FLYING FISH

Joyce Lam,
Editor in Chief

Pretty, Shiny Things Never Last

On a typical morning, I walk into school with hopes of seeing a clean campus. It's not that I don't think we have a clean campus, but there are so many reasons to complain about our school environment. I know that many students—myself included—continuously wish that our school was tidier and, well, less sloppy.

Don't get me wrong—I believe that though we have a litter-infested campus, the administrators should not be charged with the blame. I am certain that they don't like seeing trash outside of the trashcan, flyers lying around on the floors and those nasty seagulls arriving on a daily basis after lunch. They want to make Alhambra High School a great campus, but do we really deserve it?

When the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) visiting team came to Alhambra High, our school prepared by cleaning up the campus, re-painting buildings and generally tidying up the school grounds. Though it seemed like our school was just "dressing to impress," I'm sure that all schools do the same. With this, many students complained and said it was fake and merely an act for the visiting team. This "housecleaning" business is typical for any school; it's much like having guests come visit your house—you tidy up and present them your best as a sign of respect.

To be honest, it made sense to wait until the week before our WASC visitation to clean up. From what I've seen, had the cleaning been done weeks in advance, all the work spent to beautify our campus would have been put to waste.

At the end of the day, I would love to say, "Yes, of course we deserve great things on our campus!" but the reality is that respect is the ultimate component that is missing on our school grounds. And until we learn to respect our learning environment, we'll just have to cope with the fact that we don't deserve to have a shiny, gleaming campus.

Banning Food Fair is Anything but Fair

JENNIFER PIERCE
Copy Editor

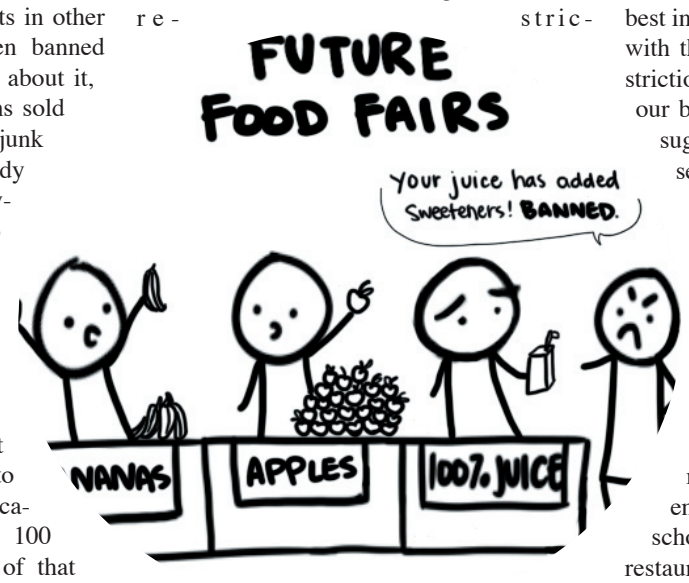
Crowds. Noise. Break. Food. Sounds like a typical lunch break at Alhambra High School. There's just one thing forever to be absent: Food Fair.

Due to health regulations imposed by the state, Food Fair and its equivalents in other schools in the district have been banned during school hours. If you think about it, it makes perfect sense. Food items sold at Food Fair usually consisted of junk food or fast food. Both are already commonly deemed by health activists (and parents) as detrimental to health.

In a way, they're totally right. Your average In-N-Out hamburger with onions has 390 calories with 170 of those from fat. Costco pepperoni pizza has a whopping 804 calories per slice, 58 percent of that being fat. Need something to wash all that down with? Try Coca-Cola, an average can containing 100 calories with nearly 10 percent of that from sugars. Or milk tea boba: 207 calories with 3 grams of fat. Both contain added sweeteners and sugars. Why else would we drink them?

Unfortunately for the clubs and organizations that depended on Food Fair for revenue, all of those items are against the state-mandated regulations for food and beverages sold on campus.

Under the section entitled "Middle/High School—Food Restrictions," "snack" foods must be less than or equal to 35 percent from fat and less than or equal to 250 calories per item or container/serving. "Entrée" foods, or meals, must be less than or equal to 400 calories and less than or equal to four grams per 100 calories. These "entrées" must also contain two or more food groups, like meat, vegetables and carbohydrates, or just meat/meat alternate (hopefully, they mean tofu meat). For beverages, the main restriction, other than it must contain greater than or equal to 50 percent real juice, is that there can be no added sweeteners, even for water. Under prohibited items, carbonated beverages and many types of candy, excluding chocolate, are listed.



And if you're wondering if this only applies to what the school sells or serves if you have free lunch, it doesn't. There is a clear section that is labeled "Student Organizations" which basically states that they must also comply with these rules if they sell anything during school hours. One bullet point reads that only ONE student organization may sell *per day*. So, really, if the food wasn't bad, our method of selling it was also a problem.

Before we get angry and rebel, take a minute to think. Clearly, the state only has our best interests in mind, especially in a country with the highest obesity rate. All of the restrictions and regulations are made to keep our bodies from having too much fats and sugars, which is basically what Food Fair sells. The only downside is that many clubs are out of a major source of revenue.

Forcing the clubs to sell food in line with the state regulations may be too much of a stretch, especially if we expect to sell any of it. But there are alternatives.

The most obvious is to sell after school which, according to the regulations, is 30 minutes after school ends. Many students wait until after school to eat anyway. With a plethora of restaurants and food places on Main Street, it seems much more preferable to eating school lunch. The only problem with this option is that most people are eager to leave as soon as possible.

Another option would be to sell non-food items, such as pens and keychains. As long as it wasn't for your own personal benefit and didn't go against someone's copyright, it seems like a viable option.

As teenagers, we tend to complain a lot, and this seems like a perfect opportunity to do so. But if we really look at the situation,

Letter to the Editor

Dear Moor Newspaper,

I hope to address the editors of the Alhambra High School newspaper, both as a fellow student and attendee of Alhambra High and an advocator of education and progress, concerning a relatively new group called the AP Ambassadors. Being an outside spectator of this group, and having studied and observed them for quite some time, I think quite highly of what these students in the Ambassadors program are working hard to achieve in our community. What this group encompasses as its driving force is to unify our student body in the spirit of our school and the spirit of learning.

Now this may be a very broad description, so perhaps it is best to look a little deeper into this group: For instance, they stand by, at the ready, to provide any aid to any students in the AP Language and Composition class. Most of them have had real experience in this class, so they are the most ideal people to turn to for any student needing help in it. This is a very praiseworthy goal, for students to take out of their own time to work for the sake of others, especially for a higher-level class like AP Lang.

In this sense, the AP Ambassadors are trying to become something of role models for other students. The Ambassadors are still students, like most everyone else here in Alhambra High, going through the same classes, the same lunch breaks, the same fire drills as everyone else. This makes the Ambassadors the ideal aid for students who want to seek help because they find themselves coming to their peers, people sailing the same boat as themselves. Not only does this probably sound a lot more comfortable than having to come up to that grumpy teacher who wants to be left alone to their turkey sandwich at lunch for help, but it subsequently promotes student communion by bringing students together to enrich one another's learning, be it by helping to write an essay or compose an oration.

The Ambassadors want to represent the face of Alhambra High School, of the mighty Moor, in dedicating their own time and effort to immense other students into the learning experience of high school. And what better way to do that than to get the school spirit built up in the student body through student community? We all only have four years to enjoy our time here in Alhambra High School, so why not make it count? The AP Ambassadors share themselves with the student body in the hopes of bringing it together through cooperation and diversity among students.

In closing, I believe the AP Ambassador program has a very noteworthy goal set for themselves, and it would be a great shame if they were to simply vanish off the face of our campus after only a few years or so. I give them great praise and highly commend them for their goals and their efforts, both as a fellow student and an advocator for education. I thank you for your time in reading this, with the hopes that the Ambassadors can one day become thriving role models for the student body to strive for in their high school experience.

Sincerely,
Adam Vargas

Asian PersuAsian

KATHERINE ONG
Staff Writer

It's a shame to realize that M.I.A.'s finger "mishap" scandal completely overshadowed Michigan Senator Pete Hoekstra's racially insensitive campaign commercial in the aftermath of the 2012 Super Bowl.

The ad, which only ran statewide in Michigan but managed to garner a nationwide response, opens to a view of rice paddies and the sound of Oriental gongs. An Asian woman on a bicycle, played by 2012 Miss Napa Valley Lisa Chan, thanks current Michigan senator Debbie "SpendItNow" Stabenow in stereotypical, grammatically incorrect "Engrish" for borrowing American money from China, making the American economy "get very weak" while her country "get very good [so] we take your jobs," criticizing Stabenow and her platform, which supposedly supports China in lieu of American economic growth.

The rampant blatant stereotyping almost seems like a joke—an insulting one. The Asian stereotypes are a broad spectrum and apply to the Asian race rather than the Chinese population. Hoekstra disregards that an Asian American can be as easily offended by the racial remarks in the ad as a person from China. American culture is influenced by many races and ethnic heritages—numerous Asian cultures contribute to our holistic "salad bowl" culture.

Hoekstra's attempt at portraying Stabenow as China's villainess accomplice could be easily misconstrued as Asians in general being the enemy. Despite criticisms, Hoekstra has not apologized for his insensitivity and instead has pronounced continuously full support for his commercial. His support may not be enough to keep his campaign alive after insulting an entire race that is integral to the American population. Unintentional stereotyping is distasteful yet forgivable, but blatant mockery is an unquestionably bad call.