

ALA Festival Celebrates Cultural Diversity

■ AHS hosts Alhambra Latino Association's annual celebration of the Hispanic culture

ALAN TAM
Co-News Editor

Teachers, parents and students gathered on March 6 to recognize Hispanic identity at the Alhambra Latino Association's (ALA) festival on the AHS campus. Entitled Literatura y Cultura: A Family Affair, the event's purpose was to improve communication between community members and educators in the Alhambra Unified School District.

Though originally scheduled to be held in December, the renovation of the auditorium postponed Literatura y Cultura for several months.

"We had been waiting [three] months for the construction [of the auditorium] to finish," said ALA President Rosa Aguilar. "We decided to continue on with [the event] inside the cafeteria and the [surrounding] buildings."

The festival began in the afternoon with workshops held in classrooms throughout campus. These seminars were directed by teachers and writers from across Southern California and discussed topics ranging from children's literature to genealogical studies.

Participants also had a chance to discuss the process of creating independent films with guidance from Kevin Duffy, screenwriter and director of the film *Becoming Blond*.

"It was very interesting to [see] how much work and collaboration it takes to make a film," said sophomore Jimena Jaramillo.

The workshops were followed by performances featuring students from Marguerita, Repetto, Northrup, Fremont and Baldwin elementary schools. The Mark Keppel High

Theatre Co. worked in conjunction with the MKHS Orchestra to present the introduction to their play "Into the Woods," an amalgam of four fairy tales. A father and daughter duet along with three choreographed dances ended the segment.

The second annual Poetry Slam began after the performances concluded.

Sixteen poets from AHS recited their original stanzas and prose. Ranging from blank verse to rhythmic couplets, the poetry presented by the students was varied with many of the works composed in both Spanish and English and dealt with family problems, illness, relationships and environmental issues.

"I'm not a good writer," said senior Sarah Alhadeff. "[But] when I do poetry, it doesn't feel like writing. I feel like my poem helps someone else going through the same situation."

This year's Poetry Slam was dedicated to coordinator and Spanish teacher Joshua Moreno's father who passed away last year due to cancer three months after the first event took place.

"My dad was a printer," said Moreno. "But he always loved poetry. I'm sure that he would be proud of the work we have done here."

Overall, there were over four hundred students, parents and teachers in attendance at the event. Organizers believe that Literatura y Cultura has reached its intended audience and goal.

"In terms of attendance and participation, it has been a success," said Aguilar.



THE WORLD IS OURS The Alhambra Latino Association hosted a Cultural Festival at AHS on March 6, meant to promote cultural awareness, as well as strengthen relations between students and teachers. JACQUELINE DO The Moor

AcaDec Advances to State Competition

ANGELYNE CHU
Staff Writer

Meeting every afternoon in room IA-3, members of Academic Decathlon (AcaDec) worked in preparation for the California Academic Decathlon (CAD) competition. This was their second time advancing to the state competition.

Held in Bakersfield from March 11 to March 15, the CAD competition attracted 60 schools from around the state, all hoping to advance to the national competition.

In order to qualify for the state competition, AHS AcaDec scored 40,047 points out of a possible 60,000 points at the Los Angeles County Academic Decathlon tournament held on Jan. 30 and Feb. 6.

The Moors are currently ahead of the San Gabriel Matadors who scored 24,741 points, but behind the Mark Keppel Aztecs who accrued

43,741 points.

AcaDec's curriculum changes every year, this year's theme being the French Revolution. Consequently, members had to read *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens.

"We had to cover a lot of Dickens for literature. It almost felt like cramming all of Shakespeare into one quarter," said sophomore member Matthew Huynh.

While preparing for the CAD competition, members stayed roughly until 6 p.m. every day and met on Saturdays as well.

Although meeting every day can be tiring, there is also relaxation involved. AcaDec has more field trips

than any other class at AHS.

This year, they attended a concert in Bakersfield, where all the music selections from AcaDec's music packet were performed.

"We have fun all the time. [AcaDec] is not all about studying. Some times we play Jeopardy," said Coach Jennie Malonek.

Making it to the state competition is based on the outcome of the Los Angeles County competition.

Eight students who competed in state last year competed again this year. These eight students include: juniors Bob Qian, Nancy Vong, Clarence Nguyen and seniors Peter Wang, Sally Tran, Celia Wong,

Steve Nham and Josh Sam.

Before the competition, the Moors were ranked 37th out of 60 schools, but afterwards, they jumped to 17, largely because they placed third overall in their division.

Divisions were determined by the place of the school coming into the state competition. The top 20 schools were Division 1, 21-40 Division 2, and so on.

Qian placed second in chemistry, essay, math, economics and first in music. Wang placed third in music, while Vong placed second in chemistry. Nguyen placed third in language and literature and second in music.

"I was really quite surprised because we jumped 14 ranks, from 17 to 3 in our division. We were rather anxious in the beginning because there was pressure to do as well as we did last year," said Wang.

"I was really quite surprised, because we jumped 14 ranks, from 37 to 3 in our division."

- Peter Wang

New Civic Center User Policy Rates

Cafeteria	\$840 - \$1008
Classroom	\$400 - \$565
Auditorium	\$1040 - \$1208
Large Gym	\$840 - \$1008

8 hour use with custodial assistance

New AUSD Policy Raises Questions

SHANNON LI
Staff Writer

If an organization wants to host an event on any campus within the Alhambra Unified School District (AUSD), it may cost quite a few dollars.

AUSD's Board Policy 1330, also referred to as the Civic Center Outside User Policy, was edited in September 2009.

According to the newly modified policy, "school or school-related organizations" can use campuses without paying, as long as their activities do not interfere with the school day and are "directly related to or for the benefit of district schools and/or students."

However, if a club's event is affiliated with outside users, they will have to pay, a rule that would affect organizations like the Mighty Moor Marching Band, Yearbook and Academic Decathlon.

"Part of the reason [for changing the policy] was to offset the cost of maintaining facilities, because they are overused and

often abused. We have to be able to keep what [money] we have, [by placing fees on outside users]," said Assistant Principal of Business and Activities Jeremy Infranca.

For example, *The Moor* newspaper would be charged if it held the East Los Angeles Journalism Education Foundation

"Facilities are overused and overtaxed, so we have to compensate for the costs"

-Jeremy Infranca

(ELAJEA) write-offs as it did last March.

Now, it is not considered a school-related activity, because they are sponsored by ELAJEA, which is not a school organization.

"It's not that *The Moor* is an outside user, but because [ELAJEA] has no connection to AHS," said Infranca.

Similarly, the Southern California Speech and Debate League sponsors Speech and

Debate tournaments and is considered an outside user.

Consequently, if the team chose to hold tournaments this year, it would cost about 4,000 dollars each time.

"It's a double-edged sword for [us]. It's less work holding a tournament, but we have to order buses [to go to the other schools.] We have been hosting Fall Debate for years. We're hoping we can hold it [at AHS] next year," said Speech and Debate adviser Kevin Tong.

School-related activities are given priority over non-school affiliated groups. However, youth groups, such as the Boy Scouts of America and Parent-Teacher Associations can also use any school campus without being billed.

"I like tournaments at AHS because it's more convenient," said Speech and Debate member Ivtyi Hong.

According to Tong, Superintendent Donna Perez will be revisiting the policy this summer.



Eighth Graders Introduced to Life at AHS

Last week, AHS' annual eighth grade orientation showed incoming freshmen their home away from home for the next four years. Hundreds of students from elementary schools all over the district attended the preview of their soon-to-be high school.

"I hoped that the incoming freshmen [will] understand that high school is not only about academics but [that it] also [has a variety] of extracurriculars," said Executive President Anthony Perez.

Members of Executive and service clubs led the students around AHS so that they could get a general idea of how the school

looked.

Afterwards, an assembly featured performances from all of AHS' dance groups. The presentations began with a basketball shoot-off between the schools to get the students fired up. Brief introductions to extracurriculars such as the various sports teams, Academic Decathlon, Choir and Speech and Debate followed after. The administration and counselors were also introduced.

Many left with a new idea of how they want to spend their high school career.

"I had a lot of fun today. [After seeing all the performances], I've decided to try out for All-Male next year," said Marguerita student Raymond Tran.

Shannon Ho, Staff Writer

Junior Council Continues Sadies Tradition

The girls have their posters and baked goods and surprises, all leading up to finally asking that you-know-who to the Sadie Hawkins dance.

"She asked me in a cute way and it's always nice to be flattered by the opposite sex," said senior Nathan Cheng.

Junior Council announced that the dance will be held on March 26 from 7 p.m.-11 p.m. in the underground parking garage.

"By popular demand, we decided to continue the newly established tradition," said Junior Council President Oscar Wong.

However, the difference will be the way the garage is decorated—Junior Council felt that everything was very spread out last year, which left a lot of empty space. They plan to place the booths and carnival games closer together to fully utilize the space.

The theme for the dance this year is "Heroes v. Villains" and is meant to be fun without the pressures of dates. Wong wants this dance to set the bar and instill confidence in the student body that Prom will be a great one.

Tickets for Sadies went on sale March 5, the Rush Day, for only five dollars. From that day alone, Junior Council sold 250 tickets.

Stephanie Lee, Co-Editor-in-Chief

IN OTHER NEWS

- Woman charged in breast milk assault on jailer
- Canada may adopt gender-neutral national anthem
- Chinese youth accused of being unfit to fight Japanese in future war
- Russian prime minister tells Ukrainian president to export pig fat but leave chaos at home

Ghetto Fabulous is the New Way to Party

KIMBERLY ONG
Co-Opinions Editor

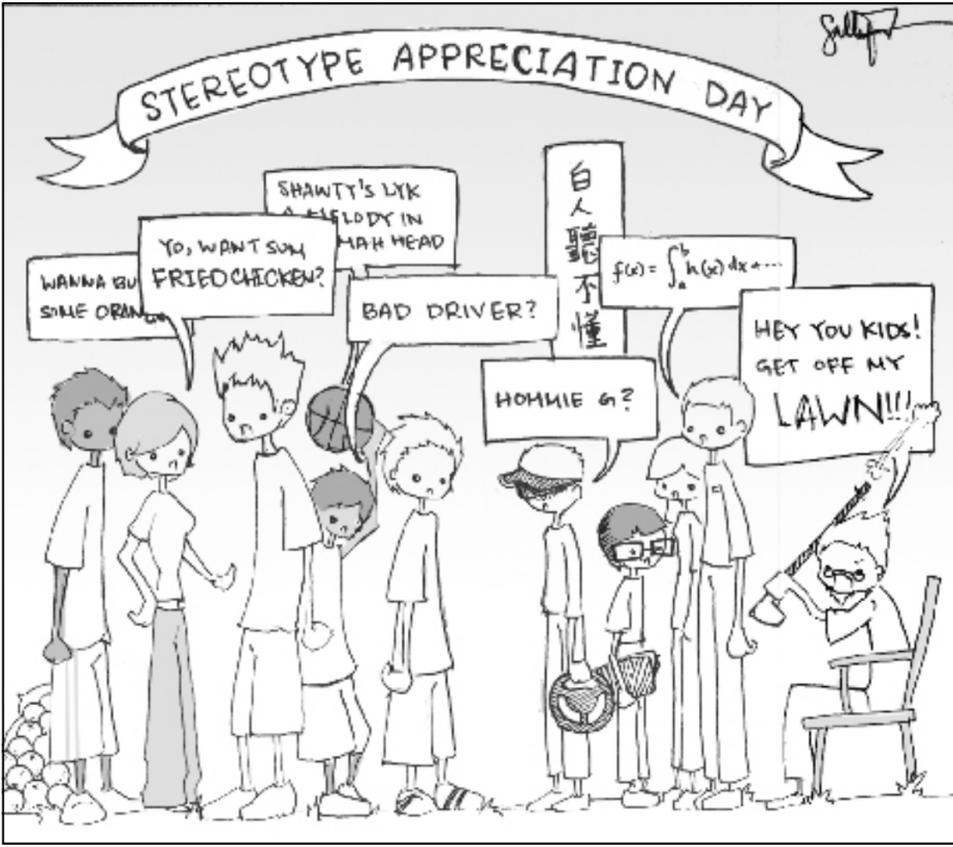
Here on the West Coast, we don't come across too many opportunities to call out racism. Diversified by an enormous influx of immigrants and thoroughly mixed by politically correct accommodations, California—Southern California in particular—seems to be the least likely place in the nation for ethnic discrimination to occur.

So it often seems, when the situation arises, that anyone crying out "Racism!" from the rooftops is merely crying wolf. What reason would there be for it when literally anyone could be your neighbor?

But, when a blatantly racist event occurs, it's obvious that people must do something. Words, whether spoken or written, no longer suffice.

And indeed, regardless of whether or not they help, people brought their fighting words when rallying against the "Compton Cookout" organized by students at the University of California San Diego (UCSD). The event, allegedly set up by a campus fraternity, Phi Kappa Alpha, was supposed to "celebrate" Black History Month. The cookout's theme "commemorated" their African-American peers, 2 percent of whom make up UCSD's student population.

The "Compton Cookout" Facebook event page encouraged men to dress in oversized clothing and women to embody a "ghetto chick's ... 'respectable' qualities." The event organizers described the so called "ghetto chicks" as loud women with "short, nappy hair" or "cheap [weaves]... in



bad colors." They expected the girls to communicate via a limited, invented or profanity-littered vocabulary among other various "noises."

It's clear that there was no way this event could have ever been conducted in "honor" of Black History Month. Despite being advertised as such, the blatant insensitivity is hard to overlook. And, although the "Compton

Cookout" was so obviously inconsiderate, the most frightening fact of the entire situation was that the event's Facebook page attracted at least 200 confirmed guests before it was shut down.

And of those 200-some confirmed guests, it's quite possible that some of our very own Alhambra High School alumni opted to participate. Twelve

of last year's graduating class added themselves to UCSD's overwhelming Asian population—reported at 50 percent. Perhaps it's existence of this largely homogenous populace that resulted in this racial insensitivity. However, nothing excuses this alarming lack of tact.

But, it would be too much to say that these were hateful acts. It would

be too much to state that the students of UCSD had some sort of anti-Black agenda or that they truly wanted to make a mockery of Black History Month. It's likely that the organizers were just the quintessential young college students—drunk and stupid.

So perhaps, it is not so much racism that continues to percolate in our diverse nation, but rather, ignorance. An ignorant inability to empathize. And that, combined with the "humorous" stereotypes portrayed in movies and television shows, can only spawn more "Compton Cookouts."

To say that stereotypes are entirely wrong would be ... well, wrong. Stereotypes exist for a reason—in some cases they are even true. But that isn't to say that they're strictly positive or negative. Stereotypes can add flavor, and sometimes humor, to a situation. If done tastefully.

However, when chuckling at some bespectacled Asian woman swerving across the road or at some Midwest hick rocking on his front porch with a shotgun in his lap, the individual needs to keep some things in mind. One, not every single person of that race is going to embody media-encouraged stereotypes. And two, even those who do personify these characteristics have more to offer than just being "ghetto," "submissive," "loud" or "drunk."

So we all have no choice but to find the line between funny and offensive. Whether it's a painful process of trial and error or something we pick up from our diverse neighborhoods, it's everything we can do to keep from being either extreme: politically correct or outright racist.

CRACKED RIBS

For Your Eyes Only, Sweetie

No one above the age of nine thinks of Vanessa Hudgens as the cute teen Disney starlet anymore. Instead, she is more well-known as the girl who texted naked pictures of herself to her now ex-boyfriend.

Following the scandal, parents were outraged and demanded that Disney executives punish the actress for her appalling actions. They could not idly stand by and have their kids watch this glorified slut make millions singing and dancing on television, when her nude pictures were floating around all over the Internet.

However, parents would have probably been more horrified to learn that this practice of "sexting," or sending explicit photos or texts, is a new word common among teenagers. Not just the celebrities who act the part.

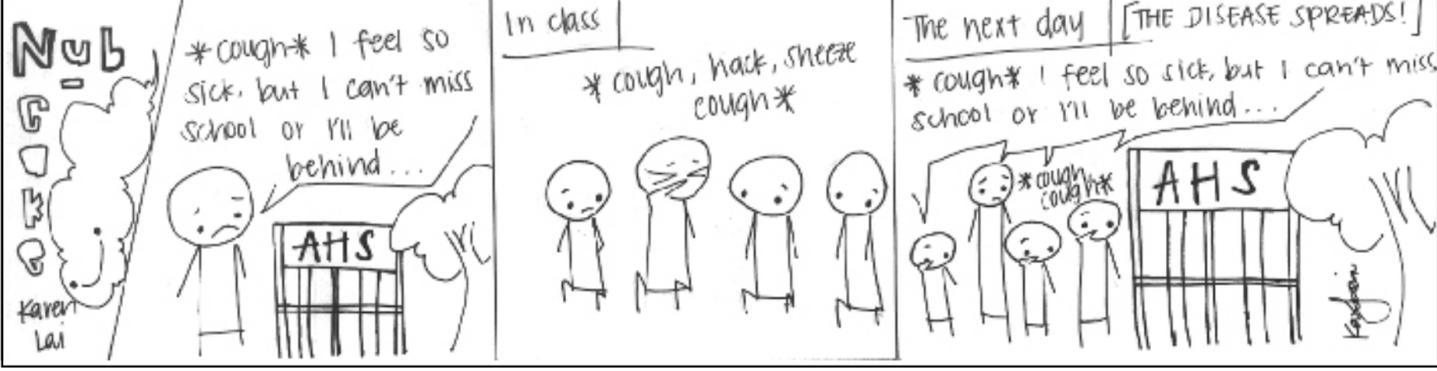
About 20 percent of teens surveyed by the National Campaign to Support Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy admitted to regularly "sexting." Many think of it as harmless, but it's actually a felony. Offenders can be charged with producing, possessing, and distributing child pornography which can result in a jail sentence.

Teens these days don't think about the consequences of their actions. It takes virtually no effort to send these explicit messages and photos, and requires only a "re-send" button to forward it. Messages meant to be seen by one's eyes can easily be instantly relayed to anybody with a cell phone and can be nearly impossible to delete once it is posted online, lurking on anyone's desktop. Having to deal with hundreds of peers knowing what you look like naked is not only devastatingly humiliating but socially, emotionally and mentally damaging.

Just ask Hudgens who has been called every variation of the word "whore" and worse. It has damaged her reputation and compromised her career, which is a situation easily applicable to all college-bound students. There have been many cases in which students have found their college acceptances revoked because of inappropriate material discovered on their online profiles. One lapse in judgment and the Dean from your dream college knows what's underneath your clothes.

Hudgens managed to recover and star in a few more movies since her photo scandals because Hollywood is Hollywood. Breaking news gets old fast, but in the real world, you may not be so lucky.

Yvonne Lee
Co-Editor-in-Chief



Staff Editorial: Peeping Toms Among Us

Imagine that you are in the privacy of your own room, doing whatever it is you do on a daily basis. Despite your solitude, you feel like you're being watched. For the students of Pennsylvania's Lower Merion School District, this feeling wasn't just a case of paranoia. The young scholars of Harrington High School (HHS) in this particular district were given the privilege of borrowing and even bringing home a school laptop.

What a thoughtful gesture. The only catch is that the pupils with the temporary ownership of the bring-home computers could be monitored at any time by school administrators.

Spyware had been installed into all of the laptops that the school had purchased. Despite common supposition, this type of spyware doesn't lurk into the hard drives; its only purpose is to activate the webcams already in the computers to identify any thieves in the event that the laptop is presumed stolen. HHS students took them home and unwittingly used them while the webcams in these laptops could have been switched on at any moment.

It's safe to assume that we all have the same thoughts on this; how creepy. However, the school has its reasons

for "spying." Since the computers are paid for by the district, they have every right to tend to and protect their property in whatever fashion they choose. According to Superintendent Dr. Christopher McGinley of the Lower Merion District, these webcams would only be activated if theft was suspected. School administrators would then start up the camera in an attempt to take still-images of the perpetrator.

Despite this claim, there have been cases regarding the misuse of the webcams. One student who took a laptop home had innocently consumed candy in front of the laptop, and was confronted the next day by an assistant principal about his supposed "abuse of drugs." Another family whose child had brought the laptop home accused the district of "spying on" the student undress while she was unaware of being watched.

In such scenarios, the computers had not been reported stolen, so why the need to switch on the spyware security feature?

Of course, the assistant principal that had accused the student of drug abuse only did so because of the assumption that this student was breaking the law, and more importantly, it seemed that

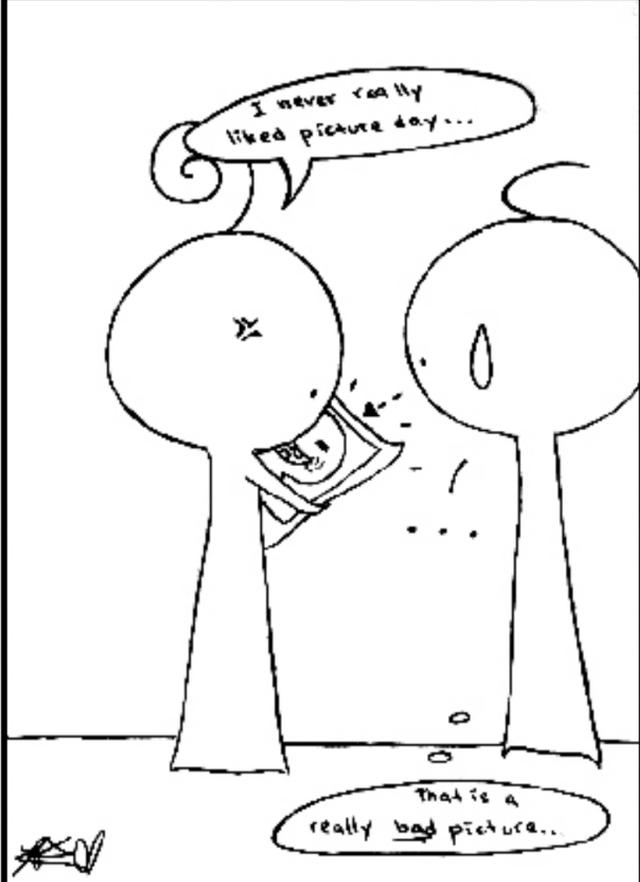
the student was harming himself. It may be an invasion of privacy, and maybe out of the school's jurisdiction. However, the intentions of these actions remain valid in some aspects, despite the fact that they do not pertain to the original purpose of preventing thievery.

Some arguments state that it is unfair that the students had no knowledge of this surveillance, but had the students been aware, they could have easily bypassed the security feature. One suggestion is to constitute an

official student contract recognizing the monitoring of criminals, though those enjoying the challenge may even develop a proxy to disable the spyware, or simply cover the lens with a scrap of paper. It's no wonder administrators chose to keep their secret supervision just that, a secret.

And yet suspicions of perverted ulterior motives remain. Sure, cameras can be used to capture pictures of thieves, but they can also capture pictures of an unsuspecting student in his room. What is the need for these cameras when there are alternatives such as LoJack, or other types of far more suitable tracking devices that actually pinpoint locations. In addition, the cost of the prospective installment is a bit easier on the wallet than monthly payments on a spyware program—and these can't be obstructed by a simple sticky note, so why go with the faulty webcam plan?

Interestingly enough, this scenario doesn't quite score as morally ambiguous. As long as the administrators stuck with the original plan to protect their property, it's quite tolerable that schools are up-to-date with peeping-tom technology.



Public Education Takes a Stand

On March 4, AHS teachers and students wore black to signify the death of public education. This symbolic gesture began as a rally outside of AHS before school and ended with a march to the Governor's office in downtown Los Angeles. The day was appropriately named "Stand up for Schools" and was a response to the 17 billion dollars that have been cut from education in California within the last two years. Teachers held signs in the shape of coffins to further emphasize their message— "cuts to education are dangerous to the well-being of students." During the rally at AHS, 29 empty chairs were set up alongside the protesters to convey the loss of 29 teachers from the Alhambra Unified School District. In addition, teachers handed out fliers to parents to encourage them to contact state and local legislatures about this issue. In the afternoon at Pershing Square, educators marched to the beat of drums and chanting protests. Their message was loud and clear: Local and state legislators need to support our educators. Our future society depends on our current youth, and with a well-educated youth will come a better tomorrow.

By StaffWriter Anthony Perez



Cuts Hit Close to Home

Budget cuts to education aren't anything new to California, and it isn't a big surprise that the state is threatening even more in the near future. The Alhambra Unified School District (AUSD) has lost 6-7 million dollars, drastically impacting teachers and students. The effects of the cuts, such as larger class sizes, are threatening to escalate, especially with the possibility of an additional 2.5 billion dollar reduction throughout the state in the next two years. This year, AUSD has already canceled its adult education program which resulted in 29 teachers being laid off.

The teachers, parents and students affected by these cuts hope that the March 4 rally brought much needed attention to the education crisis in California.

"This is not an education fight, [it is] a community fight," said math teacher Dr. Rosalyn Collier, a teacher at AHS and Alhambra Teacher Association (ATA) vice president.

With school and activities going on in an average student's life, it's easy to be un-

aware of issues in the outside world. However, the steep budget cuts to education will affect us directly, and the rally held on campus has called attention to the growing problem. Educators and students showed their support by wearing black, mourning education. In fact, stu-



dents were so enthusiastic about the rally that a student walk-out was allegedly planned. During fourth period on Thursday, school administrators

sent a message to teachers warning students that stepping off campus would result in a fine. It is unknown whether or not any student attempted to walk out.

By StaffWriter Catherine Chiang

MoorPhotos by Brian Hua



In My Opinion: EIC

Thousands of people had come to Pershing Square in downtown Los Angeles to protest further cuts to public education, billions of dollars actually, and to send a message to legislators that in a crisis, education cannot and will not be the first to go. All around were small signs and large banners that read, "Flunk the State Budget," or pleas to President Obama to save education. As Editors in Chief of a high school newspaper, we've seen *The Moor* cover quite an amount of stories concerning our school, district or state not having enough funding for a field trip or program.

Certainly, state lawmakers and Schwarzenegger must have known that *stealing* 17 billion dollars from students was going to have some ramifications. Too often we've heard that "our school cannot afford to do this," and it's not AHS, or the AUSD that we blame. It's the empty promises dealt by the state government. At the rally, speakers from different facets of public education had the

chance to address the entire crowd; there were people from the high school level such as ourselves as well as from community colleges, Cal States and UCs. The rally showed us what a desperate situation public education has become. Admittedly, it instilled a sense of fear in us, but we knew that we were not just two teens in a crowd; we had the advantage of people, people who are done compromising California's future.

By Co-Editors in Chief Stephanie Lee, Yvonne Lee

Standing Up for Our Schools

Near Pershing Square in downtown LA, thousands of demonstrators marched the streets in opposition to budget cuts in education. It was cold and breezy and most of the Alhambra Unified School District (AUSD) protesters were bundled in sweaters. Combined with the noise and the cold, the rally's ambiance evoked strong emotions from supporters. However, it is important

to note that rallies are normally a venue in which different types of social activists voice out their own opinions, even if they are unrelated to the rally's specific purpose. One demonstrator held up a picture of president Barack Obama with a Hitler mustache and a message that accused him of causing educational cuts. As the rally progressed from Pershing Square to the governor's office, many demonstrators chanted through megaphones, rousing even more support from the crowd. The rally concluded with speeches from students, teachers and community activists. Among the speakers, ATA vice president Dr. Rosalyn Collier, spoke to the protestors about the impact that budget cuts have on students.

By StaffWriter Anthony Perez

Q&A: Kathleen Tarr

Why did you decide to attend the rally?

First off, I am the Union Segment Director for Alhambra High School. I [needed] to attend the rally in which I was an instrument in putting together. Also, I attended because I know that, when you have a rally like this, a large number of protestors can influence the government. If we all stew in our own juices then nothing will ever change.

How do you feel about the turnout of the rally?

I have a long history of political activism and I thought the rally was pretty tame. We were loud, but we have to have a noisy presence so that people listen. We recommended that teachers make as much noise as possible.

This is the message I want to send out to the teachers of AHS—I was extremely proud of the staff at the morning rally, because there was a strong turnout. I understand that some teachers have young children at home, and others like Mr. Jauregui had to be at a swim meet. I would like to have seen more AHS faculty members, who did not have anything else planned, at the downtown rally.

Do you feel the rally was effective?

Let's see how congress responds—If they don't respond, then you go out again, and again and again. You have to get in their faces. I always feel invigorated when people stand up for social injustice.

Interview was condensed and edited.

By StaffWriter Anthony Perez



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The Moor serves as one of the checks and balances of district and school policies. It is an open forum for the campus population and one of the records of Alhambra High School's history. *The Moor* is not a vehicle for the promotion of any school organization, individual and/or activity, excluding those promoted via paid advertisement. *The Moor* is protected under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and California Education Codes 48907 and 48950.

The Moor encourages students, faculty and community members to submit Letters to the Editor. Topics need not deal with stories previously published but should pertain to issues affecting the school and/or surrounding community.

Letters can be delivered to C-225, or the *The Moor's* suggestion box in the Activities Office at least one week in advance. For legal reasons, *The Moor* cannot publish letters written anonymously but can withhold the name of the writer at their request. *The Moor* also reserves the right to refuse publication when the opinions expressed or issues discussed have been previously addressed or are of no relevance to the campus community and/or surrounding areas.

Note: Issue reviewed and edited by adviser for content and journalism standards.

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Lack of Funding Endangers Badminton Program

JOHNNY HUYNH
Staff Writer

Due to several technicalities, including budget and unpopularity, this season will be the last for the Moors badminton team, which holds possibly the last 59 players of the sport in AHS history.

As of next year, badminton will not be considered a California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) certified sport, therefore it will not be a valid entry on high school student athletic records.

"I can't speak for all [the players], especially for those that have been on the team for years, who would be less

apathetic [about the issue] than the newer players," said sophomore player Geen Lam, "but I am sort of [mad] that it won't count on records since I, like many people, have joined a sport [for] college purposes."

It is evident that badminton is already declining since many schools and districts in the Almont League are closing their programs for the sport. El Monte accounted for half of players in League, yet they have withdrawn their badminton program. As nearby competitors are disappearing, this demands reaching for participating districts left outside the Almont League, which requires more funds from a narrow

budget in order to obtain competitors.

"There is always a possibility that other programs may be cut, too," said Athletics Department Director Lou Torres. "We obviously don't like seeing kids losing their sport, but there are other opportunities to play within the San Gabriel Valley."

The changes aren't just applied to Alhambra, but to other high schools as well within the district. As the number of participating teams of

the sport decreases, CIF would be less compelled to give sponsorships, which provide money for the programs to operate. With a lack

of funding, the district has finalized the removal of badminton for next year.

"I feel that it's a very sad event," said JV Coach Johnny Le. "This will be a disadvantage for the later years, especially for the people who want to play the game but won't be able to experience it."

Making the most of what is left, the Moors will try to do their best and keep a positive mentality for the rest of the season. As of now, they are completely focused on practicing and training for upcoming games.

The team started their League season yesterday with a game against Pasadena.

"I feel that it's a very sad event. This will be a disadvantage for the later years."

— Johnny Le



JACQUELINE DO *The Moor*

GETTING READY: Badminton players get into their places to be well-prepared for the next serve in a March 9 tournament match held in the AHS gym. The Moors pulled in a 11-9 win against Pasadena Poly High.

Player Spotlight

This year's varsity girls' basketball team has been truly exceptional, extending their already undefeated 10-0 season well into the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) playoffs. The team advanced into the second round of CIF against Long Beach Polytechnic, the fourth-ranked team in the nation, before finally ending their winning streak. The entire time, point guard and Co-Captain Amanda Hua was leading the team in doing their best and reaching their amazing feats. A four-year member of basketball, as well as a participant in volleyball and track, Amanda has learned a range of skills from high school athletics that she will continue to value far after her high school career.

- 1-year Almont League championship
- 4-year CIF entry
- 3-year All-League winner, 1-year 1st Team winner

What motivated you to join the basketball team and how do you think you have progressed?

I've played since I was young. I always knew I wanted to play high school ball. It wasn't until these last two years that I've focused. I think I'm a smarter player now and I understand the game more.

What were the biggest problems you've faced on the team this year?

Adjusting to the new coaching style was the biggest problem this year, for everybody.

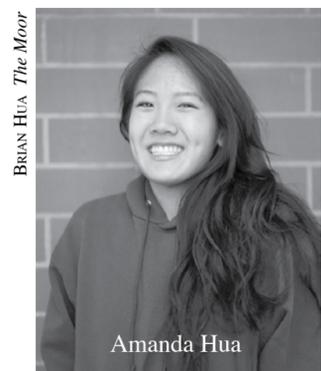
What have you learned from the basketball team that you will apply outside of the court?

It has improved my social skills, dealing with uncomfortable situations and being a leader. I learned the whole concept of doing my best and not regretting anything about it afterward.

What are your plans after high school?

I mainly want to major in art at a university, but I'm considering college basketball as well, if I can meet the demand of the busy schedule that comes with the team.

Do you have any last words of advice for the future girls' basketball players?



BRIAN HUA *The Moor*

Amanda Hua

To next year's team, play every game like it's your last. It's not going to be easy, but it will definitely be worth it. That's what my four years have added up to.

by Vincent Lin, Co-Sports Editor



BRIAN HUA *The Moor*

STRIVING FOR A HOME RUN: Varsity girls' softball simulates a game at Moor Field. The players rotate positions to hone their skills.

Varsity Softball Starts Season Optimistically

VICTORIA GAVIA
Co-Copy Editor

As spring season begins, girls' varsity softball is continuing their efforts to improve teamwork and be able to react quickly during games. The preseason begins on April 8 with an away game against Rosemead. However, their first home game will be against Gabrielino on April 10.

For the girls, a typical practice includes doing drills and practicing hits. Additionally, to gain extra experience, varsity scrimmages against the JV team in order to heighten their instincts and familiarize themselves with possible scenarios.

"We divided up the teams two weeks ago, so for now we are focusing on working together and working out different plays," said pitcher Taylor-Mae Vasquez.

Although the frosh-soph team has had a strong turnout of new girls, it is a different story for varsity. This year, there are only a few new players joining, which could be considered both an advantage and a disadvantage.

One positive difference is that they have five pitchers, though one is injured right now, when they usually have three at most.

"It can be a good thing that we don't have that many new players because then we already know how to work together as a whole," said Vasquez.

However, though this may be the case, it could prove to be hurtful for next year's team since they have five seniors this year. Regardless, Vasquez is optimistic that for the time being, as long as they continue to keep up their strong work ethic the girls will perform to their full potential.



BRIEFS



Boys' Golf

With boys' varsity golf team approaching the start of the season, they are ready to take on the brand new season. Currently, the team consists of about 15 players, ranging from freshmen to seniors.

"[This season], we have a lot more underclassmen: freshmen and sophomores. Many more showed up at tryouts and we're really lucky to [gain] underclassmen that have played for a couple of years and had some experience," said Assistant Coach Anthony Granados.

With many new and returning players, there is much hope for this small team. They would like to accomplish many goals, such as taking the League title by working hard to do their best.

"With the results we have seen from practice, I think the team will do very well this season and [they] just might take the League title," said Granados.

Granados also said that he hopes that the players will get to know each other personally and build team chemistry.

"My goals for this season and the seasons to come are that these underclassmen will get the coaching they need. They are very young and talented players," said Granados.

Although this is the boys' golf season, Head Coach Luis Brambilla has said that the girls are welcome to get ready and practice for their season, which starts in September.

"We encourage the girls to come out and play during the boy's golf season, so when their season comes around, they will be ready," said Brambilla.

by Joyce Lam
Staff Writer

Boys' Volleyball

The boys varsity volleyball team is in for a bright season. Not only are most of the players returners from last year, but there is also a new, more experienced head coach in place: Charles Tran.

"The new coach is much more detailed than last year's coach [Henry Kwan]," said outside hitter Chucky Wu.

According to Wu, Tran is more experienced and will guide the players through the fundamentals rather than just demonstrating. Coach Tran coached the girls' varsity volleyball team two years ago and believes that the key to winning is not how hard the team can hit a ball, but, instead, the team's ability to play defense. In addition to the new coach, the Moors have a lot of team chemistry as they are familiar with each other's style.

"Realistically, we are hoping to get at least 5-5 in League," said Tran. "We still have a lot of work to do."

Wu believes that one of the hardest aspects that the team needs to overcome is incorporating the new plays they have learned and applying them on the court. Once the team has this down, the Moors will be a threat to their opponents.

The team defeated their first preseason opponent against Pioneer, winning the second, fourth and fifth sets. Although it was a battle back and forth, Alhambra eventually pulled out victoriously, winning 3-2 sets. This game will be just the beginning of a building program for the Moors.

by Victor Huang
Co-Sports Editor

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