



AHS Seeks to Move Past Assistant Principal Controversy

OLIVIA CHEUNG
CAROLINE REN
Editors in Chief

On Jan. 17, upon receiving a Youtube link concerning former Assistant Principal of Student Services Andrea Cardosa, AHS administration contacted the Alhambra Police Department (APD) to begin an ongoing investigation after which Cardosa resigned from her position.

The Youtube video, posted by Jamie Carrillo, accuses Cardosa of manipulating her into having sexual relations together when Carrillo was attending Chewama Middle School in Riverside. As stated in an interview with her attorney, David Ring, Carrillo is considering a lawsuit against school districts that hired Cardosa, according to the LA Times.

"It took a lot for me to come forward, but I kept thinking about my own kids and how I wouldn't want anything happening to them," Carrillo said, according to ABC 7.

Ring stated that in 1999, an investigation was held concerning Cardosa and rumors circulating about alleged abuse.

The investigation, however, did not lead to arrests, charges or disciplinary action, according to the LA Times.

As reported by the Pasadena Star News, Cardosa went through a fingerprint and background check with both the U.S. Department of Justice and the FBI before working for AUSD.

"It's not the district's fault for not know-

ing her prior history. We're still a great school and we can't have the negative impact from this situation

affect our school when it didn't even happen here," ASB staff assistant Dilene Soto said.

Many question whether a more thorough background check would have been effective.

"The school needs to do a better job of vetting," English teacher Nancy Padilla

said. "Even though the event was not on public record, there's always a way to find out. Colleges and employers look up candidates on the Internet, and even though it isn't totally reliable, it helps so that school officials aren't caught off guard later on."

However, others maintain that further investigation simply was not a viable option.

"I don't think there was much that could have been done, since [Cardosa] was never reported," senior Anthony Zhu

said. "Any other school would have had the same problem we did. There's an inherent flaw in hiring policies in general."

The district took action 10 minutes after viewing the video, according to Superintendent Laura Tellez-Gagliano in the Pasadena Star News.

"Our first priority in the district is stu-

dent safety," Tellez-Gagliano said. "We got the authorities involved and we will continue to act with anything that is reported to us."

According to a memo from Principal Duane Russell, no students have accused Cardosa of similar advances. The APD has passed the investigation to the Riverside County and San Bernardino County Sheriff's Departments.

"It's also nice to know that the minute [the school and district] heard, they acted upon it. They handled it very well and quickly. They're trying to contain any rumors the rumor mill has," English teacher Debbie Kuperberg said.

Students echo similar sentiments. "I do still feel secure at school because this is just an isolated incident. Most of the administration is pretty good," senior Nhi Bui said.

Ultimately, faculty strives to move forward from the issue.

"I want students to know they're safe; there are people here on campus they can trust. If there's any questionable behavior, go to someone and share your concern," Padilla said.

"We're still a great school and we can't have the negative impact from this situation affect our school when it didn't even happen here."

- Dilene Soto

STAR Test to be Replaced by New Exam

BRIANA THAI
Staff Writer

As of Jan. 7, California's State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson called for major alterations in the yearly standardized tests. By 2015, the test many students grew up taking will be replaced by an electronic, more in-depth exam called "Smarter Balanced."

For almost 30 years, California students took the same statewide test, called California Assessment Program (CAP). In the 1990s, the CAP was replaced by California Learning Assessment System, because of arguments over portions of the exam. In the next three years, each school district selected its own commercial tests, until the STAR program began in 1998.

Every spring, California students in grades 2 through 11 are required to take a sequence of exams that make up the California's Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) program. These standardized tests are taken before or after 85 percent of a school year has passed.

According to the San Jose Mercury News, the test results are then used to rank the state's schools, determining which ones need to strengthen instruction, which ones will get extra money and/or which ones need different teachers to perform better.

"The change of exams is for the better [...] because the in-depth exams and projects can properly prepare students for colleges, unlike California's STAR testing, which focuses only on the narrow, general subjects taught in school," freshman Shekina Medalla said.

The newer tests will have more extensive questions compared to the previous tests, which were entirely multiple choice, with the exception of writing assessments in fourth and seventh grade. The Smarter Balanced tests are designed to emphasize critical thinking and analysis through a blend of multiple choice, short answers and extended answers.

Common Core Standards go along with the new test in order to deepen learning by having students read multiple genres, from informational to fictional texts. In response to the new standards, teachers and faculty may alter or have altered their ways of instructing by asking more free response questions.

"[The new test] will definitely be better for the students. It will have more critical and in-depth thinking," math teacher Diane Campbell said.



Rose Parade Features AHS' Cecilia Vong

JACQUELYN LOI
Staff Writer

The 125th annual Rose Parade was held this year on Jan. 1. The Rose Parade, traditionally known as the Tournament of Roses Parade, is a festival celebrated with flower-covered floats, marching bands and equestrians, a rider or performer on horseback. The Rose Parade, which takes place in Pasadena, is viewed by an estimate of 700,000 people and broadcasted both nationally and internationally. This year, AHS' Cecilia Vong was featured in the parade.

Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts who have earned their Eagle or Gold Award are qualified to apply to be a Banner Carrier in the Rose Parade. Vong was featured because she earned her Gold Award, the highest award for Girl Scouts.

"Being able to be a part of the 125th Rose Parade as a Banner Carrier with the Boy and Girl Scouts was a memorable experience [...] After earning my Gold Award last year in June, I decided to apply to be a part of the Rose Parade. Weeks after completing the application and interview, I was notified that I [would] be a part of the Rose Parade," Vong said.

This had been Vong's first time being in the actual parade rather than watching it live streamed on the television.

"Seeing and hearing so many people out on the streets to watch the Rose Parade was definitely amazing [...] Overall, I really enjoyed being a part of the Rose Parade. [I] am really glad to have such an unforgettable experience," Vong said.

MOOR graphic by SIMON ZHAO

Dining and Dancing with the Boys' Federation

BARRY CHEUNG
Staff Writer

Hosted by Boys' Federation, the 2014 Buddy Dinner was held on Jan. 17 from 7 to 11 p.m. at the San Marino Center. The colors for the semi-formal dance were teal, ebony and pearl, complementing this year's "City of Lights" theme. Buddy Dinner is a tradition at AHS that has lasted for well over 15 years. However, last year was the first time that the club lost money due to low ticket sales.

"Boys' Fed lost money last year due in

part to a dance contract procedure that may have discouraged students from wanting to put forth the effort to attend," Boys' Feder-

"Boys' Fed lost money last year due in part to a dance contract procedure that may have discouraged students from wanting [...] to attend."

-Johnnie Lau

ation Advisor Johnnie Lau said. "Currently, students must buy tickets from the Student Bank. In years past, members were able to sell tickets to the patrons."

To pay off the costs of Buddy Dinner last year, Boys' Federation has held several fundraisers. In addition, club members advertised through social media and flyers and also passed along the information of Buddy Dinner not just to AHS students, but friends from other schools as well. In addition, the price of this year's ticket has increased compared to ticket prices in previous years.

"We are coming back stronger than ever. [T]he loss that happened last year has given us the motivation and strength to try harder," Boys' Federation Treasurer Priscilla Giang said.