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ALHAMBRA HIGH SCHOOL



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Multiple Bomb Threats Brought to Resolve

JOHNNY HUYNH
Staff Writer

Since January, a tune has become more familiar to AHS students and faculty. The sequence of three short, three long, then another three short rings—Morse code for S-O-S—calls for the safety procedure required in a campus-wide lockdown.

The earliest encounter was on a Friday, Jan. 13, when the school received a call from an unidentified person during fourth period.

In response, the entire school engaged in a lockdown as officials notified local authorities. Shortly after noon, students were evacuated to the track field as the entire campus was searched for explosives by the Alhambra Police Department and canine forces. Having the rest of the instructional day disrupted,

students were released at 2:30 pm, which was near the normal dismissal time.

The incident introduced a series of bomb threat-related lockdowns that took time in various parts of the day, sometimes in the morning and after-school hours. There have been a total of eight lockdowns related to the same incident.

According to Principal Brad Walsh, the threats

“Safety first, then education.”
- Brad Walsh

were costly interruptions to the school budget, since resource use drifted away from instructional time and campus maintenance. The amount of work interrupted on those days had to be compensated in overtime shifts, particularly for custodial services.

“The [interruptions] were a waste of time, when it could have been used for our education,” senior Andrew Tang said.

However, the school has certain priorities depending on a given situation. Every call received was approached with the impression that they were all equally fatal. Thorough and immediate searches conducted right after the calls indicated nonexistent danger, but there was no room for taking chances in assuming the least of the threats.

As it turns out, the calls were fraudulent.

“I thought the [lockdown] was scary at first, but not [the ones] afterwards; it was probably people trying to get out of class,” freshman Kyle Altamirano said.

Frequent safety measures are still taking place to ensure that the campus is safe.

“Safety first, then educa-



ALL CLEAR Students and staff are given the okay to go back to campus after the bomb threat on Jan. 13.

PHOTO courtesy of ALHAMBRA SOURCE

After an extensive investigation by authorities, two perpetrators—a current student and an alumnus—were taken into custody on March 16, after their last call-in. Their identities are not disclosed, as they are going to be tried in court on a charge of felony. Investigators are organizing a case to be presented to the Los Angeles District Attorney office.

“What bothered me the most was the possibility that other people [could have known] and did not say anything to stop it,” Walsh said.

Since the arrest of the perpetrators, there have been flyers around campus asking students to cooperate and report any tips tied to the bomb-related threats.

“This comes to show that our school can handle these situations,” senior Diana Chau said. “I feel our school is pretty safe because of how our school can react so quickly.”

tion,” Walsh said. “When I [became principal], I did not expect to be the first one to look for the bomb.”

Holocaust Survivor Visits AHS, Recounts Experiences

ELLEN LI
News Editor

The Holocaust left behind a tragic legacy, and there remains much bitterness in its aftermath. For decades, many survivors refused to speak of the war, as it would bring back traumatic memories.

However, some have come to terms with their past in order to lift the curtain of silence. One of these survivors who has broken the silence is Sasha Erlik, who visited AHS to recount his experiences on March 29.

Over the duration of the last two months, English teacher Debi Kuperberg and AVID and American History teacher Jose Sanchez developed a Holocaust unit to teach their students. Its purpose was not only to educate students about the genocide that occurred during World War II in Europe but also to empower them to prevent similar events from occurring in the future.

“Learning about the Holocaust really opened my eyes about what atrocities people went through and how unfair and inhumane it really was,” senior Lynnette Chavez said. “It taught me how far racism and prejudice could end up.”

The unit consisted of traditional lectures, student presentations, Socratic seminars, field trips and films before finally culminating in a visit from a Holocaust survivor.

Erlik, a family friend of Kuperberg’s, was invited to speak to the students about his time as a Jew in the German concentration camps during World War II.

Erlik, who was born in 1925, came from an affluent Jewish family in Czechoslo-

vakia. He was only fourteen-years-old when his country was occupied by Germany, and



Sasha Erlik (middle) poses with Jose Sanchez (left) and Debi Kuperberg (right).

MOOR photo by JOYCE TSUI

the countries around it. During the war, he and his family were sent to Auschwitz and other concentration camps. Erlik recounted stories about his experiences in working in the camps and the struggles he faced there. However, not all of the memories were of hardships; there was also the unexpected kindness he received from a German doctor who had saved his life.

Erlik attributed his survival to luck and also to his positive outlook in life; despite his experiences during the war, he remains optimistic about the future, and he encouraged the students to do the same.

“Here in the U.S., there were [support] groups of [Holocaust survivors after the war]. I went to one of the meetings and all they talked about was the past. They didn’t

talk about the future and how nice it is or how good it is, they only talk[ed] about how terrible it was there,” Erlik said. “I didn’t want to listen to it, but I want you to listen to it so you’ll be able to tell [others] what was going on. But for me the important thing was the future, so I never went back to one of those groups because they were always so negative. I’ve always been very positive.”

Today, Erlik continues to speak to high school and college students as he has done over the last twenty years so that other students will also become witness to this tragedy by hearing his testimony.

“It was one thing to learn about the Holocaust and be sad about it, but to actually hear a person who went through what we read about just takes it on a whole different level,” senior Tamara Theola said. “It’s now something more than what’s in the history book for me; I actually feel connected to it.”