

THE MOOR



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HITTING THE BOOKS: Students work in the library during lunchtime. Open every day during lunch, as well as after school until 3:15 pm, the library invites students to go in to check out a book or work on homework.

JACQUELINE DO *The Moor*

Buddy Dinner Relieves Finals Stress

VICTORIA GAVIA

Co-Copy Editor

Since the founding of Boys' Fed, it has become an AHS tradition for the club to host their annual Buddy Dinner.

This is the main dance that Boys' Fed has become known for—just as Girls' League usually hosts Winter Ball.

This year, Buddy Dinner will be held at the Pasadena Masonic Center on Jan. 29.

According to junior Boys' Fed member Oscar Wong, because it lands on this particular day, the Friday after finals, it is the perfect date. Wong added that Buddy Dinner tends to have a friendlier atmosphere than most other formal dances.

This is partly because Boys' Fed always tries to incorporate a friend-related theme each year, this

year's being "Times Like These."

The dance's colors include midnight blue and moonlight silver.

One of the most appealing aspects of Buddy Dinner is the opportunity to go with more than one person, but rather with a group of friends.

"A date is optional. Many students love to just go with friends and not feel different because they don't have

a date," said Wong. "The dance includes a night of dancing and great food complete [with] dinner, desserts and drinks."

Ticket prices are as follows: seniors with ASB and without are \$18 and \$22 respectively. While under-

classmen prices with ASB and without are \$20 and \$25 respectively.

In addition, on Jan. 21 and 22 Boys' Fed will be hosting games on the quad that students can participate in to win prizes, which will be various discounts on ticket prices.

However, Boys' Fed President, senior Ashley Wong, did mention that they would like to keep the prices

similar to last year's and as affordable as possible.

She also enjoys attending the dance for reasons that most students can relate to.

"Buddy Dinner is appealing because after the stress of studying

and tests, students can come to relax and have fun at the dance. The food is awesome, the music is always good, and the atmosphere of the dance is something that appeals to every student—whether they are in a romantic relationship or not," said Ashley Wong.

Beginning last summer, members started exploring different kinds of fundraising ideas. This involved attending several T.V. tapings.

They have also done several candy fundraisers, including AirHead strawberry rolls and Pocky, in order to cut costs and encourage ticket sales.

Students look forward to this annual dance as more of a casual gathering.

"This year I look forward to having a good time and making memories for senior year," said senior Bryanna Rodriguez.

Prep Classes Popular Despite Recession

■ SAT, ACT prep no longer a trend among just high school students

STEPHANIE LEE
Co-Editor-in-Chief

More and more, academic competition plagues students' lives. In the seemingly endless journey to college acceptance, parents equip their children with any available resources—regardless of the price. SAT, ACT and PSAT classes are big business. These courses are offered to help teenagers not only meet but exceed the average scores of major aptitude tests. Recently, these classes have become popular among toddlers.

Young children, three to four years old, are the latest demographic for these additional tutoring classes. In New York City, anxious parents enroll their students at institutions like Bright Kids NYC, which charge up to \$145 per session. Rather than college admissions, the pressure here is to increase their child's chance

of being placed in a "prestigious public kindergarten."

Some claim that the failing economy is the reason these courses are worthwhile; though the total costs can sum up to over \$1000, it is still significantly cheaper than paying for private school tuition. Hence, parents are adamant about their children attending a public school that will provide them with the best education.

The UC system announced plans to increase tuition rates by 32 percent for the coming school year, in addition to the nearly 10 percent decrease in the number of students accepted. Subsequently, many seniors are realizing the importance of remaining competitive.

"Selectivity is fiercer because public colleges are more inclined to choose

out-of-state students who are willing to pay more than a native student, so I think people take these classes to make sure their score is higher than other applicants. It improves their chance of getting one of the few spots," said senior Brian E. Lam.

Though private kindergartens generally disapprove of these extracurricular courses, college institutions are more accepting because preparation has become somewhat of the norm for many high school students. However, students here at AHS feel that the courses give an unfair advantage to those whose parents can afford the tuition.

"These classes allow students who can pay the 1000 dollars to simply memorize information while others have to work harder to study; sometimes they perform worse just because they didn't have the luxury of extra tutoring," said senior William J. Tran.

While some pose arguments against the validity and integrity of these classes, others feel that if help is attainable, then a student should definitely seize the opportunity.

"I have more confidence when I'm entering the testing room because I know that my score will be improved," said senior Kimberly Lin, who saw a 300 point increase in her score after taking 10 preparation sessions.

As long as college admissions continue to become more selective each year, many will opt for extra help and the SAT and ACT classes will thrive. However, it is imperative that students understand that test scores are only one of many factors colleges will consider when making decisions about admissions.

"It improves their chance of getting one of the few spots."

-Brian E. Lam

PROM AROUND THE WORLD

\$464 average cost of attending Prom in Britain

\$1,330

average amount females spend for Prom in Australia

\$840

average amount males spend for Prom in Australia

\$530

average amount females spend for Prom in USA

\$545

average amount males spend for Prom in USA

\$1000+

average cost of attending Prom in USA

NEWS

Ravis Provides Internship Opportunities

In addition to the many clubs available on campus, Ravis Internship Club is a new arrival this year. Although created only recently, the club is looking forward to accepting new members who are interested in gaining work experience and hands-on training.

Its purpose is to provide members with various internship opportunities. They are starting out by collaborating with non-profit organizations, but anticipate the inclusion of a wider range of opportunities, including areas in health, law and human rights.

"We give opportunities for students to

gain experience in the working world. [They] will be able to involve themselves in organizations and collaborate with employees to really make an impact," said President and Co-Founder Regin Wu.

Ravis is organized similar to a service club, with one exception. A recommended amount of hours is preferred, but members are not obligated to fulfill a requirement.

"[We] felt that people going into service clubs weren't doing real service, where the goal is to 'get hours.' With us, we don't have an hour requirement," said Secretary and Co-Founder Vincent Luong. "We want our members [to do] their internship for the benefit of themselves and those they help."

Johnny Huynh, Staff Writer

Student Found with Two Guns at MKHS

On Jan. 6, a Mark Keppel student was found to be in possession of two guns, one of which was loaded.

According to Deputy Superintendent Harold Standerfer, during a routine drug search performed by dogs, similar to the ones here at AHS, an assistant principal noticed that one of the students was behaving suspiciously.

"When they looked inside [his backpack], they saw what appeared to be a gun," said Standerfer. The gun turned out to be unloaded.

The student, a junior, was taken in for additional questioning, where it was

discovered that he had another gun on him, this one loaded. Afterwards, he was taken into custody, while police officers searched his home in Monterey Park.

When asked where he is now, Standerfer stated that the student is now in juvenile hall. Because he was found in possession of a firearm, he faces automatic expulsion for one calendar year.

As for Mark Keppel High, six police officers from the Alhambra Police Department are now stationed on campus, as well as a number of canines.

There are also a number of police officers covering the investigation on why he had a gun in the first place, said Standerfer.

Yifang Nie, Co-News Editor

IN OTHER NEWS

New laws passed for 2010...

allow Californian school districts to use textbook money to buy electronic-reading devices

allow 17-year-old Californian residents to pre-register to vote

makes it a misdemeanor to have a razor blade or box cutter on school grounds



OPINIONS

Keeping Up With Our Own Reality...Sort of

DAISY PROM
Staff Writer

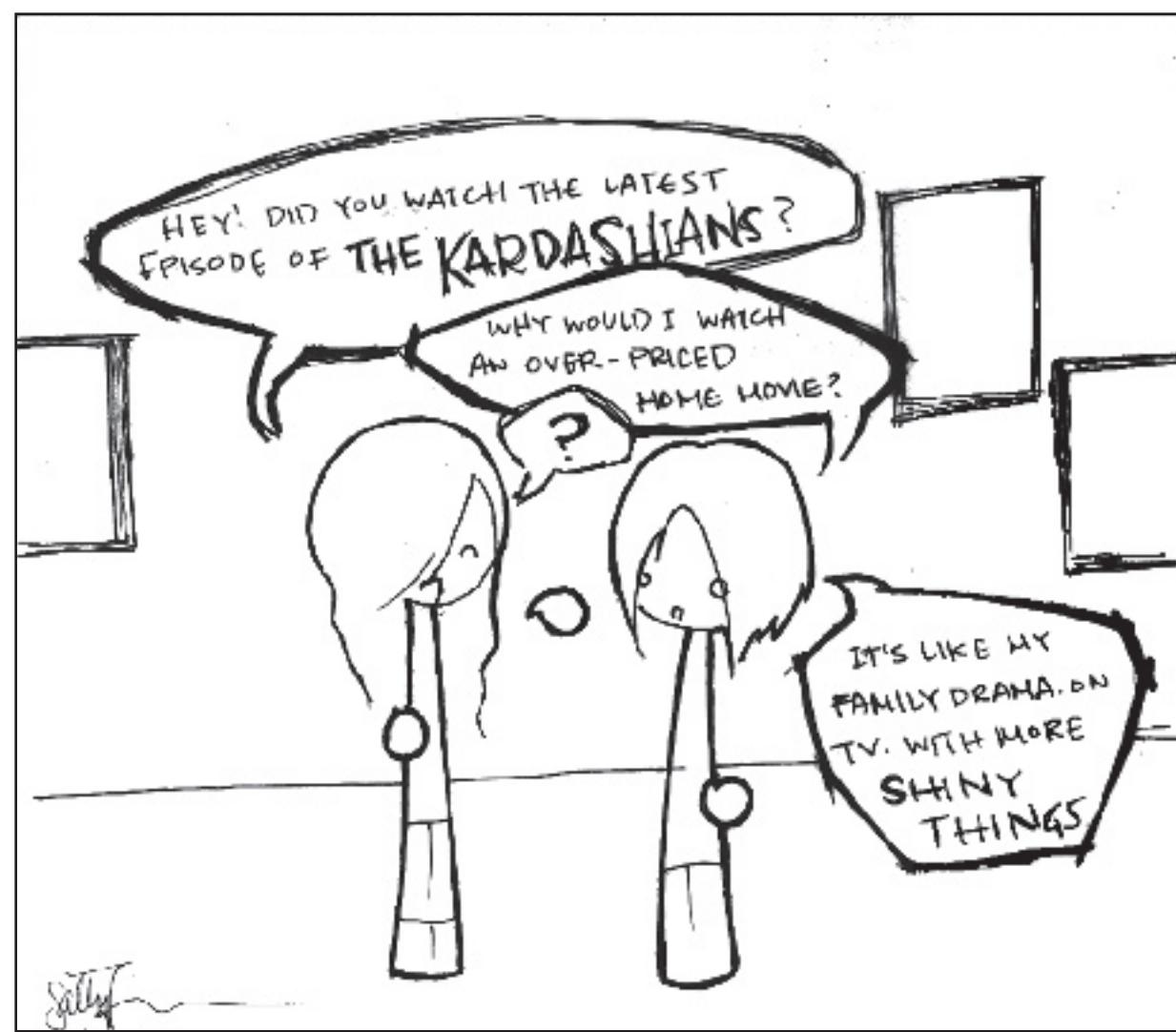
Not too long ago, Ryan Seacrest launched a reality TV show titled "Keeping Up with the Kardashians," a serial about bickering siblings. The end. Oh, and one of them makes a sex tape. The part with the bickering siblings sounds just like any other average household. Expectations for the season finale are overly extravagant, as displayed on E! Entertainment in flashy commercials.

Reality TV shows; the oxymoronic idea that the things you see on TV are really what they seem to be. It's funny how we hope to find someone else's reality just by watching an electronic screen. We define the facts of life from a televised broadcast without at all questioning its validity.

Some of these shows are inspiring, such as "The Biggest Loser," an extreme weight loss show; or "The Bachelorette," the journey that shows true love can be found within one season. It's understandable why these types of galvanizing shows would attract such a large fan base.

However, some of the things we find on television are nothing more than just another attempt by TV station executives to milk the cash cow—and it works.

Meet the Kardashians. We're not so sure why they are so famous, or even why they deserve a TV program, but the camera loves them, and so do we. Empty plot lines and the poor values are what attracts new fans, the ones that are absorbing these very values into the next generation. Gosh, how we just can't get enough of those



poor values.

The Kardashians can be summed up in a few, simple words: cheap rip-offs of the Hiltons. The three spoiled heiresses' images have been pretty much marketed by their own mother, but the money gained from it keeps them from objecting.

Not only does this encourage a promiscuous quality among young

teens that may be watching the show, but it also showcases poor parenting skills. The parents in the series allow for no boundaries when it comes to discipline, even assenting them to install stripper poles in their bedrooms. Speaking of faulty parental control, shame on the parents who allow their kids to watch a show of this quality. Scenes throughout the series are

typical situations that many teenaged girls find themselves in. Worrying about what to wear, how much we weigh and all that good stuff are just everyday affairs that we go through. It may not be scientifically proven yet, but it's plausible to assume that witnessing so much melodrama makes the people viewing it more melodramatic themselves in

Besides, what kind of reality can you expect from people standing in front of a camera? People tend to magically take on their inner-actors when they know there's an audience to impress.

What is labeled 'reality' is a lie. This genre itself has been given the reputation of a continuity of lies because of its lack of actuality and relevance to the common people. What we are taking in is not factual at all, but we are being told quite the opposite. If I wanted to watch a drama, I wouldn't have asked for a reality TV show.

Entertainment comes in many forms, relieving viewers of their stressful and possibly mundane lives. The display of someone else on TV who is distressed about how flat her hair is doesn't quite fulfill that intention. No, seeing the spoiled Kardashians go on an overpriced shopping spree doesn't seem to be the recommended dose to alleviate the hardships one tries to escape by ending their day with some carefree TV.

Sometimes, the things we find on TV are so similar to our own lives, it's scary. We watch ourselves on television when the simpler alternative would be to turn it off and look around.

You can't possibly gain anything from watching something you observe everyday in the form of a broadcasting program. Especially if we're supposed to lose brain cells at a faster rate while spending quality time with the telly. Our reality may include television, but television is definitely of our reality, regardless of the genre's name.

MOO POINT
Dance
Your
Pocket Off!

Together they flock, primping and preening, their ornate plumage making each one of them shine almost as furiously as the fluorescent bathroom lights above them. Yes, ladies. This is every single one of you.

Well, maybe not all. But the aforementioned scene does describe those of you who are at the center of that excited buzz when another Winter Ball, Buddy Dinner or Prom is announced. Dresses are purchased, make-up applied, hair arranged and limousine rides set. And, with each added expense, the bills are piled up almost as tall as your hair-sprayed heads.

Vanity, it seems, is the only thing that determinedly and persistently continues to exist—recession or not.

As of yet, the two industries that are proving themselves to be the most recession-proof are the wedding and school formal companies. At this point, why even make the distinction? Not when teenaged drama queens are

becoming more like bridezillas with each passing extravagant year, insisting on limousines, elaborate dresses, photo-ops and banquet halls at the Hilton.

Long gone are the days when a nice gymnasium would've been perfect along with the right amount of school spirit and a good decorating committee. But no. Gym lighting would do horrors for the modern prom-goer's spray-on complexion and five layers of concealer. So we compromise and sacrifice for the sake of pleasing those enraptured by gaudy venues and five-star dinners.

And now, the extravagance has bled into the very principle of formals themselves. Granted, the practice of this whole shindig is bound to be glitzy and glamorous. But, with the media's overwhelming influence over our perception of social conventions, we are all—not just the females among us—pressured into adhering to the rules that dictate these glorified orgies. Do you really need a giant room, a new dress and a dinner buffet to rub up on your date?

At the end of the night, when your feet are blistered and your hair is greasy, you really have to wonder if it was all worth it. You had five or six hours of "fun" in a stuffy room and all you have to show for it is an empty wallet.

It is times like these that we find eco-friendly advice especially useful. But not that "all organic" or "biodegradable" nonsense. Girls—and fashion-forward guys—for the sake of your pockets, please reduce, reuse and recycle.

Kimberly Ong,
Co-Opinions Editor

I Guess You're Not So Smooth After All

YVONNE LEE
Co-Editor in Chief

You see a friend walking in the hallway and you wave to them. They don't see you. You try to play it off, running your fingers through your hair, hoping that no one noticed your failed attempt. It's situations like these that make many feel uneasy, like myself. I mean, what's more uncomfortable than realizing the person you were waving at is "waving" to the "person" behind you?

Then there are the cases where you come across a friend while they're with someone unfamiliar. Your friend doesn't introduce you two, which usually leads to both of you awkwardly smiling at each other or avoiding eye contact altogether. Or if you're like me and can't remember someone's name or on several occasions find yourself calling people by the wrong name, you'd know that this could be one of the most embarrassing scenarios possible. After humiliating yourself, a crimson blush usually forms and apologies are made. Amongst these are many other situations we all have experienced that make us feel uneasy and give us an urge to flee the vicinities immediately.

The situations we experience daily show our underlying sensitivity and yearning for acceptance from our peers. As humans, we are so concerned with our image that every social scenario can potentially bring forth another distressing circumstance that makes us wish we could take back whatever stupid gesture or comment we made.

Even in awkward moments, we feel the need to point it out, reasoning it's better to call it out yourself than have someone catch it and laugh at your expense. It's the same with people who need to address an uncomfortable environment by proclaiming "Awkward!" before anything was even awkward in the first place.

The solution? There is none. Human nature ensures that we will always be challenged socially, no matter how smooth we think we are.

An Hour Just Might Change Your World

Five. Four. Three. Two. One. B-R-R-R-INNNNNNGGGGG.

"Get up!"
"Five minutes!"
"No! Now!"
"Ugh."

Doesn't that dialogue sound all too familiar? It seems as if we said those exact words this morning as if we just pulled our sluggish bodies out of our beds and began to get dressed. As we

get ready for a new day, we constantly think about just how great it would be if we could have an extra hour. But what if that actually came true? What would happen if we started school later? Would it make us any more efficient?

At least 80 school districts in the United States have delayed their high school start time. In addition to that, more and more school districts are currently considering whether or not this change can benefit their students and help them for the better.

Obviously, many students are in favor of this change, simply for the extra time we could sleep in before we start another exhausting school day. However, those who are against the policy believe that we would get the same amount of sleep regardless of

being able to go to school forty minutes later, some suggest, would only lead to more procrastination. It shouldn't matter what time school starts—it depends on whether or not we can prioritize our time wisely and go to bed earlier in order to be ready for the next day.

The time we are given would ultimately be a waste because we would not take advantage of it by resting up or completing more homework.

Those who oppose delaying our start times argue that whether or not our

times change, there will still be only 24 hours in a day.

Although it may seem as if starting school later would not benefit us at all, a majority of *The Moor* believes that having that extra time in the morning would help rather than harm us. Because students perceive that we have more time, students automatically

feel they have more time to work with. It has been proven that students feel better and perform better if they get more

sleep. Sleep has also been known to boost our immune systems. If we knew that we could have a little more time to sleep, we could prevent sickness and become more alert during first period.

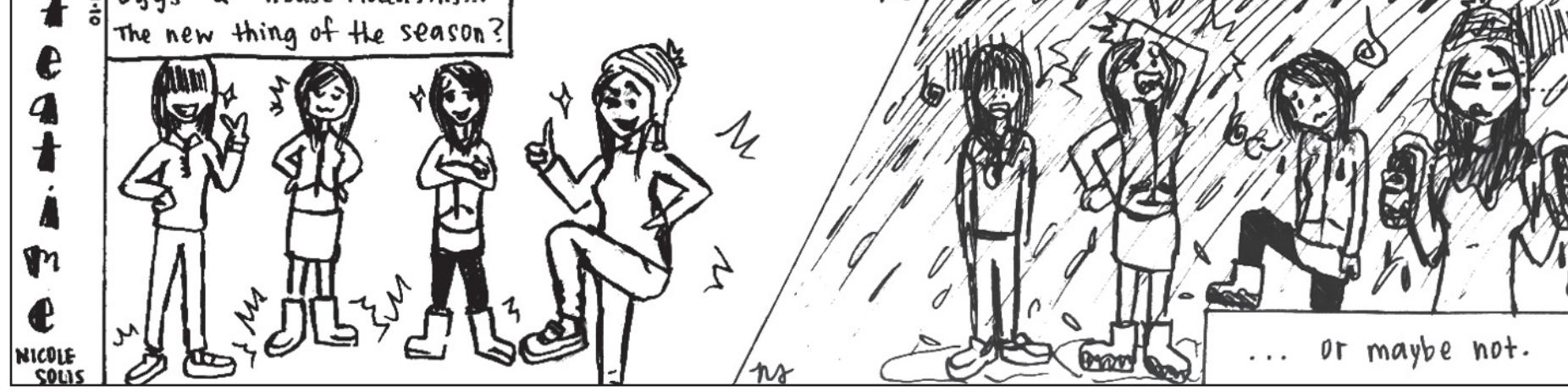
Aside from performing better, there is the obvious argument of lowering levels of truancy because students can have the opportunity of mak-

ing it to school on time. While some people argue that starting later can lead to conflicting schedules, those in favor believe that it can be a way for kids to become more independent. It will force them to learn to use public transportation or figure out their own way of getting to school. Not only can we possibly perform better academically, but we could also become more self-reliant.

Getting a good start for the day can also help us be healthier. Our sleep cycles may occasionally be out of sync, but it would be better to rise when the sun rises. This would simultaneously lift our moods and attitudes towards school while giving us an opportunity to have time to get ready and eat a well-balanced breakfast instead of rushing out the door with an empty stomach. By starting the day in a healthier fashion, students will be happier and more inclined to focus and pay attention in school.

Even though our school district may not be considering starting school later this year, it has become apparent that this new schedule change can influence us and how we function at school. Maybe those forty extra minutes can change everything.

COMICS
BY NICOLE SOLIS

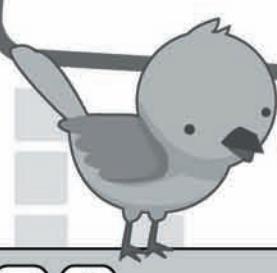


FEATURES



Social Networking Sites

If you're writing on someone's wall, updating your status or adding a song to your profile, you're one of the 13,900,000 Americans age 12 to 17 who use a social networking site. Twitter, Facebook and Myspace are among the most utilized sites that allow easy interaction with other users and all with just a click of the mouse.



By Co-Features Editor Lindsay Croon

<http://www.twitter.com>

These days, no one has time to read through pages of blogs, however, Twitter has become the solution for these 18 million users. Celebrities, newscasters and even everyday people have found that "tweeting" fits into their usually hectic daily routines. In fact, within the past year, the online site has experienced a 200 percent increase in users.

Twitter was created in 2006 by Odeo, a company searching for a new concept to attract a regular audience. The site's main purpose was to provide a way for users to communicate through the World Wide Web about what they were doing—in 140 characters or less. Twitter also allows users to add others into their subscription, a feature which is referred to as "following." One of the

most attractive and appealing aspects of Twitter is being able to read about the daily happenings and thoughts of others.

Following celebrities via Twitter has become one of the top attractions of the website. "It's a great way to keep track of my favorite bands and all their tour information," said junior Caitlyn Smith. In contrast to Facebook and Myspace, privacy issues have not yet become an issue with users of Twitter. If used responsibly, this website can provide a friendly way to interact. Twitter shows no signs of losing its popularity and has become an icon of today's current culture.

OMG!

<http://www.myspace.com>

Although new competitors like Facebook have swept MySpace under the rug, social network addicts can't deny its prevalence to pop culture. Starting in 2002, after the launch of Friendster, MySpace quickly became the most popular social networking site online. Middle and high school cafeterias have been filled with students asking each other if they could become friends on MySpace. Boasting over 100 million users, it features a friendly interface that allows users to upload pictures, customize their pages with pre-made HTML layouts and add music to be displayed on a member's page. Yet despite its surprising popularity in the past, today many students deem MySpace a rarely used site.

"I never even sign onto MySpace anymore. When I open up

my internet browser, I inadvertently type 'google.com' in the search bar and then search for Facebook," said senior Faustine Tay. Those who have faithfully stuck with MySpace during the popular and less popular years can attest to the changes that it has undergone. From 2006-2008 the amount of users increased from 2 million to 80 million. However, at the beginning of 2008 it experienced a decline in the number of new users, attributed to the rise in popularity of rival site Facebook. But rest assured, although MySpace might be losing popularity, the site is not anywhere near filing for bankruptcy. In 2008 MySpace signed an ad-revenue deal with Google, which stated that Google would pay \$900 million to MySpace

By Staff Writer Anthony Perez

<http://www.facebook.com>

With a global average of over 350 million users, it's no surprise Facebook is the number one social networking site. Launched in 2004, Facebook wasn't always known by that name, originally called Thefacebook. Mark Zuckerberg, a former Harvard student, created it. Before he could comprehend what a major icon it had become, it quickly spread all across the dorm rooms in Harvard, Stanford and Yale. Only months later, it was a national Internet sensation. Zuckerberg dropped out of Harvard to manage Facebook full time and it turned out to be a worthwhile investment. In addition to its social networking purposes, Facebook is also known for its infamous applications, where users can play addicting games or complete surveys on anything. "Not only do you keep in contact with current friends, but there are new friends for

you to meet just around the corner. Plus, not only can you talk to your friends, but you can also compete with each other in different applications," said senior Mindy Yang.

This website is an incredible way to stay connected with friends and see what they are up to. Similar to Twitter, users can update their status which shows up on the home page of their friend's. Users also have the option to like their friend's status and comment on it.

There has been much argument about whether or not Facebook should add a dislike button. So far, Facebook officially hasn't made any attempts to add one, despite all the fan pages and groups created in favor of it.

"[Facebook] helps me stay connected to friends and family who live far," said junior Stella Wong.

By Co-Features Editor Karolina Zydziaik

ALERT: Dangers of the Web

By Co Features Editor Lindsay Croon

For those who regularly access social networking sites, one of the main risks is addiction. Although it may sound ridiculous, it is a very real problem for many Internet users. Addiction, which is defined as "being dependent on something that is psychologically or physically habit-forming," is not limited to drugs. The constant need to check messages, friend requests, comments and updates can be time consuming and eventually become a distraction from the real world.

Also, another major concern about

social networking sites is that they may limit and prevent the development of real-life social skills. Communication through the use of technology has become a substitute for human interaction. Often, real face-to-face conversations are now replaced by quick messages or emails. "Texting is just more convenient for me," said junior Jasmine Diep, "If I'm busy doing homework, or out with my family, I don't really have time to pick up the phone."

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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 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.

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SPORTS

Girls' Water Polo Introduces Fifteen New Players

The girls' water polo team, with new coaches Sarah and Nathan Duran, nears the end of its preseason with a 3-4 record so far

VINCENT LIN
Co-Sports Editor

At the Granada Park pool, a booming voice cries, "Go!" and the order is followed by the thunder of the pedals and kicks of countless limbs through the water. These relay races start the arduous five-days-a-week practice of the girls' water polo team. This season, the aggressive sounds

of practice come from a brand new team, with fifteen new players being directed by two new coaches.

Siblings Sarah and Nathan Duran are now the coaches for all aquatic sports at AHS. Sarah has played and coached at numerous leagues and universities and Nathan has gained experi-

ence in coaching with his sister. "[Our] new coaches really get involved and explain the plays to everyone," said senior returning player Gurleen Bedi.

Of the players who have joined this year, fifteen had no prior experience. Such a case is typical of a water polo team, which goes through seasonal changes of quitting members, as well as plenty who

sign up. In this way, the team is transformed each year.

However, though many girls show interest in the sport, many cannot endure the strenuous demands of practices and games.

"Some players tend to quit [the team] because they can't handle it. They don't know what they're get-

ting themselves into," said Assistant Coach Nathan Duran.

However, according to Nathan Duran, this year's girls have shown a lot of devotion in their practices and in their preseason games. He claims that coaching the girls has been challenging but fun, and they are already forming a strong bond.

"Though there are so many new members, we are doing much bet-

ter than we expected. We put in a lot of effort," said Bedi.

The varsity girls are showing a modest preseason, with a 3-4 record so far. Their losses were close games, with their game against John Burroughs High School ending with a score of 11-14 and their Monrovia High School game ending 6-10. Due to their progress, the team has a bright outlook and

AN UNEXPECTED SHOT: Senior goalie Estefania Lopez immediately lunges to the side of the goalpost in order to block the opponent's shot. The game ended with a close score of 11-14 against John Burroughs High School.

JACQUELINE DO *The Moors*

"Though there are so many new members, we are doing much better than we expected."

- Gurleen Bedi

ambitious goals for themselves this season.

"We hope to make it to the California Interscholastic Federation because we have really good chances this year," said Bedi. "We also want to just learn from the experience that we get."

In preparation for the Almont League, the girls even practiced every day over their winter vacation.

JV Basketball Faces Unexpected Hindrance

VICTOR HUANG
Co-Sports Editor

Entering a new season, the JV boys' basketball team is in for a roller coaster ride. With a new coach, Troy Whiteto, and a new program instilled, the team is looking for a fresh start coming off of last year's 18-8 record with Coach Louie Anaya.

A couple weeks into the Moors' preseason, the players are hampered by something that is out of both the teammates' and the coach's grasp: academic grades. Five to six of the members have become ineligible to compete due to their not meeting the minimum grade point average

requirement of a 2.0.

"The ineligibility really ruins the whole team chemistry. Now, we have to start all over again," said Captain Richard Baltazar.

Because of the players ineligibility, the team has to readapt to the shortcoming of experience and team chemistry or lack thereof. The lineup now consists of only two juniors, eight sophomores and one freshman. The Moors began to lose players at the beginning of the Warren tournament, resulting in a below-

par performance with a 0-4 score.

"We lacked post players in our game, players [who] could have had a significant impact on the game, especially with their rebounds," said Baltazar.

Another obstacle the team faces is adapting to the new program. According to Baltazar, the coaches last year emphasized more of a defensive team and half court man-to-man. However, this year, the emphasis has been shifted to playing a faster paced and heavier full court pressure game.

"The ineligibility really ruins the whole team chemistry. Now, we have to start all over again."

- Richard Baltazar

Despite these hindrances, the last-minute assembled Moors are slowly becoming accustomed with one another. They have replaced height with speed, and lack of experience with aggression.

"Although building our team from scratch for the second time may be hard, as long as we are determined, it can be done," said guard Carlos Delgadillo.

The team has steadily shown improvements and the potential for a hopeful season through their performance in the El Monte tournament. The team has the necessary skills, but it is up to them to handle business not only on the court, but in the classroom as well.

JV BRIEFS

Boys' Soccer

JV boys' soccer is off to a running start. Last year's team had a season record of 0-5-1, placing them fifth in Almont League. This year, they are aiming for a winning record.

According to Head Coach Joshua Moreno, last year's team had zero wins because the players were new to the soccer program and lacked experience. This year, however, the team has more potential, experience and understanding of the game.

"This time I'm giving them room to make mistakes. The players can grow [into a better team] from their mistakes," said Moreno.

On Dec. 8, the Moors faced off in their first scrimmage against Rosemead High School, resulting in a 1-0 victory. This was the team's first win since last year.

"The team is willing to work. They have great team spirit, they're together and they put 100 percent of their effort into the game," said Moreno.

Judging from this game, Moreno states that some aspects that need training include how to play a game, defending and passing the ball and learning how to dribble.

"We should be able to connect the passes more, keeping the ball longer, and be able to make more shots. We need to make the other team scared of us. Nothing is impossible as long as we put [in] effort," said mid-fielder Denpota Fugaku.

Having a winning record is not the only goal Moreno has in mind. His main goal for this season is to develop the players to be successful on the varsity team.

Girls' Soccer

Rain or shine, the JV girls' soccer team is out on the field. With the season starting this week, the team is preparing to start off strong.

According to Captain Dyana Vividor, this year's team is more dedicated and there is also more of a connection and focus on unity. The team's connection encourages openness and communication.

"The team is united and the players get along really well," said Head Coach Steve Morales.

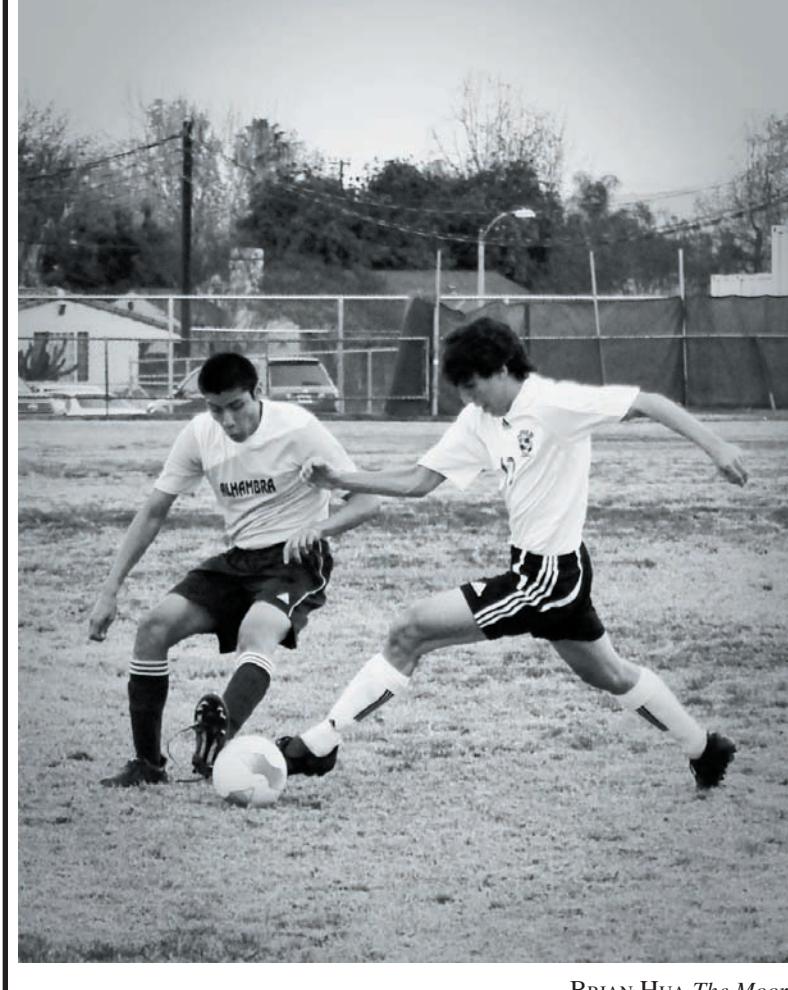
This year's team is almost completely new, since many players moved up to varsity. To keep the team solid, a few seniors chose to be on JV, despite being eligible to play on the varsity team.

The main obstacles for the team are improving their skills and discipline. However, the team has also shown significant improvement in the few games they have played. They tied against San Marino, a team that has defeated them before.

Previously placing second in Almont League, the team is focused on taking home the league title this year. They have motivation to redeem themselves, especially since last year's team missed first place by only one game.

With the team's advantages in mind, the players expect a solid season this month. However, the most important focus for Captain Vividor is to encourage the girls to play well, despite the obstacles they must overcome.

"I want to motivate the team on not quitting on themselves," said Vividor.



BRIAN HUA *The Moors*

NO CHANCE OF SCORING: Alexis Lopez quickly blocks an incoming goal from South Pasadena at Moor Field on Dec. 15.

JV Wrestlers Open Season with Success

JAMES HO
Co-Copy Editor

At AHS, the wrestling team is known for its commitment to excellence through countless hours of practice throughout every season of the year. This winter season, however, sees the most amount of training as the team gears up for its Almont League matches, beginning in January.

The JV portion of the team holds its own significance and follows a different direction from the more emphasized varsity team. Varsity wrestlers await the California Interscholastic Federation championships every year after League matches while the JV team focuses on overcoming the competition at Almont League. Alhambra High has an established reputation as a top competitor within its League.

This year, the team hopes to uphold that reputation while showing improvement as well.

Already, the team has tied for second place before settling into third at their first tournament at Gabrielino High School in early December.

"We just have to be focused and pumped up for the matches while watching out for little mistakes," said sophomore wrestler Nery Rodriguez.

We've had a full lineup for JV. We even have several back ups who belong on the varsity level, which is amazing. There's a lot of talent in the lower weights, as well as the upper weights," said JV Coach Adam Lopez.

As expected, there is much anticipation for the team this year as there is a larger pool of wrestlers to prove themselves this season. If a greater percentage of wrestlers become eligible for championships, there will be a greater chance of winning the title.

"Our goal is to take two guys to League finals. If we can have two guys from the same school go up together into finals, that'd be great. This year, there is a large enough team to pull that off," said Lopez.

In the end, it is up to the individuals of the team to bring AHS the glory of winning League championships. The wrestlers give their best in striving towards this year-long goal.

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AN UNEXPECTED SHOT: Senior goalie Estefania Lopez immediately lunges to the side of the goalpost in order to block the opponent's shot. The game ended with a close score of 11-14 against John Burroughs High School.

JACQUELINE DO *The Moors*

Their deep dedication proves them to be a confident team, despite the burden of training so many new players and essentially being a brand new team.

"We started [the season] off pretty well, but we hope to better once League starts, especially for varsity," said Nathan Duran. "I won't be surprised if we go to CIF. The girls have a lot of potential."

In preparation for the Almont League, the girls even practiced every day over their winter vacation.

ambitious goals for themselves this season.

"We hope to make it to the California Interscholastic Federation because we have really good chances this year," said Bedi. "We also want to just learn from the experience that we get."

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