



BRIAN HUA *The Moor*

APPRECIATING HISTORY In honor of Black History Month, students watch the movie *Wattstax* in the Library. Considered the black Woodstock, *Wattstax* was an important moment for the African-American community. The concert was originally held in 1972 at the Los Angeles Coliseum.

Football Player Commits to University of Idaho

SHANNON LI

Staff Writer

In most high school sports movies, the star player of the team receives a full scholarship to college. For Senior football player Mitchell Crockom, this has become reality.

Crockom, wide receiver on the AHS varsity football team, has signed with the University of Idaho (UI) for an all expenses paid scholarship.

"It's a big time opportunity, and I'm just excited about the whole thing."

- Mitchell Crockom

During the last school year, Crockom had 43 passes for 672 yards and nine touchdowns. Since then, many colleges, such as Wyoming and Eastern Michigan, have expressed interest in him.

I had a couple of schools come junior year, like New Mexico. Idaho came later; they came to a football practice and we talked about it. They [asked questions] to see what kind of person I am [but] at the same time it was like me interviewing them, because that's where I'll be for the next four years," said Crockom. "For now, I'm going to stay focused and keep my grades up. I'm going to spend time with my family

when I get there. Coach Akey has coached all over the place [and he] settled at the University of Idaho. [For receivers], Carr is a good coach."

Crockom's family also supports his decision, and they agree that his education comes first.

"I'm so proud of him. He's a good kid and I love him. The whole family is just amazed and overwhelmed. I'm happy for him [...] we all are," said Darell Crockom, Mitchell's father. "If he takes care of his [education] I know he'll do

well on the field."

AHS's faculty is also proud of his achievements.

"I wasn't his coach, but I know he's got untapped potential and he can play at the next level," said Athletics Director Lou Torres. "The most important thing is he's getting a college education."

Crockom will be training with friends during the summer in order to prepare for college football. He also said that AHS has given him plenty of preparation for his football career.

After college, if he does not make it into the National Football League, Crockom plans to be a businessman.

"My teammates and friends Patrick Bruno, Joseph Becerra, Vai Peko, all of them are very supportive of me. They're still cheering me on. [It's thanks to] my team, my parents and my sister that I [have] gotten this far. They've been with me all the way [...] it's been a blessing to play with guys like that," said Crockom. "[Before he retired], Coach [Gil] Ruedaflores always preached hard work and determination. If you take that mentality, you can do anything, not just play football."

"It's a big time opportunity, and I'm just excited about the whole thing."

- Mitchell Crockom

Poetry Slam Encourages Students to Express Themselves

ANGELYNE CHU

Staff Writer

On March 6, the Alhambra Latino Association (ALA) will be holding the annual cultural event Literatura y Cultura: A Family Affair at AHS to raise funds for scholarships.

The ALA is one of the main support networks in Alhambra. Every year, one student at each high school in the district gets \$500 for their college tuition.

One of the main programs being held is the Poetry Slam, which will take place in the Quad and Cafeteria from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and will be hosted by World History teacher David Jauregui.

"One of the goals for this event is to allow the students to excel in their creativity.

They can turn poems from negative to positive and having space to do so has the most impact," said Jauregui.

The festival includes other workshops, such as musical entertainment, children performances, children's authors, teacher workshops, storytellers, a book fair and parent corner.

"The Poetry Slam is to let students share their life, or words that can't be spoken, through poetry. Many students have taken full advantage of this event to share what they want to talk about. It's a great opportunity where we can all connect with one another," said Spanish teacher Joshua Moreno.

no.

According to Moreno, the Poetry Slam is not a competition; it is meant to promote poetry so students can share with one another.

So far, there are 14 students who are signed up to present their poetry.

"The main purpose for the event is to let students share their life or words through poetry."

-Joshua Moreno

"Last year there were 18 students and that was two hours long. We are limiting Poetry Slam to one hour. We want the audience to be able to take in each poem. Too many students can make the event very rushed," said Moreno.

Although the Poetry Slam is nearing, some students may still be able to register if they have the desire to participate. All they need to do is speak to Moreno in Bungalow 10.

This year, students are eagerly anticipating this recitation because it will help them voice their hidden feelings.

"This is my first year participating in this festival and I'm really excited about it. This event will let me express my emotions that I've kept hidden for so many years now," said sophomore Rebecca Rojas.

Similarly, sophomore Kristen Hueck looks forward to presenting her poetry.

"My poem is based upon my feelings about an incident I had with my brother. Through my poem, I'm hoping that it will help people if they have burdens hidden also. It's a once in a life time opportunity. If I [don't] go and participate, I will probably regret it," she said.



Alhambra Latino Association Festival Held March 6

On March 6, the Alhambra Latino Association (ALA) will host a festival celebrating Hispanic culture and tradition. Entitled Literatura y Cultura: A Family Affair, the festival is meant to create a sense of community at the Alhambra Unified School District and help facilitate student-teacher communication.

"We want to both improve the relationship between teachers and students, as well as form cultural awareness," said ALA president Rosa Aguilar.

The festival features several teacher-parent workshops. In addition to this, literature courses hosted by authors and executives will be discussing the Hispanic publishing industry. Children's book readings are also planned to take place.

Tri-City Orchestra will provide additional entertainment and music. Food and refreshments will be served in between workshops and presentations.

The event ends with the second annual AHS Poetry Slam. This will be a gathering place for students to recite and present original poetry and verse.

Literatura y Cultura takes place on March 6 in the AHS Quad and Cafeteria. It will begin at 1:00 p.m. and end at 4:30 p.m. and is open to the community with a five dollar admission fee.

Alan Tam, Co-News Editor

Seniors Selected as National Merit Finalists

After months of waiting, the finalists for the National Merit Scholarship have been announced. Seniors William Seto and Peter Wang were selected out of over 15,000 semi-finalists from around the country.

"I was really surprised when I found out. [Since it had been so long,] I had almost forgotten I was a semi-finalist," said Wang.

Winners will receive money for their college education. There are three types of scholarships—single-payment scholarships that are worth \$2500, corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards and college-sponsored Merit Scholarships.

The single payment scholarships are provided by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation's (NMSC) funds, while the corporate and college-sponsored ones are provided for finalists who apply for and meet certain criteria.

Overall, winners of the Merit Scholarship will be able to look forward to some help with paying for college.

"Money is a big issue, and USC is my first choice. If I win, they will [be able to provide me] with half of the tuition. Even if I don't win, some colleges will still be willing to help me a little just for being a semi-finalist," said Seto.

The final stretch begins over the next few months as the NMSC starts sending notifications to winners from late February to June.

While Seto and Wang await the news, there is one thing that the two seniors agree on—what an honor it is to be chosen as a finalist.

"I'm pretty happy and really excited. My mom was surprised when she found out I won. Actually, she was elated," said Wang.

Shannon Ho, Staff Writer



JACQUELINE DO *The Moor*
PLANNING AHEAD Senior football player Mitchell Crockom signs with the University of Idaho, being offered a full scholarship. According to Crockom, the small-town feel influenced him, despite offers from other schools.



Italian TV cook taken off television due to his love of eat meat

Palestinian protesters dress up as Na'vi from Avatar to protest Israeli blockade

Wisconsin man proposes to girlfriend mid-labor

Foot-long surgical instrument accidentally left in abdomen of Czech Republican patient

Mark Your Calendar ...

March 6 ALA Festival

March 10 Collaboration

March 12 Minimum Day

March 16-17 10th grade CAHSEE

OPINIONS

MOO POINT Teeny Tots Reach a New High

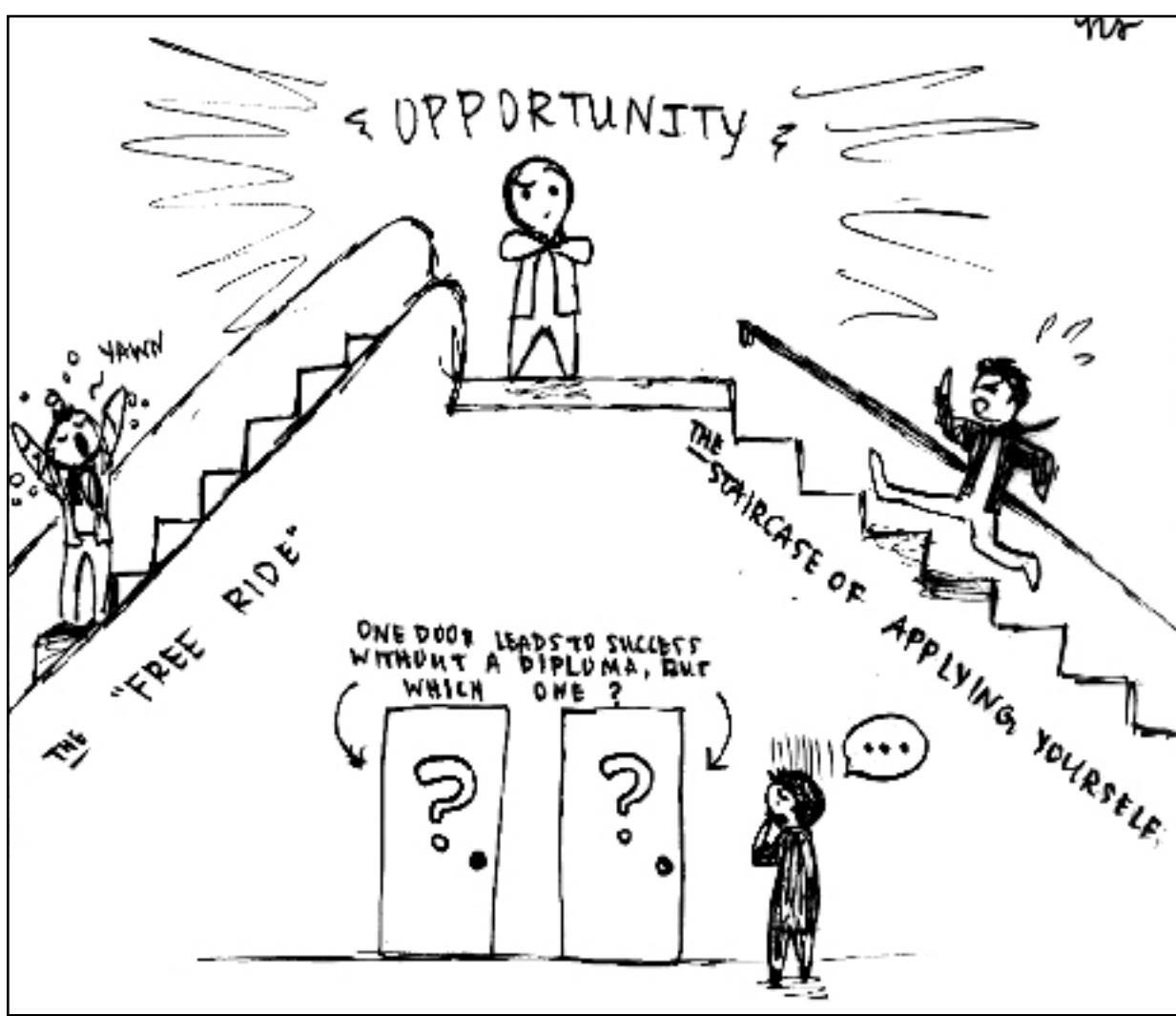
DAISY PROM
Staff Writer

Those blue velvet gowns and that yellow tassel go well with the feeling of a well-earned college certificate and with it, the promises of a secure future—at least that's what everyone says. For the most part, they're right. Hopefully. Really, after 13 long years of general education and some grueling years of college, there has to be questions as to whether all of the drudgery was worth the time and—more importantly—the money.

Nonbelievers refer to a college education as an expensive day-care, whereas the rest of the world envisions it as a key of recognition. Either way, chasing a degree is not a small matter—financially or mentally. It's because of the gaping hole that colleges often leave behind in students' wallets that we're trying to find another way to be deemed successful in society's eyes, and that leads us to question the importance of having a college degree.

Let's break it down; if you, a high school student, were to drop out to work for yourself for the rest of your life, you would make an average of \$21,000 a year, 65 percent of what a high school graduate would earn, which is about \$30,400 according to finaid.org. If you could hold on for those four years, you should make that extra 35 percent, all that public high school education being free of charge and that excess \$9,400 wouldn't go to any student loan companies.

A college drop-out would qualify for lower-middle income, adding up



to about \$36,800 on average; though you would probably still live paycheck to paycheck, you wouldn't have to work at McDonald's until you're 75 years old.

The digits really seem to multiply once you acquire a bachelor's degree, which allows for its holders to make about twice as much as a high school graduate over a lifetime, and only for four more years in school. If

impatience is the reason you're feeling iffy about college, then maybe you should think twice before you're forced into a 50-year career as a Staples manager.

It's true, employers of certain careers won't even look at resumes that don't have the words "college graduate." In the old days, college used to represent fortune and achievement; now all it is a piece of paper that costs

tens of thousands of dollars. But then again, in the old days, finishing college automatically meant that the graduate would definitely be guaranteed a spot in the working world. To have all of those years in college with just a diploma isn't as promising as the adults always told us it was. Nevertheless, the importance of a higher education still stands, and that piece of paper may be the key to

opportunity to the rest of the world.

A careless Michelle Bisutti racked up a \$555,000 debt from student loans after completing medical school. Though her fines were originally around \$250,000, her ignorance towards her payments caused this number to double. She only claims responsibility for "half of it." But how can we blame student loan lenders when they're supposed to be part of the solution? To put the blame on lenders is not only ungrateful, but also neglectful toward one's financial well-being.

Yes, Bisutti graduated from college and, yes, she even became a doctor, but none of that matters when she couldn't even manage her own bank account.

In reality, it's all up to the choices of the students; so if you've graduated college umpteen years ago with a degree in whatever and you find that you still make less than the employee of the month at Applebee's, you can't really complain to your former dean. The choice of classes, the amount of effort, and the execution of natural skills all fall under your to-do list. All this proves is that it's the person, not the certificate, that counts.

But if a degree is what it takes to be acknowledged in this advanced world that relies on education, what choice do we have? Might as well play along and just go to college, pick all the right classes and profession, attain some of those precious "I Love College" experiences and, if everything plays out the way you planned, then the money spent for university won't be too much to complain about in a few years' time.

Nature,

Now

99.9995%

Organic!

SALLY TRAN
Staff Writer

Through the process of evolution, *Homo sapiens* have come a long way. In fact, we are now *Homo sapiens sapiens*, thus implying that we possess unsurpassed intellectual capabilities as the wise, wise man. We wield the brains, the brawn and the opposable thumbs that make us the pinnacle of nature's food chain.

As our insatiable egos continue to inflate our power and self-importance, it's obvious that humans should also possess the right to make living as convenient as possible—even if it means tinkering with nature.

With current technology, it's now child's play to morph our surroundings to better suit our needs. Where grasslands once were, cities have sprung forth and taken root. Trees are mercilessly plowed down and converted into furniture and utensils. But the carnage doesn't stop at necessity.

We've adulterated the natural so that we won't suffer the smallest nuisance of its flaws. Take for example convenience devocalization. It is one of the many ways in which humans change their environment for, as the name says, their convenience.

Convenience devocalization is another term for ventriculocordectomy: a surgical procedure that cuts the vocal cords of dogs and cats to reduce the volume of their vocalizations.

While it would be near impossible to say no one has ever felt the urge to silence a particularly rowdy canine, it is a different scenario to irrevocably take away its means of communication. Owners could very simply blame the surgery's resultant wheeze and squeak to be a consequence from the dog's excessive barking. And in face, some owners have.

The procedure has sparked many concerns and debates over its ethics and this is rightly so. While we are able to use and alter our surroundings to better fit basic needs, we have gone far beyond just obtaining a habitable space and have begun tampering with nature to placate crude whims.

Zero Tolerance: Crime or Punishment?

Many schools nationwide have encountered situations regarding the zero tolerance policy, which prevents violence in schools. But what happens when some people think that the policy has been taken too far?

Virginia Tech and Columbine High School. Instantly, these names conjure up images of violent tragedies, with 45 total lives taken at the pull of a trigger in the split of a second.

In New York, a nine-year-old boy, Patrick Timoney was threatened with suspension for bringing a small toy gun to school. The media coverage of this story caused a national uproar, citing the gun as being "only a toy," which couldn't possibly have caused harm to anyone.

However, when we start allowing weapons to school, even toy ones, not only are we sending the message that weapons, plastic or not, aren't a big deal, but we are undermining the potential harm these "toys" can possibly bring. It is mandatory that students attend school, but how can a student be expected to learn if they don't feel safe in their environment?

While many criticized Timoney's principal, Evelyn Matroianni, for the extreme way she handled the situation, I applaud her. She took the zero tolerance policy seriously and made an unpopular choice that will instill the seriousness of gun violence in her students.

On Jan. 6, a student was found with two firearms at neighboring Mark Kepel High School. Not Littleton, Colorado or Blacksburg, Virginia but Alhambra, California. It's hard to say what would have happened if the weapons had not been found, or what the student's intentions were, but I sleep better at night knowing that our district, our administration and our teachers are doing what is absolutely necessary to keep us safe. While a nine-year-old with a toy gun may hardly seem like a threat, in our society, with lives at stake, every precaution must be taken.

Boys will be boys, at least for fourth-grader Patrick Timoney of New York. When he brought a two-inch toy gun to school, I'm sure it never crossed his mind that he would be in the principal's office, threatened with suspension.

And rules are rules. Schools nationwide should be proud to know that P.S. 52's Principal Evelyn Matroianni followed the zero-tolerance rule. However, the situation would be more significant if the gun that Timoney brought to school wasn't a two-inch toy—but it was.

It is important to enforce all rules, especially those concerning safety, but Timoney's case should have been handled differently. Administrators should implement rules, but when an adult threatens a nine-year-old with suspension for having a two-inch toy, I have to wonder if Matroianni understands what it means to possess a weapon.

Possession of toys in school is not allowed, thus, if Matroianni wanted to punish Timoney, the most she should have done was confiscate the toy. The situation wouldn't have been so dramatized.

Twelve-year-old Alexa Gonzalez, also from New York, doodled on her desk during school and was handcuffed after the police arrived. Timoney and Gonzalez's situations both raise concerns about zero-tolerance policies. Both show how disciplinary good intentions have been taken too far, especially in cases that do not involve outright violence.

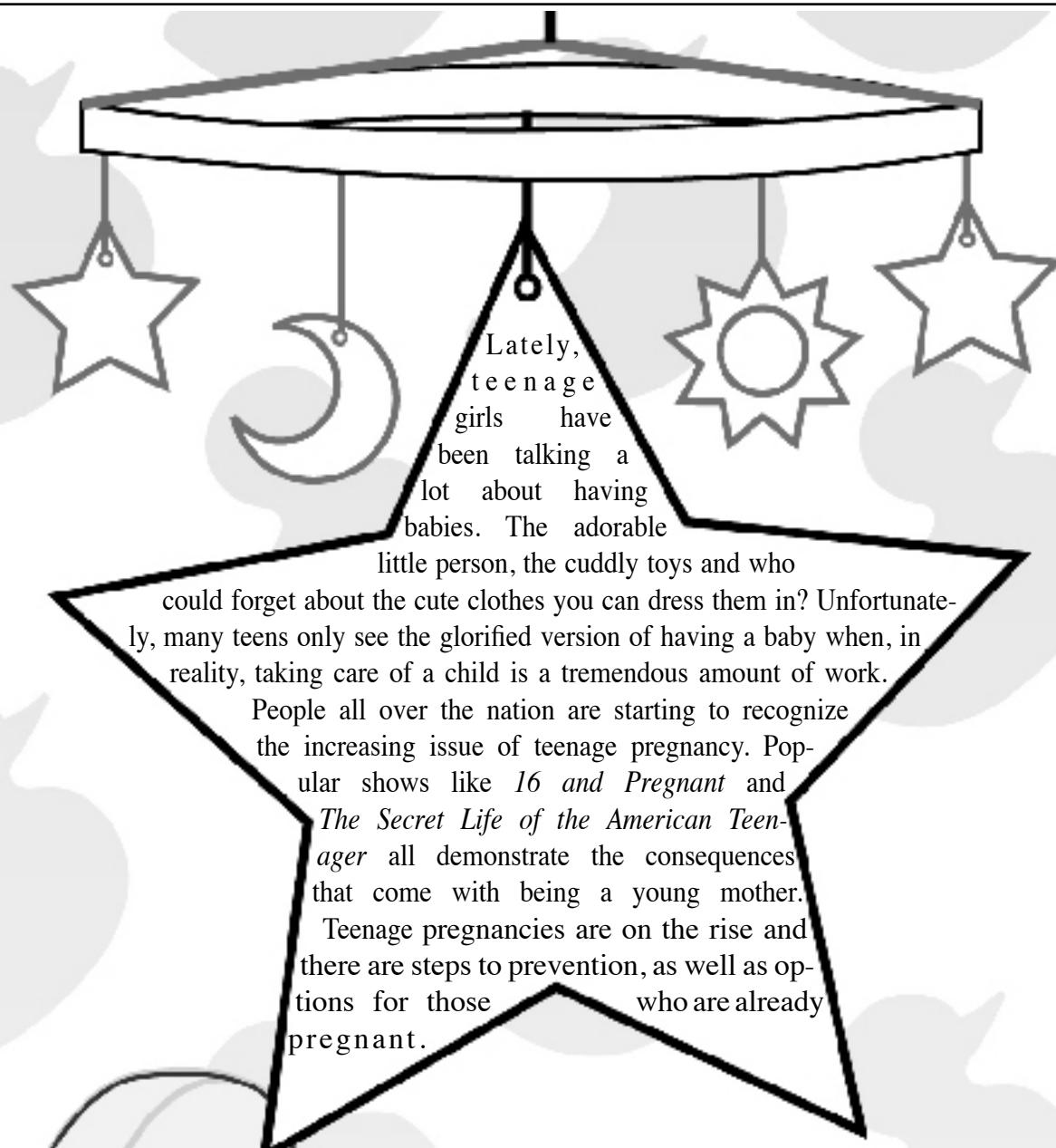
It doesn't take much to know that neither the gun nor the doodling were dangerous. If the children wanted to inflict harm, they would have done something much more serious. But that didn't happen. It's become apparent that tiny boys with tiny toys are capable of creating not-so-tiny problems.

Emily Kong,
Co-Opinions Editor

Yvonne Lee,
Co-Editor in Chief



FEATURES



by Co-Features Editor Karolina Zydziak

Reality Check!

One of the biggest obstacles for teen moms is completing high school and pursuing an education beyond the twelfth grade. According to The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, two-thirds of teen moms do not receive a high school diploma and 98.5 percent are without a college degree by the time they are 30 years old.

Financial stability is almost always an issue for young mothers—up to 80 percent end up on welfare.

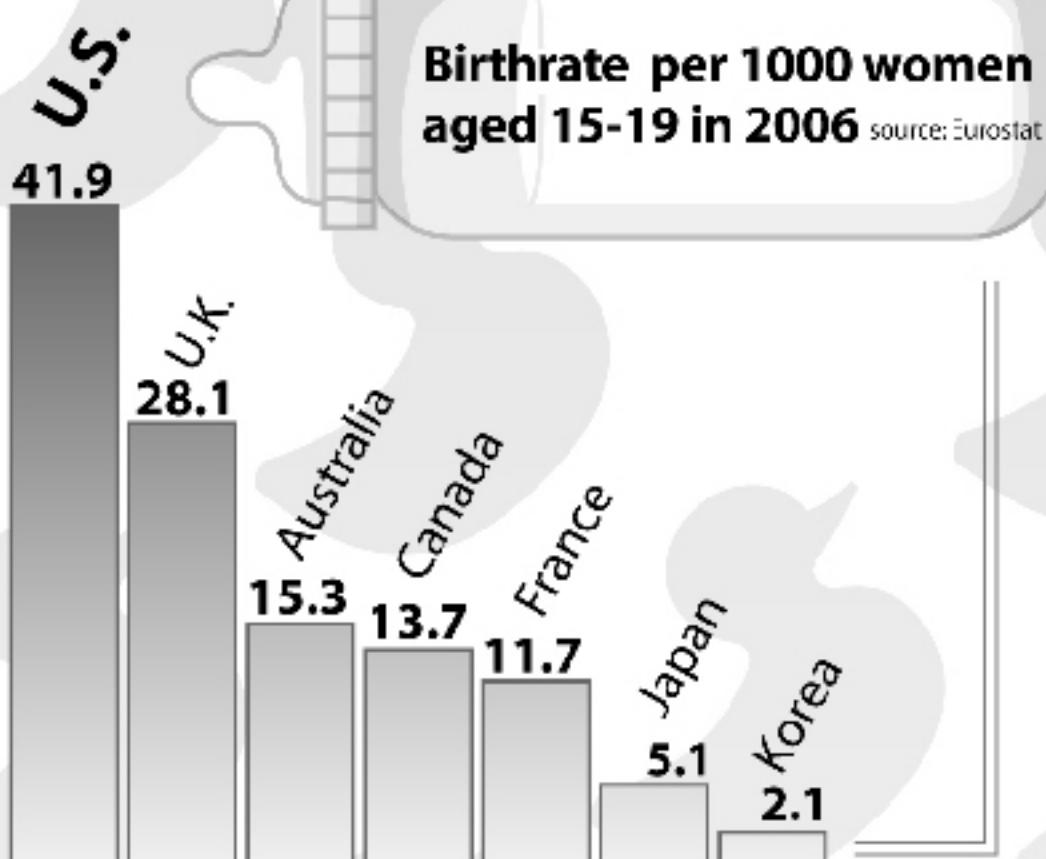
When adolescents are forced to grow up quickly in order to care for their child, they miss out on an important part of their youth. While their friends are out at a school dance or party, they are required to stay at home with their baby. This suppression can cause resentment towards their child and may even contribute to emotional and psychological stress.

Whether you realize it or not, teen pregnancy affects everyone to a certain extent. Each year nearly seven million dollars is spent on social services, such as welfare and support programs provided by the government. These programs are aimed towards caring for teen mothers and their children.

It would seem that with the constant coverage of teen pregnancy through media outlets that the teenage population would be more aware of the hardships involved with pregnancy. However, teenage pregnancy is on the rise for the first time in 10 years.

The seemingly innocent spontaneous hook-ups and make outs on popular TV series may have a bigger impact on the lives of young girls than previously thought. The media has desensitized the public, so sex is not as big of a deal as it was in the past. In a recent study conducted by RAND Corporation, teens who have been exposed to sexual behavior through the media are twice as likely to have sex than those who were not. In fact, by the age of 15, one out of four girls has engaged in sex at least once. At an age when rebellion is dreadfully anticipated, it is impossible to expect all teens that have sex to act responsibly and use protection. Whether it's pure ignorance or the result of being too caught up in the moment to care, 82 percent of teen pregnancies are unplanned.

by Co-Features Editor Lindsay Croon



MoorGraphics Gina Chen, Kelly Ly

Prevention Options

It's something every parent is afraid of and something they've warned you about ever since you were old enough to have "the talk." Still, it doesn't seem like it could happen to you. However, the reality is that teen pregnancy isn't just another plot arc in a sitcom. With the proper prevention, teen pregnancy can be avoided.

It seems pretty obvious to use contraceptives during sex. Though most do, as many as 12 percent of teens do not. However, there is an array of options to choose from that can help prevent pregnancy. Contraceptives range from condoms to birth control pills and even hormonal injections. Of course, contraceptives are not 100 percent effective, and the only way to absolutely prevent pregnancy is abstinence.

Getting pregnant isn't the end of the world. That might sound like an understatement, but remember there are options. Most teens don't have the finances or experience required to raise a child. Many expectant teen mothers look into adoption, or giving up the child to be raised by another family. Many choose adoption to give their child a secure environment that they themselves cannot provide. Another option is abortion. Though this is a controversial procedure, statistics show that one in three women in the U.S. will get an abortion by the time she is 45. Other teenage mothers choose to keep their baby, accepting the risks and responsibilities of parenthood. In the end, this is a personal choice and expectant mothers should choose the best option for their specific situation.

by StaffWriter Catherine Chiang

In the News

On May 14, 1939 Lina Medina of Peru became the youngest mother to give birth to a healthy baby. At age six, Medina had a son, who until the time he was nine years old thought that Medina was his sister. It has been reported that Medina began her menstrual cycle at two years old; However, it is unknown whether her pregnancy was intentional or not. It is widely speculated that her uncle raped her when she was five years old, but in Peru he was never found guilty of any charges.

Because Medina gave birth 70 years ago, many AHS students find her story shocking and cannot imagine anything like that occurring today. However, on Jan. 27, a girl from

the Song Yuan region of China gave birth to a six-pound baby at the age of 9. According to Chinese law, sexual consent with a minor under the age of 14 is not even possible, therefore, making her pregnancy an official rape case.

Although pregnancies like these are rare, they are still possible. Many AHS students believe that teenagers would not become pregnant if given the choice.

"In my opinion I would never consciously decide to get pregnant at this age. Being a mom sounds too hectic and scary," said senior Sara Quintanilla.

by StaffWriter Anthony Perez



SPORTS

Boys' Varsity Basketball Faces Close Loss at Final League Game



COURTESY OF AMANDA OROZCO *The Alhambran*

AN UNEVENTFUL END : Point guard Victor Huang drives in to dish the ball in a heated back and forth final Almont League game against the Mark Keppel Aztecs, which ended 44-50.

VICTORIA GAVIA
Co-Copy Editor

As the buzzer sounds, the boys' varsity basketball team huddles around Head Coach Edwin McKinney to prepare to play their Almont League final. The Feb. 11 game at Mark Keppel was a very competitive match, though the team took a 44-50 loss, making their final season record 1-9.

Guard Alexander Quesada had a positive attitude in the beginning with the focus being on defensive tactics.

"Our main goal was to defend our basket and have strong defense to diffuse Mark Keppel's players. It worked well in the first three quarters,

but then we started getting tired," said Quesada.

During the first quarter there were numerous turnovers to Keppel, but Alhambra's defense tied the score 6-6. Due to fouls called on Keppel, the score remained tied at the beginning of the second quarter but the Moors' later gained a seven-point lead.

"We were feeling good about the score. [Our] advantage was that we were finally playing as a team and taking out key players in Keppel's arsenal," said power forward Chucky Wu.

However, the beginning of the second half was especially heated with both teams constantly scoring back and forth. Though the advan-

tage stayed with AHS through the quarter with a score of 38-35, Keppel seemed to pick up their offense in the last quarter and also had several free throw opportunities due to various fouls and five-second violations called on AHS.

This change in game play has been a recurring problem that has led to losses in the past as well.

"In every game we somehow have this third quarter meltdown, which has been a real nuisance since the start of the season," said Wu.

Starting off the final quarter, the score was still somewhat one sided.

Only a few shots by the Moors, coupled with a series of two pointers by Keppel, quickly switched the advantage to the Aztecs.

Favorable Tie Ends Girls' Soccer Season

VINCENT LIN
Co-Sports Editor

Having previously suffered a 0-5 loss against Montebello, the girls of varsity soccer faced them again on Feb. 11, this time with the countenance of a whole new team. Although it was not a victory, the girls pulled in a tie that ended their season with exuberance.

Thursday's game was met with determination: The Lady Moors were now set on their own turf, and they had pulled off a 1-0 victory two days prior against Schurr, after they had lost 0-7 in their first game against them. They were then

hoping to accomplish the same feat with Montebello.

The first half of the game ended stagnant, with no goals for either side. Afterward, the competition intensified as each team raced to get in a goal before the whistle blew. The Lady Moors had missed some opportunities for a goal with some off kicks, but goalkeeper Angelica Houlgin had made some skillful catches, stopping the Oilers from scoring as well. The game ended with a 0-0 tie, demonstrating how the girls had improved their defense, which was problematic for them most of their season.

"I am very proud of them. It took

a while, but in the last two games, the chemistry really came up," said Head Coach Armando Gutierrez.

Knowing that they have greatly improved throughout their season was victory enough for the Lady Moors. Although team chemistry was also an issue that prevented the girls from doing their best, but the last two games had definitely united them, especially for next season. Their Almont League season ended with a 2-7-1 record.

On behalf of the four senior players, Co-Captain Chelsea Moore said, "Even though the season was very tumultuous, we had a lot of fun and a lot of memories."

Lady Moors Finish Season Undefeated after League Finals

JAMES HO
Co-Copy Editor

While most high school kids were contemplating the most romantic time of the year: Valentine's Day. The Lady Moors had another priority in mind, the one night to end their season, the one night that stood for the combination of all their hard work, the one night that they had to conquer. Feb. 12 marked the night of the girls' basketball Almont League final match between the Moors and the Aztecs.

Before the match, the girls had a record of 9-0, a perfect score. Going into the match, there was a lot of anticipation for the team to finish the season with the coveted undefeated title.

"We have around eight or nine seniors on the team and we had a pressure to go 10-0 for the season. After the match, there was a lot of relief," said Magan Chiang.

That relief came from the fact that the Lady Moors did indeed take the Almont League championship with a record of 10-0 after winning the final game with a score of 53-45. Earlier that week, the team had already clinched the League title after defeating Bell Gardens but there was a need to triumph over rival Mark Keppel to finish the season with an unblemished record.

"We needed to go undefeated and show that it wasn't a fluke when we beat Keppel at first. If we had lost, there would have been naysayers but we showed that we could do it," said Head Coach Therese Berner.

During the second quarter of the fateful match, the Lady Moors had a 13 point lead over the Aztecs. But by halftime, that lead had diminished to a close four points.

"During halftime, we told ourselves that we could do it and that we were ready to win League. I admit I was tired, but we went into the

third quarter and had control most of the time. Though they were fast and could push the ball, the third quarter lead gave us the boost to win," said Vera Machado.

Alhambra's taking of the League title is even more impressive after acknowledging that Mark Keppel had previously been League champions for the last eight years. For 87 games, Mark Keppel had gone undefeated until the Lady Moors took the victory that day.

"After coaching for 30 years, I can say that this season was one of the greatest highlights. This team has shown more passion and spirit than any team I've coached and they are very focused. It was phenomenal," said Berner.

With the success of this game, the team has much to look forward to. CIF playoffs began this month and the team won their first playoff game against Los Osos High on Feb. 18.

WINTER RECORD

Basketball	
Girls	
v	10 - 0
JV	5 - 5
Fresh	7 - 3
Boys	
v	1 - 9
JV	0 - 10
Fresh	4 - 6

Soccer	
Boys	
v	2 - 5 - 2
JV	3 - 5 - 1
Fresh	6 - 2 - 2

Girls	
v	2 - 7 - 1
JV	6 - 2 - 2

Girls' Waterpolo	
v	0 - 4
JV	0 - 4



VINCENT LIN *The Moor*

MAKING THE STEAL: Co-Captain Karina Meza dribbles the ball away after evading her Montebello opponent's dive at their Feb. 11 final game. The Lady Moors managed to tie, ending their season with cheers.

Varsity Boys' Soccer Defeated but CIF Qualified

JOHNNY HUYNH
Staff Writer

It was the final game of the season on Feb. 11, as the Alhambra team stepped onto Montebello's field with confidence and optimism.

The competitiveness was evident, as the Oilers seemed to be closer to the penalty box. For almost half of the game, the Moors were preventing the Oilers from scoring. Except, they had a more successful result and defeated the Moors.

However, that doesn't mean that Alhambra wasn't close to gaining points. In fact, there were a few close encounters, close enough for the opposing goalkeeper to knock his head against a post to prevent a shot.

"We've had it there," said goalkeeper Luis Renteria. "We just need[ed] that extra stride [so that we] could have been closer to getting those goals."

The result was a loss of 0-2 for

Alhambra, but the Moors were still in a good frame of mind; not thinking of it as a loss, but as an opportunity to be in something they enjoy.

"[The injuries were] just part of the game," said mid-fielder Cesar Ortiz. "We've gone to extremes, which tells how badly we wanted to win. Overall, it has been a good learning experience."

As much potential as the team had, there was more that could have been done.

"I think the team had taken a step backwards, compared to last year. They didn't come ready to play [...] and we were playing really inconsistent soccer," said Head Coach Netta Bravo.

The Alhambra team stands in fourth place in the Almont League and received a wildcard position in the CIF playoffs against Tustin. Unfortunately, the Moors had lost that game as well, ending this year's season with a score of 0-4.

Lou Torres Fills New Head Coach Position for Football

VICTOR HUANG
Co-Sports Editor

Lou Torres, who has been teaching at Alhambra since 1989, is no stranger on campus as he takes over for his longtime mentor and friend, Gil Ruedaflores, who retired at season's end.

Torres' notable career spanning 35 years led him to Alhambra after playing under Ruedaflores at Salesian and later coaching alongside him. Torres followed Ruedaflores to Glendale Community College where they led four All-Americans to four Bowl games and an appearance in a national championship game. Torres then came to Alhambra with Ruedaflores and took on the position of assistant coach and offensive coordinator.

"I think there are a couple of things I'm looking for in the sense

of commitment and time," Torres said. "There's an awful lot of our staff that's working and going to school. I will require from my assistant coaches dedication to be there when I expect them to be there."

According to Torres, he already has his game plan set up for next year on what he calls the "Wing-T" offense.

"I'm a Wing-T, double wing coach," said Torres, "but I'll modify it and adjust it to what kids we have. The Wing-T offense is one of the most difficult to defend in high school football."

In addition, Torres strongly emphasizes the importance of "school loyalty." As the new football head coach, as well as the athletics director, Torres felt that it was his duty to step up and continue Ruedaflores's legacy.