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PARAS: THREAT OR EVOLUTIONARY ADVANCEMENT?

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OP-ED

Are Paras a menace to society or the next evolutionary step in humankind? This reporter thinks they are both of those things.

Paras can do something the rest of us can't, whether it's reading our minds, predicting the future, or making objects float. The evolutionary progress is obvious—at least to me. But their very abilities mean that they have an edge over the rest of us. And that's where the menace comes in. If Paras misuse their abilities, if they turn them against us, they become incredibly dangerous.

So is the government right in tearing Paras away from their families and putting them to work for us? Is the government right in making unregistered Paras illegal? I used to think so. But then I started reading Teen Para—the blog by a talented young Para. Teen Para brings a human side to the plight of Paras. She makes it gut-wrenchingly real.

With every time she's had to go on the run to stay with her family, with every electroshock and beating she's witnessed troopers giving their charges, Teen Para makes us think, feel, and care. And now this reporter isn't so sure any more.

Maybe if Paras were treated with respect and dignity, maybe if they were valued in our society, we wouldn't have the height of fear and tension that we have today. Though that's a big maybe. All I know for sure is that we should start looking at and challenging the way we look at Paras. They are, after all, human beings—even if they have abilities that we don't. And that is Teen Para's message—that Paras are people with lives, hopes, dreams, and fears, just like the rest of us. So what do you say?

***Email your responses to
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