



JACQUELINE DO THE MOOR

LOST IN THE CROWD: Masses of students pack the hallways and the lunch area, resulting in chaotic lines. Although students complained of long lunch lines, Principal Brad Walsh said the administration has been timing how long it takes to get lunch and have found that after twenty minutes, there are virtually no lines.

AHS Changes Bell Schedule, Lunches

YIFANG NIE
Co-News Editor

Absent from students' schedules during priority processing for the '09-'10 school year were the ubiquitous 4A and 4B periods, once a sign of AHS' two lunches.

In addition to implementing a longer bell schedule, planning more collaboration days, and getting rid of forum schedule altogether, the administration started off the school year on a new foot by combining first and second lunch into one lunch.

According to Principal Brad Walsh, many of these changes were put into effect out of necessity.

For example, during the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) evaluation last year, the WASC committee recommended a new schedule that would allow for more collaboration between teachers. Therefore, students are now given a collaboration day almost every

changed in compliance with both the contract and WASC recommendation.

The state budget cuts also forced many classes to be reduced or even canceled. This affected the AP courses, which many of which were scheduled during the same periods, making it difficult for counselors to place students in the classes they requested. This, coupled with a two-schedule lunch, would have been even more difficult for the counselors to work around.

"The counselors have been really good about making sure students get the classes they need to graduate. If we had had a two-lunch schedule this year, [students would] be asking me why [they] couldn't get the classes [they] need," said Walsh.

Despite students' complaints of lunch being too crowded, Walsh believes that having one lunch opens up many opportunities on campus.

Wednesday of the school year, doing away with the old forum schedule completely.

"We need a new lunch area. There isn't enough space for 3,000-plus students."

- Light Shu

"Twenty-nine of the Wednesdays this year are early-release days. This way, teachers should really be able to do some good. This way, the best practices get shared. If [a teacher] has a good lesson, share it," said Walsh.

Both the longer schedule and the one-lunch period are changes made by Walsh, who has the right to change the schedule, according to a contract between management and the teachers. The contract specifies to the minute how much instruction time must be given. However, Walsh did not use all the required minutes for instruction, choosing to allocate some for collaboration meetings among teachers.

Ultimately, the schedule was

Students and teachers have been requesting one lunch for quite some time, said Walsh.

He has also spoken to many teachers, who have said that one lunch would allow them to hold club meetings or offer tutoring to students.

"I've been able to speak to students. I've also been able to talk to my peers who don't have the same prep period," said English teacher Kristin Keenan.

For students who have witnessed both the old two-lunch schedule and the new single-lunch schedule, the new schedule possesses qualities both good and bad.

"It's a good way to get people together, but I think we need a new lunch area. There isn't enough space for 3,000-plus students," said senior Light Shu.

UCs, CSUs Suffering from Cuts

ALAN TAM
Co-News Editor

For seniors, this is the time of year when they begin to prepare the paperwork necessary to complete the college application process. The grueling prospect of harassing teachers for recommendations, writing the perfect essay and building up the brag sheet is already complicated enough without any roadblocks thrown in along the way.

Colleges have been bearing the brunt of the state deficit, with the University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) systems trying to keep afloat.

UC and CSU trustees, regents and administrators have announced that tuition rate increases and unpaid vacations for teachers will be an unavoidable feature of next year's curriculum.

"Course selection and the number

of classes available will be cut," said Coordinator of Career Preparation Dr. Cynthia Prentice. "You're going to have to be flexible and willing to take what you can get."

According to the San Jose Mercury News, the UC administration has been considering a tuition increase totaling 32 percent to be implemented over the course of next year. The rate hike may increase the yearly cost by as much as \$10,000.

The UCs have already increased tuition costs by 9.3 percent for the summer and are starting to plan for additional furloughs and layoffs. Approximately 2,000 employees have been terminated this year while

the possibility of losing 2,000 more is not out of the question.

The CSU system has also been hit hard by the budget crisis. Burdened with a \$584 million funding reduction, CSUs are taking drastic measures to provide higher education, faced with one of the worst college

crises in recent history.

According to the CSU website, the board of trustees has planned to increase tuition costs by ten percent and reduce student enrollment by 10,000 in an attempt to compensate for the shortfall.

Private colleges like the University of Southern California and Stanford University are also trimming

their budgets to remain competitive with other institutions. Stanford announced in April that they were going to reduce their total financial expenditures by fifteen percent while USC is planning to maintain their hiring freeze until 2010.

What all of this means for seniors is that there will be much greater competition for openings and classes offered by public, as well as private, universities.

"There's going to be a fifty-fifty percent chance that I will get into the college I want," said senior Felix Huang. "No one can be sure."

High school underclassmen may also be adversely affected by the budget cuts simply because there have not been any clear indications to when this situation will be over.

"Right now, that's a crystal ball question," said Prentice. "It will probably take a couple of years until things get better."

Research Shows Texting to be More Harmful than Expected

VICTORIA GAVIA
Co-Copy Editor

Along with talking on the phone while driving, texting is one of the leading causes of teenage automobile crashes in the nation. The constant use of a cellular phone also contributes to a generation of distracted drivers. When young people observe the driving habits of older people, it becomes an integral part of many future cultures.

Texting, even briefly, requires a few seconds of taking one's eyes off the road; this is long enough for a car to travel a great distance at highway speeds.

According to a study conducted by the University of Utah, motorists experienced an eight-fold increase to their crash risk when attempting to text while driving.

A survey by the Nationwide Mutual Insurance Co. revealed that four out of five individuals, between the ages of 21-32, strongly support a ban on texting but only 57 percent support a ban on all types of phone use.

In addition, a survey by Harris Interactive indicated that 82 percent of those polled would change their phone habits if a law were to be passed, while 18 percent would not.

These statistics have prompted a texting ban in thirteen states, including California. The ban was imposed in

Aug. 2008 with an official law passed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in Jan. 2009.

This law made it illegal to compose, send or read texts with any kind of electronic device while driving. Any violation results in a \$20 fine for the first offense and a \$50 fine for each subsequent offense.

"Texting at a stop sign or a red light is acceptable because [the driver] is just waiting around."

-Jasmine Orozco

However, some students don't believe the fines will prevent motorists and drivers from texting while operating a vehicle.

"Compared to other traffic fines, the \$20 and \$50 fines are just a slap on the wrist [...] they aren't going to necessarily break the bank," said junior Steven Lam.

There are no loopholes or exceptions, even if a driver is at a red light or in a traffic jam. As long as they are in a lane of traffic they will be fined. However, some

students, such as junior Jasmine Orozco disagree with these strict constraints.

"Texting at a stop sign or a red light is acceptable because [the driver] is just waiting around," said Orozco.

In California, law enforcement officers are already cracking down on first-time offenders. For example, a traffic enforcement officer has the right to pull a driver over solely for phone use.

However, in other states, secondary enforcement is employed. This requires an officer to pull a driver over for another offense, such as running a stop sign, before issuing a ticket for phone use.

As a popular alternative, some phones, such as the Blackberry, have developed new high-tech applications in order to avoid these complications.

VLingo is a voice-enabled program which is offered as easy-to-use software. This voice transcription application can compose emails, send texts, make calls, search Google and Yahoo! and even update Facebook and Twitter statuses. In addition, the program reads messages back to the owner so they are able to pay full attention to the road.

Despite the sophisticated technology available, many still view driving and texting as a danger.

"Driving while texting is like driving with your feet. It's very irresponsible and causes accidents," said Lam.



BRIAN HUA THE MOOR

DON'T STOP THE MUSIC: Freshmen engage in a game of musical chairs on the first day of school. Like last year, Executive hosted a freshmen-only event before first period. According to Executive President Anthony Perez, the event is meant to instill pride in the new students.

IN OTHER NEWS...

Doctor removes 1-inch piece of plastic from North Carolina man's lung. The plastic became lodged while the man drank a Wendy's soft drink.

West Virginia man impersonates governor in an attempt to steal Social Security numbers from job seekers.

Ohio couple hit by car, then has car stolen that night.

Man litters Joshua Tree National Park with 3,000 golf balls to honor deceased golfer.

Angolan town left without electricity for two months despite multi-billion dollar investments in new hydropower projects.

Norwegian cows allowed to rest for half an hour every day on soft, rubberized mattresses, produce more milk and contract fewer udder infections.

Executive Makes It Rain ASB Cards

EMILY KONG
Co-Opinions Editor

As we start the new school year, we find ourselves already exhausted by the chaos of school. Our worry-free days are over, but some of us never even had time to enjoy summer. Our Fall Executive has been working hard all summer to prepare for the many obstacles and changes we will encounter this school year.

Many of us are already skeptical about the rest of this year because of our experience with the first day of school. The impression of a hectic first day still hasn't settled with us. With the crowd of complaining students standing outside the Guidance Office and the claustrophobic lunch period, we've started to wonder if the rest of the year would be as crazy. However, things just might turn out better than we expect. Thanks to our dedicated Executive, we just might be in for a year we'll never forget.

"Because things are a little different this year, we've had to [...] think outside the box," said Executive's Vice President Lindsey Blais. Despite the obstacles, like the revised bell schedule, Executive is adapting to the changes. Because the auditorium is still under construction and the number of assemblies that can take place is tentative, they hope to use our one lunch to their advantage.

Executive is also attempting to introduce students to new things. One of their biggest projects is ASB 2010, named after their goal to sell 2,010 ASB cards this year. With ASB cards practically pouring from the sky, Executive has realized their dream



of pursuing student involvement. Executive's class pack sales have already broken the number of ASB cards sold to underclassmen within the last 5 years. After this promising start, Executive will hopefully continue with their success.

"As student government, our job is to provide money for the clubs that need it the most," said Blais. Executive has planned to make profits by

adding new items to the Moor Market, like AHS tote bags and pull-string bags. By increasing profits to give back to clubs on campus, Executive has proven that they plan to do things differently this year.

Blais feels that with a reorganized administration, new ideas are more easily proposed simply because of their support.

Executive and ICC (InterClub

Council) have also collaborated to support AHS clubs through their September ASB promotion, where 50% of ASB card proceeds go to clubs of the student's choice. They've also created the United Clubs of Alhambra (UCA), an organization that gives all the registered clubs on campus the opportunity to interact and participate as one in school events.

"Communication is really hard for

us. UCA is a good way to get inactive clubs to be involved," said Trung Ky, Director of Clubs. From Executive's perspective, this is a chance for them to inform clubs about what's happening at school; UCA will make it easier to communicate to the multitude of organizations on campus.

Executive also has plans for AHS to connect with the community by having clubs and organizations participate in community projects, such as raising money for charities.

Another goal that Executive is hoping to reach is to bring back the old AHS. Blais and Executive President, Anthony Perez, who both grew up hearing about AHS' traditions, hope to restore the old-fashioned practices that made AHS lively and spirited.

"To be able to bring back some traditions would be awesome. Our goal is to make school something everyone enjoys," said Blais. Following that, Executive members plan to bring back the Teacher of the Year and the Department of the Year awards, where there will be competitive faculty games to determine a winner by a final tally of points. Now, we can rest assured that Executive can bring back a little of the old AHS to make school fun for everyone.

Although Executive is determined and spirited, as a student body, we cannot fully depend on ASB-rain dances to make the most out of this year. We need to support Executive in their attempt to make this year unforgettable by getting involved and giving Executive all we've got. With a little optimism, and perhaps a little dance of our own, we can help Executive turn this year around.

Don't Set Store in Fluffy

"Get a life." It's a phrase that you'll hear from friends and older siblings—and not without insult.

But this year, alumni, teachers and guidance counselors adopt this mantra. They pass on the knowledge that those we spend an entire high school career attempting to please have adapted themselves to an era of college counselors and SAT classes. It's no longer enough to present yourself through plain text.

At best, you are a freshman. You have three years to sound interesting on paper. At worst, you're a senior. Your brag sheet and personal statement are your last chances to let your personality "shine." But if those fail, then I suggest investing in mirrors. Or a disco ball. Anything to magnify and reflect whatever aspects of your "shining" personality you can produce on short notice. But I digress.

"Why, oh why, have they caught on?" you may lament. But grievously contemplating the thought process of a college admissions officer will get you nowhere. Your inactive pondering only renders you prostrate in the wake of more proactive teens who prove that they don't just have the *desire* to make a difference in the world, but the potential as well.

There are no the-death-of-Fluffy-changed-my-life-forever's, no my-"annoying"-family-taught-me-the-true-meaning-of-life's, no hackneyed topics in their essays. They have actual accomplishments to boast about—a self-started charity organization, single-handedly discovering the cure to the flu... or something insanely impressive like that.

I don't mean to discourage you from whatever college-bound track you're on. Not every high school student can be a teenaged philanthropist or the survivor of some rare brain disease, but what we *can* avoid is being "forever changed" by the death of Fluffy. Not that Fluffy isn't important, but he will fail you in an attempt to reveal yourself as more than grades and a test score.

And if my attempt to excuse the mediocrity of the common teenager fails, you can think of it this way: people are *advising* you to do what you like. More often than not, we're told that our opinion won't matter when it comes to our brag sheets. It's all about "poetic license." Suddenly our personal tastes are important—not useless "moo-points," if you will. Take this opportunity to fully exploit yourself. If you don't have a hobby, cultivate one. Do whatever it takes to separate yourself from the herd of cattle we call "high school."

Kimberly Ong,
Co-Opinions Editor

Choices, the Way You Crash and Burn...

YVONNE LEE
Co-Editor in Chief

3500 people, 150 tables, 1 lunch. This is just one of the many changes implemented at AHS this year. Fall has come, and along with it, a brand new school year, emphasis on the "new." The freshmen, for example will never experience the awkward Health & Safety sex talks, enjoy a nap during SSR, cheer their class on during a morning forum assembly or have a somewhat peaceful, non-mosh-pit-like lunch.

However, it's not only the freshmen who are now missing out on classes. Physiology and Art History AP are no longer offered here at AHS and, by looking at the course catalog, it's apparent that many of the classes listed aren't available. One can't help but wonder, "What if class choices become even more limited?" Our school may eventually be devoid of even remotely interesting subjects.

As the freshmen go through a very different ninth grade experience, the sophomores gradually settle into their comfort zone. Meanwhile, the juniors revel in their new upperclassman status and perks, like Prom, that come with it. However, they must also deal with the pressures, such as notoriously difficult junior courses and the dreaded SATs.

The seniors are at their top of the game, presiding over clubs and organizations, simultaneously waiting on college acceptances and graduation. Four years of balancing academics and extracurricular activities to impress the right school all lead up to the anticipation of the fat envelope in their mailboxes. All that talk of leaving is finally coming true, well almost.

While all this "going into the real world" business may seem scary, at least they won't be subjected to these changes any longer, leaving too soon to see if they are truly beneficial or not. However as long as there is room for improvement, changes will be made. Change is the only constant, after all.

Need a Hand? \$40,000 Please.

SALLY TRAN
Staff Writer

Click. Click click click. Backspace. Click click. That, my colleagues, is the sound of fingers poised over a keyboard, ready to spill another life story onto a Word document. In other words, a personal statement.

As the new school year rolls in, those at the head of the metaphorical high school food chain slave away at college applications while juniors are faced with the most important of their four years, only just beginning to form plans for their future. Sophomores are simply elated by their promotion to being not-freshman and the blinking, fresh-eyed young ones have taken their first steps into the world of high school.

The details of college mainly reside in the minds of the older scholars, but in the minds of private college counselors, it's never too early to start planning.

From laying out possible essay topics to determining which classes to take, the number of independent admission advisers is on the rise. For only a few hundred dollars, an experienced counselor will give advice

on amassing a list of prospective colleges. If that doesn't appear enticing enough, then purge yourself of tens of thousands of dollars to have one oversee the entire application process, which can start as early as the eighth grade.

Forget the fact that some of these advisers charge the equivalent (or more) of a year's college tuition, never mind that no test or licensing is required to act as the guiding light for lost souls, and ignore the admissions officers who say that no outsiders can truly predict a single applicant's success—these counselors claim to know just the way to get students into the college of their choice.

Although the prices cause an involuntary cringe when reminded of

the current recession, only some of the counselors are making gracious adjustments.

One prime example is Ms. Duff, who promotes advisory DVDs at the astoundingly low price of one for forty-five dollars, two for eighty. Others, such as Vermont-based coun-

selor, Michele Hernandez, are not as lenient during these competitive and tough times, conjuring an analogy to the indisputable value of a neurosurgeon for a brain tumor. The price is worth it, they all claim.

Understandably, there may still be students anxious enough about their futures who view these guides as a necessity, but let's not forget that high school spans four years. Four long years to do what the majority of people have a natural inclination to do anyway: make friends.

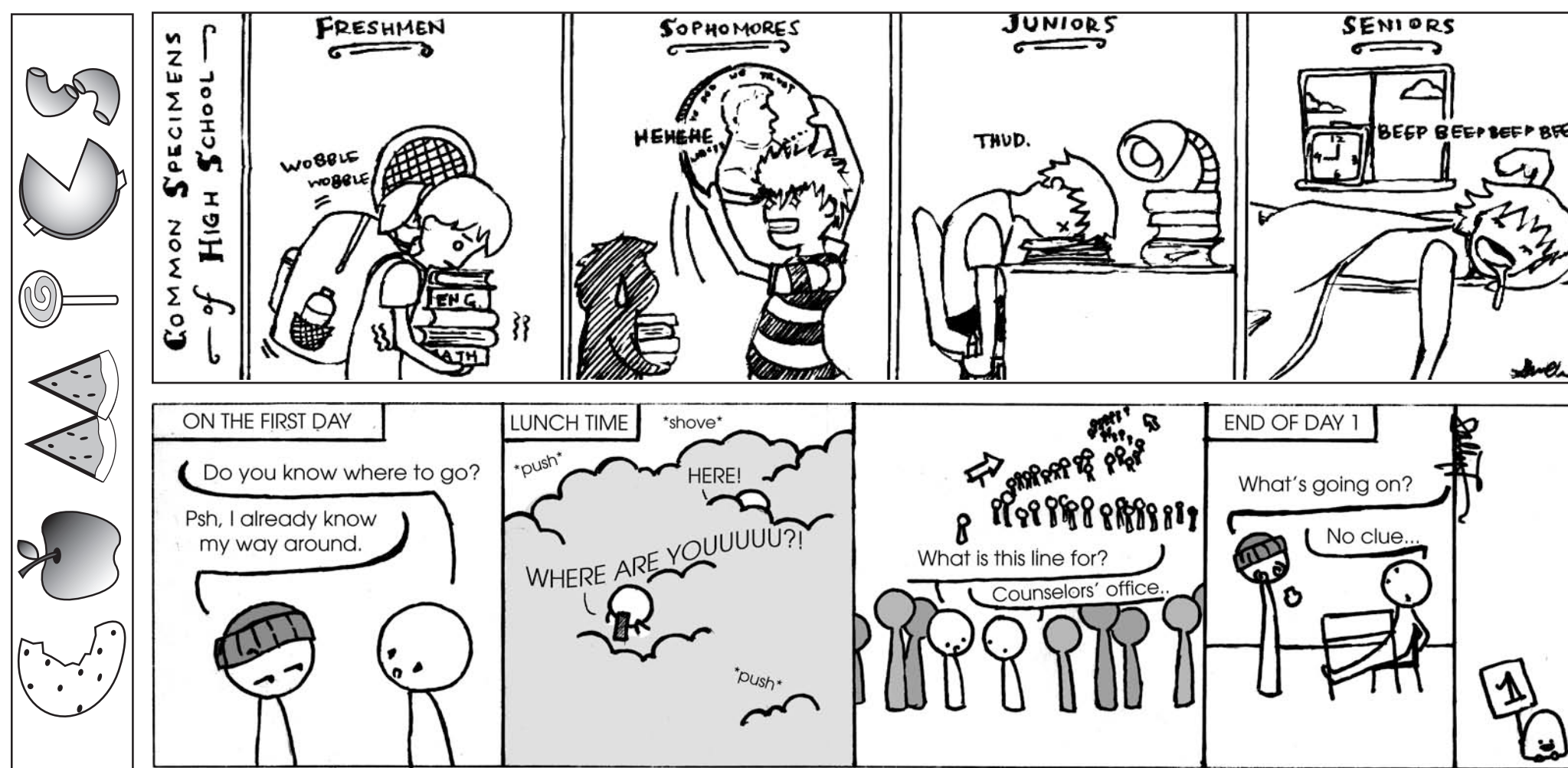
Joining various clubs and extra curricular courses are deemed a must, especially if students want to appear "well-rounded" to colleges, and it's nearly inevitable that those who join bond with the other members of the same club or team.

When senior year comes bearing down, others who have gone through the same process before you, more than likely, will be happy to impart their knowledge and give a guiding hand. Best of all, their expertise comes free of charge.

Even those daunting teachers and rarely-visited counselors have their own grain of knowledge to bestow. Eventually, your own personal experience becomes invaluable to underclassmen that look to you for a helping hand when their time comes. Ultimately, the course of action is your own.

Why pay hundreds, even thousands of dollars to have experts that don't know you, get you into college? Try a hand at social networking. Make connections. It's a valuable life-skill that doesn't require purging your wallet of much needed cash.

Why pay hundreds, even thousands of dollars to have experts who don't know you, get you into college?



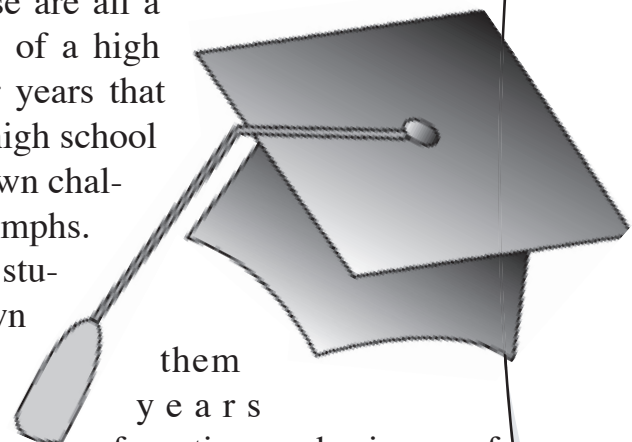
HIGH SCHOOL SURVIVAL GUIDE

Rushing through the crowded hallways, pulling all nighters, finishing last minute homework, and-keeping up in class. These are all a part of the everyday life of a high school student. The four years that make up each student's high school career come with their own challenges and their own triumphs.

Even though not every student can have their own official mentor to guide them through their crazy years at AHS, there are a few tips and pieces of advice that can make the ride a little smoother.

The first year of high school is often is a culture shock—all the people, teachers and surroundings are a lot to take in and can be intimidating. Freshman Wilson Diep is "looking forward to new ways [of learning] and being uniform free for the first time."

Each year brings students closer to the end of their journey through high school, and more importantly, towards the start of their life outside the gates of AHS.



Freshmen

As you venture through halls, your heartbeat accelerates while you look for a familiar face in this place called high school. Nevertheless, the illusion that AHS is a new, crowded, and uncertain school fades away. Within days, you start meeting

new people and making friends, but more importantly—you adjust. Sophomore Cristina Ybarra's first thought as she entered AHS was, "I hope these four years go by fast." Sure enough, freshman year passed by quickly. Before she knew it, she was talking to fellow students and had become more excited about high school. Sophomore Mariah Romero entered her classes with a different perspective. "I thought that I wouldn't know anyone because most of my friends went to another high school. I was nervous, but that soon went away as I started

meeting to know people." Some students quickly lose focus by slacking off and forgetting the reason why they're in high school. However, students' most important concerns in high school are getting good grades and not falling behind. High school serves as a preparation for college and the real world. "You should have goals and focus in school, but you also need to find good friends because they will help you when you need it. Try to be yourself in the best way you can because people will like you better than what you're trying to be," said Romero.

By now, you should know the high school impeccably. It's tenth grade and this year really counts because it's one of the two main years that colleges focus on. It's the time before the pressure of preparing for colleges and the SAT starts to dawn on you. Tenth grade is the year that all students take the CAHSEE (California High School Exit Exam). It tests one's abilities in Math and English and is a requirement for all California students to pass if they want to graduate. "I actually

thought it was very easy. I didn't have any trouble with it even though I know some people thought it was difficult, but everyone's different," said junior Sarah Chavez. Overall to succeed high school, students need to focus on their classes and avoid distractions. "I [would] have to say sophomore year was easy and difficult. [Difficult] because sometimes you have so much studying to do and you don't always organize your time wisely, and [easy] because if you just always do all of your work and don't be lazy you will do just fine," said Chavez. Set-

ting goals and following through with them helps students stay focused and helps them accomplish the school year with satisfactory grades. "My advice is: work hard and don't think sophomore year doesn't count because it does! Don't be lazy and organize your other activities and time very, very wisely," said Chavez.

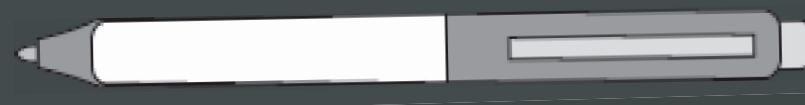
-Sophomores



Juniors

Since freshmen year, teachers have instilled the importance of junior year in all students. Thoughts of taking the SATs, preparing for college applications, and keeping GPA's up are all on the minds of juniors. For senior Timothy Ly, "[The] year was pretty much really stressful, mainly because of the pressures of SAT deadlines and since colleges focus mainly on junior year." Although Ly admits that he did slack off in previous years, he says he worked his hardest during

junior year and has no regrets about it. "Honestly, I'm looking past [senior] year, and I'm really looking forward to getting to college already," said Ly. "My advice to incoming juniors is keep your grades up, always know the deadlines for the SATs, and take it seriously."



Ready or not, you're mailing in your college applications to the school you've always dreamed of, and before you know it—you're receiving a diploma. There are many different ways to prepare for college. Some students challenge themselves by taking classes that will give them a taste of what a college class is like. "I prepped by taking AP/honors

courses in high school, learning to manage my time wisely and choosing my 'career pathway,'" said recent AHS graduate, Fiona Wong. Not concentrating during senior year can have consequences. "Don't let senioritis get to you; even after submitting your college applications, senior year still matters. Colleges look at your final grades just to make sure you don't slack off," said Wong. Senioritis is when seniors start to lay back and stop focusing on school because they feel as if the

rest of the year doesn't matter, but it still does. A single D or F in a student's senior year, could have damaging effects especially if it involved going to a CSU or UC. Waiting to see if you got in to the college of your dreams can be stressful. "It was extremely nerve-racking," said Wong. Going to college is different than going to high school. From being able to take classes at any time, to taking classes that are centered around a future career. "I feel excited, but at the same time, I feel nervous about what the future holds," said Wong."

Seniors

Co-Features Editors Lindsay Croon and Karolina Zydziak
MOORgraphics Gina Chen and Kelly Ly

Football Ready for New Season, New Opportunity

■ With veteran senior lineups, the Alhambra football team is equipped for a bright season, hoping to capture the Almont League title.

VICTOR HUANG
Co-Sports Editor

In the past few years, the Moors football team has tasted victory in two Almont league championships: one in 2002 and the other in 2006; for the past five years, they have, through sheer physical exertion, earned spots in the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) playoffs. Not only do these accomplishments demonstrate the Moors' capacity for success, but also, with the right ingredients, another opportunity for the Moors to reenact history.

Despite placing fourth in the Almont League last season with a 5-5 record, the Moors have their eyes set upon another league title. According to Head Coach Gil Ruedaflares, it is the skill position and veteran knowledge inborn in this year's varsity lineup that will make the players all the more deadly on the field.

"It was the injuries during crucial

times in games, the ineligibility and the discipline measure that caused our shortcoming last season," said Ruedaflares.

However, Ruedaflares states that only two out of the three can be controlled. Although injuries are out of their control, the football coaching staff has always imparted the importance of being student-athletes by holding numerous workshops at the beginning of the season to help players adapt to their rigorous programs, while furthering the most important goal—a solid education.

Another point that Ruedaflares frequently mentions is his belief in enforcing the Moors to play as a "team" rather than boosting their own reputations. Senior line backer Andrew Hirata stated that Ruedaflares not only emphasizes administering "golden practices," but also to do every minuscule drill to the best of their abilities. The team practices vigorously daily for four hours, firing up for a bright season.

Because of the great leadership



JACQUELINE DO The Moors

ANOTHER "GOLDEN PRACTICE": The varsity football team trains hard in pursuit of a near perfect practice at the 4th Street field in preparation for yet another opportune season.

quality and unyielding confidence amongst the leaders, there is an important sense of team unity and support.

"The team chemistry is great. Teammates always boost each other up. There are no put downs or negative comments," said Hiarata.

Authoritative figures, including Mitchell Crockom and Darrian Cazarin, lead the offense on the team, while Brandon Wilson and Alexander Bird are the backbone of the

Moors' defense.

Part of the Moors' preseason training included a scrimmage against Roosevelt, in which the team got a glimpse of what they need to work on. Despite their disappointing 20-34 loss against Roosevelt, the Moors used this game experience to fuel their practices and unblemish their mistakes.

"We really should not have lost that game," said Hirata.

He explained that the night was

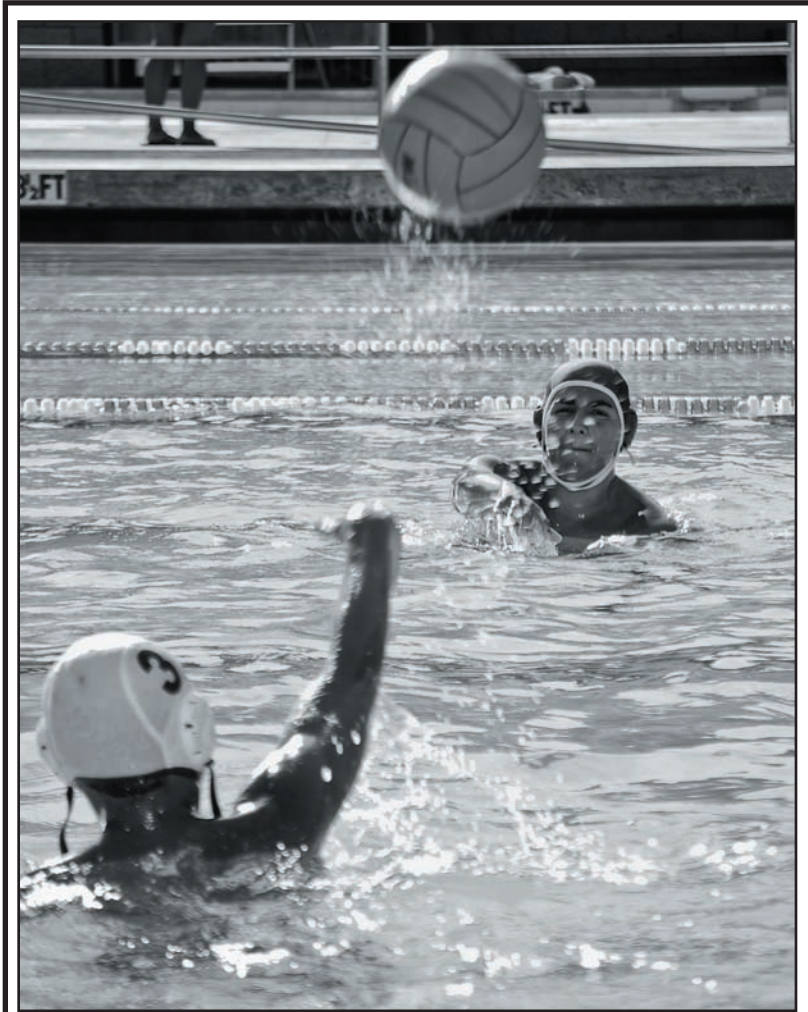
flawed with a handful of mistakes, including penalties and not executing the defense properly. The team realized what they need to do differently during the year to be more competitive.

Due to fires during the months, the game against La Canada on Sept. 11 was cancelled. Nevertheless, the Moors captured a clutch win 17-14 against Temple City on Sept. 18. Down by 14 the first half, the team crawled back and scored

two touchdowns to conclude the game.

"Our offensive line did poorly the first half, but we immediately fixed our problems and put our heads back in the game," said Lok.

The team still has a whole season to look forward to. Along with hard work and exacting their wrongs, the Moors will certainly have the potential to revitalize Alhambra High football and their enduring traditions.



BRIAN HUA The Moors

A FRESH START: With a new coach, new members and a new year, the water polo players rigorously train to improve their skills as a team.

Water Polo Begins Vigorous Season

VINCENT LIN
Co-Sports Editor

A fresh start is in store for the boys' varsity water polo team. Several motivations are pushing the team hard, as this season includes completely new coaches and a mix of new and returning players who are eager to pick up from last year's upsetting 0-16 record.

Armed with several returning players, the team is apt for improvement. Returning members are expected to combine their experience from last year with lessons learned from newly appointed Head Coach Sarah Duran and Assistant Coach and brother Nathan Duran. Since water polo has fairly small teams of ten or fewer members, returning players also share the responsibility of helping to train incoming members.

Coach Duran knows that the boys will need to combat many teams that have a great offense. This knowledge, along with having a new goalie, Gabriel Sanchez, has the team focused on having a strong defense. A good defense always makes for a good offense as well in a sport like water polo. However, many hours of hard work will be necessary to meet this goal.

"[The team] needs to work on

adjusting to new plays, drills and skills that I have coming for them," said Sarah Duran.

Fortunately, cooperation between the players and new coaches is very strong. The list of improvements goes on, but their willingness to work towards them is vital for the team to stand a chance this season. In addition, difficulties with finding new coaches resulted in the team having practiced with Duran for only a little more than a week before their first season game, proving their commitment in such short time.

"[The players] are very responsive. I tell them to do something and they do it in a heartbeat. They're willing to learn, to listen and to put in time," said Duran.

The horizon remains clear for the boys' water polo season. They have lost a few scrimmages early in their preseason, but their first Almont League game is not until Oct. 13 against their rivals, the Mark Keppel Aztecs. In fact, they have already defeated the Aztecs 9-3 in a tournament at San Marino.

In the meantime, the rest of the nine preseason scrimmages and beneficial tournaments will allow plenty of time for the boys to hone their skills and bond with their coaches.

Girls' Tennis has High Hopes, New Coach

VINCENT LIN
Co-Sports Editor

Characteristic changes are prospective for varsity girls' tennis as the reputable team plays under new Head Coach Bill Yee. A history teacher at AHS, Yee has also coached junior varsity boys' tennis at this school before. As he fills the position again, his attitude towards coaching is making a strong impression on the team.

The majority of the girls are new to the varsity team, as there are only three returning players. All, however, note Yee's strong emphasis on the team's communication with their coach and each other in order to improve.

"Coach Yee is focused on our team unity and he's not afraid to tell us what he thinks of our abilities," said returning singles player Christine He.

Yee also tends to give the girls speeches at the end of their games to encourage them to do better. Indeed, even at the start of practice the day after the girls' first loss at a 2-16 scrimmage against South Pasadena, he asserted their duty to work harder to avoid such defeats. At these talks, the girls are often expected to talk back with Yee and state what they need to do to improve, demonstrating their bond with their coach.

"We need to work harder to be more competitive. That's the priority," said Yee.

The team has, however, started this season with less experience than previous years since they have mainly incoming players. According to Yee, the girls have good round strokes, but need to work on their backhand

strokes along with consistency in their serves. They must consider all their weak points to improve in order to get on par with other varsity teams.

Having placed third in Almont League last year, the team still has high expectations for themselves. Having a new coach has not distracted them from their typical goals either; their desire to beat their main rivals, the Mark Keppel Aztecs, still burns on. They also have hopes of reaching the CIF playoffs once again, which Yee notes their good chance of making, at least for the first round.

The girls have already dominated El Monte 17-1 in the first game of the year, but their season proves to be increasingly challenging, as they have lost three consecutive games afterwards. However, a pattern of rising scores is seen in their 2-16 game against South Pasadena, 4-14 game against San Marino, 8-10 game against Rosemead and 10-8 victory against La Salle.

"Our scores are definitely improving as the season goes on because we're all getting more competitive and used to [our] line-up and playing," said doubles player Nancy Vong.

Any criticism the new coach has for the team is surely all constructive, as he wants them to be more strategic and more "students of tennis." Their season is applicable on a good course so far, since Yee ultimately wants the team to improve, believing that individual effort and improvement are the ways to success for the whole team.

"We're all getting more competitive and used to [our] line-up and playing."

— Nancy Vong

Cross Country Unites in New Fall Season

JAMES HO
Co-Copy Editor

To an average individual, the phenomenal task of running three miles entails 16,840 feet of hard labor and the burning of several hundred calories by their overworked bodies. To be able to blaze through this distance under the baking California sun, an individual must be extremely disciplined in running. And yet, AHS harbors an entire team of these people, on our track field, who make up the Alhambra High School cross-country team.

Every year, the recruitment of new additions to this team creates a distinct class of competitors that few other sports accommodate. Members of the cross-country team endure grueling practices in order to shape themselves into meeting the expectations for this demanding sport. Imagine the discipline required to compete in a sport where stopping to rest is not an option.

The team attended their first meet of the year on Sept. 10 against Rosemead and Temple City. This meet saw some positive gains for our school as the team took first

place against the other two.

"We usually win this one. It's the first meet of the year. It's mostly a warm-up for everyone and we focus more on the experience we gain from it rather than the sake of competition," said junior runner Junior Herrera.

This year, the team boasts 10 members who are able to complete a three-mile race in less than 17 minutes. This gives the team a competitive edge that they will be using in their fall season.

"Now that we have such a strong group of runners, we have really started to compete more as a team.

Last year, it was more of an individual thing, but now we see more unity," said Herrera.

At the Rosemead Invitational on Sept. 19, the team once again raced against upwards of 20 schools. These larger scale races are meant to train novice runners, as well as provide them with valuable experience for upcoming Almont League races.

Just as the weather begins to cool down in autumn, the cross country runners have to maintain their hard work to win an Almont League championship.

Come Support Your Moors!

Upcoming Games:

Girls' Tennis Oct. 1 @ Montebello 3:15 P.M.*

Football Oct. 2 vs. South Pasadena 7 P.M.

Cross Country Oct. 3 @ Cresenta Va Park TBA.

Girls' Tennis Oct. 6 @ Bell Gardens 3:15 P.M.

Cross Country Oct. 10 @ Mt. Sac 7:30 A.M.

Boys' Water Polo Oct. 13 vs. Mark Keppel 3:15 P.M.*

Boys' Water Polo Oct. 14 vs. Mark Keppel 3:15 P.M.*

Football Oct. 16 @ Schurr 7 P.M.*

* denotes Almont League games
All games are tentative and are subject to change.

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