

BLUE

AND



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Volume 130 Number 1

Los Angeles High School
4650 West Olympic Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90019

October 19, 2004

Homecoming Week Schedule

Tue. Oct 19
Pajama Day
Twin Crazy Hair Day

Wed. Oct. 20
Pep Rally

Thu. Oct. 21
Extended Lunch
Powder-Puff Game

Fri. Oct. 22
Musical Performances
Homecoming Game

Sat. Oct. 23
Homecoming Dance
@ 7 p.m.
Harrison Hall

New Co-Principal Ready to Make Changes

By Doris Quintanilla
BLUE AND WHITE STAFF EDITOR

As the school year begins, L.A. High has a new co-principal, Roberto Antonio Martinez, known as Mr. Martinez to most of us, a hard working individual who is determined to improve L.A. High and make a difference.

When being interviewed, the new co-principal showed enthusiasm and clearly was happy to be here, even though he admits that people have been sending him "their condolences."

"Everybody judges L.A. High. They don't know whether to be happy for me, or to feel sorry for me," Mr. Martinez said. "But I love this school and I'm getting to know a lot of the students."

Being among students and where the "relajo" is, is what Mr. Martinez enjoys; relajo being action, and movement. "I can't stand to be in an office and stare at a clock and desk all day," he said. He realized this after working in a



The newest Roman on campus, Co-Principal Mr. Martinez, brings a fresh attitude to L.A. High.

District E office for some time. He has also worked as an assistant principal at Virgil Middle School for 4 years, and also at Franklin High School for 3 years. After this, he decided to come to L.A. High with several ideas and improvements in mind.

Mr. Martinez is working on our getting a grant from the Bill Gates Foundation, worth \$2 million, that

will allow students to be placed in much smaller schools within L.A. High to provide a better education.

This goal of his probably comes from the fact that he attended a Catholic high school with a small learning community. When asked to describe his high school experience, Mr. Martinez said, "It was just great." The school was pretty much "close knit," meaning that

the students knew the teachers and each other very well.

In the meantime, though, raising school spirit at L.A. High is one of Mr. Martinez's main priorities. But in order to raise school spirit, he believes that you have to raise individual spirit first. He wants students to feel proud of being part of this school and, moreover, proud of who they are and where they come from.

"I have never seen a school with as little school spirit as this one," Mr. Martinez said. One of his goals, actually, more like a "dream" of his, is for the bleachers to be packed with cheering Romans during every football game. This is part of his plan to change the culture here at L.A. High. According to Mr. Martinez, the attitude that many students have of "I don't need to be in class on time," and "I don't care," has to go in order for people to stop viewing this school as a bad one. As soon as there is more faith in the academic programs here and more students are going to universities,

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Seniors, Got Money?

By Lydia Gomez
BLUE AND WHITE STAFF EDITOR

How much money do you have in your pocket right now? Hopefully it's more than what your mom gave you this morning because with this year's prices, you're bound to go broke.

Senior year is the year that counts, the one that will never be forgotten. Whether it ends with regrets or fond memories, it's the time to enjoy the rewards. The question is can you afford it?

Pictures, yearbooks, dances and rings are all part of the senior expenses that will make you want to do chores just for some extra bucks.

Early in the year, seniors should begin planning ways to save their money or in some cases, get money. Jobs are a must, but with excess homework and after school activities, who has the time? Many students attend after school classes and others are involved in sports, but with the need for cash anything is possible.

The first fee that is paid is for the senior pictures. There is a choice of three packets. The first is a standard senior pose for the yearbook, which is \$35. That means that you pay \$35 to sit on a chair and have your picture taken, only

The Deluxe packet includes the yearbook picture and a variety of headshots with props. This packet costs \$55. The Royal packet is \$65, which includes the above plus full body poses.

After receiving the proofs or samples of your pictures taken, there's an additional purchasing fee. This means you get to choose the most appealing poses and pay more money in order to receive them.

According to Mr. Craft, senior adviser and graduation ceremony coordinator, the costs for this

Senior Expenses	
The Basics	
Class Ring	\$216
Yearbook	\$75
Cap and Gown	\$85
Activities	
Senior Picnic	\$65
Grad Night	\$65 - \$75
Prom	\$65
Prom Accessories	
Dress	~\$200
Tux	\$100-\$120 + extras
Senior Portraits Sitting Fees	
Yearbook	\$35
Deluxe	\$55
Royal	\$65
	+ purchasing fee



year's expenses are the same as last year. Some items such as caps and gowns have retained their prices, which is good because paying more than \$85 for a rental seems ridiculous, even if you do get to keep the cap. Of the \$85 given for the cap and gown, \$30 will be put into the ceremonial decorations, such as flower arrangements, chairs, and a podium. Also the yearbook will be going for \$75 this year.

"It might be our peek of high school, but it's too much money...it makes you not want to graduate," said Erika Bindel, 12A, who is struggling to save money in order to afford such luxuries.

Putting aside senior picnic, grad night, and prom, a senior will spend an average of \$350 on the basic things such as yearbook, senior fees, cap and gown, and a class ring, although, the class ring can have different prices according to the style that is picked.

The standard ring, provided by Herff Jones, is \$216. Keep in mind that with this price the styles and designs on the rings are limited, but getting the class ring through Herff Jones allows a senior to participate in the ring ceremony.

Senior picnic, which is held every year at Magic Mountain, will cost about \$55 to \$65. Grad night at Disneyland is \$65, but take some extra 20's if you plan to eat

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Spirit Friday Events Boosting School Pride

By Jameson Mariano
BLUE AND WHITE STAFF EDITOR

Pie Throwing contests, a Tug-of-war, a Luau, music DJ's, and people dancing to the beat, are a part of Spirit Friday. Most of the students seem to enjoy these events.

Larry Thomas, 12A, said, "It's a good way for our school to express being unique." Students like Frank Duran, 11C, seem to enjoy the games and the contests. When asked about the games he said, "I think it's alright. It's a chance to do something different."

Spirit Friday has been an "on and off" tradition at L.A. High. Throughout the years, L.A.H.S. has not always had Spirit Friday. In the past they have had plays and cultural promotions. According to Ms. Pensamiento, a B-Track counselor and 1992 Alumni, there were no Spirit Fridays when she attended. Instead, they held Dance Contests, a Speech contest, and had assemblies for Cinco de Mayo that allowed most students to skip periods 2-5. She was a member of the Leadership class and helped organize most of the events. She loved the activities and enjoyed L.A.H.S. She said, "I felt that L.A. High was for

people who didn't quite fit anywhere else."

Although the Class of 1992 had no Spirit Friday, Mr. Moy, a 1985 Alumni, remembers having it. He said that school pride was at an all time low so Spirit Friday came in and was greeted by our school band, football team, and cheerleaders. The Leadership class decided to have night time carnivals once a semester and the Roman Slogan "We care" came out. The Leadership class at this time stepped out of the shadows to boost the moral of the students. Slowly but surely, Roman Pride rose among students.

Ms. Altin, the Leadership sponsor said, "The purpose [of Spirit Friday] is to try to raise school spirit." This is something particularly needed right now. When Ms. Pensamiento was still in L.A. High she said, "I would never miss a Homecoming, but now I have to think about it." Our school pride is at an all time low and Leadership class is once again working to restore it.

It's hard to say when exactly Spirit Friday started in our school. What we do know is that our pride has dwindled over the years, and classes like the Leadership Class that are going to put it back.

School News

Minimum Days Will Continue to Occur Frequently

By Diana Padilla

BLUE AND WHITE STAFF WRITER

This new school year at Los Angeles High School has produced many changes, one of the most obvious being the many minimum and shortened days. There have already been two minimum days in September alone. The key reason for having these types of days is because the faculty is going through development meetings. They discuss many different aspects of the students' education, and they give input on how to better the education of the students.

I had the pleasure of speaking to one of our assistant principals, Ms. Wilmington, about these frequent minimum days. She informed me of several issues that many students aren't aware of. For example, the decision to have minimum days is not agreed upon by the faculty, but by the Leadership Council. The district allows nine minimum days for each track. The school is using these days in order to discuss accreditation, said Ms. Wilmington. Accreditation is when a group of educators from different districts come to see whether the program here at Los

Angeles High School is valid enough for a student to earn a certified high school diploma.

Minimum and shortened days are for the faculty to improve the way things are run at this school. They want to better the program for the students. Minimum days have been known to lessen the attendance at Los Angeles High School, but news to those who don't know: minimum days aren't holidays. These are official school days put into the schedule.

After students leave, teachers spend one, two or more hours of their precious time working on new ways to improve education for the students at this school. The least students can do is show up on these days.

With this in mind we can expect the education to get better here at Los Angeles High School. Why else would we need to have so many short days? "Everything is intended to improve student achievement," Ms. Wilmington emphasized. So as long as students put in their part and come on days with short schedules many things will start to change for the better for both students and teachers.



Mr. Whitfield, one of our Assistant Principals, working hard to make our school safe.

Running Low on School Security Aides

By Paloma Carrero

BLUE AND WHITE WRITER

Students, teachers, and parents continuously complain about the lack of security at school due to the bad security guards working here at L.A. High. But they really aren't the ones to blame.

First off, they shouldn't be called security guards. The appropriate term is supervision aides. And at any one time we only have about 3 or 4 working per school semester, while we have about 4400 students attending L.A. High. Obviously there is an uneven ratio, in which the supervision aides are severely outnumbered.

Regardless of this, everyone still tends to point the finger at our supervision aides for fights, ditchers, and taggers. Yet, they can't do much considering the amount of personnel they have and the huge campus they have to patrol.

Mr. Fernandez, one of our co-principals, feels that the number of supervision aides is noticeably "inadequate." Last year, 2 aides were let go due to a budget cut that the district made. He feels that the only way to make L.A. High safer

would be to get the district to provide 6-hour campus aides that are trained in the supervision of students.

One of our security guards agrees that we need more "proactive security guards." Meaning that we need people that are able and willing to run after students and really be persistent. Mr. Fernandez believes that the blame for continuous ditching, fighting and obscene tagging can't be placed on the supervision aides, but on the students committing the acts. He also added that the reason why students aren't caught is because they know where to avoid the aides. So if they were planning on getting into a fight, they'd be likely to go to a secluded area and know our supervision aides' "response time."

Our other co-principal, Mr. Martinez, agrees with Mr. Fernandez. Mr. Martinez feels that the supervision aides are spread too thin. But mostly he's concerned with making students more responsible for their own actions. "I'd like to see school security equal consequences," said Mr. Martinez. This way, students will take supervision aides and the au-

thority they symbolize a lot more seriously. Michael Cox, 11A, thinks that school security "should be allowed to enforce penalties because students seem to not consider them as a threat."

There is no doubt that the shortage of supervision aides is an issue. And like Officer D. East said, "One small problem creates a bigger problem." Hence, if we plan to stop taggers, ditchers and fights from occurring we have to focus on solving the problem at hand. So it is of immediate importance to increase our school supervision aides and allot them more power so they can enforce their authority to have an effective security program.

According to Mr. Martinez, two female aides are in the process of being hired. But the district has yet to finalize and approve the decision. There might be some hope yet.

We all have to stop blaming the supervision aides for the problems facing L.A. High. It's a "collective effort" in which everyone including students, teachers, and parents have to collaborate with the principals, deans, and of course the supervision aides in order to make L.A. High a better place to attend.

Upcoming Minimum Days

October 22, 2004

November 9, 2004

November 19, 2004

Students Disagree With Tardy Sweep

By Gualberto Castro

BLUE AND WHITE STAFF WRITER

Do students care about the tardy sweep? Every morning staff detain students that are tardy after ten minutes that school starts. Many students get caught during the tardy sweep. Some of them have excuses and some are just there so they can skip class.

"I don't think this tardy sweep in school is necessary," said Harris Florez, 11C. Florez wasn't very happy about the point that students have to go to a tardy sweep just because they were more than ten minutes late. When I asked Florez if the tardy sweep was fair he responded, "Naw, because that's a waste of time 'cause we should be getting an education and learn in class, not learn how to stand up just because you get here a few minutes late. Besides you do nothing but chill and talk to others." Florez also thinks that they shouldn't continue the tardy sweep anymore because it makes you want to ditch even more. Asked if

he had suggestions to make students come to class he said, "Yeah, give us money."

A tracker Alexis Hernandez from the 11th grade also had opinions about the tardy sweep. "It's wack. All you do is pick up trash for people that can not pick up their own trash. The tardy sweep is not fair. We miss class and then some teachers think we are ditching even though we had a slip. Besides the point that the students do nothing in the tardy sweep, they just stand up the whole time and don't even sit. It's a waste of time," said Hernandez.

"Stop the tardy sweep because you waste time in it and you have to go to class. Some times teachers don't let you have time to do the work you miss." Hernandez thinks that students should just get detention and then go back to class. Then they wouldn't miss anything.

In conclusion, the tardy sweep doesn't help anyone at all. Students continue to go late to class and miss important class material.

Restrooms Rarely Fully Supplied and Clean

By Paula Felipe

BLUE AND WHITE STAFF WRITER

Are you one of those people that is have a problem, with a lack of supplies in the restrooms? Every day there's a mystery to each restroom. Sometimes they don't have paper towels or sometimes toilet paper is gone.

There are cases where you find paper all over the floor. "Sometimes I go to the restroom and find out there are no paper towels," said Lillian Alonso, 11A.

We need clean restrooms also. Sometimes there is water all over the place and there are even bad smells. "I think every restroom needs to have air freshener," said Juana Baltazar, 11A.

The boys' restrooms are more dirty than girls' restrooms. Every restroom mirrors, toilets and doors are full of "graffiti". Ulysses Quintania, 11A, describes his experience on going to the bathroom as: "The first floor is dirty; second is somewhat clean; and the third floor is the cleanest. It's the best of all," he says.

In dirty restrooms students use their feet to flush the toilet, and there are even students who do not



Students, like the ones pictured above, are often left desperately looking for soap and toilet paper. Many agree that there should be more supplies and security in all the restrooms.

flush the toilet at all.

We may ask if the janitors are really doing their job after all. They are sure that they are. "We leave at 11:30 p.m. after cleaning the restrooms. Every restroom is full of paper towels and toilet paper and soap," one school janitor said.

What is the cause of not having paper towels then? "We need security to check the bathroom for ditchers that never get CAUGHT," said Guillermo Gamez, 12A.

If students are creating this

mess of pulling out the paper and throwing it on the floor, there should be inspectors in the boys and girls restrooms during each period.

The restrooms purpose is not for students to spend time going there to kick it, rather than going TO class. Instead of writing on the toilet, students should be spending time writing in class and learning.

In addition to these problems we should help the janitors to keep the restrooms clean at all times and should not waste paper when others really need it for an emergency.

Understanding and Questioning Small Learning Communities

By Flor Ruiz

BLUE AND WHITE STAFF EDITOR

As the world reaches further into the future, schools are changing to present students with better strategies to help them with needs for college and jobs they will obtain. A new program, Small Learning Communities, is the most recent change. The LAUSD School Board is thinking about Small Learning Communities, teachers are talking about it, and students should know what it is.

Small Learning Communities is a program to develop stronger connections between teachers and students in school at a more personal level. Federal grants and foundations will provide schools with new opportunities in response to President Bush's law "No Child Left Behind" which was set on January 8, 2002. The Small Learning Communities will provide opportunities by cutting down the larger schools in to smaller clusters of 350 to 500 students for each community. In around 5 years this program will be implemented throughout LAUSD according to the school board.

The Small Learning Communities will assist large public high schools providing more personal programs. They will also help students get more determined. Small schools will make teachers more able to control the classroom; if someone is lacking understanding the teacher will be able to help each student individually. This program is also said to build students' strength and overcome challenges students seem to encounter in education.

The Small Learning Community is said to better prepare students for the testing they have to take, especially the new Exit Exam, which will determine if a person will graduate or not. The changes are said to reduce the dropout rate because of better communication skills between students, teachers and parents. Each student is noticed and involved inside his or her small community.



Small Learning Communities: promising to connect teachers, students, and parents. Will it really work?

The way the system will be run will not mean smaller classes, just having smaller schools. Teachers will be able to connect with their students because students will stay with the same 10-15 teachers throughout their 4 years of high school.

There are positive and negatives to these Small Communities. Teachers will have the same students so they can apply better strategies for their needs. But what if the student dislikes the teacher? The student's motivation will diminish, which will discourage him from attending class, one of the issues occurring in large high schools today.

There will also be positive changes where students will get better opportunities in a specific subject they choose. Learning Communities can focus on topics like: sports, drama, arts, English, and history. They can go on field

trips and get extra time for fun and educational labs, which couldn't be offered in large schools.

But how will sticking with one subject help students experience new subjects and ideas they've never been exposed to?

What if the student, for example changes, his mind about the subject, which is given to him by his counselor in the 8th grade? Another issue is not as many classes choices can be offered as in large schools, because there won't be enough qualified teachers.

And none of this takes into consideration our divided tracks. Will the tracks just be divided into smaller groups with more issues, or will this program be the solution schools have been looking for? Better teachers, supplies and even better classes for students distributed equally in each community?



LAUSD's "healthy" snacks include Beef Jerky, Fruit Chews, Nuts, and Granola Bars, which can be sold to fundraise.

No Junk Food Policy Creating Economic Difficulties

By Sharmin Mamun

BLUE AND WHITE STAFF EDITOR

Los Angeles High School has lost about \$6,099.43 in sales since July 2004 because the Board of Education has banned selling junk food on campus.

This affects the school in many ways, although it does not have much effect academically. The money from vending machines and the student store goes to different school activities such as homecoming and sports.

Mr. Coronado, the financial manager of L.A. High, said that the school doesn't earn as much money as they used to, so they can't do lots of school activities.

In July, August, and September of 2003 L. A. High earned \$30,065.18 from vending machines and student store sales by selling drinks and snacks, including sodas, candies, and chips.

In the same months of the year 2004 L.A. High earned \$23,965.75 by selling water, fruit juice and healthy snacks like Low Fat Brownies, Peanut Butter Fudge, Granola Bars, etc.

The clubs and organizations are also facing economic problems because they are not allowed to sell candy for

fundraising.

Jackie Lou Manalac, 12A, said, "The banning [candies] is bad. It means less money for our organizations and less activities and less fun."

The clubs and organizations are allowed to sell candy, but only off campus and before or after school.

The Board of Education made this law because it wants to create a healthier environment for the students. The law has been enforced in all schools under LAUSD since July 1, 2004.

Some students agree with the Board of Education trying to make a healthier environment for the kids, but they doubt if it will succeed.

"Just because the school is not selling candies and junk food, it does not mean students have stopped eating those foods," said Saima Ismail, 12C.

Although it is illegal to sell candy on campus during school hours, some students are still doing it. But if they are caught, the school takes away the candy and calls home.

Mr. Fernandez, the co-principal, said he does not agree with the rule, but he has to "enforce" it.

Blue and White Staff

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The Blue and White newspaper is willing to accept letters to the editor. Please type all letters and submit to Ms. Schlatter's box or Room 256. Letters submitted without a contact name will not be published.

Senior Expenses Continued from page 1

and buy some souvenirs. Prom, the most important event for many, will cost \$65 for the ticket. Aside from the ticket, you have to include the accessories.

For the girls a prom dress can begin at a price of \$200. Nails, shoes, hair, and make-up can add another \$100 to \$150. The guys can rent a suit from around \$100 to \$120. To this add the corsage and transportation, if planning to rent a limousine.

Seniors are shocked at the amounts of money they will be spending this year. "Do they think we're loaded?" asked Wilmer Blanco, 12A, after hearing how much his senior year will be consuming from his wallet.

Mr. Craft explained the reason for such high prices is because that is the amount set by the companies. The school has no other

choice but to distribute these fees among seniors. Then it's up to them whether they choose to buy or not.

Senior activities and items are not mandatory. However, they are essential to making the best of their last year in order to make memories that they will look back on and see senior year as the highlight of their teenage years.

So if you're a senior looking forward to attending all the events, and making the best of your last year at L.A. High, a job is highly recommended.

Think twice about the "Help Wanted" sign posted on the window you pass by on your way home, and start practicing those words that will get you the extra cash. "You want fries with that?"

JROTC Reaching Out to the Community

Article Contributed by:
C/1LT Sidney Martinez

Los Angeles High School JROTC has been reaching out to the community now more than ever. First off, during the month of July, the Memorial Branch Library held an event for young children. It was the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus Fit Fair. The optimum goal of this event is to keep youngsters informed of the importance of being physically fit. Clowns from the world's most famous circus were teaching the children how to perform different tricks. JROTC was there to ensure that everything was running smoothly as well as to provide assistance.

The next event in which JROTC and the community were involved was the annual Korean Festival Parade, which took place this year on September 18. It is a festival enriched with Korean tradition. Los Angeles High School Battalion was invited to participate in this parade. To convey the pride of Koreans in the City of Los Angeles, it came as no surprise to the Roman Battalion that we achieved first place for all three teams: Color Guard, led by C/2LT Rosa Morales; Armed Drill, led by C/1LT Mario Canto; and Platoon led by C/COL Andrew Kim. We had an astonishing number of cadets participate in the parade. We went. We conquered. This just proves that L.A. plays hard but works harder.



Our award-winning JROTC poses proudly at the Korean Town Parade.

Changes to the Dress Code on the Way, Upsetting Some Students

By Karla Oregon

BLUE AND WHITE STAFF WRITER

L.A. High's dress code will be reinforced soon due to a lot of violence going on campus. The Discipline Committee of Los Angeles High School introduced this change. The new dress code will not allow students to wear baggy pants, large t-shirts, or to show midribs. This dress code will be final as soon as the School Based Management approves it.

Mr. Martinez, co-principal, says, "We are reinforcing the dress code because the way students dress promotes violence." Mr. Martinez feels the way that the students dress can affiliate them with gangs even if they're not in gangs.

Larry Thomas, 12A, says, "I don't want them to change the dress code because I don't want to wear something that I don't feel comfortable in." Many students

will agree and make that their number one priority for not wanting the dress code to change. Many more students here at Los Angeles High School feel as if the dress code should really not be enforced.

Alexis Martinez, 12A, says "I don't think that they should enforce or change the dress code in any kind of way because many students are used to the way they dress. They can't change the way people like to dress, or how they like to express themselves."

Although many students agree on not changing the dress code some students do prefer the dress code be changed. Lizett Ramirez, 9A, says, "I think that they should change the dress code because there's too much violence going on in L.A. High's campus. Many guys wear really baggy pants and big shirts and a lot of girls wear hardly anything at all. I think that if we change it, our school will be safer

for all of us."

The dress code will be changed sooner or later and some changes are likely to include students not being allowed to use caps at all. They used to be able to at least wear them during lunch or passing periods, but students aren't going to be allowed to do that now.

Many students will be disappointed by this reinforcement of the dress code. Erika Morales, 11A, says, "If they change the dress code I think I'm going to change schools because I feel as if I have the freedom to wear whatever I want, without anyone telling me what to wear or what not to wear."

The faculty at L.A. High wants the changes in the dress code to decrease violence on the campus. Hopefully this new change at the school can bring only good things to Los Angeles High School.

Graduation Requirement Changes Still Hurting Students

By Saira Cruz

BLUE AND WHITE STAFF WRITER

As of this school year the graduation requirements have changed for L.A. High and the students of L.A.U.S.D due to the fact that the college requirements are getting tougher and tougher each year.

It has affected students because they took classes that are now considered electives, and now they have to make up other classes to receive the credit that they lost. For example, algebra was an extended 2-year course. The first year students took Alg 1A1 and Alg 1A2. The second year they took Alg 1B1 and Alg 1B2. Now this class no longer fulfills the algebra graduation requirement; it just counts as electives. Students who took these classes have to take Algebra A&B once again, plus geometry.

Jennifer Sefuentes, an ex L.A. High student who was not able to graduate on time due to these changes, said that the changes are wrong. She had extra credit credits but did not have the new alge-

bra class. The reason she did not take the class was because she was not notified about the changes until it was too late.

Other recent changes were made for the visual and performing arts and technical art requirements. A foreign language class in the past could have fulfilled the visual and performing arts, but now you have to take a class like ceramics and dance.

For the technical art, two years ago, students could have taken a fine art and substituted it for a technical art, but now you have to get a computer class or shop class. On B-Track you can take a cooking class, while on C-Track you can take computers or photography.

Ms. Campbell, a Track A counselor, said that students should be prepared from elementary to middle school to high school for a tougher education. The graduation requirements have continuously changed over the years to get tougher and tougher.



MR. MARTINEZ Continued from page 1

people will stop judging the school and more importantly, us, the students.

Since at Mr. Martinez' high school there was a 99 percent graduation rate and 89 percent of the seniors went to college, he strongly believes that these changes and improvements he has in mind are possible. But when should we expect to see these changes? "As soon as you believe it's possible," answered the new co-principal.

Ms. Kaufman, our former co-principal who recently left due to a promotion, was here for a relatively short time, and many wonder how long Mr. Martinez will be here. When asked, the proud new Roman replied, "I'm planning to stay here until my hair is completely white." From the looks of it, that won't happen for quite a

while.

While he's here, the co-principal would like to have a 99 percent graduation rate for the incoming freshmen class, and raised test scores and attendance rates. Mr. Martinez, who comes from "el barrio," strongly believes that small communities and classrooms can improve our students' work habits.

Another major problem that we have is the graffiti that can be seen all over campus. Mr. Martinez considers it to be disrespectful and said that if you want to get your name known, then you should "become someone." This meaning that you should work hard instead of tagging on the walls in order to be known.

"You graffiti the wall, do we charge you? You better believe it," Mr. Martinez went on to say. It takes \$10,000 a year to remove the graffiti off the walls, and consequences should be enforced.

One source of punishment and consequence for misconduct that we are all aware of here at L.A. High is suspension. Mr. Martinez has a rather "radical" idea about what suspension should look like. He doesn't like to suspend students for the reason being that it's better for them to be here. He believes that students should serve their suspension at school doing something like community service rather than being at home watching T.V. all day.

Furthermore, promoting safety and decreasing violence is another part of Mr. Martinez' agenda. He absolutely hates violence, and does not want to see any around school. After all the racial fights, and other problems that we had last year, who can blame him? From the looks of his determination, outgoingness, and sense of leadership, this new co-principal is ready to put his plan into action and make others believe that a better L.A. High is possible.

Students Urged to Participate, Increase School Spirit

By **Jasmina Aragon**

BLUE AND WHITE STAFF WRITER

Walking down the L.A. High hallways "school spirit" aren't the first words that come to mind. Not enough encouragement from our administrators or our peers go into becoming involved with extracurricular activities or athletics at L.A. High, and only students can change that. Having more school spirit can change L.A. High's environment and make it better for all the students. Participating in more activities can mean better memories of your high school years as well. Both students and teachers should be aware that they can make a difference in our school environment.

More than likely most students won't know what plays were made against Marshall High because not enough students attend out football games. Attending athletic events shouldn't be about being winners but about the bonding experience with ones peers and being proud of something as a student body, as a school. "Teams would do better if people went to the games," said Tristan Manansala, 11A, who then added, "I'm all about school spirit."

According to the athletes not many people show up to games. "They probably have something better to do," commented Manansala when asked why he thought no one attended games. Usually those who attend are involved in some kind of sport already and are there to support their comrades. More members of the general school population are needed.

I recall a recent visit to Burroughs H.S. in Burbank, where I attended a football game. When I arrived the number of students was immense, over 300 students and parents cheering their team on.

One could sense the spirit and feel the oneness of the student body. It was visible through their smiles, cheers, and laughter that they enjoyed each other's company.

The opportunity to sit down with a couple of Burroughs's students arose and so a few questions were asked of Melanie Shelton, sophomore, and Joan Keh, junior. "Everyone here is involved in something, either a club or sport," said Shelton, who is on the Burroughs softball team. "It's cool to spend time with your friends and do something you all enjoy together," said Keh, who is part of the tennis team, Key Club, and photography club. "Participating makes school a lot more fun than just sitting around and complaining about school. It makes school worthwhile," added Shelton.

Why don't students here care? This is the question that arises. Students appear to be embarrassed about the school that they attend. L.A. High has the potential to be a great school, and other schools as well as incoming students should be able to see that. We should make our great potential visible through academic, athletic, and extra-curricular achievements and involvements. If students don't like the perception of L.A. High from other schools or other students, they should try hard to change what they don't like. It would make our school a better place for them as well.

Perhaps not enough activities are offered? Keep in mind: if it appears that students won't participate, then nothing will be offered. Teachers and administrators, as well as other students, do coordinate activities, but students have to meet them halfway.

The purpose of activities during lunchtime is not merely for entertainment, but to encourage students to participate in events and

to create a sort of community environment.

Participating in activities is fun; just ask any of those who are involved. "Students need to get over the stigma that it's not cool to participate," said Mr. Llanes, woodshop teacher.

Attending a football or basketball game or participating in lunch time activities aren't the only ways to show school spirit and increase morale at L.A. High. There are many clubs students can join from the "Young Republicans Club" to the "Hip Hop Boosters Club." A wide array of options for every kind of student on campus exists, and if a student isn't satisfied he or she always has the option of starting a club of his or her own. (And participating looks good on college resumes too.)

According to Franjoli Rosseaux, 11A, and Britney Mims, 10A, most students "don't care" about school spirit. Most students don't know the effects that a positive environment produces. Students could become more comfortable with each other and the classroom experience could become even better. The "shame" that goes along with being an L.A. High student could be destroyed.

The lack of school spirit that exists might not solely exist because the students don't care. A majority of students are not informed about activities on and off campus. Students, as well as teachers, agree that more publicity should be put into events. "There could be announcements," said Mr. Llanes when asked about what changes could be made to increase school spirit.

Students take heed, and together we can all work toward making L.A. High a great school. We can work together to remove all the stereotypes and have fun while accomplishing a change for the better.

Bring the Junk Food Back

By **Marlon Bustamante**

BLUE AND WHITE STAFF WRITER

The lack of junk food is unacceptable.

By taking away our right to eat junk food they're taking away our right to choose. It's unconstitutional. Plus it hurts the school. "If we get the junk food back there would be more money for the clubs," said Francisco Vargas, 11A. We should provide these funds because our school can't provide them.

Last year you would see a lot of people buying food in the vending machines. Now you don't. "We should bring the junk food back," said Sara Ortiz, 11A. Outside of school we are still going to eat it. Once in a while it is good eating the junk food because we need to have it in our body. The sugar

helps us stay awake.

"Now that there's no junk food, your food has no flavor," said Alexis Hernandez, 11A. "I would eat the nachos with hot Cheetos and a turkey sandwich on the side. Now that there ain't any, my stomach doesn't get full."

In my opinion we should bring the junk food back because we have our right to eat any food we decide to. Almost everybody likes junk food; it's rare to see people not eating junk food. This is like our number one food that everybody likes. So if L.A. High brings junk food back each of us would be satisfied with what we're going to eat. Bringing the junk food back would make a positive change at L.A. High.

Why Students Need To Eat In Class

By **Abraham Avila**

BLUE AND WHITE STAFF WRITER

Many Students feel school should start later or we should have nutrition. In a survey of fifteen students, eleven of them said they don't eat breakfast at home, but they prefer to eat in class. Students say they don't have enough time to eat breakfast because we come to school too early, and this is why they eat in class and break school rules.

Javante Rice, 10A, says he doesn't have time to eat at home. He eats chips in class, but his teachers' take his food. So he carries extras in his backpack just in case they take his

food away.

Alejandro Ramirez, 11A, said, "lunch is too short and food lines are too long." When he reaches the food carts to get his food the bell rings and he doesn't get to eat all his food. So he eats the rest of it in class. He says we should have a longer lunch or more food carts around campus.

David Rivera, 9C, sells chocolates at school and says he sells more chocolates in the morning than any time of the day. He sells chocolates in the morning because students don't eat breakfast. Many students eat Snickers in class. If we had nutrition, a longer lunch and more food carts we wouldn't eat in class.

Students Ditch, But Do They Know the Consequences?

By **Karla Hernandez & Eyerin Cabrales**

BLUE AND WHITE STAFF WRITERS

Have you ever ditched before? Most of you have. For a very long time, students have been ditching no matter in what grade they are or in what track. Nowadays ditching has become like a normal thing for students in high school, middle school and even elementary school.

Worst of all these students end up dropping out of school because they are so left behind that they can't keep up with the work and with their classes so they just give up. They end up working in low paying jobs, earning barely enough money to support themselves. Knowing this, students just keep on skipping classes, but why?

On October 4, we went around looking for answers. A student, who ditched his computer class

everyday, said that if he gets kicked-out of school because of his ditching, that he's going to go to the army. Is this possible? The answer is no. Little did he know that in order to go to the army you need a degree and/or to pass the GED test. Of course how would he know this if he doesn't go to class? You see why coming to school and attending all of your classes is important?

When asking another student who was walking around school with his friend, why he didn't go to class, he said, "I didn't feel like it and I had to 'blaze.'" He also said that if he got kicked out of school that he's going to keep smoking, no matter what.

This is another reason why students ditch. They can't do illegal substances at home so they rather not go to class to get their fix.

Most of the ditchers that we talked to said that their classes and their teachers were boring, so that's

why it was more fun for them to walk around school and do their things instead of being in class. Yeah sure, that's what they say right now, but later they will regret it.

Although some students don't like going to class and would rather be outside walking around, talking with their friends and doing their things, they should know that there are consequences for such acts. Many of these students know the consequences but don't care and ditch anyway.

The first step the Deans' Office takes is they call your parents. As a result you get in trouble and you lose your parents' trust. There's nothing good about that! But even though this happens, students keep ditching.

The second step is they give you detention. I don't think that students enjoy spending an afternoon in detention after being in school all day. You just want to leave and do your things. The last step is they send you to the PSA Office.

It's basically a conference between a student, the parents, and the counselor, discussing what is going on and what is going to happen.

Mr. Watson, one of the deans

wants to tell students that, "Parents are responsible for your education and not the school." Just remember, the decisions you make right now can really affect you in the future."



While ditchers may have fun missing classes, they always seem to forget that there are always consequences in the end.

Homecoming Week Promises To Be An

By Robert Barrientos

BLUE AND WHITE STAFF WRITER

The Homecoming Dance and game are two things that students here at L.A. High just can't wait for. The Homecoming Dance and game will be held this month October 22nd and 23rd. But it should also be kept in mind that we will be having our annual Spirit Week prior to the game and dance (October 18-22nd).

Spirit Week seems to be promising, and entertaining, with many activities. This will allow students to participate in school and show Roman pride. The schedule is as follows:

Monday, October 18th: Pump-up Relay Game, clubs vs clubs

Tuesday, October 19th: Pajama Day and Twin Crazy Hair; D.J.

Wednesday, October 20th: Pep Rally

Thursday, October 21st: Powder Puff Game: Cheerleaders vs Dance Production. Dance Production will perform during half time.

There will be an extended lunch for this event.

Friday, October 22nd: Minimum Day

"Deemo," a metal rock band, will perform for the Homecoming Football Game.

The dance, which will be Saturday night, will cost \$20 at the door with school I.D. Presale tickets will be \$15 and you can buy them from the Leadership Class in Room 158 or any Leadership student. You can also buy the combo ticket (game and dance), which is \$18 in front of the College Office during lunch. As for the game alone, students are encouraged to come, cheer and support the team. You can buy your presale tickets at the Student Store for \$5, and \$7 at the gate. There will be a concert with special guests, a half time show, and fireworks.

Try not to miss out on the dance.

There are going to be many activities going on that night. For example, the court crowning and presentation will take place. This is a change from previous years in which the court presentation took place during the Homecoming game.

The dance will be held in Harrison Hall from 7 p.m. to midnight. Although some people might think that this year's Homecoming will not be so great, keep in mind that there will be a D. J., videoscreens, and great food to make the Homecoming Dance great.

Joe Gutierrez, 11A, said that he just can't wait for the Homecoming Dance. The football game he really doesn't care about but he will still go just to hang out with friends.

Elizabeth Hernandez, 11C, says that she hopes that the Romans win the football game. As for the dance, she said she just can't wait for the day to come. Hernandez says that all of her girlfriends are going to the dance to have lots of fun. To Hernandez, the Homecoming Dance is going to allow her to express herself and feel like she can fit in with the rest of her enjoyable girlfriends.

Erick Camacho, 10A, thinks that there won't be any trouble during the football game to distract the football players from their win. When asked why, he responded, "I think this because when I get a feeling about something, it always happens. I think it's just a gift, but that's just me."

Everyone is encouraged to participate in all the Homecoming activities. Whether its participating in Spirit Week, cheering the team, or getting your freak on at the dance, this is something that no one should miss out on.



Although we are not having a Homecoming Parade this year, there is a concert with special guest performers.



As in years past, L.A. High still plans on having a sensational



The Homecoming Dance is going to be held in Harrison Hall on Saturday, October 23. Leadership promises this dance



Students are encouraged to come out and support our Varsity Football team, the mighty Romans against Lincoln High on Friday,

Go ROMANS!

ACE Program Goes to All Tracks

By Briana Compton

BLUE AND WHITE STAFF WRITER

The ACE program (Achievement and commitment to excellence) is back on.

The ACE program was tested at L.A. High School last year and had very successful results on A-Track. Therefore the school has decided to try it on all tracks. The next ACE program is scheduled for October 25 and is available to all C-Track students who wish to go.

Priscilla Magana an A-Track 10th grader said, "I really liked it. I would encourage people to go. It was a really good experience." As a writer and a participant I would encourage people to go. It was fun plus the food was good. A lot of promotional things have been done to get the word out such as assemblies, representatives in health, life skills, and P.E. classes. Yet, word of the mouth is the biggest way to get to people knowing about when it is and how it affects people.

Mr. Frank Vitale (Room 502) has been involved with ACE for a very long time and is glad to have

ACE at L.A. High. Mr. Vitale says, "I believe this program can be very successful if students get involved and stay involved."

From personal experience, this program is wonderful and is probably the best thing that's ever hap-

pened to me. I hope you all have fun. For dates on other tracks see Mr. Frank Vitale in Room 502 during lunch or after school. Also you can visit the Educare web site at www.educarefoundation.com



Students who participated in the ACE Program last year benefitted from the training which emphasized building self-

Senior Council/Leadership Officials Take Charge

By Bryan Gonzalez
Contributions from Doris Quintanilla
Blue and White Staff Editors

As you all know, school has been more exciting and full of events for the last 2 months. Why, do you ask? Well it all has to do with a group of people in organizations such as Leadership and Senior Council. Dances, Club Day, Carl's Jr. Burgers, you name it, they help set it up. You will now get to know some of the people in charge of Leadership and Senior Council: who they really are and some pretty interesting things about them.

Vera Zadniprovskva: C-Track Leadership President and Senior Council Vice President. She is in charge of holding meetings, over seeing committees and attending district meetings. "Whatever is required, I do it," she said.

Future plans: She plans to go to college and get an MBA(Masters in Business and Administration).

Most unique thing: She is a "smart, reliable, and a responsible friend," said Lizette Garcia, 12C (who is supposedly scheduled to star in American Idol). Vera likes to dance. She used to be in Latin and ballroom dancing competitions when she was younger.

Most embarrassing moment: She was on the bus, and it had been a rainy day and she was wearing some shoes that were slippery. "I slipped from the back of the bus to the front. I literally flew."

Doris Quintanilla: A-Track vice president for Senior Council and Secretary for Leadership.

For Senior Council, she helps plan events to fundraise money for senior year like Prom, and takes charge when the president isn't there. As for Leadership, "I write down the agenda, take notes and keep track of any motions, proposals that are approved. Other than that, I just help out in events."

What does she want to see changed in school: "I want to see the amount of school spirit change(from little to a lot). Some students have disrespectful attitudes and trash the school too much."

Future goals: I'm thinking of



Doris Quintanilla

being an architect and if not that, then possibly a journalist or do something in business."

Most embarrassing moment: "I guess I have a lot, but I wouldn't consider them embarrassing exactly, because I'm alright with doing dumb stuff, acting goofy, and making people laugh."

Claribel Diaz: C-Track Senior Council President. Some of her responsibilities are keeping track of the meetings and over looking any activities done by Senior Council.

Future Goals: "Keeping my grades up and not letting my future goals out of my sight."

Most unique thing: She has drama class and it's her favorite.

Most embarrassing moment: "I was a Literacy Loop tutor last year. I was heading out to the bus to Alta Loma, and I slipped and fell in front of the school. A lot of people were there. I fell on hot chocolate that had been spilled recently by someone."

Hobbies: Dancing.

Claudia Arias: Senior Council Historian. "I have to take pictures of Senior Council events, and upcoming events and I'm an extra voice."

Future goals: "I just want to graduate and complete the semester with no fails."

Most Unique thing: "I play D.D.R (Dance Dance Revolution) really good for a girl and I have a scar that looks like a crop circle."

Most embarrassing moment: "My most embarrassing moment was in 11th grade and I walked into one of my classes, the wrong period, but I kept on arguing I was in the right period and I thought that everyone else was crazy."

Future career: "I want to be an animator for games and I want to work for Square Enix."

Hobbies: "Playing D.D.R, videogames, computer games. I like to read mostly super natural and horror books, and hanging out



Vera Zadniprovskva

with Bryan, also known as my skunk."

Kirstine Usher: B-Track Senior Council President. "I organize any fundraising and make sure seniors have fun for senior year."

Future goals: "Get my grades up/just try to graduate."

Most unique thing: Writes poems.

Most embarrassing moment: "I was looking so cute last day of B-track," she said. She ran while chasing her friend, and she fell, while wearing a skirt scraping her knee in front of many people.

Future career: A teacher or nurse.

Hobbies: Writing poems, singing, dancing, going to the movies, going shopping, writing music, and laughing at people when something funny happens.

Alma Lopez: C-Track Leadership Secretary. She "takes down notes and stuff."

Most embarrassing moment: Her boyfriend was hugging her and dropped her on her butt.

Future career: Fashion design and criminal justice.

Anthony Renteria: C-Track Leadership Historian. His job is to take pictures, create a memory journal and photo album. This guy has the easiest and most fun job out of all of us.

Future Goals: "Stay determined on graduation, making up classes, and finding a good college."

Most embarrassing moment: "When my girlfriend pulls away while I want to kiss her."

Most unique: "I act however I wanna act."

Future career: Law/business
Hobbies: "I like to listen to music (reggaeton, rap, hip-hop) play basketball, soccer, and boxing."

Things that would like to see changed from school: "I want to see the tardy policy changed, the juice machines, tagging, and no



Claudia Arias

wearing hats besides the L.A. hats."

Emma Pereyra: Senior Council secretary. She has to write down the agenda, and help officers when help is needed, which is most of the time.

Most embarrassing moment: "When I tripped running for the bus, and I scraped my knee."

Why did you join this club: "I wanted to make our senior year better and because we have limited ways to fundraise. I wanted to give ideas and carry them out."

Future plans: "Go to a community college first, and then get a masters in child psychology and psychology."

Hobbies: Helping out in church (Plazita Olvera), feeding the homeless and organize events for troubled youth.

Bryan Gonzalez: A-Track Senior Council president. "My job is to organize fundraisers, making sure people are informed on events that we set up. I get everybody's attention during meetings when mayhem begins; sell and advertise for events."

Most unique thing: "I have a green Mohawk and I have a really cool personality."

Most embarrassing moment: "It was in 6th grade, and we had a test, so it was quiet. I looked down and I saw my shoe lace was untied and I pulled up my leg to tie it and I just farted in front of everyone. I was blaming it on some girl, but no one bought it."

Future goals: "Finish making up credits, raise my GPA, graduate from high school, and just have a blast in my senior year."

Career in mind: "I wanted to be a veterinarian, but now I want to be either a pediatrician or a teacher."

Hobbies: "Skating, listening to music, singing, writing lyrics, dancing, and going out during the weekends with friends."

These are just some of the people that contribute in making



Claribel Diaz



Bryan Gonzalez



Anthony Renteria and Alma Lopez



Emma Pereyra

L.A. High, and this senior year for many of us, the best possible. But why even bother doing any of this? What do these people get out of it?

"I feel like I make a difference," Vera Zadniprovskva said. She would like to "get people to enjoy coming to school for the activities".

Football Update

Varsity Football Scores

Hollywood vs. L.A.
7-41 (league)

Locke vs. L.A.
20-0 (league)

Palisades vs. L.A.
14-12 (preseason)

Eagle Rock vs. L.A.
49-7 (league)

Marshall vs. L.A.
35-28 (league)



JV football warms up for their game against Marshall High School. Both the JV and varsity teams will play Lincoln High School in the Homecoming games this week.

Senior Council:

A-track:	
Secretary:	Ovidio Alvarez
Public Relations:	Ashely Randolph
B-track:	
Vice-President:	Diana Rodriguez
Treasurer:	Brakawit Sileshi
Secretary:	Maribel Aguilar
Historian:	Camille Hislop
C-track:	
Treasurer:	Saima Ismail
Historian:	Leslie Oraelis

Leadership:

A-track:	
President:	Christian Alvarado
Vice-President:	Pauleen Delos Santos
Treasurer:	Jackie Lou Manalac
Historian:	Chinyere Oparocha
Public Relations:	Delia Rios
B-track:	
President:	Marlene Blanco
Vice-President:	Maura Gomez
Treasurer:	Elizabeth Escalante
Secretary:	Ramon Garcia
Historian:	Crystal Mare
C-track:	
Vice-President:	Emma Morales
Treasurer:	Nusrat Sultana
Public Relations:	Mariano Paez

Features

College Prices Skyrocketing in Recent Years

By Michael Marshall

BLUE AND WHITE STAFF WRITER

Lots of people want to go to college and the cost of a college may be a deciding factor in that decision. The cost of college is rising drastically, and it will keep rising. But what's the cause and what can we do to keep up with these costs?

Due to the state's current budget situation many colleges are becoming costly. As a result of these increases many students, as well as parents, are becoming increasingly concerned as to how they will meet these costs. Students and their families can expect to pay between \$231 and \$1,114 more than last year for this year's tuition and fees depending on the type of college.

The good news is that there is more financial aid available than ever before. Colleges are reassur-

ing students and their families that it is affordable. For example 70% of 4 year colleges cost less than \$8,000 in tuition after grants, loans, and financial aid. While colleges' prices will increase, so will financial aid.

Grants, loans and scholarships such as the ones at www.fastweb.com are always available. They are given based on academic skills, the diversion factor; race, talents etc. and on your family's income. Gift aids are distributed largely depending on a family's ability to cover expenses. They are also offered in recognition of academic achievements or special talents.

Although some people are worried, others aren't, such as Andrew Rivera, 12A, who'll "be fine with the money" and plans to use scholarships and his father to pay for his tuition.

People may dislike these increases and believe they shouldn't pay, but others such as Mrs. Ley say: "why the hell shouldn't they?" She knows prices are going up and "they're going to go up even higher." She says getting into college is still based on academics and "if you do what you have to, you can make it." So don't worry. The better you do in high school, the more money that is going to be there for college.

If you really want to go to college, money is no problem, especially since it helps you to get a good job and will allow you to pay it back even easier. College prices should have some influence, but shouldn't be the deciding factor. If you still have problems and need help you can always research it online.

Average College Tuition and Fees 2003-04 vs. 2002-03

* At two-year public colleges, tuition and fees average \$231 more than last year (\$1,905 vs. \$1,674, a 13.8 percent increase).

* At four-year public colleges, tuition and fees average \$579 more than last year (\$4,694 vs. \$4,115, a 14.1 percent increase).

* At four-year private colleges, tuition and fees average \$1,114 more than last year (\$19,710 vs. \$18,596, a 6.0 percent increase).

Reasons Going to College Is Important

By Sun Joon Kim

BLUE AND WHITE STAFF WRITER

How important is it to go to a college or a university?

In my opinion, it is really important to go to a college or university, because education gives a person better resources and most importantly, a chance to get better job

One piece of thing I have discovered in my research on this topic is that most people said "it will be much better their future"

These statements were interesting because I thought people just want to go to college to get an education, but that is not the reason. The decision to go to college will affect your life.

When I was doing research, I figure education gives power and

money. So I thought maybe this is the one of the reason that going college could be important.

Going to college helps you get into power and money, but you can achieve more than this.

Mr. Llanes, A track woodshop teacher, said, "some people fall in love during college, and you will meet different people, and learn different cultures."

When I heard this statement from Mr. Llanes, it was like a light bulb went off in my head because this could be a second reason "why it is important to attend a university."

A student named Kenneth Kim, 12A, said, "It is very important to me, because I know college will change my life."

When I was thinking about this statement I agreed with what he

said because if you don't go to college, then it will give you a hard time to get a better job. However, if you have a degree it will be

easier to get a better job.

This could also be a third reason to go to a University.

Lastly I asked Mr. Moy "how

important is it to go to a university?"

He said, "student should go because of career opportunities, gaining power and you could find many lifelong friends."

When I heard this statement, "could find many lifelong friends" I was surprised at this. But after a while, it was understandable because you can meet people with similar interests and goals.

Questions I still have are if most students know going to college is important, why don't they try harder to succeed and go to college? And why would they just give-up or decide to not to go to a 4 year university?

This is an example of a university building. Students seem to forget the importance of attending college.



Features

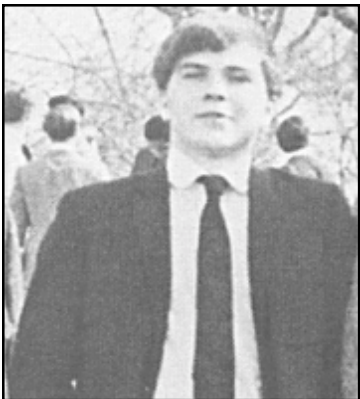
Role of Freshman Has Changed Over the Years

By Brenda Miranda

BLUE AND WHITE STAFF WRITER

Some freshmen might fear how their first day of high school will be. "What if I get lost?" "How will it be different from middle school?" And, most importantly, "What will the other, older kids be like?" These are some of the things that they might think to themselves. Then when school comes, most see that it's not so bad, although they don't know that in the past, freshmen were treated much better than they are today.

Krystelle Espinoza, 9A, says that so far, her high school career has been "good. Nothing bad has happened." She hasn't seen any incidents where an older kid has been unfair to underclassmen. Some seniors think they could bully younger students just because they're older and more "experienced," but others are cool people and you could really get along with them, according to



Mr. Glynn a "dorky" high school student then, and a (still dorky) history teacher now.

Espinoza.

She also says that freshmen deserve more respect, especially from teachers because someday, they'll be leading the school. From the students, Espinoza says that ninth graders shouldn't be considered to be at the bottom of the pyramid because, "some ninth graders might be smarter than some seniors."

When Ms. Atkins, College Office Advisor, went to school, twenty-five years ago, high school only had tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grade. From middle school, you went to an only freshmen school. This was a good transition from middle school because when they got to high school they were more comfortable with the setting. Having an only freshmen school was a good opportunity to mature as individuals.

At the freshmen school, they had all programs such as clubs and sports that regular high schools have. When they got to high



school, the setting was a more comfortable one, and in no way intimidating. The students all pretty much got along when at high school, and it was pretty much okay.

Mr. Glynn, an A-Track teacher, had a very different experience; he went to Friends Academy in Long Island, New York. The teachers were nice to freshmen, but seniors sometimes would just consider them as annoyances. One of the only things he remembers about being a freshman is "the shock of being small again." His grades went way down. He was so smart in middle school, then suddenly in high school, he was dumb. Also, one day he was cool, and the next day, he just wasn't.

At his school, freshmen could rent seniors to fundraise for the yearbook, for a week. The seniors would do everything for the freshmen--take them out to lunch, carry their books, drive them to school, and help them with their homework. Every freshmen thought "being a senior was cool." This was an opportunity for the freshmen to see the life of a twelfth grader.

After the week was over, seniors would still be friends with the freshmen. They were like mentors to the freshmen. The freshmen could come to them and ask anything they couldn't ask teachers or were too embarrassed to ask.

In a way, some of the freshmen also helped seniors reflect on their own experiences. What they did right, what they did wrong. What they could have done or what they should have done. This also enabled them to help the freshmen so that they too didn't make the same mistakes.

Seniors would set an example for the underclassmen. "You didn't dare misbehave nor do something stupid in front of a senior because they could smack you!" according to Mr. Glynn. They were an authority figure that you respected.

Today, Mr. Glynn believes that "seniors are not given enough responsibility in running/training the



Students from different grades can socialize and are able to get along: Oswan Ortiz, 12A, Jose Herrera, 9A, Luis Batres, 11A, and Claudia Arias, 12A.

freshmen classes to be good students." He says this because "we've given up on our classes, and we lack a strong student government with real authority and responsibility."

There should be higher expectations of seniors because they're like adults, and freshmen are still kids, but "some seniors still act like freshmen."

Ana Quintana, a senior says that as freshmen she was treated fairly well. She believes "that seniors should befriend the freshmen class so they could all get along harmoniously."

Quintana isn't into "torturing the freshmen," so she believes that no one should do this. She doesn't see most seniors doing this either, but knows there are those that do it somewhere. There were times you could see the seniors themselves in trouble when she first came here. There were many pregnant girls and students making out in the corner, and at first it was just a big shock for her to see this.

Sometimes Quintana notices that freshmen are "allowed to do whatever they want and hardly ever get in trouble. Meanwhile, seniors do something wrong, and administrators try to suspend them and call home." This should definitely stop because all the students

should be treated equally she says.

However, Ana Ligia, 9A, has been taunted by some of the older students. "People call me a poser, and they don't even know me," she says. They just judge her by the way she comes dressed sometimes. Of course, "I know they don't do this because they know I'm a ninth grader, but still I don't understand why they do this."

Ligia is a part of the LAHS band. She says some of the members can be mean, but most treat her well. Some of the members are just "trying to get me to get things right."

She believes "all students are the same, we're just different ages. Some seniors are dumb, so in a way that helps us relate to each other."

From the time our teachers went to school, and our time today, things have changed. There are some differences between the way things are and the way things were, but some students still do not realize this. Freshmen think they're the first with their problems, but they should know that they're not, and their story has happened before.

Older students should help the younger students because it will be very much appreciated. If most students can start this now, students will get into the habit of doing this for the future classes.

Beware Illegal Street Racers, the Law Is Changing

By Jaime Jimenez

BLUE AND WHITE STAFF WRITER

Hundreds of teenagers die of illegal street racing every year. The Los Angeles mayor Jim Hahn plans to stop that by signing an ordinance allowing the City of Los Angeles to seize and forfeit vehicles used in illegal street racing. The city council states that any individual who uses his vehicle to race in front of spectators would have his car immediately seized by the city. The vehicles would then be sold to reimburse the city and any remaining revenue would go to the general fund.

If your car is seized from you because of illegal street racing you will have to pay a \$1,000 fine in order to take it out. Some people won't ever get their cars back if they were given a ticket for speeding. If your car has illegal parts, the city will remove the parts from your vehicle.

When asked why racers seem to enjoy car racing, Oscar Recinos, 12A, said, "I love the adrenaline rush of speed. It makes me feel better about myself. My car represents me. However fast my car is going, that is how am feeling inside. I do get nervous before I race; I start thinking of what could happen, so I always race in a safe place away from pedestrians and other vehicles."

Another racer, Francisco Navarro, 12A, said, "I love the feeling of high speed. And I also love testing my car, and I try to



Street racers be careful or the city may take your car.

make it faster every time I lose a race. I feel it is a big risk, but I try not to race on a unsafe place."

Many teenage students think that it is a game to race. According to a web site of L.A.P.D a former officer named Sandy was blindsided by a pair of teenage street racers. All three vehicles were totaled and the boys walked away unharmed, but Sandy nearly lost her leg which was crushed by the impact. Unable to work, this single mother was forced to go on disability, and had to move to more reasonable quarters.

Over several years Sandy has continued to endure multiple serious operations and other medical procedures designed to simply help her walk again. She'll never be the same; her leg will cause her constant pain no matter how many operations she has. It was so severely damaged that walking will always be difficult... and she'll carry horrendous scars for life. Overall the law will stop illegal racers from harming innocent people like Sandy.

Students Speak Out on Being Bored in Class

By Kimberly Borrayo and Deniece Galvez

BLUE AND WHITE STAFF WRITERS

Teachers must wonder why students are bored in class? Students get bored in class because the teachers don't make it interesting. Not all the classes are boring. Why? Because some teachers make it interesting.

Haley Mendoza, 11B, said that teachers don't teach the lesson in a fun way. Some teachers don't know how to get students' attention; students talk and meanwhile the teachers are talking. Students don't pay any attention when the teacher talks for the whole period. It's also boring because the teacher is so into following the standards. Sometimes when the students don't get the material, and the students want to ask a question the teachers don't let them, and students stop paying attention when they are lost and the class becomes more boring.

Teachers don't explain the lesson right. Students get confused about what the teacher is saying because they say it one way and then another way or with different words.



Some teachers give a lot of work. Sometimes they give the work out without explaining what to do in the work sheet. "There are some times that teachers just do it because they don't feel good or they just had a bad day," Mendoza said. As teenagers it is hard for

teachers to get our attention. "However there are ways teachers just need to look back when they were teens."

Cynthia Barboza, 12A, said that teachers don't make class interesting. Therefore students don't have anything to do. When students are bored they don't want to be in class, but they are in class. Carlos Hernandez, 10A, said that teachers make class boring with too much work, "especially when they don't feel like teaching." That's when they give too much work. Like worksheets, or read a book and then answer the questions from the book. Some of the teachers don't put a lot of effort into teaching well. "Some teachers just

come to work," Hernandez said. "Because they want to get paid without doing their job. They will just sit around and would let the students do anything they want." For example in his English class his teacher lets them do anything.

Fall T.V. Soars with New Shows

By **Stephanie Argueta**
BLUE AND WHITE STAFF WRITER

The fall is here and there is a big lineup of all new television shows. From drama to reality, variety is the key ingredient to the new fall season primetime lineup. Just hold on to your remote control and get ready to get caught up in fresh entertainment.

If comedy is what you want then you should consider seeing "Complete Savages" on ABC Fridays at 8:30 p.m. The show premiered September 24. It is about a single father played by Keith Carroline trying to raise five totally different boys.

As the father of five Nick Savage finds relaxation in his career as a firefighter. Although, while he may be relaxed at work, things at home can sometimes be chaotic.

His five sons all have different personalities and find it difficult to settle problems. Sam Savage (Andrew Eiden) is responsible and studious, Jack Savage (Shaun Sipus) is a guitar player, Chris Savage (Erik von Detter) is a gullible jock whose goal is to be in an Abercrombie & Fitch catalogue, Kyle Savage (Evan Ellingson) is an energetic 14 year old who wants to be on Fear Factor and the youngest, 13 year old TJ (Jason Dolley), is a boy who always has money unlike his brothers. This is



Contestants from "The Biggest Loser" are tempted with junk food.

because TJ is an entrepreneur on Ebay.com who sells stuff, whether he owns it or not. "I like the show a lot. It is very funny and always cracks me up. I give it four stars," said Liliana Alonso, 11A.

If reality is what you crave then the new reality show on NBC called "The Biggest Loser" which premieres October 19 at 8 p.m. is what critics recommend. The show, which is hosted by Caroline Rhea, takes twelve overweight contestants and challenges them to lose weight with celebrity trainers Bob and Jillian, while they are tempted with their favorite junk food. In the end the one who loses the most weight wins \$250,000.

Like most reality shows this one has a twist. The twist is that the 12 contestants are split into two groups. Six are made members of Bob's blue team while the

other half are made members of Jillian's red team. While Bob puts his team on the eat more diet, Jillian puts her team on the eat less diet. "I think this show may encourage people who suffer from obesity to lose weight, but I am getting tired of reality shows. I give it two stars," said Xochil Renderos, 11A.

For those of you who want mystery and suspense, then the new drama series "House," which premieres November 16 at 10 p.m. on FOX, is the show for you to see. It is a medical mystery drama where the villains are diseases and they must be defeated by Dr. House (Hugh Laurie). Although Dr. House is a disrespectful doctor who does not trust anybody, especially his patients. He is a "brilliant diagnostician." It is because he is brilliant that only the patients with the most frightening cases come his way. House also has a handpicked team of experts who are determined to solve the medical mysteries and save lives. Together they will do whatever it takes whether it is legal or not to treat their patients. "I think it is going to be a show worth watching, I give it four stars based on its theme," said Vanessa Florentino, 12A.

Remember this fall season is filled with all new shows so "It should not be hard to find something good to watch. There is something out there for everybody," said Ulysses Quintanilla, 11A.

Explicit Lyrics: Are They Really Necessary?

By **Tremaine Gunn**
BLUE AND WHITE STAFF WRITER

What do students think about profanity in music? Most students say that profanity makes the songs more realistic and more alive.

Michael Marshall, a junior, thinks that profanity should be in music because it makes the song more hard core and street. He also thinks that if music didn't have profanity, the music would be too sensitive.

A perfect example is the late Tupac Shakuar, who was killed eight years ago in a drive by shooting.; Most people say he was a legend or the greatest rapper of all times. "Tupac talks about real situations, which involve sex, drugs, and life. Tupac delivered a positive message to his mother which was a surprise for the fans, because people are use to hearing something street", said Larry Thomas 12A.

Kanye West blew every one away with his award winning single "Jesus Walks" which talks about how Jesus is alive and how he's there every second of your life. Sergio Moore, 11A, said, "Kanye West puts out good music without using profanity or sexual lyrics." Moore also said, "his music is still good without profanity because it's not about the profan-

ity it's about the message that the rappers are sending towards young society."

Mase became a rapper in 1997 and in 1999. He told fans he would be leaving the industry, but now he's back in the game with his hit CD "Welcome Back," which includes his new single, "Breathe, Stretch Shake." Miles Lishey, 10A, says, "He's glad to have Mase back because his music

is tight and he has tight beats."

Mase came out with his first CD "Harlem World," which was a smash hit. And then in 1999, he announced that he would be leaving the music industry to become a minister. But now the Bad Boy is back with a new attitude and a new life ever since he gave his life to God. People say he's not a good enough rapper to make it back in the game. But I guess only the charts can tell.



Hip Hop and its explicit lyrics are being exposed to a young society.



Shark Tale is not meeting the standards set by DreamWorks' blockbuster "Shrek."

A Night at the Movies

By **Israel Garcia**
BLUE AND WHITE STAFF WRITER

Resident Evil Apocalypse:

Leading lady and eye candy Milla Jovovich delivers an explosive performance. Her in your face attitude will make you wish flesh eating zombies were overrunning the city just so she could show up in her revealing battle attire.

As the story goes our beloved Milla Jovovich plays an ex-corporation employee that knew about the development of a Bio-chemical experiment known as the T-virus. The virus is set to restore dead cells and mutate living cells and there in lays the problem.

The villains of the movie are mutated, red, long-tongued creatures, experiments gone wrong and lots and lots of walking dead people that feed on the living, with growling voices and eyes grayer than the cold tombs from which they rose. Classy no?

However, only one who has partaken in playing the resident evil video games could really appreciate the characters that appear. Characters like Jill Valentine, The Nemesis, and The Licker. If these names don't ring a bell you'll be more confused than a deaf guy at a Bjork concert.

A good action film and a decent sci-fi thriller, but it seems as though zombie movies don't strike fear into the heart of people anymore. Instead it gives you a bit of a jump when a monster pops out from behind something. If you enjoyed this film then you'll probably enjoy its 2001 predecessor. Also check out 28 Days Later, and the new Dawn of the Dead.

Shark Tale:

What do you get when you try to make an animated underwater mafia comedy? You get DreamWorks latest CGI picture Shark Tale. Not exactly what you would expect from the people that brought you Shrek and Shrek 2.

Even though the cast was oozing with talent they couldn't keep Shark Tale from sinking. The cast is composed of Will Smith, Rene Zellweger, Robert De Niro, Jack Black, Angelina Jolie, and more.

Our young protagonist is Oscar (Smith) a fish that's tired of being a no-body, and desperately wants

to climb the underwater social ladder. He works at a hilarious "whale wash" where whales can come in and clean off the plankton and graffiti that's on them. Along side of him is our leading ladyfish and best friend Angie (Zellweger). When Oscar's boss Sykes decides to collect the money he owes him, Oscar is found in deep trouble when Sykes hired goons played by Ziggy Marley and Doug E. Doug. When all seemed lost inward recognition he's always wanted.

Well I'd hate to give away the ending, but I will tell you this. It's predictable and lacks that little something Shrek had. What's it called? Oh yeah! Humor. This is one of the first computer-animated movies that I can honestly say can only be enjoyed by children.

Tae Guk Gi:

"War! Ugh! What is it good for?" As director Kang Je-Gyu proves, absolutely nothing. If you dabble in foreign films I suggest watching this one.

Ever since the U.S. went to war we have seen fewer war movies come out of Hollywood. But thanks to Tae Guk Gi we can still get a Hollywood quality war movie. The movie has brought in a record \$13 million dollars making it the most profitable film from Korea.

From the Republic of Korea comes this epic tale of two brothers that get drafted during the Korean civil war and have to endure hardships varying from hunger to sibling rivalry. Jang Dong Gun plays Jin Tae Lee, the protective and strong fighting older brother of Jin Seok Lee, played by Won Bin.

Jin Seok was set to go to college and become something of himself. That was the hope of the Lee Family, but when he gets drafted his older brother Jin Tae follows to keep him safe. It's been compared with saving Private Ryan. I think that's not giving Tae Guk Gi half the credit it deserves. It's much more emotional, much more tragic and much more exciting than Private Ryan.

It's as good as a history lesson but without the boredom we get in a history class. In fact half way through the movie you'll be enjoying it so much you won't believe it has any educational value.

Kang Je-Gyu also directed a spy thriller that I would suggest called "Shiri". Remember no one can tell you what to watch and what not to watch except me. So go and enjoy.

DEF JAM: FIGHT FOR NEW YORK:

By Camdon Logan
BLUE AND WHITE EDITOR

Get ready for the wrestling season because the first of the many games is here, and it's packed with all your favorite hip hop artists, duking it out in the "squared circle," in Def Jam: Fight for New York.

FFNY is a wrestling game turned into more of a street fighting style game where you make a character and can add new fighting styles as you advance through the ranks. The fighting styles are Street Fighting, Wrestling, Kick Boxing, Submission, and Martial Arts. And each fighting style has its own strengths and weaknesses.

It's a fast paced beat em' up game, where only on man (or woman) shall be victorious. The environments are interactive, and the crowd can either help you or hurt you.

In the story mode your character helps D-Mob (villain in Vendetta), the underground fighting promoter, find his way back to the top, along with Blaze (Method Man) and Doc (Red Man). But the person who tries to take his throne, Crow (Snoop Dogg) along with his lackeys, Crack (Fat Joe) and Magic (Busta Rhymes) stands in your



Def Jam: Fight for New York, for Ps2 and Xbox, features hip-hop artist.

way. As you go through the ranks, your character will have some tough opponents, in the likeness of: Snoop Dogg, Mack 10, Busta Rhymes, Fat Joe, Red Man and Method Man, Bone Crusher, Lil' Kim, N.O.R.E., Carmen Electra, Sean Paul, WC, Elephant Man, Havoc, Prodigy, Ice T, Omar Epps, Jacob the Jeweler, Ludicris, Joe Budden, and a handful of more. This game is fun if you have your friends over or if you just want to play the story mode.

Graphics	8
Music	9
Game Play	7
Story	10
Extras	3
Overall	7.2

Face-Off: ESPN NFL 2K5 v. EA Madden 2005



For many years, Madden and the 2k series have been going against each other.

By Camdon Logan
BLUE AND WHITE EDITOR

ESPN NFL 2K series and the Madden series have been in a clash since 2000 when Dreamcast came out with the 2K series and Play Station had Madden. Now the year is 2004, and they are at it once again with ESPN NFL 2K5 and Madden 2005.

Both games are focused of a more simulation style of play, than going for an arcade style, even though 2K5 is edging an arcade style. Playing both of them on the Xbox, I found myself liking 2K5 more than Madden. Madden's running game is hard to beat while on 2K5's you could break tackles easily, and the passing is great on both.

But when it came to the fran-



chise mode (season through season), my goodness, Madden's was incredible. In Owner Mode, you can pick new coaches and fitness groups and move your team to wherever you wanted. For example, I moved the Colts to Los Angeles, and changed their mascot. You could also renovate your stadium so you could raise attendance for your team. 2K5's, though, has Sports Center's Weekly Wrap-up where ESPN's Boomer is there to call the action and trades that happened that week. But it has nothing you could really do with the team itself.

The extras are a different story, as ESPN holds it down. It has a feature that is really cool; it is called ESPN 25th anniversary, where you have the chance to rewrite history. One of the plays

you can do is last year's playoff game with the Eagles, 4th and 26, where you have to score on that miracle play. Also, The Crib feature is on point. You could play games and earn points to buy things for your Crib. This feature will have you playing for many years in the franchise mode, just so you could unlock all the things in it.

Both franchise modes offer an in depth draft and a hard to beat salary cap. Along with some of the best graphics you'll see this year, these titles should have you satisfied until next year.

All in all, both games are really cool. If you're a die hard football fan, I would advise you to get both (2K5 is \$19.99 and Madden is \$49.99). If you're into to the arcade style, 2K5 is the best bet for you, and if you are a simulation fan Madden 2005 is for you.

	ESPN	Madden
Graphics	7	10
Music	9	9
Franchise Mode	7	10
Presentation	10	7
Extras	10	9
Announcing	9	8
Overall	8.3	8.4

Most Students Not Reading Required Amounts

By James Kim

BLUE AND WHITE STAFF WRITER

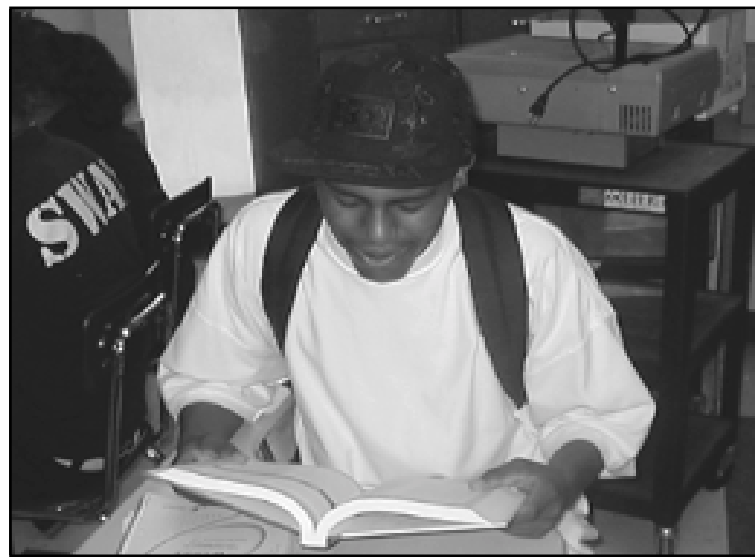
When Los Angeles Senior High School seniors were interviewed they thought the school as a whole did not read enough. According to the state, students are expected to read two million words a year, not including reading for school. That means students would have to read a four hundred page book each month.

One senior, Allen Orzame, 12A, when asked what he thought was the reading level of the school remarked, "They don't know how to read a book, and most students read at less than an eighth grade level." Orzame was asked if he thought that seniors read enough. He simply remarked "Yeah...RIGHT."

Orzame has only read one book in the past year, the Bible, and it was for pleasure. When asked why he has not read many books, Orzame said "Why read if you can watch?"

Most of the seniors interviewed said that they enjoyed reading. Other seniors read only when they are forced to for school. The seniors who have read more books enjoyed reading more than seniors who read few books. It seems that seniors themselves need to choose to read in order to enjoy reading.

Seniors should choose a genre they like. Most seniors that enjoyed



Unlike many L.A. High students, Larry Thomas, 12A, is enthusiastically reading in class. Students are encouraged to pick up a book outside of class, though, too.

reading read fiction novels. Others like Jackie Aparicio, 12A, said that they liked to "read documentaries or autobiographies."

Most of the seniors claim they read an hour to two hours a day. Students liked to spend their free time talking on the phone, or watching TV. Seniors like to spend their time not reading, because they like to have fun and consequently they

do not enjoy reading.

Seniors like Leslie Ornelaz, 12C, believe that reading one to two books in a month is an adequate amount of reading. According to the college counselor Mrs. Atkins, seniors "most definitely do not read enough." She thinks that seniors should read anytime that they can whether it be a book or a newspaper.

Juanes: A Man Influenced by Columbia's Violence

By Ana Ordaz

BLUE AND WHITE STAFF WRITER

For a musician with nine Latin Grammys and a new single topping the charts, Juanes is a laid-back guy, with none of a rock star's confidence.

But underneath that mature exterior is a man on a mission. Just listen to his new album, "Mi Sangre" ("My Blood"), which came out in September and confronts the suffering and battle in Colombia's extended guerrilla war.

Juanes, whose given name is Juan Esteban Aristizabal, was born in Medellin, Colombia on August 9, 1972. Juanes has come a long way since he fronted a heavy metal band called Ekhyrosis in his hometown of Medellin in the 1990s.

Juanes, who began learning guitar at 5, said he decided when he left Ekhyrosis and moved to the United States that he didn't want to copy other bands, no matter how cool they were, but instead to find his own voice.

Juanes, a 32-year-old Miami resident, has found a huge international audience with his sincere lyrics mixed with smooth guitar riffs. On his previous two albums, he sang often of love and betrayal, and a little about the Colombian conflict. Colombia's guerrilla kills 3,500 people, mostly civilians, every year. Another 3,000 Colombians are kidnapped each year. And the conflict is apparently endless. Two socialist revolutionary groups funded by drug trafficking, extortion and kidnapping. All this



Juanes has won 9 Latin Grammys for his 3 albums.

has been happening for 40 years.

Now that part has been reversed on his new album, as he hopes for better days for his South American homeland.

"In London, when I sang 'A Dios Le Pido' ('I Ask God'), some people thought I was saying 'Adios Le pido' ('Goodbye Lepido')," Juanes said with a smile during an interview at El Escándalo TV. Meaning that it doesn't matter even if people don't understand 100 percent of the words, the music still connects. You don't have to speak Spanish to understand.

Unlike fellow Colombian superstar Shakira, whose album "Laundry Service" is mostly in English, Juanes said he would never change from singing in Spanish even if many fans don't always understand the words.