

Response to Controversy Stirs Up Executive Elections

VICTORIA GAVIA
Copy Editor
JOHNNY HUYNH
Staff Writer

There are several aspects of extracurricular involvement that reflect mainstream society; one of which is the Associated Student Body (ASB) consisting of three branches: Executive, Legislature and Class Councils. At the top of the chain, the Executive branch is a matter of focus.

From Jan. 11-13, the Sophomore Council sat in the Quad during lunch as students voted for the members of spring Executive.

In contrast to low voter turnouts in past elections, this year, according to Spanish teacher and election manager Teresa Diaz, the amount of voters was especially high. This could be attributed to the increased candidacy surrounding this year's election.

"This year we had around 550 people [voting]. There was [more] competition and more positions that had incumbents [...] including the position of



EVERY VOTE COUNTS Members of Sophomore Council check student ID cards and distribute ballots during the Jan. 11-13 election. The voting was to decide the members of the spring Executive Board.

President," said Diaz. In addition to some new candidates, all members of the fall 2010 board were participating in the ballots. However, controversy had arisen regarding the current state of the ASB.

"There [were] concerns that

some students [had] more advantages than others, [that] one side [thought] their opponents [were] given more advantages than themselves," said Diaz.

In fact, these concerns led to infractions being reported on current Executive members

and opposing candidates who were a part of United Through Our Diversity (UTOD), a group that sought to give support to those wishing to take on a role in ASB.

These infractions, such as seeking help from faculty and

external campaigning, were addressed by Principal Brad Walsh and Vice Principal of Business and Activities Jeremy Infranca. However, disciplinary action was taken in regards to the issues, particularly towards the existing Executive

members. "[Regarding the complaints] we did the best we could to make it as fair as we could," said Infranca.

Despite talk of this election being racially motivated, both Diaz and Infranca attributed much of the opposition to the fact that ASB positions were being challenged and, like in any real election, campaigning became more forceful. Much of the drive behind the controversy is being held confidential by overseeing faculty, but contesting operations reveal sides to addressing the issue.

"There have been claims that UTOD was a radical Hispanic faction out to take over a school [...], that we were fueled mainly by the issue of race," said ASB presidential candidate Roman Jaramillo. "It is easy to reduce our motives to a matter of race, but what really troubles me is the reaction to our campaigns. When an underrepresented majority decides to stop 'sitting around,' we are met with hostility and prejudice, despite the challenge set forth."

New Contract Means Shorter School Year

SHANNON LI
News Editor

The '10-'11 school year was scheduled to end on Wednesday, June 15. However, due to a new contract agreement between the Alhambra Teachers Association (ATA) and Alhambra Unified School District (AUSD), students will now instead be released on Friday, June 10.

"In a sense, it's better because summer starts sooner and there's more rest," said freshman Brian Au.

In exchange, teachers' salaries will remain the same. As part of the reason for the truncated school year, teachers will not receive furlough days—unpaid workdays—reductions in salary, changes in health benefits, or layoffs in the spring of 2011.

ATA members are not receiving cuts because of additional funding from the \$26

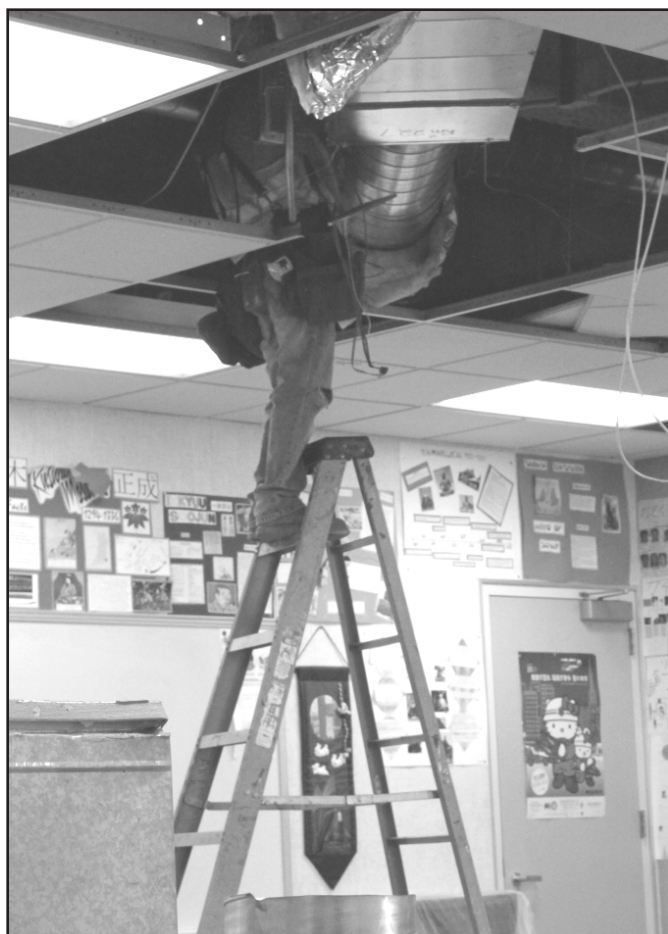
billion federal job bill.

From June 13-15, teachers will still be on campus and will take part in professional development, in order to exchange curriculum ideas and strategies. They will still be paid their usual salary, with the funds earmarked for professional development.

"Teachers have open discussions on strategies: what works and what doesn't," said Algebra and Informal Geometry teacher Simon Cho.

Since the professional development fund is to be used, there will be money saved from AUSD's general fund, which is normally the source of teachers' salaries.

"Even [though everyone is] trying to promote education for [us], what's the point if they cut corners and don't provide the time to learn?" said junior Elaine Lo. "It's sending mixed messages."



THROUGH THE ROOF A construction worker removes the air ducts in room C-227 as part of a series of construction projects taking place on campus.

Classes Displaced by Ventilation Construction

ALAN TAM
News Editor

Recent renovations to the C-building and D-building to replace the heating and air conditioning system has caused teachers to relocate their classes to the previously empty bungalows.

Beginning Jan. 10 and scheduled to last until late February, these renovations will be conducted on all three floors of D-building and C-building.

The improvements being done on the air conditioning come in the wake of a heat wave that occurred during the second week of school. With temperatures reaching 107 degrees, both students and administration realized that the entire cooling systems in classrooms were not functioning.

These planned renovations include the replacement of

ducts and entire air conditioning units over the summer.

Construction started on the first floor and gradually ascended through the three levels of D-building. Each floor was relocated to the bungalows next to the softball field while the renovations were being completed. C-building construction was started on Feb. 1 and is scheduled to be completed in mid-February. AHS bungalows are scheduled to be removed from campus by late February.

Some students feel that the inconvenience of the renovations is worth the increased reliability of the air conditioning.

"I think the improvements to the heating and air conditioning system will be beneficial in the long-term," said junior Shannon Tay. "The changes have been noticeable in my classroom."

NEWS BRIEFS

VSA Chapters to Host Culture Night

How would you feel about going camping for a week in the summer and learning about Vietnamese culture?

The Vietnamese Student Association (VSA) does this yearly, along with many other activities, to bond with members from other schools.

"Spreading the Vietnamese culture to the community is the main goal of VSA," said senior president Nancy Nguyen.

Other than camping, the

members also dance or sing to Vietnamese songs or they play cultural games at socials. Their regular meeting days are Thursdays after school in C-324. AHS' VSA is also involved with the chapters from Cal State Fullerton, UC Irvine and Cal State Long Beach.

Culture Night, scheduled for May 17 in the auditorium, is organized every year between the members from Alhambra High and Cal State Los Angeles. During the event, VSA members will be performing skits based on Vietnamese legends and myths.

French Club Sets Sights on Paris

The French Club was founded in 1922. Being one of the oldest clubs in AHS, the French Club continues to thrive and explore many of the aspects of French culture.

"Having meetings during lunch would not conflict with other club meetings and it is a more convenient time for members to meet," said adviser Nik Eaks.

The French Club's meetings are held once a week, ev-

ery Wednesday during lunch in room A-35. The members study the customs by watching movies, sampling French food and learning the language.

"The number one goal we have this year is to go to Paris," said vice president Victoria Ramos.

The French Club plans to have a trip to Paris at the end of the year. Visiting Paris would enable the members to experience the French customs and food in person. They have met their fundraising targets up to this point.

Grace Chow, Staff Writer

In other news...

Preliminary tally shows **99 percent** of Sudanese favor the creation of **Southern Sudan**

Haitian **cholera** outbreak spreads to **South America**

Woman purchases **grenade** believing it to be **cigarette lighter**

Drug smugglers throw **marijuana** over US border with **catapult**