



The Continued Fight for Transgender Rights

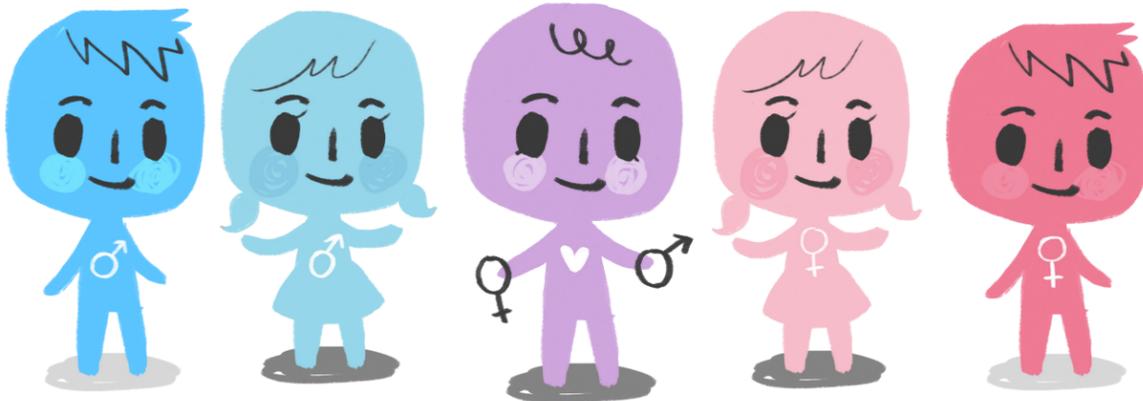
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Staff Writer

Assembly Bill 1266, which was signed into law last year and went into effect on Jan. 1, is a law that guarantees that only transgender students from K-12 are allowed to use public restrooms, join team sports and use locker rooms with the gender they identify with. Being transgender is a term used to describe people whose gender identity does not match with the sex to which they were assigned with at birth. The law's purpose is to enrich the diversity of the schools and eventually, the students. Assembly Bill 1266 attempts to create a sense of support and safety for transgender students to ensure their safety at school.

"I support the law. They should create [more gender-neutral] bathrooms just like we have family restrooms in public places," track and field Coach Sandra Rodri-

guez said.

According to the Transgender Law Center, many transgender students have been discriminated against and excluded from sports teams and other school activities, contrary to the California law that pro-



hibits discrimination in education. Having these students be discriminated not only affects the transgender students' self-esteem, but also their school records. Some transgender students were not allowed to participate in physical education, which

limited them from achieving credits.

"The only way the world can progress without hate and intolerance is change. Slowly and surely people will learn to accept transgender people," sophomore Angelica Torres said.

nered 81.5 percent of the voters needed to repeal the law, according to Los Angeles Times. The repeal must have at least 504,760 valid signatures in order to reach the ballot in November.

"If [people who are transgender] feel the way they feel and they want to be expressed that way then they should have every right to use the facilities and fit into society. It gives them a sense of acceptance," sophomore Jackie Lam said.

According to Huffington Post, the Los Angeles Unified School District had a similar approach for almost a decade. Their policy helped transgender students feel more comfortable in their surroundings rather than feel isolated at school. Without the protection of Assembly Bill 1266, many students who have decided to change their identity will have a lack of support and will continue to go on without essential support.

MOOR graphic by SYDNEY LI

U.S. Teems with Obese Teens in Technological Era

BARRY CHEUNG
Staff Writer

One of the nation's largest health problems is obesity, which currently affects American children at an increased rate.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), obesity rates among teenage boys rose from 14 percent between 1999 to 2000 to 18.6 percent between 2009 to 2010. In addition, the CDC mentions that almost 17 percent of children and adolescents are currently either obese, while the number increases to over 33 percent in adults.

"There is a paradigm shift with people's interests. With electronic devices here, people [...] are being too involved in their video games," school nurse Anita Man said.

According to the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, more than two hours of electronic use, such as watching television, has been linked to causing individuals to becoming overweight or obese. In addition, NBC News states that for every 10 percent increase in what a country spends on information and communications technology, there is a corresponding 1 percent increase in obesity rates. In the U.S., that 1 percent translates roughly into 4.2 million people.

"With the increasing dependency on technology, teens spend more time on technology than on exercising," sophomore Samantha Li said.

'More Than a Memory' at Sadie Hawkins

SHELLEY LIN
Staff Writer

Sadie Hawkins, the high school tradition of the girl-asks-boy dance, originated from a comic strip. In the cartoon, there was a designated day in November when unmarried women could chase bachelors around town in hopes of catching them for marriage. The comic became very popular and the tradition was born. Schools across the country were inspired by the unique day and began holding dances on Sadie Hawkins Day. Today, the celebrations pop up anytime between November and February.

At AHS, Junior Council hosts the annual Sadie Hawkins dance. It will

take place on Feb. 21 this year, the following Friday after Valentine's Day. For the first time ever, Junior Council will host the dance between the AHS' C and D building instead of in the underground parking lot.

"I know people like the underground structure and can't imagine a dance in our location, but that's the appeal."

- Vivian Chau

"I know people like the underground structure and can't imagine a dance in our location, but that's the appeal," Junior Council President Vivian Chau said. "The beau-

ty of this is that you will really be blown away when you see how we turn this ordinary space into a beautiful dance location."

The concept of an outdoor dance has also appealed to students.

"I'm looking forward to this year's new location, considering we've never had a dance outside before," sophomore Vanessa Gutierrez said.

Junior Council hopes that this year's Sadie Hawkins will be enjoyed by attendees.

"We can amazingly decorate the dance and hype it up as much as we want, but nothing makes a dance experience great like the people there to make it 'More Than a Memory,'" Chau said.

Speech and Debate Club Reaches 400 Club

BRIANA THAI
Staff Writer

As the second semester of the 2013-2014 school year starts, the AHS Speech and Debate Team enters the 400 Club.

As a member competes in competitions, they accumulate points that add up. At a certain point threshold, the student is awarded a seal. The 400 club is reflective of a team reaching a combined 400 total seals.

The 400 club is one of the most prestigious levels within the National Forensic League that teams strive for throughout the year of competition.

"I remember my freshman year when Mr. Tong was still striving for the 300 club. Back then, even the 300s was a huge deal. The fact that our team has come so far and exceeded so many expectations in so little time makes me unbelievably proud to be a part of the Alhambra Moors Speech and Debate team," co-captain Anthony Zhu said.

The rankings of schools are based upon the number of members on a team, the number of tournaments the team attends and the number of winnings.

"Our team has accomplished a plethora of accomplishments this year and I'm certain that the best is yet to

come. Making it into the 400 club is quite an accomplishment, but it won't mean anything if we let it get to our heads," co-captain Andrew Quach said.

Currently AHS' Speech and Debate team is nationally ranked at 21 out of over 3,000 schools. Of these 3,000 schools, only 39 schools are part of the 300 Club and only 17 are part of the 400 Club.

"When I first arrived at Alhambra High School, the team would barely make the 200 club - or not at all. It is very gratifying to see the students achieve a national standing collectively," advisor Kevin Tong said.