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| Segerstrom High School |

A Night to Remember in Gotham City



Joseph Anderson
Staff Writer

Collage of Homecoming events by Tiffany Pham ('09)

The mystical colors enshrouded the dunes Saturday, October 18 as dancers swayed with the music. The fog, the dark beat of the music, the posters all around with the bat signal in the middle of the room, all enhanced this year's homecoming theme "A Night in Gotham City." However, the Batman-themed decor was not exclusive to the Homecoming dance as the week leading up to it was filled with activities and excitement.

Lunchtime activities kept enthusiasm high for the dance. Break dancers and dynamic games all attracted considerable crowds of students eager to watch their peers participate in the festivities.

The Homecoming and fall sports assembly was on Friday, October 17. Batman-themed music filled the air with an exhilarating thrill as it mixed with thunderous roars from the crowd. The games, choir, and sports teams created a combination of excitement.

Sophomore Homecoming Princess Vannie Luong said, "I really enjoyed the watching the teachers compete. It was a lot of fun."

The Homecoming court nominees were announced, the Joker arrived in the pivotal moment to snatch the final results for senior queen and king away.

Later on that evening, the bat signal flashed onto the lawn and the lights flashed—the game was on. The varsity football team played an impressive game against the Oceanview Seahawks, winning 38-14.

During halftime the caped crusader saw that the homecoming king and queen results were safely returned after a battle with the Joker. The winners were then announced: the Freshman Prince and Princess were Nicholas Saldivar and Marilyn Lopez, Tony Nguyen Vannie Luong were crowned Sophomore Prince and Princess, while David Prieto and Maritza Martinez got the title of Junior Prince and Princess. And finally, Francisco "Franky" Partida and Jessica Izazaga were named the 2008 Homecoming King and Queen.

With the Joker safe in captivity and the royal court crowned, it was time for the dance. It was held at the Newport Dunes and set up through first class events. A huge white tent stood in contrast to the sky as a beacon of fun with a bat signal announcing the arrival of Homecoming. Inside, the mysterious ambiance was set by the dark lighting, a little fog, and the beach as the backdrop.

"It was fun. I loved the atmosphere," said Freshman Princess Marilyn Lopez as she enjoyed the evening with friends.

On the right hand side of the tent was beautifully laid out food for guests to enjoy. Opposite the food was the exit to the pier to enjoy the scenery, take pictures, and just relax in the fresh air.

The dance floor overflowed with people and the room resembled the sea with dancers moving their hands in the air to give the impression that they were making waves. Although the night eventually began winding down, the memories created could last forever.

Editor's Corner



The student parking lot has been moved. Is there a point to this move? No. The new student parking lot is in the midst of the worst parent traffic of the school. My personal driving time has increased by ten minutes with the move. It is also almost impossible to leave the school in a timely fashion, meaning between 2:50 and 3:00. While I understand that with the larger Senior and Junior classes there is a need for more student parking, I do not think the solution is to pack student drivers into one of the most crowded areas of the parking lot, where parents come in and out to drop off students. I also understand that there needs to be a parking lot available in case there is an event held by the school district, *during* school hours. However, it seems pointless to me to move the parking lot, thereby adding drive time to students schedule for the approximately six cars who now park in the former student parking lot. A solution to this would be to open both parking lots to students and allow them to choose which parking lot to park in. Or, if there is going to be an event held at school for which they need an open parking lot they could announce it to the students and have them park elsewhere.

These are just brainstorm ideas. While this random is, admittedly, very random I do think that I have some point. Also, where are the Senior parking spots? I paid for a spot but I have none! How is that fair?!

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The Curse of the Middle Class



Joseph Anderson
Staff Writer

Not poor enough to qualify for financial aid and not rich enough to afford inflation, the middle class faces considerable hardships in an economic world whose future looks dim. It is almost impossible for the middle class to afford more than the basic necessities and at this rate, and along with the recent stark market woes the class faces the risk of disappearing altogether.

For the most part, the middle class can only afford necessities like paying rent, buying food and purchasing other essentials. However, if the family has children then school expenses quickly add up, in particular because most middle-class families do not qualify for the Free and Reduced Lunch Program. Because of this, they have to pay for lunch daily and also have to pay the full price of an AP exam if enrolled in an AP course.

Obviously, these and other fees quickly add up and put a strain on middle-class families. These worries are only intensified by the bleak economic outlook. Recently students have also been feeling the strain.

"It's getting worse," said Sean Sakamoto ('10), "It's looking like a repeat of the great depression with people losing their jobs and money."

The upper middle class is still in a relatively comfortable position and is not feeling the economic pressure as much as the lower middle class. The high prices don't seem to be much of a problem, and the upper middle class seems to have the money to get through the economic turmoil. However, it may only be a matter of time before they begin to feel the pinch as well.

The middle class generally has an annual income between \$32,000 and \$50,000, although this varies with college level. However, this is hardly enough to afford daily expenses. AP Government teacher Mr. Decker forecasts that "unless we do something there won't be middle class. They're already shrinking, and there is a growing cleavage between the wealthy and poor."

The presidential candidates realize this and are now promising to help the middle class and stabilize the economy. Some promises include lowering gas prices, cutting taxes for 95% of the middle class, and improving health care. However, according to AP Economics teacher, Mr. Altamirano, there does not appear to be a complete remedy.

"There is no quick fix for this problem, but there might be a band aid in the form of this \$700 billion bail out. This will have to play itself out. We'll get through it though," he said.

Who picks up the bill for the bailout though? For the most part, the middle class covers this with income taxes, and questions are raised on whether or not they will see their money again. It is unknown when the economy will recover, but with the national debt on the rise and the stock market losing significant points almost daily, it will clearly require time and patience to steer the economy in the right direction again. The president, his advisors and even the candidates are looking for ways to alleviate the crisis, but not much has been said as to whether or not the middle class will get their money back.

However, Mr. Decker proposes that a better tax system might improve the situation. "We need a more progressive tax system to help fix this problem, meaning that because the rich make more money they will be taxed more and the less money a person makes the less they should be taxed," he said. "We have this with income tax, but it's needed for all taxes to help fix the worsening middle class situation."

For now, there is no clear solution in sight and the average suburbanite will have to bite the bullet, push through these tough times, and hope to reverse the curse.

What's Age Got to do With It?



Fabiola Vega
Associate Editor

Let me state the obvious: if we are under the age of eighteen, then we cannot vote. However, this does not relieve us of all responsibilities concerning political affairs. In other words, just because we cannot vote does not mean that we should turn a blind eye to politics.

According to *The Washington Post*, about 47 percent of 18 to 24 year olds actually voted in the 2004 presidential election. Although this was an increase from the 36 percent who voted in 2000, young citizens who are eligible to vote are notorious for not doing so. Even more than the average American, they are typically thought of being apathetic towards political and national affairs.

There is no reason to deserve such an appalling reputation. We do not need to be eighteen to know what's occurring on the national stage. With national affairs penetrating every aspect of the media, including television and the internet, we cannot complain from lack of information.

To be sure, the world of politics is confusing: it is often difficult to distinguish between what is fact and what is opinion. Political terms and names are thrown around and seemingly insignificant events are blown out of proportion. Politicians themselves have negative reputations as liars and for "flip-flopping" on policies (they say one thing one thing and then say the opposite thing the next week).

That's the bad and beauty of politics. We have to use a critical and sharp mind to discern between the important and the unimportant. We have to decide whether or not to give merit to accusations made against Obama and his alleged involvement with a 1960s radical. We have to decide whether or not it is important that McCain did not know the number of houses he owns.

As young citizens it is our responsibility to know what's going on. When we actually vote we have to elect competent leaders we believe have the ability to fix the economy, tackle the issues of health care and social security, and find some way to alleviate the crisis in the Middle East. There are countless issues we can add to the list: the environment, abortion, gay and lesbian rights, continuing issues concerning race and gender inequality.

We cannot inherit a country with ignorance and apathy. That is not to say that we cannot indulge in celebrity gossip, sports and music news or that we must read *The New York Times* from front to back. However, when we say or show that we don't care what our leaders are doing, then they will do exactly as they please. The foundation of our democracy will crumble and we will become indignant when our government is revealed to be corrupt.

Those of you who think that we cannot make a difference have probably forgotten United States history. During the 1960s the youth became heavily involved in protesting government actions and a largely unpopular war. The Vietnam War did not end immediately, but social and political change swept the nation. During the 1968 presidential candidates tried to appeal to young voters by promising to end the war and implement other appealing policies.

It's understandable if participating in a political protest does not interest you. However, there is no excuse not to know who John McCain or Barack Obama is. There is no need to be a political maverick; some basic knowledge about government affairs and candidates can go a long way.

We are privileged to live in a country where we actually have a right to know what's going on in the government. Let's not take it for granted. Too many mistakes have been made by political leaders in the past. We cannot complain that the government is not taking full responsibility if we ourselves decide not to care.

Let's not play the role of apathetic teenagers; let us show that we are ready to be accountable citizens.

Stepping it Up: Principal Avina



Grace Huynh
Associate Editor

With the start of the '08-'09 school year, Segerstrom welcomes back its students as well as a new class of freshmen. One of the largest additions to our school's staff is Dr. Amy Avina, the new principal. As Mrs. Lyn Maher steps down from her years of educational leadership, Dr. Avina steps in to fulfill and carry on the developing values and traditions the school holds.

Prior to her new career as Segerstrom's principal, Avina was an English and Drama teacher for _____ years. She loved the interaction with his students, and "felt that [she] lost teaching" when she left to fill a higher position of overseeing teachers.



While studying for a Ed.D, she was _____ at Segerstrom from the year it opened in 2005.

Avina went to graduate school at USC, and in the past year graduated from Harvard University as a visual arts/English major with a PhD.

"I have never imagined myself becoming the principal of a school. I felt that I lost teaching, but I'm hoping to reestablish myself among the students," said Avina when asked about her new role.

As the new principal, Avina hopes to maintain the school's reputation that Maher had built, as well as

"I have never imagined myself becoming the principal of a school. I felt that I lost teaching, but I'm hoping to reestablish myself among the students."

- Dr. Amy Avina,
Principal

include new developments to increase our success. When asked what she thought the initial challenge was going to be this year in running the high school, Avina felt that the struggle to keep everything in place when Maher left was going to be the most difficult.

"This is really the first year we're not inventing the wheel," she said. "The school has 300 new students and hired 17 new teachers. We went over the hurdle."

The main goal she has this year is to connect with the students. Avina's vitality in being among high school students and her efforts to become involved has already deemed her to be maybe one of the best principals that Segerstrom will have.

"I'm hoping to reestablish myself around high school students. I love high school activities, clubs, sports, and the ASB staff. I love what I do. I get to see the evolution in students," said Avina. "It's so fun to watch students come in as children and come out as adults. My job is to get great teachers to make high school exciting."

Outside of school, Avina loves to spend time her three-year-old daughter. "Right now, we're (she and her husband) very kid-centered."

And academically, Avina loves to read, and is interested in a variety of books. "I started reading *Twilight*," she said when asked what she was currently into, "I read classic things like John Irving and Fitzgerald, but I also read a lot of trash – just because it's a good escape."

College Prep: Higher Ed Center Late Nights



Laura Stueland
Staff Writer

The Higher Education Center staff is doing everything it can to assist seniors as they begin to apply for college.

Seniors are welcome to come to "Late Nights", Wednesdays and Thursdays when the Higher Ed center is open until 7:30-8:00 p.m. During these late nights college applications are looked over by Higher Ed Coordinator Ms. Huezo, numerous counselors, as well as UCI and Cal State representatives before being submitted. Students also work on personal statements, essays for scholarships, resumes, and find out when certain applications are due. Late Nights also provide time for peers to help out one another. Danielle Jackson '09 said, "The Higher Ed Center helps just by always having computers available. They also prepare you when it comes to applying for college and applying for scholarships"

The month of October was dedicated to helping those seniors completing applications for California State Universities. During the month of November the focus will be on completing applications for the University of California schools. There will be a few days during December for those students applying to private universities; these applications are usually due in January or February. Ms. Huezo provides information sessions to all senior English classes and ensures that students are aware of available financial aid. In English classes during the spring of junior year Ms. Huezo gives lessons on how to fill out a UC application. Since UC and private school applications are generally more complicated, this early exposure allows juniors a glimpse of what to expect in the fall of their senior year.

Arlene Torres ('09) said, "In informational sessions we talked about SAT's, ACT's, and scholarships. Ms. Huezo helped me financially by giving me advice on what I needed to be prepared for when applying."

Flipping Burgers or Camp Pendleton?



Kristen Minami
Staff Writer

While many students decide to go to college after high school, there are a number who instead decide to join the military.

A number of factors determine why a student will join the military. For one thing, many of those recruited into the military join because they cannot afford a higher education. Because of the Montgomery GI Bill, the military will pay for most, if not all, of a student's education. Also, the military offers several educational support programs that a student can have access to. The military offers a large amount of educational support to those who join. According to USA Today, the Army and Army National Guard are recruiting high school drop out students with the promise that they will help them receive their GEDs (General Education) if they enlist.

Another reason why students join the military after high school is to explore their career options. The military opens many doors for students who are looking for a foundation to build their careers. There are thousands of opportunities for more high-tech occupations and it offers over 140 occupations through the military.

Several other reasons why students join the military are the opportunities to travel all over the world. As a soldier, one can be deployed anywhere at any given moment. Also, because the military often provides

Nine Reasons You Should Come to College Prep Late Nights

1. Receive all the help you need on your application/essay
2. Quality time with your counselors (you know you love them)
3. Free food
4. One name: Ms. Huezo
5. Find out more about the college you're planning to apply to
6. Free food
7. Work on computers/MacBooks
8. Having the satisfaction of knowing that you're not the only one going crazy over college applications
9. Did we mention free food?

Every senior must fill out a community college application in seminar, which is placed in their senior exit portfolio. Community colleges do not have a specific enrollment date and do not require an essay, grades, or extra information.

Jennifer Zuniga ('09) said, "I plan to go to OCC and then transfer to a university."

There are very few students who refuse to apply to college. Out of 308 seniors of the class of 2008, only 3 went to the military and 3 went directly to work, while the rest of the graduating class went to four or two year colleges.

Ms. Huezo said, "College is an option for everyone and is accessible to everyone."

The Higher Ed Center and Segerstrom as a whole has contributed largely to the amount of success graduated seniors have had in the past when it comes to not only applying for college, but being accepted.

structure to a student's life, a student may often see the military as a chance to help them get focused.

"Students may join the military because they see it as a 'safe haven' for themselves. However, I do not think they understand that they will have to be going through boot camp and that it will be difficult," said Miss Huezo, higher education coordinator.

However, some students do not consider the disadvantages to joining the military after graduation. For one thing, students making the transition from soldier to student can find it difficult to accept that their life will be structured and all their actions will be team-based. If students have trouble responding to authority, they will have difficulties in the army. Furthermore, there is also the risk of actually seeing combat and possibly being injured. Many students do not realize that the risks and the work are extremely difficult and tiring.

Last year's graduating class of 2008 had three students who decided to join the military. According to Miss Huezo, because this year's senior class is significantly larger than last year's, that number will most likely increase to about ten to twenty students joining the military. "I wouldn't consider going into the military after high school because I don't think the military is for me. I'd rather go to a four-year college. It's a good choice for some, but it's not for me," said Mart Regunton (12).

But whatever the choices seniors make this year about their future, they should know that the military can still be an option for them if they are up for the challenge.

Presidential Election: Obama VS McCain

Issues	Obama's Stance	McCain's Stance
College financing	Support a new American Opportunity Tax Credit; this will ensure that the first \$4,000 of college is free for most Americans; cover two-thirds of cost of tuition at public colleges and universities; community college tuition would be completely free for most students	Stresses need of making student loans available. Says tax cuts and improving students loans would make it easier to pay. Does not have a direct plan.
Iraq War	Supported invasion; opposes setting timetable for withdrawing troops and plans to keep them there as long as needed	Opposed the war beginning in 2002; wants a timetable for a responsible withdrawal
Trade	Proponent of free trade. Supports NAFTA and US participation in the World Trade Agreement	Supports trade only with environmental and labor standards. Will plan to renegotiate NAFTA to include these standards
Health Care	Favors tax credits of up to \$5,000 for families purchasing health care	Plans include guaranteeing eligibility for affordable health care for all Americans
Taxation	Believes lower taxes will stimulate the economy; cut corporate taxes by 35-25% to increase investment	Wants to close corporate tax loopholes and proposes extending Bush tax cuts for low-middle class while increasing them for individuals earning \$200,000 and couples earning \$250,000
Environment	Plans to include lowering auto emissions by fining those not complying with Corporate Average Fuel Economy standards; Clean Car Challenge to automakers and giving a substantial prize to company that develops a new car battery	New energy for America plan; plans to use cap-and-trade system (incentives), using federal resources for public mass transportation, provide incentives to plant trees, restore wetlands or undertake farming
Same-sex Marriage	Voted against Federal Marriage Amendment; argues that decisions should be left to the state	Voted against Federal Marriage Amendment; supports civil-unions for same-sex couples; believes decisions about marriage should be left to the states
Abortion	Believes <i>Roe v. Wade</i> should be overturned	Believes abortions should be legally available in accordance with <i>Roe v. Wade</i>



Fabiola Vega
Associate Editor

Information gathered from numerous sources

The weeks leading up to the presidential election showed Democratic candidate Barack Obama leading in the polls over Republican candidate John McCain. A devastating economic crisis interrupted campaigning and quickly became the centerpiece of the election. The traditional mudslinging also rapidly intensified and diverted attention away from the primary issues concerning most Americans.

As with every campaign, the issues and the candidates' stances on policies have become blurred and marred with not only the media, but also the advent of internet bloggers. The election has also captivated students. Several note Obama's race as something to seriously consider.

"I think we should give African-Americans such as Obama the opportunity to see what he can bring to the plate," said Gabriel Menchaca ('10).

However, race should not be the most important factor figuring into the election. America is facing its worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. After five years in Iraq, the war remains a prominent concern for many. Energy and fuel concerns are also playing a major role as energy prices have been increasing. According to the Gallup Poll, as of October 20, President Bush's approval rating was 29.4%. The next president will clearly have to boost up the country's morale in addition to fixing the economy.

According to social science teacher Mr. Chris Bradshaw, the most important factors he's considering when deciding on a candidate are "views on education, plans for economic recovery and stances on the energy, fuel and the environment."

Although Obama was leading the polls for the few months leading up to the National Conventions, the race became closer after McCain picked Alaskan

governor, Sarah Palin, to be his vice-president. However, in the last few weeks Obama regained his lead in the polls. This could partly be attributed to an increase in negative attacks. As an example, the McCain campaign has accused Obama of being associated with Bill Ayers, a 1960s radical who co-founded a radical organization called the Weather Underground.

Bradshaw believes that the McCain campaign took the "easy route" to try to sway voters. "Americans are sensitive to the terrorist issue," he said about the allegations. "I don't give it much merit."

However, many still support McCain because they believe Obama is too liberal on certain issues and still does not have the necessary experience needed for the presidency after only three years on the national stage as senator of Illinois.

Stephanie Marron ('09) said, "McCain's ideas and goals are more realistic than Obama's. He's also conservative."

Although McCain chose a governor, Palin, for his vice-president, concerns were raised over her own experience and what many perceived as a lack of knowledge of national affairs. There were also controversies over her conduct as governor and whether or not she abused her power.

Marron added that she did not like that McCain chose Palin as vice-president. "I don't think she's qualified," she said. "She's only had a few years of experience."

Despite this, many are drawn to Palin because she seems wholesome and relates to the common American. Her socially conservative views are appealing to many Americans, including Marron, who added, "I like her ideas."

After an extensive and nasty campaign that began with equally exhausting primaries, many will breathe a sigh of relief once the election ballots are submitted and counted. Actually, that sigh of relief is subjective and really depends on whether McCain or Obama wins the election.

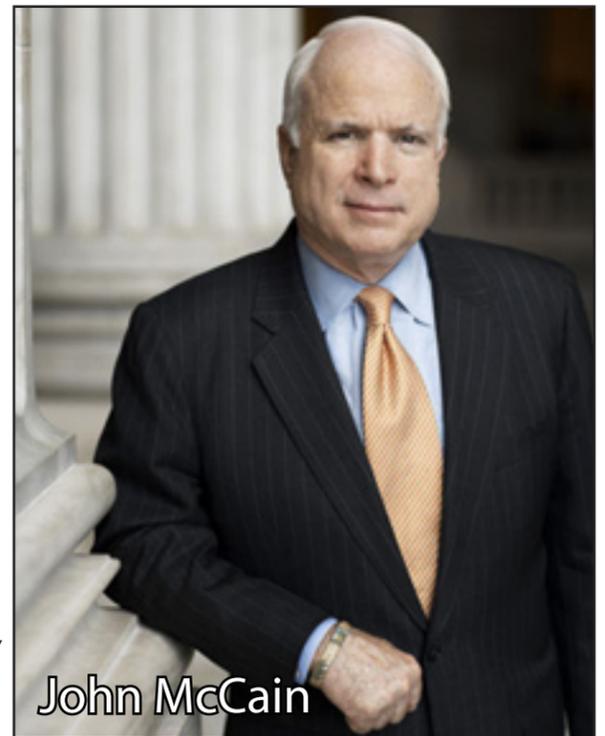
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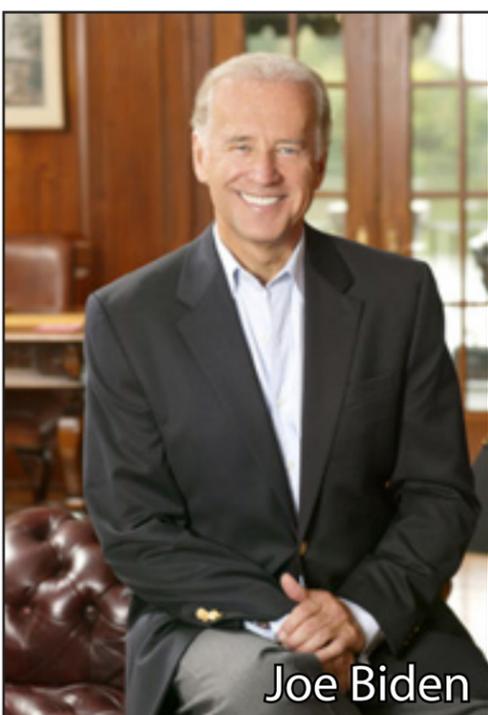
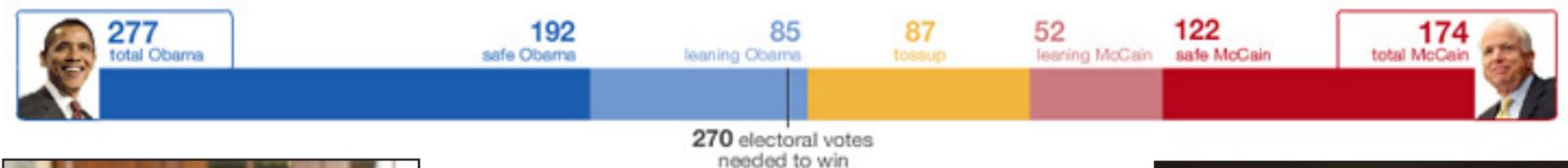
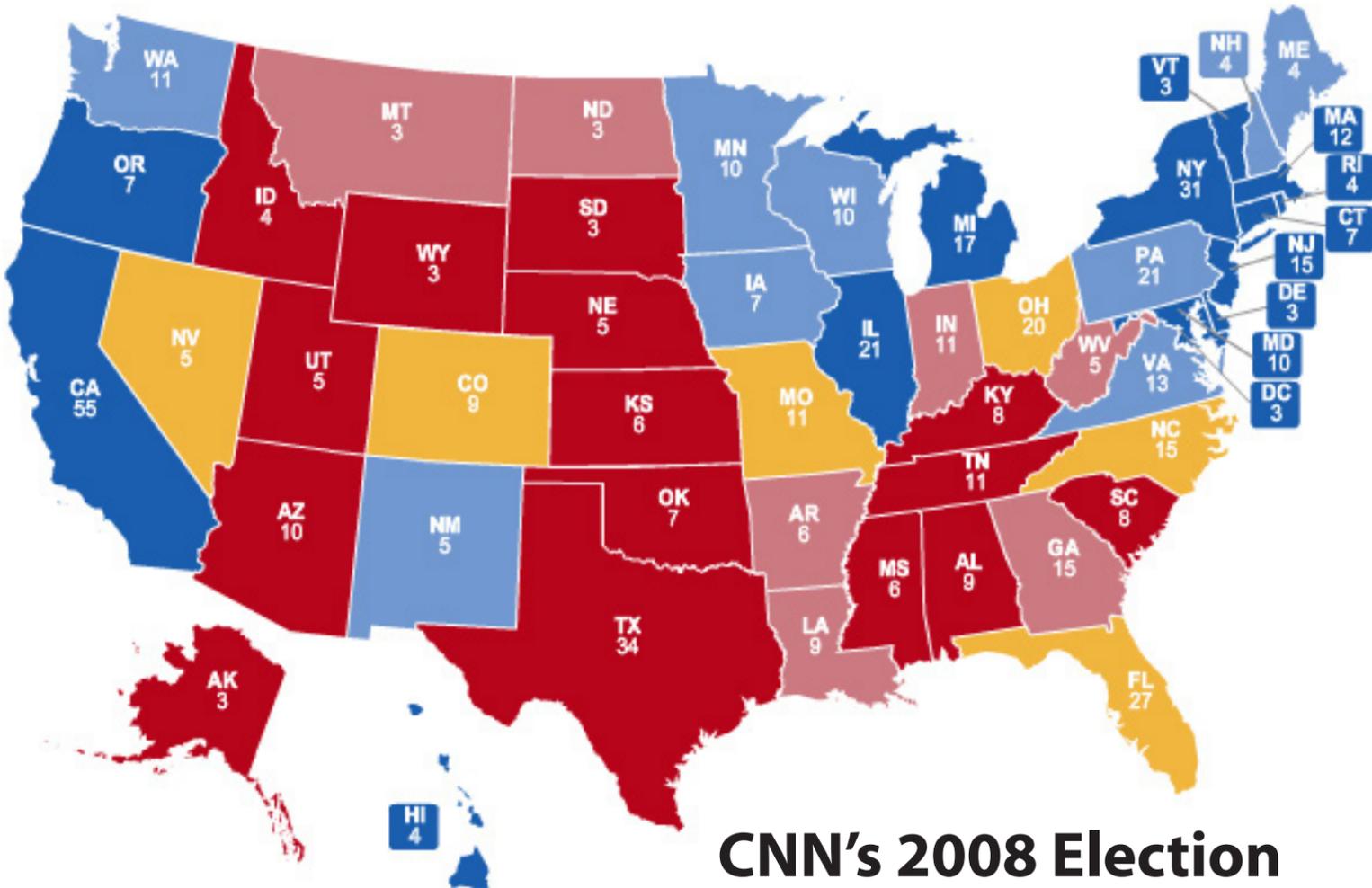
Barack Obama

"We have an obligation and a responsibility to be investing in our students and our schools. We must make sure that people who have the grades, the desire and the will, but not the money, can still get the best education possible."

"Glory is not a conceit. It is not a decoration for valor. Glory belongs to the act of being constant to something greater than yourself, to a cause, to your principles, to the people on whom you rely and who rely on you in rerun."



John McCain



Joe Biden

"Look, freedom is an overwhelming American notion. The idea that we want to see the world, the peoples of the world free is something that all of us subscribe to."

"I pledge to all Americans that I will carry myself in this spirit as vice president of the United States. This was the spirit that brought me to the governor's office ... when I stood up to the special interests, the lobbyists, big oil companies, and the good ol' boys network."



Sarah Palin

Music: What's Hot?



Damian Guerra
Staff Writer

Currently Pink's single "So What!" is outshining Billboard's Hot 100 list. Tailing closely behind are Kanye West's new hit single "Love Lockdown," and T.I.'s "Whatever you Like." All three songs are scoring impressively high in the music industry and are head to head on iTunes top ten. The pop, hip-hop, and R&B/Soul culture is currently the most popular music and it is more intense than ever.

"My most listened to song on my iPod has to be 'The Scientist' by Coldplay" said Joan Deng ('12).

Groups like the Jonas Brothers and Coldplay are also surpassing the music charts and have become staples in the music world. Coldplay released their fourth studio album, *Viva la Vida or Death and All His Friends* in June, and it became an instant hit.

"My favorite artist is Shwayze and my favorite song is 'Lazy Days', so is 'Viva la Vida' by Coldplay" said Donald Dominguez ('11).

Also adding more color to the music scene is Britney Spears, the troubled performer who has been a popular media target. She managed to shine at the 2008 MTV Video Music Awards when she won three "Moon Man" awards: Video of the Year, Best Pop Video, and Best Female Video. Fans welcomed her back with piercing applauses and thunderous cheers.

"Well, she did one thing right this year, she didn't perform and that saved critics from a lot of good jokes," said Deanna Coughlin ('12), referring to Spears' less-than-stellar performance at last year's VMA's.

Students are already speculating on the next hits. Many believe it will be Britney's single "Womanizer" or T.I.'s single "Ready for Whatever." Only time and a quick glance at Billboard's Hot 100 list will tell.

On an unfortunate note, the music world suffered a tragic blow when former Blink 182 drummer Travis Barker and popular disc jockey DJ AM were in a plane crash which put them both in the intensive care unit with third degree burns. Both are expected to recover with physical therapy, all other people on the plane died.



Kanye West's
"Love Lockdown"
single

T.I.'s "Whatever You
Like" single



Britney Spears's
"Womanizer"
single

Coldplay's "Viva la
Vida..." album



Album Cover
Credits to
Amazon.com

Why Students (and Mr. Casper) Love High School Musical



Jennifer Lai
Design Editor-in-Chief

Since its first release in January 2006, Walt Disney's "High School Musical" has swept many, if not all, hearts across the globe with its flare and charm of teenage talents.

Of these swept hearts is a wide range of Segerstrom's own students, some of whom are entirely engulfed in the frenzy.

The \$4.2 million dollar production of the Disney Channel Original Movie reeled in about 7.7 million viewers on its premiere night two years ago. The sequel, which aired last summer, had an audience of a whopping 17.2 million viewers, breaking several television records. The popular movie finally hit the big screen in its third installment on October 24, topping the box office charts with \$42 million.

"I loved it! I cried!" said Christine Tran ('09). "I was first in line for the premier showing.

The movie was kind of cheesy, but I still loved it. I still think the first one is best out of the three. I cried because it's over! They graduated! HSM is over!"

The first "High School Musical" general synopsis involves main stars Troy Bolton (Zac Efron) and Gabriella Montez (Vanessa Hudgens) meeting at a karaoke contest, where interests in each other begin to burgeon. Later, after finding out that both go to East High, they decide to audition for the high school musical, in which the school's theoretical sibling stars Sharpay Evans (Ashley Tisdale) and Ryan Evans (Lucas Grabeel) are also trying to audition.

The television sequel includes the original cast from the first movie. Troy, Gabriella, and their friends get jobs at Sharpay's family-owned country club. Sharpay, disappointed by the fact that everyone is there, tries to do whatever she can to get Troy for herself. By doing so, she isolates Troy from everyone by promising him "the good life."

"Being a fan since even before the movie came out, I've seen the first movie four times and the second movie three times," said Israel Mendoza. ('09) "I've also listened to the first soundtrack about fifteen times, I think? And I've listened to the second soundtrack

about eight times."

Mendoza is very much a fan, especially considering the fact that he was in a stage production of the movie, which took place at Fullerton College last year.

Due to soaring popularity, the movie's phenomenon stretches beyond just a television movie. Various songs that are included in the specified soundtracks. Accompanied with fun dance steps, these songs are

said to be "very catchy." Like their movies, the sales of these soundtracks have also reached high rankings on the record charts.

The original "High School Musical" has had a concert tour, stage musicals, an ice show, and even a book series as well as a video game. Different types of merchandise have been sold as well.

"I own the original "High School Musical" DVD, the "High School Musical" concert DVD, and "High School Musical" remix DVD," said Tran. "I also have the soundtracks. I own two High School Musical shirts, even a bag and a glow stick from the concert. Oh, I even have the high school musical bed set and the calendar! It's awesome!"



Movie Poster Credits to EfronFreak.com

According to an interview between CNN Money and Soleil-Media Metrics analyst Laura Martin, "High School Musical" has "generated \$1 billion in operating profits to Disney over the past two fiscal years." That number is expected to continue to rise especially with the theatrical release of "High School Musical 3."

Despite its success, neutral and negative comments still rise among students concerning the movie.

"I saw the premiere of "High School Musical with my little sister and I thought the songs were really catchy," said Tania Perez ('10). "After watching it so many times, it's starting to get annoying. I didn't like the sequel that much either."

Mr. Casper, who is quite the "High School Musical" fan due to his two kids, has both soundtracks on his iPod and knows most of the songs' lyrics. He has even claimed to know the dance moves to the song "Work This Out."

"The movie's great for just about anyone. Teens at this school may think it's too "young" for them though. Maybe it's because ZacZac should wear less makeup," he joked. He also considers the hardcore fan to have "seen the play, the ice show, the onstage production, and own a karaoke version of the soundtracks."

Rumors Synopsis



My Nguyen Nguyen
Staff Writer

The Drama Class is setting up for a new comedy production this season. The main character Ken will be played by Tim Alexander and Israel Mendoza. The setting starts off with Ken attending the mayor of New York City, Charley Brocks', tenth wedding anniversary's dinner party.

When Ken arrives at the party early, he finds Charley upstairs bleeding out of his head, having apparently

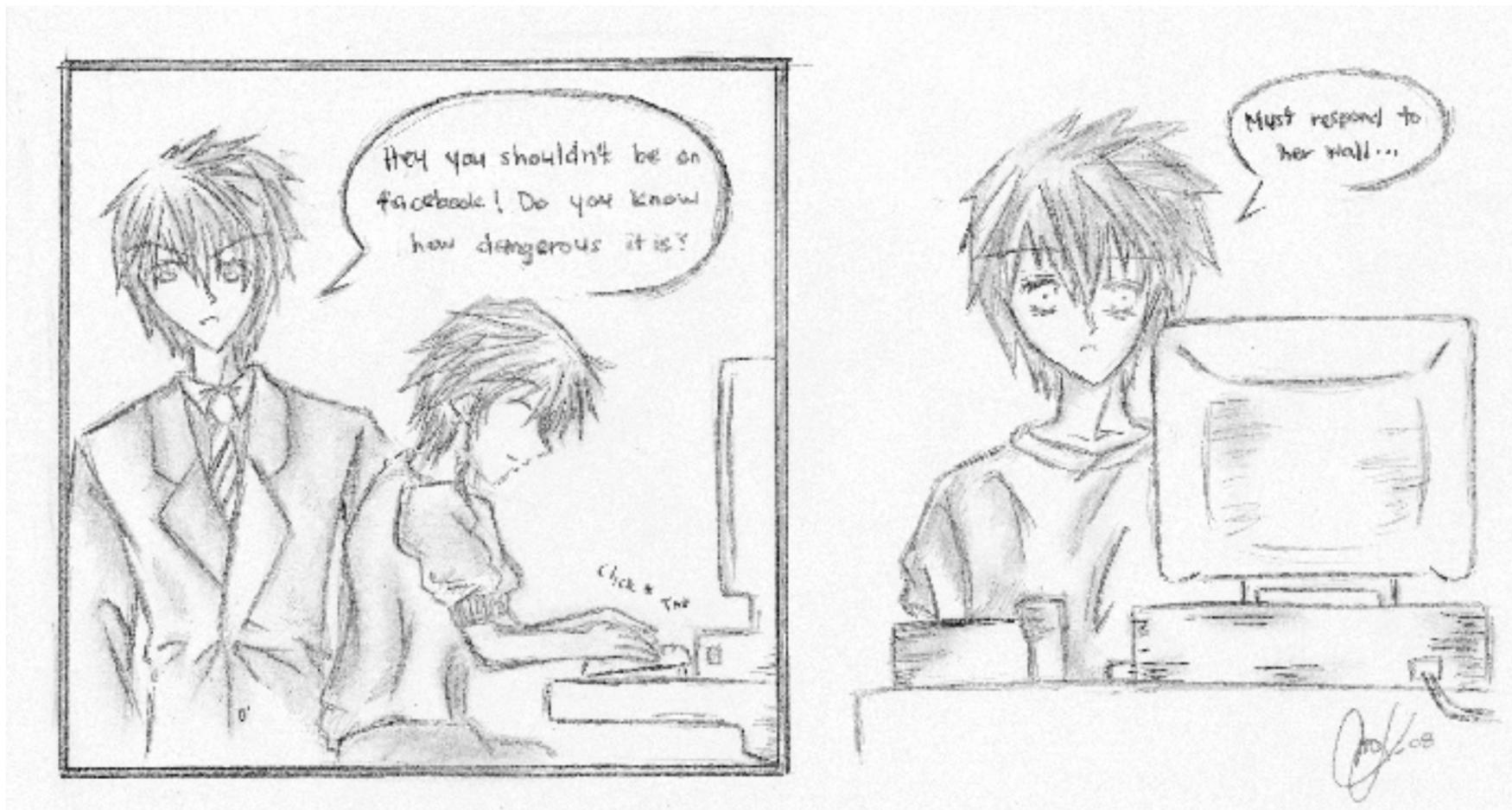
committed suicide, while his wife, Myra, is nowhere to be found. In an effort to cover up the crime, Ken and a few other close friends are trying to cover up the incident while more guests are arriving. For some strange reason, neither the cooks nor any of the hosts have showed up. Rumors begin to form amongst the guests about the suspected infidelity.

"I love comedy, and I love to laugh. I think that the school needs a good laugh," said Ms. Cohen when asked about why she decided to put on this play. "You can never tell what can happen with this type of play."

Israel Mendoza ('09) commented that, "It's really random and funny. I think that people will like it."

The curtains will rise for this production at 6:30 p.m. on November 20 and 21.

MySpace VS Facebook



Molly Cuenca
Staff Writer

MySpace and Facebook seem to be the most popular social networking sites for teenagers at the moment; with many people of all ages signing up for both. MySpace was one of the first and most popular websites of this kind, but as of June 2008, Facebook surpassed Myspace's 117.6 million registered users with 132.1 million.

"I have both a MySpace and Facebook, and I check all my messages and comments on both," said Joann Deng ('12).

MySpace is a social networking website where you can keep in touch with friends, send comments, and post pictures. In June 2006, MySpace was the most popular site in the United States, and still attracts about 230,000 new users per day. Some features of the site include bulletins, MyspaceTV, and MyspaceIM available to users with whose minimum age is 14.

Many people still maintain their MySpace accounts because it was launched earlier and was initially more popular than Facebook. "There's more people I know on MySpace, so that's why I like it more," said Dalila Sanchez ('11).

Facebook is a newer social networking website launched in February 2004. The free-access website is privately owned and operated by Facebook, Inc. Users can join networks organized by cities, workplaces, schools, and regions to connect and interact with people of similar backgrounds. Website membership for Facebook was initially limited to Harvard students, but was expanded to other colleges and then to the public.

"I prefer Facebook over MySpace because Facebook has a better Photo application than MySpace, and I also have more friends that use it," commented Eric Hernandez ('11).

Both MySpace and Facebook are now extremely popular among the American population. Since they are a fun and easy way to keep in touch with people, millions of accounts are checked and maintained each day. Although created for the same basic reasons, both sites offer different applications that appeal to their users. These social networking sites have revolutionized the world of communication, and whether through online "actions" or comments left by friends, they have both attracted a very large audience.

R U Crzy Abt Txttn? OMG, me 2! Behind the Texting Frenzy



Laura Stueland
Staff Writer

Texting happens all around us: during class, fingers move efficiently on a pre-memorized keypad under the desk, at home, family get-togethers are ruined by buzzes and beeps, during the most action packed part of a movie glowing screens can be seen throughout the theater, and of course the car next to you is speeding down the freeway with the driver precariously balancing their phone on the steering wheel.

A 21st century mania, texting is ready to conquer the world. Just in the U.S over 75 billion text messages are sent per month according to a September 2008 statistic by slashphone.com. "Once you're used to your keypad, you can text without looking. Once I start texting I can't stop. It's an addiction. Now I can send unlimited texts, but when I didn't have that plan I went hundreds of dollars over," said Gissel Salmeron ('11).

For some, conversations via text merely consist of relationship maintenance, drama, and the latest gossip,

but when serious matters are texted, they're easily misinterpreted.

"Texts can easily be taken the wrong way; like when your just being sarcastic, the other person will assume you're angry at them," said Adie Hernandez ('10).

Schools ban texting because they cause distractions. Not only are those that are texting being distracted, those around them are directly affected with their learning and concentration interrupted by the bussing backpack next to them.

"All the time in class, people are texting. It distracts me. Like today, someone was talking to me about their entire texting conversation," said Jenny Ramos ('12).

Schools have been enforcing phone rules in order to prevent in-class texting. If caught with a phone out in class, texting or not, students will immediately get their phone taken away, and receive a 60 minute

central detention. But many students believe that the banning of texting during class hasn't helped much, and that texters have only become more discreet.

"I've never caught a student texting in class, but only once caught a student with their phone out. Texting is under control because of the rules; otherwise, there would be abuse," commented Mr. Hollenbeck, who teaches U.S. History.

Away from the classroom, texting has more serious

consequences. Texting causes countless car accidents and has contributed to many Metrolink accidents.

But despite the school's opposition to texting, it is likely here to stay as a popular form of communication for teens. Schools will continue to enforce their rule but, undoubtedly, students will continue to find sneaky ways to text.



Photo credits to Wikipedia.org

Jaguar Football Continues to Thrive



Hungry for Victory (right) The Jaguars face-off with Ocean-view's Seahawks at the Homecoming game, winning 38-14; (bottom) As the first game's halftime show ends, the team returns back to the field, ready for some more



Abraham Vivanco
Staff Writer

On September 12, the Jaguar Varsity's Football team played their first game against Century's Varsity's team, and won with a score of 42-0.

As the Jaguars ran across the field, the crowds' cheers could be heard all over the school. The Jaguars were pumped up and ready to take on Century, and their attitude showed that they were prepared to defeat them.

"They're no match for us, we just have to do better and we need to focus more," said Varsity football player Freddy Chavez ('09).

The football team continued on its victory streak as their Head Coach Maceranka, an economics teacher, was honored by ABC7 as Coach of the week during the first week of October.

"We have guys that want to play and that are committed," said Coach Vu.

This commitment has shown in their performance; with a growing record, it seems that Segerstrom is a force to be reckoned with this year. This was further demonstrated with a huge win against Orange (49-0) on October 23 and with their triumphant Homecoming and first league game against Ocean View, 38-14.

Cross Country Looking Towards Another Undefeated Sea-



Damian Guerra
Staff Writer

Running determinedly towards the finish line, the Cross Country team faces new schools and challenges each week. Despite the stress that may accompany such a relentless goal, team members know that they can count on each other to be supportive.

Setting high goals for the season has its advantages and disadvantages. While they can cause stress and anxiety, they oftentimes encourage a person to try harder and push their boundaries.

"My goal is to complete the three mile races in at least twenty-three minutes or less," said Jacqueline Gutierrez ('12) who hasn't been able to attain her aim yet, but plans to continue trying.

In addition to Cross Country, team members still have their academics to worry about. Sport players must maintain a grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 or higher to participate.

Sergio Rodriguez ('12) said, "It's hard juggling school and sports because after I get out of cross country at around five o'clock, I have to go to quinceañera practice and that doesn't end until nine."

Nevertheless, most of them said that it will pay off in the long run. David Salazar ('12) said, "I look forward to making it to the next race and eventually, if I push myself harder, to the invitationals."

The majority said they hope to make it to the invitationals, a meet where only the best runners are invited are to compete. The team hopes to see a number of runners there.

As Cross Country nears the finish line the team is ranked number one in both boys and girls, and seems poised to achieve their goals.

My's Top Three Pick-Up Lines of the Month

- You're hotter than a bunsen burner set to full power.
- You're so cute you make my zygomaticus muscles contract.
- Hey baby, we've got chemistry together... next period.

Upcoming Events

- Nov 4: Election Day
- Nov 5: Delayed Start
- Nov 10-11: Veterans' Day Break
- Nov 25: End of Second Six-Week Grading Period
- Nov 26-28: Thanksgiving Break
- Nov 30: Application Deadline for UCs and CSUs

In The Next Issue...

- What's WASC?
- Club Spotlight & Updates
- Seminar Class Rivalries
- Marching Band's Success
- Twilight Frenzy
- Rumors Drama Production (Nov 21-22)
- Sports Updates & Season Wrap-Ups