



**MOOR** photo by STEWART RYDMAN-ESPINOSA

**BREAKFAST TIME!** Members of AHS' Thespian Troupe rehearse their breakfast scene for the play "Our Town," which premiered on the 16th and will be shown in the auditorium until the 18th.

## WASC Meeting to Implement Change at AHS

**YVONNE LEE**  
Editor in Chief

Eager to make the most out of their minimum day dismissal, most students rushed out of the AHS gates on Feb. 11 and started their three-day weekend early.

However, for a group of students, the day was not yet over as they joined the teachers in a WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) meeting.

WASC is an organization consisting of administrators, teachers and students who collaborate in order to discuss school matters and possible solutions to problems affecting the campus environment.

The meeting's main focus was school culture. Teachers and student representatives were asked to rank specific areas in need of improvement pertaining to school atmosphere.

"It was interesting to see issues not just within the student body, but also among faculty and staff," said senior Herrick Duong, a student representative from Campus Service Club.

During the meeting, students and teachers examined possible causes

and effective solutions.

Limited diversity in extracurricular activities was also brought up as an issue and groups referred to former ASB President Anthony Perez's article that spotlighted the limited diversity in leadership positions at AHS.

Another topic addressed during the WASC meeting was the lack of school pride. Groups suggested tangible goals to help increase school spirit. One of the suggestions was a proposal to fix the intercom system and to increase awareness about organizations in order to encourage student involvement at AHS.

"It was very verbal and students and teachers spoke openly about possible solutions and we saw that [the teachers] were as concerned as students were," said Duong.

Teachers had equally high expectations that they would find viable solutions through these meetings.

"I think it's incredibly valuable; it's a good idea to take stock of where you are and constantly ask for feedback from every group involved," said Drama teacher Emily Coalson, who participated in the meeting.

## Highlights of 2011 Smartphones

**ALAN TAM**  
**SHANNON LI**  
News Editors

Broadly defined as cellphones with high computing capacity and interactivity, smartphones are quickly becoming the new "must-have" electronic. With the staggering variety available on the market, as well as statistics estimating that they make up 31 percent of the cell phone market, the next generation of cellular devices is poised to make more traditional models obsolete. However, this overabundance of options does not mean all phones are equal.

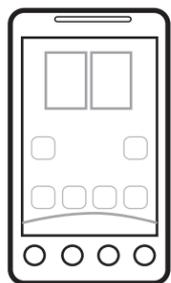
Apple's iPhone series remains the most popular line of smartphones in the United States. The latest incarnation, iPhone 4, boasts two cameras for video calls as well as a 16 gigabyte hard drive for storage. With a wide range of applications available, there is little trouble in finding a program suitable for any need.

The Evo 4G is an older entry into the smartphone market by Taiwanese company HTC. The device features a large 4.3-inch display as well as extensive connectivity with Sprint's 4G network. Capable of reaching speeds of 1 gigabyte per second (gbps), the

network extends the usability of the Evo and gives Sprint users additional resources to complete assignments.

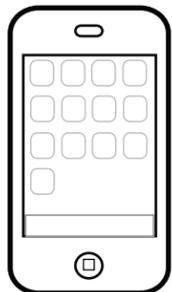
Google's Nexus S is a smartphone based on the successful design of the original Nexus. Containing the new Gingerbread Android OS, this phone is the fastest version of Android released yet.

Nokia's N-8 smartphone comes with the Symbian OS. Installed with a 12 megapixel camera in addition to its long battery life, this device is ahead of the pack in terms of features but the lack application variety and search features are a drawback.



- HTC Evo 4G**
- 4G internet connection
  - Flip stand
  - 1.3 megapixel secondary camera
  - 4.3 inch display

Starting at \$199.99 with rebate and two-year contract with Sprint



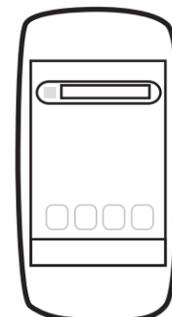
- Apple iPhone 4**
- 960 x 640 resolution screen
  - Large application variety
  - Addition of the Verizon carrier
  - 3.5 inch display

Starting at \$199 with new activation with AT&T or Verizon



- Nokia N-8**
- 12 megapixel camera
  - FM radio
  - 12 hours of talk time per charge
  - HDMI cable to televisions and monitors
  - 3.5" display

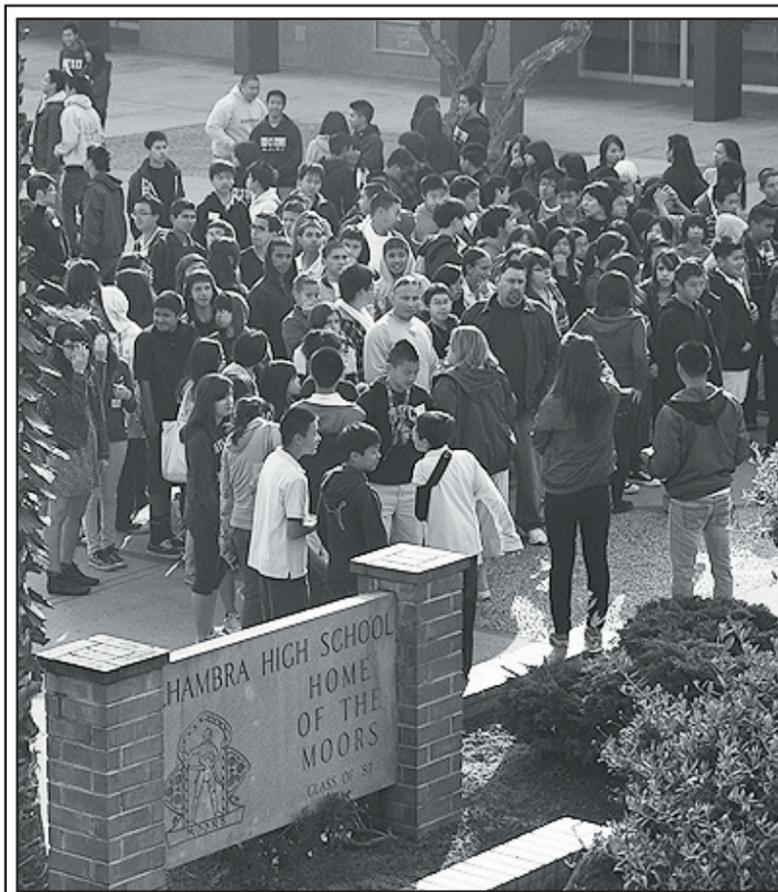
Starting at \$399 with no fixed carrier



- Google Nexus S**
- Gingerbread Android OS
  - Transforms into portable Wi-Fi hotspot
  - 4" display

Starting at \$199.99 with a two-year contract with T-Mobile or Sprint

\$529 with no carrier



COURTESY OF ALAN WU

**INCOMING!** Future freshmen Moors survey the Quad and prepare for a tour of AHS during the eighth grade orientation on March 4.

March						
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2

**16-18**  
"Our Town" Spring Play

**25**  
Sadie Hawkins Dance

**March 28 - April 1**  
Spring Break

MOOR graphics by SHARON TRANG

## Girls State Gives Political Opportunities to Young Women

**SHANNON HO**  
Staff Writer

Since many view teenagers as the heirs of the future, programs have started in the hopes of reaching out to younger generation to prepare them to become responsible, knowledgeable and politically active. One such program is the American Legion Auxiliary's Girls State. To qualify for the summer program, which teaches

"young women responsible citizenship and love for God and Country," girls must be nominated and complete their junior year.

Sixteen girls are chosen as potential candidates by the Social Studies Department, and then five are chosen from that pool by Executive as finalists. The representative who goes to Girls State is ultimately chosen by a committee from the American Le-

gion Auxiliary.

During the program, the girls will learn how to "participate in government functions in preparation for their future roles as responsible, adult citizens."

In the week-long summer program, over 500 girls from different high schools in California meet and learn about the process of law-making and governing. Simulations of elections

and voting platforms are all part of the experience that is Girls State.

"The workshops and mock conferences were a really great experience. It provided me with a lot of great information and insight about how our government works," said last year's Girls State representative senior Paulina Ale.

Two girls selected from each Girls State program will then attend Girls

Nation, a national government training program. The selected 'senators' will meet for a week in Washington D.C. run for political office, campaign for the passage of legislature, and even possibly meet senators and state officials.

In early March, junior Amy He was chosen by the American Auxiliary Legion to be the Girls State Representative for Alhambra High School.