

ASB decorates school campus with flowers and walkway

Written by Alex Tyler

ASB members redistributed large planters filled with an assortment of wildflowers around campus over the past few weeks.

The students put in a brick pathway outside of the Eggers building, and they also trimmed plants around school, with student activities director Helen Paris wielding an electric edger.

These efforts are appreciated, but some students feel the money should go to school improvements, such as new books and bathroom locks. However, ASB isn't authorized to use student funds on such items.

Senior John Rasure said although the improvements

are helpful "they should have done this a long time ago, at this point the money could be better spent elsewhere."

Paris thought of the idea to move the planters from their original position near the Eggers building because she thought that students were not noticing them. So ASB moved the planters to more noticeable areas, and work during fourth period to water the new flowers and make sure the additions maintain their beauty.

Junior Julien Malard, president of the New Leaf Club, said their club submitted a plan to ASB to place plants around school throughout the year, but then ASB

moved ahead with this project separately.

"I first was a bit disappointed because I wanted our club to do the planting," Malard said.

However, ASB agreed with the New Leaf Club to continue adding flowers, trees and other plants around the school with the help of the club. They will plant to celebrate Earth Day, April 22.



"Bastard" gets the thumbs down

Written by Anterpreet Kaur

For the second year in a row, AP English teacher Teri Hu submitted the novel *Bastard Out of Carolina* (Dorothy Allison) to be reviewed by the Fremont School Board. Last year, the district officials voted 2 for and 3 against the book. The three that had voted against the book had not read it, while one of the two who voted for it had.

"Supervisors didn't vote from a position of knowledge. Three out of the four officials straight up admitted that they hadn't read the book," Hu said.

"As a parent, I just feel this is not appropriate," District Board member Ivy Wu said.

Most of the areas of focus that were around for the last evaluation were met except for closing the achievement gaps and implementing ESLers in order to heighten academic achievement. This year, the committee focused on developing programs for underrepresented sub-groups and closing the achievement gaps for those groups. This meant getting the communities of those groups involved more with the school. An-

Wu is concerned about her daughter who would read this book in AP English next year if it is approved.

Board Vice President Bryan Gebhardt believes otherwise.

"Originally, I was not in favor of this book, but I did change my mind just from my perspective, and that is, when a book is brought forth to the twelfth grade AP, it really essentially is a college book," Gebhardt said.

To approve a book, it must first be read and approved by two English teacher. It then passes through an English department, after which the textbook committee

reviews it and the final decision lies upon the District School Board. Last year the book failed to make it past the District Board.

The textbook committee will review it May 5. If passed, the District Board will review it in June.

The same five officials who voted last year will be voting again. The District Board members have not changed because elections have not occurred.

The verdict for "*Bastard Out of Carolina*" will be announced at the June 2010 District School Board meeting.

WASC committee assesses WHS

Written by Bach Phan

The Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) had their ceremonial evaluation of the school from March 7 to March 10. The committee members were given an itinerary from WASC coordinator Brynn Osicka.

"I helped organize the teacher input in the report. I wrote sections of the report. I organized the actual visit with the committee. I did none of these things alone," Osicka said.

The committee was given a tour of the school from ASB members, and in the following three days, they met with teachers and administrations and visited almost every classroom. A student focus group was also included in the evaluation.

The focus group included members from some of our clubs on campus such as MeCHA, Gay-Straight Alliance, Black Student Union and Interact. There were also students from the African American Male Focus Group, the Multimedia Art Academy and a group of juniors who have been in the

families program since their freshmen year. They discussed things such as school atmosphere, preparation for college and the standardized tests.

"The chairman of WASC said we should bottle [clubs and support groups that allow a non-discriminatory environment] and sell it to other schools," junior David Agorastos said.

The report gave out the traditional points of strength. They consisted of our staff encouraging high expectations of students and using assessments, group projects and collaboration to improve achievement. Other strong points were our school's leadership program, student activities such as clubs and student government. The focal point of many of the representatives was the supportive community, the school's leadership program and the student related programs that were available at the school. They also applauded the school for using assessment tools such as the Online Assessment Reportings (OARS) to direct our curriculum.

other area of improvement that was a big factor was the technology plan. Even though the school recently installed LCD projectors, the committee wants to develop a technology plan that will be able to increase learning efficiency in the classroom.

These areas will have to be improved upon the next time that WASC visits. The school's accreditation is temporary and the number of years is unknown at this

moment, but during that time, the school will be implementing changes to meet the requirements.

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