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## Upcoming Events

**December 16**  
Finals 1,3,5

**December 17**  
Finals 2,4,6  
Boys B-ball Game  
Marshall @ LAHS

**December 20**  
Boys Soccer Game  
Marshall @ LAHS

**December 21**  
Minimum Day  
12:34 Dismissal  
A-Trk Last Day

**Dec. 22-Jan. 2**  
Winter Recess

**January 3**  
B and C-Track  
Spring Semester  
Begins

# Band and Color Guard Win 15th City Championship

**By Gualberto Castro**  
BLUE AND WHITE STAFF WRITER

Many students don't know that their school Band and Color Guard has been city champions for 14 years in a row. They also don't know that band takes a lot of hard work and dedication, or how fun it is to be in it. Now The Los Angeles High School Band and Color Guard has done it again. They have won the city championship for the 15th consecutive year. Now that their season is over, they are sharing their experiences.

"I feel really happy," said Rosalinda Gomez, 11A, color guard captain. "Not only did we deserve it, but I say we earned it. It took a lot of time, and people really put dedication into it. Now we know that everything was worth it. I feel happy now that our banner is back." Gomez was out of words.

"It feels so good winning the banner back," said Joel Prado, 12A. "We worked too hard for



Band and Color Guard Drum Majors and Captains come forward to receive the banner and their first place trophy: Left to right: Captain Luis Gallardo, Drum Major Wilber Ibarra, Color Guard Captain Rosalinda Gomez, Asst. Drum Major Michael Pena.

Continued on page 4

## ACE Program Reminder

**Who:** A-Track ACE Program participants

**When:** Jan 11-13

**Where:** The corner of Olympic and Rimpau

**Time:** 8:45 a.m.

**Remember to turn your permission slips in to Room 502 or Mr. Vitale.**

# Blood Drive Continues to Succeed

**By Doris Quintanilla**  
BLUE AND WHITE EDITOR

L.A. High hosted another successful blood drive on November 30, where 230 students and faculty members signed up for the important event.

C-Track Leadership advisor Ms. Altin noted, "This is something big. There was a time when getting 60 people donating blood was a huge milestone for us. Now we have about 200 people signing up for it."

A-Track Public Relations officer Delia Rios, 12A, added, "L.A. High is one of the top schools in donating blood. This time it was hard because it was a shortened day. But I think we did pretty good."

Rios, along with other Leadership students, attended a Red Cross Luncheon back in September, where L.A. High was awarded the "Teresa Del Rio Award" for being the most improved school in blood donations.

It seems like now more than ever, people are realizing that it's important to donate blood.

"When my mom gave birth to my younger sister, she needed blood, so they gave her some.

Without it, she would have died," said Stephanie Rodriguez, 12A. "That's why I wanted to donate blood, but the nurses said I couldn't."

To be eligible to donate blood, one must be 17 years of age or older and must meet the requirements. Being low on iron and having done such activities like leaving the country, or getting a tattoo in the past year, prohibit potential donors from donating blood.

One student that was eligible to donate blood was Mina Park, 12A. "I heard that you can save 3 lives by donating blood, and so I wanted to do that," she said. "I tried to donate blood two times before this blood drive, but they didn't let me until now."

The event was packed as students 17 and older were in the gym going through the process of answering questions and giving blood samples to see whether or not they would be able to give blood. There were even some faculty members, and some of the security that were willing to donate blood.

And although many claimed to have a fear of needles, students were willing to overcome that fear just to have the satisfaction of doing the right thing.

"Yeah it hurt, but it was worth it," said Sandra Bonilla, 12B. "Some people were donating blood just to get out of class or something, but saving three lives is much more important."

For whatever reason it may be that students and people in general are now, more than ever, willing to

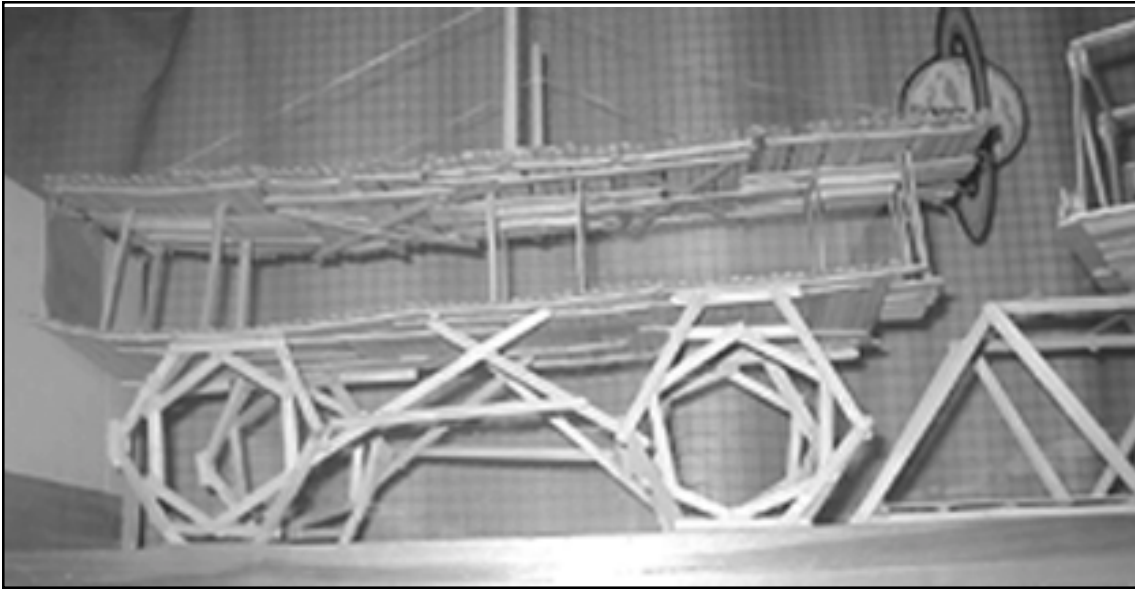
give blood. This increase is clearly a good thing and expectations for the next blood drive are high.

If you have any questions about donating blood, or are interested in doing so, please contact the Red Cross.



About 230 students and faculty participated in the Blood Drive, which took place on November 30. Just recently L.A. High received the "Teresa Del Rio Award" for being the most improved school in blood donations.

## School News



Bridges like these, built using basic materials, like popcicle sticks, were then tested to see how much weight they could withstand before collapsing.

# Physics Students Build Bridges In Class Contest, Then Break Them

By Joshua Velasquez

BLUE AND WHITE STAFF WRITER

During the previous break, Mr. Levine, a B-Track physics teacher, had his Period 3 physics students build bridges in a bridge building/design contest. It was a test of knowledge and creativity. Building a bridge and setting up support, while at the same time designing it to your liking is difficult.

This off-track assignment consisted of either groups or partners of students working together. Eddy Monterroso, 10B, and Diana Navarrete, 10B, his partner, built their bridge in just two days. "We were to construct a bridge and try to make things perfect...everything had to be a certain way...and then in the end, we're going to test them to see which bridge is the stron-

gest," said Diana Navarrete.

"Yeah...it took us two days," they said. It took dedication and teamwork.

The experience for the most part was fun, but also "confusing and hard," Navarrete adds, because contests are meant to be fun, but hard and confusing at the same time. Your smarts and creativeness kicks in and the building becomes moderately simple.

"What we got out of doing this concept of bridge building is how to make a bridge and use our brain...haha..." joked Monterroso and Navarrete. I'm sure these two got plenty out of this assignment. But that's not up to me to judge. It's up to Mr. Levine to judge and the judging he shall do.

"Almost all the bridges were

sufficient," said Mr. Levine. "All were good and actually the winner was the bridge with the wrong width...but that's ok because it held the most weight; 10kg. The winner got candy bars, and so did everyone else of course."

"The purpose of this was to design a bridge, calculate the forces (stress), build the bridge and subject them to the destructive testing," said Mr. Levine.

The students had to put their bridges between two desks, just like our bridges today. Then they had to put weights and they kept on going until the bridge caved. The weights were pretty heavy, but having to stand the mass must have meant these students knew what they were doing and did it right.

# Students Party at Shakey's Night

By Bryan Gonzalez

BLUE AND WHITE NEWS EDITOR

The Dec. 2 Shakey's Night was a success. Senior Council who sponsored Shakey's Night made \$450.00 in total. For all of you people that don't know what Shakey's Night is, well here's a quick recap. Shakey's Night is a night where you go to have fun and hang out with friends.

People began to arrive at 5:00 p.m. when it was scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m. At 6:30 p.m. there were no tables left. Everyone was just trying to settle in and steal chairs from other tables up to 8:30 p.m. That's when the date auctioning began.

"I thought it was loud and interesting," said Airam Beltran, 12A, when the auctioning began. At first people didn't know what to do because none of them had ever experienced something like that. Something like that had

never been done at L.A High, and most people didn't bid that much money on people for a couple of reasons said Claudia Arias 12A. First, they were broke. Second, they didn't like anyone who was being auctioned off. And third, they had no idea what was going on.

The whole purpose of the date auctioning was for a person who was getting "sold" to go up to the mini stage, and have people in the audience give money to go on a date with him or her. Whoever gave the most money for the date automatically won, and had to pay the money they were offering. Sounds like something fun and exciting. So next time you hear about a Shakey's Night, make sure you save up money and attend. There's always fun, food, and games for you to entertain yourself if your friends or partners just aren't enough.



Students enjoy the greasy pizza in support of Senior Council.

# 60 Students Taking Trip to Disney Hall

By Sharmin Mamun

BLUE AND WHITE STAFF WRITER

Mr. Glynn, a history teacher on A-Track, will take 60 students from L.A. High on a tour to Walt Disney Concert Hall in Downtown, Los Angeles on Jan. 27.

Mr. Baron, a B-Track history teacher, Mr. Carey, the magnet coordinator, Ms. Londres, an A-Track P.E. teacher, and Ms. Ley, an A-Track history teacher, will accompany Mr. Glynn and the students.

Most students who will attend are on A-Track and have Ms. Ley or Mr. Glynn for their history classes. There was not any requirement to join the trip and the students did not have to do anything special, but to sign their name.

Students will take a school bus for transportation from L.A. High. They will leave at 8:30 in the morning and come back at about 1:00 in the afternoon.

A ticket to the Concert Hall typically costs about \$80. But this trip is free for the students because the Los Angeles Philharmonic Kent

Kresa Symphonies school program is paying for 2000 public school students to attend.

Mr. Glynn said that he went to a teacher workshop for teaching music in high school last year and he filled out the application for L.A. Philharmonic Kent Kresa Symphonies. They selected the teachers by random drawing. L.A. High students are lucky that Mr. Glynn was selected and they are able to go to the trip.



Mr. Glynn, an A-Track history teacher, is making it possible for L.A. High students to visit the luxurious Disney Concert Hall.

This trip gives an opportunity to the students from 3rd-12th grade to explore music and outreach interests in music.

In Mr. Glynn's opinion, the trip gives students a chance to visit the Disney Hall which they might otherwise have to wait for a long time to see and to understand that "music doesn't come out of a box."

They will see a classical piano concert written by Robert Schumann, a 19th century German Romantic composer. He dedicated this music to his wife, Clara, who was a piano player.

Schumann wanted to be a piano performer, but he broke his finger when he was practicing piano because he stretched his fingers too far. From that day on Clara took his position as a piano player and he became the composer. Together they reached Schumann's dream of becoming a famous piano performer. Schumann dedicated this music to show how much he loves her and how grateful he is to her.

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## School News

# Do Cops Give Students Respect?

**By: Hector Alvarez**  
BLUE AND WHITE STAFF WRITER

A lot of people feel that they don't get the respect they deserve from cops. Most of them say that the cops never do their jobs.

Student Jackie Chavez, 10A, says cops stop you for any reason. "I think some cops are doing their jobs but others are just messing up the system".

She says that cops instead of helping people, would rather beat up on them. She says if she could change something about police officer she would change the way they treat you and the way they stop you for suspicious activities.

Alexis Hernandez, 11A, says that cops sometimes get the wrong people. He says that they are never their when you need them, and when you don't need them they

are always their being nosy.

He says that sometimes cops don't even pay attention to what



**Some students feel they don't get respect from cops.**

their doing "I'm tired of seeing gangsters killing people and I'm tired of seeing taggers tag on walls Why don't they catch those people?" If he could change something about the police he would change the way they treat you like you are guilty.

L.A. High school police officer D. East says that he only stops kids for a legal purpose. He says that he may stop a kid for truancy or excessive absences. He also says, "in any profession you're going to have a good apple or someone who is following the rules."

He says if he could change something he would change himself to be a better police officer and have everybody who works for him also be a better officer, treating everyone with respect.



**Even though graffiti is thought mostly as illegal it can also be legal and artistic. Like this one is an artistic graffiti piece of my name "Nelson."**

# Pepper Spray Banned on School Campuses

**By Deniece Galvez**  
BLUE AND WHITE STAFF WRITER

Pepper spray is not a safe thing to carry with you during school hours. In any case, if a student would carry pepper spray and the school security or administrator would find it on him/her or in his/her backpack, the student would be sent down to the Deans Office. The dean would have to send that student down to the school police and the school police would decide if the student would be suspended from school or not.

The possibilities of suspension are high. Mr. Watson, an A track dean, said, "we could only suspend the student with the pepper spray, but this is really a school police problem."

If the student would have a permit from the LAPD (Los Angeles Police Department) to carry a pepper spray for his or her protection, then it would be fine.

L.A. High and other schools do

not allow any students to carry pepper spray with them during school hours because they believe that if the students carry a pepper spray they might misuse it. There are some students that do not know how to control their anger. The student with the pepper spray would go around spraying every one and could also cause a disaster by leaving someone blind. They could also misuse it spraying it on anyone that messes with them for any reason like calling them names or giving bad looks. Then the student with the pepper spray would spray that person and get into trouble with the police.

A couple of students that were interviewed, boys and girls, agree that a girl should carry pepper spray during school hours because there are girls that are harassed by guys. But they don't really need the pepper spray. They could always go to the dean and complain. The

students that were interviewed also agree that they shouldn't be allowed to carry pepper spray because it's also not safe for them.



**The cartoon demonstrates the effect of pepper spray in a comical way.**

# High Costs Are A Major Effect of Tagging

**By Nelson Blanco**  
BLUE AND WHITE STAFF WRITER

Everywhere we turn it's there. Anywhere we walk it's there, and it is destroying our public and private property. Tagging is the act of writing vandalism on community or someone's property. Taggers motivation comes from trying to gain recognition or fame for a crew or someone's nickname.

Their acts of vandalism can add up to thousand of dollars in restoration costs. "Graffiti makes any place look bad. It is illegal, and it ruins people's property. It is territorial or it is gang related," said School Police Officer D. East. A lot of writing around the place makes the area look dangerous and unsafe. So community members are taking care of their area by removing any graffiti that is around.

After cleaning some places up, taggers will come back around the place and tag again. The LAPD is putting out undercover cops around frequently tagged areas to

catch any taggers. Even the public buses already have undercover cops called the "ghost team," who will crack down on bus taggers.

Storeowners are putting cameras outside their stores to watch out for people who write on their stores. Storeowners even pay legal graffiti artists to put a mural on their store or business wall. The mural lessons the chance of vandalism to their wall.

Punishment for any "illegal artist" can vary. It can vary from what they tagged on or how big their writing is and what they use for the tagging. "It's good that if the taggers are caught that they could get probation or a ticket. That will teach them a lesson to learn not to be hitting up anywhere," Patricia Chicas, 10A.

Some act of vandalism can be a felony. Others can be a misdemeanor. Tagging on any religious or holy property like a church or a temple is dealt with as a felony. Writing on poles, benches, or on the floor is dealt with as a misdemeanor.

# Students Voice Opinions on School Safety

**By Kimberly Borrayo**  
WHITE AND BLUE STAFF WRITER

Most students wonder how safe we are in school. Students have different opinions. Some opinions are that we are safe and others are that we are not safe, because of a lot of gang activity and a lot of fighting.

Sandy Marroquin, 11A, thinks that we are safe in school because there are security, teachers, and deans. And with them we are safe because they know how to control all of the students. "Because the school is our second home," Marroquin said. If school is our second home then we are supposed to be safe. Right?

Bryant Garay, 12A, said that he is "not safe in school," because he sees a lot of fighting and sometimes he sees students use other things to protect each other. The school needs more security that works and is not flirting around with the girls Garay said. We need more cops. We can't make the school safer unless the school hires more security.

To Roman Espinoza, 11B, "it's not a big deal." He feels we are safe and in a way we are not safe. He just wants to be safe. It's the school duty to keep the students safe.

Christin Alvarado, 12A, feels we are not safe because we don't have enough security, especially in

the back by the tennis courts where there are always fights. The security or the deans don't even know about them. "We could be safe if the district would give more money to the school, and with that money the principal could hire more security and pay them more," Alvarado said. With more security the school could be safer.

Andrew Rivera, 12A, thinks that we are "OK. Nothing bad is going on right now." He trusts a lot of people, but the only thing is that we need more security and school police, Rivera said.

Mr. Watson thinks that L.A High control students. "L.A High is pretty safe," Mr. Watson said. Deans don't have to deal with a lot of bad students.



**Not all students at L.A. High feel safe in school.**

## School News

### BAND Continued from page 1

something of this importance. Now I know that I could graduate a champion."

"Band is very exciting, especially when you perform what you think is the perfect show," says Eric Molina, 11A, who plays the trumpet. "My first two years in band I started as a manager for the band," (managers help get the field ready so the band can perform, but they don't perform for the band). "This is my first year performing with the band," said Molina. "I got to know that other people have the same talent as you do and enjoy it

as much as you do. I like the point that the band has to work together in order to get a good show. When I was a manager I waited for my time to perform with the band. The only thing I hate about the band is when students play around too much and we can't fix anything when they are playing around."

"This band has showed a lot of heart this year and on Saturday at ELAC (East Los Angeles College) we played with it," said Rigoberto Amaya, 12A. "Everyone in this band knew the show by memory and all we had to do was to sell it, which is what we did. In the end

hard work does pay off," said Amaya with joy and tears. "It feels so good being champions again!"

"Saturday, for me was a very exciting day," said Tony Figueroa, 10A. "We worked hard and because of our hard work we were able to get our banner back. That banner is very special for all of us band and Color Guard members. It proves that we really did our best." Not only did they win 1st place, but they also got the highest score of the day.

Congratulations to our Band and Color Guard. Now lets see if they can go for their 16th consecutive championship.



The band and color guard performed at East L.A. City College in the City Championships this past weekend.

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# Teacher Motivation Goes Down Hill

By Jasmina Aragon and James Kim

BLUE AND WHITE STAFF WRITERS

Many of LA High's teachers are lacking motivational skills that can make the classroom experience more engaging, and bring up student performance. Under-prepared students and a lack of support from administrators make it hard for teachers to motivate students.

CA educational standards are "very excellent guidelines of how we can achieve what we should be realizing with our students. [The standards] should be more motivating, not less motivating," said Mr. Edwards, A-Track English teacher. Like many other teachers and students, Mr. Edwards believes that the administrators have not taken the initiative to read the CA educational standards individually for each subject area.

Teachers should revisit their reasons for becoming teachers and continue training in areas that will improve their skills and help them relate to students. Some recommendations from faculty include conferencing with fellow teachers and students to discuss methods,

which work most efficiently in encouraging our students to complete their assignments.

"Teachers should teach more instead of giving frivolous homework," said Patricia De La Torre, 12A. In our opinion, we believe that teachers spend entirely too little time teaching, and too little time helping individual students.

Sometimes it is not the teacher's neglect that causes the lack of motivation in students. One must take the time and think about all the under prepared students who attend L.A. High. During our sit-in on Mr. Edwards' 9th grade English class, we witnessed spectacles that many teachers endure on a daily basis. We witnessed students talking over each other and the teacher. Some students could not even mention one of the basic mechanics used in writing essays when asked by Mr. Edwards. It took Mr. Edwards almost the whole period just to get the students to understand and start their work, something that should have taken no longer than 10 minutes. Sad...

Many teachers find it hard to

teach students who aren't prepared to take the work load for each grade, and they spend more time on re-teaching the basics students should have learned. This causes many of our teachers to burn out and lose hope in students, which in turn leads to little or no motivation.

Some believe that students' lack of interest in their own education is the real culprit behind this lack of motivation and poor performance. Many educators here spend a large part of their time and energy just trying to get students to sit down and listen.

Teachers need to realize that even though many students seem to not care about their education, there are some students out there who do. For these few students, teachers should be more motivating to help every student strive for more. We think that if our teachers lose their hopes in the students, then students' morals will diminish. This will cause many of our students to lose their hopes in their academic life. Many students need to be encouraged on a daily basis for them to be able to succeed.

# Teachers Express Various Opinions About Tardy Sweeps

By Eyerin Cabrales

BLUE AND WHITE STAFF

In the morning when students hear the P.A. they think tardy sweeps and then suddenly you see a stampede of students running to their classes in the halls. Teachers can't wait to close their doors on irresponsible students arriving late to their classes. Have you ever wondered what teachers think about tardy sweeps and what their purpose really is?

A few teachers see that tardy sweeps force students to run and be on time to their classes. Mr. Llanes, an A-Track woodshop teacher said, "It's good to have tardy sweeps in schools because they force the students to come to class on time and become more responsible of themselves." Llanes also thinks that being responsible will help students for when they get a job in the future. For example if you come late to your job, then you'll get fired and they'll hire someone who's responsible enough to make it on time. "Last time I was late to work because I partied the night before I got fired," said Geraldine Cabrera, 10B, with a sad expression on her face. She also says, "I regret it now." Also, teachers think that students will think twice before they decide to take their time to walk to class.

Other teachers have opposing opinions on tardy sweeps. Some think that the consequences imposed on students who come late don't really work and/or are not really severe enough to make students be on time. "When the consequences are clear, the students will be on time. When the consequences are ridiculous, it doesn't really work," said Mrs. Keipp an A-

Track teacher.

Other teachers think that tardy sweeps don't help students arrive on time to their classes. The teachers that think that tardy sweeps don't help at all are the ones that think about the students that want to study and the ones that don't want to study. For example, a student that wants to study will manage his time. He will come on time to school because he wants to learn and is interested in his work. He will give it 110% each day he goes to class. As for the other student that arrives late and doesn't want to study, wastes time from the ones that want to study, disrupts the class, and nothing is accomplished by the tardy sweep, "they're usually the failing students who disrupt the lesson," said Mr. Lee, an A-Track Math teacher.

Tardy sweeps keep going due to the lack of students arriving on time to their classes. Every time a student is caught in a tardy sweep his/her name will be written down for the next time he/she is caught. Every student knows that a record

is kept in the office. Everything you do is there. When teachers decide to go to the office they have the right to see your record, such as your grades and attendance. Arriving late to your classes makes the teachers wonder why you are late and what type of person you are, which certainly they will see in your school record.

Tardy sweeps do affect your record, especially to the seniors that are graduating this year (Class of 2005). Being late shows your teachers you are not responsible and it also affects your record as a freshman, sophomore and junior. An example is when you get to your senior year and you need your letters of recommendation. The letters ask about your attendance and trust me, it will look bad. Teacher's perspectives/opinions about tardy sweeps are valuable. It gives us a chance to review what's right and what's wrong. Unfortunately some teens go for the easy way in life. Keeping tardy sweeps makes teachers debate each day what's right for student's, but as for now, "Students don't be late!"

# Help Is Available for The CAHSEE

Dear Editor,

The purpose of this letter is to respond to the comments and views expressed in the CAHSEE article published last month. While it's understandable that the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) leaves students and staff frustrated, its purpose as it relates to Los Angeles High School's instructional performance and our students' academic achievement needs to be examined closely. By examining our performance outcomes, we can continue targeting our instructional interventions in a manner that enables all students to leave Los Angeles High School with a diploma in hand.

In addition to being a graduation requirement, the CAHSEE aims not only to ensure that graduating students demonstrate competency in state academic standards, but it also strives to improve student achievement. Prior to January of 2000, high school proficiency requirements generally fell below a high school level. As a result, the CAHSEE is one of the factors used to determine Los Angeles High School's state Academic Performance Index (API) and federal Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) scores. Both the API and AYP scores are used to measure Los Angeles High School's progress in educating our students.

Currently, the CAHSEE evaluates students' academic achievement using the state standards for 10th grade Math and English. A passing score of 350 indicates that students mastered 55% of the Math section and 60% of the English Language Arts section. These percentages are the equivalent to a failing grade in most Math classes and a low D in many English classes.

According to the Los Angeles High School Testing Coordinator, Lorrie Freedman, over 1200 10th grade students took the CAHSEE last year. Of those, 50% (approximately 600 students) did not reach a passing score of 350 in one or both sections. A 10th grader not passing one or both sections last year will be one of the many 11th graders re-testing this year. Students have five additional opportunities to re-test and pass before completing their senior year.

Contrary to the view presented in your article, Los Angeles High School offers students multiple opportunities to prepare for the CAHSEE through the Extended Learning Academy (ELA) Saturday School program. The ELA runs

three Saturday School sessions throughout the year. Saturday School meets for nine Saturdays from 8:00 AM to 11:40 AM. Three levels of Math and English classes are available and students are placed in classes based on their current needs and academic performance. Students receive 2.5 elective credits for their participation.

Almost 1000 students have participated in the Extended Learning Academy since last year. Those students who have taken the CAHSEE after enrolling in the ELA preparation course report that the classes have "really helped" and result in students stating they "did better" than before. Score comparisons of students having taken the CAHSEE once and failed also indicate these students' scores improve with the added instruction provided through the Extended Learning Academy.

The ELA Saturday School program is open to all grades and all tracks. Applications are available in the Magnet and Counseling Offices. Questions can be directed to Mr. Flores, the ELA Administrator, or Ms. Johnson, the Student Intervention Specialist. Additionally, students were notified by the LAHS Testing Coordinator that individual CAHSEE study guides are available for pick-up in her office, Room 255. Twenty more copies are available for check-out in the school library. Students can also enroll in after-school CAHSEE preparation classes through the SEEK-LA Drop-In Center in Harrison Hall. Credits are not available for students participating in this program.

In a culture where student achievement is the currency of success, it is imperative that our students leave high school with the tools they need to reach their personal, professional, and educational goals. The consequences of leaving Los Angeles High School with a "certificate of completion" rather than a high school diploma are unknown at this time. What we do know is that the class of 2006 will be the first to test these uncharted waters. It would be tragic if large numbers of our 12th grade students were prevented access to higher education or not hired for a job because they couldn't read, write, or compute at a 10th grade level.

Sincerely,

Ruth Johnson, MSW

## Blue and White Staff

The *Blue and White* newspaper is published by the Journalism Class at: Los Angeles High School, 4650 West Olympic Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90019

Views and opinions are solely those of the author and are not to be considered the opinions of the *Blue & White: The Roman Scroll*. MMIII (2003)

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