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Girls' League presents the 2011 Winterball at the Hyatt Regency in Long Beach.



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Varsity boys' basketball beats El Monte Lions in their first preseason game.

ALHAMBRA HIGH SCHOOL



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'Don't Hold Us Back' Protest Takes a Stand for Education

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Staff Writer

In the Oct. 17 issue of the Los Angeles Times, an advertisement caught the attention of educators and education reformers alike with a subtle yet brazen full-page message: "Don't Hold Us Back."

Don't Hold Us Back (DHUB) is a growing education reform group that aims to pressure the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) to implement major changes in their policies.

They called out to LAUSD and the United Teachers of Los Angeles (UTLA) to reform their contracts between the district and the union for efficient education

On DHUB's website, they state that they are "a coalition of civil rights, parent and community based organizations that believe every child deserves a quality public school education."

DHUB threatened LAUSD with a lawsuit claiming that LAUSD and UTLA have been violating the 1971 Stull Act that mandates California schools evaluate staff members based on student performance.

"[W]hat they're doing takes guts and things are getting intense, but it is really needed," senior Brenda Lopez said.

DHUB also aims to put an end to the last hired, first fired" practice which bases



PHOTO courtesy of LOS ANGELES TIMES

teacher cuts on seniority. Marqueece Harris-Dawson, president of Community Coalition, says that they advocate that the more experienced the teacher is, the more they deserve to keep their job.

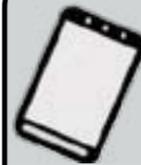
LAUSD supports most of DHUB's views and says teachers "should be rewarded for academic excellence," while DHUB also challenges UTLA's practice of sending the most inexperienced teachers to the poorest neighborhoods.

In a joint effort, parents and reform groups have pressured LAUSD and UTLA to come to an agreement on terms based on the Stull Act lawsuit that requires them to evaluate teachers with student reviews by setting certain deadlines— one of which has since passed. It ended in a stalemate where neither president made a decision.

"I respect groups such as DHUB for trying to help," U.S. History teacher Jose Sanchez said, "but they are often times misled. Merit pay has not been proved anywhere that it is effective."

DHUB sent a letter of their concern to Superintendent John Deasy, UTLA leader Warren Fletcher and L.A. Unified board on Oct. 24. "When only 56% of our students graduate from high school," wrote the e-mail, "we are failing close to half of our kids and cosigning them to a life of poverty."

Although DHUB is still a growing movement that is centralized in Los Angeles, it has now made its voice known among education reforms groups and hopes to expand to districts in other cities in California and across the country.



Smartphone App Tackles Bullying

MICHELLE PAULINO
Staff Writer

Released at the end of October, OptimizeApps launched the "Bully Button," a smartphone application that was crafted to prevent bullying within schools.

According to a 2007 survey conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics, nearly 33% of students ranging from ages 12 to 18 experienced some form of bullying in school.

On Global Teen Talk, the results of surveys in 2009 showed that over 100,000 children carried guns to school as a result from being bullied.

This app can be downloaded for free at Apple's iTunes store online. It begins recording a 30-second audio byte as soon as it is opened; that recording is then attached to an email with the default message "Hi...Please help me." The address field is left to the bullying victim who can send the recording to an adult for assistance.

"I think it's a very creative way to market apps because bullying is a very sensitive subject [especially since so many people are bullied]," junior Chelsea Lim said.

In addition, the app also includes other features, such as access to suicide hotlines and a speed dial system, that will contact friends, family and school administrators who are saved in the contact list.

"It's great; it could change a person's life," junior Stephanie Osorio said.

Hillary Clinton's Mother, AHS Alumna, Passes Away

JENNIFER PIERCE
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One of AHS' greatest merits is its age. With over a hundred years of history behind it, it is no wonder that there would be a few notable alumni from AHS.

One such alumnus is Dorothy Howell Rodham, mother of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who passed away on Nov. 1 at the age of 92.

Rodham was born on June 4, 1919 to Edwin Howell, Jr. and Della Murray in Chicago, Ill. After her parents divorced in 1927, Rodham and her younger sister were sent to Alhambra, Calif., to live with their grandparents,

Edwin Howell, Sr. and Emma Howell. However, because of the harsh conditions that Mrs. Howell subjected Rodham to, Rodham was forced to move out and take a job as a housekeeper in 1934.

It was during her time as a housekeeper and under the encouragement of her employers that Rodham enrolled into AHS to further her education. In high school, she joined the Scholarship Club and the Spanish Club and eventually graduated in 1937. Later, in 1998, Rodham wrote about some of her high school experiences in a book celebrating AHS' centennial.

After graduation, Rodham went out to Chicago in order to reunite



with her mother, as well as continue her education by enroll-

ing in college classes. Unfortunately, neither of those dreams was realized, so she took up secretarial work in Chicago instead. In 1942, she married Hugh Ellsworth Rodham.

The couple moved to Park Ridge where their three children, Hillary, Hugh and Tony, were born and raised. As a mother, Rodham pushed her children to achieve the highest education.

Mr. and Mrs. Rodham moved to Little Rock, Ark., in 1987 to be near their daughter, Hillary Clinton, and her family.

Unfortunately, Mr. Rodham passed away in 1993. Rodham stayed in Little Rock until 2006,

where she lived mostly in Mrs. Clinton's home in Washington D.C.

Rodham fell ill prior to her death, causing Mrs. Clinton to cancel a trip to Britain and Turkey. No details about Rodham's illness were disclosed. Rodham died early Tuesday, Nov. 1, in Washington D.C. with the Clintons at her side.

"That's really interesting," senior Vanessa Ly said. "Maybe one of us [current AHS students] or our kids will be famous someday."

SOURCES attributed to New York Times and CNN
PHOTO courtesy of ALHAMBRA YEARBOOK