

Throughout as a
result of loneliness,
some people

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Throughout the years, many people are joining social media to feel more “socially” connected. However, according to the article, “Is Facebook Making Us Lonely?,” Stephen Marche gives the readers some reasons as to why people, who are more connected to social media, are becoming lonelier. In contrast, Sena Christian, in “Beasts under the Big Top,” explains how the government imposed their bans on circus animals which result in homelessness for them. Although these articles discuss different topics, both illustrate how people’s decision could affect their future as well as animals. For some readers, it is surprising to read what Marche has to say about whether or not social media is making people lonelier in “Is Facebook Making Us Lonely?” Marche believes that the more connected people are to social media, the lonelier they become. As a result of loneliness, some people die from it such as the actress, Yvette Vickers, who starred in the Attack of the 50 Foot Woman.

In this article, Marche points out that despite the “social” connection, people are not interacting with each other in person which causes them to feel lonelier. For instance, John Cacioppo, the director of the Center for Cognitive and Social Neuroscience at the University of Chicago, did an experiment where he looked to see if there are any connections between loneliness of the participants and the frequency of their interactions. The result of this experiment is that people who communicate face-to-face; they are less lonely than people who communicate online. Another point that Marche makes is that loneliness is part of the American culture.

For example, Europe does not approve of the Pilgrims’ religious differences. As a result, the Pilgrims move to America in order to practice their religious

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freedom. Their action shows that they are willing to do anything, such as being a social outcast, to achieve their goal. In the end, Marche changes his mind on the matter. Now, he believes that social media doesn't make people lonely; instead, it is how they are using it that causes them to feel that way.

According to Cacioppo, he states that Facebook is a tool for people to use and its effectiveness depends on the user. For the most part, it is the people's decision on whether or not to isolate themselves from their society which, as a result, makes them feel lonely. Unlike Marche bringing up the problem about social media causing people to feel lonely, Sena Christian brings up the issue about people's decision to be brutal towards animals which result in the government to impose bans on circus animals in "Beasts under the Big Top." Because of the ban, animals are homeless like Smith, the lion.

In the article, Christian mentions that the Animal Defenders International (ADI) went undercover to get into circuses in South America to film some footage of the circus animals being physically abused. For example, some animals were beaten, shocked with stun guns, chained up, malnourished, etc. Their work eventually leads to Bolivia banning circuses from obtaining wild or domestic animals. Soon enough, they have rescued twenty-nine lions and airlifted twenty-five of them to the Wild Animal Sanctuary.

In dealing with homeless animals, the ADI placed them in holding facilities until they can be relocated to permanent homes. If it weren't for the ADI's efforts in rescuing animals from circuses, the mistreatment would continue. Eventually, the animals would die in a cage from people's decision to mistreat them. Looking up an article, "Who We Are, What We

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Do,” on ADI did not inform me about whether the increasing use of social media is making us lonelier, but it did open me a new perspective as to what this nonprofit organization believes in and what they do to help the abused animals. Besides rescuing animals, they educate the public about animal and environmental issues. Currently, they are running two campaigns: Stop Circus Suffering and Save the Primates.

The Stop Circus Suffering campaign occurred in South America where it bans animal circuses in Bolivia. As for the Save the Primates campaign it is about using non-animal techniques in a laboratory as opposed to using animals. After reading this article, it didn't satisfy the reader's curiosity. Instead, it made the reader want to look up another article about them since the article, “ Who We Are, What We Do,” doesn't go into detail about the rescuing they did. Perhaps the reader should look up an article that does go into detail about the ADI's rescuing missions.

All in all, people's decision can affect the outcome of their situation as well as animals. In “ Is Facebook Making Us Lonely?” Marche, at first, thinks increasing the use of social media makes people lonelier. After some further investigation, he states that it is not Facebook that makes people lonely. Instead, it is the way they use social media that affects their feeling of loneliness. As for “ Beasts under the Top,” Christian discusses the issue of animal abuse in circuses around the world which soon lead to the ADI getting involved in rescuing them from their misery.

People's decision to mistreat them can result in banning of animal circuses as well as leaving them to be homeless. Reflecting further research on the

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ADI, thereader should investigate more on what they do specifically on their missionsto rescue the animals from circuses. Without a doubt, it is the decisions that people make can affect theworld of tomorrow.