

American Express

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Students Accept New Guidelines

By Matt Hoffman

A six period day for all students! A longer school day! According to Mr. Joe Tranchina, these new changes at American this year exemplify a trend toward increased standards for higher education. They are part of the new state mandate on education known as Senate Bill 813.

Mr. Tranchina believes these are very positive changes. He also believes "95% of the students at American are reacting favorably to them, because the demands on the students are reasonable."

According to Mr. Tranchina, today's students are "a little more serious about their education" than in the past. He attributes this to student's anxieties about today's economy and the prospect of some-

day having to get a job." They see school as important to securing a well paying job, it's a return to the 50's, a move away from the 60's and 70's when the economy was fat and high paying jobs were available to many without education." But today, Mr. Tranchina adds, as students watch General Motors, the Telephone Company, and Silicon Valley struggle, they look to education for their economic security.

When asked how long this current trend in education might last, Mr. Tranchina replied, "It will last until the community receives data that shows a measurable improvement in student achievement. Meanwhile, the classes of '87 and '88 can expect more requirements and higher standards."

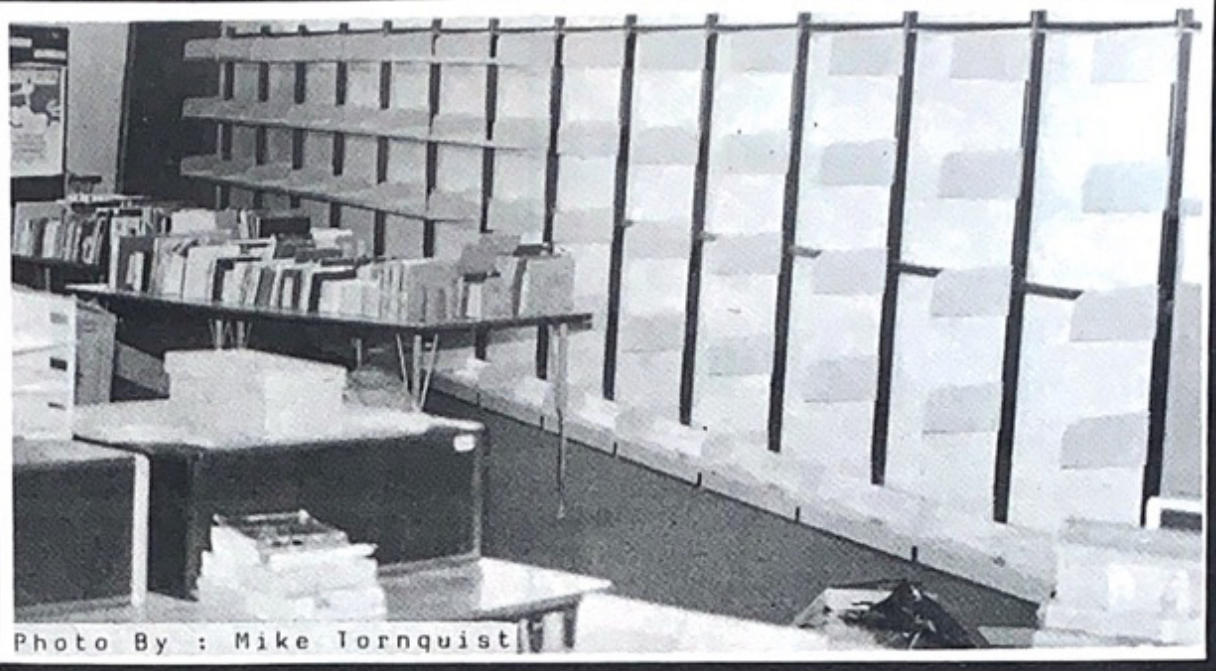


Photo By : Mike Tornquist

NEW LIBRARY

By Theresa Campbell

OPENS DOORS

Out of the need for a more complete school library, the A. Wilson Construction company was hired over the summer to construct a new AHS library which officially opened on September 16, 1985.

The decision to build a new library was made in 1981 following a recommendation given by the WASC committee (Western Association of Schools and Colleges), a committee

which accredits high schools. Construction on the library began in late July.

The original library was inefficient because it was too small and many services connected with the library were located elsewhere. The new library is larger, and its services are centralized. Other features of the new library in-

clude a separate audio visual room.

The new AHS library is available to students from 7:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. It is also available during lunch on a daily sign-up basis.

When asked, the librarian, Ms. Delgado, said that the new library is a big improvement over the old one.

ALOHA AMERICAN

By Laura Templeton

In the month of August, at the Stanford University Spiritleader camp, two of American High's cheerleaders, Stacie Iarango and Valerie Teglia, both sophomores, were invited to cheer at the Aloha Bowl in Oahu, Hawaii.

Stacie and Valerie were chosen out of over 500 cheerleaders to participate in the Bowl because of their outstanding performances at camp this past summer.

When asked why the girls thought they were chosen, Valerie replied, "I think it was mostly because I tried to keep a good attitude. Our squad at camp had a lot of injuries and setbacks, but you have to keep smiling and doing your best."

The girls will be in Hawaii 8 days, from December 20th-28th. As the two cheerleaders explained, during their stay they will be practicing routines each day, preparing a half time show and sideline cheers for the game.

They also have the opportunity to take some free tours around the island. These are all supervised by advisors of the National Cheerleaders Association, or NCA, who is sponsoring the event. They will be joined by approximately 150 other invited cheerleaders who were selected from various places all over the Pacific Coast.

Mr. Swift, the spiritleader advisor for the last 13 years, claims that this is a unique opportunity and he and everyone should be proud of the two girls.

BILLBOARD HAPPENINGS

By Raegan Lonis

A new feature at American High School is the billboard, which was donated to the school for the

benefit of the student body and the community.

Gary Mederios, the Booster Club President, indicated the Booster Club raised

7000 dollars to fund the billboard. Such events as raffles and flea markets were held to pay for the project.

Gary Mederios expressed his feelings to parents and others by saying, "The billboard is for all of us, not just the class of '86." He went on to say that he hopes more people and parents will get involved with the Booster Club.

pizza night

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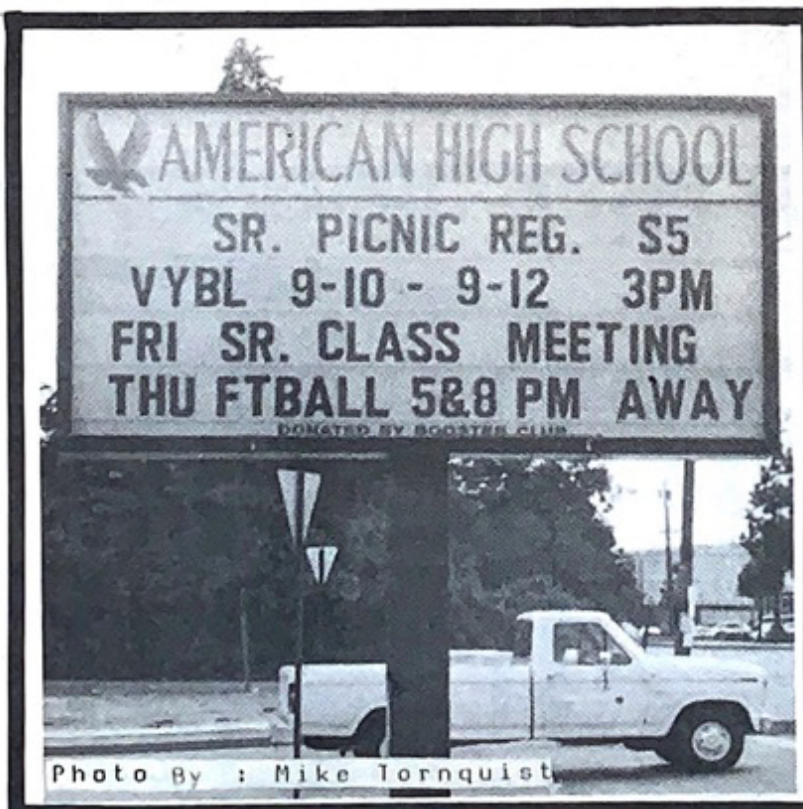


Photo By : Mike Tornquist

VIEWPOINT

Welcome Back!

By Craig Hintzman, Editor-in-Chief

Welcome Back!

Yes, it's that time again! Time to dig up the old calculator and find a cure for writer's cramp. A new year with new faces, (480 of them freshmen and 15 new teachers.) Everybody, well almost everybody, is a year closer to that all important goal, GRADUATION! The American Express welcomes the students and staff back and hopes to report on an interesting and party filled year. As Editor, I hope that the Seniors keep the action nonstop and go out bigger and louder than the class of '84. Let's not let it be a dull year! If you have a complaint, idea or compliment about the school, write a letter to us. We'll try and publish it. Have a great year!!

The American Express!



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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Where's the justice on smoking in the bathrooms? Everytime I come out of the bathroom, I smell like a smokebomb. It's pretty bad when you can't breathe in a so called "restroom" the people in charge should be more strict with the smokers around here. They should be outside when they light up. After all, they're not called smoking rooms!

Sincerely,
A Smoke Hater!

Dear Editor,

I suggest that our school should play all kinds of music over the intercom during lunch. Many of us are not able to go off of campus at lunch. It would be very entertaining for most of us at American High. Maybe we should try it and see what happens, I personally think it is a great idea!

From,
A Music Lover

Dear M.L.,

Do you realize how hard it would be to play music everybody would like? The variety of music interests at American have such a great range, that satisfying everyone's taste without upsetting a majority of students would be an impossible task. Maybe if you could come up with a plan, you can write us back and let us know. Until then, I guess we'll just be stuck with silent lunches.

The Editor

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. EDITOR

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

ROCK 'N' ROLL CENSORSHIP

By Lisa Sturges

Rock-n-Roll music is once again under attack. This latest assault on the music industry is being led by a group of right wing moral elitists who have named themselves the Parents Music Resource Center.

The PMRC, a group of five women who are married to some very prestigious, influential Washington officials, would like to see a system go into effect which would rate song lyrics on every album to come out from now until forever. Different letters would be assigned to records that contain sexually explicit lyrics, references to drugs or the occult, or lyrics that encourage violence.

This is one of the most ridiculous things I have ever heard. With at least 25,000 songs released a year, who would be assigned to sit and judge all of those songs? And whose morals would be used to judge? One man's trash may be another's inspiration and I don't believe anyone has a right to scoff at someone else's beliefs. If we start censor-

ing certain lyrics, would that mean that radio stations would be prohibited from airing certain songs? Would a blacklist of songs be circulated? How about record burnings like they had in the 60's? I'll bet the people who burned those Beatles records sure feel stupid now.

The most ironic thing about this groups campaign is that the very same lyrics that they are trying to ban, the PMRC is airing on prime time television for the whole world to see, including the people who they are trying to "protect".

I think that perhaps we should ban the PMRC. No one should have the right to legislate morality. Let's keep the teaching of morals at home where they belong.

"It ain't the music that's in question, it's more the freedom of expression."

Lyrics from the song "High Time"
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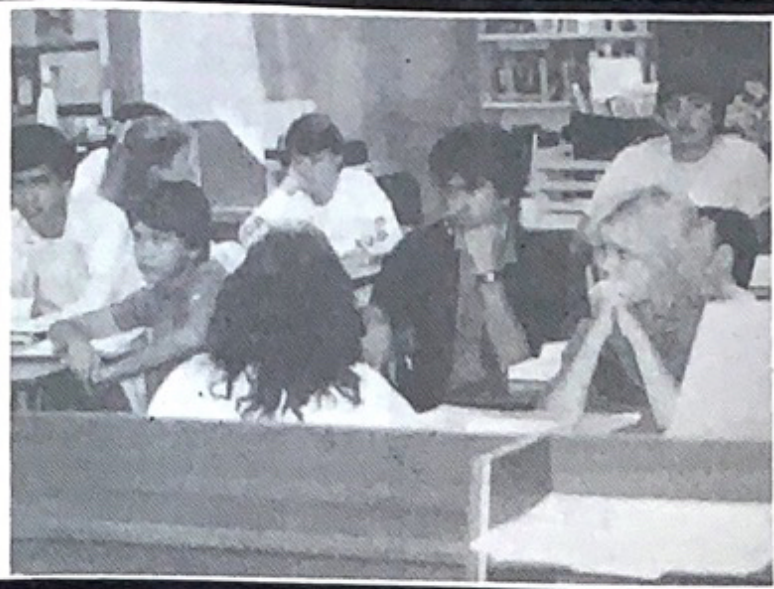
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FEATURE



Pictured Left : Freshmen orientation of library during Mr. Larson's Intro. to Social Studies class.



Pictured Right : The freshmen counselor Mr. Bonaccorsi, and freshman Bejon Khalaji.

Photo by : Cindy Pargett

THE CLASS OF '89 GET INVOLVED

By Yvette Thompson

American High School proudly welcomes the Class of '89. This year's freshman class consists of 480 students and is one of the largest freshman classes ever.

Since the freshman class is so large, as an upperclassman, I strongly suggest that you pull together and help each other in such events as Homecoming and fundraising.

One of the interesting things about high school is the opportunity you have to participate in a variety of activities. The activities include boys and girls athletics, cultural clubs, and student government.

Student athletics provide the athlete the opportunity to play many types of sports, meet new friends, and maybe qualify for a scholarship. Clubs and organizations such as CSF (California Scholarship Federation), and Foreign Language Clubs provide

the opportunity to learn about cooperation, different cultures and travel. Student government allows the student to participate in the decision making at American High.

Freshmen, it's up to you. Go out there and get involved. Make a choice, participate, and have fun. Take an interest in school by participating, supporting, and encouraging school activities whether it be academic, cultural, or athletic. Good luck and have a good year!

NEW TEACHERS



Photo By : Mike Tornquist

By Cindy Pargett

The 1985-86 school year brings 15 new staff members to American High.

In the back row, from left to right, they are as follows: Kathy Anderson(English), David Delgado (Science), Vince Pancella(Science), Heidi Chrisman(English), Mary Roman (History), and Arlene King(English).

In the front row, from left to right, are: Lorraine Festa(Special Education), Anita Dark(English), Gail Rock(Special Education), Lynn Micheletti (Head of Town Criers), and Shelly Chase(Science).

Not pictured above: Chris Kinder (History), Henry Dauber(P.E.), Susan Davis(English), Dennis Devine (Psychology).

EAGLE



EYE

By Michelle Hirschman



This month's question is:
"What do you remember most about your freshman year?"



Mike Tapia (12) "All of the senior girls."



Heidi Chrisman (English teacher) "Some friends of mine got drunk and three of them were killed in an auto accident."



Kevin Steadman (12) "Going to the wrong classrooms, because I wasn't very smart yet."



Christi Bernstein (10) "Having a bottom row locker."

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SPORTS

-SPORTS LOOK-

By Ron Martin

Both players and coaches feel optimistic towards this year's 1985 Varsity Football season. With thirteen returning lettermen, the team looks well stacked, and local sportswriters agree, ranking them second in league behind rival Washington High.

Heading the offensive attack for the Eagles will be Senior quarterback Jon Grave, who started the first two preseason games last year until an ankle injury sidelined him. Graves receiving targets will be Seniors Dee Carter and Ron Martin.

The Eagles backfield will be led by Terry Dixon (Jr.-T.B.), last year's leading rusher, Kennedy transfer Dan Carvalho (Jr.-F.B.), Mike Johnson (Sr.-I.B.), and sophomore sensation Corwin Bowers at fullback. Although sometimes referred to as the Smurfs, this group of players should never be underestimated.

Dixon, along with others, will rely on returning linemen Kevin Fuller (Sr.-C), Tim Kam (Sr.-G), and Joe Barry (Sr.-I), for their blocking. New faces to be looking for on the offensive

line will be John Walsh (Jr.-I), Jeff Wolfe (Jr.-I), and Sal Castellanos (Sr.-I).

Making up the Eagles hard-hitting defense will be a talented group of linebackers. Chris Gubera along with Corwin Bowers will make up the middle, while juniors Marcus Operin and Brad Kime, and Seniors Kevin Steadman and Jeff Vandergrift will switch off at both outside linebacker positions.

Leading the defensive backs will be returning letterman Elvin Mitchell and Demetrius Carter. Both players led the team in interceptions with four apiece. Newcomers Tim Lightfoot and Al Carpeneto round out the fearsome foursome.

Past season success could be a foreshadow of things to come in 1985. The group of Seniors that are now part of this year's Varsity team enjoyed a Co-Championship in 1983, while last year's J.V. team finished second. Then again, winning games this year could also be associated with team unity says player Chris Gubera. "We have confidence in ourselves, because we've played together for a long time and play well as a team."



Pictured above, L/R; Veronica Cadiz, Amy Van Ryan, and Renee Eggleston, of the freshmen cheerleading squad.

CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

By Patty Gallegos

The beginning of any year often brings new changes, and in the sports world big changes were made on the girls' varsity volleyball team.

Debbie Murray takes over her former position as head coach of the team. Assisting her is Ron Rodriguez who is new at coaching the sport. He's a very good asset to the team and is learning while also contributing in the process.

The varsity team this year consists of four Seniors, two Juniors and two Sophomores. Coach Murray says that since the majority of the team has experience, "It'll add a lot of depth to the team." The only weakness may be in the bringing up of the new players, who will need to learn and adjust to a new offense and defense.

This year the team is using a more advanced offense. The setters, Kim English and Jill Vigallon, are the ones that set up the plays and make the difference in the way plays are run. A player that Mrs. Murray would hate not seeing on the court is hitter Lisa Bozzo. Her serves and hitting are a big factor to the team.

The teams to beat this year will be Irvington and Logan. The Eagles are on a preseason 3-1 roll right now and Mrs. Murray says, "We're going to be in the top four, especially if they peak at the right time."

HIGH HOPES FOR TENNIS TITLE

By Bryan DaSilva

The American High school girls' varsity tennis team, coached by Mrs. Crane, is beginning their 1985 MVAL (Mission Valley Athletic League) season with high hopes to capture the title.

Although Mrs. Crane has coached tennis previously, this is just her second season as head coach for the Eagles. She is looking towards good playing and leadership from returning players as well as the first year players. Some of the standouts, as pick-

ed by Mrs. Crane, are Archonna Maholtra (12), Sarah Jamelo (9), Marlo Reboton (11), Danielle Quan (11), Racheal Bautista (12), Lauren Castle (12), and Laurie Solak (12).

"They should do really well!" says Mrs. Crane. "I expect a real good showing from them if they hang together, but we still have to face Mission Impossible and Logan," who she feels are the toughest competitors in the league. The girls jumped to a head start in the MVAL with 5-2 victory over Newark Memorial.



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