one or more of the following: Lady Gaga and Miley Cyrus cut their hair, Chris Brown gets a disturbing tattoo, and Kris Jenner talks about her breast implant on the Today Show.

But really, who cares? Some people are so consumed with screens or any particular electronic device with access to the ever-so-chaotic social networking world. A more up-to-date definition of what people are consumed with these days is constantly updating their life for others’ approval. People stress more over things said on the internet than in their actual lives, which is actually quite sickening.

Social media is another issue that has had a major impact on the lives of internet users. I speak for myself and so many others when I say that as soon as I wake up, out of habit I reach for my phone and catch up on the less than one hundred and forty character updates that appeared overnight on Twitter. Some may even visit Facebook, Tumblr or Yahoo. All of these sites keep us educated throughout the day on our peers’ as well as celebrities’ lives.

With the availability of smart phone apps and hand held devices utilizing the wireless Internet, anyone can confirm the most updated piece of news within seconds. Despite the ridiculousness of a topic, any genre of news usually holds information worth reading during any long and stressful day.

This mass communication wave is addressed every single day in modern society. Newspaper sales struggle every day due to the rise in internet demand. Some large newspaper companies have decided to shell out over one million dollars to enhance their paper’s picture quality while still going over thoughts in the back of their mind asking why they are even bothering.

Even with change over time in print media, the quality and quantity of news content has also changed dramatically. No longer are there exaggerated stories like those in the age of yellow journalism, and there are many more advertisements and separate sections that narrow down a reader’s choice.

Is it simple enough to state that our generation is corrupt? Can we list our morals and what we value in life or have we lost sense of what those consist of? Due to this overconsumption and online obsession, there has been a severe decline in honesty. Some live directly off of what they can Google, which can easily range from ‘How do I lose weight?’ to ‘Where are my car keys?’ These acts of stupidity can be considered laziness and carelessness.

 We need to stop relying on technology so often and deal with situations in person, stop hiding behind a monitor, and worry about more important happenings like the presidential election over Kardashian drama.