



The Magnet Chronicles

Volume I, Issue IV

John C. Fremont Magnet High School

March 18, 2009

Students stand up by sitting down



Magnet junior Mariela Martínez pumps up students at Friday's protest.

OSSEIL OROZCO



Students fight against the district's decision to give pink slips.

OSSEIL OROZCO

By Erika Escobar

On Friday morning, the quad filled with hundreds of students protesting the potential firing of 41 Fremont teachers next fall due to budget cuts.

After first period ended, instead of walking to their second periods, students headed to the quad. Many wore the color pink to show their support for the effort to save the jobs of Fremont teachers, some of whom had received firing warnings on pink slips of paper.

A crowd grew in the quad, and students began to form a circle as they chanted, "No more pink slips!" and "Educate, don't terminate!"

Students marched around the quad before deciding to sit down. Trash bags were passed out to make it more comfortable for the students to sit down on the muddy grass.

The media congregated around the front entrance, unable to gain access to the

campus. In an effort to catch their attention, students rushed to the gates.

Once the media left, students regrouped in the quad. Administrators started telling students to go to class. While some decided to go to class, others yelled, "Hell no, we won't go."

The crowd grew hungry, lunch started early, and an hour break was given to students. During this break the school officers started walking around the quad telling the students to go to class. Many students ignored the officers' demands and continued sitting down.

Some students said they felt the administrators were not supporting the protest. "They were waiting for any little incident or mistake to try and make the protest look like a riot," said Magnet senior Jose Santiago. "They were not taking the protest seriously."

After lunch ended the number of students decreased noticeably. Those that still

continued to sit in started to form a smaller circle. The organizers, United Students for Teachers, asked those that stayed to write letters to Superintendent Cortines.

The United Students for Teachers organized the event through text messaging and MySpace. They said they were surprised with the number of students that participated. "I thought people were not going show," said Jaice Mendoza, a Magnet senior.

Organizers said that even though the protest was held at Fremont the message they were trying to convey was aimed at an outside audience as well. "This message was not necessarily for our administrators but our district people," said Mariela Martínez, a Magnet junior.

Staff said they were appreciative of the students' behavior. "They were responsible and respectful," said Assistant Principal Mr. Hernandez.

Others commented on the students' dedication.

"The organization was pretty impressive." Humanitas social studies teacher Mr. Hovland said on Friday. "I did not know about this until today. I have not seen the students here at Fremont do something like this."

EARTH social studies teacher Mr. Le said student unity was an important element in the protest. "They were able to unite as students for something they believed in," he said.

However, some administrators were not fully satisfied with the protest. Mr. Hernandez said he thought the protest lasted too long. "The point was made after two hours," he said.

Principal Higgins wore a pink shirt, but said he thought students should have stayed in class. "It seemed disorganized because there was no spokesperson for the group, but in principle I support them," Mr. Higgins said. "I think the loss of teachers or staff members in any school is devastating."

UC System Announces Admissions Policy Change

By Edgardo Mendoza

The UC system announced last month that its admission process will undergo major changes. At the moment, the top 12 percent of California high school students are admitted into the UC system and the top 4 percent of students at every high school are guaranteed a spot in the UC system as well.

Starting in Fall 2012, only the top 9 percent of California's seniors overall will be guaranteed admission into the UC system, but an extended 9 percent of each high school's top seniors will be guaranteed entrance. The SAT II Subject Test requirement will be dropped as well.

This seems like a great policy change from the point of view of some of Fremont's staff.

"It's a wonderful idea," said college counselor Ms. Martinez. "If they increase from 4 percent to 9 percent, it's a wonderful thing."

The new UC policy is meant to give students from weak academic schools equal tools to compete against students from stronger academic backgrounds.

"They would increase equal access for schools like Fremont. It would give more opportunities for students," said Ms. Martinez.

Some students said they appreciate the drop of the SAT II requirement because it would facilitate applicants' admission to the UC system.

"I think it would be a good idea because it would be easier to get in. The SAT and ACT are big parts of admissions and people don't do that well in it, at least not in the inner city," said Magnet senior Elizabeth Miranda.

Other students disagreed, saying that this policy change amounts to watering down the requirements.

"It would lower the standards," said Magnet junior Jaice Mendoza.

"You're lowering the requirements and I don't feel people would be persuaded to do as good," said senior Pablo Morales. "The competition will go down."

Some think that the competition would, instead, go up.

"Students who are coming from more affluent neighborhoods, it will be more competitive. They will need to get a better GPA," said Ms. Martinez.

But Ms. Martinez said she believes it's okay because wealthier students have the tools necessary to compete with others. "They have more resources and can go to other private institutions."

Some students said they don't feel the competition is fair for those students who will experience more difficulties entering the UC system.

"I think it's good for us in Fremont, but it's really not fair for the other people because they have more competition to get in," said Magnet freshman Xiomara Fonseca.

Bringing Traditional Back Fremont's on track for a schedule change

By Juan Aparicio

The construction of a new school in the South LA area will have a tremendous impact on the way the calendar runs here at Fremont, where staff are already discussing the switch from a year-round calendar to a traditional calendar in 2011.

Fremont first used the multi-track system in 1994, and continues to run on the year-round calendar today. We operate on this schedule because there are too many students and not enough classrooms. It is for this reason that there is no singular point in the school year where all three tracks are in session.

A traditional school year runs from September to June, and most closely resembles the A-track schedule. Because of this, prior to the first year of the traditional calendar, C-track students will enjoy an extended break.

The traditional calendar will be put into effect upon the completion of the new high school on Gage and Central. This is scheduled to take place in 2011 and construction officials have posted on laschools.org that construction is running on schedule. Therefore, sophomores and freshmen currently attending Fremont may be affected in their senior and junior years, respectively.

Magnet C-track sophomore Crystal Gutierrez said, "I would not like the change because it would be something that I am not used to, plus we get less big vacations."

Teachers are definitely going to be

influenced by the conversion to traditional because fewer students mean fewer teachers. However, this is not of great worry for Fremont teachers because of the number of job openings that will be made available at the new school.

There are several issues with the year-round calendar that directly affect students and would be fixed by the switch to a traditional calendar. An example is AP examinations.

"Advanced Placement testing is geared towards a traditional calendar... In order for teachers to attend AP workshops, we have to miss school and valuable class time," said Magnet history teacher Mr. Edwards. "All tracks are hurt in one way or another because of the nontraditional schedule."

Athletic schedules are also disrupted by the continuous changing of tracks in session. Several students are forced to attend classes, examinations, or athletic events during their vacations, but this will not have to happen once the school uses the traditional calendar in the future.

Athletic director Ms. McCabe said she believes it would make organization and team camaraderie a lot easier to maintain. The track system makes training schedules difficult to run because of the constant change in the students' academic schedules.

"You're working out with one group of kids for a few months, and then another group comes on track and now you have to train them too," she said. "It's a mess."

Opinion

Marked at Birth

By Wilmer De Los Santos

On Tuesday, February 10, new lunch tables were set up by the cafeteria. Set-up began during advisory, and the tables were ready to be used by the first lunch. The new set of tables made the cafeteria area look nicer. Also, students seemed to love and enjoy them.

Assistant Principal Mr. Spielberg might have brought these new tables to Fremont to beautify the school and provide a more comfortable mealtime. It's great having new aesthetic additions to the campus, but there is one problem: students don't take care of the things the school gets. Then, they complain that Fremont doesn't have what other schools have. The problem lies in the many taggers, gangsters, and students on campus who don't care for our learning environment.

As soon as the new tables were set up, students were tagging and leaving their trash on them.

On the first day that the new tables were set up, I was walking toward the main gates and as I passed by, I saw writing on them. On the second day, I saw people's nicknames, and their gangs and crews, tagged on them. Even though the tables already look bad, taggers continue to act stupidly by writing on the tables. But, what can we do?

I think we, the Fremont community, should unite and do something about the students messing up our learning environment. Every time we see someone tagging, we should report it as soon as possible, and let our school security, teachers, or police officers take care of it. They might suspend taggers or give them a warning regarding tagging on school property and in our community. This action could help prevent students from tagging on our new tables and around our school campus. So, let's work together and make an effort to make our school look better!



WILMER DE LOS SANTOS

The new tables still stand despite abuse.

Cyber-bullying: Blame the Victim?

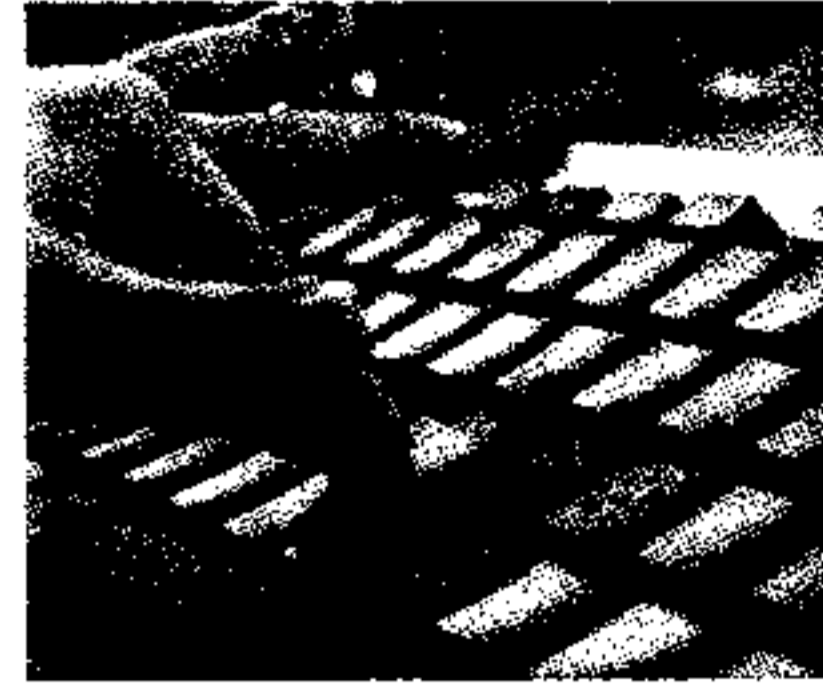
By Chantel Carter

MySpace. The source of teenagers' entertainment, the root of all evil. And I'm not even talking about sex offenders.

Sure, that's a raging problem in America—heck, it's a raging problem anywhere. But MySpace doesn't make our parents worry about just sexual offenders anymore. MySpace brings a lot more unwanted things nowadays, such as **N**o unwanted spyware and malware (viruses, for those of you that don't know), and, here's where it gets disturbing—suicide.

Cyber-bullying: the newest cowardly way of lowering someone's self esteem and making them feel like they're worthless. Bullying is nearly impossible to avoid, whether it's at school, on the streets, or even at home. But seriously, have we all grown so bored that we've resorted to putting someone down on the Internet? Wow. If that's not sad, then I don't know what is.

Many people have been subjected to cyber-bullying through MySpace, Facebook, email, and even random instant messages, among other things. I honestly want to know what the heck makes these people think that sitting in front of a computer and typing very mean and worthless words to another person, destroying their confidence one message at a time, is actually fun. The philosophy 'if you don't have anything nice to say, then don't say it at all,' doesn't even come into play here. Cyber-bullies are such cowards that instead of talking all of this unnecessary



slander to the person themselves, they sit behind a keyboard and insult this person. What kind of stupidity is that?

If you are a cyber bully, let me give you a bit of information. It doesn't make you cool, or make you look good. It's cowardly, stupid, and really just a waste of everyone's time.

By Edgardo Mendoza

YES With the development of websites such as MySpace and Facebook came the development of the equivalent of the schoolyard bully: the cyber bully. Now, like all bullies, they torment you, criticize your appearance, call you stupid and other nasty little names, and at some point, you have enough and let them have it. This could range from a good beat-down to public humiliation, which is my personal favorite and can still include a good

THE DANGERS OF DRUGS

Flying High, Falling Hard

By Marilyn Monroy

As a former pothead, I can say that even though the effects of marijuana are not close to the effects of alcohol, marijuana still has a detrimental effect on your life.

Marijuana, better known as weed, pot, or grass, is a drug that is abused by adults and teenagers. It is made from a hemp plant called *Cannabis Sativa*. The main active chemical in this is delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol, better known as THC; THC is the chemical that produces "the high."

The eight months during which I consumed marijuana, I tried just about every variety, from stress to chronic to bubble Kush. During those months, I experienced hunger, sleepiness, and laziness, but always a sensation of calmness. I never wanted to do anything but watch TV and hang out with my friends. I used to say, "I only use it to make me focus on school work," but I was really only using it to forget. I started to notice that it never helped me focus, it just got me stuck

on a certain object.

I used to believe what everyone used to say— that it didn't harm you in anyway. But one day I was researching the effects of marijuana. According to NIDA.org, short-term side effects include hunger, sleepiness, slow reflexes, and bloodshot eyes, while long term effects damage your lungs and brain.

Like every other drug, marijuana causes you to become addicted, but unlike noz or other drugs, it causes your brain cells to slow down, rather than die. When THC enters your body, it goes into your bloodstream, which makes its way to your brain, altering your sense of emotion, pleasure and social behavior. This drug also induces dependency, causing inability to sleep or trouble thinking if you don't take a puff of the herb. Many people also view marijuana as a gateway to trying other drugs.

I became moody; I never knew that that's what it was doing to me. Everyone around me noticed though, even my mom. I always talked back, never paid attention, stopped helping around the house and started

pounding if it's a classic schoolyard bully.

The physical violence is the real problem for victims of bullying. This happens when emotional abuse escalates and victims don't defend themselves. Guess what, though—the cyber bully can't physically hurt you because they're on the other side of the screen. So after emotional abuse, what can they do? Nothing! These bullies are the best bullies because you can really just walk away. Not like real-life bullies who can follow you.

Yet, every so often you hear about some teenager's entire life being affected because they were cyber bullied. My thought toward this news is, *WOW! Life must treat you so badly!* Seriously, because if you can't handle a cyber bully, you are allowing yourself to become a victim.

Just look to the animal world. Ask yourself who the bullies are. They're the alpha males and females. You might think this is not relevant because animals don't have the same brain capacity as humans, but that is exactly why it is relevant. They possess the purest form of behaviors for survival: bullying happens to be one of them. That means bullying is perfectly natural, it's a skill that we need for everyday.

Now what's not natural is letting bullying affect your life. Never have I seen a monkey jump off the highest tree because he was chased away from the best watering hole when his attacker very loudly wailed and howled at him. No! What does Monkey do? Monkey either fights back or finds another watering hole.

to let myself drift away from my family.

Marijuana also affects your lungs. The amount of tar inhaled and the carbon monoxide absorbed are three to five times greater than among tobacco smokers. Over time, this drug can lead to abnormal functioning of the lung tissues injured or destroyed by marijuana smoke.

Marijuana only lasts about one to three hours, depending on the amount consumed. Even though it produces a good "high," it can cause damage that can't be repaired.

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Alcohol: Chemical Elixir of Death

By Erick Reina

Alcohol is an intoxicating drug that can drastically alter a person's life. Not only does it have a negative effect on you physically, but also emotionally. Alcohol can have short term or long term effects. For example, one day you think everything is all right, but as time progresses all the alcohol that you have consumed can lead to a higher chance of developing high blood pressure and heart disease or even damage to the brain, nerves, and liver.

Then why do people still do it? It's like signing your own death warrant; heck, even marijuana is way safer than drinking, not that I'm implying that you should go out and smoke. First of all, marijuana is far less addictive than alcohol, and you

can't overdose on it. Alcohol, on the other hand, causes hundreds of alcohol poisoning deaths each year, according to saferchoice.org. Instead of alcohol relaxing you and calming you down like marijuana does, it can contribute to aggressive behavior and acts of violence, whereas marijuana use reduces the likelihood of violent behavior.

Consuming alcohol does help you experience an overall improvement in mood, where you may become more self confident, outgoing, and social, or in some cases even friendlier than you normally tend to be. It's like getting that one extra push you need to raise your self-esteem so you can have the courage and motivation needed to finally go up to that girl and talk to her.

Even though you may think this is beneficial, everything comes with a price.

Your attention span begins to shorten, and your judgment is impaired, so that you are more likely to say or do the first thought or action that comes into your head, rather than give a more appropriate comment.

If you think this is bad, wait 'til you see what happens when you begin to drink even more. At times you may become sleepy, or may have trouble understanding or remembering things, even recent things that have barely happened. It also makes it harder for you to react to a situation. Your body movements are uncoordinated, you lose balance easily, and confusion begins to take over until you become uncertain about your surroundings.

So whenever you're in school or at work and see that one of your friends or teachers is not there, stop and think to

yourself, "Why aren't they here?" Maybe they were in a drunk-driving accident or they may be suffering from a symptom called a "hangover." Because in reality, alcohol doesn't only impact you for one day, it can distract you from your daily life and even lead to death. After consuming enough alcohol, you begin to breathe slower, your heart rate begins to drop, and if you're lucky, you won't die of alcohol poisoning.

So next time you feel the urge to drink, think twice, because that may be the last time you will ever take a sip of that chemical elixir. Sure, it's tempting to see that icy cold beer lying across the table, eyeing you back, so cold and refreshing, just waiting right there to be picked up and drunk by you, but you just have to learn to say no to your urges and turn the other way.

News, continued

The Carter Era

By Erick Reina

Ms. Carter, the new Magnet counselor, was born and raised in L.A. Ms. Carter graduated from University High School in 1987. As a first generation college student, she says she enjoyed her college years but had a lot of questions about college that her high school counselors weren't able to assist her with.

"I felt I didn't get the help needed in high school to go to college," said Ms. Carter.

Ms. Carter was inspired to become a counselor by the lack of help from her



Ms. Carter in the Magnet office. ANGEL LOPEZ

guidance counselor. She says she is here to help students move to the next level by encouraging them to go to college and helping them take advantage of resources to help them go to college. She hopes to increase the number of students who go to a four-year university by helping students boost their SAT scores and pass the CAHSEE.

Mr. Edwards, a Magnet teacher,

described Ms. Carter as "a very energetic person who is doing a great job in helping out students and teachers by coming out with new ways to improve the Magnet community."

"Hopefully she stays a while and doesn't leave," he added.

Just recently, Ms. Carter was asked to take on the temporary position of former assistant principal Ms. Gavin in addition to her role as counselor. She is assuming some of Ms. Gavin's responsibilities until they hire someone permanently for the job.

"Being an assistant principal has changed my schedule because now I am really busy," said Ms. Carter. "But I will still try to find a way to dedicate half of my time towards helping out students and the other half towards being an assistant principal."

Ms. Carter said being new to the school, she feels welcomed when the students respect her and are receptive towards her. "I really do like the students and staff," Ms. Carter said. "They are very respectful."

Students said they liked Ms. Carter, too.

"I think Ms. Carter is doing a great job, and from what I've heard from students they also seemed to think she's doing a great job," said Luiz Munoz, a Magnet senior.

Patricia Arriaga, a Magnet senior, agreed. "I think Ms. Carter is doing a great job," she said. "Ms. Washington had too much going on. We needed someone focused on us, and thanks to her my class schedule was well organized."

Fremont's Heart Is Found

By Erika Escobar

When Fremont got a heart, we got students who not only handle conflicts between students, but also prevent fights from occurring on school grounds.

Principal Higgins founded Fremont's Heart Program two and a half years ago. The Heart Program has been in the district since the '92 riots. It was created in order to help keep schools safe from the fights occurring in the community.

The Heart Program "prevents problems in the community from coming inside the school," said Mr. Cisneros, a social worker at Fremont.

The students in the Heart Program are involved in many activities that prepare them to be able to resolve conflicts between students.

These students have participated in a retreat at Colby's Ranch and gone on a fieldtrip to Mount St. Mary's College. "It helps us with mediations at school," said Clifton Henry, a Pathways senior.

"We try to expose them to different venues where they can find a way to better themselves and in the long run help others," said Mr. Cisneros.

The program is composed of selected students from all tracks, SLCs, grades, genders, and ethnic backgrounds. In the past, these students were chosen by an administrator, teacher, or counselor who thought the Heart Program was right for them. This year the program hopes to make a change and take into consideration some of

the students that the Heart Program members recommend as well.

Clifton said that he was recommended for the Heart Program because of his involvement in extracurricular activities. "I was an athlete and could be a great example," said Clifton, who was recommended to the Heart Program by his football coach.

Students said they feel they can make a difference in the program. "I have a chance to show other students that fighting is not the only way to resolve problems," said Yvette Penny, an AOTT senior.

The skills these students learn not only help them resolve problems in school, but outside of school as well. "I can talk to my nieces and nephews now and help them resolve their problems," said Pathways senior Steven Hall.

Mentors in the Heart Program say the students help them when it comes to dealing with conflicts between students. "I think students would rather listen to students than us," said Mr. Hernandez, an assistant principal and a mentor in the Heart Program.

There are times, though, when conflicts between students get out of hand and the Heart members need help. "One of the young ladies was really defiant and Mr. Hernandez had to get involved," said Yvette.

The Heart Program has helped resolve a lot of conflicts between students without much acknowledgement, said Mr. Hernandez. "It takes a lot for a person to be able to mediate," he said.

Opinion, continued

AP Classes: Take Them

By Gabby Avila

Some students are wondering if AP classes are worth the time needed to complete the assignments. AP classes make your mind work a lot, but it's all worth it because of the rigorous experience; they do help for college.

"AP classes are good because they give you an insight into college classes," said Magnet junior Josefina Lizardi.

High school students usually think that most classes are easy compared to AP courses. Even though they may be difficult, AP classes help because they show how much work there is going to be in college and how people are not going to be nagging us as if we were little kids.

The assignments are not like the ones we get in grade school. AP classes are much harder because we have to turn in big assignments either weekly or daily. The teachers grade harder and leave students with more individual responsibility, with less teacher involvement but more student involvement with the assignments. This helps students become more responsible for their work.

For some students taking AP classes can be stressful. However, they still consider it a good idea to take them.

"AP classes are a great opportunity, although they may be difficult or stressing," says Magnet 10th grader Luis Contreras. Even if the classes are stressful, they show how one has to take responsibility for doing the work and not wait until the last minute.

At the end of the school year, AP students may go to the AP retreat to prepare for the tests. "I think the test is going to be hard and the AP retreat sound good," said Magnet 11th grader Joseph Perez. Students who pass the AP exams earn college credits.

Challenge yourself by taking an AP class next year. Despite the workload, they are worth it since they help you in college.

Gauntlet Causes Mayhem

By Luis Pacheco

The Magnet School continues with the advisory gauntlet. Challenges have been signed and approved left and right, and harsh attempts to sink the opposition's morale have resulted in innocent students getting egged and participating teachers getting pummeled with paper balls.

Actions escalated without challenges actually being announced. For instance, Mr. Vaca's brutal attack on Mr. Hsieh's advisory resulted in many being egged and some even losing their pride.

However, that was not the only illegal act conceived by Mr. Vaca's advisory. Weeks later, young Emanuelle Lopez was to

experience a pride threatening attack. He was caught off guard while going to the magnet office after being falsely summonsed. "I was egged," said Emanuelle as he bolted into Mr. Edwards' advisory, covered in powder.

"I thought they were fun at first but they are getting out of hand," said Ms. Washington, magnet coordinator, about the advisory attacks. Ms. Washington said she was quite intrigued by the school spirit that the advisory wars initiated, but after she saw more and more havoc wreaked, she became wary about whether anything academic was being done in advisory.

Some teachers agreed. Ms. Pilon said one of her ninth grade students cried when the ball smashed into her face

during an advisory challenge. She said the advisory wars were disorganized and sometimes vicious. "I hate them," she said.

After hearing teachers complaining, Ms. Washington announced that if actions continue without approval by leadership, there will be point deductions for the advisory(s) that participate. And if that is not enough, Ms. Washington also said she is considering detention.

Since Ms. Washington put her foot down against unethical advisory attacks, all advisories must fill out a challenge form before taking any action. Considering that hardly any advisory wants to experience a point deduction, many have looked to challenge legally.

Points have been accumulating for some advisories, while others have been losing them. One challenge that recently took place is the tug-of-war between Mr. Hsieh's and Mr. Edwards' advisories, which attracted a huge crowd of C-track students in the quad. Mr. Edwards' advisory out-muscled the opposition after finding themselves on the brink of defeat. Mr. Hsieh's advisory protested the loss and accused Mr. Edwards' advisory of cheating. Unfortunately for them, leadership declared Mr. Edwards' advisory victorious.

At the end of the semester, the victorious advisory will be awarded a gigantic paper-mache Einstein.

"It's pretty funny because we are only doing all of this for a paper thingy," said Magnet senior Walter Galindo. "But then again, it gives us bragging rights."

Other students felt deceived, and said they thought the prize was insignificant compared to the labor required for the advisory wars. "They used me," said Magnet freshman Oswaldo Mojarro.



Mr. Edwards and Mr. Hsieh's students attack Mr. Vaca's advisory.

OSSEL OROZCO

G A U N T L E T P O I N T S	Mr. Hsieh-215
	Mr. Footlick-195
	Ms. Greene-105
	Ms. McDonald-85
	Ms. Pilon-80
	Ms. Ng-65
	Mr. Edwards-60
	Mr. Diaz-35
	Mr. Lopez-35
	Mr. Aldrich-30
	Ms. Davis-20
	Ms. McCabe-15
	Mr. Vaca-15
	Results as of
Monday	

ENTERTAINMENT

Go Berserk

By Edgardo Mendoza

If you're looking for an anime that contains themes of love, friendship, and pursuing dreams, accompanied by blood-splattering, bone-crushing action, *Berserk* is for you!

This medieval, European-inspired manga-turned-anime follows the life of Guts, a boy born from a corpse, and therefore stigmatized as a bringer of bad luck. Despite growing up in a band of mercenaries, where you would expect a certain level of camaraderie, Guts is victimized because of his young age.

He leaves the mercenary band after killing one of their members in self-defense. Guts then lives his life traveling the countryside, killing for personal gain, which transforms him into an anti-social killing machine. He is soon forced to join the mercenary group, Band of the Hawk, where he makes his first real friends.

This happens around the third episode, at which point it starts to get interesting. That's when friendships are tested and both the best and worst of humanity are demonstrated. The anime also suggests that one dream can touch so many people and improve so many lives, but can also be like a storm that destroys everything in its path.

The animation in this anime is not the best because it was made around 1997. The techniques and technology for better quality animation were not yet available. But don't worry, the storyline is not in any way affected by the animation. You will still be mortified and depressed in all the right places, and you will be happy about it because that's just how great *Berserk* is.

But be warned- this anime is not for the faint of heart. *Berserk* is extremely graphic. This anime is a must-watch even though it is full of nudity, sexual violence, and downright hardcore blood and gore.

Lights, Camera, Action!

By Rigo Arzate

"My favorite thing to do in filmmaking is when you get to make your own video," said La Toya Fix, a C-track sophomore. Filmmaking students consider it to be a fun class because of all of the activities.

"We learn more about camera operations, editing, learning how to write scripts and learn how to do movie treatments," said filmmaking teacher Mr. Bryant.

Right now in filmmaking, students are learning how to do commercials. They sometimes go outside and produce plays or, if not, then they make music videos. Last semester, students went outside and learned how to work the camera, just like Mr. Bryant's class is doing right now.

Many people wonder how the camera works, but filmmaking students actually get hands-on experience with them. "It gives me a real-life experience with cameras and it's something I want to do in the future," said Magnet senior, Walter Galindo.

Mr. Bryant said that students like the class because they get the chance to be creative. "It is the fact that you can do something out of nothing," he said.

If you are interested in filmmaking go to room 220A and talk to Mr. Bryant.

The writer took Filmmaking during the course of the last school year.

A Splash of Pink in a Gray World

By Luis Arteaga

Recently, Fremont's been going through some tough times. There has been news about killing off coffee cake, teachers debating whether to go on strike, and lack of funds for nice things like field trips and desks that aren't tagged on by "Shorty Lokz" or "F13."

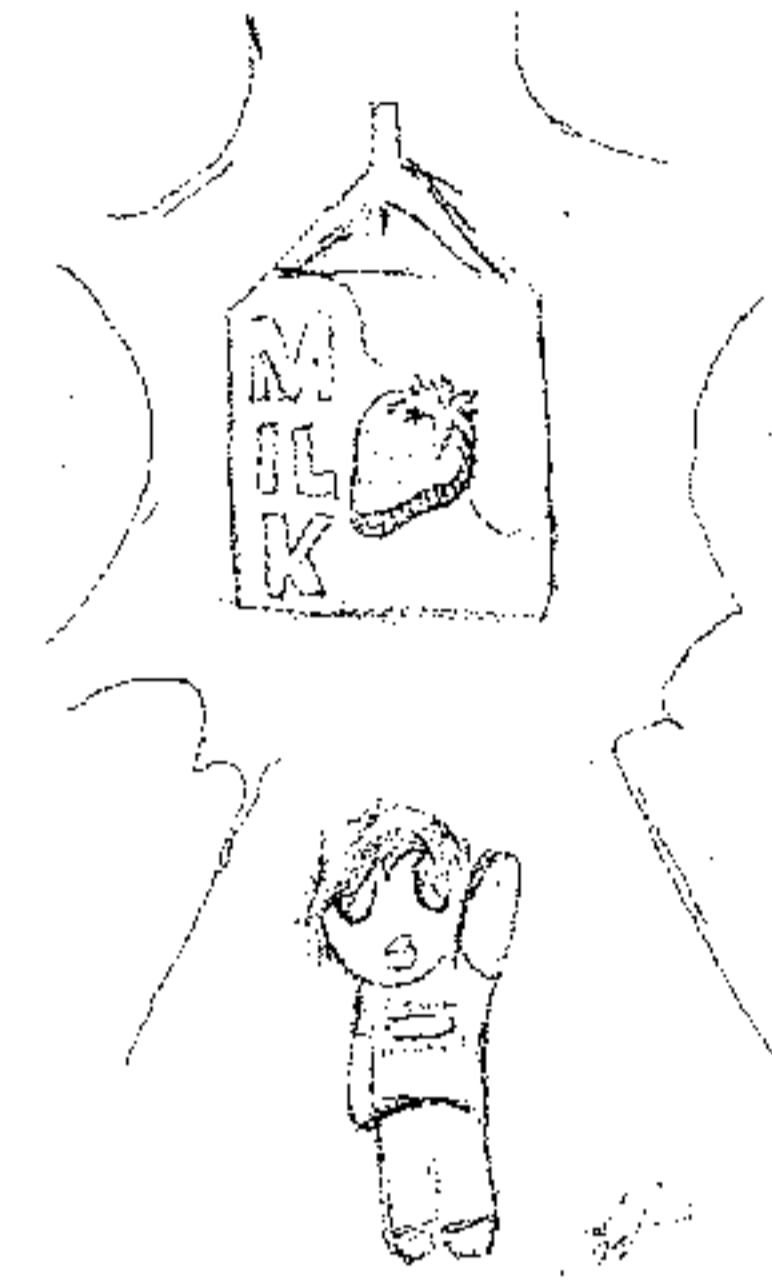
But in these dark times, a bright pink light has emerged from the shadows. A light that blinds the darkness and redeems humans for the terrible things they do. "Driftwood Strawberry Splash, artificial strawberry flavored, 1% milkfat, lowfat milk, vitamin A and D." My god, that sounds delicious! Fremont's always been on the borderline of "worth keeping around" and "let's make a meal out of it instead." But with this new shade of pink slapped on its lunch line, Fremont's academic success rate undoubtedly will rise exponentially.

When my eyes first acknowledged its fair color, it was like my vision was rearranged, trying its hardest to register this anomaly. And when I saw it in the hands of another, I experienced true jealousy. I went through two agonizing days, craving that which was lost by the time I arrived at the lunch line.

But then, a voice spoke to me, and it said, "Dude, they give it in the morning in breakfast." As if lifted by angels, with church bells and all, I found hope where there was pain; love where there was hate. Reformed a

new man, I carried on with my day, the taste of strawberries inches from my lips.

When the morrow came, I exchanged my breakfast voucher for that sweet nectar my ears heard compliments of days before. Does its fair color match



WALTER GALINDO

its tender touch? That question I leave to those young philosophers. The excitement of this new sensation was not soon after extinguished. My dairy-hating niece, who I thank but feel sorry for, offered me her 4% fat, 96% ecstasy Driftwood Strawberry Splash. Now in my hands, I held two cartons of unadulterated goodness. There has never been a pair that looked as good as those did, no pair.

You would think I consumed my dairy product at once, but that was not so. I needed a seat; I could not trust the kick back of the flavor. I feared it too great. When I arrived at Mr. Vaca's class, bearing the two containers, the "ooooohs" and the "ahhhhs" from my good friends made me the belle of the ball. I proceeded to break the seal which contained the sweet nectar. At first, there was nothing. But it was the calm before the storm, because after that nothing came a reawakening of the senses. Truth be told, it was a day when soul met body.

The rest of the day is blurred by this memory, I expected no less. But what I tasted that day, I tell you all, it is not something that lasts. Such a creation of purity cannot exist in our world of sin. So I advise you all here and now, present day, today- cherish what you have, and cherish it well, because when it's gone, all you're left with is memories. For some those memories may be enough, but me, I am different. When the shadows drive away the light, I will travel far, to El Monte, California, zip code 91731, and request, with head held high and shoulders set strong, "Give me a Strawberry Splash, please."

GOT BRANDS?

By Sandra Robleda and Dalia Montes

Fashion has always been a concern for most teenagers, especially in school, where other's opinions are extremely important. The way you dress is the way people see and judge you.

Teenagers have different styles they use to express themselves. The style teenagers create can build on character and confidence, but in some teens, too much confidence is built.

"Style is important to me because I like attention, I make people turn around," said B-track

junior, Jose Cardoso. Cardoso insists he only dresses in the latest fashions.

Fashion is constantly changing. Back in 2004, fashion was different for teens; guys would stick to saggy jeans and big shirts, mainly two dark colors. Now guys have a variety of colors to pick from, with more jeweled designs on their clothes.

You're walking during lunch and



MIGUEL PEREZ Male students at Fremont are also wearing the latest fashions.

you see guys wearing gray tight pants with purple glittered shirts and you ask yourself, "What happened to the guys who just wore simple baggy jeans and black shirts?"

It's obvious they haven't disappeared, but there are just fewer guys who dress simply.

Trends for girls have also changed. Today, girls match even their hair color with their clothes! For girls, there is always a desire for perfection.

"I want to look the best," said C-track sophomore Maria Rosales. "I am not perfect but I am the closest to perfect there is."

A-track junior Channell Jones said she believes the more expensive, the better. "I care about brands, to the extreme because they are better quality and they just look cute."

On the other hand, for many seniors, fashion is the last thing on their mind. "A nice piece of clothing is nice no matter what the brand it is," said B-track senior Nidya Monteon.

Some female students say it's all about the brands.



JESICA HERCULES

Inspiration, Life Lesson, or Just Anime

By Angel Lopez

Anime. A world created from the hands of genius pencil craftsmen, to either inspire viewers or send a message of understanding about the world we live in. In other occasions, anime is created to do what all other cartoons are made for, to entertain.

For me, as an anime viewer, some anime leaves me teary eyed, others get me believing that the world is an equation, just waiting for me to figure it out. It's amazing how one can understand and relate to these stories of triumph or sorrow, and see how a single move can influence various courses of events.

Anime. Creations inspired by worldly situations to send messages of cruelty or civility, creations that only send messages, not things that we should or shouldn't do, but rather advice that helps us to be cautious in this enigmatic world we live in. These examples of thinking outside the box have, I think, helped me to get more of a grip on how people work and how to get them to work for me.

I usually watch it because I have nothing else to do, but this is just me. Many others watch it as a part of their daily routine; however, if you're like me, then the next time you're at home and thinking that you have nothing to do or are just feeling blue, turn on your PC or Mac and YouTube some anime.



MICHELLE LOPEZ

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