

Selfie police? Khloé Kardashian selfie leads to controversial new legislation

It has been 13 years since the Kardashians graced us with a leaked sex tape and one of the most influential reality TV shows of all time. In that time they have turned their small show into arguably the biggest lifestyle brand the world has ever seen.

Kris Jenner said in a roundtable interview with The Hollywood Reporter, that the reason their show has been on for so long and has done so well is because there is one person in their family that everyone can relate to. This is true, every member of the Kardashian clan has a very distinct personality and even though they come from unimaginable wealth they are still somehow relatable.

For me, Khloé has always been the most relatable — from the way she bluntly talks about everything to the way she tries to act as a peacekeeper within her family. However, the most substantial thing that Khloé Kardashian has done, at least in her earlier years, was to give much needed representation to those who didn't have an insanely perfect body like the rest of her sisters.

Throughout her many shows and episodes she depicted her struggle with weight loss and her love of working out. As someone who has struggled with their body image it was great to see the same thing represented on TV.

There was a certain power and strength about Khloé which is what made her such an icon. I mean you would have to be a pretty strong person to be continually referred to as “the fat sister” by the whole



By SPENCER BROWN

country. While that is a difficult thing to endure she didn't let what the media said about her body keep her from loving herself and knowing her worth as a person.

However, the level of airbrushing and photoshopping Khloé now uses on photos she posts on Instagram has increased exponentially. Her pictures are altered to the point beyond recognition. Everything about her is smaller, thinner and as perfect as can be.

And while I can understand why she would want to do this, I wish she would realize how important it would be for someone with a platform like hers to promote body positivity instead of perpetuating a culture that actively fights it.

While it is important to like what you see in the mirror you shouldn't make people who don't have half the resources at their disposal feel like they aren't living

up to a basic human standard of beauty. Like it or not the Kardashians are the gatekeepers of fashion and beauty in American society as well as globally.

If they could harness their platform to promote other body types they would be able to make much needed change in the world, rather than sending these mixed messages about what it means to truly be beautiful.

A new law that started in France but is gaining popularity among other European countries, is one that makes posting edited pictures illegal if they are not explicitly marked as retouched. This might seem extreme to some people, but the ways people are now editing photos is also extreme.

There are countless apps that help you shave off the parts of your body you don't like and give yourself a six pack. It's time we really took a look at what we are doing to pictures of ourselves and ask why we are even doing it in the first place.

This new kind of law or standard could help those who suffer from eating disorders and body dysmorphia. Many of these diseases begin with someone looking through magazines or Instagram and thinking that their body doesn't look the same as the ones in the pictures.

Plus it could be so easy, I mean we already spend way too much time calculating what time of day gets you the most likes and what lighting you look best in. If this law could help anyone feel better about their own bodies then it is totally

worth it because the consequences editing a photo can have on a person's mental health is too serious.

The Kardashians just recently announced that the very show that has brought them their empire and their influence will be airing its final season in 2021. While this announcement has been met with a mix of sadness and relief that their iron grip on media might be loosening, I don't think they will be going anywhere anytime soon.

Yes, our time watching them beat each other up with purses while they consume comically large salads might be over. But they will always have a hand in shaping our culture. In the same vein that Paris Hilton has continued to set trend after trend once her time as a reality star came to an end. The Kardashian clan will continue to pervade all aspects of global culture.

Much like everything else about the Kardashians, I wish they could be better as they have so much influence over us and our values. I think if we could all be honest about what we do to make ourselves look better both in photos and in real life we would all be happier. It's a lose-lose game when we try to compete with computers, I mean their abs are hard as steel.

Spencer Brown is the managing editor. Follow him on Twitter at @Spencer_Brown_.

Let the games begin: 2021 Olympics are a go

All around the world from a very young age elite athletes choose to sacrifice having a “normal” childhood and adolescent life, in hopes of achieving glory and success. Training their whole lives to perfect their respective sport, and then if they're lucky enough, they are offered the opportunity to compete on a world stage for a chance to chase their dreams of a gold medal.

Then all of a sudden, the world turns upside down, and their dreams are taken from them. The only shred of consolation being this is a temporary situation, and they must wait it out “until further notice.”

Any dedicated athlete understands the time and energy that goes into training for a sport or event, and athletes competing at the Olympic level take this dedication to the extreme. Blood, sweat, tears and hours upon hours of training occupy the lives of these Olympic athletes.

The Olympics is one of thousands of events that were cancelled or postponed this year due to COVID-19, and Olympic athletes all around the world were forced to shoulder this crushing blow that they would not be able to “go for the gold” this year as they had dreamt of.

Now, with just over 300 days until the newly postponed Opening Ceremonies, the International Olympic Committee Vice President, John Coates, declared that the 2021 Olympics will happen “with or without COVID.”

Although it is controversial, this decision to go forth with the 2021 Olympics gives the athletes a more concrete foundation upon which to plan their futures round. A luxury that has been so rare this past year. By making this promise to these athletes and to the world, we are given a sense of certainty about our world.

The extensive training that these athletes endure is



By SARAH VAN LIEW

challenging to say the least. But the motivation to train is truly only present if you know what you are working towards and you can see the “light at the end of the tunnel.”

The decision to host the Tokyo 2021 Olympics no matter what the state of the pandemic is it also gives the athletes the ability to choose for themselves if they wish to potentially risk their long-term health and compete.

Many people disagree with

the decision to host the 2021 Olympics if we do not yet have a vaccine or some sort of treatment for COVID-19. Coates' statement left some people with a sour taste in their mouth, perceiving this decision as risking too much for too many people.

The Olympics is an event that brings athletes and spectators from all around the world together in one place, often under one roof, unfortunately making it probable that should we not yet have a COVID-19 cure, it could be a “super spreader” event.

This decision calls into question not only the safety of competing athletes, but the safety of all their respective countries to which they will flood back to after the games have ended.

However, now that the decision has been made with certainty to host the Tokyo Olympics in 2021, the International Olympic Committee can focus their attention on making it as safe as

possible for everyone involved.

The 2021 Olympics will unlikely resemble any Olympics we have seen thus far, but the determination to make it happen reflects the importance of the Olympics as more than merely a stage for athleticism. By hosting such an event in such uncertain times, it will demonstrate how we can all come together even in a time of such uncertainty.

Already the Tokyo 2021 Olympics have been described as being “the light at the end of the tunnel,” and have been promised by Coates and the rest of the Olympic International Committee in their latest address, to be the “Games that will conquer COVID-19.”

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Novak Djokovic-victed from the U.S. Open

The world of tennis is reeling after number one-ranked Novak Djokovic was disqualified from the U.S. Open tournament after accidentally striking a line judge in the throat with a tennis ball out of frustration.

Djokovic — who had previously remained undefeated since 2019 — was automatically defaulted from the tournament as per Official Grand Slam regulations. His removal meant that he will lose all ranking points earned in the tournament as well as \$250,000 in earned prize money.

Djokovic was losing 6-5 to Spain's Carreño Busta when he fired off a spare ball behind him, unaware that a line judge was in his path of trajectory. The ball hit the judge a mere second after leaving Djokovic's racket, leaving her with no time to move or even react as the ball struck her in the throat.

The scandal caused by Djokovic's dismissal led to many fans taking their anger out on the line judge instead of the governing officials or Djokovic himself. In recent days, she has become the target of vicious attacks and even death threats from angry fans who feel she had no right to stand in their player's way of an eighteenth Grand Slam singles title.

In response to this, Djokovic apologized for his actions on the court and called for his fans to be “supportive” of the judge on his social media accounts.

While it can never be proven exactly what Djokovic was thinking as he fired off his shot, the expression on his face is less than empathetic towards the judge. With his lips pursed together, the offending player ran



By RED KWENDA

to the official, then immediately began pleading his case to the higher-level judges.

“She doesn't have to go to the hospital for this,” Djokovic said to a referee upon hearing the decision. “You're going to choose a default in this situation? My career, Grand Slam, center stage.”

This is the matter that is the most concerning in this event. Upon hearing these words, it becomes clear to everyone that regardless of his original intent, Djokovic only cared about himself during that match. The line judge's duty was to stand behind the player to see if an incoming ball was out of play; the fact that she was struck meant that Djokovic forgot he wasn't the only person on the court.

It was also hurtful to hear him speak of his career. In a stadium nearly empty due to restrictions in place in the time of COVID-19, the gasping coughs of the judge echoed for all to hear as she collapsed after being struck in the center of her throat. For Djokovic to downplay her pain, for him to even factor it into his punishment, was sickening to see, especially as she had to retire for the rest of the match.

This isn't the only moment

of carelessness displayed by tennis's number one player. Earlier this summer, Djokovic originally planned to skip the U.S. Open after contracting COVID-19 at a tournament and party he organized with no social distancing involved. He has also described himself as against a rule that would make vaccinations mandatory for players to continue to compete.

What Novak Djokovic fails to recognize is that his actions directly impact others. A ball struck in anger always has the potential to strike someone else regardless of intent. A party in close quarters following no COVID-19 protocols can always lead to the possibility of an infected guest. Playing against someone who is unvaccinated can always lead to an infection, as Djokovic himself knows.

Sure, he said the right things by apologizing after the match. It was also good for him to defend the judge after abuse and death threats were leveled at her. But in the moment, Djokovic only cared about himself and the fact that he was no longer going to remain undefeated in 2020.

This Sunday saw Austrian Dominic Thiem emerge victorious at this year's Men's U.S. Open. Hopefully, this new champion will understand what it means to show sportsmanship both on and off the court.

Red Kwenda is a staff writer. Follow him on Instagram: @RedKwenda.