



Speech and Debate Wins 14 Trophies for Novice Package Deal



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SHELLEY LIN
Staff Writer

After weeks of practice after school, the novice members of AHS' Speech and Debate team participated in the Package Deal tournament on Oct. 10, one of their first tournaments of the year. The Package Deal tournament allows novices to experience the different events that they can prepare for in future Speech and Debate tournaments as well as allowing them to discover their compatibility with an event. In the tournament, AHS novices earned 11 out of the 15 Congress trophies that were offered as well as three individual Event trophies. The tournament took place from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Arcadia High School.

During practice days, members stayed

for two hours to practice, learning from their captains and improving by practicing with each other. All of the novices competed in four events: Student Congress, Impromptu, Extemporaneous Speaking, and Interp/Cold Read.

"As captains, we sacrificed a lot of our time in training the novices every day. We have to applaud them as well for having the drive to learn and for being willing to come to our practices everyday. But in the end, our great success made it all worth it and we're so incredibly proud of what they've accomplished," head captain Taylor Thomas said.

During the Congress event, students have a choice of either supporting or disapprov-

ing a piece of legislation. They give a three minute speech explaining their thoughts on the legislation and debate its pros and cons within a room of fellow mock senators. In Extemporaneous speaking, students prepare a seven minute speech about a national or world event with 30 minutes of preparation at the tournament. In Interp, a script was given to students to perform, while during Impromptu, students are to perform a 5 minute speech with one of the three topics that the judges provide.

"Captains gave us critiques which [were] all worth it [in] the end. We had to [conduct] some mock rounds where we did the exact same [routine] that would happen at Package Deal. Although I was

tired from tedious practices, I am so grateful [for them,] because it was all worth it in the end," freshman Eva Luong said.

Luong, along with junior Gabriel Gonzales received a trophy because they placed first in all three events at the tournament. According to Luong, she is looking forward to staying in Speech and Debate for the rest of her high school life and hopefully become a captain in an event. "We continuously practiced each event [and went] over the flaws and difficulties that we would [encounter] during our speeches. Seeing as how this was our first real tournament, we practiced really hard and [were] really prepared compared to other schools, [which allowed us to place higher and in more events]," freshman Roy Li said.

College Textbook Act Makes Educational Resources More Affordable to Students

REBECCA ZENG
News Editor
KYLE ANG
Staff Writer

College textbooks today cost 1,041 percent more than they did in 1977, according to NBC News. Despite the fact that prices of used or rented books were not counted in the data and inflation was not accounted for, a University of Michigan professor speaking to NBC News agreed that college textbook prices have become increasingly difficult to pay.

Recently, an international alliance of academic and research libraries announced a proposal called the Affordable College Textbook Act of 2015, which would require the U.S. Department of Education to cre-

ate programs in colleges and universities in order to encourage the use of free education materials, including online textbooks.

According to Fox News, the U.S. Public Interest Research Group (U.S. PIRG) estimates that the use of open resource education in schools could help save students about \$100 on average for each course.

"I think colleges also need to realize that students pay for other expenses as well as textbooks and that's [a lot of] money [to pay for college]," junior Alyson Perez said.

The average college student spends about \$1,200 on books and materials each year, according to USA Today. Currently, various universities such as Massachusetts Institute of Technology host a web page with links for existing online textbooks relevant to the

courses offered at the institution. Nonetheless, USA Today states that the number of schools that invest in high-quality free online textbooks for students remains minimal.

"Although having cheaper books and online resources would help students save money on materials, schools would have to use more of [their] funds. This would cause them to have less money to help students with financial [needs] for overall tuition," junior Briana Thai said.

At AHS, the usage of online PDFs for textbooks is uncommon, but various classes, such as Calculus and Spanish, include online resources. Publishers such as ClassZone provide online textbook files, while Calc-Chat and Carnegie Learning are supplements for classroom textbooks and workbooks.

High textbook prices affect not only students' expenses but may also affect students' education as well. The U.S. PIRG report "Fixing the Broken Textbook Market" suggests that the high costs of textbooks cause financially struggling students to refrain from making these book purchases, which results in diminished academic progress.

According to Pasadena Star News, the law goes into effect on Jan. 1. The application of open resource education in classes will start taking place in fall 2017.

"[This proposal] might not affect [budgets of] colleges [and students] much, because some students already buy their books online, depending on their colleges they attend," junior Lucille Lim said.

MOOR graphic by SAMMIE CHEN

Funds Donated to Reform Homelessness in LA

NADIA GOV
Copy Editor

On Oct. 13, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted to spend \$15 million to specifically fund housing programs for the LA County's homeless population. According to Los Angeles Daily News, with about 26,000 individuals living on the streets, the homeless population has risen nearly 11 percent since 2013. Because of this, the county voted to use part of the \$51 million that came from surplus revenue in last year's fiscal budget for the county's programs and services for the homeless to fund the aforementioned programs.

According to Pasadena Star News, county department heads, representatives from the 88 cities in the county, experts and stakeholders will come together at 18 public policy meetings in order to organize this ef-

fort. Among the initiatives of this plan are creating a rapid rehousing program that will provide temporary rental assistance subsidies and services for single adults, providing prevention activities for those who are about to become homeless and continuing rehousing services for families with children through the end of the fiscal year.

With these goals in mind, the board agreed to open winter shelters six weeks early in response to predicted El Niño weather conditions. Furthermore, the board voted to allocate \$600,000 for the homeless populations in designated "hot-spots" in South Bay and parts of the Harbor Area.

Currently, proponents of improving the living situation of the homeless believe the board's decision will be a beneficial one.

"I am glad to see our county's officials take accountability for a major issue that has obviously been prominent for a while," junior Ajah Awuma said.

Health Classes Required to Teach Assault Prevention

EVA ORTEGA
Staff Writer

In 2014, California was the first state in the nation to pass the "Yes Means Yes" law, which requires college campuses to provide resources for victims of sexual assault and assist in its prevention. The law also states that both partners engaging in intercourse must give "affirmative consent" and defined that consent cannot be given if a participant is asleep or under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

However, a follow-up to this law was passed on Oct. 1, requiring high schools that compel students to take a health class before graduation to teach about consent and sexual assault prevention. This law, was originally proposed by Senator Kevin de León and aims to inform students about "affirmative consent," the founda-

tion of a healthy relationship, how to prevent sexual violence, and "the harsh consequences of aggressive and violent sexual behavior," according to Sen. León's website.

AHS offers health classes to freshmen once a week in place of their usual P.E. period; and day of attendance is dependent on a freshman's coach. The class provides infor-

mation such as how to maintain healthy eating habits, practicing safe work out positions, and "overall keeping kids [fit] not just for now but [for] the future" according to freshman, Leanna Villegas.

Even though Gov. Jerry Brown signed the bill into action at the beginning of this month, it will not go into effect until Jan. 1. Even still, the California Department of Education will not revise health guidelines in school curriculums until 2018, according to the Associated Press.

MOOR graphic by SAMMIE CHEN

