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AMERICAN



EXPRESS

Volume VI

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## Teachers Vote In Favor of a Strike

Poor salaries, low benefits, and unfair treatment  
are major concerns of the teachers.

Elliott Chin

On February 12, the teachers of the Fremont Unified School District took a strike vote. Some teachers were fed up with the posturing of the district and voted quickly. Others were reluctant to vote but voted to provide a united front. The vote was heavily in favor of a strike, which means that the teachers' union has more leverage against the district. If the vote had been a weak "yes," the district would then feel less pressure to settle. Since fact-finding ended on February 15, teachers have legally been able to strike and could enter work action this week. However, teachers are concerned about a strike's potential impact on students. According to Mr. Harold Smith, "[The strike is] tremendously

upsetting because of what it does for my morale... Unfortunately the students are the recipients of my bad vibes." Some of the issues that prompted teachers to vote "yes" were salary questions, Prop 98 money, benefits, and the methods of negotiation employed by the district.

Teachers are upset at the low salaries they receive. An average 15-year teacher makes close to \$35,700, while the average administrator makes close to \$56,500. There are many who earn much less as beginning teachers. Under current salaries, many new teachers cannot afford housing in this area. In addition, whereas Fremont teachers' salaries rank among the lowest in the Bay Area, Fremont administrative salaries are 10% above the Bay Area average. The superintendent earns about \$87,000 salary. In contrast, the highest teacher salary is roughly

\$57,000. Furthermore, a teacher has to work 33 years in Fremont to achieve his or her highest possible salary, as opposed to 16 years in other districts. Administrators say that the reason for such differences in average salaries is due to different workdays and different workhours. Teachers are considered to work 180 days a year at six and a half hours per day, while district administrators are said to work 220 days at eight hours each day. The contract states that teachers are paid according to these set times. So, this month, teachers decided to do exactly as their contracts dictated. They "worked the rule," coming to school at 7:30 in the morning and leaving at 2:30.

(continued on page 8)

## Bush Cuts Down on Defense Spending

Rebecca Ehsan

With the many changes taking place in and around the world, many nations see the need for a big and strong defense system seems a bit too much. Recently, President George Bush called for the United States and the Soviet Union to cut their forces in Europe to 225,000 each and a maximum of 195,000 in Central America. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney also presented the 1991 budget which proposed a 2.6% cut in military spending. This cut would save the United States a total of nine billion dollars in total.

The U.S. Army, presently, has 18 active divisions, 12 reserve divisions, and 16,000 tanks. If Cheney's 1991 2.6% cut was put into effect, the army would have to deactivate two Army divisions, cut helicopter-improvement programs, and end the M-1 tank production. This would save the government \$3.3 billion.

The Navy has 14 carrier groups, 229 surface ships, 35 strategic submarines, three Marine divisions, and three Marine air wings. The Navy would have to cut from its programs as well in order to save money. They would need to get rid of two battleships, deactivate eight nuclear submarines, and eliminate the V-22 Osprey program (Marines). This would save \$2.5 billion.

The Army and Navy are not the only military forces that have to give up a few things. The Air Force will also suffer. Presently, it has 25 active wings, 24 reserve wings, 97 B-1 bombers, and 2,050 transport aircrafts. In order to save \$4.5 billion, the Air Force has to cut back on spending as well. It would have to discontinue using 14 B-52 bombers, stop purchasing F-15E fighters, end the Maverick-missile program, and end the self-protection jammer. According to Bush, these cuts are not sufficient. Part of his plan includes closing down military bases where they are not needed. In five years time, the United States will save \$1.2 billion.

With all these cutbacks, the total pentagon budget will be \$283 billion dollars.

## Challenge of the Minds

Students attempt to match wits.

David Hsia

The C.S.F. sponsored Brain Bowl, an annual competition of wits, intelligence, and general knowledge, has returned once again to American High School. Although such academic contests are common in the East Coast schools, it is just beginning to take root on the West Coast. The contest began on February 12 and will continue for two weeks.

This year's contest consists of thirteen teams. There are several well-qualified teams from the senior, junior,

sophomore, and freshmen classes. The contest takes place during lunch time in the classrooms of the 500 wing, and a double elimination format is used. Each team consists of four players, though four players of the same sex is not permitted. The arbitrator begins each game with a toss-up question which both teams can answer by buzzing in. When answered correctly, the team receives a bonus question and five points. The points awarded can vary according to the difficulty of the question. The topics of the questions can vary from history to math to science to sports. Intelligence plays a great part in the contest, but

experience with trivia is essential for a team to survive in the Brain Bowl.

The students and players received a preview of the game with a mock round on Tuesday, February 8. Anxious students watched as the two teams matched their wits to see who is the best. There were many laughs and surprises when the players answered puzzling questions. The sophomore-team of Laura Moss, Peter Tebault, Paul Kim, and Christine Young won the contest without much resistance from the senior-team of Kevin Chang, Chris Noriega, Alan Jeung, and John Diamonon.

(continued on page 8)



Brian Drake, Bruce Templeton, Wendy Keller, and Greg Hoffman take a minute to discuss a question.



# Privacy Endangered in the "Information Age"

Nils Talbot

As America moves into the new decade, its citizens are experiencing a loss of security. This lack of security doesn't come from drug cartels or from hostile countries, but from within our own nation. The "Information Age" has given the general public too much information about our private lives.

Patricia Schaffer, former star of "My Sister Sam" learned this the hard way. A crazed fan obtained her address from the Department of Motor Vehicles. He went to her house and rang the bell. When she opened the door, he shot her in the face, killing her. Any one of you who has a driver's license can be investigated by anyone who goes to the DMV and requests information about you. If somebody gets a hold of your Social Security number, even more information can be obtained.

The armed services doesn't seem to be determined to preserving the American way when it comes to personal privacy. I have an unlisted phone number, yet I have been called by each branch at least once. I still don't know how they got it. Maybe our own school is selling us out. Hmmm. This probably doesn't bother students who are interested in the armed forces, but for those of us whose post-high school plans don't include invading third-world countries, being called up by some Army recruiter who wants to "just talk over your options sometime this week" can be quite annoying.

Mailing lists are also an invasion of our privacy. It's not getting a ton of junk mail that's so bad, but the fact that people you don't know can get a hold of your name and put together a personality profile of you that may or may not be accurate. They can look at what you buy through the mail, what kind of magazines you subscribe to, and other things about you that various companies may have learned. From this they could deduce your political leanings, special interests, and your buying habits.

Information about our private lives shouldn't be public information. It's bad enough that the government seems bent on taking away our rights; don't let your right to privacy be taken away as well. Stricter limits need to be imposed on what information can be released and to whom. We should be able to tell the DMV if we don't want any information to be given out about us. Other public and private institutions should respect the individual's right to privacy as well.

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I have recently been involved in school sports. I was just wondering why such sports as basketball and football get more attention than smaller sports such as cross-country and wrestling. When the cross-country team went to NCS, only a small announcement was made. But whenever we just have a league game of basketball or football, there's always a big thing: Let's go out and root your football or basketball team on. I think in the future, not only glamour sports, but the smaller sports should get more support from our school.

Sincerely,  
Mad Freshman

Dear Mad Freshman:

The reason that such a big deal is made about the "bigger" sports is simply because they are more popular among high school students. Rallies and other events don't cause this attitude, they merely reflect it. Although the participants of the "smaller" sports work just as hard as those in the more popular ones, they will never get the same amount of recognition because most high school students just aren't interested in them. So learn to live with disappointment.

Sincerely,  
Editor

# Sliders, Coasters, and Informers, Oh My!

Scott McDonald

There are a number of "students" at American who are destroying the educational system. These hideous animals are the "Sliders". We should not allow them to take over the school. Should they be allowed to do so the United States will fall even further behind foreign powers.

We know who they are: they're those students, and I use the term lightly, who complete 95% of their work load by taking it directly from a classmate's paper. One such student is currently one of the seven students ranked number one in the class of 1991.

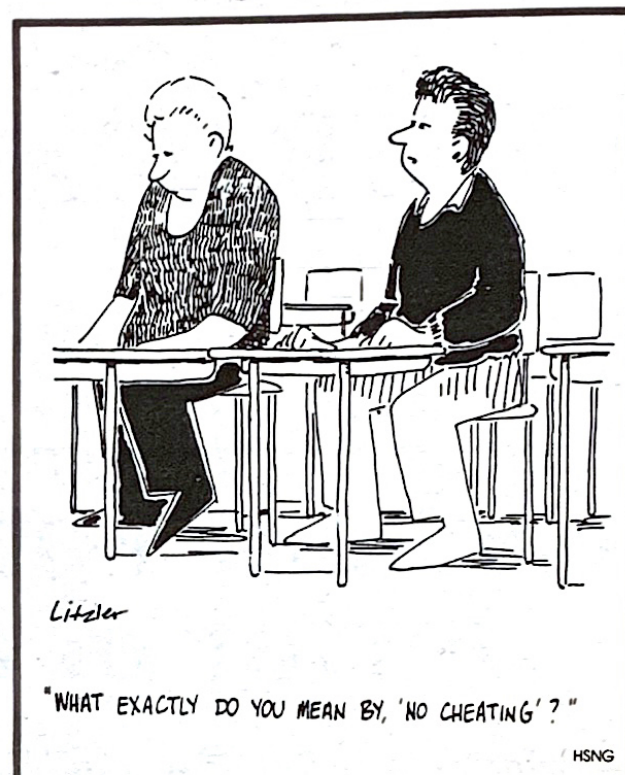
Another type of "Slider" who is plaguing our school system and the American way of life is the "Coaster." These are those students who have the knowledge and the skill to do quite well in the Honors program yet intentionally take easier classes so they do not have to do much work. Don't you just feel so sorry for them?

Sure, many of you do not find this to be too horrible, especially those of you who live off taking a sneak peak at a friend's paper now and then to make the grade. Not only are these actions cruel, hideous, and, in the case of the perpetual copier, illegal, but they are actually hurting fellow students.

Upon discussing "sliders" with many members of the Honors class of '91, it becomes apparent that they feel very threatened by "these crimes against society." In all classes, students strain and struggle to make the grade. When ignorant "babble brains" stroll through assignments using others' thoughts and take recognition from those who deserve it, it destroys good students' records. Many colleges take only the top few students; when sliders destroy the ranking system, they make good students look worse. The good students do not get accepted into the college of their choice, and it leads directly to the downfall of these United States.

What should we do? Let's start by looking at the law. Under the Ninth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, your personal liberties extend only as far as you are not inflicting harm on others or taking away their rights under the Constitution. The "sliders" are in direct violation of the Constitution of the United States of America by harming others and taking away their right to a fair chance at the American dream.

If "sliding" is such a crime in the eyes of our forefathers, why is nothing done about it? First of all, many of these dissenters are the teacher's and counselors' pets. The administrator would never believe that they could do



harm, so they let it pass. Yes, part of the blame is to be placed on the teachers, but only a small part. When you coo even one answer, you are encouraging and promoting this behavior. Too much emphasis on extracurricular activity is also a culprit. Students spend too much time on other less important things and must copy or take an easier class to make up for their deficiencies.

To rid ourselves of this potent criminal, it is necessary to impose stricter regulations and harsher punishments. Many teachers give zeroes when they discover someone cheating on a major test. This is obviously not enough. Most cheating takes place on homework, outside of school. An anonymous Informers Program is necessary. I propose that we make it a standard policy to punish cheating with negative points on a given assignment. Perhaps they will then get the message.

The "coasters," however, are much more difficult to deal with. The actual implementation of their scheme usually takes place in the counselor's office. The only solution to this problem is pressure from fellow students. I suggest, that we, the honest students at American High, present petitions to administrators, to crush "coaster's" devilish plans. Being with your boyfriend or girlfriend is not a good reason for taking an easier class.

Whatever we do, we must rid ourselves of these scums. It is the only way to save humanity and our personal rights. As you read this, "sliders" are ruining people all across the nation, perhaps even you. Or perhaps you're the one killing off our country. We, The decent human beings, must work together to clean up our schools and stop the menace, if only for the sake of "liberty and justice for all."

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## VIEWPOINT

Students Speak Out!

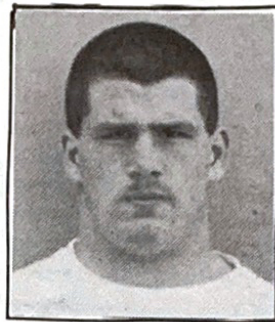
Students Speak Out!

## Is too much emphasis placed on athletics in high school?



**Susie Storelli**  
Freshman

*"Yes. School should focus more on education and less on athletics."*



**Darin Preisendorf**  
Sophomore

*"No, because it is voluntary. If you want to study you can study, but if you want to play sports no one is stopping you."*



**Tim Angeli**  
Junior

*"No, because in school athletics is an extra-curricular activity. You don't have to if you don't want to."*



**Rochelle Merrill**  
Senior

*"In some schools you find that, but not so much here. There isn't as much participation as before."*

## Big Business Hurts

## Athletics

## Aren't Everything!

Joel Mattern

In recent times, many large corporations have decided to uproot their American factories, and set sail for foreign lands. Companies like Colombia Pictures and MGM have even been bought by Japanese competitors. One recent factory closure has aroused a heated controversy. This is the GM plant closure in Flint, Michigan. There was even a film made by director Micheal Moore on this exact town. The townspeople of Flint (who were laid off) are devastated due to the present lack of work. However, the heads of GM don't care about this. Their only care is turning a profit.

When it comes down to the basics, people should always be more important than the "all-mighty dollar." The big businessman cannot continue to step on the little guy and expect him to support that business. Take General Motors, for example. They lay off hundreds of workers and still expect them to buy GM cars. That's just like kicking someone in the head with a pair of Nikes and then asking him to buy a pair for himself.

GM is not only continually closing down factories in this country, but it is opening them up in other countries. GM factories have appeared in Japan, Europe, and one may even spring up in Mexico. The only reason for this is that the labor and materials are cheaper outside of the U.S. The bottom line is this: when you're paying Mexican workers 80 cents an hour to do the same work an American worker gets eight dollars an hour to do, the workmanship is poor. The GM leaders claim that they care about the future of America, yet they open factories in other countries. If this country isn't careful, it will end up in the sewer, with no idea how it got there.

Many two-faced corporations are helping to bring America down. Michael Moore, the man who made the film slamming GM, said, "We are living in a real-life 'Grapes of Wrath'." He hit the proverbial nail on the head with that statement. The country is heading for a deep depression. I only hope that in the 90's, corporations stop buying into foreign countries. Because by the year 1999, we might be saying "Domo Arigato," instead of "hello."

## Scholastic Laziness Leads To American Downfall

Elliott Chin

I was reading a recent San Jose Mercury News article a couple of days ago that gave a simple test to high school students on the subjects of addition, subtraction, division, and reading comprehension. The article stated that half of the test-takers failed the exam. Keep in mind that these were easy questions. How can Americans be so stupid? The future calls for intelligence, not incompetence. Jobs are getting more selective, but the American people aren't rising to the challenge.

Almost every other nation is ahead of the United States in all aspects of knowledge. In fact, we are always reading about how stupid our students are. We place last behind Japan, Korea, and other nations in math. A fifth of us can't even place Canada and the Soviet Union on a world map. Four fifths can't find Southeast Asia. America is in sad shape. If we continue on our present path, we will fall further behind other nations. In a matter of years America will lose her superpower status to such technological and educational giants like Japan and West Germany. We cannot rely on military might for security any longer. Power in the present day is measured by technology, economy, and education, and all of these aspects must eventually come under the control of today's students. Unfortunately, today's students are incompetent and stupid. Although part of the blame can be placed on the educational system, most of it lies elsewhere.

In this case, the system is just a scapegoat. The blame rests on the shoulders of the students and their families. American students can't add because they refuse to learn. American students can't read and write because they refuse to learn. American students can't even name the constituents (that's states for those whom I'm writing about) of the nation they live in. They lounge around like drooling idiots and vegetate. The sole reason behind this stupidity is laziness. American students are lazy and lethargic. They refuse to do work. In some ways, many have grown so dependent and secure in America's might that they feel it is unnecessary for them to learn. They feel that everything will be provided for them. Students don't care and in the long run it will cost the whole country dearly.

Some of this attitude can be attributed to home life. After all, children learn first from home, then school. Whatever laziness dominates their school life must have been gained from home. I'm not saying that parents are totally to blame. It is, in fact, the students' responsibility. However, they certainly play a part in shaping this attitude. Let these lethargic students beware. Their laziness will ultimately topple this nation.

Tim Madrid

Competition in the United States has become very fierce in the past century. Corporations and industries battle each other to come out on top. This spirit of intense competition has even spread to our schools to a point where winning isn't everything; it's the only thing. This is especially true when it comes to school sports. In order to satisfy this need for total domination in sports, colleges recruit and award scholarships to people not for their academic record, but for their athletic abilities.

People who don't even deserve a high school diploma manage to attend some of the finest schools in the country because of vain school boards and their desire to win. Complete morons who know how to dribble a basketball find themselves in the UCLA gym while poor souls who work hard in school and have no time for sports get the boot. Some people rely on sports scholarships to pay for tuition but get no studying done because they are too involved in sports. These people usually end up dropping out. So what would be the point of going to college in the first place? Certainly not to fill their minds with knowledge.

The colleges are also partly to blame for these pea-brain jocks who only pretend to be students. Coaches ask for special "favors" from the school board to "help" pass athletes. I'm glad colleges such as Oklahoma University were banned from sports for those activities. What does winning the championship do for the college? Does it give them prestige? I think the only way for a college to gain prestige would be to produce intelligent, educated individuals. After all, what were colleges made for?

Yes, our great colleges have reached an all-time low by resorting to recruiting and bribing "talented individuals" just so they may retain a silly trophy for a year. It's no wonder our students are always being compared to students of other countries as being the "dullest" academically. All of our prospects are too busy on the playing field practicing to win the "big game" instead of studying for mid-terms. Sure many of these young athletes might become professionals or MVP's, but after all, isn't it only a game?

## Words of Wisdom

*"You believe that easily that which you hope for earnestly."*  
-Terrence

*"Everyone is a moon, and has a dark side which he never shows to anyone."*  
-Mark Twain

*Children begin by loving their parents; as they grow older they judge them; sometimes they forgive them."*  
-Oscar Wilde

*"In a state of anarchy power is the measure of right."*  
-Lucan

*"Idealism increases in direct proportion to one's distance from the problem."*  
-Galsworthy

*"A lesson that is never learned can ever be too often sought."*  
-Seneca



# Valentine's Day at AHS

## The Legend of St. Valentine

Ellen Nguyen

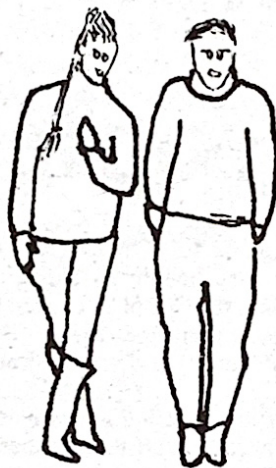
For all you Valentines out there, do you know the true meaning of St. Valentine's Day? The legend dates back to 270 A.D. during the rule of the Roman Emperor, Claudius II. Claudius ordered all Romans to worship twelve gods. He made the worship of Christianity punishable by death.

Valentinus was a man who was dedicated to the Christian faith. Even though Claudius forbade any Christian marriages, he performed them anyway. Unfortunately, Valentinus was caught and sent to jail. During the week before his death, the jailer, seeing that Valentinus was a scholarly man, asked him to teach his daughter Julia. Julia had been blind ever since birth and was not allowed to get a public education. Valentinus agreed to teach her. In that week, Valentinus taught and read to her. Julia saw the wonders of the world through Valentinus's eyes. Valentinus not only taught her of his knowledge, but he also taught her his Christian faith.

Julia was very unhappy, because all her life Julia had only one wish: she wanted to see. One day when Julia was praying with Valentinus, a bright ray of light beamed into his cell. Julia was startled when she realized that she could see. Valentinus had fulfilled her last wish. He was honored by being named Saint Valentinus. Nearing his death, Valentinus fell in love with Julia. Unfortunately this love could never develop, for Valentinus's death day had come.

On the eve of his death, Valentinus wrote a note urging her to keep her faith in God, and he signed the note "From your Valentine." Valentinus died on February 14, 270 A.D.

Many legends are passed on about the origin of St. Valentine's Day, but most of them are only myths. This legend is believed to be the most accurate, because records reveal that Valentinus did actually live until 270 A.D.



WML

## AHS Valentines Make Plans

Ruby Leonen

Valentine's Day is a time when people celebrate the meaning of love and friendship. It is a time when people share their feelings with that "special someone" and let them know how much they care. Through little cards, heart-shaped balloons, red roses or boxes of chocolates, they show their appreciation for their loved ones.

Valentine's Day has a unique meaning for each person. At American High, students were asked about how they were going to celebrate Valentine's and what this special day means to them. Jake Bayani, a senior, said that he would give his sweetheart roses, and perhaps, later in the day, take her out for lunch. He sees Valentine's Day as a time to think about how much you care for that "love in your life." Another senior, Kay Castro, expressed her own ideas about Valentine's Day. With romance on her mind, she said that she wanted to have a gourmet candle-lit dinner for two and later, go on a night out in the city. For her, Valentine's Day is a special occasion for expressing your love.

Junior Michelle Wagner was discreet about her plans for Valentine's Day. She wanted to spend a romantic evening with the person she cares about. Michelle views Valentine's Day as a time to show love and affection for her boyfriend. Finally, Joey Berdal, a freshman, answered happily about his plans for himself and his lady love. He planned to take her out for dinner at Sizzler's. Then he would surprise her with a gold necklace, a locket, with a picture of them inside. He views Valentine's as a day to celebrate relationships.

Valentine's Day produces wonderful memories for people to cherish. Not only is it a time for lovers but for friends and family who want to let their loved ones know how much they care. Valentine's Day.....what does it mean to you?

## Wednesday Activities Off to a Gross Start

Jon Robberson

The shrill of the bell ending fourth period was followed by only a fraction of a second of silence. The rotunda was quickly pounding with bass as senior "mixers" Victor Bontempo, Wendell Celestial, and Jonas Garcia filled American High with popular "house music." After five minutes of jammin', the volume dropped and Emcee Kay Castro emerged from the crowd, which had gathered around twelfth grade student services.

A light hearted air hung above the students who were congregating to see science instructor, Mr. Schneck, and four hulking students gorge themselves on the best pizza in the business, Little Caesar's. However, pre-lunch entertainment was first on the agenda.

The crowd silenced as everyone looked for the freshman contestant in the belching contest... and they spent the remainder of lunch looking. Next, it was sophomore J.J. Johnson, who

(according to his teachers) did not uphold the reputation of his previous belching abilities. The junior candidate was stricken with stage fright and 7UP and was therefore unable to belch, or comment. The grand finale of this contest was senior Victor Bontempo, who sent richter scales in San Francisco right off the record books! Rumor has it, that Victor has been asked to pay for damage to the P.A. system.

The beat was pumpin' again as four students took their seats behind piping hot pizza and smiled in the same confident way. Mr. Schneck was also present, although the general conclusion among students is that he was just indulging in a free lunch!

After a few minutes, sophomore Darin Preisendorf was licking his lips and gloating over an empty pizza box. This was much to the dismay of senior Ralph Garcia and junior Don Cotter. Everyone agrees that the Wednesday lunch activities are off to a grossly popular start.

## Aztecs at American

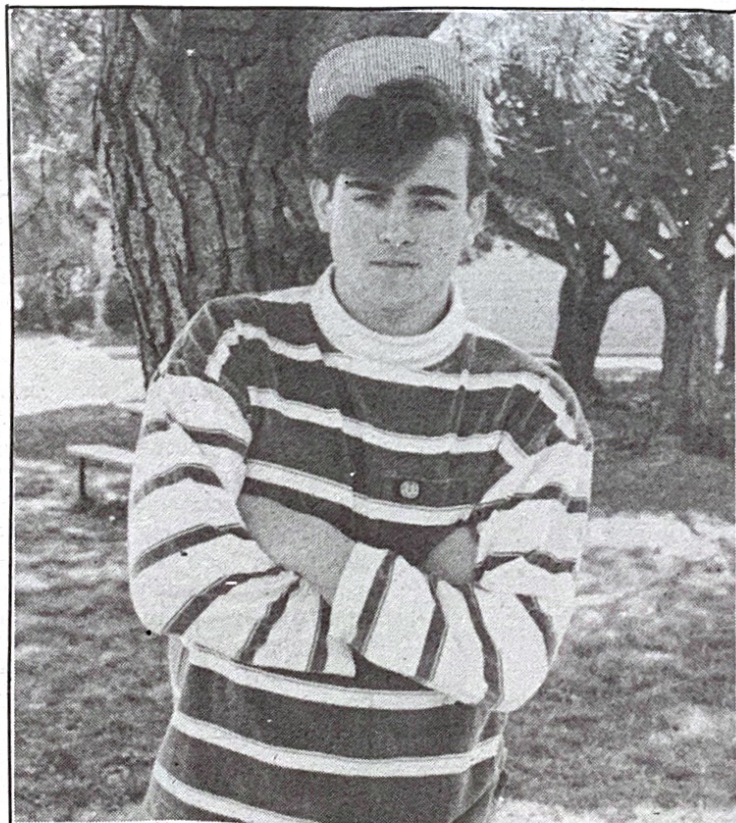
David Alexander

At American High School, there are several talented students who choose to use their talents outside of school and thus, often receive very little recognition from their peers. One such individual is Michael Padilla. He is the guitarist and co-songwriter of the modern rock band "Aztecs in Manhattan."

Michael has been writing and performing his own music since he was fourteen years old and has been playing guitar since he was eight. He plays several instruments but devotes the majority of his time and effort to the guitar. He started out writing all instrumental pieces but in the last two years has written several songs with lyrics. He has also played in several different bands, but nothing as serious as "Aztecs."

Michael came in contact with the band in a unique way. In December of 1988, he came across an ad in B.A.M. magazine from a band seeking a new guitarist. After contacting the band and obtaining a tape of their music, he learned the songs and played with band in an informal audition. They were very reluctant, at first, to consider someone so young for the position. But as they listened to him play, they recognized his potential and gave him the position in the band.

There are no descriptive words for the type of music "Aztecs in Manhattan" create. "Our music is just our music," says Michael. "It's just what we



Michael Padilla- Guitarist for Aztecs in Manhattan

write. We don't classify it as anything." However, it does seem to appeal to a particular audience. "We have been put in a 'modern-rock' category, but I would rather not limit it to one type of person or taste." The songs the band has composed in the last fourteen months do have one thing in common: a positive message. They deal with such topics as religion, relationships, and the truth about drug addiction.

"Aztecs in Manhattan" have recorded one album together, simply titled "A." It was released on January 26 and has been selling well, while providing the band the exposure

they need around the Bay Area. They have also frequently played in clubs around the San Jose-Tri City area, opening for such bands as Flock of Seagulls and Cold October in clubs such as the Cactus Club and the Oasis.

The other three members of the band have day jobs and Michael is still in school. But as they grow in popularity, they will be able to devote one-hundred percent of their time to the band. Soon, "Aztecs" will be everywhere!



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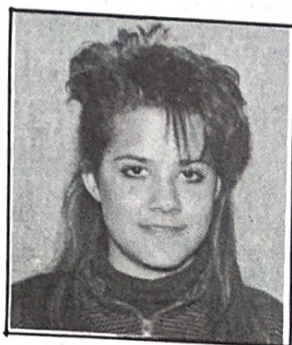
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## Does the type of music a person listens to create their image?



Lori Wagner  
Freshman

"Yes, cuz the way the singers dress people usually imitate. If they dress the same they usually stay together."



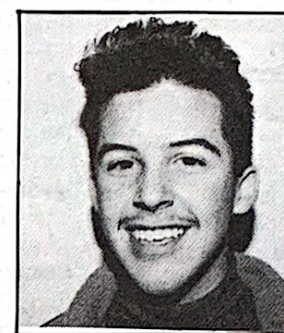
Justin Guerin  
Sophomore

"Yes, because they see the group as role models."



Julie Metzner  
Junior

"Yes, because people will dress like the people they listen to and they look up to them."



Rick Gonzales  
Senior

"Yes it does because they follow the style of the artists they listen to."

## "Senioritis" Ails AHS Seniors

Cristina Reyes

As the spring semester gets underway, the senior class will be facing the inevitable . . . SENIORITIS, the most dreaded disease known to teachers and parents. This disease usually takes over all seniors this time of the year. There is no need to be scared of this infection. While most seniors at some point get it, the degree of senioritis varies from senior to senior. For example, not reading a couple of assigned pages in a book might be senioritis to one while not reading the whole book would be senioritis to another (you may not know it, but you could already be infected).

There is no known cure for this disease, and the only logical solution is to let it run its natural course. How do you know if you

have senioritis? Look for these signs: first . . . the infected subject walks around with a blank look on his/her face and is usually unaware of situations and events taking place around them; finally, all hope is lost, and the infected subjects just vegetate and waits for the beginning of summer.

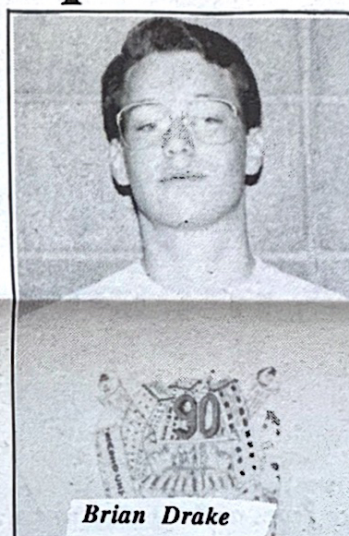
Your teachers and parents dread this epidemic. For them it's like teaching or talking to a potato. Have no fear - it eventually wears off and each senior usually returns to his/her normal (whatever that may be) selves. Don't think that this is all make believe because it could happen to anyone at anytime. If you see a person who has senioritis, the best thing to do is to give them money or junk food. This will make the burden of having senioritis a little more bearable.

## Drake Chosen as Scholarship Finalist

Cindy Liu

Are the PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Tests) or NMSQT (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Tests) as difficult as we think they are? According to senior Brian Drake, being selected as a finalist for the scholarship was "very easy" and required no preparation. With a current G.P.A. of 3.9, Drake scored 1400 on the PSAT (only 200 points behind a perfect score, according to the SAT scoring criteria).

In order to qualify for the PSAT scholarship, a student must earn a good grade point average and a high score on the test, as compared to other students across the nation.



Brian Drake

Fortunately, Drake met the standards last year and got accepted by the National Merit

Scholarship Corporation. When questioned about his preparation for the test, he replied, "No, I never prepare for tests like these. All I did was bring two pencils and that was all." Did anyone contribute to his accomplishments? "No," he answered, "it was a pretty easy test. I just went in and got accepted as a finalist. But my family and I were very happy when we heard the news."

Brian's future plans include attending either Davis, U.C.L.A., U.C. San Diego, or Cornell. He has some advice he would like to give to his underclassmen in terms of preparation: eat a good breakfast, don't worry about the test the night before, and most important of all is to bring two pencils.

## Student Masses Change Their Classes

Melanie Ness

The change of classes at semester has different effects on various people. For some who are comfortably set in their classes with their familiar friends and teachers, it can be a traumatic experience. On the other hand, for the student who cringes going to their present classes, it can be a welcomed change to have classes that are more inviting.

For the administrator, it is a pain. Students are trying to change classes for a variety of

reasons, usually so they can be with their best friend. They repeatedly interrupt class to get their petition sheet signed in order to transfer into their preferred classes. Seniors Kelly Gygax and Nicci Lefebvre comment, "We like to change classes at the semester because we have a chance to switch our schedule and get into classes with our friends."

The first day, when schedules are given out, there is an air of nervousness an excitement about the school. Students run around to see if friends share common

classes as they frantically try to find their new classrooms.

For me, the semester change is welcomed. I am able to get up and look forward to my new classes and teachers. By the end of the last semester I was bored and uninterested. However, for a few friends of mine, the change is tragic because they may be fond of a particular guy in English or they are receiving an easy "A" with their favorite teacher. Senior John Diamonon makes another negative statement about the semester change: "It takes awhile to get used to the system, and when I finally get used to it, I have to change again."

For some, the semester change represents a time to redeem themselves and make the grade. With prior scores discarded, they feel a weight has been lifted and they try harder to earn better grades. In any case, whether you like the transition or not, it's something that everybody at American is going to have to live with.

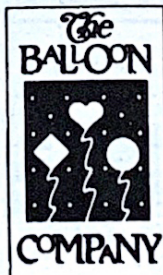


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Lynn Pruner



# Eagles Kings of the Court

*Eagles claim the MVAL title by slamming Mission San Jose.*

Erik Willis

The AHS Eagles made the first three games of the MVAL season very exciting....well, maybe too exciting. Now, knowing that the Eagles have clinched the division title, we can all ease our stress and let our blood pressure drop after those crazy games.

Throughout the season the Eagles have proven themselves as one of the quality teams of the Bay Area as they posted a season record of 21-5 overall and 10-3 in league play.

The Eagles' title began to really take shape after they defeated the James Logan Colts 56-53 at Logan.

The Eagle victory looked like it had come from a Hollywood movie. With less than four seconds left on the clock and the score tied at 53 a piece, senior Jeff Garcia dodged a defender,

dribbled the ball past the halfcourt line and threw up a prayer. As if the shot was in slow motion, the ball sailed right into the hoop, and the only thing anybody could hear in the Logan gym was the snap of the net after the winning shot.

Up until two minutes remaining in the game, the Eagles were trailing behind Logan the entire game. The Eagles witnessed their highest deficit of 39-24 with 2:39 left in the third quarter. Senior Jermaine Carriere was keeping the Eagles within reach by scoring 17 of the 24 points. From their lowest point in the game, the Eagles started their familiar fast break offense and closed the gap by the end of the third quarter, 39-34. "I don't know how we came back. I thought that it was over. We got key shots and once we got our momentum, Logan could not stop us," explains senior guard

Greg Gutierrez.

The Eagles were able to take their first lead of the game, 48-47, when senior Chris Soto stole the ball and Carriere finished the Colts with a two-point field goal.

With 35 seconds left Carriere was able to give the Eagles a 53-52 point lead by sinking a pair of freethrows. But with six seconds left, Carriere committed a foul and the Colts were able to tie the game at 53 a piece with a front end of a one on one. The second freethrow was missed, and Jeff Garcia got his chance to make the historical shot.

The Eagles were able to clinch a first place tie after the victory. Carriere was the game's high scorer with 23 points while Garcia had 12 and senior Chris Soto scored 11.

In their next game AHS had a chance to clinch the division title at home against Washington but lost 50-48 by a last second layup.

The Eagles appeared to have the game under control after a halftime lead of 30 to 23, but a tough Washington defense only allowed 18 points in the second half.

With 50 seconds left in the game the Eagles were able to tie the game with a three point field goal by Jeff Garcia, but with three seconds left Washington's Jermaine White scored the winning basket. The loss to the Huskies was the first loss at home all season.

"We were not ready to play and the team took them too lightly," said Bobby Simmons. "We did not play up to our potential."

Top scores for the Eagles were Jeff Garcia's game-high point total of 16, Jermaine Carriere's nine points, and David Thomas's 8 points.

The Eagles finally set out what they wanted to do at the beginning of the season: to become the champions of the MVAL.

The Eagles dominated the Mission San Jose Warriors,

defeating them 51-33, earning themselves an MVAL title and an automatic playoff berth in the North Coast Section Tournament.

"We blocked out and kept them away from the boards, but the key to the game was good execution on offense," said Simmons.

The Eagles led the whole way, keeping the warriors out of the game by a tenacious defense. Despite the Warrior's height advantage, the Eagles were able to box out and have no problems underneath grabbing rebounds.

On the other side of the court, the Eagles were able to grab countless offensive rebounds to keep the Warriors out of the game.

Jeff Garcia had the game-high score of 23 points while Carriere scored 12, and senior Bobby Simmons scored eight points.

The Eagles will be coming into the NCS playoffs as division III's third-rated team in the state. Looking ahead, Gutierrez commented, "We just have to play everybody like they are better than us."

## Wrestling

## Eagle Wrestlers Pin Moreau

Erik Willis

Coming into their last MVAL match against Moreau, the varsity wrestling team was yet to put a "w" in the MVAL standings. If fate had it that AHS would only salvage one victory this year, it could not have been won at a better time.

AHS pinned Moreau in a lopsided contest by a winning score of 50-16. The Eagles ended their MVAL season with a last place finishing record of 1-6.

The Eagles had many outstanding performances that helped them pull out a victory. In the 126 pound weight class Bobby Aguirre pinned his opponent in three minutes. 145 pound Eddie

Chin and 132 pound Bruce Fonterella each registered pins against their unlucky foes. 98 pound Jeff Marshall was able to win his close contest by a score of eight to five.

Eagles' heavyweight Mario Martinez and 105 pound Matt Tongdag each wrestled in two very close matches but could not come up with wins, losing by a one to two point margin.

The AHS wrestling team is a young one that will only miss one player, Eddie Chin. Even though the Eagles had a poor showing, many of this years team will be back to wrestle next year. Hopefully with a full year under their belts they can improve next year.



Junior Mike Pine struggles loose from an Irvington wrestler.

Photo by Erik Willis

## Boys' Soccer

## Boys' Soccer Team Has Time

Mike Noche

Tick-tock. . . Time is running out for the boys' soccer team. They had three games left in the MVAL - Shaughnessy playoffs, and stood in 5th place with Washington breathing down their necks.

Tick. . . February 2nd. It looked as if American would upset first placed Logan. The game remained scoreless, until 5 minutes into the second half, when Logan scored a goal. American had outshot Logan 18-12 and goalie Dave Celeste had 7 saves - 3 more than Logan. But as they were losing, Washington tied Kennedy to remain 1 point behind American in the standings.

Tock. . . February 7th. American was confident going into their game with last placed Moreau, who had not won all season. By the end of the first half, however, the Mariners led 1-0. American quickly came back in the 2nd half scoring off a David Pham penalty kick. Near the end, Moreau scored again handing AHS their 2nd loss in as many games. Washington tied Mission, which put the Eagles and the Huskies in a tie for 5th place.

Tick. . . February 9th. American faced Irvington; with 18 shots on goal for each team and 8 goals saved for American and 10 for Irvington, the game appeared competitive. Yet Irvington overwhelmed American, winning 5-1; Washington would win their game, putting American in 6th place and out of the playoffs.

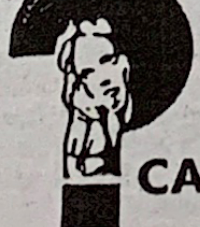
Tock. . . Instead of disappointment, coach Pete Reyes and the team feels pretty good about playing well and competitive all season. It is pleasing to see the team so optimistic after a tough season. "It was a close race to the end with Washington, probably the closest race in the MVAL's in a long time. That added

excitement," said Nazir Rahim. While Matteo Tessera commented that the team, "Felt too comfortable with beating Washington and thinking that we'd automatically make it to Shaughnessy."

"Felt too comfortable with beating Washington and thinking that we'd automatically make it to Shaughnessy."

Concerning next year's team, junior Josh Lieb feels that, "We'll have to work harder because we're losing so many seniors." Randy Sasaki agreed, adding, "It'll be tough next year because we are losing a lot of senior starters, but we have a lot of sophomores who should prove beneficial." The boys' soccer team has nothing but time on their hands.

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# Soccer Team Kicks Into NCS

Bernie Corniel

The girls' varsity soccer team has accomplished more than just goals, wins, and losses.

On February 13, in the Shaughnessy MVAL play-offs, the Eagles earned a come from behind victory over the Irvington Vikings.

In the first thirty-three minutes in the game the Eagles trailed 2-0 from two quick Viking Goals.

The Eagles however, broke loose from their early game slump by a goal scored by Junior Wendy Cotton. Junior Michelle Wagner passes the ball to Cotton who slammed the ball through the open net putting the Eagles right back into the game.

Late in the second half, the Eagle sophomore Heidi Kohse was able to tie the game at two a piece.

But the triumphant goal came from Lori Wagner when she was able to break loose from the Viking defense and shot the winning goal.

In the play-off championship game, the Eagles again added



Freshman Lori Wagner defends a Concord player and forces the ball out of bounds.

photo by Erik Willis

another win by beating the Newark Memorial Cougars. Newark Memorial was not able to show their stuff at this game. The Cougars, who finished second in the MVAL, did not fare well

against the Eagles. American started off the game on a good note. Junior Michelle Wagner set up a goal for Jill Roberts. Roberts took the Wagner pass and kicked the ball in the net past the

diving goalie. The Eagles and Cougars were tied at one a piece.

In the second half, Wagner passed the ball to Cotton who was able to score the winning goal. Eagles sweeper and team captain

Lisa Moriconi along with Lori Wagner, Shelly Childers and Jennifer Guerin only allowed one early goal to help the Eagles with the win.

With the win against the Cougars, the Eagles were the champions of the Shaughnessy Play-offs and were able to advance to the North Coast section play-offs.

In the NCS play-offs the Eagles played their first game on Wednesday, February 20. The Eagles had an exciting night on the field. The Eagles were pumped up to destroy Concord.

A free kick was awarded to the Eagles early in the first half. Junior Michelle Wagner took the shot and set a high kick right into the upper corner of the net to put the Eagles ahead 1-0. Still in the first half Junior Wendy Cotton came racing down the field dribbling the ball as fast as she could. She dodged by two defenders and passed the ball to freshman Lori Wagner, who set the ball sailing, scoring another point for the Eagles. Concord scored only one goal which lead the Eagles to a victory 2-1.

## Girls' Basketball

# Girls Shoot Towards Finals

Candi Black

Considering the young age of a few of the Eagles' starters, the 1989-90 girls' basketball team has really shown the MVAL that they won't stop at anything less than the best.

On January 26, the Eagles had an unusually scheduled Friday night game against the Mission San Jose High Warriors. Although American's defense was even with Mission's in the first half of the game, the Eagles lost 33-45. Americans' Lori Carper scored five field goals from the inside key, giving her 10 points all together, only 3 points behind

the game high scorer, Monica Mathiesen of Mission.

Playing on the weekend proved to be a disadvantage for the Eagles as they lost to Moreau 40-65. AHS could not keep up with the powerful offense of the Mariners. Moreaus' Shelley Canaday, a three year veteran of varsity basketball, scored 20 points, making a career total of 1,000 points. For AHS, the high scorer was Lori Carper with 15 points. Shari Wold and Marlise Otani each scored 8 points.

With three losses in a row, the Eagles were due for a victory. AHS played Irvington at AHS on Tuesday January 30. The Eagle's

defense was unbeatable and the basketball seemed to be attracted to the hoop on the Eagles side of the court. AHS beat Irvington 54-32. Lori Carper scored 21 points while Shari Wold scored 12 points.

After the win against Irvington, AHS faced Kennedy. In the beginning of the game the Eagles and Titans fought tooth and nail to a 12 all tie. But as the game progressed, AHS used defensive pressure to create several turnovers and took control of the game. AHS walked all over Kennedy, ending the game 53-26. Lori Carper had an excellent night for the Eagles scoring 23 points while



Junior Marlise Otani dribbles the ball past a Mission defender. photo by Erik Willis

Shari Wold and Marlise Otani each scored 10 points.

During the week of February 9, Lori Carper was the Argus Prep of the Week. Lori's great performance during the Newark

Memorial game on February first, helped the Eagles beat the Cougars. "I can't remember a better game than that," said Lori Carper. "We had never beaten a team ahead of us."

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## Preisendorf Banned From Varsity Sports

Erik Willis

Sophomore transfer-student, Darin Preisendorf, who came to AHS strictly for academic reasons, has been banned from varsity sports in the MVAL.

Preisendorf has been banned because he is a Castro Valley resident, and he does not live within the MVAL borders of eligibility.

Craig Preisendorf, Darin's father and a teacher at AHS, argues that the reason for his son's transfer to AHS was on account of his feelings that his son could get a better education.

"I felt that my son can gain a better education at American because I can have close relations with his teachers. Our home is only fifteen minutes away from the school as well," said Preisendorf.

One of the major factors for Darin Preisendorf's transfer is that Darin had to endure two and one half hours bus rides every day in order to get to Castro Valley High School. There is only a one half hour of traveling time when Darin attends AHS.

In order to get his son eligible for varsity sports, Craig Preisendorf has pleaded his case to the North Coast Section Committee three times, only to be denied each time.

With the support of AHS Principal Joe Tranchina, Castro Valley High's Principal Nancy D. Spauth, and a thirty-page appeal pleading his case, Craig Preisendorf, on his son's behalf, has made three attempts to waive the NCS rule of eligibility. Since August and up until the middle of January, Craig Preisendorf and his son have been turned away from the NCS committee, being told that it was alright for a student to travel on a bus for two and a half hours. The NCS committee said that a bus ride of that period of time would not effect a student academically. The NCS committee also stated that there was not enough evidence to waive the eligibility law.

Darin Preisendorf is allowed to participate in the junior varsity level. The competition level is not a challenge to him. Preisendorf is a wrestler who wrestles in the heavyweight division and has had many years of experience. Last year when he attended Castro Valley he was wrestling at the varsity level as a freshman. However he is unable to improve his wrestling skills there is no high level of competition at his weight class. And those who wrestle against him are being cheated because they are wrestling a former varsity wrestler who should be competing at the varsity level.

"It is unfortunate that principals who are supposed to be educators are not making educational decisions, but they are just using laws to solve educational problems," explained Craig Preisendorf.

Craig Preisendorf and his son plan to take the case to the California Interscholastic Foundation to overrule the NCS decision.



# NEWS

## The Great Exchange

### AHS students get a chance to live MSJ style.

Edward Wong

On Tuesday, February 6, American High received some visitors. Twenty-three students from Mission San Jose High visited our campus as part of a student exchange program instituted last year. The purpose of the exchange is to promote understanding and goodwill among the eight MVAL schools. This program is designed to teach students to appreciate each others' similarities rather than their differences and to dispel the stereotyping prevalent among the students.

According to Mr. Siacotos, the idea of an exchange is an excellent one but it lacks practicality unless the students talk about what they have witnessed with their fellow students. He advised the students involved with the exchange to have a positive attitude and not to express their feelings in a negative way. With limited information based solely on one visit, no judgment should be made.

The idea for the exchange was accepted by the Inter-league Council last year. With hopes of friendship on their mind, the ILC proposed a joint eight-school dance. The plan was dismissed as a result of its unreasonableness, lack of a suitable site, and the large student population of the schools. It was then agreed that there should be a two-school exchange held annually. Members of the ILC met and held a drawing for the school exchange. The same school cannot be drawn again unless the whole cycle has been completed.

There are different ways to be a representative of American. The student can either approach their class officers or counselor or the reverse can happen. Each class is allowed five representatives, in addition to the three ILC members (Helen Yi, Jacob Bayani and Karen Parker) for a total of twenty-three students. Mr. Siacotos stresses that the program is not only for student leaders. For more diversity, three students are chosen by their class officers, while the ASB selects the remaining two. The only criteria is that different types of students be chosen.

The Mission students arrived at American at approximately seven o'clock in the morning. Mr. Siacotos gave a welcoming speech and then matched the students with their respective partners. Partners are based on class and other similarities. Throughout the day, the Mission students accompanied their American counterparts. The Mission reaction to American High: they liked it overall but, as expected, loathed the wall-less rooms. It was hard for them to concentrate. They felt that American has more respect for their teachers and that the students are more enthusiastic to learn.

On Thursday, twenty-three American students went to Mission to fulfill the other half of the exchange. Juniors Melanie Ness and Todd Yeats had a very good time at Mission. Melanie was shocked when she met the students. They were not what she expected at all: "They were extremely nice and not at all snobby," she commented, "the people at Mission were not dressed like 'preppies' but rather naturally in sweats." For Todd, this experience was special. His partner was his identical twin brother. He learned what his brother's life was like in school.

Everyone felt that the exchange was a success. They made new friends at a different school. It was an invaluable learning experience. On Saturday, the students involved with the exchange met from one to ten o'clock for a buffet dinner. They discussed their visits with one another and got to see their new friends one last time.

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## Cancelled Dance has Bad Results

Maria Camba

The cancellation of the February 2nd Exchange Dance between Newark Memorial and American High resulted in unfortunate repercussions. The dance was scheduled to occur here at American, after Friday's basketball game.

Mid-week, Newark Memorial's Principal Kaz Mori telephoned American and discussed with Principal Joe Tranchina his uneasiness with the event due to gangs. On Mori's mind was the January slaying of teen Alex Calderon in Newark. You can also append to that the rumors that linked Newark students vs. American students with the murder. Second, rumors spread of impending violence after the basketball game and during the dance, although dance sponsors felt that there was adequate coverage to subdue any act of violence. Finally, inside problems persist within Newark Memorial's student body.

Mr. Tranchina stated that the "Exchange Dance, in the past few years had been successful," and that the situation in Newark was "tender." Tranchina suggested to Mori a re-scheduling of the dance, but Mori was not comfortable.

Mr. Tony Siacotos was "sad to see that relationships between schools and communities deteriorating."

The cancellation's effect was not limited to student/community relationships but also affected the dance sponsors, The French Club, and PTSA (Parent Teacher Student Association). The cancellation put both clubs in difficult financial positions. Funds allocated by the French Club, from the dance, were to financially aid other clubs on campus such as American Beautification, the Drama Club, American Dream, and the VIP drawings at the end of the year. Leftover funds would have gone to travel scholarships and senior scholarships. The PTSA must now find another source for funds in order to maintain the minimum of six senior scholarships they awarded last year.

Solutions for their situation are difficult to find. Most of the available fundraising weeks are taken; the last French Club fundraiser is in June "when there is no actual club." Their "last resort" would take place on April 28. Mr. Tranchina is in need of forty students to volunteer to act as tour guides for a function. Another suggestion is that a dance could be held if American's basketball team wins the NCS (North Coast Section) championship. PTSA president Cathy Ensel has "no objections to working with the French Club again."

## ... Teachers

(continued from page 1)

Proposition 98 has been the major thorn in both the teachers' and the district's sides. Technically, the district has no prop 98 money because prop 98 has changed its name to Senate Bill 198. However, whatever the name, the district has received money originally designated for prop 98. The main barrier between the two sides in negotiating the Prop 98 affair is language discrepancy. However, the district has received the money, whatever its name. Teachers, according to the 1988-89 contract, are due 55% of that money.

Teachers are also upset over the lack of benefits they receive. Currently, teachers get no Medicare or Social Security. They are given a yearly pension upon retirement, but it only equates to 40% of the teacher's salary. In most cases then, retired teachers must live on less than \$1500 a month. The district is reluctant to budge in its resolve not to include Medicare or higher pensions in its negotiations. Recently, however, the district released a "new" proposal that included Medicare. The catch is that the Medicare money will be taken out of the teachers' payraises, which is effectively writing the same contract in a new format.

In addition, some teachers question the methods of negotiations used by the district. "It becomes a chess game where ethics get thrown out the window," said an anonymous teacher. On the weekend of February 11, the teachers' bargaining team went to the district upon the district's request. They had come up with a new proposal and were eager to show it to FUDTA. However, once there, the teachers' bargaining team was made to wait because the district was not ready with its proposal. The bargaining team slept at the district office through the night while the district administrators took a break to gather up their final proposal. The administrators did not return, leaving the teachers effectively stranded in the building.

Teachers say that they have been pushed too far. Most are furious and are ready to strike. The slowdown has already irked the district, and the strike vote, as strong as it is now, will now rile more district feathers. Teachers do not get enough money to live in Fremont. They need higher wages and are prepared to fight for it. As soon as this week, Fremont may see the teachers continue their fight by going on strike.

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## ... Brainbowl

(continued from page 1)

The real contest began with an impressive win by Team 2. Captain Greg Hoffman is the only remaining player of the winning team from last year's contest. His team answered questions with great speed and accuracy and defeated their opponent with a comfortable margin. Team 2 is the one to look for in the finals of the Brain Bowl.

This contest stimulates the desire to learn and achieve goals in school in a fun and entertaining way. As always the participants had fun no matter if they had won or lost. The winner of the school competition will be entered in the MVAL academic competition and the winner of that will move ahead to the final national competition of the nation at New Orleans.