



Lois And Clark

By Wayne and Tamara

I am an 18-year-old woman madly infatuated with my boyfriend, 26. We met in an unorthodox way. I'm casually walking around 42nd Street in Manhattan, when he spots me and decides to talk. We clicked instantly, like magic straight out of a fairy story. The rest is history.

We were incredibly shocked at each other's answer to the question "How old are you?" Twenty-six would have been my last guess! Eventually our age gap began to bother him. He hated going somewhere an ID must be shown, always fearing the bouncer wouldn't let me in and our night would be ruined.

I can't say I blame him. I started to feel a little young around his friends, seeing how they all looked at me sideways. But my boyfriend is like...like...my personal Superman, and our fights never turn as ugly or rowdy as the average New York couple. He treats everyone with respect. The only thing that bothers me is what bothers him, and what bothers him is my lack of years on the planet. Panic surrounds me when I try to find an excuse as to why our ages shouldn't matter. How do I make my man happy if what causes him stress is something that's part of me?

Rhiannon

Rhiannon, your Superman may be faster than a speeding bullet and able to leap tall buildings at a single bound, but he lacks the power to change you from 18 to 21. Your age is his kryptonite, and as fans of the comic book know, the longer Superman is exposed to kryptonite, the weaker he grows.

As he goes to clubs, hangs out with his buds, or meets other women, your age will wear on him. You may find some ways around that, but there are limits to how many times he will want to sit around with you at the movies. In two years he'll be on the cusp of 30, and you still won't be able to go into bars with him.

Age, like kryptonite, has properties. For the young, a year or two can be a gulf or a canyon; only when we grow older does the gap begin to close. No one can change that, not even Superman.

Wayne & Tamara

Never Too Old

I am in my mid-30s. I recently went out with a man I met at work who is the superintendent in the next building. He seemed very attracted to me. He told me he wasn't married, and I thought he was in his mid-50s. I found out he is married and a remarkably fit 71. I was so upset. The age thing bothers me, but not as much as being married. If I had kept going out with him who knows what could have happened. Maybe his wife would have called me. I would not have liked to deal with that.

I told him what he did was wrong, and I don't mess around with married people. He suggested we could stay friends, but I told him after what he did I do not want to be his friend. My question is, why do men in their 70s still cheat?

Celeste

Celeste, a man cheats in his 70s for the same reason he cheats at any other age. He lacks character. When we run into people who lack character, we have a dual role. First, to protect ourselves, which you did, and second, to protect others.

There are at least two reasons why he wants to remain friends with you. Staying friends gives him additional time to weaken your defenses, and it makes you less likely to tell others about his deceptions. But if you tell your coworkers, it may protect another woman from being caught in a compromising situation with a 71-year-old married man who wants to see if Viagra works.

Wayne & Tamara



More Than an Individual -Understanding the Systems That Shape Us Through Social Science

By Camryn Bland
Youth Columnist

Every individual is connected through culture, society, and behaviour. We are all a part of a complex social system which influences us in ways we rarely notice. From our diets to our wardrobe to speech patterns, every aspect of our lives are shaped by our environment. Even choices we believe to be solely personal are the result of social expectations, economic conditions, and cultural norms that have surrounded us throughout our entire lives.

These aspects are researched through the social sciences, the academic study of our social environment, including human society, relationships, and individual behavior. These sciences ask the question of why regarding everything surrounding human life, from politics to education to the legal system. Some of the most well-known branches include psychology, anthropology, sociology, and political science; however these are just some disciplines among many. Although the importance and academic focus of the social sciences are often debated, at their core they are research-based, systematic, knowledgeable, and ultimately useful, making them sciences as much as biology or chemistry are.

The social sciences are deeply embedded in our decision making, understanding, and systems that structure our lives. Each branch investigates our world through a different lens, providing explanations as to why humans are the way they are. Rather than relying on assumption or intuition, as most personal judgements do, the social sciences collect data, identify patterns, and test theories. This allows us to deepen our understanding of society and those around us.

Beyond academic study, the social sciences also play a crucial role in challenging the judgements we apply around the world. They encourage us to question what we consider "normal" and to recognize the social norms which we are surrounded by. What we see as normal is a social construct, no more important or pure than others. By developing this understanding, we allow ourselves and societies to grow, adapt, and improve. The judgements, biases, and opinions we carry are unavoidable in our lives. These ideas are engraved into who we are, formed by our childhood, culture, societal norms, and past experiences. They are normal and entirely human, however they cloud our world view and limit our understanding. The social sciences provide a unique, open-minded understanding of our society without the interference of personal judgement. They use numbers to explain why. Why are rates of educational success higher in some districts than others? Why has mental health declined in recent years? Why do cultural ceremonies differ so widely across continents? Rather than offering surface-level opinions, these sciences explore underlying causes such as inequality, historical context, and social structures.

There is a term in anthropology, coined by Franz Boas, referred to as cultural relativism. This means to understand cultures on their own terms rather than judging them by external, biased standards. These concepts promote understanding without assigning value or superiority. It's something which we can all apply to our daily lives, even if we're not anthropologists. Cultural relativism encourages us to view cultures as sources of meaning and comfort for those within them, even if they differ from our own. Every society is organized to meet the needs of its people, every society is structurally similar and globally understood. Through this lens, we can understand others, and learn from the differences as opposed to criticizing them. When analyzing these systems found within cultures, we realize how influenced we are by the systems themselves. We are never truly alone, as we are always surrounded by our culture, whether that be the music we're listening to, the technology we're using, or the tasks we are doing throughout the day. Each individual exists as part of a system, a statistic, a society that connects us to others. It is inescapable, and that's what makes the social sciences so fascinating. Understanding this connection allows us to recognize our role within society, and what influenced that. It not only helps us understand others, but it is the key to recognizing our own influences and personality. Ultimately, the social sciences shape our entire worldview. They influence how we interpret politics, make judgements and understand personal identity. They teach us empathy, critical thinking, and the importance of evidence within our daily lives. In a world that is connected and forever changing, these skills are essential. Appreciating and applying sociology, anthropology, and psychology to our daily lives are the only way to properly understand our global societies and cultures for what they are; unique, functional, interconnected, and beautiful.



An Air Of Excitement

A Candid Conversation
By Theresa Grant
Real Estate Columnist

With an election on the horizon, those who follow local politics or are actively involved tend to perk up just a bit. There is an air of excitement, perhaps hope in some cases, that there will be positive change coming.

One thing that stands out though, and stands out is an understatement, one glaring fact surrounding our local elections is voter turnout. For some reason we have a bad case of voter apathy here in Oshawa.

In the 2022 election for example only 18.4% of eligible voters actually voted! So, out of a population of 175,383, with 121,885 of those people eligible to cast a ballot only 22,456 turned out to do so.

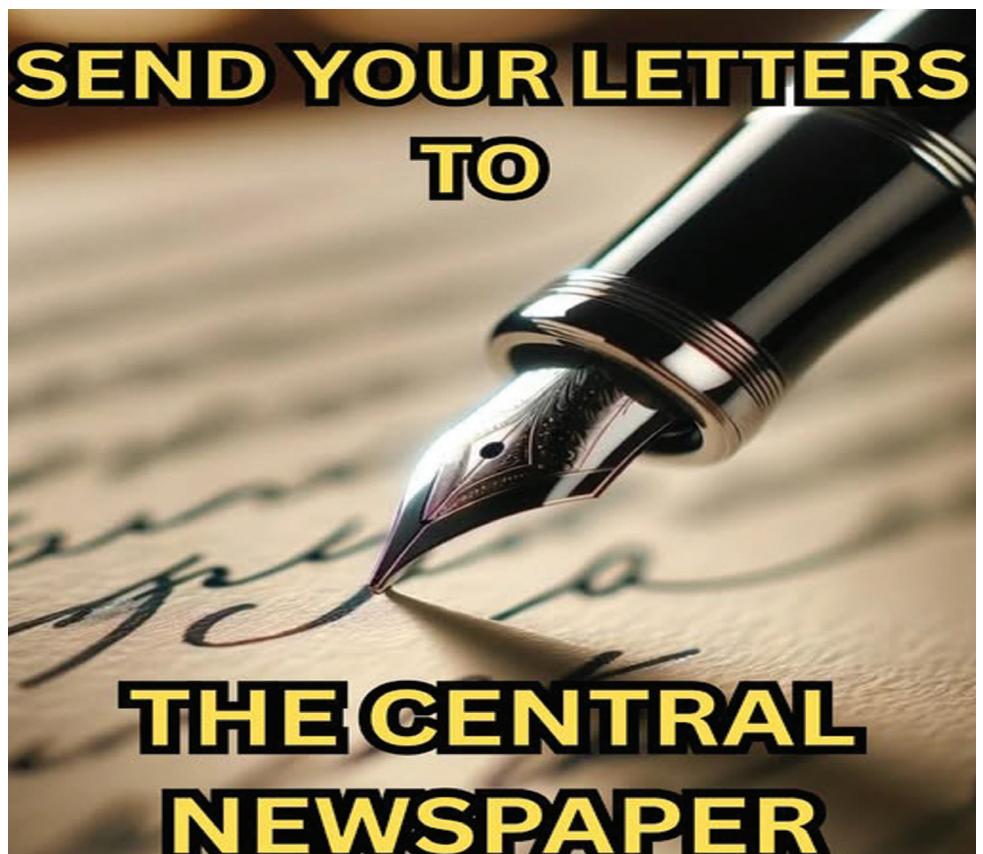
That begs the question, what in the world is going on in Oshawa? The 2022 turnout is actually the lowest turnout in Oshawa history. That's not only sad but a little scary. What can we do to change that number? I would think the first order of business would be to try and ascertain why that number is so low and go from there.

Are people just flat out fed up? Do they think their vote doesn't matter? Is it a case of convenience? Would online voting or voting by phone increase the number of people willing to cast their vote? These are things that truly need to be looked at because the election of our local municipal government is the closest to each one of us personally, and the one that affects our day to day life far more than any other election. Yet, more people tend to turn out for a federal election than their local ones.

In 2014 The Town of Ajax introduced online voting and in doing so they saw their voting numbers increase from 25.4% to 30.4% that election year. I admit convenience is important. People are very busy today with several working more than one job, many working split shifts and overtime where they can get

it just to stay afloat. I understand that on a tight schedule, getting yourself over to a polling station may not be the easiest thing to fit into a busy day.

In Oshawa, the highest voter turnout ever was 1960 with 51.7 % of voters turning up to the polls to have their say. Yes, it was a different time and a different generation but surely the voters of 1960 would have passed down the importance of marking your ballot and having your say to their children. To not vote is to say you don't care. We must care, this is our city and however good bad or indifferent it is, comes down to the people that make up our city and our attitudes. We can do better people. Let's do better together!



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