

## ASB's Focus of the Year: Increase School Spirit

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### Opinions Editors

We are bombarded with Moor Pride hype as we once again set foot on our school's campus, due to a new strategy the Associated Student Body (ASB) is trying out. Their goal is to increase school pride and their efforts are prominent this year. All actions they plan to take will go towards their goal of boosting school pride to a level higher than it has ever been.

To ensure events are a guaranteed enjoyment for students, ASB plans to focus on the small details. They are revamping many school campus activities, such as the Homecoming game, assemblies and the title change of Quad Friday to Blue and Gold Friday to encourage students to proudly wear their school colors.

ASB officials' primary motivation for such changes in order to increase school spirit is to ensure that students can feel like Alhambra High School is more like a family and be proud to show their Moor stripes.

The recent changes show dedi-



cation to their cause. Instead of a pep rally in the auditorium as per tradition, it was held in the Quad, encouraging more student participation. Drill Team, Pep Squad, the football team and the Mighty Moor Marching Band all made an appearance during this festive event while ASB members were

seen excitedly directing students to the Quad to hype up publicity. In the future, ASB also plans on hosting games with prizes to win. It is clear that students are reacting positively to changes so far and it is refreshing to notice such an active and integrated ASB interacting with students.

However, as exciting as it is to see an all new level of enthusiasm and effort being put to trying to increase school spirit, we cannot help but feel like other aspects of our school could use some extra attention as well. The Associated Student Body is supposed to be a campus government, not a cheer-leading squad. As important as Moor pride is, ASB's acts should reflect the demands of the student body, not just aim for more student participation.

One way that this could be done more effectively is to make it exactly clear to the student body what ASB's responsibilities are. Right now, ASB portray themselves to be a group on campus that encourages enthusiasm but the organization's designated role as leaders of the campus tends to be overshadowed by their primary plan of action. If informed, students will be able to utilize ASB as the student government it is meant to be.

Currently ASB shows tremendous potential and certain promise. However, we are definitely eager to see how their actions would reflect the needs and demands of the student body.

## JUST FOR THE HALIBUT

FDA Says Nay to Gays

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It would be obvious to say that 2012's America is more knowledgeable in terms of disease research than pre-21st century America. It could also be said that the American public is more open and accepting to the growing homosexual demographic. However, a ban continues to exist on homosexual blood donations and I am not entirely sure why.

Since the 1970s, males who have engaged in sexual activity with other males have been indefinitely deferred from donating blood. Females are not allowed to donate until a year after the last exposure of same-sex intercourse.

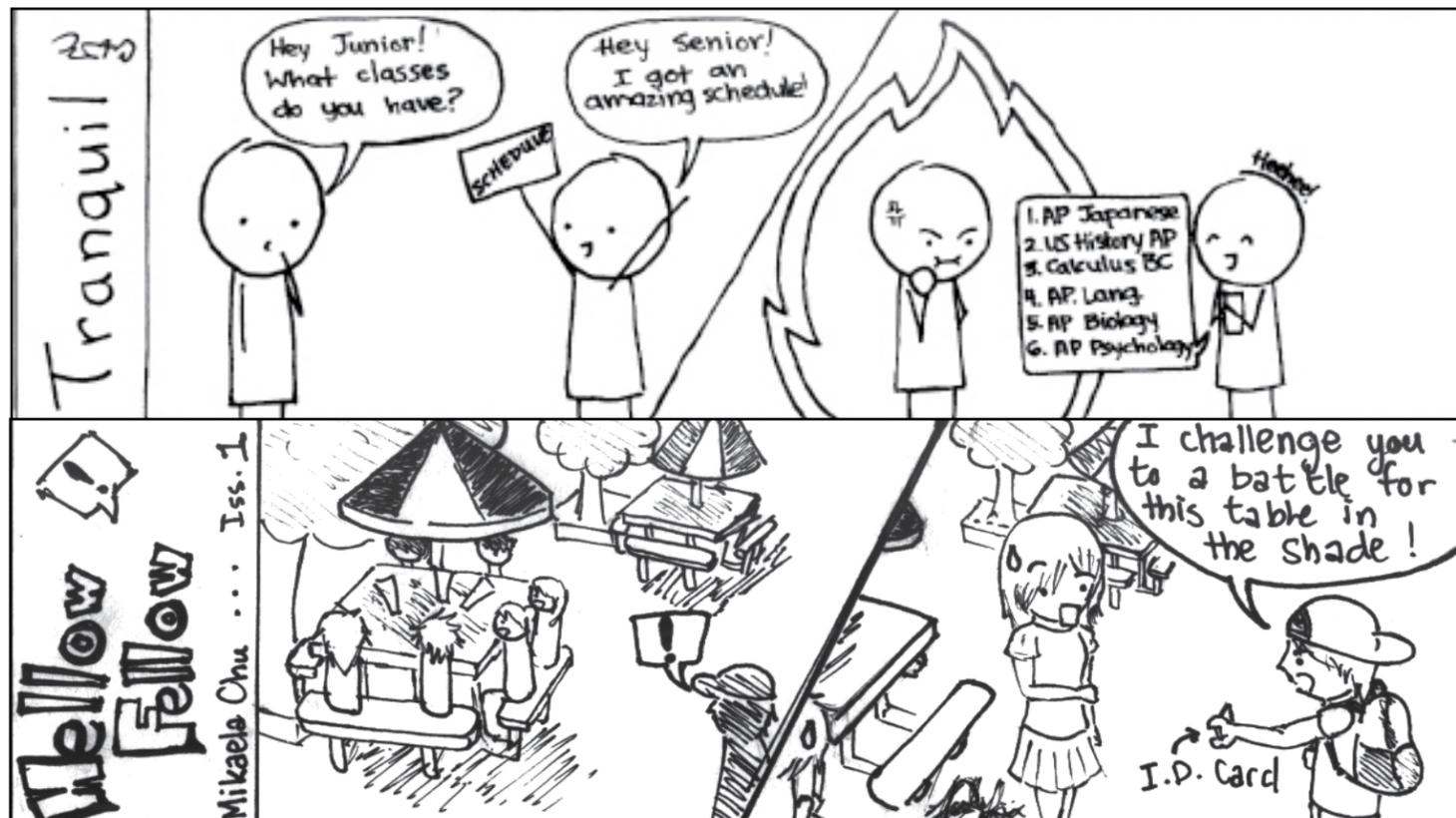
The ban was initially enacted in response to the public paranoia that the raging Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) pandemic and types of hepatitis were caused solely by same-sex intercourse. Its purpose was to reassure Americans that they would not wake up from a surgery with a disease that hitchhiked from a blood bag. Science has since then disproved these beliefs. Diseases transmitted through blood transfusions and sexual acts can be spread by heterosexuals and homosexuals alike, yet homosexuals alone are denied donor eligibility.

Despite refutation, on June 11 of 2010, the Department of Health and Human Services Secretary's Advisory Committee on Blood Safety and Availability voted against recommending a change to the FDA policy of a lifetime deferral for men who have sex with other men, according to the American Red Cross' online site. Note that 2010 was only two years ago, although the mind set is reminiscent of several generations past.

This mind set not only suggests that homophobia persists within the government, which I perceive as largely influenced by religious values that have no business influencing federal policies, but could also indirectly lead to many deaths. There is a constant demand for blood and the LGBT community is a substantial demographic that is a viable source for it. As the ban is solely supported by debunked beliefs that homosexuals are of higher-risk for diseases, it can only be assumed that the ban remains due to discrimination. Thus, this ban prevents them from donating blood apparently just because—well—just because they are gay.

Shedding additional light on the ban's stubborn irrationality is its distinction between men and women. Although men are banned indefinitely, women are banned only for a year since their last exposure to homosexual intercourse. Even by way of the devil's advocate, I can see no logical reason behind such a distinction. Women are just as capable of transmitting diseases, yet a lifetime ban is specific only to men.

This ban is archaic and should go the way of archaic things: into the hypothetical trash bin. There is nothing that sets a homosexual person apart from a heterosexual person biologically. The only difference between my blood and a healthy gay man's blood would be that I am O-positive and he might be AB-negative. Even so, his chances of saving a life are as good as mine.



## PANDORA'S BOX OF ADDICTION

TINA CHEN  
Staff Writer

Adults often times preach two phrases: "Don't do drugs" and "Get good grades." However, as colleges become more stringent with admission requirements, the academic pressure may be forcing students to choose between one or the other.

Adderall, Vyvanese and Ritalin are among the most popular stimulant medications used to increase concentration and stamina, which are usually prescribed to patients suffering from Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). Due to all the pressure of wanting to succeed, using Adderall may seem harmless, but such stimulants are classified as Schedule II Controlled Substances in the same category as cocaine, methamphetamine and morphine. Although common side effects include nausea, mood swings and depression, the most feared problem is addiction.

As students become more acquainted with prescribed medications solely for the purpose of receiving "better" test results, they will eventually develop a dependence on the drug. The success that comes with the use of Adderall is short term, but the side effects of mental impairment can be permanent for those who take it recreationally. To many, taking study drugs is a gateway to a top tier college, but it is also a gateway to other drugs.

## Tweet Your Chances Goodbye

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The Olympics' purpose is to promote friendly competition between the different countries of the world. It allows everyone to watch and participate without worry of discrimination. So if a tweet might be interpreted as belittlement to another ethnic group, it will create trouble for the athlete.

"With so many Africans in Greece, at least the West Nile mosquitoes will eat homemade food!" When Voula Papachristou posted this "joke" on Twitter, she did not think it would receive a backlash, which leads one to wonder, how could it not? As a competitor of the games, she, more than anyone, should know that

such a statement would not be tolerated by the media.

Even though the tweet was not directed at the games or any of its competitors, it was not something that could be bypassed. The nature of the



comment was inappropriate in all situations, not just because of the games. Had it been ignored, it would have contradicted everything the Olympics stood for. Basically, while the officials of the Olympics say that the world can be united for a friendly competition,

their actions, however, would have said that it is also acceptable to make discriminatory remarks.

After Papachristou posted the tweet, the Greek Olympic Committee felt it was necessary to remove her from the team. This would have been her first time competing in the Olympics, had not one bad joke caused her to lose it all.

Though it seems harsh to expel her, it was necessary and was the best possible course of action. If Papachristou received leniency, the situation could have provoked more conflicts later on during the games. Having the outcome be what the officials decided on was for the best. That way everyone would know that discrimination is not to be tolerated.