

Teen Financial Literacy: Full Financial Fallout?

JOSEPH NEY-JUN
ANGELA YANG
Staff Writers

In the United States, April is also known as 'Financial Literacy Month,' a time for Americans to educate themselves or brush up on their financial literacy. April has long since passed, but high school students and other young adults are often reminded that they need to manage their money well to save up for their futures.

Many high school graduates have to take out loans and apply for financial aid to be able to pay tens of thousands of dollars for their higher education. Statistics published by the College Board in 2013 found that the average tuition fee for a public four-year college was roughly \$21,706, while private four-year colleges cost \$29,056.

Not all high school graduates will be managing their finances for their higher education however. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, only 66.2% of high school graduates attend college. Becoming 18 places new financial responsibilities upon graduates who move out on their own. They now must manage their taxes, income, budget

for bills and necessary expenses. Mismanagement of their finances can incur legal repercussions for mistakes such as using the wrong paperwork or even slight miscalculations.

In this time of economic uncertainty, it has been a growing concern that many

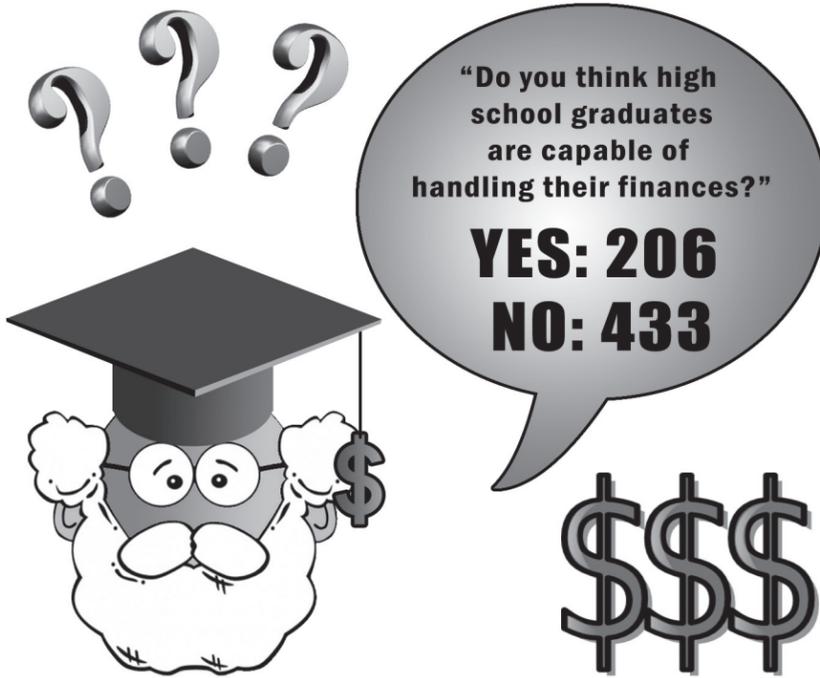
percent of the seniors felt comfortable about managing their finances independently.

"When people go to college, [they] tend to overspend and think their parents are going to [manage their finances] for them," sophomore Raymond Huynh said.

In the same survey on college seniors by Capital One, it was found that 87 percent of students get information about financial management from their parents, but only 19 percent have created a budget plan for their future in college.

Ultimately, many believe that financial education should be a requirement to graduate high school.

"I don't think high school graduates are able to handle their own finances because even though they are done with their high school education, it does not mean that they were taught money management, [which] usually helps in the future with personal finances," sophomore Nikki Tran said.



TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS SURVEYED: 639

high school graduates lack the basic skills and knowledge to manage their finances. A 2011 survey of high school seniors sponsored by Capital One, a U.S. based bank holding company, found that only 38 per-

History of Hallow's Eve

DEREK WU
Staff Writer

Halloween is a holiday that many Americans celebrate and enjoy. However, Halloween was not invented by Americans; the holiday was created by the Celts 2000 years ago in modern day Ireland. The Celts thought that Nov. 1, the beginning of winter, was associated with human death and the day before, Oct. 31, the ghosts of the dead would come back to Earth and cause trouble with crops.

In order to prevent these ghosts from causing trouble, the priests of the town would build a bonfire, burn crops and animals and wear costumes made from animal heads during the celebration and sacrifice. In modern times, most of these traditions practiced have faded, but the tradition of dressing up in costumes still lives on.

However, some believe that Halloween is a fading tradition in Alhambra, even if it was once a popular holiday.

"Halloween is a great American pastime that's slowly dying out in Alhambra, because I don't see as many trick-or-treaters coming out as I used to," junior Kenny Huynh said.

Many Americans have celebrated Halloween as children and some think that is the reason why Halloween is still a national holiday.

"Halloween is more of a tradition celebrated and enforced by Americans who celebrated it as children," junior Michelle Leung said.

MOOR graphic by SIMON ZHAO

College Fair Held at San Gabriel High

DIANA LI
News Editor

On Oct. 17, the sixth annual district College Fair, which was held at San Gabriel High School (SGHS), welcomed high school students to explore a variety of post-graduation options.

The fair hosted over 60 colleges and universities, vocational schools and military services. The variety allowed high school students to find their niche and decide which institution is best for their futures.

"[T]he College Fair helps these kids see the different options they have after high school, and lets them talk to college [representatives] face-to-face," U.S. Army representative Sergeant Morrel said.

The Matador Arena and Gyms were packed with students and parents, but students were still able to navigate and find booths that interested them.

"[The fair] was organized very

well, and it was easy to find specific colleges," senior Meghan Hui said.

Among the attendees were students from Alhambra, Mark Keppel and San Gabriel High Schools. Some of these students, such as AHS senior Aaron Robles, sought information regarding community colleges.

"My grades throughout high school were mediocre, so I don't qualify at the UCs and privates which have the programs that I desire so I'd rather go to a community college," Robles said.

Other students are considering enlisting in military services, such as the U.S. Army, Navy or Marines.

"It's more adventurous than other jobs and it builds character," AHS junior Rommel Tun said.

Aside from higher education institutions and military services, the College Fair also had non-college booths, such as Alhambra Education Foundation and the Princeton Review. The Alhambra

Latino Association (ALA), which is an expanding non-profit organization that is committed to promoting cultural awareness, was also present at the fair.

"We're here to promote college education and to let students know that there is a way to get financial aid and for them to apply for scholarships," ALA President Teresa Ybarra said.

In the Small Gym, several showcases took place, including SGHS Culinary Arts, Medical Careers Academy and Wood Working. These showcases highlighted students' work in their respective fields; for example, several students worked with machinery during the Fair to demonstrate their woodshop skills.

Ultimately, College Fair is there for students to learn more about colleges and whether they should pursue higher education or should consider alternate paths in life.

"There [are] a lot of colleges and a lot of opportunities," SGHS freshman Marilyn Nguyen said.



PREPPING FOR THE FUTURE: Colleges from around the country help inform students of possible interests.

MOOR photo by YIBEI LIU