Society is changing as we know it, and this year was no different than any other. During the video music awards, Miley Cyrus put on a rather controversial display. The article “The Pop Star Immunity Problem” outlines the disconnect between performance and appearance in addition to the standards set forth by society and how we opt to ignore them when it is convenient. It discussed how in some cases being famous is enough to get you out of a pinch after beating your girlfriend or slandering a gender or race, but if you don’t have the physical appearance that society likes with the entertainment value of a catchy jingle or song you can just as easily be shunned for something said 30 years prior in a private conversation. Yet again, my opinion of Miley has been left unwavering with this article. I completely disagree with the way that she acted out against gender and race equality, dressing in provocative clothing just for the fact of added attention. Society needs to stop being selective in whom they pursue and crack down on this type of behavior.

The second article discusses the racial implications of the performance given by Miley during the VMAs. The author voices concern over the history of performances at the event, mentioning that in past years sexual orientation was primarily the attention grabbing detail. This year, the same sort of gimmick was used to grab the media’s attention, but using the race card in place of sexual orientation. I personally believe that Miley has a deep rooted problem that needs worked out. I agree with the article stating that someone needs to stand up and put an end to this type of behavior as Miley has overstepped her bounds.

Finally, the article titles “Miley’s Need to Shock was the Least Shocking Thing About It” hit the metaphorical nail on the head. It discussed how outside of the VMAs she has been trying to funnel in the attention in just about any way possible. This need to attention-grab was shown perfectly during her performance. With skin colored lingerie, inappropriate gestures and facial expressions, and a general lack of discretion, what better way is there to grab the public spotlight. I also agree with the author when “Where did the old Miley go?” was said. She used to be an unbelievably popular – and wholesome – actress with a following of fans from millions of impressionable young girls to teenagers stuck in their own adolescent sitcom. By acting in this manner, much of her audience will eventually be pushed away causing an even bigger cry for attention, as if sexuality and racism isn’t already enough.

In the end, it is up to the people to voice their opinions. These articles only represent a very minute voice of the people, specifically three separate authors’ views. This may be the overall opinion, possibly not, but nothing will be heard unless the concerned parties speak up. I believe that I will be more frustrated by the media culture this semester than agreeable for one main reason: bias. Whether the people agree with the voiced opinion or not, each writer has his or her own agenda they will attempt to push to the people. It may not be right or wrong, but it is the one that will make the most money and rile up the greatest reaction. After reading the articles several questions come to mind. Why do we let these performances continue year after year? Do we truly accept this type of behavior in society where an everyday individual would be banished while the double standard holds true and celebrities are allowed freedoms beyond reason and law? If we don’t support this behavior, who funds it and why hasn’t something been done? If we are supposed to be a mature society void of racism and sexism, why is the problem ballooning in recent years. Last but not least, if you don’t agree with the activities and the media has a differing opinion, how are you to be heard if they ignore the populous cry?