



Chinese Students Experience AHS Culture

JOYCE LAM
Editor in Chief

On Feb. 10, visiting Chinese students followed ASB members on a tour of AHS' campus.

Students from Nankai High School spent half a day at AHS as a part of their trip to the United States. Arriving from Tianjin, China, these 84 students experienced some of the features an American secondary school has to offer. Nankai High School is a private school for students from ninth through twelfth grade.

The students visited a variety of classes during first and second period. Following Executive members to their respective classes, they were able to experience courses such as Photography, American Literature, Biology and much more.

"Executive members [were able to] each take a group of students around to their first and second periods," said Student Relations Chair Claire Chang. "We thought that this was a good way to show how our educational system and high school atmosphere differs from [theirs] in China."

After second period, the students

spent third period with Executive, during their leadership period. Executive and the visiting students formed teams and had a contest to see which teams could build the tallest structure out of newspaper.

All-Male and Drill Team members performed short routines for the students to enjoy as well. As they were preparing to leave, the Nankai students said their good-byes and took pictures with administrators and ASB members.

"The United States is very open and free; the people are very friendly and nice," said Li Ji Yuan, an eleventh grade student from Nankai High School. "It's different because there are a lot more people in the classes in China. But other than that, there are not many big differences."

Similar to the American high school system, high school students in China begin the school day at 8 a.m. but their school day does not end until 5 p.m. The students attend classes in the morning, have a lunch break and have class again in the afternoon. They are only given one hour of free time, and devote the rest of the time to studying.

MOOR photo by KATHRYN CHU
CULTURE SHOCK Students from Tianjin, China sit among students of Paul Stein's Calculus class during their Feb. 10 visit.

News Briefs

Vaccination Theory Debunked

When Dr. Andrew Wakefield released his research paper in 1998 on the link between vaccines and the emergence of autism in children, many worried parents began refusing to let their children take the treatments, blaming doctors for their children's disabilities. Celebrities such as Jenny McCarthy and Jim Carrey have spoken vocally against vaccinations.

However, in January, a recent finding of fraud in Wakefield's research has confirmed indefinitely that there is no link between vaccines and the development of autism in children.

As a result of Wakefield's fear-inducing research, many children have suffered from preventable diseases. The measles, once declared eradicated from the United States, began infecting children again around the world shortly after Wakefield's claims were made.

"I think it is irresponsible that it took so long to find faulty information after ten years of hysteria," said senior Kathleen Chen. "Even now, the scare and damage can't be completely undone."

SAT II Tests No Longer Required

After being a source of student stress for over ten years, the SAT Subject Tests are no longer mandatory, starting with current juniors, in order to be admitted into the Universities of California (UC) system.

The tests, which focus on particular subjects such as Literature and Biology, used to be mandatory in order for a student's college application to be considered at many campuses.

Instead, students now must complete at least 11 out of 15 A-G required classes by the end of junior year to be eligible to apply to UCs.

"I'm relieved that I don't have to take the test anymore, but at the same time I feel more pressure to perform better on my SAT I and get a higher GPA," said junior Annie Hiu.

Though this news comes as a source of relief for underclassmen, some disagree about the new process of college acceptance.

"I don't think cutting out a test like the SAT II would provide colleges with a fair idea about how well a student performs academically," said senior Joyce Yu.

Shannon Ho, Staff Writer

Student Legislature Makes Comeback in Spring

YVONNE LEE
Editor in Chief

At AHS, students have ample leadership opportunities, not just within clubs but directly in student government. In addition to the 15 elected and nine cabinet positions on Executive, students have been able to participate through Legislature.

Though this year's legislative branch initially ceased to exist due to lack of an adviser, it will soon begin to assemble again.

In the past, Legislature has been advised by Activities Director and Executive adviser Candace Collins.

This year, English teacher Lori Naylor will replace Collins as Legislature adviser and supervise the meetings.

"The main reason [we couldn't start Legislature] was that Mrs. Collins had different demands this year, so we had to find a new adviser," said Vice Principal of Business and Activities Jeremy Infranca. "I'm especially excited for it to gain momentum and spread to other kids to get more involved in school activities."

Led by Executive's Speaker of

activities."

Legislature is made up of one student representative from each third period class to discuss important school issues, offer suggestions on how to benefit the student body, act as a liaison between the class and student government. Their meetings essentially serve as a form of checks and balances for Executive.

Led by Executive's Speaker of

Legislature Cedric Nguyen, these meetings will be held once a month in the Little Theater.

"I'm glad that it's going to be formed again because I think it's vital for a wider scope of students to be represented and voice their opinions on school matters," said Nguyen. "Hopefully we can assemble as soon as possible and start holding the meetings when all the details are worked out and all the class representatives are chosen."

Nguyen hopes to have Legislature up and running by the beginning of March.

Pride Alliance Continues Outreach to Student Body

ALAN TAM
News Editor

Since its inception, Pride Alliance (PA) has stood for students with differing sexual orientations. They seek to promote the acceptance of the gay community at AHS.

This premise has been a guiding force behind the club's activities such as National Coming Out Week, which was held Oct. 11-17.

PA is associated with the Gay-Straight Alliance Network (GSAN), an organization founded to prevent homophobia in schools across the nation.

Members have also taken part in the seventeenth annual youth convention "Models of Pride" held by GSAN at Occidental College. A candlelight vigil was held for gay and lesbian students who have committed suicide because of teasing and bullying regarding their sexual orientation.

Pride Alliance recently organized a Valentine's Day event dubbed "Ring

Pop Weddings" to promote marriage equality and to provide students with an outlet to discuss the topic. However, the administration decided that they could not openly support such a controversial issue.

"They said that while they supported the club itself, [they] could not support the event," said PA adviser and English teacher Dorothy Burkhart.

Despite the cancellation, PA acknowledges the reasoning behind the decision. "I take the administration at their word," said Burkhart. "[Vice

Principal] Infranca came to a recent meeting and answered all the questions we had. I appreciate his willingness to talk with us."

PA plans to continue their outreach to the student body by selling 10 dollar T-shirts in March.

"We want to promote awareness of Pride Alliance through this sale," said President Vincent Luong.



PROUD DESIGNS Pride Alliance members discuss T-shirt designs that will be sold in March to promote the LGBT cause. The shirts will be sold for non profit.

MOOR photo by JOYCE TSUI

In other news...

Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak resigns after three weeks of protest

China surpasses Japan as world's second largest economy

71-year-old **arthritic** woman fends off six jewel thieves with **purse**

Overweight shoplifter caught after motorized chair gets stuck at exit doors