Chaos *and* Community

Most teenagers would like to believe in our twenty-first century society, that the world is a pretty wonderful place to live. For example, as a high school student, the worst burdens to bear are things like having a date to Homecoming or studying for a Calculus test, which in the grand scheme of things seem pretty simple. However, in reality, our world today is anything but. The society we live in is an intricate one, riddled with joy and sadness, dominated by war and peace, powered by love and hate. When looking to the future, one might ask: "Where do we go from here, chaos or community?"

The answer is *both*. Chaos is inevitable, and although it is noble to work diligently to prevent it, it is naive to believe that we as humans have the power to control everything and everyone. Whether it be in the form of natural disaster or in the decisions of others, turmoil is bound to ensue every so often. But what matters in our future world is not whether or not we will meet with chaos, but rather what we will do when confronted with adversity. The solutions we come up with are more important than the problems we may face.

When Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans in 2005, hundreds of people lost their lives, thousands lost their homes, and this unique city seemed to be lost forever. However, through the rain, and through the pain, the nation banded together to offer a community for those who needed aid. People donated money, time, and supplies to the effort and the city is improving every day. Recently, when in Jena, Louisiana, seeds of racial injustice were planted, the community did not stand idly by and watch the drama unfold - thousands of people of all ethnicities packed up and went down to march for what they believe in, reminiscent of the civil rights era.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once noted, "we must live together as brothers, or perish together as fools". Just as King believed in a philosophy of community, so must our society in order to rebuild from devastation, to overcome injustice, or to triumph over any obstacles we may encounter. It is impossible to know what the future holds, but it is essential to understand the importance of community *in spite of* chaos.