

IN MEMORIAM

Christa McAuliffe and the Crew of Challenger



Space Shuttle Challenger crew: (bottom, from l. to r.) Michael J. Smith, Francis R. (Dick) Scobee, Ronald E. McNair. (top, from l. to r.) Ellison S. Onizuka, Sharon Christa McAuliffe, Gregory Jarvis, Judith A. Resnik.

AMERICAN

HIGH

SCHOOL

American Express

Volume II Number 6 February 28, 1986 Fremont, CA 94536

student services get new look

By Kristina Morrison

This year, Student Services 9, 10, and 11 are getting a new look. Cubicals are being built around the Secretaries desks. These will provide privacy and a more uniform appearance.

The idea originated last year when the Class of 85' construct-

ed an Arnolds Drive-In around their Student Services for spirit week. Mrs. Richmand really enjoyed the enclosure and wanted to make it a permanent fixture. The Class of 85' had enough money at the end of the year to designate funds for the building of these cubicals.

All three secretaries from Student Ser-

vices 9, 10, and 11 are enjoying their cubicals. Mrs. Stockton commented, "I really love it, but I'll like it even more when I get my door!" Junior Class president, Bill Cluverius, stated, "Well, it has its good points and bad points. It may get in the way during Spirit week, but once it's painted I think it will be really nice."

Passive Smoke Paranoia

by Nina Galang

Smoking is a behavior of many students at AHS, consequently we are experiencing the problem of passive smoke. Even those students who don't smoke can be affected by the smoke in their environment.

According to the American Lung Association (ALA), passive smoke is dangerous to the non-smoker and can affect their health greatly.

Passive smoke is second hand smoke given off by the smoker

when blowing out smoke or from the cigarette itself.

Sidstream smoke-smoke which goes directly in the air from the burning end of the cigarette.

Mainstream smoke-smoker pulls through the mouthpiece when he or she inhales.

As stated by the ALA, sidstream smoke has higher concentrations of noxious compounds than the mainstream smoke. There is five times as much carbon monoxide in the sidstream smoke and this robs the blood of oxygen. There is twice as much nicotine and tar and 3-4 times of a compound called benzy-pyrene which is a cancer causing agent.

"Not only does the smoke get in my hair and clothes, but it also bothers my eyes and nose," stated Shiela Fontelara when asked if smoke bothered her.

The Cancer Association gave these alternatives to non-smokers on what to do.

Let family, friends and others know that smoke bothers you.

Put buttons, stickers, signs in your car and home.

Request seating in non-smoking sections when you are traveling or eating out.

Contact your lung association to organize a group to help provide a smokeless environment for people who don't smoke.

N.A.S.A.

Students Watch Stunned As Space Shuttle Challenger Explodes

On January 28th, 1986, thousands of students--expecting to watch a routine liftoff and later receive lessons from space by America's first teachernaut--were stunned when the Space Shuttle Challenger exploded.

All seven crew members were killed. The cause of the explosion has not yet been determined.

Teacher-naut Christa McAuliffe, a high school teacher from Concord, New Hampshire, was scheduled to deliver two 15-minute lectures from space about Earth's magnetism and Newton's laws.

In response to the tragedy, National Education Association President Mary Hatwood Futrell said: "I would hope that the lessons that Christa planned to teach will be taught. I think that's what Christa would want."

"I CANNOT JOIN THE SPACE PROGRAM AND RESTART MY LIFE AS AN ASTRONAUT, BUT THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT MY ABILITIES AS AN EDUCATOR WITH MY INTERESTS IN HISTORY AND SPACE IS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO FULFILL MY EARLY FANTASIES. I WATCHED THE SPACE AGE BEING BORN AND I WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE." CRISTA McALLIFFE-



Pictured top to bottom: Juniors Kevin Pierce, Bill Cluverius, Jim Schinkel, and Anita Abuyuan giving the Student Services that "new look".

BLOCKS FOR ACTIVITIES

by Anna Faustino

Students, who are involved in school activities, will be recognized with an Activity Block sometime during the Spring. Similar to the Athletic and Academic Block, the Activity Block will honor those students who contribute their time and efforts to school activities.

Senior, Eric Carter, is the Activity Block Commissioner. Eric, along with Mr. DiPaola and a select committee have chosen a blue with white trim style block that will be awarded for the first time this Spring.

To earn an Activity Block, a student must file an application for each one of his/her activities. All applicants must be approved through their club or organization advisor and a point system will be determined by the position they hold in the club or activity. This process decides if the candidate has earned all of his/her allotted points. Next, the advisor will submit the application to the Activity Block Committee who will place all of the student's information on a card with his/her total points. The student will then be notified if he/she has received a block.

The applications will be distributed in mid-March. The due date will be at the end of March. The blocks will be awarded at the Spring Awards Ceremony. Eric Carter stressed, "The Activity Block will give the students the initiative to be involved and give them the credit they deserve."

CLEAN UP YOUR OWN BACKYARD

By Craig Hintzman

The United States has recently spent much time involving themselves with the Phillipine National Elections. I think that before we continue our involvement in the politics of other nations, we should correct the problems of voter participation here in the United States.

Americans need to direct their concerns towards the lack of participation in our own elections, which has steadily gotten worse over the years.

In a nation which prides itself on democracy, freedom of choice and government by the people, for the people, it is appalling that only 53% of the population votes. In fact, more people watched the last episode of M*A*S*H* than voted in the last congressional election.

To have a true democracy, you must have the participation of the voter. What the lack of voter interest is showing, is that the people don't care. We are giving the

government free reign to do whatever it pleases.

Lack of involvement among young adults (18-21 year olds) is also low. As an 18 year old, you are given the right to vote. In actuality only one in five 18 to 21 year olds take advantage of this right.

Americans are losing touch with their government. The decrease in the number of voters is destroying the basis of our democracy. It is time Americans got involved and started voting again to make this a nation governed by the people.

✧ ✧ ✧ Letters to the Editor ✧ ✧ ✧

Dear Editor,

After reading the "porno" article, I felt that it isn't of any importance to students of AHS.

I don't feel that there is a vast majority using porno for sex education.

A certain statement was made in the article that I do not appreciate. The statement was "A perverted sense of morality." I feel this gives teens a bad rating, when this may be only a small portion of teens you're writing about.

Sincerely,
A Student

Dear Student,

Thank you for your letter and criticism, but it is strongly misplaced. You took the phrase "a perverted sense of morality"

out of context. It was not referring to teen morality, but to the pervertedness of pornography. Also, we quoted Seventeen magazine's statistics of 42.3% of pornography sales are to teens and that they themselves use it for sex education. 42.3% is not even a majority. Therefore, a "vast majority" of teens are not using pornography as sex education. We are sorry if you were upset by the article, but not everything you read in life will be pleasant.

Thank You,
The Editor

Dear Editor,

I'm glad that the pornography article was written because I feel that teens do

have a right to receive this information. Pornography is a major business and I do feel that some teens contribute to this money making business.

I just wanted to say that I hope more articles are written to enlighten the student body.

Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,
C. Suratos

The American Express is published monthly by the journalism class and is the official student publication of American High School, 36300 Fremont Boulevard, Fremont, CA 94536. Opinions expressed on the editorial page do not necessarily reflect viewpoints or official policies of the school. The American Express welcomes readers' opinions on all topics. Letters must be signed, but names may be withheld upon request and with the concurrence of the editorial board. The editor reserves the right to reject, edit, or shorten letters. All letters should be turned into the American Express Mailbox in faculty commons.

American Express

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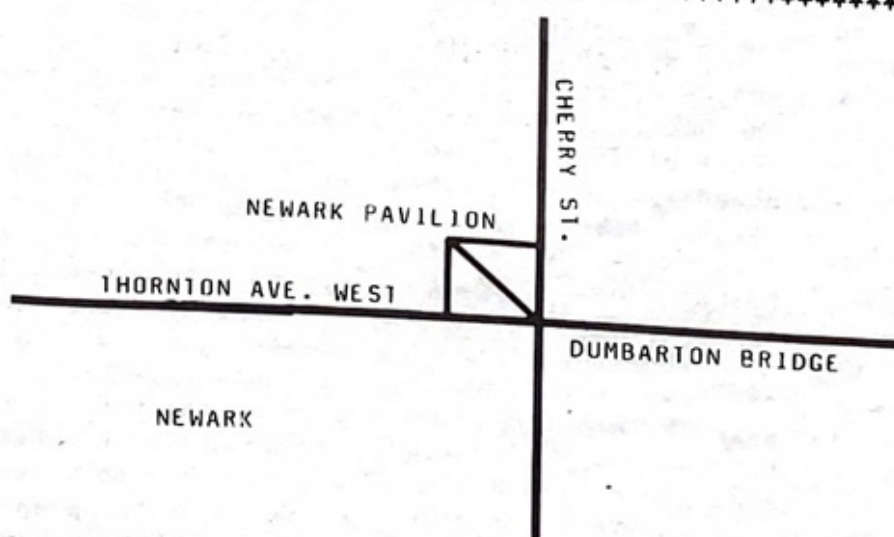
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PLENTY OF SECURED PARKING

Still Doing It For Love!

Compiled by
Michelle Schaeffer

Eight years ago Mark Knopfler and his fellow members in the original Dire Straits scraped together \$180 to make their first ever demo recordings including a song entitled "Sultans of Swing," a broadly autobiographical account of a group on the breadline, playing for love, and dreaming of better things.

In the intervening years much has changed, yet much remains the same. Since 1978 Dire Straits has released five albums which have sold more than seventeen million copies around the world. Mark Knopfler has established himself as one

of the preeminent musical figures of his generation, excelling as a writer, guitarist, producer and film composer. There have been some departures from Dire Straits, and some new arrivals; and yet what has remained constant is the groups personification of the most enduring values of craftsmanship, taste and quality.

It is a mark of Dire Straits' strength that while they have not worked together as a group for about two years, their influence individually and collectively, has continued to be all-pervasive. Last year for example, saw the release of the best-selling double album, AL-

CHEMY, a stunning document of the group's live performance. This year, the album BROTHERS IN ARMS is currently at the top of the music charts.

John Illsley, bass guitarist, who with Mark Knopfler is one of the founding members of the group, released his first solo album, NEVER TOLD A SOUL, to wide critical acclaim, and all the group, with the exception of Mark, played on Tina Turner's version of "PRIVATE DANCER," a song written by Mark and originally intended for inclusion on the LOVE OVER GOLD album.

BROTHERS IN ARMS is the first stage in the group's return from their sabbatical. Re-

corded in Montserrat and New York, the album signals both a greater flexibility in the group's line-up and a commensurate evolution of style.

Augmenting Dire Straits on record are former Weather Report drummer Omar Hakim and a full horn section including the Brecker Brothers.

Guitarist Hal Lindes has left the group leaving the basic nexus of Dire Straits as Mark Knopfler, guitar and vocals; John Illsley, bass; Alan Clark, keyboards; and Terry Williams, drums. Joining the group for live performances will be New York guitarist, Jack Sonni, Guy Fletcher on keyboards, and

saxophonist Chris White.

The presence of no less than thirteen different keyboards gives rein for Knopfler to explore further the orchestral textures employed to such consummate effect on LOVE OVER GOLD, without in any way detracting from the familiar and much loved Dire Straits sound.

And, as BROTHERS IN ARMS vividly illustrates, the development of the group in sophistication, expertise and skill has been rooted in the enduring qualities of craftsmanship and taste. Much has changed, but much remains the same. Dire Straits is still doing it for love!

PARENTS UNDERESTIMATE YOUNG LOVE

Compiled by Chrissy Darrow

Young love has been immortalized in many ways. Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet spotlights two teens whose love was more important than life itself. Young love is often the subject behind older generation sayings like "Youth is wasted on the young" and "These are the best years of your life."

Is it wasted? Are these the best years? When you've heard this from your parents for the 986th time, you begin to wonder.

Certainly, there are great moments with that special someone: the excitement of getting to know them, the first date, the first kiss long phone conversations where you learn so much about each other. It's great to have a soulmate, someone who really knows your head and who cares about what you think and feel, especially when it is all very new to you. That sense of novelty and excitement is a very visible indication of young love at work.

People see the teenage couple dawdling around the park and think, "I wish I could have fun like that again. They're lucky. They're so young!" often they can't see or remember the other side. Many forget that young love is a delicate balance of happiness and sadness. Many parents overestimate the laughter and underestimate the tears.

There are so many trials young love has to face, like the growing pains of the two people involved. You're changing in everyway. There is confusion and anger and you don't even know why.

Parents, and their well meaning but inevitable opinions, can also get in the way. Parents can exert a strong and definite influence and if they dislike your boyfriend or girlfriend, they can do very tangible things to keep you apart. Everything from insisting you date others to forbidding you to date them at all.

Friends' opinions can matter a great deal too. Maybe your love is so strong it can survive such observations as "Oh, yeah, Dave's nice, but he isn't that good looking."

One of the most tearful and depressing aspects of young love is the "Big Breakup." You promised to love each other forever, but now those promises have been broken. Sometimes they're totally forgotten. Perhaps the excitement of young love has given way to lonely Saturday night television viewing. After so much time spent with that other person, the hours alone can be so much longer. Having promises broken and dreams dissolved can hurt.

The joys and sorrows of young love are never wasted, though. Every time you reach out to someone, every time you open your heart, you learn and grow. Young love can be the best thing that's ever happened to you. It can also be the most heartbreaking experience.

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ART

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ART

By Bill Cluverius

"Someday I'd just like to get a bunch of students together, and paint a line around Fremont" he replied, with an amused yet intense expression. This answer, at first glance, might give you the picture of an insane old man wrapped in a straightjacket, but that would only be partially true. No, the person responsible for that remark is our own contemporary artist and Art instructor, Mr. Arthur Brandenburg.

A teacher at American since the school opened, Mr. Brandenburg has been exposing students to different sensitivities of art for twenty years. As an active member of the school Liaison committee, and an organizer of the school's art gallery, Brandenburg feels the key to his success is his eagerness to explore new things. He states, "getting involved for the experience, and not being afraid to take a step, has always been one of my better attributes."

His first venture into the idea of art came in the second grade, where he made a clay dog that has stood in his memory ever since. "It was great, I took it around to all the classes in the school. I guess that was when I realized that something was different about me" he exclaims with a chuckle.

He finally committed himself to the field during his senior year in high school. After losing his paper route and being cut from the Varsity Badminton Team, he turned once again to his favorite hobby-Art. It was not till he was kicked out of his house though, that he would make his final decision. "I figured with art I had a home." Home sweet home.

Mr. Brandenburg regards his art as being very personal, and almost private. "When I ask one's opinion on a creation of mine, it's almost a compliment to that person. I feel you have to respect one's opinion before you accept it."

On the concept of art, Brandenburg elaborated that it's an answer constantly being defined. "Through life the answer constantly expands, it never narrows. It's always opening into bigger vistas!" He went on to add "lifting something out of the mundane and into a higher level is really what art is all about."

Andy Warhol once said that everybody in the future will be famous for fifteen minutes, and then forgotten, but someone forgot to tell Mr. Brandenburg.



ROTUNDA is it really closed?

By Scott Horton

On April 16, 1985 the Liaison ing or softly talking. If the student committee passed the Rotunda Policy, dents start to get loud, one of the which has closed the rotunda at A- AP's will give them a warning by American High School from second per- sending them to either the library id through fifth period. This was or the student commons. If they done to lower the noise level and to continue to make noise or are cut- keep students from cutting classes. ting their classes, they will be

Last year, after the policy was sent to ICU for punishment. passed, it was enforced by teachers Mr. DiPaola stated "with the on their prep period. This year AHS help of the Juniors and Seniors, has worked out a schedule so most most of the student body is ac- students would have six classes e- cepting this new policy." eliminating the need for teachers to Since this policy went into ef- patrol the rotunda during periods. fect and the move of the library to This year the rotunda is being it's downstairs area, there has watched by the Assistant Principals been less room in the rotunda and Between the four AP's, they can sit more room in the library. The use in their offices and maintain a of the library also went up 50% watch on the entire rotunda. since the move this past summer. Mr.

The AP's only allow people in the DiPaola stated "students are using rotunda if they are quietly study- their time more wisely this year."



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SOPHOMORE WINS CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL

By Stephanie Abarr

Sophomore, Ron Gray recently received the student Congressional award for the 10th Congressional district. Ron received this award for outstanding service in leadership, community services and physical achievement. The program was established by Congress in 1979 to award young people for their accomplishments.

Ron's accomplishments include building nests for the geese and nesting boxes for the Mallard ducks at

Lake Elizabeth. He taught cardiovascular pulmonary resuscitation and was a volunteer counselor for the boy-scouts.

Ron's mother, Darlene Gray, and his advice counselor, Mr. Williams, completed the required paperwork to make Ron eligible for the award. For Ron, receiving this award was really a surprise, because Mrs. Gray never told him. He found out that he was going to be presented with the award by Congressman Don Edwards, in a letter from Congress.

In Ron's 7th grade year, he was in a serious go-cart accident. His leg was severely cut and he was in the hospital for 11 days. This year his doctor told Ron that he could again participate in athletic activities. Ron stated "I'm going to join the track and field team as soon as the season comes around again."

Ron Gray is a valuable and determined member of the Fremont community and the American High School student body.



Andy Andrews (11)-
"Some candy and a rose
with hugs and kisses
before she took off
for Tahoe."



Eileen Kleven (10)-
"I got him a BIG band-
aid for his car!"



Toni Omodt (9)- "A
bookmark with a poem
about how special he
is, a red rose, and a
Valentine card."



Kamie Boyce (12)-
"I made a heart-shaped
cake for him, I de-
signed a frame and put
pictures of him and I
in it, and a heart
frame with a picture
of me in it, a Valen-
tine card, and some
Baby Magic baby-bath!"

EAGLE



EYE

This month's question is
"What did you get your
sweetheart for Valen-
tine's Day?"

By Cindy Pargett



Barbara Benson (11)
"I got him an 'I Love
You' balloon."



Kurt Steadman (10)-
"I got terribly roman-
tic, invited her over
for a quiet evening,
and then played it by
ear!" (You know what I
mean!)



Shayne Scribner (9)
"I gave him all my
love, a teddy bear, and
a box of candy."



Gabe Ortiz (12)- "I
took her out to dinner
with my bud Ron Martin
and his love, we went
to a movie, I gave her
a big stuffed bear
that says 'I Love You'
and a helium balloon
that says 'Happy Val-
entine's Day.'"

ECONOMICS AT AMERICAN

By Kathy Bagnod

Have you ever won-
dered how prices are
determined, or how you
will survive on your
own income? Approx-
imately 60 Seniors are
currently taking a new
Economics course to
help them answer these
questions and many
others.

This is the first
year that American
High School has ever
offered a course in
Economics. Students
have been given the
opportunity to take
the class this year,
on an optional basis.

Next year it will be a
required course for
all Seniors.

A variety of sub-
jects will be covered
throughout the course.
The students will be
sent out to find an
apartment or home and
prepare a budget for
themselves and their
"spouse". They will
also participate in a
stock market game.

Mr. Pete Murchison,
Social Science in-
structor, is currently
teaching the course.
Murchison stated, "The
class will be excell-
ent for preparing stu-
dents to go out on
their own."

SPIRITLEADING NOT JUST ANOTHER ACTIVITY

By Michelle Hirschman

Many people think that spirit-
leaders are a bunch of brainless fe-
males who only wear short skirts to
school. On the contrary, the spir-
itleaders are a group of hardworking
girls whose job it is to promote
school spirit. Annual tryouts are
held in May and their job of repre-
senting American High School lasts
throughout the entire year.

The spirit season actually begins
in early summer. While other stu-
dents are sleeping in, the spirit-

leaders are practicing outside of
Gateway at 7:30 in the morning. They
spend their time practicing football
cheers and making up routines to
perform at camp.

Spirit camps are held on the cam-
puses of Stanford University and the
University of California at Santa
Cruz.

Spiritleading is open to both
boys and girls and everyone is en-
couraged to try out. Spiritleading
is an exciting activity where you
meet new people and have a lot of
fun!

Mr. Murchison checks
his clean close shave
as Jerold Benjamin
gives him his homework



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-SPORTS LOOK-



By Ron Martin

Academic requirements for high school athletes seeking college scholarships have recently become stricter.

At its annual convention in New Orleans the National Collegiate Athletic Association voted in a new set of academic requirements for the entry of 1986 freshmen-athletes at universities. The new standards require that college athletic entrants have

at least a 2.0 grade point average and a score of 700 out of 1600 on the SAT or 15 out of 36 on the ACT.

The new NCAA guidelines have upset many college recruiters, who feel that a lot of talent will go unseen because of the new regulations. It has been estimated by a San Diego State recruiter that 50 to 70 percent of the high school athletes that qualified last year for scholarships would not qualify this year.

The fact that thousands of athletes will be denied the opportunity of both an education and riches as professional athletes is an unpleasant one.

But let us look at the beneficial side of the new regulations. Perhaps now more high school athletes will realize that there is more to high school than playing sports and put more of an effort into studying.

After all athletes know more than anybody what a little extra effort can accomplish. Especially those that are gifted enough to get a scholarship. Sure there is such thing as a natural, but many talented athletes achieve success by setting goals and fulfilling them. Hopefully a 2.0 grade point average will be added to their list of goals.

EAGLES STRUGGLE TO 3-9 RECORD

8 Lettermen To Return

By Ron Martin

Due to inexperience a first place or second place finish for the American High School varsity basketball team seemed very unlikely. Even third place seemed out of the question. But fourth place was something to shoot for. All year the Eagles struggled for a fourth place finish, which if achieved would guarantee them a birth in the Shaughnessy Playoffs.

In the Mission Valley Athletic League race the first four teams advance to the playoffs. While the James Logan Colts

and Washington Huskies battled for the first two spots in the Shaughnessys, American along with Mission San Jose and Newark Memorial fought for the remaining two spots. But when the season was over, the Eagles, with a 3-9 record, were four games behind Newark Memorial and Mission.

Although this years varsity basketball team failed in bringing us the success past teams have, don't count them out in the future. Because next years team will see the return of eight talented lettermen.

sports shorts

BOY'S BASKETBALL

Wednesday, February 5, the American High School boys basketball team defeated Irvington High School 56-44. Sophomore Mike Lipps grabbed three consecutive steals to help the Eagles break open a closed game in the fourth quarter. Lipps defensive effort gave American a quick 16 point lead and the victory.



Sophomore Mike Lipps

Friday, February 7, the varsity basketball team lost to Newark Memorial 55-52. Mike Lusk had ten points in the heartbreaking overtime defeat to lead the Eagles.

Wednesday, February 12, the varsity basketball team got blown out 73-45 by the Logan Colts. Lance Otani led American with ten points.

Friday, February 14, the varsity basketball team got a thrashing from the Mission San Jose Warriors 66-34. The loss was the third in a row for the Eagles and ended any chance at post season play. Shawn Irask led the team with nine points.

GIRL'S BASKETBALL

Tuesday, Feb. 4, the girls varsity basketball team destroyed the Vikings of Irvington 62-29. The game's top scorer was Linda Kirby who finished the

game with a career-high 27 points.



Senior Lisa Bozzo

Thursday, Feb. 6, the varsity girls basketball team edged out a victory over Newark Memorial beating them 41-38. It was a close call for the Eagles who improved their record to 9-0. Linda Kirby once again led the Eagles with 12 points. Kim English chipped in with 10, while Lisa Bozzo scored 8.

Tuesday, Feb. 11, the varsity girls basketball team barely pulled out another victory defeating the James Logan Colts 46-45. The game was the Eagles second consecutive struggle. Linda Kirby added 14 more to her ferocious list of points. Lisa Bozzo

was right behind her with 11.

Thursday, Feb. 13, the girls basketball team assured themselves of a first place finish by defeating Mission San Jose 57-25. Kim English and Linda Kirby led the Eagles with 14 points a piece.

Thursday, Feb. 20, the American High School varsity basketball team won their third consecutive MVAL title defeating the Washington Huskies 45-39. The game completed a spectacular 12-0 season. Linda Kirby scored 15 to lead the Eagles, while Kim English chipped in with 12.

WRESTLING



Junior Dilly Melo

On Wednesday, Feb. 19, the American High Boys Varsity Wrestling Team defeated the Huskies of Washington High to nail down fourth place in the MVAL.

Dilly Melo 114 pounds and Bob Kim 129 both gained pins and Kane 194 and Mark DiPaola 134 easy decisions while Randy Roberts 141 rallied to gain an 8-6 victory as the Eagles jumped to a 23-0 lead.

On Thursday Feb. 6, the American High Boys Varsity Wrestling Team defeated the Cougars of Newark Memorial in a dramatic 35-33 wrestling victory.

The Eagles trailed 33-31 heading into the final match of the day. Victory could only be gained if Junior Dilly Melo could defeat his opponent, Don Diaz in the 115 pounds weight class. Melo responded by pinning Diaz to win the game for AHS. Another major decision was American's Randy Roberts 12-2 victory over Shawn Harris.

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WE SERVICE THE ENTIRE FREMONT AREA

NUMBER ONE ON THE COURT AND CLASSROOM

By Patty Gallegos

What a team. Not only do they work hard on the court but they work hard in the classroom as well. The American Varsity Girls Basketball team were rewarded for their academic achievements by being named the North Coast Section Scholastic Honor Team for earning a 3.04 grade point average.

In order to receive this award a team must have all its members earn above a 3.0 GPA. All twelve members of the team qualified and two members of the squad, Kim English (Senior) and Michelle Vasquez (Junior) earned a 3.5 GPA, earning them an Individual Scholar Athlete award. Each member of the team will receive a certificate award.

The team is made up of well rounded athletes with good work ethics. Vice-Principal, John Dipaola, expressed that he was excited about the award and added, "It goes to show that good athletes and academics go together."

Coach Johnson was asked why he thought the team received the award he stated, "I think they probably received the award because of motivation from within."

The members of the Varsity Girls Basketball team are also proud of what they've accomplished. With the pressures they face, it's admirable that they can seem to do it all. As Kenneen Odell (Junior) put it, "It's good that we can play basketball and keep up good grades because they both take a lot of time." Congratulations on the good work ladies.

EAGLES RIP HUSKIES

coach johnson to retire

By Tim Lightfoot

On Thursday, February 20, the American High School girls varsity basketball team clinched the Mission Valley Athletic League title for the third consecutive year with a big win over the Washington Huskies, 45-39.

The season-ending victory gave American a perfect 12-0 league record.

Their combined over all record is 24-2, which will keep the Eagles at the top of the current East Bay basketball polls and probably move them up from their number nine spot in the current Northern California polls.

The victory over Washington was by far one of the biggest of the year for the Eagles. Guard Linda Kirby, who finished

the game with 16 points, explained, "We came into the game hyped up and we wanted it bad, and we got it"

The girls are now insured a North Coast Section berth, and must be defeated twice in the Shaughnessy Play-offs to be denied the MVAL Playoff Championship.

Coach, Art Johnson has recently submitted his resignation as the girls varsity basketball coach to Principal Joe Tranchina. After eleven years as the head coach of Americans most successful program, Johnson has decided this would be his final year. Johnson added, "I did not announce my retirement going into post season play to motivate the team, I feel they have enough motivation already."

FIVE WRESTLERS ADVANCE TO NCS

By Bryan da Silva

American High hosted the 1986 Mission Valley Athletic League Boys Wrestling finals on February 22, 1986 in their school gym. The entire MVAL participated, including the newest entry the California School for the Deaf.

Placing for American on the Varsity squad was Senior Tyler Young at 111 lbs, receiving a fourth place honor. Junior Dilly Melo was another fourth place finisher and Senior Mike Roberts took a second place finish in the 167 lbs weight class. The 1985 MVAL defending champion in the 107 weight class, Senior Troy Mederios,

took a second place with almost defeating his opponent in the final seconds of the match, he lost by the score of 11-12.

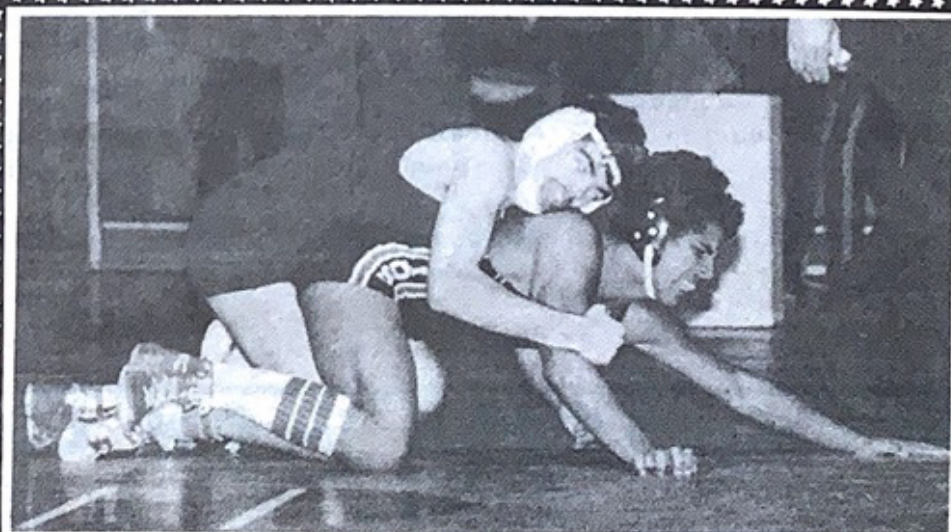
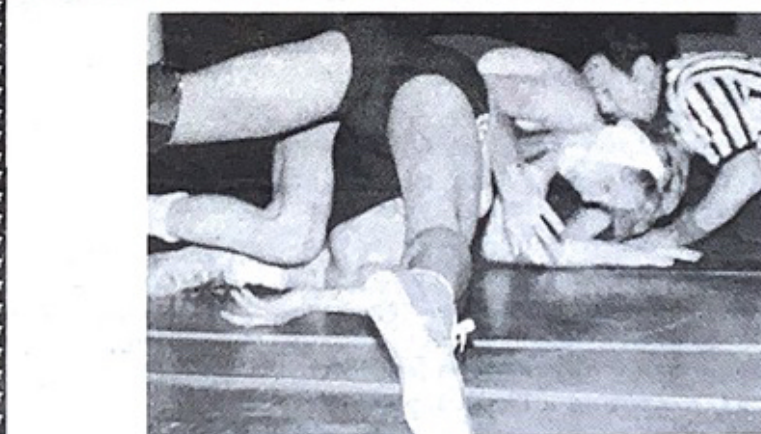
But, the thrilling event of the evening was in the 141 lbs class when Junior Randy Roberts, who advanced to the finals by an earlier upset victory, took the title. While losing by a score of 10-2 in the second period, Randy executed a reversal move and as a result pinned his opponent late in the second period.

Congratulations to all of the wrestlers in league championships. who dedicated all of their time to the 1986 season to make this evening an enjoyable one for the spectators.

Pictured right Junior Randy Roberts pins opponent.



Pictured right Senior Troy Mederios hangs on for victory.



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Photo left: Close-ups Brian Balingit hits the ice during the Washington D.C. trip.

Photo right: Charlene Gaylord, Susie Cullen and Zee Zee Guiol show what they looked like after the annual mud-slinging initiation at Young Life's camp Wood leaf.



Freshmen Class In Debt

by Christine Young

The Freshmen Class at American High School is in debt. The debt was created during Spirit Week in October.

According to Freshmen Class President Tom Mello, the debt is not serious or permanent. Historically, all freshmen classes begin the year with no funds. During the year, they have a fundraiser and a dance to raise money. The Class of '89 has not held their fundraiser yet, this accounts for their debt.

During football season, members from the class did work at the concession stand to raise about \$50, but, as Tom stated, "We won't get the money until the end of the year." To raise additional money, the Freshmen Class is planning to have a dance in April. They're thinking about having an exchange dance with Washington High. Their two-week fundraiser is scheduled for March. Tom added, "We'd like to make enough money in March to cover the dance. The dance should raise enough money for next year."

Most freshmen classes have the same debt problems because they are still having their class elections at the start of the school year. By the time the president is elected, he/she has a lot to do, and filling the class treasury is not a top priority. Tom explained that the Class of '89 didn't spend as much on Spirit Week as previous classes have, so their debt is fairly low. "I'm not really concerned about it because it's not a lot of money."

Tom hopes that he'll receive a lot of support from the Freshmen Class during their fundraiser. "If we can have a lot of people involved, then we should be able to begin next year with a good start."

Have Fun With Young Life

by Laura Templeton

Young Life is a club for teenagers to participate in various activities and meet with friends to discuss issues and problems that students face each day. The American High School group meets on Monday nights at 7:30 p.m. on the corner of Bonde Street and Post Street. The meetings are held at the Young Life Town Hall and average about 20-30 students.

A large percent of the leaders for the AHS group are volunteers. The Tri-City area leader, Randy Pries, explained, "The main goal of Young Life is basically a lot of fun." The clubs, camps, and activities are designed to be unique, and adventurous. Young Life gives young people a chance to meet new people and have as much fun as possible. Meetings involve discussion topics that are important to teens.

Members of the AHS group seem to like Young Life because as Kristina Morrison, junior, commented, "Young Life is fun. I meet a lot of new people and I am starting to feel much happier about myself." Another member of Young Life and also a junior, Kathy Libke, added, "Everyone has a good time because there is no competition between the people there." Russell Sass continued by saying, "I learned about myself, relationships with God, and how I view things."

French Club Scholarships

by Kristy Tobeck

The French Club has chosen to sponsor three students who are qualified for a 15-day "partial" scholarship to France. The winners are Junior, Erin Gaffaney, and Sophomore, Kim Jensen. The other winner, Senior Sung Woo Su, declined his honor and therefore Senior, Stephanie Loomis, the first runner-up, will be taking his place. The second runner-up was Sophomore, Melanie Dunn.

All active members of the French Club

were eligible to apply, however, only 10 did. The students had to write two essays to apply: one on why they would like to go to France and one on their personality. Furthermore, the applicants were interviewed by a panel of two teachers and one student who had experienced the trip.

This is the second year that this program has been in effect. The trip is called "La Belle France" and includes 15 days of travel.

The French Club raises \$800 towards an \$1100 or \$1500 schol-

arship, depending on what the student or parent wants to put in for the remaining amount. This includes airfare, food, and travel expenses.

Mrs. Gehrke, American's French instructor, has two major questions that she has addressed to the three students which are: How will you represent America and what will you share when you return from your trip?

When asked why did you decide to start this program, Mrs. Gehrke replied, "We are able to share a common goal- the dream to go to France."

SCHOOLS CASH IN ON LOTTERY

by Matt Hoffman

Recently, Fremont Unified School District received \$1,340,000 from the California Lottery. The amount is expected to be renewed quarterly, totalling over \$5,000,000 annually. This equals nearly one-sixteenth of the district's current budget. As Mr. Tranchina put it, "this can have a tremendous im-

pact on our school district."

It is now up to the Fremont School Board to decide how the money should be spent. Meetings are presently being held with representatives of the teacher, clerical, counselor, and maintenance unions so that recommendations can be prepared. These suggestions are due by April 1, and the board will

vote for or against them at its April meeting.

Unfortunately, it looks as though the Class of '86 will not share in the benefits derived from the lottery. For even if the Board decides how to spend the money at its April meeting, there is little chance any purchases will be received before mid-August.

SWIFT RESIGNS

by Kristy Tobeck

Recently, Mr. Bill Swift resigned as the cheerleading advisor of the AHS Cheerleading squad.

The main reason given for Mr. Swift's resignation is due to many other activities in his life. "It has nothing to do with the

girls," Swift added.

Swift will continue teaching his regular art classes until his retirement. Swift then added, "The next advisor will have the most wonderful girls to work with! I have been with the girls since AHS opened and I'm going to miss them."