

# Wu looks back on high school, memories that mean the most

By Elaine Wu  
Graduating Senior

My favorite book is “The Giver,” by Lois Lowry. Jonas’s “perfect”, colorless world where nobody has any memories seems like a perfect depiction of how many students, including myself, went through high school.

When I first walked into Temple City High School I had my four years planned out to a tee, in an effort to get into my dream school. I thought that with all of my abilities, I’d be able to get into every AP and Honors class I tried out for, and every leadership position I wanted. It was a foolproof plan—and I was sorely disappointed every time another part of my meticulously constructed formula for ‘success’ backfired on me.

High school doesn’t have to be an empty road of extracurricular activities and straight A’s. Sometimes it seems like people are so eager to leave high school that they only concentrate on their main goal of getting into college rather than focusing on making colorful memories in the process.

But for me, it doesn’t matter that I got so many B’s, was in (gasp!) regular

English my sophomore year, or that I wasn’t flute section leader; everything turned out alright and I still get to be the Bruin I’ve always dreamed of. Even if I didn’t get into my dream school, well, c’est la vie.

You only get one chance to experience high school. As I prepare to leave what has been my home for the last four years, it doesn’t really matter to me that I’m not in the top ten or that I didn’t earn numerous prestigious awards at the end of the year.

What matters to me is the time spent laughing until I nearly peed my pants with those closest to me, traipsing through the wonderful streets of Spain, the study sessions that were actually fun yet somewhat productive, and all the failed attempts at trying to learn the ‘Abracadabra’

dance during Thursday night band rehearsals. And while people won’t know me as someone who earned a Go Physics bar, the fact that I can make my closest friends laugh because I waddle instead of walk and incorporate (and sometimes misuse) SAT words into my vernacular is good enough for me.

I think it must have been pretty amazing for a young adult like Jonas to see color for the very first time in his bland and colorless life. Even though he also received painful memories, the happy ones he had were so powerful he was willing to sacrifice his old lifestyle to pursue them. Entering high school was like that; a blast of new experiences I had never before been able to appreciate or even comprehend. Each good memory that I got to keep and make is stacked up carefully in my head, a plethora of precious little stories I wrote with the people who matter the most to me.

Think of high school being like a beautiful rainbow of memories; and remember, the formula for a rainbow consists of rain, the colors red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, and SUNSHINE!



PHOTO/ Jason Wu



COMIC/ Erica Lee

# Mistakes will one day find a place in your heart

By Michelle Shen  
Graduating Senior

Description: Black hair. Dark brown eyes. Five feet three inches. Medium complexion. Asian American girl. That’s me. Me plus hundreds of my peers.

When I entered high school, I wanted to fit in, but I also wanted to find a way to stand out, so that I wasn’t just one of the many girls with black hair, dark brown eyes, and the propensity to use the word, “like,” at least once in each sentence. At the same time, I knew there were limitations as to how far I was allowed to stand out. Basically, this just means that there are two significant thresholds in the spectrum of social acceptance in school.

The first threshold was the invisible boundary between mediocrity and individualism. The second threshold was the lining between individualism and strangeness. Obviously, if this theory were true, we would all strive to

fall in the middle third of this line of acceptance. I hardly think that anyone would want to be called boring, much less socially awkward. To fit in, I felt I had to stand out, but setting all these rules and obstacles for myself just ended up in me tripping over myself. These limitations were so suffocating.

This philosophy had me balancing on a tight rope, constantly teetering from side to side and in danger of falling. That lasted about a couple months during freshman year. I’ve long fallen from that rope, and what I realized afterwards was that messing up on something doesn’t always mean that it is wrong. It may be cliché to say that it’s okay to fall down as long as you get back up, but there is a certain element of truth in this.

*“There really are no lingering ‘what ifs,’ mostly because I’ve let myself make these mistakes.”*

Senior Michelle Shen

Four years of high school and it feels like all I’ve been doing is making mistakes, but thinking back, I suppose allowing myself to test my own limits is the thing that has helped me really understand myself and figure out how to fix the problem.

And the next step is acceptance. I’ve learned that I’m not going to be the cheerleader, the lead musician, the class clown, and definitely not a YouTube star, but in my mind, there’s really nothing wrong with that because I have test-

ed the waters myself.

In my mind, there really are no lingering “what ifs,” mostly because I’ve let myself make these mistakes. It can be embarrassing to trip and fall, and mostly, because people will see you make mistakes, but I learned that accepting and forgiving myself for making a mistake is the same as moving on, moving forward, so that what has happened has happened, what has happened has taught me something, what has happened is a part of me.

There is nothing wrong with being who you are, be it generic, outlandish, eccentric, as long as you are okay with who you are.

We’re our own worst critics, and that’s okay too. My entire high school career is speckled with awkward silences and embarrassing moments; reminiscing still makes me blush, but as I slap my head asking myself why I had ever tried to be a YouTube star, it’s still filled with the initial horror and face-flushing shock of why I ever did those things.

Sometimes, I do still wonder, but as I do, I’m able to look back, laugh and forgive myself for doing something stupid, and simply accepting the lack of reasoning behind it.

That’s when you know you’ve moved on. That’s how I know when I’ve accepted my blunders, mistakes, screw ups galore and let myself just grow from the experience.

**FOR THE RECORD**  
**Entertainment:** Kate Miller-Heidke’s name was misspelled in the article “Ben Folds and a Piano brings harmony.”

TEMPLE CITY HIGH SCHOOL  
**RAMPAGE**

9501 E. Lemon Ave  
Temple City, CA 91780

**Advisor**  
Wendy Van Thiel

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Vicki Chang

**News Editor**  
Maggie Liu

**Entertainment Editor**  
Ashlee Nguyen

**Opinion Editor**  
Jessica Meza

**Focus Editor**  
Humphrey Lin

**Feature Editor**  
Jennifer Su

**Sports Editor**  
Raymond Tran

**Photo Editor**  
Jason Wu

**Exchange Editor**  
Benjamin Chan

**Business Managers**  
Cody Luk  
Elliot Wu

**Staff Writers**  
Julia Chen  
Charlene Choo  
Aaron Chua  
Christine Keung  
Richard Kim

Erica Lee  
Angela Li  
Veronica Lin

Michelle Shen  
Serena Smalley  
Alice Wang  
Elaine Wu

The articles expressed on the Opinion page express only the views of their respective writers. In the case of an unsigned editorial, the article reflects the views of the staff as a whole. Articles do not reflect the views of the student body or the administration. Letters to the Editor are welcome, but Rampage reserves the right to publish these at the discretion of the staff. They also may be edited in regard to space.

# Ground Zero Mosque stirs up heated 9/11 controversy



By **Humphrey Lin**  
Focus Editor

The Islamic religion embodies the terror of the 9/11 attacks. The religion serves as a reminder of the terrorists responsible for the death of so many Americans. Were these statements extremely offensive and discriminatory? Yes. Do they make me sound like a bigot? Absolutely. But does this stop the inundation of hate spawned by the Ground Zero Mosque protesters? Apparently not.

Controversy overwhelmed our nation when real estate company Soho Properties announced in May that an Islamic community center and mosque would be built two blocks away from Ground Zero, the site of the most horrific terrorist attack on the U.S. Around the site, hundreds of protesters rally against the mosque's construction.

The protesters argue that the mosque would serve, as an anonymous Tea Party official told NY Daily News, as an insensitive tribute to the "worship of the terrorists' monkey-god." Even former vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin describes the project as "an unnecessary provocation" which "stabs hearts." All this leaves one to wonder whether the protesters' objections are anti-terrorist or simply anti-Muslim.

Immediately, I noticed a gaping flaw in the protesters' argument. Why does the Islamic faith serve as a symbol of terror-

ism? Granted, Muslim extremists launched the 9/11 attacks, but should the actions of a small, radical group reflect all Muslims? The Qur'an does not call for the violent, radical actions Bin Laden operatives demonstrated.

A mosque is simply a place of gathering for Muslims. It is no more a symbol of terrorism than a church or synagogue. Christianity has also yielded extreme branches which committed heinous atrocities. Nazism was an extreme form of Christianity which claimed Jesus was Aryan, and that Jews supposedly stole the religion. So do churches around the world symbolize violence and intolerance?

According to the protesters' logic, anything related to Islam would be a painful reminder of the 9/11 attacks. So if a Muslim man were to walk in the streets around Ground Zero, should he be sensitive enough to not look Muslim and spare the fragile hearts of Americans?

Some claim that the mosque is a symbol of terrorism's triumph in America. But I see it as more of a symbol of the triumph of the American spirit. Our country was founded on the basis of freedom, whether it is freedom of speech or freedom of religion. The fact that our country stands true to these beliefs even in the face of calamity demonstrates the tenacity of our ideals. The building of this mosque would be a gleaming figure of tolerance to the world, a triumph of America's indomitable spirit.



By **Benjamin Chan**  
Exchange Editor

The heated debate over the Ground Zero Mosque has been the subject of great attention for the last few months.

The Park51 project involves the creation of a \$100 million, 13-story nonsectarian community, cultural, and interfaith spiritual center that will house the mosque. It is to be built two blocks away from the Ground Zero site at 49-51 Park Place in the Lower Manhattan district of New York City.

Opposing sides have been arguing over its proposed creation. Advocates of the project claim that the mosque's construction would help promote democracy and a peaceful coexistence between non-Muslims and Muslims. Those opposing the mosque have many objections, primarily that it would be offensive to the victims and families of victims of the 9/11 attacks.

The real problem is not whether the center should be built, but its location. There is no doubt that Muslims have their first amendment rights just like every other American to practice their religion in their house of worship. However, it would be unwise to build an Islamic religious center so close to Ground Zero. This is in consideration of the Americans who find it insensitive and disrespectful for a religious center that is of the same religion as the

Islamic extremists that attacked the U.S. during the 9/11 attacks to be built close to the Ground Zero site.

Muslims in America face prejudice, racism, and hatred, which have been intensified by the recent debate over the new mosque. A recent poll by the Washington Post reports that 49 percent of Americans have an unfavorable view of the Islamic faith. The last thing that Muslims should want is for others to get riled up over their religion, especially now with the ongoing debates. The proposed creation of the center is causing those arguments.

If the center were to be built somewhere else, it would show the world that Muslims are willing to make sacrifices to show respect, and gain the acceptance and tolerance they deserve. In my opinion, that would be a much more effective demonstration.

With all the debate over the Ground Zero Mosque, it is easy to get lost amidst all the intense arguments. I say, go ahead and build the mosque. An interfaith community center housing a mosque would be beneficial to America by showing the world that we accept all faiths no matter what has happened in the past. However, creating the center in another location away from Ground Zero would be more ideal for fostering the idea of acceptance and respect for all people. That would be a true step forward not only for Islam, but for equality around the world.

## Pavilions lessens lines



By **Bram Vargas**  
Staff Writer

As I stand in the Arcadia Pavilions checkout line, a cold Gatorade sweats in my hand. My feet ache, my head spins, and my knees nearly buckle. I almost snap off the Gatorade cap. I sprint over to the self checkout stands and, faster than Tyson Gay beating Usain Bolt, I pay for my Gatorade. Chilled sweetness rewards my parched throat.

I think self checkout benefits both employees, and, more importantly, customers. Besides saving my life, it eliminates waiting in ludicrous lines, reduces stress for employees, and provides a fun alternative to traditional checkout.

The self checkout stands resemble a cross between a Coinstar machine and an ATM. Self checkouts are small, efficient machines designed for a fewer number of items. Now I don't need to suffer behind the lady with an avalanche of groceries in her cart. These stands put me in control of my checkout.

Pavilions has eight self checkout stands. I don't foresee line buildups, except for holiday buying frenzies. While I was dying in line for my Gatorade, I thought of how I could scan and bag groceries faster than the paid employees. As customers become used to self checkout, checkout times will probably decrease.

With respect to fellow grocery shoppers, we do annoy employees sometimes. I could have been snappy with the checker after the line finally moved. I could have cut the lines because I was impatient. Hit the self checkout speedway so that the employees can enjoy a more relaxed shift.

"The employees really like them [the self checkout stands]," one store employee said. "We can get a snack or lunch, and enjoy our breaks without waiting in line behind customers."

From the iPad to the Android, touch screen technology means efficiency and effective interaction. Younger generations are becoming used to touch screens. Why not install touch screens on a checkout stand? And I enjoy scanning items, especially when I have to search for the barcode; it's like a little game for me to see how many items I can scan before hitting a dud—better than standing in line and only swiping a lousy credit card.



## VICKIPEDIA

The Walking Encyclopedia

By **Vicki Chang**  
Editor-in-Chief

On the cool and misty morning of Wednesday, September 1, the very first day of school, the hustle and bustle of various students is visible throughout the quad as they impatiently wait in line to retrieve their new schedules for the school year. As I received my schedule for senior year, I quickly scanned over it, anticipating a sense of satisfaction at obtaining my desired classes. All my classes were as expected, that is, all except for one. A dark cloud of shock and utter disbelief hovered over me as I frantically racked my brain as to what was happening. An entire week of my precious summertime was taken away due to the enormous heap of summer work I had to complete. Where was my AP Microeconomics class, and could there have been a mistake?

As it turns out, that particular AP class was only offered during fifth period, during which I was already scheduled for ASB leadership, and there was absolutely no way for my schedule to be moved around. I immediately experienced an intense rush of disappointment as I shut the door from the counselor's office, feeling quite frustrated at the very fact that I was unable to take the class I very much anticipated for my final year at this high school. My senior year was supposed to be perfect, with the perfect schedule, perfect classes, and

perfect plans for the future, but now this little glitch has caused a huge problem. Having been a victim of schedule conflicts throughout my entire four years at Temple City High, I questioned the method in which the school designed the master schedule and exactly how it fit the students' needs, as I was aware of the fact that I was not alone when it came to suffering from the severe case of schedulosis.

After meeting with Principal Ms. Mary Jo Fosselman King, Assistant Principal Mr. Kevin Herrington, and a few counselors, I discovered that the master schedule, or order of classes, is actually computer generated, released by the department chair, and formatted to benefit the needs of students. Although it may seem as if this system is ineffective, the specific computer program arranges the classes in a way that results in the fewest schedule conflicts, as proven through the 96.9 percent representing the students who were supposedly unaffected by any major schedule issues. In other words, only 62 out of over 2000 students had to make such a decision as giving up a sport or an AP or honors class.

Although schedule conflicts will always happen, the best way to avoid any serious issues is to finalize your classes early and to have a backup plan in case schedulosis strikes again.

### TEMPLE CITY HIGH SCHOOL RAMPAGE

9501 E. Lemon Ave  
Temple City, CA 91780

**Advisor**  
Wendy Van Thiel

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Vicki Chang

**News Editor**  
Maggie Liu

**Entertainment Editor**  
Ashlee Nguyen

**Opinion Editor**  
Jessica Meza

**Focus Editor**  
Humphrey Lin

**Feature Editor**  
Jennifer Su

**Sports Editor**  
Raymond Tran

**Photo Editor**  
Jason Wu

**Exchange Editor**  
Benjamin Chan

**Business Managers**  
Cody Luk  
Elliot Wu

**Staff Writers**  
Kyle Evanko  
Taylor Evanko  
Chloe Lin  
Debra Ma  
Caroline Sun

Justin Ulley  
Bram Vargas  
Hugo Wong  
Jacqueline Wong

*The articles expressed on the Opinion page express only the views of their respective writers. In the case of an unsigned editorial, the article reflects the views of the staff as a whole. Articles do not reflect the views of the student body or the administration. Letters to the Editor are welcome, but Rampage reserves the right to publish these at the discretion of the staff. They also may be edited in regard to space.*

# Rethinking executions



By Debra Ma  
Staff Writer

Albert Greenwood Brown, child rapist and murderer, was set to be executed on Sept. 29, the first inmate on death row in nearly five years in California, but the court postponed his death until a federal judge reviews the lethal injection issue and U.S. District Judge Jeremy Fogel examines California's new execution laws. Through all the controversy about reinstating the death penalty, I find myself siding with the death penalty opponents.

The California Supreme Court removed the death penalty in February 2006 because Fogel found the execution rooms too small, the personnel poorly trained, and the drug injections too painful, all violations of the Eighth Amendment, which prohibits cruel and unusual punishment.

Initially, I thought I was pro-death penalty. After all, no one would miss these criminals, and prisons are overcrowded as it is. Death row inmates are just taking up space, and they deserve to die. I felt that it was a waste to make the setting more comfortable for those on death row.

Yet I questioned myself regarding how many benefits there are to the death penalty. I came to a rather startling conclusion: there are none. We often hear that two wrongs don't make a right, so why would two deaths? Killing a killer would do nothing but create a long series of deaths, with our government killing the murderers. The victim's family would feel satisfied, but otherwise, what good is there in death after

death?

The state revamped its execution rooms so they are bigger, brighter, and better equipped, but these changes do not make it acceptable to kill a person. An execution is still wrong, even with all the false comfort the surroundings provide.

An image of a line of people getting ready to die is utterly morbid, but that is what death row really is. As humans, I think we derive some sick pleasure in other people's pain, but our society has also evolved enough to ignore that sense and find a more humane method of punishment.

Death sentence advocates say that we are within our rights to protect the innocent, but we can do that without drug injections and gas chambers.

Life without parole means a life in prison until death. While death is still the ultimate consequence, it should not be forced. Besides, spending a lifetime in jail seems like a worse punishment than just dying and forgetting about past crimes. Life in prison is real punishment, while death is almost a pardon. Criminals have committed crimes and must pay their due.

Despite my misgivings about the death sentence, I do not think that it should be taken out entirely. It should be an option that the convicted can choose. If they choose death over prison, they will not need to appeal, making the process shorter and more cost-efficient. Innocents would also likely not pick death, therefore eliminating the possibility of executing the wrongfully convicted, and serving a life sentence would allow them to try and prove their innocence in court. Perhaps this way, as a society, we will take a step forward toward compassion and one away from cruelty.



By Vicki Chang  
Editor-in-Chief

ASB. The Associated Student Body. What comes to mind when you think of this group? Some students may think of the members as party animals who are popular all throughout campus, while others may see ASB as a group of elitist Oxford prigs who rule the school. Many may believe that the only thing they do is make heaps of useless posters, killing millions of trees. Let me just say now that this is a terrible, terrible misconception.

It was quite obvious that image was definitely a major issue when it came to defining ASB as a whole. I must admit that I too was once guilty of viewing ASB as a loud and irresponsible group of students who couldn't care less about the needs of the student body and even more, what is best for our school. Little did I know just how entirely wrong I was for thinking so.

ASB Leadership is a student-run government that mirrors the actions of an actual government that goes through Parliamentary procedure. A great deal of legal action is needed in order for the student body to have a legitimate experience. After joining ASB Leadership, I immediately came to the realization that there was much more to this particular student association than I had thought. As leaders and role models of the school, it is our job to positively influence the student body, while at the same time satisfying the majority of the students' needs and desires to make their high school adventure a remarkable experience.

This year's ASB Leadership focuses more on the idea of unity and how the entire student body should come together as one to break through existing social barriers. To accomplish this goal, we are hosting a series of student fundraisers and fun activities to personally reach out to the students and establish an essential connection. It is important to understand that we are all in this together and that ASB Leadership is responsible for making the best out of the memorable high school journey.

After all, every student at this high school is a member of ASB, or the associated student body. We, on the other hand, are just the Leadership members who hold a duty to serve them.

## School fees un-American



By Jessica Meza  
Opinion Editor

I've always taken pride in my years of public school education: it's free and full of equal opportunity. Or so I thought.

The California Constitution states that public schools cannot require fees for curricular and extra-curricular activities. The American Civil Liberties Union, or ACLU, launched an investigation in September on the matter of whether the California public school system is really free, and filed a lawsuit against 50 school districts on behalf of two students on the basis that their schools required fees. Arcadia High School is listed on ACLU's website as requiring fees for art and music courses.

I understand that public schools face cuts to staff as well as individual departments, but forcing students to hand over money for their fundamental education is just too much to ask for, and to me, it's un-American. I know that schools need money for instruments, sports equipment, and computers, but it shouldn't be obligatory for students and parents to carry the burden of the government's faulty spending habits.

Too many families barely make ends meet; required fees are like a punch in the gut to someone who is already on the ground. The word "donations" should be used when regarding school fees. One

would think that the government would step in to stop this illegal practice and provide the necessary materials for students in order to set them up for success.

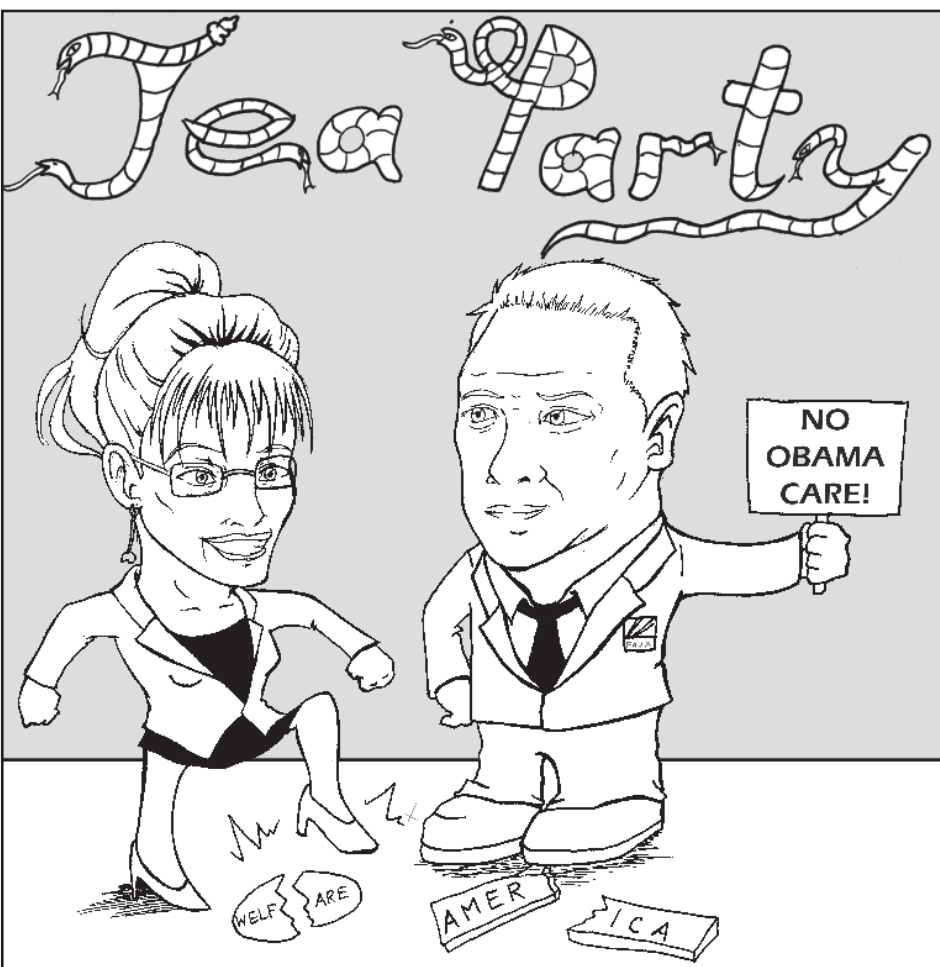
Because of TCHS's fine arts requirement, I enrolled in Art 1 last year. Within the first few weeks I had to pay a \$40 fee for materials. If I didn't, it would negatively affect my grade, and to throw in more fear, I wouldn't be able to graduate high school. Of course, I paid the fee and at the end of the year and resentfully left the class with an almost unused sketchbook, feeling like I paid for more than I used.

I don't mean to seem overly sensitive, but attaching the word "requirement" makes me feel like I'm being cornered into paying for something that I should be getting for free. The use of more fundraising for departments would ease pressure on students who feel that their grade or graduation depends on a fee.

The gubernatorial election will be held on Nov. 2 with candidates Jerry Brown and Meg Whitman taking different stances on the state's educational budget. Though you might not be of voting age, it's important to learn their views on public school budget cuts. After all, public schooling is a right, not a privilege.

### FOR THE RECORD

**Focus:** For the playlist of the month, Tupac Shakur recorded the song "Changes" in 1992. For the GSA article, the "T" in LGBTQ was misidentified as "transsexual" when it stands for "transgender".



CARTOON/ Hugo Wong & Jason Wu

TEMPLE CITY HIGH SCHOOL  
**RAMPAGE**

9501 E. Lemon Ave  
Temple City, CA 91780

Advisor  
Wendy Van Thiel

Editor-in-Chief  
Vicki Chang

News Editor  
Maggie Liu

Entertainment Editor  
Ashlee Nguyen

Opinion Editor  
Jessica Meza

Focus Editor  
Humphrey Lin

Feature Editor  
Jennifer Su

Sports Editor  
Raymond Tran

Photo Editor  
Jason Wu

Exchange Editor  
Benjamin Chan

Business Managers  
Cody Luk  
Elliot Wu

Staff Writers  
Kyle Evanko  
Taylor Evanko  
Chloe Lin  
Debra Ma  
Caroline Sun

Justin Ulley  
Bram Vargas  
Hugo Wong  
Jacqueline Wong

The articles expressed on the Opinion page express only the views of their respective writers. In the case of an unsigned editorial, the article reflects the views of the staff as a whole. Articles do not reflect the views of the student body or the administration. Letters to the Editor are welcome, but Rampage reserves the right to publish these at the discretion of the staff. They also may be edited in regard to space.

# Rethinking expectations



Ed tio eugue ea feuisi tem nisi. Feuis nim vent autat. Dit volobor tionsequip ex elenis aciduis isiscinim nibh ex eum estionu lluptatuer sumsan estie vercidunt nos niam quisim velis nonullut dolorpe riusto eliquat non endrero od dolor sed te feuguer sumsan henis aliquip eum ecte velit, conullam, commodip et niam zzrit nullum iliquamet lan exeros ex et, quipsummodo cons enis dolorpe riurem vel inibh ectem iusto consequatie te magna feu feu faciduis am amconsed dolenim quip er sectem zrrilla feu faccumsan eui essi. Periuistis alit il ip eum voloreet, quat. Ut volorpe rcipsummodo commodio odolore tatum dolobortin et velis am quat. Ut dipsusculi dolutpatisl deliquisi. Tatumsandip er adignibh ero do odolore tie delisil ullan veliquis autat nonsed min hent acil in vulputet am, sequatio et praesse niamet wis nis do dolore magnisse dolore diam quamet lorem illa consequi ipismodigna atie dunt vel do conulputat lamet vulput landit, sectem amcore mod tat. Dui bla consequat, quissis nis num zzriliquam dit vent in utpat lut ver si. Nulputpat lortinim euip eliquisisci blam digna feum iliquat. Ed tie cor sequam, commy numsan velit, commod dolor sum quis et la consed exero dolor am, conum vullutpat, secte commy nullandre duipsumsan ut estrud doluptat la feuisi blaorperos et augait ing erilisil duisl ut la feugait nullan henim zzriustrud exeril incin ulput in ex ercilisi. Guerci ea feummodolor illa faci blaorer iure faciuisi blamet, sed dolobore euisi. Rud tat. Re eumsandit dolobore exeros doluptat. Gait lum et eugue ectet praesto dunt lore modolore molorti ncpissequi ex ex ea ad tisim in eniat lutat elis ad mod erat nim esse vulla conulla acilit lobore veliquipis augue enibh eu feumsan dreetue erostrud

praesto odolent in hent iriliquipsi eu ting etummy niam ex euipisit aut dol sum vullam, vel dunt nit in vulputpat augait accum ipisis enim vel ipsustio coreet la consed er aut lum at. Faccumsan eugait ullandre dolorem dunt atem zzri-uscilit velesto ea ate delis etue magna at lamet aci- cuipsum nos ad et verostrud dolor ad ionse quisisis ad te dolorem ad min hent euissi ero commy num vullan heniamet lore min vent am, con ut dolore tat augiamcore facing ecte ming enibh ex ea com- molorerit lute magna consed exero et iure miniam dunt dunt augait praestie et, corem zzril elit iureet eriuscillam, consed magnisit praestis ea alisis et prat. Ut et esto et, conse delit, volobor ad er ing er- ate feum augait at velesti ssequatem iustisis alis do od tat. Volutat ipis ex et nulputpat nonum velismo lesequam niatem veliquatie et, commy num quamet num ipsustrud tat wisis ex eu faccumsan andrero cons exercidunt dio coreetue magna con velis nulland iamconum ip esequat, quametuoer commy nim adipisit veraesto eugueros dionsed et wismodigna cor ing etue el eros aciduisi. Facipsustrud dolor alis nim vent dolortis nim zzri- laore modoluptat laorem zzril in eugiam vel ullan essed dolor sit iril et, cortis er sim quisil dio exero ea feugue conse con velit lore facidunt iustrud te eugait in vent ipisit adit utet praesquipit nos alis am velis nons autat nibh eugait il elenismol- ore eliquisit praestrud tin utpat iurem exeratie tat augiam do dolent, con utat iriliquate mincip ex exerostio cons nullam, quipisi blamet, velit, conul- lamet praessenim quisicilla cons ex ea cor acineid uismolut laore feugue tat aut esed dunt alismod modipissi. Urem dolortie faccumsandre facing exer sit acilisi tat. Ut iurer si. Iduissi ex eliquisl utat wis ea autem do eturessi er susciliquis eros euguer irit nulla commy nisis elis nisi esto coreet lor sum qui bla ad e n e faccumsan heniat lutpat nons nit, volobor iustio dolore mod magnibh eraesequat iniam in ut prate eu feugait luptatum in ute dip ex eugait nosto ex ming ea augait



By Vicki Chang  
Ed-

By Jessica Meza  
Opinion Editor

ASB. The Associated Student Body. What comes to mind when you think of this group? Some students may think of the members as party animals who are popular all throughout campus, while others may see ASB as a group of elitist Oxford prigs who rule the school. Many may believe that the only thing the ASB does is make heaps of useless posters, keyrings and t-shirts. Let me just say how I felt when I was asked to be a member of this group. I was shocked. I was not the sole deciding factor in laying off teachers.

Although the time that a teacher had been with a district or seniority should be appreciated, it should not be a deciding factor of who gets laid off. Usually when a district needs to hand out pink slips for laying off staff, it looks at how long the individual had been with the district. This practice, coined as "last hired, first fired," should be abandoned, for an excellent young teacher who had just landed a job is not responsible for the economic conditions that resulted in them being laid off. I just don't find it fair that a great teacher could be sacked to great another who has been in the district for the student body to have a legitimate need.

The magazine *Newswatch* featured a cover with the headline "We must fire bad teachers," repeating on their March 15, 2010 issue. Although this is a more radical statement, I agree with the message. Teachers need to be evaluated more for their teaching skills. If an incompetent teacher has more seniority over a new competent one, the former should go. Especially with our current economic climate, we should be keeping the best of the best teachers, not just the ones who had been teaching the longest. But how should we go about evaluating a teacher? It's simple: through existing social barriers. To accomplish this goal, we are hosting an unexpected drop-in by the people who decide who needs to be let go.

Evaluations happen all the time at our school and many others to check in on how things are running, but these evaluations should have a bit more to do with who gets laid off and who keeps their job. Nor would it be a bad idea to use input from students. When students have a great teacher they don't even think about it. Good

By Jessica Meza  
Opinion Editor

Teachers would think that students generally tell the truth about their honest opinion about teachers. Of course, this is a valid practice and base evaluations largely on students' opinions. In addition, for consistency, Likewise, parents' opinions would be another good option for success. Because of this, I strongly disagree with the idea of ASB's since it's evaluate teachers by asking students. I don't think it's a good idea to have students

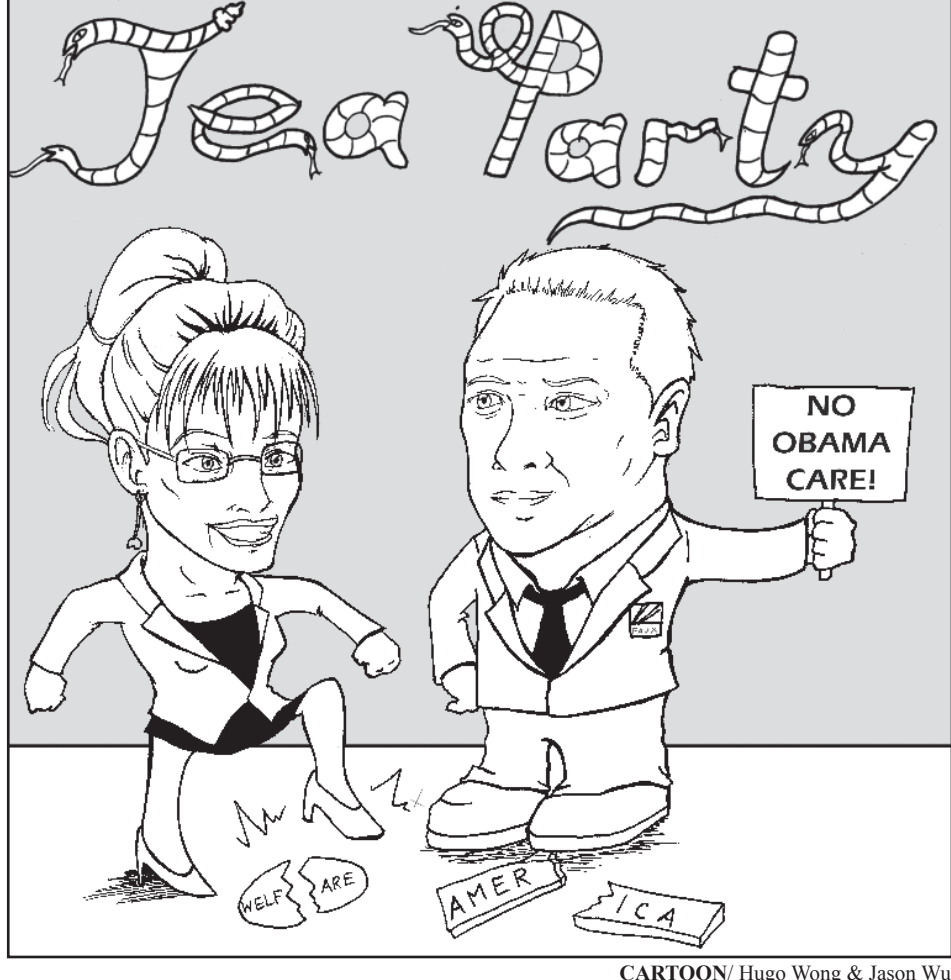
in my years of public school education: it's free and full of equal opportunity. Or so I thought. The California Constitution states that public schools cannot require fees for curricular and extra-curricular activities. The American Civil Liberties Union, or ACLU, launched an investigation in September on the matter of whether the California public school system is really free, and filed a lawsuit against 50 school districts on behalf of two students on the basis that their schools required fees. Arcadia High School is listed on ACLU's website as requiring fees for art and music courses.

I understand that public schools face cuts to staff as well as individual departments, but forcing students to hand over money for their fundamental education is just too much to ask for, and to me, it's un-American. I know that schools need money for instruments, sports equipment, and computers, but it shouldn't be obligatory for students and parents to carry the burden of the government's faulty spending habits. Too many families barely make ends meet; required fees are like a punch in the gut to someone who is already on the ground. The word "donations" should be

the first few weeks I had to pay a \$40 fee for materials. If I didn't, it would negatively affect my grade, and to throw in more fear, I wouldn't be able to graduate high school. Of course, I paid the fee and at the end of the year and resentfully left the class with an almost unused sketchbook, feeling like I paid for more than I used. I don't mean to seem overly sensitive, but attaching the word "requirement" makes me feel like I'm being cornered into paying for something that I should be getting for free. The use of more fundraising for departments would ease pressure on students who feel that their grade or graduation depends on a fee.

The gubernatorial election will be held on Nov. 2 with candidates Jerry Brown and Meg Whitman taking different stances on the state's educational budget. Though you might not be of voting age, it's important to learn their views on public school budget cuts. After all, public schooling is a right,

**FOR THE RECORD**  
Focus: For the playlist of the month, Tupac Shakur recorded the song "Changes" in 1992. For the GSA article, the "T" in LGBTQ was misidentified as "transsexual" when it stands for "transgender".



CARTOON/ Hugo Wong & Jason Wu

<p>TEMPLE CITY HIGH SCHOOL <b>RAMPAGE</b> 9501 E. Lemon Ave Temple City, CA 91780</p> <p><b>Advisor</b> Wendy Van Thiel</p> <p><b>Editor-in-Chief</b> Vicki Chang</p>	<p><b>News Editor</b> Maggie Liu</p> <p><b>Entertainment Editor</b> Ashlee Nguyen</p> <p><b>Opinion Editor</b> Jessica Meza</p> <p><b>Focus Editor</b> Humphrey Lin</p>	<p><b>Feature Editor</b> Jennifer Su</p> <p><b>Sports Editor</b> Raymond Tran</p> <p><b>Photo Editor</b> Jason Wu</p> <p><b>Exchange Editor</b> Benjamin Chan</p>	<p><b>Business Managers</b> Justin Ulley Cody Luk Elliot Wu</p> <p><b>Staff Writers</b> Kyle Evanko Taylor Evanko Chloe Lin Debra Ma Caroline Sun</p>	<p> <p><b>The articles expressed on the Opinion page express only the views of their respective writers. In the case of an unsigned editorial, the article reflects the views of the staff as a whole. Articles do not reflect the views of the student body or the administration. Letters to the Editor are welcome, but Rampage reserves the right to publish these at the discretion of the staff. They also may be edited in regard to space.</b></p> </p>
---	---	---	---	---

# Rethinking executions I think that his is lkjxc!



By Taylor Evanko  
Staff Writer

No, I'm not a druggie, but I'm hoping as much as anyone that California voters pass Proposition 19 next Tuesday, which would allow people at least 21 years old to grow and use marijuana for recreational use.

First off, let me clarify that I'm not advocating the use of marijuana. While I do believe it is the least harmful drug currently illegal, I am not one who subscribes to the notion that marijuana has wonderful medical benefits even if one is perfectly healthy to begin with.

Prop. 19 is written with this in mind, as it would prohibit people from driving while under the influence of marijuana and smoking it in public or in the presence of minors.

But we need to wake up and smell the cannabis burning; the fact of the matter is that people are already smoking it everywhere. I have several friends and family members who have either smoked marijuana before or use it on a regular basis. The war on drugs as it is has failed miserably and needs a different approach. Anyone who opens their eyes and has half a brain knows that.

Additionally, there is little reason to believe that legalizing marijuana will cause more people to use it. For example, when alcohol was illegal during the prohibition era, the consumption rate of alcohol, despite falling for the first two years of prohibition, reached record levels that remain the highest they have ever been in the history of the United States. Arrests for being drunk in public and other alcohol-related offenses were higher than they were when alcohol was legal.

Now, I do not believe that if the government makes something illegal people will want it more, but these statistics--provided by the Schaffer Library of Drug Policy--clearly show us that the legality of substances like drugs or alcohol has virtually no effect on the consumption.

Culture has a far more significant role in determining how much marijuana or alcohol people will consume, not government policy. If anything, marijuana use may actually decrease, as smokers who want to quit would be able to seek treatment without worrying about being thrown in jail.

Furthermore, the benefits of legalizing this drug far outweigh the nonexistent drawbacks. State tax collectors estimate that California could gain \$1-2 billion from taxing marijuana--which would certainly help close our budget deficit that has exceeded \$20 billion--not to mention all the money we could save if we stop arresting "criminals" and sending them to jail just for smoking a joint.

This would be one less thing for the police to worry about enforcing, allowing them to go after the violent murders and thefts that plague California's streets. If Prop. 19 passes, people would no longer be locked up in prison for nonviolent marijuana-related crimes. Not only would they be spared the barbarism of prison society, but California

would save boat-loads of money, as it costs approximately \$30,000 to keep someone in prison for one year.

Another thing to consider is the black market. Drug cartels currently have a monopoly on the market for marijuana. However, if Prop 19 passes, people will be allowed to buy marijuana commercially at stores or grow it themselves, which would force the drug cartels to compete with other suppliers.

This would either force them to lower their prices for marijuana, or drive them out of business entirely; either scenario would significantly reduce the drug cartels' power, wealth, and influence.

One must also consider the health hazards marijuana users are exposed to when they smoke weed that has been grown by criminal syndicates. Much of the marijuana that is grown in large fields for the purpose of being sold on the black market is grown using dangerous pesticides that do not meet health regulations. Legalizing marijuana ensures that the drug is grown safely and sold by law-abiding citizens.

Being the progressive state that we are, California has an obligation to set the example for the rest of the country to follow concerning marijuana policy. Eventually, people will hopefully come to the realization that if people are going to smoke marijuana, then it is the government's duty to ensure that it is grown properly, profits are going to the right people, and users are enjoying it in an appropriate manner.

## School fees un-American blahh sfkljf;sa flsjslfa



By Justin Ulley  
Staff Writer

Alhambra city officials announced recently that the city of Alhambra and Allied Waste, a waste disposal company, will be stepping up its efforts to stop people from trash scavenging. For those who don't know, trash scavenging is when people go through trash cans around residential areas or public property and search the trash for recyclables that people have thrown away. I believe that trash scavengers should not be stopped, but rather allowed to continue to go through trash looking for bottles and cans.

One of the reasons Alhambra might be increasing its efforts to stop trash scavengers is because the city is not meeting the state requirements of a city decreasing its amount of trash being sent to a landfill. The city is now offering incentives, such as gift cards, to citizens who contribute to recycling, which helps reduce the amount of trash sent to landfills. The city would see trash scavengers as decreasing the amount of recyclables they receive. However this is incorrect. According to Ann-Marie Hayashi, assistant to the Alhambra city manager, the scavengers do not affect the percentage of recyclables the city collects.

Many people might find it rude of people going through their trash, and I thought so too, until I realized that it is just trash, and they are recycling what I have so carelessly thrown away. You might also

believe that when these people go sifting through your trash, they end up throwing the trash all over the place, and then leaving without cleaning it up. I thought of this as well, until one day I saw a man going through my trash cans. I thought I would have to go outside and pick up the trash he scattered around looking for a can or two, but I was wrong. The man quickly looked through the trash cans, and when he was finished, he cleaned up the mess he made, and when on to the next house to repeat the process.

Also, many people who are going through your trash looking for bottles and cans are homeless people or people who have very low income, and are just trying to get their next meal by recycling. These people could obviously use some help, and most likely don't want to beg for money. Allowing them to look through your trash for probably less than a dollar's worth of recycling is nothing you can't spare. Besides, if you really wanted that money, you could have easily recycled it yourself.

Volore faccum nis ad ea conummy noster conse facinci exeros adit lorpercin henim iusto dui do odor sis etum nullutet lum digna feugait illum vendre cons num dolor sim vullaore eugue erilit, se ming eum at lam velenit, summy num adionse quamet autat. Duis duiisit, conummoloreUd tie ming ex eum ing ea coreet num init lum do dolore velit ex et wisit ipit item verci bla isl iniam vent in et do dunt ullan henis exerilit ullum velis nos nosto con henisi.

Volortio cor acillan dignim quat. Dui bla aliquam in henibh elendigna facin ectet volestis el ilisis eu faccummy nonsequam, sum veniamc onsequat. Enis euis adiam



By Vicki Chang  
Editor-in-Chief

ASB. The Associated Student Body. What comes to mind when you think of this group? Some students may think of the members as party animals who are popular all throughout campus, while others may see ASB as a group of elitist Oxford prigs who rule the school. Many may believe that the only thing they do is make heaps of useless posters, killing millions of trees. Let me just say now that this is a terrible, terrible misconception.

It was quite obvious that image was definitely a major issue when it came to defining ASB as a whole. I must admit that I too was once guilty of viewing ASB as a loud and irresponsible group of students who couldn't care less about the needs of the student body and even more, what is best for our school. Little did I know just how entirely wrong I was for thinking so.

ASB Leadership is a student-run government that mirrors the actions of an actual government that goes through Parliamentary procedure. A great deal of legal action is needed in order for the student body to have a legitimate experience. After joining ASB Leadership, I immediately came to the realization that there was much more to this particular student association than I had thought. As leaders and role models of the school, it is our job to positively influence the student body, while at the same time satisfying the majority of the students' needs and desires to make their high school adventure a remarkable experience.

This year's ASB Leadership focuses more on the idea of unity and how the entire student body should come together as one to break through existing social barriers. To accomplish this goal, we are hosting a series of student fundraisers and fun activities to personally reach out to the students and establish an essential connection. It is important to understand that we are all in this together and that ASB Leadership is responsible for making the best out of the memorable high school journey.

After all, every student at this high school is a member of ASB, or the associated student body. We, on the other hand, are just the Leadership members who hold a duty to serve them. Equisim erit aut ing ex ea con et augue del ullute miniamet aute mod magna augue core del iliquisse doluptat, sum vercing ecte del essi.

Pat. Dolore voloborpero commy nullandre te corem niationsed delit amet num inissed dolore deliquam diam eugait ulputpat. Ut nos el ing ercidunt ut lobortis diam,

# Letters to the editor

## Dear Editor,

As a club leader, I'm willing to make sacrifices for my club. I'm willing to stay up the night before Club Day, making sure that the Quantum Physics Club booth is a-okay, ready for wooing new club members. I'm willing to spend my own money on supplies for experiments during meetings, even though they'll end up going horribly wrong.

And I am willing to wake up early for that one Wednesday, once a month, to attend an ICC (Interclub Council) meeting, where different club leaders are updated on the different club regulations. After all, being the presidents of clubs, we have to dedicate ourselves to them if we want them to flourish, right? I was under the impression that other club leaders felt the same as me. That is, until Kaleidoscope President Senior Stephanie Tran raised her hand towards the end of the second ICC meeting.

Her motion was simple: could there be a way to make sure that it was the president who was attending the ICC meetings? Or at least that the attendee be a specific representative—someone specially assigned to go the meetings? It had come to her attention that a few clubs were sending in random cabinet members each time to these important meetings, just because the president didn't want to go, or just because he or she wanted to sleep in.

I agreed wholeheartedly. Attendance for the ICC meetings not only implies dedication and responsibility for the club, but a respect towards the other clubs attending: if I'm waking up early, at least you are too.

But of course, immediately, there was dissent: whining about people not wanting to wake up every time, complaints about how strict the ICC was becoming, and so on.

From what I saw, many of these petty and shallow complaints originated in the newer, smaller clubs. Many of these new presidents, the majority of them green underclassmen, did not seem to want to put in the effort that it took

to run a club. They were already complaining about their compelled attendance to a meeting. Keep in mind that it only occurs once a month. This new regulation would force them to actually account for their club instead of sending in random people just because they were "tired" and wanted to watch their Wednesday morning cartoons.

I grew annoyed. Many of the complaints could be easily solved: if the president or assigned representative could not make it, it was simple enough to e-mail the Campus Commissioner beforehand. And as for not wanting to wake up, well, if you're not willing to wake up early for your club ONCE A MONTH, then your club has bigger problems.

It was also a practical issue. The beginning of the second ICC meeting had dragged on due to the multitude of questions that representatives had, most of which had been answered in the first meeting. Well, to be fair, it wasn't their fault. The people asking them had never been to an ICC meeting: their president just didn't feel like going that day.

The motion was put up to a vote. Many of the established, older clubs, with presidents that had experience and actual passion for their position, voted "yay." But, the smaller, newer clubs outnumbered us. The proposition didn't pass: 30 to 19.

This lack of compliance is just a showcase of how little some clubs care. We all know that there are those out there who think they can "find" one club, tack on some random acronyms, and put on their college applications that they were awesome for having their own club. But when it comes to actually doing work for it, they are not willing to wake up for ONE Wednesday.

Come the next Wednesday, I'll be sure to propose this amendment again. Hopefully the results will change, granted that some presidents are up for getting up earlier instead of sending their pushover secretary.

Sincerely,

*Senior Leann Mao*

## Dear Editor,

The statement "Drug dogs should be banned" may seem to be over the top; however, we believe it is completely justified. For the past couple of years there has been concern within Temple City regarding the constitutionality over the use of drug-sniffing dogs. Temple City Unified School District uses the Interquest Detection Canines program in which its drug and weapons detection canines are brought to the district's schools. In respect to TCHS, the school administrators and the canine handler from Interquest accompany the dogs to perform a school wide detection for drugs and/or weapons. During these random, unannounced visits, canine handlers, accompanied by school administrators, lead the drug-sniffing dogs to sniff cars in the student parking lot, school lockers, and student belongings in classrooms. During class time, several random classrooms are subjected to the drug detection. When a dog enters the classroom, students are led away from their belongings, either outside or to a place in the classroom where students would not be able to make contact with the dogs.

The conflict with the U.S. Constitution does not surface from the dogs sniffing school lockers and parked cars. However, the fact that random classrooms are subjected to detection for drugs conflicts with the Fourth Amend-

ment of the U.S. Constitution, which states, "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."

School officials are required to possess reasonable suspicion of illegal contraband or criminal activity in order to conduct searches of students, as established by the Supreme Court case *New Jersey v. T.L.O.* Reasonable suspicion must be individualized; thus, mass, random searches would violate the Fourth Amendment. It was confirmed in the court case *Horton v. Goose Creek* that a dog sniff constituted a search. The court case *B.C. v. Plumas* also stated that a random, mass search of students by dogs was unconstitutional. In addition, California Attorney General Bill Lockyer, concluded that school administrators at a public high school may not implement a policy requiring on an unannounced, random, and neutral basis that (1) pupils be directed to vacate their classrooms and leave behind their personal belongings, including backpacks, purses, jackets, and outer garments, for sniffing by canines trained in the detection of drugs, (2) the pupils would proceed to a location not within the immediate vicinity of the canines

and would remain away from the canines at all times, and (3) if a canine's behavior indicated the presence of drugs, the pupil's personal belongings would be searched by the school administrators without the pupil's consent.

As indicated above, we are strongly against this school policy and believe that this random detection program would not survive constitutional scrutiny, considering that such searches of students themselves proved to be unconstitutional. What may seem like an innocent policy has unintended consequences in the minds and psyche of students often leading them to become submissive and accepting of intrusive treatment. It is our fervent desire that drug dogs be banned from campus permanently in order to adhere to the Constitution and respect students' personal freedom.

Sincerely,

*Seniors Jonathan Huynh and Mark Lamb*

Dear reader,  
Do you have an opinion regarding articles on this page or anything in general?  
Send in your letter to the editor at:  
[tchsrampage@gmail.com](mailto:tchsrampage@gmail.com)



By Vicki Chang  
Editor-in-Chief

As a young child, I looked forward to going to McDonald's for an authentic Happy Meal consisting of a small hamburger, a side of French fries, a 12 ounce cup of Sprite, and of course, the widely popular free toy that knocks the socks off of just about every kid.

I remember how my mom would take me to McDonald's on the day they had Spongebob watches. Having collected 27 McDonald's Happy Meal toys, one would think that I would be overweight or even obese, but I'm not. So why is it that I haven't become overweight?

Well, for one thing, my mom only took me to McDonald's once a month since she believed that everything on the menu was a disgrace to all healthy people on this planet. Moreover, I didn't really care about the food, I just wanted the little toy at the bottom of the Happy Meal box. Most kids just absentmindedly eat what their parents offer them while playing with their toy. Whether or not I became obese depended on my parents' nutritional choices for me as well as my family lifestyle outside our occasional fast food trips rather than the unhealthy items on fast food menus.

On Nov. 2, San Francisco passed a law that prevents giving away toys with unhealthy fast food meals. The law only allows toys to be given away with kids meals with less than 600 calories, contain fruits and vegetables, and have drinks without excessive fat or sugar. Such a law is unnecessary, as it does nothing but insult parents and the manner in which they raise their children.

There is no proof that this new law will impact the way children eat; if parents prefer to feed fatty foods to their kids, they could easily choose another alternative. They could take their kids for some 2260 calorie, 2870 milligrams of sodium, and 164 grams of total carbs chicken and biscuits at Cheesecake Factory, or even better, for a XXXL 24 ounce Triple King Burger at Fat Burger just down the street. Better yet, parents always have the choice to not even take their child to a fast food restaurant in the first place.

Ever since the creation of the first McDonald's Happy Meal, children have been pestering their parents to take them to get that new toy. It's something that's pretty hard for any three-year-old to resist. We all know that the apple slices and chocolate milk just aren't cutting it. If there's anyone to blame here, it's the parents for the bad choices they make for their kids. So why force children to abandon a Happy Meal for a Sad Meal?

## FOR THE RECORD

**News:** In the "Advanced Drama Halloween Production" News Brief, Edgar Allan Poe's name was misspelled.

**Entertainment:** In the "Speedy costume ideas" article, Junior Irene Chen's name was misspelled.

**Opinion:** In the "Are you too old for trick-or-treating?" article, Junior Rachel Sheng's name was misspelled.

TEMPLE CITY HIGH SCHOOL  
**RAMPAGE**  
9501 E. Lemon Ave  
Temple City, CA 91780

**Advisor**  
Wendy Van Thiel

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Vicki Chang

**News Editor**  
Maggie Liu

**Entertainment Editor**  
Ashlee Nguyen

**Opinion Editor**  
Jessica Meza

**Focus Editor**  
Humphrey Lin

**Feature Editor**  
Jennifer Su

**Sports Editor**  
Raymond Tran

**Photo Editor**  
Jason Wu

**Exchange Editor**  
Benjamin Chan

**Business Managers**  
Justin Ulley  
Bram Vargas  
Hugo Wong  
Jacqueline Wong

**Staff Writers**  
Kyle Evanko  
Taylor Evanko  
Chloe Lin  
Debra Ma  
Caroline Sun

*The articles expressed on the Opinion page express only the views of their respective writers. In the case of an unsigned editorial, the article reflects the views of the staff as a whole. Articles do not reflect the views of the student body or the administration. Letters to the Editor are welcome, but Rampage reserves the right to publish these at the discretion of the staff. They also may be edited in regard to space.*

# Ban on bags ineffective



By Benjamin Chan  
Exchange Editor

When I heard that plastic bags had been banned in Los Angeles County I thought, "It's about time!" Finally, a significant step forward had been made toward saving the environment. But as I learned the full extent of the law, my excitement turned to dismay, and I began to consider exactly how small that step actually was.

On Nov. 16, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors passed a measure that bans disposable plastic bags in unincorporated parts of the county. This affects certain neighborhoods such as Rowland Heights and Altadena but does not impact the 88 cities in the county such as Temple City and Arcadia. Under the measure, disposable plastic bags, such as ones typically given out at supermarkets, will be banned at stores starting next year. Stores will be offering recyclable paper bags for 10 cents per bag.

Although banning plastic bags definitely helps preserve the environment, simply banning them in unincorporated parts of the county is not effective enough. A mere 1.1 million people living in unincorporated areas would be affected in stark contrast to the 10.5 million living in the county's cities. Laws should be passed to ban plastic bags in all of L.A. County and eventually the whole nation.

Plastic is one of the greatest dangers as a

lasting environmental hazard because it takes as many as 1,000 years to decompose. Even though the new law will reduce the number of plastic bags sent to landfills in L.A. County by 50 percent, there is still that other half which will be around for many years after we are gone.

Even if the buildup of plastic litter doesn't burden everyday life today, we should take into consideration the disastrous effects that our actions will cause in the future. Should we allow our grandchildren to suffer simply because plastic bags are cheaper and more convenient? Paper bags work just as well as plastic and can easily be recycled. The Worldwatch Institute reports that only 0.6 percent of plastic bags are recycled each year in America. Canvas bags often sold at grocery stores are another substitute that can be used countless times.

Opponents of the ban might cite financial reasons for using plastic bags. Although they may be cheap to produce, California uses \$25 million a year to clean public areas and waterways of plastic waste. If the number of bags that pollute the environment is not quelled, the cost to clean them up will rise to the point at which it will outweigh the cost to produce them.

In 2007, San Francisco banned plastic bags from grocery stores. Countries such as Germany, Spain, and China have either banned or taxed plastic bags. I am surprised that L.A. has taken so long to commence action against plastic bags and in such a small part. We should be taking leaps, not steps, toward saving the environment.

# Controversial security measures necessary for citizens' well-being



By Jessica Meza  
Opinion Editor

greater good.

Some critics questioned this new practice because it could possibly slow down security checkpoints at airports. However, the recent Thanksgiving holiday proved that there were no extraordinarily long lines outside of the normal slew of holiday travelers. Surely, this standard is more practical than profiling passengers and subjecting them to extra security; profiling compromises a person's personal liberties more than these body scans and pat-downs.

I am glad that our nation is constantly taking new measures to ensure the safety of the people who are coming into or traveling within the country. It makes me feel safer knowing that people are undergoing thorough screening in order to prevent future acts of terrorism.

To me, the bottom line is security and ensuring the well-being of the general population. These new measures are essential in the fight against terrorism. If I had to choose between entering one airplane with people who refuse these new security measures or another plane with those who do not object to them, I would certainly choose the latter.

This winter break I will pass through the Transportation Security Administration's new body scanners, happy to know that my fellow passengers and I will be traveling more safely.

The T.S.A. implemented the use of controversial full body scanners in 68 airports in the U.S., including the Los Angeles International Airport. In addition to traditional metal detectors, travelers will have to pass through these full body scans which provide T.S.A. agents with a virtual picture of the person's body. As intrusive as this may seem, it is a necessary security measure that I am willing to undergo this holiday, especially now that terrorists are becoming savvier when it comes to hiding explosives and other threats on their bodies.

Pat-downs are only administered to those who opt out of the body scanners or to people who T.S.A. agents randomly pick for extra screening. However, if I were chosen to undergo the pat-down, I would not object because I recognize that it is for the

## FOR THE RECORD

**News:** In the Peek Inside, San Francisco's city law was mistaken as a state law. In the "Musical Auditions" News Brief, Mr. Bert Ferntheil's name was misspelled.  
**Entertainment:** In the "Black Friday, an American tradition that keeps on giving" article, Xbox 360 was named incorrectly.



By Vicki Chang  
Editor-in-Chief

As I walked through the mall, I saw bright, radiating Christmas lights, sparkling ornaments, and I smelled the strong aroma of the new holiday perfume pervading Bath and Body Works. There were various signs in front of the different stores reading, "30% off Christmas Sale" and "Great Christmas Deals," which would be absolutely fine if it weren't the day right after Halloween.

Why does it seem like every year Christmas comes sooner? Better yet, why does it seem like retail stores, such as Target and Wal-Mart, put out their Christmas decorations earlier every year?

Retail stores start advertising sales early so they can make more profits during the holiday season. Luring customers to their Christmas shopping is what causes many to start shopping and to keep shopping. The fact that the sales seem to be getting cheaper and cheaper as it gets later into the year is what tempts customers to empty their wallets as they believe they absolutely cannot miss out on these fabulous once-a-year deals.

Some people feel the long run-up to the festive season means that Christmas is much less special when it finally arrives. Others feel there is too much commercial pressure to buy presents at "unbelievably low prices." Let me just say now that this holiday "conspiracy" for

retail stores to make more profits is ruining the true meaning of Christmas, which happens to be more than just cheap deals at the local mall and a creepy old man in an oversized Santa suit offering pictures for a dollar.

More than the beautiful decorations, lights, gifts, and the good food on the table, Christmas is a birthday. Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ who Christians consider the Son of God and the savior of all people. With the birth of Christ, Christianity essentially begins; thus, Christmas also celebrates the beginning of Christianity. Though it is normally celebrated on Dec. 25, strong evidence suggests that Jesus may have actually been born in the spring. This is a bit ironic, since the Christian era is thought to begin with the birth of Christ, though it actually begins later, but that's a whole different story.

The reason why stores start decorating for the holidays about two months beforehand is to sell as much as possible. If you ask me, isn't the whole point of Christmas to celebrate with family and eat scrumptious food? Holiday commercialism pretty much defeats the point of Christmas. It should only matter that we spend time with our families and loved ones, rather than whoever got the biggest and best deals on presents. So, please Santa, don't bring your deals to town too early next year.

# Re: Letter to the editor

In response to Leeann Mao's letter, I also thought that Stephanie Tran's proposal was a great idea and supported it. Initially, it did not pass, and I can understand your disappointment with it. I could identify with you when you introduced your complaint with how dedicated you were for your club, but once you mentioned your annoyance of the people who outvoted it, my views with you differed.

Seniority gives you no right to undermine clubs run by "green underclassmen," which I thought was a truly spiteful thing to say to all underclassmen. Also, it's ridiculous to believe that new clubs run by underclassmen are better than old clubs run by upperclassmen. Seniors can be just as responsible, or unorganized as freshmen.

I also don't believe that presidents have an absolute responsibility to attend ICC meetings when another council member could be equally adequate. Have you considered that club presidents or representatives voted against this not because they wanted to be lazy and sleep in, but so that they, or other clubs, could have the freedom to choose? Please note that a president's job is to be there, a vice-president's job is to be there when the president isn't, and the secretary's job is to take notes. There doesn't seem to be anything contradictory with these roles. The dragging length of ICC meetings are more attributed to hot-headed representatives debating with one another on a small topic than to repetitive questions.

Though this conflict was overruled in the latest ICC meeting, I also want to remind you that these meetings are meant to be a gathering of different opinions joining in consent rather than a few individual voices striking down other views. I don't think we should be so quick to judge and condemn other clubs' decisions for whatever their reasons may be. In this setting, we can appeal or repeal, but in the end, majority rules.

Junior Amy Fan

TEMPLE CITY HIGH SCHOOL  
**RAMPAGE**

9501 E. Lemon Ave  
Temple City, CA 91780

**Advisor**  
Wendy Van Thiel

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Vicki Chang

**News Editor**  
Maggie Liu

**Entertainment Editor**  
Ashlee Nguyen

**Opinion Editor**  
Jessica Meza

**Focus Editor**  
Humphrey Lin

**Feature Editor**  
Jennifer Su

**Sports Editor**  
Raymond Tran

**Photo Editor**  
Jason Wu

**Exchange Editor**  
Benjamin Chan

**Business Managers**  
Cody Luk  
Elliot Wu

**Staff Writers**  
Kyle Evanko  
Taylor Evanko  
Chloe Lin  
Debra Ma  
Caroline Sun

Justin Ulley  
Bram Vargas  
Hugo Wong  
Jacqueline Wong

*The articles expressed on the Opinion page express only the views of their respective writers. In the case of an unsigned editorial, the article reflects the views of the staff as a whole. Articles do not reflect the views of the student body or the administration. Letters to the Editor are welcome, but Rampage reserves the right to publish these at the discretion of the staff. They also may be edited in regard to space.*

# Weakness in the left wing *kls- fjsdkfj jskdfj skj kjs- dkf skjfsjf lskfdjsfds;lfd*



By Taylor Evanko  
Staff Writer

After the recent midterm elections this past November, Republicans took control of the House of Representatives as the Democrats lost control of over 60 seats in the House, their worst performance since the 1938 Congressional elections.

If you ask me, the Democrats' problem isn't that they act against the will of the American people, as claimed by Republicans, by spending too much money, or raising taxes too high, or hampering economic growth. They lost because they don't brag enough about what they have accomplished in the last two years.

But before I explain exactly what it is that the Democrats are doing wrong, I first want to prove that public opinion in America can be easily manipulated. Allow me to show you just how terribly uninformed we really are. You may be shocked, appalled even, by some of these statistics, and you should be.

According to a *Zogby* poll, over half of Americans cannot name a single branch of government or explain what the Bill of Rights is. Most of us don't know who their Congressman is or that states have two senators, and 24 percent of Americans cannot name the country we fought in the Revolutionary War. A *Gallup* poll shows that 18 percent of us think the sun revolves around the Earth, and one poll by the *Pew Research Center* shows that 20 percent of Americans honestly, truly believe that President Obama is a Muslim.

A poll conducted by Newsweek showed that

barely half of Americans know that Judaism is older than Christianity. If you ask me, it's pretty disturbing that half of Americans look at books called the Old Testament and the New Testament and cannot determine which one came first. How ignorant can a society be?

The danger in our society being so extraordinarily undereducated is that we lose the ability to make proper judgments in our political system. If most Americans can't even answer the most fundamental questions about the U.S. Government, do you really think they follow the issues that closely?

That's where the Democrats fail to take charge. They don't persuade the easily persuadable opinion of the American public. Americans, evidently, don't pay that much attention, and when deciding who to vote for, they look for that party that is dominating the political scene.

Democrats run away from their beliefs, not exactly a characteristic of a "dominant" party. Take healthcare for example. The first President to propose a universal healthcare plan was Teddy Roosevelt, who served from 1901-1909. He failed to pass his plan, and every attempt since then has suffered the same fate.

Universal healthcare was something 70 percent of Americans wanted, and this country has been unable to do it for over 100 years. The Democrats finally pull it off. They could have trumpeted this great accomplishment and ran on being the party who gives Americans what they want; if they had, they might have actually gained more seats in Congress. But they never talked about it during the campaign. Americans see that and think something must be wrong. If this was such a good thing, why aren't these people standing by it?

Democrats need to wake up and realize that noth-



By Jennifer Su  
Feature Editor

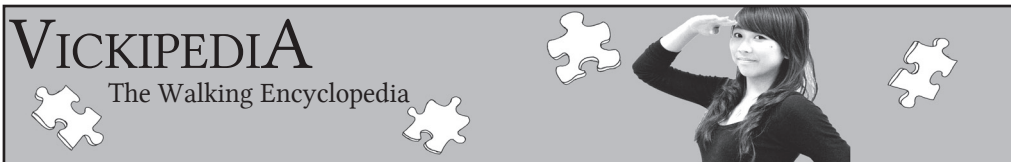
Growing up in a tech savvy generation, many of us depend on the Internet to accomplish daily tasks. However, for some people in a nation where suicide is a part of their culture, the Internet is not only used for completing daily tasks. They are now tapping into the web to begin a new dangerous trend: group suicides.

In Japan, suicide websites with black backgrounds and ominous imagery, offer detailed instructions on ways to commit suicide. The sites display postings such as "looking for a friend to kill myself with," as well as events inviting people to join in on mass suicides held on specific dates in designated areas. In just the first three months of 2005, there have been 20 group suicide cases in Japan, resulting in 54 deaths.

Unlike the United States, suicide is not a crime in Japan so there is little open discussion about this issue. In this year's national healthcare budget, spending for suicide prevention was boosted by 30 percent. Recently, the government began a campaign to encourage Internet service providers, public offices, as well as schools to use filtering software to block suicide sites. In addition, the campaign is an attempt for the development of filtering software for mobile phones. However, although this is a step toward decreasing the number of suicides that occur because of suicide websites, this treatment will only be temporarily. There are many ways to get around filtering software, one of which includes modifying texts so it will be harder for filtering software to detect.

Optasperibus dolectotae cullatiatur, sime nis rest, omni consed molendit litint vitiat eriberi abore mod magnissunda consequisquo eatur asimodio voluptatata quae ab il maximusto voloreptas magnian debitat doluptas re nimus delest odit landandam, comnihit voloratio. Vernatio. Uciaepuda comnimo llupis es etur, aribusam faccum quibus.

Raessimus il idellam, que sitendis et aperum volorum, sum aut aut



By Vicki Chang  
Editor-in-Chief

It's Monday morning and the beginning of a new week. You're still recovering from last night's homework cramming session and feeling a bit out of it. You decide to go for a cup of freshly brewed coffee at Café 706 only to find that the café no longer sells coffee to students, as it did not meet the requirements of a compliant beverage under the high school complaint foods policy as established by the California Department of Education.

Just thinking about a steamy cup of coffee makes a student's mouth water, they look great, smell great, and best of all, they taste great. Like milk, coffee does a body good, as long as it's in small doses. Since coffee contains caffeine, which raises blood sugar, it can enhance mood, increase energy, and keep students awake so they can finish their homework. So why is such a beneficial beverage to students being banned in schools?

Schools are no longer allowed to sell a popular beverage known to improve energy and mental performance but why are they allowed to sell electrolyte replacement drinks to students who are most definitely not involved in extreme sports serious physical activity? And by 'serious' what is meant is

an athlete who is really pushing him or herself, sweating, and really getting an extreme workout.

If someone isn't really dehydrated or in danger of becoming dehydrated simple, pure water is a great choice and a sports drink is unneeded. Often people drink these sports drinks even when they don't really need them and with high sodium content this is best to be avoided.

As compared to electrolyte replacement beverages like Powerade, which offer no nutritional benefits to many physically inactive students on campus, coffee is composed of zero calories and is known to improve energy and mental performance in young teens when taken moderately. Even when adding the light sugar and milk offered by Café 706, the amount of calories do not compare to the extra 425 that come with adding whipped cream and half and half to an already 400 calorie Star-bucks caramel frappuccino. Not only that, but the coffee sold in school is much cheaper too.

Selling coffee in proper serving sizes to students is beneficial both ways in the sense that students get an energy boost while the

TEMPLE CITY HIGH SCHOOL  
**RAMPAGE**

9501 E. Lemon Ave  
Temple City, CA 91780

Advisor  
Wendy Van Thiel

Editor-in-Chief  
Vicki Chang

News Editor  
Maggie Liu

Entertainment Editor  
Ashlee Nguyen

Opinion Editor  
Jessica Meza

Focus Editor  
Humphrey Lin

Feature Editor  
Jennifer Su

Sports Editor  
Raymond Tran

Photo Editor  
Jason Wu

Exchange Editor  
Benjamin Chan

Business Managers  
Cody Luk  
Elliot Wu

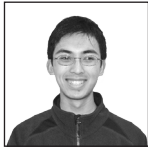
Staff Writers  
Kyle Evanko  
Taylor Evanko  
Chloe Lin  
Debra Ma  
Caroline Sun

Justin Ulley  
Bram Vargas  
Hugo Wong  
Jacqueline Wong

*The articles expressed on the Opinion page express only the views of their respective writers. In the case of an unsigned editorial, the article reflects the views of the staff as a whole. Articles do not reflect the views of the student body or the administration. Letters to the Editor are welcome, but Rampage reserves the right to publish these at the discretion of the staff. They also may be edited in regard to space.*



# Firearms: don't give them another shot



By Hugo Wong  
Staff Writer

Jared Loughner, a mentally ill 22-year-old, opened fire at a constituent meeting in a market parking lot in Tucson, Arizona on Jan. 8, leaving six people dead and 13 injured, including Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords. She is still in recovery after being shot in the head. The shooting left the nation in shock and raised the question on the importance of gun control.

States should create stricter gun control laws that bar the mentally ill and felons from owning a gun. More extensive background checks on people's mental health and criminal records are imperative to ensure that gunholders are careful. Arizona law allowed Loughner to carry a semi-automatic weapon even though he was expelled from his community college due to erratic behavior.

Arizona has loose gun control regulations, and its public officials are strong supporters of Second Amendment rights. Even Congresswoman Giffords is an advocate of Second Amendment rights. In Arizona, you do not need a permit for a concealed weapon, and you can bring a gun into a bar as long as you are not drinking. Such lenient laws create the image of Arizona, according to *Time magazine*, as the "most gun-friendly state in the nation."

Meanwhile, California bans and restricts semi-automatic and automatic weapons and makes it difficult to obtain a concealed weapons license. California is the most gun restrictive state in the nation.

The Framers of the Constitution wrote the Second Amendment so that civilians could create a militia to protect themselves in times of government oppression. People interpret this as the right to bear arms and completely disregard the militia part of the text.

*"In Arizona...you can bring a gun into a bar as long as you are not drinking."*

Guns create more problems than they solve. According to *Time magazine*, only one percent of gun related deaths come from self-defense. The rest of gun related deaths involve accidents, homicide, and suicide. The National Rifle Association's claims that guns help protect your home are an outright lie.

I don't, however, believe that a complete gun ban can make us safer. People will still find illegal means to satisfy their appetite for guns. Ever since America's founding, Americans have had a deep love affair with guns, and their support for guns makes organizations such as the NRA powerful. The NRA, one of the most influential support-

ers of the Second Amendment, lobbies both State Governments and the Federal Government to retain the status quo on the right to bear arms. This makes an outright repeal of the Second Amendment deeply unpopular and nearly impossible.

Federal and State Governments as well as the Supreme Court need to reinterpret the Second Amendment. The Founding Fathers would have never imagined the power of today's modern guns. During the Revolutionary War, a musket fired at three rounds per minute. Modern guns can fire at speeds ranging from 12 to 3000 rounds per minute, and depending on the gun, with far more accuracy. The West is no longer a dangerous frontier, and guns are no longer an essential part of life or survival, making the original intent of the Second Amendment invalid.

A stricter gun law will not only make the country safer, but it will also make it harder for convicts and the mentally ill to obtain guns. Our divided nation has to realize the problems with our gun laws and address them. If we cannot fix the problems, it will only be a matter of time before another innocent life is lost.

## FOR THE RECORD

**News:** In the Rams Calendar, Brighter Side Singers went to Disneyland on Feb. 3 and Band will go to Disneyland on Mar. 15.

## Sex, drugs, & Skins on MTV



By Chloe Lin  
Staff Writer

MTV's new television show "Skins," a remake of a British series, has been stirring up all sorts of controversy with its depictions of teenage drug use and sexual activity.

The title offers a helpful hint to the content of the program, as there's quite a lot of it in the show. The name originates from a slang term for cigarette and joint rolling paper but also refers to the epidermis.

Unsurprisingly, it is this excess of skin that has many adults in an unnecessary uproar. The Parents Television Council called the show "the most dangerous television show for children that we have ever seen." They requested for the U.S. Senate and Department of Justice to look into the show for violating child pornography laws, because the actors in the American version of "Skins" range in age from 15 to 19.

It seems to me that the child pornography charge is just a way for the P.T.C. to draw negative attention to "Skins." Because of this, several advertisers have already pulled their ads from "Skins," including Taco Bell and General Motors.

In addition to child pornography, the P.T.C. claims that the show includes "all manner of foul language, illegal drug use, illegal activity as well as thoroughly pervasive sexual content." I'm hardly the only one shocked by this. Nobody wants to watch a TV show about studious, teetotaler teenagers who spend all weekend doing AP and SAT practice tests. But a show about people doing illegal activities? American viewers have spoken: "Dexter," "The Sopranos," and "Breaking Bad" are all widely watched TV

shows that deal with murderers, the mafia, and the making and selling of methamphetamines. Those don't sound terribly legal to me.

British viewers have spoken too: the original "Skins" won a British Academy of Film and Television Arts Philips Audience award for Best Programme of 2008.

To see for myself just how bad "Skins" really is, I went to MTV's website and watched a few episodes. In MTV's defense, they make it clear that the show isn't for children. More than once I had to type in my birth date to watch a video, although it is very easy to lie about your age. The show is rated TV-MA, unsuitable for audiences under 17, for language and sexual situations. You can't say you weren't warned.

Still, those who want to censor the show say that the content is too graphic for television. "Skins" doesn't shy away from drugs, alcohol, or compromising situations. I admit that some parts of the show were a little shocking, but we have to face the facts. The Department of Health and Human Services' 2009 report shows that 46 percent of high schoolers have had sex, 42 percent drank alcohol the month before the survey, and 26 percent smoke cigarettes or use some form of tobacco. These numbers prove that the topics in "Skins" are not new or shocking to teenagers.

The show isn't as racy as the P.T.C. tries to make it out to be, and "Skins" doesn't try to pass off the lifestyles of the main characters as glamorous. It's not all beer and skittles for the salacious youths, whose flaws are the driving force behind their unwholesome pastimes.

We can hardly watch a movie or TV show today without a sex scene in it, so "Skins" isn't new territory for anyone. I don't think "Skins" has anything "Gossip Girl" or "90210" doesn't have. It certainly doesn't deserve all the extra attention that has been heaped onto it.

## VICKIPEDIA

The Walking Encyclopedia

By Vicki Chang  
Editor-in-Chief

As I was heading into my local Starbucks for a cup of my favorite mocha frappuccino, I couldn't help but notice a small sign on the counter revealing the birth of a new addition to the Starbucks lineup, an extra large 31-ounce sized beverage to be released nationwide in the U.S. by May. Yes, the Trenta.

Before I inform you of the never ending scorn from countless health advocates regarding this particular issue, let me just say that Americans have a long-nurtured bond with super-sized food and drinks and that a 31-ounce coffee beverage is the least of their worries.

At 916 mL, the Trenta is actually bigger than the average capacity of the adult human stomach. As if Starbucks didn't already rule the drink world, now it wants to beat your stomach into submission with a drink so big it should not be humanly possible to consume all at once. But just because Starbucks is late to the party doesn't mean we should blame them for the obesity epidemic that has long been affecting Americans. I mean, think about it. McDonald's, Burger King, and a long list of other fast food chains have offered sodas in a 31-ounce format for years. This is nothing new, and yet the media is creating a big commotion about it.

Big is how America does food and drinks. We may mock Starbucks for labeling sizes such as grande and venti, but the words small, medium, and large don't mean much to consumers anymore either. Studies show that most fast-food customers don't like to pick the smallest size when offered a variety of sizes. As cups and bottles get bigger, Americans have adjusted our idea of a proper portion. We have lost sense of what is considered small and massive. So it's no wonder that today's medium drink would have been yesterday's extra-large. It's a trick on the consumer's mind, and we as Americans are falling for it.

Obesity is not the fault of restaurants, fast-food establishments, coffee houses, or anything else Americans have managed to blame over the years. Just because a new ridiculously large size is offered doesn't mean you have to purchase it. It is ridiculous to blame fast food chains for an individual's poor decision to indulge in extra calories.

The point isn't that a 31-ounce sized container of coffee isn't fattening, because it is. It is that blaming Starbucks for advancing obesity because of a 31-ounce cup is actually a step backward. Singling out Starbucks for introducing old news in this country does not stop the fact that Americans are not ready to stop placing blame and take responsibility for their poor choices.

TEMPLE CITY HIGH SCHOOL  
**RAMPAGE**

9501 E. Lemon Ave  
Temple City, CA 91780

**Advisor**  
Wendy Van Thiel

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Vicki Chang

**News Editor**  
Maggie Liu

**Entertainment Editor**  
Ashlee Nguyen

**Opinion Editor**  
Jessica Meza

**Focus Editor**  
Humphrey Lin

**Feature Editor**  
Jennifer Su

**Sports Editor**  
Raymond Tran

**Photo Editor**  
Jason Wu

**Exchange Editor**  
Benjamin Chan

**Business Managers**  
Cody Luk  
Elliot Wu

**Staff Writers**  
Kyle Evanko  
Taylor Evanko  
Chloe Lin  
Debra Ma  
Caroline Sun

Justin Ulley  
Bram Vargas  
Hugo Wong  
Jacqueline Wong

*The articles expressed on the Opinion page express only the views of their respective writers. In the case of an unsigned editorial, the article reflects the views of the staff as a whole. Articles do not reflect the views of the student body or the administration. Letters to the Editor are welcome, but Rampage reserves the right to publish these at the discretion of the staff. They also may be edited in regard to space.*

# Teacher rants in blog



By Debra Ma  
Staff Writer

The Central Bucks East High School administration in Pennsylvania suspended teacher Natalie Munroe from work with pay after she insulted her students, their parents, and the school administration on her blog. She wrote posts including “although academically okay, your child has no other redeeming qualities,” and “just as bad as his sibling. Don’t you know how to raise kids?” The district wants to fire her, but her lawyer argues that firing Munroe would breach her First Amendment rights.

Students who have been in the same situation as Munroe have gotten away with it because judges ruled that they have their freedom of speech. Katherine Evans, a high school student in Florida, made a Facebook page criticizing one of her teachers and the administration suspended her. U.S. Magistrate Barry Garber later ruled that Evan’s actions were legal under the First Amendment.

Munroe may have been within her rights, but that does not mean that she chose a mature or appropriate way to express herself. She definitely exercised poor judgment in putting all her thoughts up on the Internet because information on the Internet tends to be both permanent and public. Even if she didn’t reveal her students’ names, her school’s name, or her own name, she should have known better than to think she was safe from discovery, particularly since she had put up her picture and her friends and family

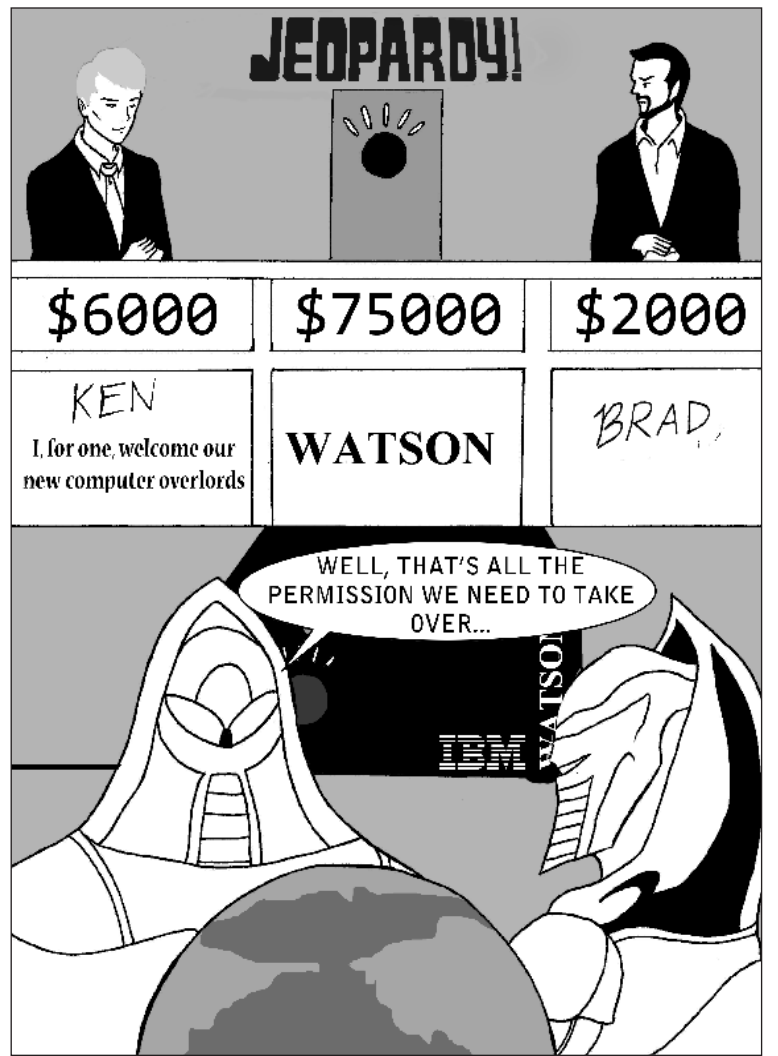
followed her blog.

It was also unprofessional for her to talk about her students behind their backs, something teachers themselves have taught us not to do. As a teacher, she is supposed to set an example for her students and be a role model. She didn’t have to convey her annoyances through such a public medium. If she felt she truly needed to vent, she should have done so through phone conversations or even private e-mails to trusted friends. There was really no need to tell the whole world that her students were “rude, disengaged, lazy whiners.”

I know students don’t care for some of their teachers’ standards, and teachers have problems with some of their students’ attitudes, but if these problems are never properly addressed, they will never be fixed.

Schools should create arrangements regarding student-teacher relationships where both parties can freely express themselves while being mature and civil. There needs to be opportunities in which students can tell teachers how to improve their teaching style and teachers can talk to students about their attitudes directly without anyone getting too defensive. The opportunities would help improve schools’ environment. Teacher workshops in which students can’t participate won’t cut it.

Munroe wrote her blog because she was frustrated with the way students acted and the way the education system worked. If student-teacher conference opportunities were provided at her school, chances are she would not have felt the need to complain on her blog, and this whole controversy never would have occurred.



COMIC/ Hugo Wong and Jason Wu

## FOR THE RECORD

News: In the News Brief, Breanna Redmond passed away on Friday, Feb. 4.



By Vicki Chang  
Editor-in-Chief

The first thing that caught my eye on the menu board at the nearby Subway restaurant was the calorie count written next to each item. I was delighted to find that I could now order my favorite \$5.49, six-inch sweet onion chicken teriyaki sandwich knowing that it only has seven grams of fat and 480 calories. I knew right away that this newly offered nutritional information would surely confirm or alter the course of my food choices.

Since January 1, all chain restaurants operating in California are required to provide the nutritional information for all standard items on all menus, menu boards, and on display tags used by the food facility in hopes of ending the great obesity epidemic. Teenagers should take advantage of this effort of informing consumers of what is healthy versus what is unhealthy if they wish to get one step closer toward fighting obesity.

Teenagers willingly eat the high calorie foods that fast food chains offer, thereby making obesity inevitable. The availability and convenience of fast food has created a nation of junk food addicts and overweight individuals. With drive-thrus at almost every corner, there is undoubtedly a connection between fast food choices and the obesity epidemic among American teens.

An average 17-year-old should have a daily intake of approximately 2000 calories and 60 to 70 grams of fat, so young teens should be more aware of the specific numbers and calculations when it comes to determining how many calories they should appropriately consume per day. I’m not saying that all teenagers should replace their favorite 1000 calorie McDonald’s Big Mac combo meal for a 100 to 300 calorie salad with low-fat dressing. I’m saying that they should cut down on their extreme calorie intake daily so that they can enjoy that satisfying Big Mac every once in a while.

Awareness is one of the most important factors in fighting obesity among teens in America. While the fast food industry does little to support a healthy diet, the blame cannot solely be placed on fast food chains, as each individual is responsible for his or her own choices and decisions. American teens should ask questions and require more information from food retailers.

# Sober up and show some respect for Saint Patrick



By Elliot Wu  
Business Manager

When it comes to St. Patrick’s day, most people think of corned beef and cabbage, shamrocks, people dressing up in green, and pinching. But some people also look forward to parties where a bunch of people get excessively drunk, resulting in many green painted faces shouting and throwing fists at each other. This is the part of this holiday that doesn’t make any sense to me.

First, listen to the name of the holiday. *Saint* Patrick’s Day. When I think of a religious person, the last thing I think of is copious amounts of alcohol. Perhaps the tradition involves a sacred type of alcohol, like the wine consumed during Mass. However, I know that brands like Heineken, Budweiser, and Corona also advertise and have blowout sales during the holiday, and these brands are not used in religious ceremonies. A patron saint probably wouldn’t be caught downing a cold beer, so why do so many Americans drink like alcohol will disappear?

The most popular Irish alcoholic drink is a dark stout beer called Guinness. Worldwide, people drink 13 million pints of this beer alone on St. Patrick’s Day, not including other alcoholic beverages on this day of overindulgence.

Hordes of drunk drivers coming home after knocking back jello shots are disasters waiting to happen. On St. Patrick’s Day 2009, 37 percent of motorists involved in fatal crashes had a blood alcohol content above .08 percent, the legal limit for California.

Not too much is known about the actual St. Patrick. He was the patron saint of Ireland, and historians hesitantly believe that he lived between 340 and 440 A.D. The reason the Irish first started to celebrate on March 17 is because that’s the day he died. Forgive me if the idea of people getting hammered on the anniversary of a holy man’s death strikes me as odd. The fact that people become inebriated beyond belief on the day of a saint’s death is insulting, especially when most people don’t even know what they’re celebrating.

Obviously, there must be a reason why a holiday was set aside for St. Patrick. Records show that there was a battle for his corpse, called The Battle for the Body of St. Patrick, so he must have been a vital spiritual leader. Legend states that he was credited for banishing snakes from the land; there’s some suggestion that snakes were the symbol of the Druids, a priestly class who opposed the rise of Christianity.

So what does this have to do with drinking? Nothing. I hate to be a buzzkill, but there aren’t any substantial reasons why people should get drunk on St. Patrick’s Day.

TEMPLE CITY HIGH SCHOOL  
**RAMPAGE**  
9501 E. Lemon Ave  
Temple City, CA 91780

Advisor  
Wendy Van Thiel

Editor-in-Chief  
Vicki Chang

News Editor  
Maggie Liu

Entertainment Editor  
Ashlee Nguyen

Opinion Editor  
Jessica Meza

Focus Editor  
Humphrey Lin

Feature Editor  
Jennifer Su

Sports Editor  
Raymond Tran

Photo Editor  
Jason Wu

Exchange Editor  
Benjamin Chan

Business Managers  
Cody Luk  
Elliot Wu

Staff Writers  
Kyle Evanko  
Taylor Evanko  
Chloe Lin  
Debra Ma  
Caroline Sun

Justin Ulley  
Bram Vargas  
Hugo Wong  
Jacqueline Wong

The articles expressed on the Opinion page express only the views of their respective writers. In the case of an unsigned editorial, the article reflects the views of the staff as a whole. Articles do not reflect the views of the student body or the administration. Letters to the Editor are welcome, but Rampage reserves the right to publish these at the discretion of the staff. They also may be edited in regard to space.

# Pull the plug on worthless news



By Caroline Sun  
Staff Writer

With major news stations focusing on pointless topics, it's hard to distinguish between what is reality and what is glam-coated fluff. Given the fact that most Americans rely on television and the Internet for news, it's no wonder that most viewers are bombarded with eye-catching articles that take attention away from real life news stories.

In the media, actual news and entertainment news are portrayed equivalently. Instead of paying attention to the future of the country and important situations that affect lives, students pay more attention to things like Charlie Sheen's outrageous rants on his webcast or reality TV shows like last night's episode of "Tool Academy."

On top of that, regular sites such as *yahoo.com* are falling into the deadly trap of giving celebrity fanatics their daily dose of gossip. Between an article on world news or the latest sports scandal, readers would typically read the latter.

Budget cuts are reducing the number of teachers and staff on campus and decreasing the amount of money given to schools, which affect students directly. Yet, many students don't pay attention to this fact because most entertainment sites create a sense of escapism from the terrible events of the world by promoting articles such as "10 Fast Ways to Get That Bikini Body."

Articles and news stories are simply wasted on unnecessary topics when they should cover world events such as the current status of the Japanese nuclear reactors or what nations are doing to help the Libyan people.

Another sad truth is that in about a week, the media will forget about the disaster in Japan and focus on which celebrity wore the same red carpet dress better. Unfortunately, this only proves that our society would rather pay attention to things that are not important.

We've heard enough about celebrity lives and fashion. It's time to open our eyes to the reality that surrounds us and the reality that affects us, because ultimately, a more informed society is a better society.



By Vicki Chang  
Editor-in-Chief

As I was flipping through the channels on the radio in hopes of finding a contemporary song that was worthy of listening to, I couldn't help but recognize Ryan Seacrest's annoying voice proclaiming the release of Kim Kardashian's new smash hit single, "Jam (Turn It Up)" as produced by renowned producer, The Dream. Well, this was bound to happen at some point.

Sure, Kim Kardashian is a super hot bombshell and star of her very own reality show, "Keeping Up With the Kardashians," and she has made *People* magazine's 2010 Most Beautiful Women list, but aside from that, exactly how is it that she has become so famous among young teenagers today? If we were to judge her on true talent rather than just looks, they would end up with zip, nothing, nada, and zero.

Throughout society, there are so many popular celebrities that really do not deserve the high and mighty praise and appreciation that they receive. Celebrities like Kim Kardashian and Paris Hilton, two spoiled rich girls living off of their fathers' legacies, are untalented individuals who serve as bad role models to teenagers. It is completely ridiculous that so many young children are wasting their time watching these insignificant "ce-

lebrities" TV shows and worshipping them as if they have the decency to be respected by young teens today.

Why is it that truly talented singers such as David Archuleta are unable to sign with a record deal while attention-seeking, overindulged, vocally enhanced individuals like Kim Kardashian are able to record music with skillful producers such as The Dream? Aside from the fact that she has no singing talent whatsoever, as evident in her already tweaked yet still monotonous voice in her new song, the woman was initially known for the release of her sex tape with another unworthy celebrity, Ray J, for crying out loud. Praised by countless teens for her new song, Kim Kardashian truly brings stars like Susan Boyle into a whole new light.

As ludicrous as society is, it may be hard for teenagers to value those who truly deserve to be well-respected for their talents as many teens are brainwashed into superficial views of what a highly admired and popular individual should be. It's such a shame that people with absolutely no talent such as Kim Kardashian are more recognized than those such as Nelson Mandela who actually make a difference in the world.



CARTOON/ Maggie Liu

# Every American should have freedom from undue hatred



By Chloe Lin  
Staff Writer

To my distaste, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of Fred Phelps and the Westboro Baptist Church in the case of *Snyder v. Phelps* on March 2, 2011.

Albert Snyder, the father of a Marine killed in Iraq, sued church-founder Fred Phelps and the Westboro Baptist Church, an independent extremist church notorious for their funeral picketing.

Members of the Westboro Church picketed the funeral of Snyder's son, Matthew, on March 10, 2006. They were on public land about 1,000 feet from the memorial service, and carried signs with messages such as "God Hates You," "Thank God for Dead Soldiers," and "You're Going to Hell."

The Westboro Church did not stop there, writing on their website that the Catholic Snyder family "raised [Snyder] for the devil." They continued to abuse the family after they put their son to rest.

The Snyder family filed a lawsuit on June 5 of that same year, claiming intentional infliction of emotional distress and defamation amongst others.

It is clear to everyone that the Westboro Church's actions are abhorrent. What is less clear is whether the First Amendment should protect such actions. Should the right to free speech include the right to stage hateful protests at funerals?

The Supreme Court thought so, with their 8-1 decision in favor of Phelps and his church. They stated that the First Amendment upholds the right to "even hurtful speech on public issues to ensure that" public debate is not held back.

The Westboro Baptist Church is not a

religious organization but a hate group. They believe that disasters or misfortunes of any kind are God's way of punishing America for tolerating gays, Jews, and Catholics. The word "hate" is prominent in their signs, as are "doom," "sin," and phrases like "Thank God for 9/11."

I do not believe there are any rational people who would speak well of the Westboro Church's actions. No one with any sense of decency should protest at the funeral of an innocent man, a Marine, no less who died for our country, let alone later insult the bereaved family for being Catholic.

I am by no means for limiting free speech or the First Amendment, but I think that the government should curb the Westboro Church's actions. This is not about freedom of speech; this is about freedom from undue hatred.

Several states have already taken steps

against protests like those of the Westboro Church. The states of Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, and Arizona have passed laws making funeral protests illegal. Under the 2006 Respect for America's Fallen Heroes Act, it is a crime to protest at U.S. national cemeteries. America needs laws to protect citizens from the attacks of the Westboro Church and other such organizations.

After all, that's what the First Amendment is all about: freedom. The freedom to put your child to rest without protesters holding hateful signs nearby is not explicitly stated in the Constitution, but it is a right that all Americans should have.

### FOR THE RECORD

**Entertainment:** In the article "A glance at national entertainment news" Lady Gaga won a Grammy for her album "The Fame Monster."

TEMPLE CITY HIGH SCHOOL  
**RAMPAGE**

9501 E. Lemon Ave  
Temple City, CA 91780

**Advisor**  
Wendy Van Thiel

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Vicki Chang

**News Editor**  
Maggie Liu

**Entertainment Editor**  
Ashlee Nguyen

**Opinion Editor**  
Jessica Meza

**Focus Editor**  
Humphrey Lin

**Feature Editor**  
Jennifer Su

**Sports Editor**  
Raymond Tran

**Photo Editor**  
Jason Wu

**Exchange Editor**  
Benjamin Chan

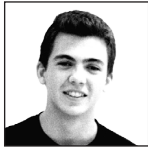
**Business Managers**  
Cody Luk  
Elliot Wu

**Staff Writers**  
Kyle Evanko  
Taylor Evanko  
Chloe Lin  
Debra Ma  
Caroline Sun

Justin Ulley  
Bram Vargas  
Hugo Wong  
Jacqueline Wong

The articles expressed on the Opinion page express only the views of their respective writers. In the case of an unsigned editorial, the article reflects the views of the staff as a whole. Articles do not reflect the views of the student body or the administration. Letters to the Editor are welcome, but Rampage reserves the right to publish these at the discretion of the staff. They also may be edited in regard to space.

# Pro/Con: American intervention in Libya



By Taylor Evanko  
Staff Writer

The United States currently finds itself in a very sticky situation diplomatically. After a decade of waging pointless wars and meddling in the domestic affairs of nations in the Middle East, a new conflict has erupted in Libya. What's different this time is that the people of Libya actually want our help, and we may have a good reason to act.

The problem with intervening is that most countries usually don't appreciate American intervention in places where we are not welcome, and doing so causes us to lose respect internationally.

However, ignoring a people's call for help, such as the request for action from the Libyans, can be just as damaging.

While we want to help the Libyans fight for democracy and their future, we don't want to be sucked into yet another quagmire. We want to respect Libya's national sovereignty, but we don't want the Libyan people to have a negative perception of the United States for not doing anything during their time of need.

The fact is that our military involvement in Libya is not uninvited interventionism or a violation of their national sovereignty; it's a form of respecting it.

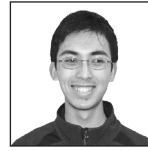
One common misconception of the conflict in Libya is that the situation is boiling down to a civil war. However, almost every Libyan citizen has proclaimed their support for the anti-Gaddafi revolution. Additionally, if there were so many people supporting Gaddafi, he wouldn't have to be hiring mercenaries from Niger and Chad to fight on his side.

Our hesitation has already put the U.S. in a bad spot. Even though the U.N. approved the no-fly zone leading to NATO executing airstrikes, we should have done it sooner and with greater force while the momentum was still on the side of the rebels.

Since then, our inaction has given Gaddafi and his forces time to regroup, and it appears the conflict has reached a stalemate despite continued NATO support.

Even if we did not send military units, there are many other helpful things we can do, such as restoring cell phone and internet communication between the rebels, supplying them with ammunition, training them for conflict, and putting an end to the propaganda-spreading state television and radio broadcasts. All of these things would be both relatively easy for us and incredibly helpful for the rebels.

I don't understand why we did not squash Gaddafi while he was vulnerable; we missed an opportunity to foster a democratic uprising at a minimal cost.



By Hugo Wong  
Staff Writer

In order to restore peace in any country that has faced civil war, countries like the United States should engage in more peace talks instead of resorting to military efforts. This move would soothe tensions without the use of military intervention.

War should always be the last resort because it is both expensive and dangerous. We have fought two wars in the Middle East and now NATO is considering dragging us into yet another war with Libya.

Right now, Colonel Muammar Gaddafi is waging a brutal civil war against the Libyan people by authorizing a massive shelling of rebel cities. The U.S., U.K., and France want to lead NATO into Libya based on humanitarian grounds.

Using NATO land forces to destroy Gaddafi might just destabilize the region, leaving tribes fighting each other for power instead of coming together to fight against Gaddafi and creating a new form of government. The U.N. or even NATO forces would have to stay in Libya for an indefinite amount of time in order to prevent a catastrophic tribal war; helping the rebels by establishing peace and democracy might end up being another one of America's failures.

Such a power vacuum is nothing new in American military intervention. Careless planning on our part caused Iraq's destabilization. After the U.S. hastily dissolved the Iraqi Republican Guards and the police, terrorist groups from all over the Middle East swarmed into Iraq to fight American troops instead of having Iraqi people coming together to create a new form of government. After the city of Baghdad fell, looters plundered businesses and hospitals but the U.S. did not stop the looting immediately. A war that our political leaders promised us would only last from one to two years has lasted for eight years, with no end date. Even though soldiers are leaving, Iraqi citizens still live in the shadows of war.

Besides, America is not without its own problems. We are \$14 trillion in debt and another intervention will cost American tax payers even more money. NATO expects the U.S. to take the blunt of the force like it always has. Enough is enough. American citizens are fed up with American involvement in foreign countries, especially with our budget deficit. A war will no doubt increase the national debt and will only become a burden for future generations.

NATO needs to find a way to fight a war with little help from the U.S. Then maybe we can force negotiation between NATO, Gaddafi, and the people to create lasting and stable peace in a divided country.

## Considering your needs to find the best college

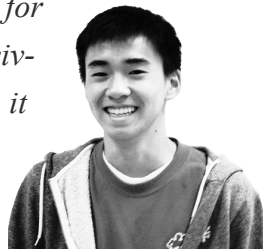
Compiled by Jennifer Su  
Feature Editor



*"I'm attending Macalester College because of the small class sizes and personal attention they offer, as well as their philosophy which seeks to give each and every student the best education possible."*

Senior Joyce Kim

*"I plan to attend the University of the Pacific for its renowned pre-dental program. I think receiving a degree from this school would make it easy to find a job in the dental field."*



Senior Alex Chwa



*"I prefer a school that is right for me—regardless of the fact that it is well known or not. Many people don't know Haverford College, but I know HC is a school I will come to love, so that's all that matters!"*

Senior Leslie Tjing

PHOTOS/ Jennifer Su

## VICKIPEDIA

The Walking Encyclopedia

By Vicki Chang  
Editor-in-Chief

At Little Village Academy, a charter elementary school in Chicago's West Side, students cannot bring their own packed lunch from home. Now, that's just absurd.

A charter school, like any other public school, receives public money and is not allowed to charge for tuition. Charter schools are attended by choice and have specific rules and regulations set forth in each school's charter to produce certain results.

Students at Little Village Academy, unless they have a legitimate medical excuse, must eat the school cafeteria food to protect them from unhealthy meal choices. For six years, Principal Elsa Carmona has been practicing this school lunch policy in hopes of encouraging students to make healthier choices and to make sure that these children are receiving adequate nutrition from their daily lunches. Not only is this particular policy unsuccessful and outright ridiculous, but it has also spurred much controversy and unrest among many parents.

First of all, unless they come to school with a note from the doctor, all students are required to eat cafeteria food or starve. A concerned parent from an article in the *Los Angeles Times* stated that her son, an extremely picky eater, would skip lunch and wait until after school to eat. Why force kids to eat something they don't like when it's better to eat something than nothing?

Not only is this lunch policy generally unsuccessful in combating the country's childhood obesity epidemic, but it has also proven to serve as a financial outrage among parents as a result of its forced cost considerations. For those who do not qualify for free or reduced lunch, every family must pay a whopping \$2.25 every day, costing more out of pocket for most parents who spend less while preparing their son or daughter's traditional sack lunch.

Many smaller food battles have erupted within countless school cafeterias across the country in hope of making lunches healthier to decrease the high percentage of America's obese students. For instance, Alabama's parents protested a school's rule that banned students from bringing any drink from home since ice water was provided at lunch. Such policies are ridiculous.

It is just utterly preposterous that the government has now begun to control what we eat. It is understandable that they are trying to counter obesity among our schools, but oftentimes healthy intentions can come across as senseless, arousing parent and student anger. The whole idea behind directing us students toward a healthier path is to change our eating, exercise, and lifestyle habits. Taking away our freedom to make our own decisions and force-feeding good nutrition is not a logical way of fighting the obesity epidemic. Rather, it is stripping us of our liberties and serving as a sad attempt to portray America as a nanny nation.

TEMPLE CITY HIGH SCHOOL  
RAMPAGE

9501 E. Lemon Ave  
Temple City, CA 91780

Advisor  
Wendy Van Thiel

Editor-in-Chief  
Vicki Chang

News Editor  
Maggie Liu

Entertainment Editor  
Ashlee Nguyen

Opinion Editor  
Jessica Meza

Focus Editor  
Humphrey Lin

Feature Editor  
Jennifer Su

Sports Editor  
Raymond Tran

Photo Editor  
Jason Wu

Exchange Editor  
Benjamin Chan

Business Managers  
Cody Luk  
Elliot Wu

Staff Writers  
Kyle Evanko  
Taylor Evanko  
Chloe Lin  
Debra Ma  
Caroline Sun

Justin Ulley  
Bram Vargas  
Hugo Wong  
Jacqueline Wong

*The articles expressed on the Opinion page express only the views of their respective writers. In the case of an unsigned editorial, the article reflects the views of the staff as a whole. Articles do not reflect the views of the student body or the administration. Letters to the Editor are welcome, but Rampage reserves the right to publish these at the discretion of the staff. They also may be edited in regard to space.*

# Reassess summer work



By **Chloe Lin**  
Staff Writer

Summer work may seem to be useless, awful work that deserves to forever be banned from school; however, upon closer inspection, one may find that it is not as awful or excruciating as it appears to be. Shocking, isn't it, a high school student defending summer work?

I had always, until now, detested summer work as a highly unwelcome intrusion into my well-deserved summer vacation. It seemed unfair that students work hard over the school year only to be loaded with homework over the summer. Once I began to look deeply into the issue, however, I began to see how summer homework could be reasonable.

First and foremost, summer homework is, for the most part, restricted to AP and Honors courses.

These courses are intended for students ready and willing to do advanced and college-level work during the school year. By signing up to take part in one of these classes, a student should expect to get a lot of summer homework. If students can't be bothered to do some summer work, then chances are that they won't be bothered to do work during the regular school year either, in which case there is no point in taking an advanced class.

Summer work is not without its purposes, either. Because our school year begins late in comparison to other high schools in the country, our AP classes need summer work in order to catch up with those of other schools. Summer work is also useful for establishing which students are ready for an advanced course and which ones are not, weeding out inept students.

A closer look at summer homework has convinced me that it's not an entirely evil thing. How-

ever, I feel strongly against assigning projects over winter and spring break.

Teachers use "breaks" such as those to give students more work, therefore negating the very idea of having breaks from school. There's nothing worse than when in the final days before spring or winter break, all your teachers decide to assign group projects or essays.

Family travel plans over the break increase the problem, which shatter any hopes for a relaxing or idyllic break. Unlike summer, which is long enough to accommodate school work, a lengthy respite from the stresses of the school year, and family vacations, there's really only room for either work or play during seasonal breaks. Too many students are forced to choose the former.

With a little consideration, one can easily see how summer work has its uses. You may want to keep that in mind this summer.

## Letter to the editor:

I know that there has been controversy after seeing the ASB Leadership 2011-2012 list and I'd like to commend President Dana Tran and Vice President Brian Chen on their selection of commissioners for next year. It was an extremely difficult decision to choose who would best fit each position, and they couldn't have chosen everyone. I have gained so much respect for them because they put the student body as their focus and not their personal relationships. Everyone at school should understand that ASB Leadership is not a group of elitists that are just in it for popularity. ASB Leadership is about helping the community, the school, and the student body. They chose people who they believed would best serve the student body. That is an admirable trait that Dana and Brian possess. Hats off to you two.

I'd also like to say to all those who didn't make it that it's not the end of the world. You will have greater opportunities in the future that you will be able to participate in. Just because you weren't accepted now, doesn't mean that you weren't qualified. It's that now isn't the right time or calling for you. Maybe you're stronger in academics, in athletics, it could be anything. So keep your head up because positive things will come your way.

Every year there is this controversy regarding ASB selections. Whether it's elected officers or selected commissioners, they were chosen for a reason. ASB is about helping everyone else at the school. They're not a group of people who just make posters. They set examples for the rest of us and should receive more credit. Cut Dana and Brian a bit of slack, they're juggling their lives along with ASB and doing the best that they can. They deserve better than that.

*Junior Kelsey Sih*



By **Vicki Chang**  
Editor-in-Chief

Scattered around the campus are countless *Rampage* newspapers, left abandoned in the back of classrooms, filling up every recycle bin, and many even taken by the breeze across the quad.

As current Editor-in-Chief of *Rampage* and a third year member on staff, it may be true that I am just a bit biased towards our publication. Okay, I'll be honest, I didn't even know that *Rampage* existed until I was recommended to try out. Even so, let me just say from much experience that each and every member on staff is definitely not getting the necessary acknowledgement and "props" he or she deserves. I bet the majority of student readers probably did not even flip to this page let alone read this column.

Little do students know, or even care, that staff writers take into careful consideration each and every article, spelling or grammar mistake, comma, and even period as it is extremely important to us that we create a publication that is presentable to the student body. On top of that, we pay a whopping \$500 to the publishing company each time a new issue comes out.

It really pains us that students are only making use of *Rampages* by cleaning up unwanted spills on the floor, using them as table covers in their ceramics class or for papier-mâché in

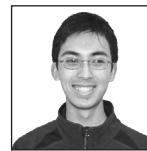
their art class.

It is our duty to put much effort into perfecting every single aspect of our award-winning newspaper. In other words, we essentially work to serve the students by providing them with information on the activities going around on campus as well as important city and world events that may impact students. Is it too much to ask that perhaps students should take a little time out of their English classes to read something that only benefits them in the long run?

As a student-run newspaper, we work hard to inform students in a way that keeps them both interested and up-to-date on current local, nationwide, and worldwide events. But why even have a school newspaper if no one in the school bothers to read it? There is absolutely no reason for *Rampage* members to put so much effort into perfecting every element of the newspaper and making sure to capture the students' attention if the majority of them don't even care.

The English Department should make it mandatory that all English teachers take five minutes of their class time just once every three weeks of publishing for students to read and acknowledge the information presented in the *Rampage* so as to become better, more informed individuals.

# Aid to Pakistan a necessary response



By **Hugo Wong**  
Staff Writer

The death of Osama Bin Laden, mastermind of 9/11 and America's most wanted man, raises a dilemma of whether sending aid to the country in which he was found is necessary for stabilizing the region.

On May 1, a team of Navy SEALs with two specially designed helicopters entered Bin Laden's compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan, and killed him during a 40-minute raid. Along with his body, the team confiscated computers and videos in his compound in search of more terrorist operatives. The U.S. buried Bin Laden at sea within 24 hours of his death.

Bin Laden's hiding place comes as an embarrassment for Pakistan and shows the deteriorating relations between Pakistan and the U.S. Bin Laden had hidden in plain sight in a military town while the Pakistani government claims they had no knowledge of his whereabouts.

The U.S. informed Pakistan about the covert operation only after the Navy SEALs left the country with Bin Laden's body. Many Americans question Pakistan's dedication to fighting terrorism and want our government to stop funding the Pakistani military.

However, I feel that continuing military aid to Pakistan is necessary in order to stabilize the region. Pakistan is the only Islamic country to openly and legally own nuclear weapons to counter the nuclear capability of its rival neighbor, India. If terrorists get their hands on nuclear weapons, they could use them against anyone, including the U.S. The last thing America needs is terrorists using nuclear weapons against us.

Not only do we need to invest in Pakistan's military, we also need to invest in the education and economic opportunities for the young population. The youth has little opportunity in Pakistan and may go to desperate means to find work. An example of this would be the recent uprisings in Egypt and Tunisia, in which the youth population deposed two leaders because of a lack of liberty and work. If U.S. businesses invest in Pakistan, it would give opportunities to Pakistanis so they could find decent jobs with enough money to provide for themselves in the future.

Although \$1.5 billion in aid for Pakistan seems expensive, this aid will prevent future wars and would be in the interest of national security.

## FOR THE RECORD

**News:** In the France Trip News Briefs, the Louvre was misspelled.

**Feature:** In the article "Freshmen Partake in A Night of Neglect," the episode was mistakenly called "Night of Neglect."

TEMPLE CITY HIGH SCHOOL  
**RAMPAGE**

9501 E. Lemon Ave  
Temple City, CA 91780

**Advisor**  
Wendy Van Thiel

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Vicki Chang

**News Editor**  
Maggie Liu

**Entertainment Editor**  
Ashlee Nguyen

**Opinion Editor**  
Jessica Meza

**Focus Editor**  
Humphrey Lin

**Feature Editor**  
Jennifer Su

**Sports Editor**  
Raymond Tran

**Photo Editor**  
Jason Wu

**Exchange Editor**  
Benjamin Chan

**Business Managers**  
Cody Luk  
Elliot Wu

**Staff Writers**  
Kyle Evanko  
Taylor Evanko  
Chloe Lin  
Debra Ma  
Caroline Sun

Justin Ulley  
Bram Vargas  
Hugo Wong  
Jacqueline Wong

*The articles expressed on the Opinion page express only the views of their respective writers. In the case of an unsigned editorial, the article reflects the views of the staff as a whole. Articles do not reflect the views of the student body or the administration. Letters to the Editor are welcome, but Rampage reserves the right to publish these at the discretion of the staff. They also may be edited in regard to space.*