Found in everyday culture, a meme is an idea or style that spreads between people of a culture and continually reappears (Technoethics). One example of a meme is “PTSD Clarinet Boy”, a band photo taken of a kid with a clarinet superimposed onto a shot of his profile. The photo is kind of dorky, and juxtaposes nicely with the sometime violent captions, making it into a pretty popular and funny macro, or meme (Knowyourmeme). No doubt this kid was not involved in the use of this image, thus rendering its use unethical, provided the use of the image offended him.

The ethics of popular photos circulated around on the internet has never been something that’s concerned me. Most of time, they don’t catch wind of it until it’s already huge, and most of the stories I’ve heard have been positive. However, in some cases, it does have a detrimental effect. One meme that I remember from a few years ago was the suburban macro floating around, where it shoes a mom seated, preaching one thing, and then going directly against what she said in another manner. These were usually created to portray this woman as a bad person, and doing some digging on the topic, the woman who was the subject of all this felt “horrified, furious, and hurt” (Mentalfloss). Moving forward, this won’t really affect the level of enjoyment I derive from things like this, but I will know that these jokes, like many, aren’t always made in good spirits, and I think that will stick with me.
Works Cited

