

The Hatchet



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Mission

The Hatchet is a forum for student expression and discussion of ideas uncensored by school officials. The Hatchet staff seeks to ethically produce an accurate record of the news, sports, issues and people of the Washington High School community.

Letters to the Editor Policy

The Hatchet encourages public opinion through Letters to the Editor, which represent the opinion of the writer only. An editor must confirm submission of all letters with the writer. Writers may request that their letter be printed anonymously, but The Hatchet will not print letters submitted anonymously. Letters will not be edited. If a letter is not publishable due to legal liability, poor taste or length, the letter will be returned to the writer for revision.

Letters should be addressed to "the editor," and given to a Hatchet staff member, hand-delivered to Room E221, sent via email to <editor@whshatchet.com>, or mailed to WHS-The Hatchet / 38442 Fremont Blvd. / Fremont, CA 94536.

Stay informed about graduation alternatives

Hatchet Staff Editorial

Principal Linda Fernandez should inform students about the options that are key to their futures. Unfortunately, our school district does not enforce the law listed under California Code of Regulations, Title 5, Education that requires the school principal to hand out informational fliers regarding the CHSPE, or the California High School Proficiency Exam, to juniors and seniors.

Fernandez was unaware of this law, but she relies on career technician Michlene Wittmer and the other school counselors to pass on information about the exam to students. Because of this, only students who already know about the CHSPE can access information about it.

However, the question arises:

why was Fernandez uninformed? According to the California Code of Regulations, Title 5, Education, the district superintendent should inform all principals about this.

However, students can also leave high school early by taking the CHSPE or the General Education Development (GED) test. Those under 16 may take the CHSPE if they have completed the tenth grade or are enrolled in the second semester of tenth grade.

All students should be exposed to it. The CHSPE website supplies a flier that gives details about the exam, so Fernandez can use the fliers or something similar to pass the word along to every junior and senior in the school.

Otherwise, our right to a quality education has been jeopardized. Although students who choose to take the CHSPE leave high school earlier, they are one step closer in improving their knowledge and enrolling in colleges.

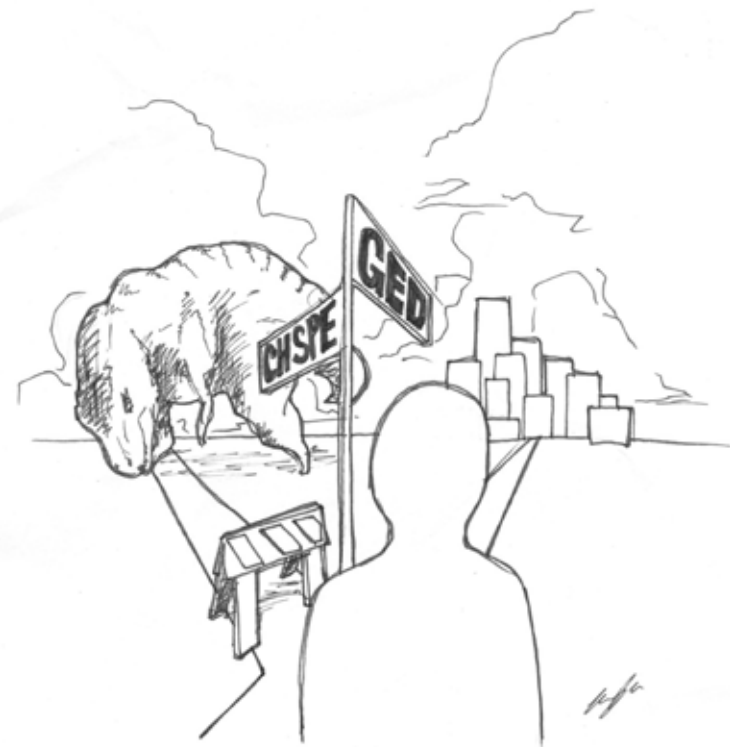


Illustration by BRIAN JEON

Students seldom appreciate special school events

SIMRUNDEEP KAUR
Staff Reporter

Students tend not to appreciate special events planned by the school and ASB. Why is this so?

Students need to feel a connection on a more personal level in order to enjoy what is being offered.

For example, students find rallies boring. Oftentimes the glory of the games in the rallies go to the few people that are actually participating. Obviously it would be hard to involve everyone, but other than those participating, no one else seems enthused by the

events happening on the gym floor. It is also evident that a lot of work goes in to putting these things together, but in the end it all comes down to who is involved.

Assemblies, on the other hand, are more bearable. This is so because something is being presented; it's a performance.

In the rallies there is nothing to focus on. Also, students are required to attend them during class, and rallies are optional. Students usually like to

spend their time with their friends, so if any of them are uninterested, chances are none of them will go.

Spirit Week is something that seems to be generally appreciated because the students are involved at a more personal level. While supporting their class, they simultaneously bring the school closer together. The students are more willing and involved making the event all the more enjoyable.

Ultimately, it all comes down to what a person as an individual could add to the event. After all, the event can only be as interesting as that person makes it. Complaining about how bad something is won't improve anything. Collectively, the ideas that are presented about a particular event are relatively neutral and thereby do not cause much conflict between the viewers. However, presenting your idea is not bad, especially if you are genuinely passionate and willing to share your ideas. And though it may or may not improve anything, it could certainly be taken into consideration.

Problems with parking: spot thieves run unchecked

SIMONEEL CZAR
Staff Reporter

Just as the school bell rings at 2:35 p.m. about 2,000 students make their way for home. Students walk, get picked up by their parents, take the school bus or the city bus; but a vast majority of students drive. Students risk getting into accidents in the parking lot, or argue about other drivers taking student spots.

"The worst problem is that people take your parking spots, and that starts a huge argument, even though the spots are assigned," senior Gagandeep Singh said.

On the other hand, sophomore Shweta Shenoy usually walks home from school.

"People don't always pay attention as they are backing out cars, which usually ends up in arguments and problems," Shenoy said. "Many times people drive

with windows rolled down and music blasting from the car, I think it not only distracts other people driving, but they also distract themselves."

People tend to unknowingly drive fast and endanger not only themselves, but also other students who are in the parking lot. Maybe that is why insurance companies charge higher insurance rates for teenage boys in comparison to teenage girls.

Also, student drivers have a strong disregard for etiquette and are more likely to cut people off. They don't allow other drivers to leave their spots as they drive by. Because of this, there is a large influx of cars.

Teenagers should be more aware and less aggressive when it comes to driving on campus. This will probably fix many of the problems students are likely to come across if they park in the parking lot.

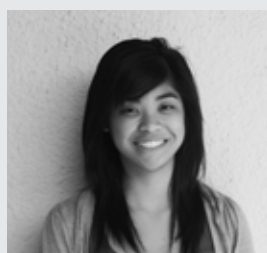
Huskies in the Halls

Do you think READ is a necessary part of the school day?



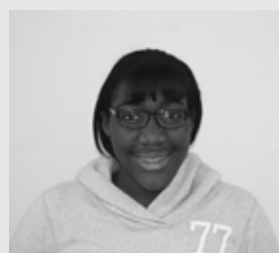
CHRIS OLIVERAS, 9

"No, because it doesn't help you get anywhere further in life."



KELLY HUDIONO, 10

"Yes, it's a good way to have time to catch up on homework."



YANNI SMITH, 11

"People below the reading level should have READ but people who are at a normal reading level shouldn't have to."



JENNA VIRDELE, 12

"No, because a lot of teachers don't enforce it, and even if they do people just pretend to read."