

American Express

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OCT. 31, 1984



RITA DASILVA HOMECOMING QUEEN

Staff Writer

After a week of nervousness Friday's rally told the tale. The 1984-85 Spirit Queen is Rita DaSilva. Her court includes the Senior Princess, Anne Mallon, Junior Princess, Anna Simos, Sophomore Princess, Kehau Ronquillio, and Freshman Princess, Marisa Warner.

The newly crowned Mr. American is John Bowen. The Ugly Men are as follows: Senior Ugly Man, Bobby Beck, Junior Ugly Man, James Lucas, Sophomore Ugly Man, Bob Snyder, and Freshman Ugly Man, Jeff Leite.

SPIRIT WEEK '84

BY JOHN THOMPSON

As the week of October 22 approached, all of the classes were preparing for American High's Annual Spirit Week competition. Each class had chosen their theme: seniors- "Attack of the Killer Herons," Juniors- "Halloween," Sopnomores- "L.A.," Freshmen- "Ancient Greece", and each class was anxious for their Spirit Day.

On Monday, October 22, the class of '88 showed what Ancient Greece might have looked like. Mrs. Strangio's desk was disguised as a chariot, and in the background S.S. 9 was converted into a Greek temple. Traditional togas, and some with modern additions costumed the class of '88.

At lunch, the Jonnny Acropolis show dominated their skit. A semi-traditional Greek folk dance featured Ted Simos and company. This was followed by a fashion show of togas.

"We Love L.A.", was the slogan of this year's Sopnomores. The class of '87 added to the decor of the rotunda, when they parked a convertible sports car, which also doubled as a throne, on Sunset Blvd. Disneyland characters populated the designated area, along with the facade of the famous It's a Small World ride.

Dressed for the occasion, the Sopnomores were disguised as Disneyland tourists, L. A. punks, beachgoers and

various rock groups. The skit was full with numerous song and dance numbers, including a beach party dance.

Spooking the other classes was the intent of the Juniors with their theme of "Halloween." A life-size guillotine and haunted house dominated the rotunda on Wednesday October 24th. Just as October 31 has a wide variety of costumes, so did the Juniors. Every possible disguise was displayed; ghosts, monsters, witches, nerds and many more.

Despite minor technical problems, the Juniors' lunch skit was centered around a group of trick or treaters trying to find their way home. Along the way the group encountered mad scientists and even a group of Michael Jackson's (Tabitha King) Thriller Zombies. Other dancers such as Eric Carter's impersonation of a "Sweet Transvestite" enhanced the quality of their superb show.

The day most underclassmen had awaited finally arrived on October 25; the day for the Seniors to present their "Attack of the Killer Re-runs." Arnold's drive-in, complete with a revolving "A," a Love Boat, the Twilight Zone, featuring planets and stars and Spiderman's web disguised S.S. 12 and surrounding areas.

The Senior skit featured an introduction of the most popular reruns. Their skits ran smoothly up through the conclusion with the Monkees, John "Davey" Bowen, Don "Mickey" Warren, Steve "Mike" Medeiros and Mark "Peter" Branson.

As Spirit Week came to a close, all that was left was the all-school rally on Friday, October 26. Each class put on a short rally skit which concluded the competition. The Freshmen used an ancient applause meter to measure out the amount of noise each class could make. Bob Mallon gave a short speech about "L.A." and then brought an end to the Sophomore skit by impersonating Huey Lewis. The trick-or-treaters of the Juniors' lunch skit were back again at the rally skit, to show that American could beat Mission at the Homecoming game. The Monkees returned to show that they understood the meaning of school spirit by singing Daydream Believer. At the conclusion of the rally, the Senior throne received first place, Juniors second, Sopnomores and Freshmen tied for third. The overall competition was won by the Senior class the Juniors placed second, Sopnomores third, and Freshmen fourth.

Congratulations '85!

A GOOD START

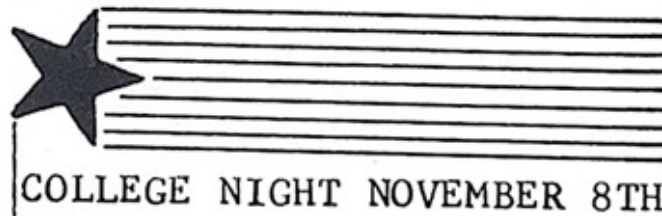
BY ANNA FAUSTINO

After concluding the Freshman class Elections on September 26, the class of '88 has commenced its first year at American with high hopes and optimism. President Valerie Teglia and Senators Darcie Prunetti and Julia Quinata were interviewed about their general feelings for their new roles.

Ever since these three graduated from the 8th grade, they have felt that they should take up the challenge of helping the new and inexperienced Class of '88 through its struggles. All three feel qualified for their jobs, having had student government positions in junior high. Julia Quinata, for example, was the ASB Secretary at Thornton Junior High. Valerie and Darcie had leadership experience in elementary school; both were class presidents there. Julia, Darcie, and Valerie have already set goals for their class and they sum it up in one word: "Involvement!" They hope to arouse an abundance of support and participation from

the Class of '88. They said, "We're gonna be good! The freshman are going to be tough and are going to be involved!"

Student government means hard work; yet, the three plan to tackle other activities as well. Valerie and Darcie are concentrating on being freshman cheerleaders. Julia is involved in athletics and is presently on the volleyball team.



ON NOVEMBER 8TH, 1984, AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL WILL HOST THE THIRD ANNUAL COLLEGE NIGHT. REPRESENTATIVES FROM UNIVERSITIES, COLLEGES, AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS WILL BE ASSEMBLED IN THE ROTUNDA TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THEIR FACILITIES FROM 7:00- 9:30 P.M. REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MILITARY SERVICE WILL ALSO BE PRESENT. THERE WILL ALSO BE SPEAKERS WITHIN THEATERS 50 AND 70 TO EXPLAIN FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS AND OTHER TOPICS NOT COVERED BY THE COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES. COLLEGE NIGHT WILL BE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SENIORS TO SEE ALL THE LOCAL COLLEGES AT ONE TIME.

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Viewpoint

A Welcome From Our Viewpoint

By Robert Mallon

Welcome back to school!

Hold it. Something's not right here, school's been in session for almost two months already. You're right, something does seem amiss. This isn't a welcome to school, it's a welcome to the new school newspaper, The American Express.

This newspaper has news, sports, features, and viewpoint pages. These pages are done completely by students and are creative, informative, and insightful.

Instead of dealing with world issues that are not pertinent to the students at American High, the newspaper will deal with issues that are relevant to you, such as the crackdown on cruising, the new mandatory rallies, and the elimination of Reading For-em.

So even though the school year has been going strong for two months already, The American Express has just begun. So sit back, kick your feet up, and get ready for some great times. Catch it all with The American Express.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

What's the deal with Homecoming around here? American unlike other schools, does not really make that big deal about it. Other schools such as Cupertino High, Homestead High and Fremont High, located in the South Bay, go all out and make floats. What do we do?....Make thrones- Big Deal!. We should make floats rather than the thrones. American doesn't show much enthusiasm towards the game either. Last year hardly anyone went to the game; maybe it can be attributed to the weather, but a little bit of overcast weather never kept anyone home on a Friday or Saturday night. Let's get it together, American

Signed,
M.N.

Dear M.N.,

Some schools only have two days for Spirit Week if that much! It takes a lot of hard work and time to put together our Spirit Week. There are a lot of students dedicated to making our Spirit Week successful. The extravagant decorations that adorn the rotunda prove to me that Homecoming is a big deal! How many schools would actually build an Arnold's?! And if you went to the game, you saw one of the biggest crowds ever (and certainly the most Alumni) at any high school game!

Editor

Dear Editor,

I have a question to ask of you. Why is it that we have spirit leaders, and a good bunch they are, if we don't put them to good use at the rallies? Aren't spirit leaders supposed to get up your spirit, isn't that what rallies for? I personally think that they should do more than lead little '87 cheers. I think it would be great if they could do a whole routine during one of the rallies. It would be something good to do to pep up the rallies. It would also be good for the band to do a couple of songs to break up the boredom. Please try to do something about these things or anything else that would make the rallies more enjoyable. Thanks!

Sincerely,
Kristy Ling

Dear Editor,

I feel some attention into the extremely inefficient janitorial staff might get some positive executive action from the school administrators. These loafers, who are paid very well with district money, spend the majority of their time in the Faculty Commons socializing. I wonder if a more efficient custodial staff might not only cut down on the staff budget but may also get much needed cleaning finally done in this school.

Signed,
A Concerned Student

SEND A LETTER TO THE EDITOR! DO YOU HAVE A CRITICISM, QUESTION, COMMENT, CONGRATULATION, OR REBUTAL? BE HEARD! PLACE IN THE NEWSPAPER STAFF BOX IN FACULTY COMMONS.

THE AMERICAN EXPRESS HAS THE RIGHT TO ABRIDGE, PARAPHRASE, OR OTHERWISE EDIT ANY LETTER OR ARTICLE SUBMITTED FOR PUBLICATION.

A GALA EXTRAVAGANZA

BY CRYSTAL GARCIA

The last balloon was blown up and hung as the rotunda lights went dim. There was a certain ambiance, which filled the air as 8:00 p.m. drew near. The decoration committee went frantic with last minute duties.

Questions were raised. Do the decorations look all right? Are a lot of people going to come? Do we have enough refreshments? As the evening progressed all of the questions were positively affirmed. The senior class was about to pull off another successful activity.

Once the doors were opened, throngs of people rushed the entries. With smiling faces, bunches of excited students flashed their ID cards with A.S.B. stickers on them. After

standing at the door for awhile, I came to one conclusion. Everyone at American High School owns an A.S.B. sticker. Being in charge of the dance, it worried me at first, because lots of A.S.B. stickers mean less money. I wondered if we were going to make a healthy profit. After no more than a half an hour, I was no longer concerned with financial success. Attendance was excellent!

Everyone seemed to be having a good time. And then the big moment, the introduction of Mr. American (John Bowen) and Spirit Queen (Rita DaSilva) and their court. It was festive, even though 12th grade A.P. Mr. Bonaccorsi had some trouble with the pronunciation of the names

and order of the Homecoming Party. And who can forget the one small foul-up committed by the D.J. He might not have realized that the first dance for the Homecoming Party, is always a slow one. But there was one thing for sure, The party members and their escorts looked elegant, as did everyone at the dance.

Oh, that reminds me, on behalf of the senior class, I would like to thank you for your attendance and outstanding behavior. I hope that it was a memorable night for all of you, as I'm sure it was for the finalists and their escorts. (I know it was for the clean up crew. I know it was for the humor has it that an unearthly specter was seen throwing confetti from the library).

I'm sure that you'll agree, the Homecoming Dance did turn out to be somewhat of a Gala Extravaganza!!!!!!!!!!!!

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Feature

I AIN'T 'FRAID A NO GHOST

BY ANNE MALLON

Have you heard the latest? A.H.S. has a ghost! This specter has been seen doing janitorial work in the rotunda by the night custodians. It's been rumored that the spirit is a former member of the custodial staff who died many years ago. He is a middle-aged, gray-haired man, about five feet ten inches tall, who always wears an A.H.S. baseball cap. His "duties" include scraping gum off of the

carrels in the rotunda, peeling more gum off of the new carpet, sweeping the linoleum and vacuuming. Over the summer a whole row of lockers was mysteriously cleaned; it is assumed that our ghost did the job. Affectionately called "Bud" by the custodial staff, this "Cleaning Casper" was also seen at the November 27 Homecoming Dance by the clean-up crew. The only problem

tired of using his putty knife as a gum scraper, and he's had it with the pencils in is that Bud is getting a little miffed. He's the ceiling. Bud's been heard lately to mumble, "Just wait until Halloween. I'll get those kids then!" So, beware when you are trick-or-treating, at a party, or just answering the door, because Bud will be on the town, and out to get you!



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ON CAMPUS 'MAN-ON-THE-STREET' INTERVIEWS BY ALICE TSO

Melani Toombes--(11)

"Personality because you can go out with the cutest guy and he can be such a jerk. He'll lead you on and let you down hard."

Nicole Mantovan--(9)

"Looks and personality. When they have a nice personality, they are fun to be with and it helps to be cute like Rodger Roth."

James Lucas--(12)

"It's all looks. It's the only thing that is important!"

Shawn Arroyo--(10)

"Personality. Cause if they have a nice personality, I'll be able to have a good time."

Vince Waters (12)

"Friday nights? Oh looks, that's just what comes to my mind."

FAR FROM BROADWAY

BY ALICE TSO

New York has Broadway and American High School has Theater 70. A foolish comparison? Some may think so. What makes Theater 70 so different? It's the fact that we have Dave Motroni as the director and advisor of the drama department at school.

Dave Motroni has been with the drama department since the school opened its doors in 1972. In addition to being an English and drama teacher during regular school hours, he is also in charge at a community theater in Palo Alto. Anyone who truly loves his profession must know that making sacrifices is part of life. No one knows this better than Mr. Motroni. He willingly gives up his weekends in order to spend time with the cast of the upcoming production of "The Good Doctor."

The play is written by Neil Simon. It is about Chekov, a famous Russian writer who had the education of a doctor, but decided to write instead. The play is really an ensemble of eleven different short stories written by Chekov.

John Bowen, a senior and A.S.B. president, has the lead role as well as portraying a separate character in each scene. Along with Bowen is a cast of thirteen other actors and actresses; together they portray the different roles needed for each scene. This is an enormous challenge for any young actors. When Bowen was asked if he had difficulty in playing the different characters, he simply said, "No, it's fun. You get to take on all these different roles!"

The opening night of "The Good Doctor" will be on November second in Theater 70. It will continue through the third, ninth and tenth. The curtain will go up at 8:00pm. Admission will be \$2.50 with an ASB sticker and senior citizens and \$3 without as ASB sticker.

Lastly, is "The Good Doctor" and John Bowen far from Broadway? Bowen's reply is "as far as you can get from Broadway!" The audience should keep in mind that everyone must start somewhere. For John, it might as well be in Theater 70, at American High School

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Sports



EAGLE SPIRIT LEADS TO NO LOSSES

According to the "experts," American High School's chances in the Homecoming game against Mission San Jose High weren't the best. The Eagles showed their true spirit and battled the Warriors to a 7-7 tie.

In the first quarter neither team could move the pigskin down the field successfully. The Eagles couldn't reap the benefits of several Mission errors. In the first minutes of the game, MSJ kicker John Martin couldn't quite handle a bad snap from center, and left American in good field position at the MSJ 30 yard line. The Eagles couldn't capitalize on this, and later punted. Late in the opening quarter, Tom Lightfoot of American recovered a fumble at the Mission 26, but on a subsequent play, a pass was intercepted and the threat of the Eagles was stopped.

Despite these missed

opportunities, American struck up the first points on a Bobby Beck 36 yard sprint through the middle of the Warriors defense. Kicker John Trujillo made the extra point, and the Eagles went into the second half with a 7-0 cushion.

For a while, it appeared like this lead would stick; however, Mission quarterback Bret Borba would have something to say about it. Borba, the MVAL's leading passer, fired a 43 yard strike to Jeff Clark. After 3 plays, Mission had a first down at the Eagle's 5 yard line. On the next play, Borba dashed into the end zone, and after the point after attempt, the teams were all tied at 7.

Each team tried desperation field goals in the final minutes, but each attempt failed. The tie puts Mission's record at 3-0-2, while American is close at 2-1-1.

BY ROBERT MALLON

RUN BOBBY RUN



BOBBY BECK CHARGING FOR 87 YARDS IN THIS YEARS HOMECOMING GAME AGAINST THE LEAGUE LEADING MISSION SAN JOSE WARRIORS. STAFF PHOTO-ARGUS.

FROSH SLASH MSJ

Freshmen
Eagles 34
Warriors 28

Eagles leading 21-0 in the first quarter. Then the Warriors charged forward with 14 points in the first half and another 14 points in the second half. Corwin Bowers made two awesome touchdowns in the last 5 minutes of the game.

JUNIOR VARSITY VICTORY OVER MOREAU

Junior Varsity
Eagles 13
Mariners 12

A close victory for the Eagles. American leading 13-0 until the last five minutes. Then the Mariners leaped forward with twelve points, not enough to catch up with the Eagles. Good try Moreau!

GIRLS TENNIS

AMERICAN 4 HUSKIES 3
BY: JAMES SANDERS

Allyson Chinn and Rachel Bautista beat Lynne Signer and Heidi Woll of Washington 5-7 7-6 6-3 to help A.H.S. beat Washington for the first time since 1979. In other matches Anne Mallon defeated Teri Hashimoto of Washington 6-0 6-2, Danielle Quan and Tammy Bifano upset Washington's Kelly Lin and Marjore Gosco 6-1 6-0. Jean Ancheta beat Lori Holding 1-6 7-6 6-3 in a very exciting match for the Eagles. Washington's JV squad beat American 6-1. Gina Saunders and Kathy Bagnod supplied the only win for the Eagles by beating Washington's Terry Kaneko and Kristy Hinkle 9-7.

537-2628

MVAL standings

FOOTBALL	W	L	T
MISSION SAN JOSE	3	0	2
AMERICAN	2	1	1
IRVINGTON	2	2	0
JAMES LOGAN	2	2	0
NEWARK MEMORIAL	2	2	0
WASHINGTON	2	2	1
JOHN F. KENNEDY	0	4	0

SPORTS LOOK

BY JAMES SANDER
SPORTS EDITOR

In this month's article, I will take a look at the upcoming football game against the Kennedy Titans. On Friday night, the Eagles will do battle with the Titans. The Eagles have a very impressive 2-1-1 win-loss record. If you plan on going to the game, you should watch for Kennedy's running back #5. For the Eagles you should watch for a lot of Eagle defense. On offense #34, running back Bobby Beck and #43, Terry Dixon, should be exciting to try and keep track of. Thursday the Frosh team will play Washington. "Watch for the whole freshman team to do very well against the Huskies", said coach Gallardo. The Eagles have a very good chance of becoming league champions. Good luck Eagles and keep up the good work.

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