RAMPAGE

TEMPLE CITY HIGH SCHOOL Volume 58 Issue 04 Friday, October 26, 2012 tchsrampage.com

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PHOTOS/ G. Chan, J. Chen, S. Rosebrook

TC receives aid for recovery

By Apollo Wei
Staff Writer

Approximately one year ago, a devastating windstorm struck the Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties, damaging homes and businesses, knocking down utility poles, uprooting over 500 trees, cutting off the electricity of about 350,000 residents in the San Gabriel Valley and causing a total of $17 million dollars in damage throughout the areas.

Although for most people, the windstorm is an event of the past, but recovering now is very costly. The total cost of damage for the district was a little over $225,000.

"Our custodial, maintenance and operations staff deserves a big kudos," Temple City's Chief Business Official David Jaynes said. "It took several months to correct the fences. Now, all has been corrected, but not all the trees have been replaced.

Senator Ed Hernandez proposed SB1544 and Governor Jerry Brown signed it after its proposal. SB1544 states that legal taxpayers in the Counties of Los Angeles and San Bernardino can "make an election to claim a deduction for any losses sustained in the Counties of Los Angeles and San Bernardino as a result of the severe winds that occurred in November 2011 on the tax return for the preceding year."

Those whose properties were damaged in the windstorm are now allowed to carry over their uninsured losses for 20 years.

County Supervisor Michael Antonovich recently approved the award of a $70,000 grant to Temple City in an attempt replant all of the trees lost.

The grant will allow the city to replant at least 300 trees on public property, streets and industrial parkways. The city has already spent a total of $20,000 in the past in order to clean up and remove the trees which created hazards, caused traffic and obstructions.

Trees are a major part of Temple City. In May 2012, the Arbor Day Foundation recognized Temple City, for the ninth year, as "Tree City USA." Temple City is among 3,400 other communities in the United States with the title.

October/November Ram Calendar

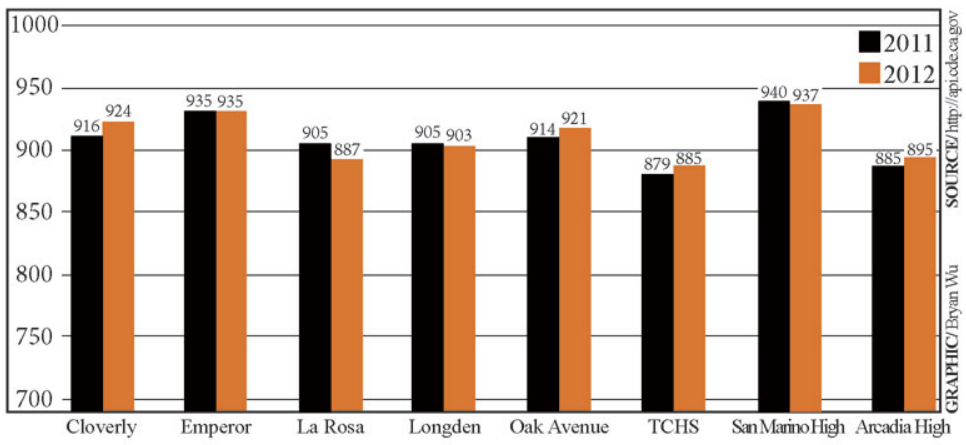
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	S
28	29	30	**31**	**1**	**2**	3
4	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	10
11	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15**	16	**17**
18	**19**	**20**	**21**	**22**	**23**	24
25	26	**27**	28	**29**	**30**	1

Oct. 31: Halloween
Nov. 1-14: Canned Food Drive
Nov. 4: Daylight Savings Ends
Nov. 12: Veteran's Day Holiday
Nov. 13: Talent Show
Nov. 14-15: Musical Auditions
Nov. 17: Musical Callbacks.
Nov. 19-23: Thanksgiving Break
Nov. 27: Holiday Strings Concert
Nov. 29-30: Advanced Drama Fall Show
Nov. 30: End of grading period

Seniors show off their style

PHOTO COURTESY/ Sabrina Feng
Senior class Vice President Kevin Lazatin (not pictured) organized a flash mob to the song "Gangnam Style" that seniors performed in the quad during break on Thursday to show class spirit.

2011 and 2012 Local School API scores



News Briefs

By Bryan Wu & Celene Chang
News Editor & Staff Writer

Prom Update

ASBL listed the wrong date for this year's Prom in the school calender. The actual date is Saturday May 4, 2013. Problems and concerns with this update can be discussed with ASBL advisor Mr. Mike Kidd.

Fun Food Friday

Delicious smells wafted throughout the air on Oct. 19 as various clubs shouted over one another, trying to sell their goods in the overcrowded quad.

This month's Fun Food Friday began earlier than usual at 12:15 p.m. instead of 12:30 p.m.

Clubs such as the History Club, sold barbeque chicken musubi while the Junior Class Council sold fresh fruit smoothies. Other clubs sold Vietnamese sandwiches, tamales, chicken pot pies and fresh fruit tarts as well.

The main purpose of Fun Food Friday is not solely for the students' pleasure, but also for clubs to earn a profit.

PHOTO/ Stephen Rosebrook
Vice President of Girls Learn International Junior Joey Cheung sold Subway sandwiches.

Homecoming Princesses

This year's Homecoming Princesses are Seniors Caroline Sun, Kelly Guo, Fionne Ma, Amber Estrada and Victoria Lam.

On Oct. 10, five to six students from ASBL went to each of the princess's houses at around seven in the morning to congratulate them.

The girls were then dressed in mismatched clothing, while members from ASBL messily painted their faces. When the nominees arrived on campus, they looked a little worse for wear, and sported signs that read "I Am a Homecoming Mermaid," all day.

Teachers and Employees of the Year

Board Members Kenneth Knollenberg, Bob Ridley, Matt Smith, Kien Tiet, Joe Walker and Superintendent Chelsea Kang-Smith congratulated the seven TCUSD 2012-2013 Teachers of the Year at the Sept. 12, 2012 Board Meeting.

This year's honorees include Cloverly's Ms. Katie Rose, Emperor's Ms. Aimee Reid, La Rosa's Ms. Ellen Dunki-Jacobs, Longden's Ms. Nancy Hong, Oak Avenue's Special Education teacher Mr. Aryn Hart, TCHS' AP English Language and Composition teacher Ms. Sarah Penalora and Dr. Dough Sears Learning Center's Mr. Sean Patterson. The Board in addition, awarded Ms. Penalora district's Teacher of the Year.

The Board also awarded Classified Employees of the Year to be Cloverly's Maria Nevarez, Emperor's Paul Luevano, La Rosa's Ken Peterson, Longden's Sue Anderson, Oak Avenue's Louise Huff, Dr. Doug Sears Learning Center's Suzie Jackson and TCHS' Jon Howie. The Board gave Mr. Howie special recognition as the district's Classified Employee of the Year. Ms. Anderson now works in the counseling office.

Ally Week

Students bustled through the quad as members from the Gay Straight Alliance Club passed out rainbow beaded key chains on Thursday Oct. 18, for Ally Week. Members from the club made roughly 200 key chains which they passed out not only to promote the club, but also to raise attention of the stereotypes and peer pressure the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community face. Ally Week encourages students to be allies to LGBT students. The purpose of the week was to advocate a safe environment and to stop the harsh treatment.

PHOTO COURTESY/ Sabrina Fang
Seniors Erin Kubo (left) and Heather Forbes (right) show support for LBGT students.

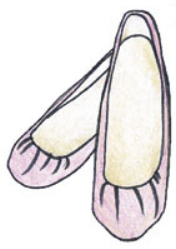
"Kiss the Girl" in style

By Valerie Kun
Staff Writer

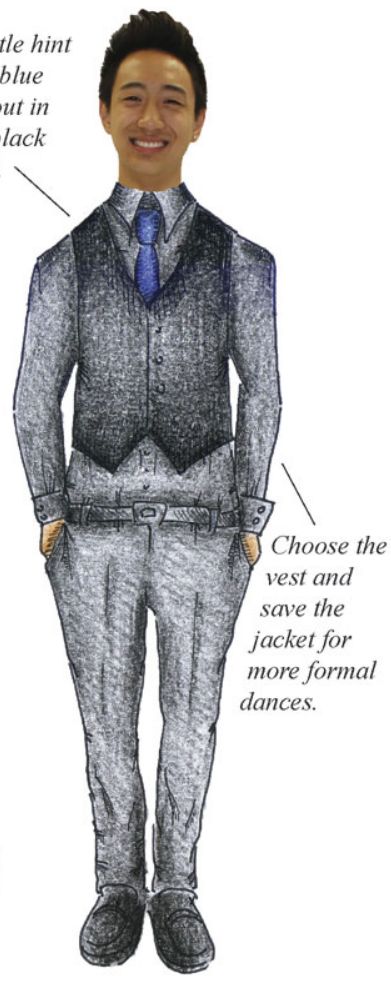
Instead of trading your voice for a magical night with your prince or princess this homecoming, charm your date with a polished but eye-catching outfit. When the clock chimes seven tomorrow night, Junior Emily Cheng will arrive at homecoming in her simple yet elegant navy blue dress, accompanied by Senior Gavin Cheung dressed sleek in black and cobalt blue. Fortunately, the pair gave us a sneak peek at the matching ensemble they plan to wear.

PHOTO/ Valerie Kun

Quick Tips for Girls...



For those who enjoy kicking off your killer heels, stow a pair of flats in your clutch to avoid bruised toes. You don't want to dance on the gym floor with your bare feet.



Quick Tips for Guys...

Stand out from the crowd with a fun twist to your outfit by trading in the classic neck-tie for a bow tie. The bow tie adds in a playful touch that is perfect for semi-formal events.

Bring back Hollywood's horror hits this Halloween

By Grace Chan
Staff Writer

As a horror movie newbie, my knowledge of the genre was limited—rather, I did not have an extensive knowledge on scary movies in general. However, since Halloween is coming up, I decided to join in on the festivities. On this mission to find a couple of horror movies for the Halloween season, I asked some scary movie junkies and obtained three solid flicks that were reccommendations from the past.

"The Shining" (1980)

Adapted from the novel written by Stephen King, "The Shining," directed by Stanley Kubrick, starts out tauntingly mellow as if something is going to pop up on the screen despite the peaceful tone. The film picks up the pace after the scene introduces Danny, the little boy who insists he has an imaginary friend. Danny's power to "shine," a telepathic talent and ability to see visions of the past and future, is an important factor of the story as mysterious events unfold. The storyline revolves around the father's deteriorating mind and the eerie history of the hotel that he and his family are caretaking.

"The Shining" has an unpredictable plot, keeping the film full of suspense while toying with the audience's minds. In all, "The Shining" is more creepy than it was scary, a bit dragged out around the middle and erratic. Things to note: there is vulgar language, nudity and violence.

"Scream" (1996)

With already two deaths within the first ten minutes, "Scream," directed by Wes Craven, will definitely make you scream. Categorized as a "slasher" movie, a film full of constant killing and deaths, "Scream" will put you at the edge of your chair with its sporadic, frightful surprises. For example, I had a feeling that the masked killer was in hiding and ready to pounce on his target. However, it didn't stop me from suffering a mini heart-attack when he suddenly popped out, knife in hand.

This classic horror flick is about a masked-killer and his accomplice hunting down and terrorizing a high school student, Casey, and her peers. If gore and violent scenes discomfort you, fear not because closed eyes and a stuffed animal can be handy to deflect bloody scenes. If you are into this sort of genre, "Scream" is definitely a classic horror film for you.

"Psycho" (1960)

Deemed probably the most "classic" movie of the three, "Psycho," directed by Alfred Hitchcock, is a haunting film shot in black and white. Commended for being a well drawn-out horror movie in its time, "Psycho" deviates from the cultural norm of monster movies in the 1960s.

The film is about a woman who finds hospitality at a desolate motel owned by a young man, who seems to be under the demanding control of his mother. Although the simple plot line may sound arbitrary and trivial, the death of the young woman leads to a creepy end which will send shivers down your spine. "Psycho" has a great deal of mystery, suspense and plot-twisting qualities that will blow your mind. If you make it to the end, you'll realize, as I certainly did, that "Psycho" was named substantially well.

Pump some spice into your autumn season

By Jeffrey Li
Staff Writer

When you think of autumn, what comes to mind? Most people think of Halloween, turkey and the gloomy mornings that make it hard to wake up. But when I think of autumn, I think of my mom's heavenly pumpkin cake baking in the oven, drawing me to the kitchen like a zombie. My only job from that point on is to feast on this intoxicating cake.

Fortunately for you, I am willing to share this recipe, and it is also easy to make. Be warned, for this cake allures hungry trick-or-treaters, so if you want to avoid a zombie invasion, I advise that you keep your cake far away from them. Unless, of course, you, yourself are a zombie. In any case, all you need to make this concoction are these everyday household ingredients.

Ingredients
4 eggs
⅔ cup vegetable oil
1 cup water
1 16 ounce can of pumpkin
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon nutmeg
½ teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons baking soda
3 cups flour
2 cups sugar

Optional ingredients
½ cup chopped walnuts
½ cup raisins or cranberries

Before you begin mixing ingredients like a mad scientist, preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Then prepare two loaf pans or a bundt cake pan. Coat the pan's interior with a thin layer of butter and lightly sprinkle with flour to prevent your cake from sticking. Shake off any extra flour from the pan. Instead of butter, you can use cooking spray as an easy alternative.

Now you are ready to get down and dirty with your cake batter. Mix all of the wet ingredients, eggs, vegetable oil, water and pumpkin, in a large mixing bowl. In another bowl, combine the dry ingredients, flour, sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg, salt and baking soda. After both mixtures are even, add the dry ingredients into the large mixing bowl with a sifter.

Upon combining, lumps of flour and baking soda will appear. You don't want these lumps in your cake, so use a spatula or rice cooker spoon to crush them against the side of the bowl. Do this for about five minutes until the batter is smooth and lump-free.

Now add any extra ingredients like chopped walnuts paired with raisins or cranberries for a crunchy texture that contrasts the moist cake.

Pour the batter into the previously prepared pan. Bake for 60-70 minutes at 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Use the toothpick test to see if your cake is finished. Insert a toothpick into your cake, and if it is relatively clean when you remove it, you know that your creation is done.

How you decorate your cake is really up to you, but I recommend sprinkling powdered sugar on top or using a store-bought brand of frosting unless you have your own secret family recipe. By this time, the trick-or-treaters have surely entered your house, sniffing for the source of that mouth-watering smell. Don't fret, treats like this are meant to be shared.

So there it is, the easy way to bake a delicious seasonal taste that will surely satisfy any monster, ghost, vampire, princess or pirate you have enchanted.

PHOTOS/ Rebecca Chen
Instead of using the traditional rectangular pan, try baking with a bundt pan to create a circular shape for your cake.

Rethink Red Ribbon week

By Rachel Johnston
Co-Business Manager

Temple City High School participates in Red Ribbon Week every October to remind students to say no to drugs and alcohol. Unfortunately, Red Ribbon Week ends up being one more meaningless opportunity to play dress up. Not only is it shameful, but it is a missed instance to educate teenagers regarding the dangers that drugs and alcohol pose for our generation.

Red Ribbon Week's origins are quite serious. It began after Drug Enforcement Administration Agent, Enrique Camarena, was kidnapped, tortured and murdered while on a case involving Mexican drug traffickers. After Camarena's death, people pledged to remain drug-free in his honor by using ribbons as a symbol.

Someone dies trying to protect us from the danger of drug dealers and drugs, and what do we do? We, at TCHS, wear pajamas, dress like nerds and wear shades.

It's not as though we are immune to the pain that drugs and alcohol inflict. Over the years, we have suffered the loss of several students, including a 17-year-old TCHS student who was killed in an alcohol-related car accident in 2005. After attending a party in Malibu, where she and three other friends consumed alcohol, their car went off the road and rolled down an embankment, throwing her out of the car and killing her.

Senseless tragedies such as these shock us for a time and then are forgotten, but we need to remember them. We need to stop dressing up in silly ways for a week pretending that we are immune and immortal. Red Ribbon Week is no laughing matter.

Handing out "YOLO: don't waste it" wristbands won't prevent students from drinking or doing drugs. Sure, the wristbands look cool, but picture the partier who chugs a beer or takes a hit saying, "Yeah, you only live once!" Without the right information, the meaning of the wristband is lost in translation.

According to the Partnership for a Drug-Free America survey, 6.5 million teens, ranging from grades 9 through 12, admitted to drinking alcohol within the last month. Where did I get these statistics? Online, not from Red Ribbon Week; I did not learn a single fact about drugs or alcohol from our Red Ribbon Week.

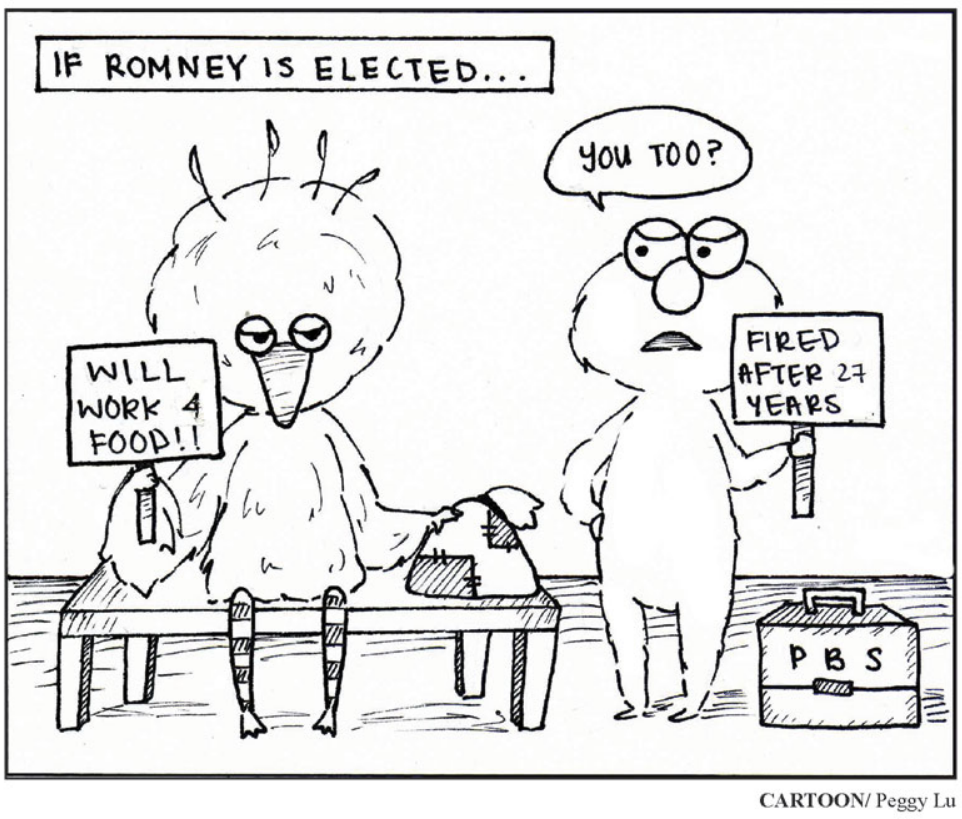
It's difficult to tell the difference between Fall Spirit Week and Red Ribbon Week, except that fewer people participate in the latter. If saying no to drugs and alcohol is a priority, as it should be, then it's time to make some drastic changes.

During RAMS, make it mandatory for all students to watch a documentary about drugs and alcohol. Or include a statistic about the consequences of drugs and alcohol in the daily bulletin. Or have our teachers instruct a lesson on drugs or alcohol during the week.

Red Ribbon week is the opportunity of a lifetime for students, and if we don't take advantage of it, we should be dreading the possibility of a drug-related funeral. Safety should be the focus of our Red Ribbon Week, not wearing pajamas to school for a day.

For The Record:

News: Giving Bach club was mispelled "Giving Back." (Issue 3)
Entertainment: Carly Rae Jepson's single "This Kiss" was mistakingly published as "Kiss." (Issue 3)
Sports: Boys Water Polo and Girls Volleyball records were incorrect. (Issue 2)



CARTOON/ Peggy Lu

Letter to the Editor,

My excitement over your focus on Native Americans in the last issue of Rampage turned into tremendous concern when I read your article on student missionaries who visited the Navajo Reservation. I looked forward to seeing how our students connected with the culture and history of this rich civilization. Instead I read observations of the Navajo that included, they "live in poverty," the "guys wrestled," the girls "liked lip gloss" and "their parents drink, abuse kids and do drugs."

While I am well-aware of the challenges facing our Native American populations today, I have to ask, is this really all that our students saw in this culture? Do these students really think that all Navajo parents are drunks, drug addicts and child abusers? Are these views representative of all our students who participated in this trip? How would this community feel if they read how our students described them? Would our students be invited back? And why would Rampage choose to publish a derogatory quote like this about the Navajo, or any other racial or ethnic group, especially in an issue that is trying to "honor" a cultural heritage month?

As a history teacher, I try my best to address the often overlooked history of Native Americans. My U.S. History classes examine indigenous history from our Pre-Columbian cultures all the way to the American Indian Movement of the 1970s. During our studies on World War II, we give special attention to the Navajo Code Talkers who helped win the war. As you pointed out in your quiz, Native Americans are less than 1% of our U.S. population today – as a result of being the victims of the largest genocide, forced migrations and coercive campaigns of assimilation in human history. Today we often relegate our connections with Native Americans to that of caricatures, clichés and racial stereotypes such as mascots and sport teams that we would never even consider for anyother racial and ethnic group – the Washington Black/Brown/Yellow Skins anyone? I don't think so.

In his "Beyond Vietnam" speech, Christian Reverend and Civil Rights leader, Martin Luther King Jr., warned against "a Western arrogance of feeling that it has everything to teach others and nothing to learn." As someone who has traveled the world extensively, I cannot tell you how enriching it has been, and how much I have learned, from the different cultures I have had the privilege of visiting. Whether we are in an adjacent state, or half way around the world, I hope we can enter every new community with an open mind, an open heart and above all else - respect. I hope we can look for opportunities to connect with cultures that are different than our own. Native Americans like the Navajo have a rich and distinguished history and culture. I hope our visiting students were able to appreciate and take advantage of this incredible opportunity.

One side note for your Native American History quiz writer: Sioux Indians are Plains Indians.

Sincerely,
Stacy Rudzik
History Teacher (and former Arcadia Apache)

Don't LoL at electronic sports

Clinton Thai
Staff Writer

Electronic sports, or eSports, include competitively playing "League of Legends," "Starcraft 2," "Dota 2," "Call of Duty" and other popular online player versus player games. Although there is a lack of physicality, professional video gamers should be credited for their performance under pressure, mental capabilities and continual work despite opposition.

At the top of the gaming charts, "League of Legends," or LoL, acts as a representative for eSports. This October, the LoL World Championship went down in history as the largest eSports event yet. The finalists played under the intense pressure of a live audience of 7,000.

In addition, the games streamed in 13 different languages to 145 countries where amateurs all over the world eagerly watched on sites like *twitch.tv*. Many aspiring gamers look up to professional players as role models, just as high school athletes may look up to professional athletes.

For professional George "HotshotGG" Georgallidis, a renowned player in the LoL community and leader in the eSports movement, this equates the pressure of the audience at eSports competitions to that of live sporting events.

"The most intense thing is that there are millions of people watching you compete," Georgallidis said. "The amount of people watching makes it very stressful."

Even though professional gamers don't require physical fitness, they face a challenge that basketball or soccer players don't. Mental fatigue is unavoidable amongst skilled players who are constantly strategizing to overcome their continually increasing competition. This often leads to headaches and sluggish moods.

The LoL player base has grown to 12 million daily players, a 185 percent increase from 2011 according to an infographic published by Riot games, the game's developers. It's rapidly growing as it should, but some consider it a joke.

It is unfortunate that people disregard each eSport as "just a game" when it should be encouraged to thrive. Neglect discourages professionals and amateurs alike. To Freshman Evan Phu, one of the highest ranked LoL players at Temple City High School, who might take on professional gaming, eSports is something he is considering.

"If people took eSports more seriously, it would open an opportunity for not only me, but many others that commit their life to playing," Phu said. "eSports has changed the lives of people that are dedicated to playing competitively."

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Scores of Our top 10 students this year:

Ranking	Top Schools	Scholarship/yr	Total 4 yr
1	Williams	$52,500	$210,000
2	Colby	$50,500	$202,000
3	USC	$48,875	$195,500
4	Northwestern	$47,850	$191,400
5	Scripps	$47,550	$190,200
6	Bryn Mawr	$46,850	$187,400
7	Harvard	$44,550	$178,200
8	Claremont	$42,750	$171,000
9	Princeton	$37,550	$150,200
10	Stanford	$37,500	$150,000
Total 4 yr = $ 1,825.000		Avg of student = $45,648/ yr	

Allen Leung & Winnie Shiao Attorneys

Seminar Topics: 9 Strategies to get more fee money for college! How to Negotiate the Best Deal with College? Paying for College without Spending your Life Saving! Asians' Fast Tracks to get into Top College and Receive Maximum Financial Aid! How to use gender / major/ geographic to your

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Prepare for elections with a few proposition pointers

By Annie Chien
Staff Writer

Although many of us cannot legally vote just yet, the hype of the Nov. 6 elections around the corner makes it important for us to know what the propositions on the California ballot are all about.

Proposition 31 creates a two-year state budget by setting rules on how much California can spend during those two years, and by putting a limit on how much of the budget the government can cut in a financial emergency. The proposition also states that local governments can change laws concerning the budget. If the measure is passed, certain financial procedures that are usually carried out by the government and the council will not only be done by local governments, but will also be funded by the state.

Proposition 32 or the Special Exemptions Act makes it illegal for a worker's union to use the union dues already deducted from an employee's paycheck for a political purpose, like giving any amount of cash to any political candidate or their committees. If passed, the enforcement of this new law could cost state and local agencies $1 million annually.

Proposition 33 changes the current Auto Insurance law to allow insurance companies to set their prices based on whether or not a driver previously had car insurance. If the proposition is approved, insurance companies will then be able to offer discounts based on how long the customer was previously insured.

Proposition 34 is about the potential ending of the Death Penalty and replacing it with life in prison without the possibility of parole. If the measure is passed, convicts on death row will have their death sentences changed to life in prison. The measure will also force the accused to work during their time in prison to pay back any debts they owe or fines charged against them. If passed, this would help state and county criminal justice save $130 million annually within a few years.

Proposition 36 is a revised version of the earlier Proposition 184, or the Three Strikes Law that sentenced repeat offenders to life in prison after three strikes on their legal record. This new measure says that life in prison should only be used as a punishment when the crimes committed are considered violent or serious. For example, violent crimes currently include murder, robbery and rape, and serious crimes include assault, and the intent to rob someone or someplace.

Proposition 37 requires labeling for genetically modified foods. It also makes it illegal for modified food producers to advertise or label their products as natural. If the measure is passed, engineered foods that are sold in California must be specifically labeled as a genetically modified food. However, if the measure is not passed, the makers of any type of modified food would not be required to label any of their products as modi fied or synthetic.

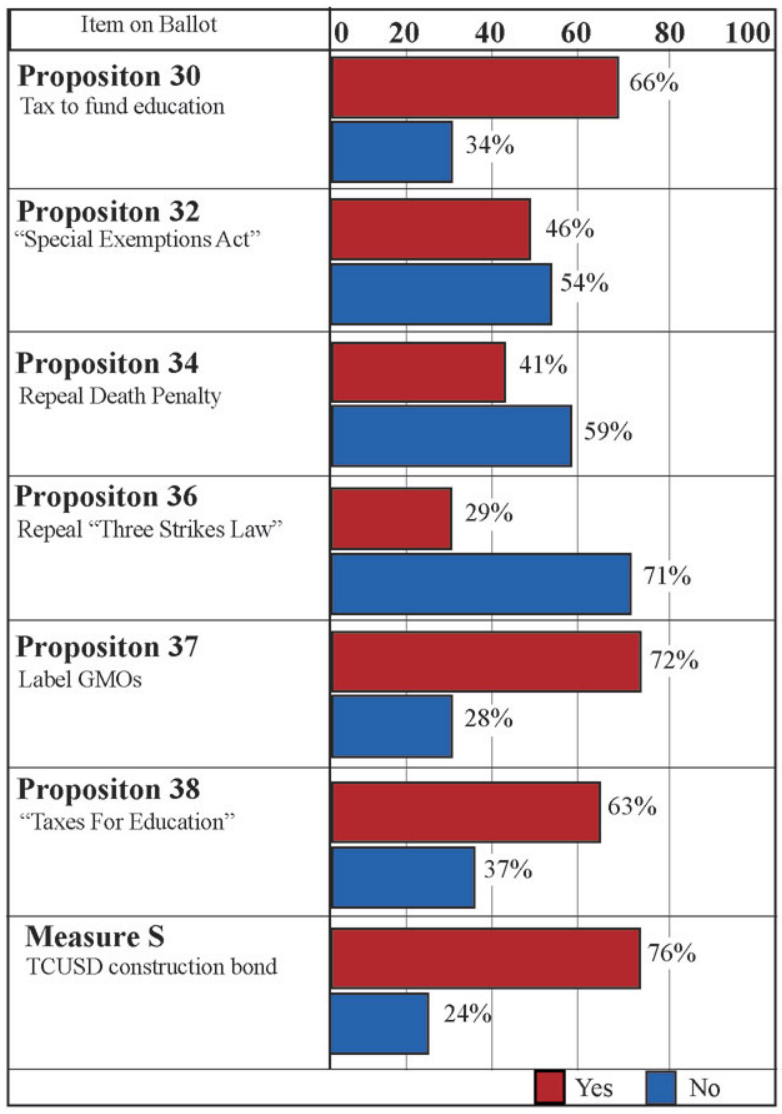
Proposition 38 or the Taxes For Education measure, will increase income taxes for all Californians earning $7,316 a year or more. If the proposition passes, the higher income tax rate will be in affect for the next 12 years, and the money that is earned from the increase would be used for schools, childcare and other early childhood programs, and for paying back state debt. If the measure is not passed, income taxes for California would remain at the same rates, and there would be no additional funding for schools. The measure also prevents the state from taking the new funds and using them to serve other purposes.

See Page 8 for Rampage's endorsement of Prop 30
To find out more on each of the propositions, visit *https://cali.livingvotersguide.org.*

Results of the November Student Mock Election

Compiled by Jessie Chen
Seasonal Editor

A total of 188 students participated in the Edline poll that started on Monday, Oct. 8 and ended on Tuesday, Oct. 22. Registered voters will decide the outcome of these measures and the Presidental election on Tuesday, Nov. 6. Tune in to your local news station to compare school and state poll results. (The results for the Presidential vote is on Page 8.)



Save Temple City schools, vote Yes on Measure S

By Kyle Evanko
Editor-in-Chief

This November, Temple City residents will find an extra item on their ballot: the very important Measure S.

Measure S is a bond resolution that, if passed, will raise $128.8 million through property taxes to renovate and improve all seven schools in the Temple City Unified School District.

These renovations and improvements range from tearing down and replacing entire buildings like the 100, 200 and 300 wings here at the high school, to simply replacing windows in some classrooms with more energy-efficient retrofits.

A few of the upgrades at the high school include a brand new pool, new artificial running track and our very own auditorium to be built on current JV football field. Not to mention a new quad, two-story building, to replace the 100, 200 and 300 wings, music rooms, lunch shelter and, get this, a 3D art lab. And that's just at the high school.

Every single other school in the district, even the Dr. Douglas Sears Learning Center, commonly known as CLC, will go under massive reconfigurations. Oak will get new music rooms, another two story building and renovated locker rooms. The elementary schools will get their share as well, all equipped with new classrooms. In short, this schools' bond will transform all of our schools and make them look new and spiffy, sort of like Arcadia's high school.

Now all of this doesn't seem cheap, and, let's be real, $128.8 Million is certainly a huge sum, especially for us Temple City-ians to generate. But the method by which the money will be attained works is quite amazing, and insignificant, really. What the measure will do is raise property taxes by about $58.80 per $100,000 assessed-property value per year.

By the way, before we move on, all of this taxing and stuff will only concern those residents within TCUSD boundaries, not just Temple City boundaries which vary slightly. Therefore, only those who live within the TCUSD will vote on this measure.

What that means is let's say you own a house you just bought for $600,000, which is a very realistic price for a home in Temple City. Before you jump the gun and conclude that you will now be paying another $240 each time property taxes are due, keep in mind that the $600,000 number is the market-value of your house, not the assessed-value.

The assessed value is much lower, at an average of about $250,000 for a home in Temple City. Measure S will only increase your taxes that you pay on your brand new house by $100, so instead of around $3,500 a year, it will now be $3,600 a year.

PHOTO/ Kyle Evanko
The PTSA has been actively promoting the Yes on S campaign during school functions, such as Back to School Night and Parent-Teacher Conferences.

And what do homeowners get in return? First, they can now send their children to well-equipped schools, enhanced with new technology and room for intellectual improvement. And, second, with these new, spiffy schools, Temple City is going to become an even more desirable place to live. More and more parents are going to flock to Temple City to send their kids to these new schools that not only have amazingly-high API scores, but also a new 3D art lab and art classrooms, can now offer more educational programs than ever. With more desire to move to Temple City, property value will go up and up.

But why do we need to improve the schools? Ask any student in this district. How many times has the air-conditioner broken down during the late summer, or how many times have you nearly frozen to death in a 40 degree classroom during period zero because the heater decided to stop working that day. Not only that, but it would be refreshing to have nicer facilities than brick buildings from who knows how long ago.

If you're still not sold, what if I told you that nearly everyone and their mothers support Measure S, including Congressman Adam Schiff, State Senator Carol Liu, Temple City Mayor Vincent Yu and the entire TCUSD School Board.

Honestly, it doesn't make any sense to not vote Yes on Measure S. It's written so that 100 percent of the funds must go toward improving the schools and does not allow one penny of it to be spent on other things like salaries.

So please, if you can vote, vote Yes on S. If you aren't old enough to, convince your parents to do so. We desperately need this to pass.

ILLUSTRATION/ Peggy Lu

Peer Listeners: the silent superheroes of TCHS

By Jessie Chen
Seasonal Editor

They save troubled students at school, talk to people facing life challenges and listen to other's struggles. Do these sound like the actions of a group of superhcrocs to you? Thesc are actually just some of the things that our very own Peer Listeners do.

Founded in 1986 by Ms. Carmen Rey, the Peer Listeners Program focuses on helping students cope with serious life issues. Peer Listeners train every Wednesday after school to develop their listening and communication skills. After a year, students can earn the Red Shirt, which is the symbol of a qualified Peer Listener.

"Peer Listeners is a program that assists students with discovering who they are, and I feel that if you know who you are, you can help others," Peer Listeners Facilitator Ms. Maria Ioele said. "There is a lot of self-analysis and discovering involved. I see growth and maturity in the students. They handle situations differently because they think before acting."

PHOTO/ Jessie Chen

Seniors Angela Zhou and Brittney Chau hang out with Lacey, the Peer mascot, while participating in a discussion activity to train and develop their Peer skills.

Through activities and discussions in small groups lead by Ms. Rey, Ms. Susan Hook, Ms. Ioele and Ms. Kim Cales, Peers learn how to deal with issues such as stress, bullying, death and much more. Also, guest speakers assist in training Peers. That way Peers will understand how to apply their skills to certain circumstances. Last year, Peers had the opportunity to attend a live taping of "Dr. Phil" which allowed them observe psychological help and body language, which are major components to the program, along with communication, clarification, prevention assistance and mediation.

"Peer is a place where I can share my feelings without being afraid of being judged," Peer Listener Senior David Tran said. "I've certainly learned not to judge people because they have a story you don't understand. Getting to know someone and having a deep bond with them is a really unique feeling."

Some other activities that these community superstars do are translating at major events like Back to School and Parent Teacher Conferences. Peers also organize Orange Ribbon Week which is before Prom, to promote smart choices. Their inconspicuous service is due to the program's stress on confidentially, care and commitment. These silent superheroes on campus play a supportive role in our community because they believe that "Who you are makes a difference."

DC vs. Marvel comparison

By Daniel Xu
Photo Editor

Since the golden age of comic books, there has been a fierce debate raging about which is better: DC or Marvel. I believe that Marvel outshines its competition.

First of all, the superheroes from DC, are practically god-like figures, each without flaws and made to perfection. With nearly no weaknesses, the heroes and villains both dominate.

"DC is on a larger scale, and I think their powers are much stronger. DC likes to dramatize things, making it more theatrical," Junior Kevin Tang said. "As opposed to Marvel, which is more grounded, I feel that it is more believable as compared to DC."

In fact, Superman is a prime example of DC's outrageous roster of characters. Sure, superheroes are supposed to win at the end of any battle, but his descriptions are off the charts. With nearly no weaknesses, he can't be killed. Granted that kryptonite is Superman's main weakness, his so-called Achilles' heel is incapable of killing him but it only weakens him. And guess what? Even Superman can't kill himself. This results in a less suspenseful storyline because readers know the superheroes will overcome all obstacles with ease.

Let's look at Marvel, with famous heroes such as Spiderman, Iron Man and Captain America. These superheroes are flawed in one way or another, not some perfect deity who overcomes all obstacles with ease.

For instance, Spiderman, a quiet student who faces challenges such as bullying, receives his powers from a spider bite. When he loses his will to fight, he quickly begins to lose his supernatural powers.

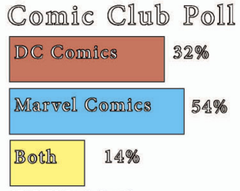
The Hulk is another great example, this superhero experiences internal conflicts and struggles with anger, which makes the character become more dynamic.

The character development throughout the story makes it more interesting, but this also results in a suspenseful adventure. Moreover, the audience can identify themselves with the characters before the protagonist receives the supernatural powers and therefore feels greater exuberance when he gains superpowers and overcomes this enemy.

Marvel's characters are more readily accepted and likable because they have flaws. Unlike DC's overpowered, god-like figures, Marvel appeals to more developed, characters, rather than just giving some guy a name, a cool catchphrase and invincibility.

Now, when it comes to blockbuster films, Marvel also outperforms DC. Although the Batman movies have been very popular, including the most recent Batman Trilogy directed by Christopher Nolan, Marvel has done an outstanding job on bringing back each of the superheroes on the big screen, and later, putting them together in one film, "The Avengers."

With each movie reaping millions of dollars, I feel that Marvel not only outshines DC, but is also more successful in terms of marketing strategies and tactics to increase profits. As the public yearns for new action-packed movies to be released in the near future, I feel that it would take a catastrophic disaster to wipe out Marvel.



GRAPHIC/ Janelle Capwell

25 people took part in this poll on Monday, October 22 in room 410.

Piece Of Mind

Anecdotes and Observations

Caroline Sun
Production Editor

It seems as if superstitions have always had a distinct place in our culture. Stepping on a crack "breaks your mother's back," and shattering a mirror automatically means enduring seven unfortunate years of terrible luck. Sound ridiculous? Well, what could possibly be more ridiculous than that? Fearing white flowers.

Now before anyone smirks at my insane superstition of something so seemingly harmless, I have an explanation. Growing up in my household, the color white signified a sinister premonition, according to both my grandmother and my mother.

I remember when I was ten years old and desired to surprise my mom on Mother's Day. I crept into her room and placed a white rose along with a note on her bedside table, believing she would wake up with a smile on her face.

Boy, was I completely wrong.

When she did wake up about an hour later, she stormed into my room and demanded to know why I had placed an omen of death by her bed. Shocked by her accusation, I proceeded to figure out what had caused this outburst. By asking my grandmother, I found out that white reminded them of ghosts. Apparently, wearing the color white associated the living person with the dead. Ancient Chinese people frequently wore white to funerals to mourn their losses.

I suppose the thought of summoning the supernatural terrified me enough to refrain from questioning the explanation. Never again did I place a white rose by my mother's bedside table.

For some time after that, I avoided buying or keeping anything blaringly white. No white chocolate, no white shirts and definitely no white flowers. Now, I look back and realize the absurdity of the entire situation. I guess my childhood experience was just borderline traumatizing.

Overall, to me, most superstitions are nothing more than just that. Superstitions. They aren't beliefs that I would base my entire life on. I never partook in avoiding the number 13 or picking up a penny for good luck because they seemed like trivial matters to me. Sure, I suppose good luck would help here and there, but it wasn't something I looked out for. And to be quite frank, there are just too many superstitions to keep track of.

However, I must admit, I still am just a bit weary of white roses. I would be lying if I said that they no longer have a negative effect on me and send uncalled-for chills down my spine. So whatever you do, no white roses. Please.

Cast away superstition about black cats this Halloween

By Cynthia Lee
Feature Editor

As Halloween rolls around once again, images of hissing black cats with claws drawn and teeth bared plaster buildings across the U.S., bolstering the superstition that they are unlucky.

Each year, nearly a million black cats are left behind in shelters simply because of the popular belief that they bring bad fortune, which stems from times of witch hysteria when they were burned at the stake alongside their owners.

Today, most people don't go as far as to burn them, but there is still a certain stigma associated with black cats, as is evident in the kennels of the Pasadena Humane Society and Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

"We've worked hard to break down superstitions regarding black cats, but it is still difficult to get them adopted," Vice President of Community Relations Ms. Ricky Whitman said. "In addition to the myths about them being unlucky, people think that black cats are unfriendly, and their dark coats may prevent potential owners from engaging them."

Contrary to the prevalent American belief that a black cat crossing your path is unlucky, in other countries, including England and Scotland, it is considered to bring luck and prosperity.

Studies have shown that black cats are more resistant to certain diseases than those of other colors, so if you're looking for a long life span and fewer vet bills, black cats are a good bet. After all, love knows no color.

In an effort to encourage the public to adopt black cats, on the 13th of every month, the PHSSPCA's adoption fee for any cat with black on them is $13, which includes the spay/neuter surgery, microchip, first set of vaccinations and a health examination at any participating Veterinary Centers of America animal hospital.

Its website includes a directory of adoptable cats, dogs and other animals, including Severus ID#A313478, a two year old black cat.

PHOTO COURTESY/ Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA

Disclaimer: Severus may not be available when you visit PHS, but many other pets are up for adoption.

Supernatural Tunes

By Janelle Capwell & Stephen Rosebrook
Focus Editor & Staff Writer

Instead of listening to the typical Halloween songs such as "Thriller" or "The Monster Mash," try this super spooky playlist.

"Are You Ready for Freddy?" by The Fat Boys

Start off the Halloween season with The Fat Boy's classic hip-hop single "Are You Ready for Freddy?" The trio released this song in 1988 off their album "Coming Back Hard Again." This song includes a unique spin, a verse rapped by Robert Englund as Freddy Krueger, to depict the surreal presence of the "Nightmare on Elm Street" villain. This upbeat, catchy hip-hop song did not chart; however, the album charted at number 30 on the Billboard top-selling Hip-Hop albums of the week.

"Magic Carpet Ride" by Steppenwolf

Supernatural takes a new meaning when you release the genie inside "Magic Carpet Ride" by the rock band, Steppenwolf. With face melting guitar solos and a tune that'll stay in your head, "Magic Carpet Ride" will set the tone for any Halloween party. It has been featured in many movies since it's debut. While most people know Steppenwolf for their road trip must have hit, "Born to Be Wild," "Magic Carpet Ride" is a great example of classic rock.

"E.T." by Katy Perry

While "E.T.'s" musical style might have made some critics wonder if Katy Perry really had been abducted, play this song at your party and your guests will do anything but leave. "E.T.'s" thumping beat is easy to dance to, and even the most novice of DJ's will find its simple structure forgiving. With lyrics that evoke images of aliens and other worldly life, it's no wonder that "E.T." topped the Billboard 100 charts.

Create speedy, super simple Halloween costumes

By Rebecca Chen
Staff Writer

If you want a costume that is creative but cheap, here are a few "super" ideas that may spark your imagination.

Harry Potter Supernatural Wizard

Creating your own wizard costume is simple and creative. This costume will definitely sweep your friends off their feet.

Senior Mariah Tomason & Freshman Amelia Lee

To be a wizard from the Harry Potter series, wear a white dress shirt or blouse. Girls can wear a skirt with knee high socks and black shoes. Boys can wear black slacks and black shoes. Adding a scarf and tie—preferably striped—is optional. Finalize the outfit by wearing a black jacket, blazer or sweater. If you want to look like Harry Potter, you can also draw a jagged lightning bolt on your forehead with face paint or a washable marker.

For the wand, you can cut out a stick from cardboard. If you want to be more resourceful, find a stick from the ground and wash off any traces of dirt. You can also cut out a broomstick from the cardboard or use an actual broomstick from your house. A mop works just as well.

Korean Pop Super Star

Korean pop, or k-pop, is a popular music genre worldwide. Dress up as one of your favorite k-pop stars and steal the show. You can gather a few friends to match with you and form your own boy band or girl group.

This outfit requires simple materials. For girls, you can wear colored shorts, a skirt, or colorful skinny jeans. High heels or cute sneakers add a flair to the costume. If you are creating a girl group, wear matching bottoms and shoes, but alternate top designs. Wear flashy jewelry or accessories to complement the costume.

Boys can wear a dress shirt with a tie or skinny jeans. They can wear a graphic tee and sneakers as well. The goal is to retain the same theme throughout the whole ensemble and have each group member create similar looks.

Sophomores Brian Wei, Ryan Pallett & Tim Siu

To add the wow factor to the entire look, add large sunglasses. Use styling gel, hair wax or mousse to shape your hair into crazy styles. Make a microphone by taking aluminum foil and folding it into a wire-like shape. Then, wrap the foil around your ear and attach a cotton ball at the end. If you don't want to use an aluminum foil microphone, you can carry around a brush with the bristles covered in aluminum foil instead.

Superhero in Mid-Transformation

This costume adds a twist to the generic superhero theme. Instead of a superhero decked out in full uniform and gear, an ordinary civilian is caught changing into his or her superhero outfit.

This superhero costume consists of two basic parts: the outer civilian clothing and the inner superhero outfit. Girls can wear a button up blouse paired with a business skirt or dress pants and dressy shoes. For boys, you can wear a dress shirt, dress or casual pants and nice shoes or sneakers.

Wear a solid colored shirt underneath and draw your superhero emblem with fabric markers. Unbutton the shirt halfway to reveal the insignia, and tie a towel or an old bed sheet around your neck as a cape to complete the look.

Junior Nick Kaneko

PHOTOS/ Grace Chan