

Fight for Education Gives Voice to the Student

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Opinions Editor

We have all had moments in our high school careers when our class schedules are completely different from what we want. Trying to get a certain Advanced Placement (AP) course or fighting to drop a specific period are recurring schedule problems every year. However, for hundreds of students at Jefferson High School, a simple trip to the Guidance Office is not fixing anything.

For the past two weeks, students at the South Los Angeles school have been sitting in the wrong classes and receiving different schedules every day. Many are confused as to why they are put in classes they have

already taken and passed while others are furious that they do not have classes they need to fulfill graduation requirements.

On Aug. 25, they took matters into their own hands. Hundreds of students deliberately walked out of class and sat in the Quad for two hours in silence as a protest against administrators. Designed to show that they were sick of wasting time at school and being deprived of an education, the stu-

dents' protest truly left Jefferson High and the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) in shock.

In response, LAUSD officials announced that the

to the installation of a new computer database known as the My Integrated Student Information System. Currently, the school's master schedule is being reset and soon, the classes students receive will be reworked. However, the concern of when "soon" will finally come is adding to the list of complaints.

The students' movement in demanding school officials to take action symbolizes the importance of a quality education in this generation. We are always told that as students, we are the ones in charge of our own academic futures, that it is up to us to develop the fundamental skills needed to succeed in life. The fact that this protest at Jefferson was com-

pletely student-organized is living proof of how powerful taking charge towards self-preservation and needed change is.

We all spend four long years in high school preparing and building ourselves up to graduate. The classes we receive and take play a significant part in how we prepare for the "real world." Having any of this at stake simply because of the mistakes of a premature computer system is unacceptable. It is promising that LAUSD and Jefferson High officials are currently focusing on fixing these compounding problems, but what school officials should look more closely at in the future is just how valuable student input is in addressing current issues.



cause for the scheduling mismanagement was due

Cold Feet With the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge

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Copy Editor

Throughout the news feeds of many social media accounts, videos of people dumping ice and water on themselves are becoming a common sight. The Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Ice Bucket Challenge is gathering much attention to raise awareness and donations. Also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, it is a neurodegenerative disorder; the gradual degeneration of the brain, spinal cord and other nerve cells leads to loss of muscle control, muscular atrophy and eventually death, according to the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Association (ALSA). The social media event serves

to spread awareness and to raise money for research, since there is no definite cure as of now.

While the challenge's rules do ensure that more people know about the challenge itself, it does not ensure that the people "tagged" to do the challenge understand the purpose of the event. A large number of people who do the challenge don't provide information on ALS. Instead, they produce a short video: dump water on themselves, "tag" three other people and move on. As a result, many people continue to become more aware of the challenge rather than the disease itself; the attention the challenge comes with has much more potential to educate as well.

Also, the spread of the event has led to multiple tweaks to the rules it originally had. If the

people selected had completed the challenge, they would only be obligated to donate \$10. People who did not pour ice and water on themselves would donate \$100. Now, many believe that by finishing the challenge, they are exempt from donating. Therefore, many who complete the challenge do so in order to not donate money, which does not correlate with its original goal of supporting ALSA.

ALSA has already received \$53.3 million through the challenge as of Aug. 22, 53 times the amount of money donated last year. However, the changes to the rules and the brief videos continue to decrease the influence the Ice Bucket Challenge could potentially have.

MOOR graphic by SAMMIE CHEN



Aigat Your Back

It's a Bird, It's a Plane, It's...
Definitely Not Consent

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Opinion Editor

Sexist attitudes are especially prevalent in the world of fantasy, appearing to be one of the greatest, if not the greatest outlet to degrade women. Countless video games, movies and television shows hypersexualize and under-characterize female characters, portraying women with a whole lot of bust and a disproportionate amount of personality. Unfortunately, these attitudes toward women seem to have concentrated at Comic-Con as well.

Multiple female cosplayers claim to have been subject to sexual harassment and assault at these venues, including being groped, followed and/or photographed against their will from attendees, exhibitors and even security. Although the Comic-Con International: San Diego 2014 code of conduct reads, "Harassing or offensive behavior will not be tolerated. Comic-Con reserves the right to revoke, without refund, the membership and badge of any attendee not in compliance with this policy," according to many cosplayers' testimonies, staff members allegedly dismissed such behavior and many of these perverts have not been dealt with according to the code of conduct's standards. In fact, some people claim that these women are "asking for it" because of the suggestive nature of some of their costumes. There is never an excuse to violate someone, and it is a shame that such despicable behavior is being justified. Thankfully, Geeks for CONsent is working toward greater awareness for the "creeping at a con" issue in the form of a petition for the adoption of a formal anti-harassment policy at Comic-Con. Perhaps one day Superman's motto of "Truth, Justice and the American Way" will apply to women as well.

Yearbook Enforces Dress Code, Free of Charge

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Many schools have the issue of dealing with dress code violations; either a student wears too little or too much. Situations like this can be generally resolved with a simple "Come to the office, we will give you a change of clothes," but not all can be dealt with this easily. Recently, the school

board of Wasatch High School in Utah found themselves in a situation where they had to resort to the help of Photoshop to alter the yearbook photos of certain students due to dress code violations. The students took offense to the school board's decision and according to one student whose picture was altered, "I was never notified my blouse was inappropriate and

was never informed that it was going to be changed," according to Fox News. The problem with the argument is that the school had warned students that if there were any violations of dress code their pictures would be altered with Photoshop. With that warning in place, the school had the rights to change the appearances in the yearbook photos. Schools ethically re-

serve the right to enforce their dress code policies in school pictures, but the administration should still take the time to inform students of the reason for the alterations. The way a school is perceived within a yearbook can mean a lot in the long run of their reputation. Once something is published it can never disappear and therefore there should not be outrage over the

editing of a couple pictures that were seen as indiscreet. This incident, like any other school problem, was solved in a way that will show students that the rules will be enforced with any tools available. Some students might get caught and others might not, but moments like this show us that schools will use whatever tool possible to enforce dress code.

MOOR graphic by SAMMIE CHEN

