

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Study Finds Too Much Candy Causes Violence

Students who went trick-or-treating are now reaping the gifts of Halloween. Surrounded by mounds of sugar-infused confectionery items, it may be very tempting to eat it all without control.

However, before proceeding to consume all their candy in one week, they should be mindful of a recent study by researchers at Cardiff University in the U.K. which discovered that children who eat too much candy run the risk of becoming violent adults.

The study unveiled that regardless of background or any other factors, those who had a high rate of candy consumption when they were young were more likely to become violent as adults. 69 percent of people who had committed a violent crime by age 34 said that they had eaten candy daily.

However, this discovery brings about more questions, such as whether candy contains chemicals that can cause a person to become more antisocial or violent. These questions remain unresolved as of now and it is hoped that future studies will provide some answers to them.

Regardless of the consequences, students are still undeterred from eating candy, feeling that as long as one exerts self-control, it is possible to eat candy and not become violent adults.

"I would still eat candy], because it ultimately comes down to whether the individual can control themselves or not," said senior Taffani Lai.

### Survey Shows Popular Kids Live Better Lives

In movies about high school, power and popularity are everything. Those at the top use their influence to pick on those beneath them, while those at the bottom want to be at the top. However, at one point or another, students have been told that social standing and influence don't matter.

Based on a Swedish survey which discovered that students who are near the tip of the social pyramid in school tend to live better lives than those who are not, the two characteristics may be more important than people think.

Results showed that students who were not in the top social strata were four times more likely to be treated for diabetes and nine times more likely to develop heart disease. Moreover, they had double the risk of being diagnosed with behavioral problems or mental illnesses than their socially-authoritative counterparts.

However, despite the overwhelming results which indicate social power affects one's future life, students do not believe that one's position on the social ladder now determines one's future life.

"Some people who were popular or powerful in the past may end up living a [hard] life because of a bad decision they made," said senior Chrislyn Chua.

Background, gender and income were not contributing factors to the outcome of the survey.

Yifang Nie, Co-News Editor

### IN OTHER NEWS

- Most Bruneians want cheating husbands whipped
- Man pleads guilty to DWI in motorized La-Z-Boy
- 19-year-old Norwegian student wins world Monopoly title
- Northwest Airlines flight overflies destination by 150 miles

**Mark Your Calendar ...**  
**Nov. 10:** Homecoming Assembly  
**Nov. 11:** Veteran's Day Holiday  
**Nov. 13:** Homecoming Game  
**Nov. 14:** Homecoming Dance

In the previous issue, it was stated on the Features page that Mrs. Carr and Mr. Neeley began working at AHS in 1972. However, the actual year was 1973. We regret this error.

# Traffic Forces Students to Come Early

**ANTHONY PEREZ**  
Staff Writer

Inside classrooms, teachers become frustrated as the first period bell rings every morning. Simultaneously, outside, Second Street is congested with hundreds of cars racing to the front of the school. With cars being the most popular mode of transportation for students at AHS, so too is car traffic the most popular excuse given to teachers from over 1,884 of those who are tardy every day to first period. However, those who are late might not be lying when they tell their teachers their parents were stuck in gridlock. Consequently, students might find themselves searching for a new way to get to school as Second Street continues to house a flood of cars.

In an effort to battle the increase in congestion before school, Assistant Principal of Business and Activities Jeremy Infranca has initiated a new Inter Club Council service which utilizes student effort to help control the flow of vehicles. Those who are volunteering in the morning are responsible for directing traffic, via arm signals, as parents drop their children off in the valet zones.

"We hope that these students out there on Second and Fourth Street will help to remind parents that they must pull their vehicles to the front of the valet zones. They should not cut in line by driving up to the front of the line," said Infranca.

However, Director of Clubs Trung Ky, who is responsible for assigning service club members to the valet service, is not hopeful for the effort.

"I feel like this will not make a difference, because students do not pay attention to what is happening outside their windows as they are dropped off to get to school," said Ky.

But, he does believe that this problem needs to be tackled and that the school cannot afford to ignore it. He will continue to assign four service club members to Second Street and four to Fourth Street.

"This service will continue for the rest of the school year. I am currently working to help



**STUCK IN GRIDLOCK** Traffic on Second Street is bumper-to-bumper in the moments before first period. According to Assistant Principal of Guidance Jazz Cisneros, there have been 1,884 tardies to first period since September.

BRIAN HUA *The Moor*

spread the word to students and their parents that they should try to arrive at school on time. I am working with Executive to make posters that I hope will remind parents of this," said Ky.

Moreover, many students that walk to school are also noticing that traffic has become a problem and think the school can change the status-quo to possibly help alleviate congestion.

"I think there is an [overwhelming] amount of traffic on Second Street. [The] administration should think about opening up the Third Street gate so that at least some students can get to school earlier," said senior Nick Tran.

According to Alhambra Traffic Commissioner and AHS parent Adele Andrade-Stadler, parents should consider other ways to get their children to school on time.

"[Parents] should consider dropping off their

children on the corner of Fourth Street and Commonwealth Ave. There always seems to be less congestion there as opposed to Second Street," said Andrade-Stadler.

Andrade-Stadler had one simple piece of advice for all those who are finding it difficult to drop off their children on time due to traffic: Get to school five minutes earlier. You never know, it might just be the only thing to make a difference.

# AHS Produces 13 National Merit Scholars

**VICTORIA GAVIA**  
Co-Copy Editor

Twice a year since 1955, the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) has held scholarship competitions to reward outstanding students. The NMSC is a non-profit organization that awards about 10,500 scholarships to finalists in amounts that start at \$2,500 and range in value.

Two-thirds receive Letters of Commendation, while the remainder move on to the next level. More than half of finalists receive scholarships sponsored by corporations, business organizations, colleges, universities and NMSC funds.

At AHS, 13 seniors qualified as either Commended Scholars or semifinalists.

These seniors include: Commended Scholars Gina Chen, Diana Hang, Brian Lam, Stephanie Wang, Kyle Wong, Melinda Wong, Raymond Yang, and Yalin Zhang and semifinalists Christine He, Rebecca Liao, Yifang Nie, William Seto and Peter Wang. "I'm proud that we were

able to represent AHS as National Merit scholars," said Hang.

To enter, students must meet the following criteria: enrolled as a full-time high school student planning to go to college, a U.S. citizen or having the intention to become one and must have taken the Pre-

**"We want to make sure more students know about the PSAT."**

- Brad Walsh

liminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) during junior year.

The NMSC then establishes a national Selection Index qualifying score to rank students. Principals across the nation are notified of the results and inform students of their standings.

Roughly 200 students, both sophomores and juniors, took the PSAT/NMSQT on Oct. 17, 2009. With these scholarships available, school administrators encourage students to take advantage of the opportunity.

"We'd like to see that number grow [...] we want to make sure more students know about the PSAT, because there is money to be made [and] it's the thing that will qualify you for national merit," said Principal Brad Walsh.

To become finalists, semifinalists must submit exceptional SAT scores and academic records and a teacher recommendation. They must provide applications stating their school courses, grades, extracurricular activities and a personal essay.

To some students the scholarship process was difficult but it is well worth the effort, when the possible achievements are taken into account.

"[A scholarship] would definitely be a great help to take the burden off of my parents," said Seto.



Jacqueline Do *The Moor*

**GETTING PHYSICAL** Senior Alex Castillo sands metal during Auto Tech. Castillo was a participant on "The World's Strictest Parents," after being discovered at a concert.

# AHS Senior Appears on Reality Television Show

**JOHNNY HUYNH**  
Staff Writer

On October 10, 2009, AHS senior Alex Castillo appeared on "The World's Strictest Parents," a reality television show broadcasted on the Country Music Television channel. The show sends rebellious teenagers to stay with another family with the purpose of improving their unruly ways.

The one-hour program was filmed during the summer, after the end of summer school. Castillo was discovered amongst the audience of a concert by one of the show's producers. After signing up, Castillo received a call that told him he was to appear on "The World's Strictest Parents."

However, that wasn't the only reason why producers wanted him to be on the show. He had been charged with a misdemeanor at the time.

After being accepted on the show, Castillo found himself being sent to stay in Bakersfield, California for a week.

According to Castillo, he stayed with an "all-American" sports type of family along with Aja, another guest on the show from Pasadena.

During his stay with the Boltions, his host family, Castillo encountered disciplinary

methods he wasn't exposed to at home. The integration of physical activity—digging holes, push-ups, sports training and yard work—were practices that were part of the disciplinary protocol.

"Well, they made us do push-ups when we got into trouble and dig holes if we got into bigger trouble. [The hardest part] was the yard work and football practices," said Castillo, "[While at home] I didn't have to do any [work]. There wasn't a lot of pressure. It wasn't as strict."

According to Castillo, going through the show was supposed to "take kids out of their

comfort zone and expose them to reality" and make them "realize that it's not as bad at home."

After enduring the dreaded yard work, football practices and the Boltions' structure of discipline, the lessons Castillo gained and experience on the show have had an impact on his world view.

"It was fun. If I could do it all over again, I totally would. It definitely taught me a lot. It was a good learning experience," said Castillo, "It taught me to be more responsible and respectful to my dad. I look ahead [into the future] now, and also think more about college, jobs and life outside of high school."

**"It was fun. If I could do it all over again, I totally would."**

-Alex Castillo

## BEYOND ME Offensive, But Not Illegal

Imagine that when you were walking down the street on Halloween night, you came across someone dressed as, upon first glance, a space alien. However, as they approached, you noticed the orange jumpsuit topped off with the words “illegal alien” and an unusually large green card. Huh? Let’s back track, oh—clearly, this seeks to spoof the stereotype of illegal immigrants.

Naturally, in an ethically aware society like ours, the costume mentioned was met by outrage. In fact, many retailers pulled the costume from their shelves, probably for fear of public backlash rather than genuine concern for peoples’ feelings. The Coalition of Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles was bombarded with angry messages demanding that the costumes be buried and forgotten. Apparently, these people also must want our right to free expression to meet the same fate.

The “illegal alien” costume can technically just be seen as a play on words. C’mon, an actual alien? Yet, if the alien is holding a green card, he’s not even illegal. This is almost subtle irony. Why can’t people just see that aspect and chuckle, at the very least?

Nobody climbs onto a soapbox to whine about all the other costumes that could be interpreted as “offensive.” I can’t help but think there’s a level of hypocrisy in the controversy.

The costume should not be seen as abhorrently attacking the illegal immigrant community, rather it’s the good-old American spirit capitalizing on the latest hot topic. Further, the costume truly reaffirms the power people have under the freedom of expression; and on that note, no, it’s not an abuse of the first amendment.

Bigotry is not the issue here. Just because someone chose to wear this “illegal alien” outfit doesn’t automatically mean they are racist or ignorant. All they did was buy a costume they thought was clever, in the Halloween spirit of course. Isn’t the ever-popular, “sexy-schoolgirl” costume a hit? That’s equally twisted to exploit an outfit young girls wear to school. So, when have we ever let “politically incorrect” stop us from doing anything?

Agreeably, social jabs are nothing to be respected, but the fact that each person can choose to wear an “offensive” costume should be. The bottom line is that this is just a Halloween costume, a joke. When people start demanding recalls on clown costumes, I’ll take off my alien mask.

Stephanie Lee,  
Co-Editor in Chief

## Score Guarantees Become Too Good to be True?

KIMBERLY ONG  
Co-Opinions Editor

As a part of his “trust busting” platform, Theodore Roosevelt attempted to protect the “little people,” preventing companies and coalitions from dominating industries like coal and oil. But emerging along with our young and innocent standardized-test-obsessed generation are the new monopolizing behemoths—SAT preparation companies.

Though the SATs were originally meant to reveal how prepared a student is for college, these classes have reduced the test to mere tricks and formulas. With this trivialization of the test and the overwhelming desire to buffer a lackluster transcript, many are turning to the SAT as their last saving grace—thus the \$4 billion dollars that go into prepping for the test every year.

Kaplan Inc., Princeton Review and ACI—all leviathans of this growing industry. Students may have choices of prep companies, but if prestige and guarantees are their primary concerns, they’re basically limited to these giants of the SAT prep world. In a situation like this, most parents are willing to pay what they can afford in an attempt to secure that “guaranteed” 200-point rise. So, granted a parent pays that extra \$1000 dollars, they’re going to expect more points for their money.

But the issue with these guarantees is not whether or not they’re plausible, but whether or not they’re even valid. According to a recent study commissioned by the National Association for College Admission Coun-



selling (NACAC), coaching for these standardized tests yield marginal results—30 points on average. No matter what the service is—which could range from one-on-one tutoring to a cram class—the average rise in scores remains relatively insignificant.

The problem lies in the fact that there is no hard evidence to support

these claims. And if there is any evidence, it proves that these companies and their services are more or less arbitrary. Thus, some companies have resorted to fabricating information in order to produce favorable results.

John Hechinger of The Wall Street Journal reported that only last year, John Varon, a student at San Francisco’s Lowell High School,

experienced such a suspicious occurrence. Varon took a Revolution Prep mock exam and scored a 2060. A few weeks later, he took the real SAT and achieved a perfect score—without any coaching.

Now, while Revolution Prep advertises the rigor of their mock exams to be close to that of the actual SAT, the 340-point gap in Varon’s scores

## Merit Pay: Don’t Fill in That Bubble!

As students, we dedicate our time to endless tests and homework. We complain constantly about our teachers who never seem to relent when it comes to torturing us. But what if teachers were at our mercy?

We’ve become so focused on our own shameless desires that we never think about what impact we make on teachers. Teachers are paid based on their years of experience, credits and their own level of education, but what if their salary became dependent on the success of ordinary teens like us? The Moor staff takes a deeper look into what happens if teachers were paid based on our academic performance.

The idea of merit pay is not new to the American school system, which has been faltering for quite some time. Merit pay has been proposed in the past to certain schools, but not with favorable reactions. With education reform constantly looming, the first factor many people look towards is definitely educators, those who mold our children into “our future.”

It seems like determining their teacher’s salary is a lot of pressure to place upon students, but people believe merit pay can serve as an incentive to force teachers to work harder

and more efficiently. Bonuses can be awarded to those who perform their jobs well, or in this case, if their students perform better, especially on tests. Others feel that it distinguishes the dedicated teachers from the teachers who simply don’t care.

Merit pay may sound like an efficient system, but it might turn out to be just the opposite. Teachers have influence over their students, but they have no control over factors that may affect a student’s grades and academic life. Whether or not teachers are dedicated, students are the only ones who determine their success in the classroom. Laziness, bad behavior or family problems cannot be considered as excuses and it is in no way the teacher’s responsibility to straighten the student out or attempt to change the environment in which the student lives. In addition, if the student wants to succeed, he or she could find outside help, such as tutors, parents

or friends. In that case, teachers cannot be the ones who take credit for their outstanding performance. The countless factors that determine success or failure make it unreasonable to say that teachers should be paid more or less because of their students and their academic performance.

Merit pay also brings up the question of what exactly a teacher’s job entails.

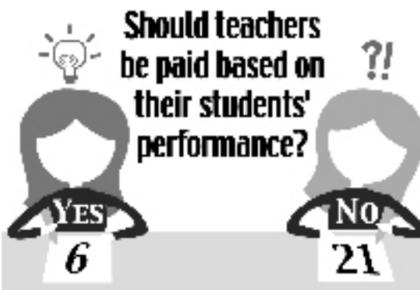
Though they are seen to have the responsibility of engaging students, it is not necessarily their fault if they cannot successfully do so. Their job should only require them to effectively present information to students. A teacher’s salary shouldn’t be based on someone’s desire or disregard for learning. Aside from that, a teacher’s effort cannot be measured by how much time he or she spends with students.

The system of assessing student performance is also questionable.

Measurements like tests that show how much students improve or decline in their scores may prove arbitrary. Many think that this method is too subjective in discriminating between worthy and incompetent teachers. By paying teachers based on students and their ability to improve and absorb information, a student’s responsibility is reduced because they are no longer the ones to be blamed for their poor performance.

Arbitrary measurements taken to evaluate a teacher raises awareness of how our society has become obsessed with testing. When there are already numerous critical tests to take throughout a student’s life, adding scores as a factor in their teacher’s paycheck can create more problems than solutions. If it became the determining factor for a teacher’s modest salary, teachers may subject themselves and their students to unreasonable pressures to get the pay him or her feel they deserve.

Though the ideal of merit pay may seem to be efficient and useful, the practice of it does not sound to be promising. Because it is unfair to both students and teachers, merit pay is definitely not the test bubble to choose.



leaves a few things unexplained. For one, why was the mock exam so much more difficult? And how can they validate the immense difference in scores? Furthermore, how can they account for the fact that 15 of Varon’s classmates also experienced similar testing inconsistencies?

Some might excuse and reconcile these discrepancies by offering the suggestion that SAT preparation companies might just be encouraging students to work harder. “They just want you to do your best,” some might say. But the motives of self-interest are rather overwhelming. For a single set of classes, a company may charge anywhere from \$800 to \$1500 dollars per student. And that doesn’t even bring to mind the cost of a single hour of individual tutoring.

While it’d be nice to believe that we live in a world where anyone can be a desperate and unsuspecting innocent without fearing for their wallets, such optimism is impossible. As long as easy prey like the frantically naïve exist, so will the predators that prey upon them. These particular individuals create their devious plans of exploitation, not caring as to whether or not their victims can or can’t afford to fall into their trap.

So is there a solution? Only a practical one. If a student is looking for something to boost his SAT score, then he shouldn’t be sifting through his wallet for money that may not be there. There’s nothing wrong with practicing on your own or with a cheaper local SAT class. Your degree of success depends on your level of motivation—and maybe \$25 dollars for that SAT practice book.

## Tweetin’ Becomes the New Calling

DAISY PROM  
Staff Writer

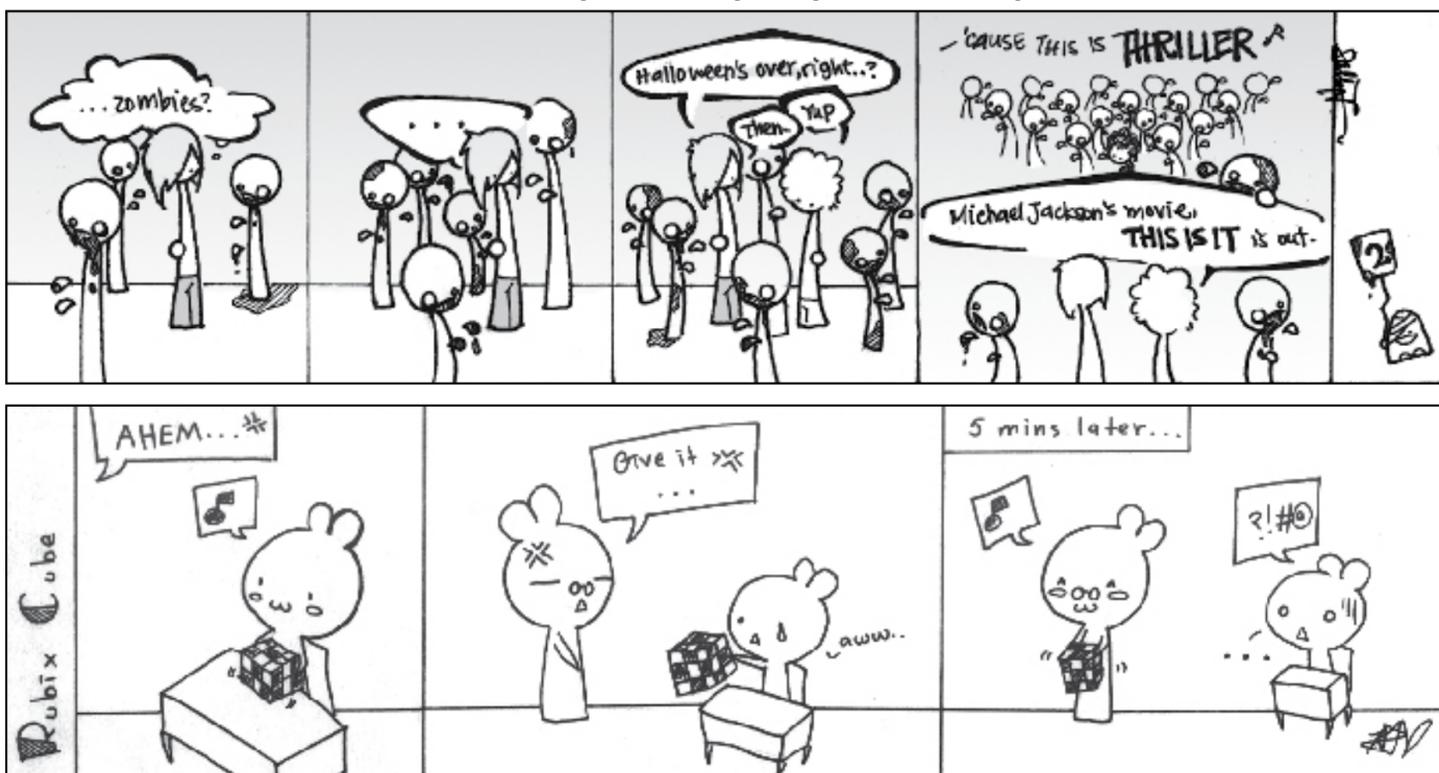
“Megan Fox getting Millions for Underwear Ads;” “Balloon Boy is Hoax;” “I’m having dinner right now;” “I’m out shopping;” “I’m so bored.” Now you, too, can have your every movement headlined. With Twitter, you and the LA Times can be one and the same. Sort of.

Twitter Inc. was founded to help friends and family stay connected by asking one, common question, “What are you doing?”—though the original intention has not been done justice. A Tweet can be as generic as the user desires; it just has to meet the 140-character limit.

But why share? It seems that users everywhere want to share every minute detail of their lives, right down to what they had for breakfast, how their daily work-outs are going, or perhaps even how their paranoia convinces them that the dollar bill is a conspiracy. If you need a place to share your unsought opinion, consider Twitter your new home.

The best part is that your three followers can respond with intelligent comments, like “lol.” The appeal of being able to broadcast one’s uncensored thoughts at any time of the day has been abused to the point of annoyance. It seems as if millions of Twitter-users all over the nation believe that this site makes people care about their mundane lives.

The sudden urge to announce every action is probably the longing to be a part of something bigger than ourselves. In the midst of 6 billion others, Twitter presents the perfect opportunity to grasp that attention we’ve been seeking. It’s the closest to feeling as important as a celebrity; the only difference between you and them is that people actually read their Tweets. Though some may cite the First Amendment and the rights of free speech, there’s the possibility that such a right can be exploited. After all, free expression and a desperate cry for attention are two completely different things.



# FEATURES



## Now Playing... Back to the Future

Looking back in time on our school's most defining moments

It's the same routine every morning—stumble out of bed, groggily get dressed and slowly prepare for yet another school day. As students make their way to the school steps, they hear a trolley rattling slowly along its old noisy tracks. It's the year 1905 and since then, things have changed dramatically.

Since 1898, our school has undergone many different transformations. It has been renovated, rebuilt and even relocated five times, mainly to accommodate the increasing amount of students enrolling. In 1996, AHS was relocated for the fifth time to our current location on Second Street. Another change our school has been through is the adaptation from lavender and white to blue and gold as our school colors. This change was enacted because the previous colors were easily stained when worn by students.

Whether it's the year 1909 or 2009, AHS still stands for the same reasons—to teach, inspire and motivate students into becoming well-rounded and even extraordinary people after graduation.

By Co-Features Editor  
Karolina Zydziak

## A Glance Into the Past

The self-proclaimed “Forty Niners” of Alhambra and most people in the Los Angeles area were excited to have experienced the city's first recorded snowfall—one of only a couple occurrences in the past sixty years. This was so legendary that the picture of the first snowfall hangs on the walls of many local diners. Sixty years ago, the idea of a student government was an exciting and new concept for students and teachers. Our student legislature, which we now proudly recognize, was in its first “experimental” phase in 1949. One of AHS' main focuses was on it's clubs. In fact, a special dismissal time was given on days when club meetings were held. The AHS Class of '49 recently organized a reunion, which was held on Oct. 17.

1949

As we flip through the worn and aged pages of *The Alhambrian* yearbook, we can't help but laugh at the “vintage” clothes that students wore and the giant typewriters that sat on the desks of *The Moor's* staff writers. The world that they lived in is nearly impossible for us to imagine—it was so different from the way we live our lives now. In a society where we are entirely dependent upon technology, it is hard to comprehend that in 1967, people around the world would not experience a color TV broadcast for another 13 years. To put the year in perspective, flipped out “Brady Bunch” haircuts were the latest trend that graced the pages of the yearbook and paying anything over \$3,000 for a new car was ridiculous—a price that is only nine percent of the average cost now. Girls wore conservative floor-length dresses to the Homecoming dance, an event that had been around since 1948. Also, AHS was fortunate enough to take in an exchange student from South Africa in '67.

By Co-Features Editor  
Lindsay Croon

1967

Benjamin D. Wilson of Tennessee purchases the land that will eventually become Alhambra

Alhambra High School is built, accommodating only 20 students

Only 16 credits are needed to graduate (each year-long class earned one credit)

AHS is relocated to Main Street

Girls' League is formed in order to help organize student activities

School colors change from lavender and white to blue and gold

AHS relocated again to Main Street location

Longfellow's Club organized for boys who were over 6 feet tall

“Vice Versa” dance, girls would dress as the boy and pay admission, while boys were to come dressed as girls and wouldn't be admitted unless dressed to the fullest extent

1874 1898 1903 1905 1916 1920 1924 1927 1930s-40s

1932 1939 1943 1950 1955 1964 1996 2009

Fox terrier, Spot attended AHS for 3 and 1/2 years and was to graduate with his owner Leo Bulick

The Alhambrian yearbook cost \$1.50; students become involved in war aid and many serve the country

Sundial in Quad is dedicated to students who served in WWII

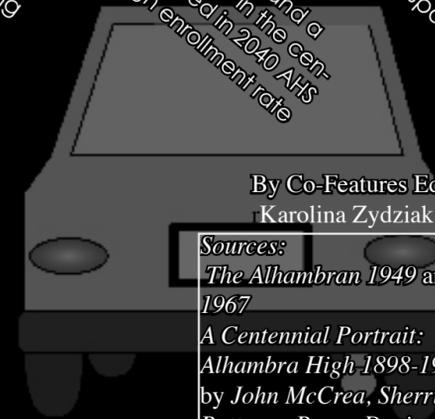
“Vice Versa” dance changed to the “My Girl Friday” dance without the dressing boys would buy a ticket for 35 cents and choose one girl to hold his books for a period

Rebuilt for the fourth time facing Second Street

Girls' League, organized by Girls' League, boys would buy a ticket for 35 cents and choose one girl to hold his books for a period

Time capsule containing items and a video from that year is buried in the central Quad and to be opened in 2040 AHS is expanded due to high enrollment rate

Celebrating 111 years of Moor's Pride and The Moor Newspaper's 100th birthday!



By Co-Features Editor  
Karolina Zydziak

Sources:  
*The Alhambrian* 1949 and 1967  
*A Centennial Portrait: Alhambra High 1898-1998* by John McCrea, Sherri Botteger, Penny Davis

MOORGraphics by Gina Chen, Kelly Ly

**The MOOR** 101 South Second Street, Alhambra, CA 91801  
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 Room 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 his/her 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 by adviser for content and journalism standards but edited by staff.

**Editors in Chief** Stephanie Lee, Yvonne Lee  
**News Editors** Yifang Nie, Alan Tam  
**Opinions Editors** Emily Kong, Kimberly Ong  
**Features Editors** Lindsay Croon, Karolina Zydziak  
**Sports Editors** Victor Huang, Vincent Lin  
**Copy Editors** Victoria Gavia, James Ho  
**Graphics Editors** Gina Chen, Kelly Ly  
**Head Cartoonist** Nicole Solis  
**Photo Editors** Jacqueline Do, Brian Hua

**Business Manager** Shannon Ho  
**Staff Liaison** Sally Tran  
**Staff Writers** Catherine Chiang, Angelyne Chu, Johnny Huynh, Joyce Lam, Shannon Li, Anthony Perez, Daisy Prom, Sally Tran  
**Cartoonists** Kayla Du, Karen Lai, Sally Tran  
**Journalism Adviser** Mr. Padilla

# Budget Leaves AHS Sports with Bare Minimum

■ *With cuts in both the district pay and the ASB fund, the AHS Athletics Department leaves teams to fundraise for their own supplies*

VINCENT LIN  
Co-Sports Editor

As California schools remain in the tight grip of the state budget, the departments within each school struggle to cope with their own budgets. The AHS Athletics Department is a prime example of the severity of these cuts and the difficulties that come with them. For years, the department has fought to keep alive the valued sports among the Alhambra community. This school year, AHS is going through another struggle to manage the basic necessities for Alhambra sports to survive.

To clarify exactly how budget cuts work, the Athletics Department is funded by two main sources— district pay and ASB fund.

The district pay is what is lowered by the state— a set amount of money, which has been gradually diminishing throughout the years. It is used to pay for all sports equipment, including gear, balls, uniforms and basically whatever is needed for the teams to function.

The ASB fund is what is raised by the school to supply the school's organizations, including sports. Therefore, the Athletics Department's hope lies in the student-generated ASB fund, which the department uses to keep games running. It pays for game officials, tournament fees, Almont League dues, awards and more. The district pay, however, has been cut so significantly that some of the ASB funds are being used to buy equipment, which is still in a deficit.

"We've been cut drastically from

district equipment," said Athletics Director Lou Torres. Torres manages the Athletics Department finances by gathering the basic needs for teams as requested by their coaches, then presenting it to the district to see if they can afford them.

The serious lack of supplies is evident by the fact that the department can no longer afford any uniforms for the teams. All uniforms are currently being fundraised for by the teams themselves.

Also, if a team reaches a certain point where it cannot purchase enough equipment, it will not be able to keep as many players. This applies mainly to large teams, such as football, which require a lot of safety gear and other equipment specific to the sport.

Some coaches even need to buy extra equipment and consider paying for tournaments by themselves. Nevertheless, according to Torres, the coaches are not angry, complaining or arguing. They have been dealing with the cuts for years and understand that it is a state-wide problem that calls for such strict funding.

All the Athletics Department can do is support their coaches in fundraising and encourage the purchase of ASB cards. The more money that is deposited into the ASB fund, the more it can be distributed to sports and other organizations. The Athletics Department and, according to Torres, the district does not want to see any sports go from AHS.

"The district does not want to cut any teams ... Myself and all coaches will find a way to keep sports," said Torres.



**SERVING THE VICTORY:** Volleyer Nancy Vong gets in position as her doubles partner Tiffany Lin serves in their victorious Oct. 20 home game against the Montebello Oilers, contributing to their current third place in the Almont League season.

BRIAN HUA *The Moor*

## Girls' Tennis Strives To Break Second in League

VICTOR HUANG  
Co-Sports Editor

The girls' varsity tennis team is slowly ascending towards a hopeful season, as evident by their solid progress. With a few minor corrections and a positive attitude, the Lady Moors have the potential to turn the tables around, from an unsatisfactory third place in Almont League last year to their goal of placing at least second and competing in the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) this year.

Although the girls suffered some losses early in their season, they have used them to their advantage.

"We need to work on our self-

esteem. It fluctuates; sometimes we condemn ourselves for losing, while other times, we battle through," said Captain Kimmy Tsai.

According to Tsai, there were times when the team's self-esteem dropped because of their losses. However, once the team is able to find their momentum, they build upon it and eventually come out victorious.

"Sometimes we would enter a game and have a defeated mind-

set, while other times we will battle through to the very end," said sophomore doubles player Nancy Ng.

Head Coach Bill Yee believes that the girls have the tenacity and the potential to do well, but in order to truly be successful on the court, they would have to persevere through to the finish.

Although the Lady Moors lost to Schurr 8-10, they came back the second time and defeated them 11-7. This is a clear example of what

girls' tennis is capable of.

The Lady Moors currently stand third in League, but they are not satisfied with finishing in the same place as they did last year. Their goal now is to defeat their final opponents at San Gabriel and Mark Keppel to secure second place and advance to the CIF playoffs.

"We have a really good chance to advance to CIF," said Ng.

With former Head Coach Jeff Levie out due to family affairs, Coach Yee has stepped up to fill his shoes. The girls are still adapting to their new coach and a couple of new players, but each game is a new learning experience that advances the team one step closer to their goal.

**"Sometimes we condemn ourselves for losing, while other times, we battle through."**

— Kimmy Tsai

## Mid-Season Roadblock for JV Girls' Volleyball

JAMES HO  
Co-Copy Editor

The JV girls' volleyball team played their fourth Almont League game against Schurr High on Oct. 15. With both sets seeing heated volleys throughout the ticking of the clock, the girls lost the match with scores of 19-25 and 22-25.

The first set began with Schurr High scoring six points in succession. Then, back and forth scoring ended with both sides gaining points. But the six point lead attained by Schurr in the opening minutes kept the girls from gaining much of an advantage.

During the middle of the set, the girls reversed their luck and were able to squeeze into the lead after scoring eight points in quick succession with help from Diana Le and setter Chloe Lee. During the rest of the set, however, the opposing team slowly caught up and after a four-point series of points, the set ended in favor of the Spartans.

The scoring seen during the final set was more irregular as both teams scored successive points throughout. The girls managed a tight game in this set and scored one to two more points for every point the Spartans made. However, a series of tense volleys near the end of the set resulted in a very close score of 22-25. The Lady Moors accepted the bitter defeat.

Before coming to AHS and joining the volleyball team, Team Captain Gabriella Rodgers attended Schurr High.

**"Our passing was a problem and their spikes would fall right in between us."**

— Gabriella Rodgers

"I used to go to Schurr and that made me really want to win this game. But our passing was a problem and their spikes would fall right in between us," said Rodgers.

To prepare for future games, Rodgers plans for the team to focus on talking and scrambling drills to improve communication between players during matches. With over half of this year's season to go, the JV team aspires to place within the top four schools in League.

## JV SPORTS BRIEFS

### Boys' Water Polo Struggles With Keppel Rivals

Coming from last year's losing season, the JV boys' water polo team is looking to recover, but only to find themselves disadvantaged.

Following the Oct. 13 scrimmage with Mark Keppel, the team faced off with their rivals yet again on Oct. 14. Although the boys scored two goals in the first quarter, the Aztecs quickly overtook them. Despite the best efforts of the team, the game ended with a 2-12 loss. With the Oct. 13 game resulting in a similar score of 3-13, it is evident that AHS is at a drawback when competing with Mark Keppel.

The Aztecs have the advantage of numbers; the Moors, with only seven players, must play without substitutions or rest. Because of this shortcoming, stamina is crucial. Along with this shortage, over half the team is inexperienced.

"[The team must] learn how to ease our energy and not waste it, and [improve] overall water polo knowledge," said JV coach Nathan Duran.

Amidst their weaknesses, the team had some moments of strength. They had a strong defense, and were often in the position to score. According to Duran, there are strong shooters on the team, but the big problem is getting the ball to those players, as well as being smart about their shots.

However, the team's defeat, while disappointing, is still a learning experience, especially for the first year players.

"I hope we can learn from our mistakes and not make the same ones time over time," said Duran.

by Catherine Chiang  
Staff Writer

### Cross Country Determined to Win League

Nearly two months into a new season, the JV cross country team is looking forward to the rest of their meets. With only a few weeks left before the Almont League championships, the team has rigorous training to go through.

According to Head Coach Steve Morales, this year's team has been improving, despite a few injuries among the runners, which include shin splints, stomach muscle strains, and some minor flu and colds. Shin splints could slow down training if the injuries are severe.

Part of the team's improvement is attributed to their coach, who runs with the team to motivate them. Morales strives to help the team be more confident, as well as utilize their practices in their races.

"[As a team,] we just have to practice more and stick together as

a team more often," said JV second rank Michael Valdez.

Furthermore, this year's players want to show everyone what they can achieve with Morales' main goal: winning League championship in all divisions. The team had a meet on Oct. 21 with the girls ranking third and the boys ranking second. Because the team still ranked the same during their first meet, they have a lot to work on.

According to Morales, although there were good individual times, there was not enough team spirit, confidence and potential overall.

"Although there is a lot to improve on, this year's team has the most depth out of all the other years that I've trained with," said Morales.

by Angelyne Chu  
Staff Writer



JACQUELINE DO *The Moor*

**DETERMINATION:** JV runners continue to keep up with the rigorous practices to condition for their upcoming Almont League finals.

**55 YEARS**  
1951 - 2006

**The Hat**  
Since 1951

**WORLD FAMOUS PASTRAMI**  
Burgers • Dogs • Chili

**Rancho Cucamonga**  
Foothill & 15 Freeway

<b>Temple City</b> Rosemead & Broadway	<b>Pasadena</b> Lake & Villa	<b>Upland</b> 11th & Central
<b>Glendora</b> Route 66 & Grand	<b>Simi Valley</b> Los Angeles & Williams	<b>Monterey Park</b> Atlantic & Riggin
<b>Lake Forest</b> Lake Forest & Rockfield	<b>Alhambra</b> Garfield & Valley	<b>Brea</b> Imperial & State College

**Free Drink**  
with Burger Special  
1/4 lb. Burger & Fries  
\$3.99

*Cafe*  
on 2nd

7 S. Second St.  
Alhambra, CA 91801  
(626) 284-1292