

Getting through the election

Ancheta and Santos chosen as senior class presidents

ASHLEY MOY
STAFF WRITER

Elle Ancheta (11) and Corbin Santos (11), the new senior class presidents, are going to be different.

"[To improve senior year], I've been talking to a lot of people, and they want more class activities to bring the student body together," Ancheta said. "I feel that it's important to listen to their opinions and what they have to say."

Besides following the senior package, a list of senior year events and activities, Santos has plans to make some changes as well.

"I want to make class council more involved," he said. "I don't want it to be where it's only a group of people who go to the meetings all the time. I want as much of the senior class to [contribute]."

ASB adviser Laurie Norcross said that Ancheta and Santos have a lot of responsibilities ahead of them.

"The senior class presidents make a float and plan for the homecoming dance," she said. "They also have the senior package, which consists of give-away days, the harbor cruise, senior picnic and Disneyland."

Santos said that the race for class president was a long process. However, the work paid off for both of them.

The application included 50 signatures, three teacher recommendations, and multiple short-answer questions.

"The signatures were not very hard to get, but I still had to explain why I was running, and [at the same time], try to convince them why they should support me," Santos said. "The short-answer questions were hard at times. I had to put a thoughtful answer for each one."

The required interview with Norcross, past presidents, and other interviewees, ran from 15-30 min.

"I wasn't nervous, but I felt unprepared when going in there," Santos said. "There was an e-mail sent [to all the candidates] with the interview questions. If I had seen them, I could have been more prepared."

Elle said that before she went into the interview she felt nervous, but she began to relax and feel more comfortable as the interview progressed.

"I was just thinking, wow, I hope they don't think I'm boring," she said. "But overall, I think it went well. We shared a few laughs throughout the interview and the panel was actually really nice. I think it kind of helped that I've been interviewed before for an ASB position and some of the faces were familiar."

Norcross said she was looking for specific qualities in each candidate during the interview. Dedication and someone who would put the work in was important as well as someone who handled money very well.

"I looked for someone who would go to different companies and businesses to get the best deal," she said. "I looked for a person who was a go-getter."

To campaign for the election ballot, Ancheta and Santos made posters and T-shirts.

Ancheta made her posters herself, and her friends helped put them up around campus. Her trademark dinosaur appeared on her T-shirts and wristbands.

"Some people know I like dinosaurs and some even associate them with me," she said. "Plus, dinosaurs are DINO-mite, especially stegosaurus!"

Santos used five designs for his T-shirts. Each design said something different about voting for Santos. He also made an effort to pass out the T-shirts to students beyond his group of friends to wear.

"I didn't want it to be just my friends," he said. "I handed them out to different groups of people, and they either wore them on Wednesdays or Fridays."

Ancheta has been involved in ASB since she was the sixth grade class president of Hidden Valley Middle School. Last year, she held the position of (Personal Recognition In Daily Effort) PRIDE Commissioner.

Bianca Reynoso (11) and Ancheta, both PRIDE Commissioners, started the PRIDE program. It entails a teacher choosing a student who represented the character count for the month.

That student received giveaways, usually food, from the PRIDE commissioners.

"As a PRIDE commissioner, you had to be pretty creative in how the invitations to the student who got nominated by a teacher would look, so through this process I got my creative juices going," Ancheta said. "It also takes a lot of planning and



Jessica Chang

Elle Ancheta (11) and Corbin Santos (11) won the election for senior class presidents for the class of 2009. Despite the long list of responsibilities, they said they're looking forward to their new position.

organization to be this position because you had to coincide the dates with Norcross and the nomination periods. Also you have to be thorough in getting the nominations back from the teachers. My partner and I actually kickstarted the PRIDE program that [had] been taking years to pull off, so I guess we made a difference by finally making the vision of the PRIDE program a reality."

Ancheta said that the position helped qualify her for the position of senior president.

Although Santos has little ASB experience, he has been a part of the freshman, sophomore and junior class council.

"In class council, I didn't feel the sense of family," he said. "This is one of the reasons why I wanted to be class president. I wanted [the senior class council] to be more organized and effective. I've been on the officer board of the club Bayanihan for the past three years, and I've had responsibilities. It has taught me leadership, and how important it is to be close to club members. I want [senior class council] to be the same way also."

The Election Process

1. April 4 Applications due	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
2. April 15 Interviews	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
3. April 16-30 Campaign	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
4. May 1 Election Ballot	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Sidebar by Ashley Moy



ALL THE RAGE
AMANDA CORMIER

Searching for Freakdom

Every year, right before June, I contemplate whether I am having a typical high school experience.

In my head, there is a checklist of certain facets of high school every person had to experience at least once. I did a pretty good job of making sure I checked off quite a few. Acne? Check. Awkward encounter with the opposite sex? Check. Driving around with the music blasting, thinking I was a badass? Check.

But there's one archetypal high school experience I've never had the pleasure of knowing. I've never truly hated being at Westview.

In my mind, I'd spend high school as Lindsay Weir. She was the star freak on the long-lost NBC show "Freaks and Geeks." She spent her years navigating how to fit in while wearing an army jacket and rolling her eyes. As a crooked-toothed, chubby freshman, it seemed inevitable that I'd have Lindsay Weir-years. I thought I'd gain satisfaction from being an outcast, making mixtapes of bands no one had ever heard of whilst growing hatred for the Prom queen.

Whenever I ask my mom if she'd go back to her high school years, she'd always reply with a staunch "Never" – she remembers being a studious ballerina who participated in academic league and graduated third in her class. My dad, on the other hand, was class president, captain of the track team, president of Debate Club and man-on-campus at his high school. I thought that my experience would fall along the lines of my mom's – that I'd despise most of, if not all of, it. I did despise some of it (junior paper, anyone?). But despite my own protests, I enjoyed almost everything about the past four years.

I enjoyed spending roughly 969 hours, (I calculated it) outside of class time, in the one room at school where I met some of my closest friends, where I baked cookies, where my opinions were challenged, where I got asked to junior Prom and where I learned how to think.

I enjoyed listening to Scruggs' lectures that spanned 50 years in one hour, Oydn's biting wit, Cottrell's passion for existentialism, Mrs. Hubschmitt's fast-paced aphorisms, D's introspection accompanied by intense movement around the room, and Bob's insightful interpretations of poems I failed to understand.

I enjoyed watching the belly flop contest, eating at Club Rush and running onto the football field after we beat Mt. Carmel.

I had an unusual high school experience, according to the media – one where I met amazing people and was pushed to succeed, one that I'll miss terribly. And, from my conversations with others, I've found that there are a lot of us who realize that we're not entirely unhappy.

The realization of that fact – that high school is not so bad after all – may leave some with a void. We don't feel that same burning satisfaction Lindsay Weir felt for being an outcast, and we don't graduate with the carelessness of one just itching to get out of here.

But all of us leave with something else. Some leave with a scholarship for a sport they never would have excelled in, if not for the support of their teammates. Others leave with the pleasure of having their byline permanently printed next to 35 columns.

And all of us leave with a knee-jerk answer to a question posed to us 20 years from now: "Would you ever go back to your high school years?"

In a second.

Pass the syrup: Lumberjacks cook up recycling club



Photo Illustration by Michelle Marshall

Pancakes sustain the Lumberjack Club, which is initiating a new electronic recycling program. From left: Vice president Dan Tullsen (11), President Scott Gamelson (11) and club member Jason Kane (11).

MICHELLE MARSHALL
FEATURES EDITOR

No axes swung, no chainsaws growled, no wood chips flew.

The first 15 minutes were noticeably un-lumberjacky.

But then, the pancakes arrived.

With the fervor of men escaping falling redwoods, 16 guys – most decked in flannel – descended upon the table to seize the microwaved flapjacks, still sizzling. The Lumberjack Club meeting was officially in session.

Head pancake chef Tony Yang (11) said he takes his responsibility to deliver quality microwavable flapjacks seriously.

"It's all about the timing," Yang said. "If you put it in for too long, it gets a little soft, but if you don't put it in long enough, it's too cold on the inside. I have to calculate."

The Lumberjack Club seems to operate under the guise that they're all about fun and games. And flour. And butter. However, underneath that flannel facade lays an agenda to help the environment.

Club President Scott Gamelson (11) said that they will be working with Green Earth Recycling Company, based in El Cajon, to bring electronic recycling receptacles to the Torrey Highlands center.

"There's no irony in the fact that we are lumberjacks and that we're helping the environment," he said. "After lumberjacks cut down trees, they plant new ones."

Likewise, he said, the lumberjack club will implement the same policy of resource renewal with the Green Earth program.

Gamelson said people might recognize his idea as a direct rip-off from the series "Even Stevens."

"I was thinking about Shia Labeouf's performance in 'Trans-formers,' which led me to think about his role in 'Even Stevens' and the lumberjack club," he said.

Simultaneously, he and his friends had been contemplating starting some kind of club.

Along with Vice President Dan Tullsen (11), Secretary Ethan Oydn (11), Treasurer Jacob Wilson (11) and head pancake chef Yang, Gamelson launched his very own pancake-snacking lumberjack club.

Some disputes lie within the balance of power. The fact that Oydn is the only club member with a legitimate tree-cutting experience causes him to doubt whether Gamelson is qualified for his title from time to time.

"He's never cut down a tree," Oydn said. "As lumberjack club president, he's supposed to, but he still hasn't done it yet."

Gamelson admitted that his lack of tree-cutting experience is disheartening.

"I know I was supposed to, but I'm just a little behind," he said. "I've been busy this year."

In only a few months of existence, the club meetings have nearly doubled in attendance.

Gamelson said he welcomes the growth as long as it's for something more than pancakes.

"I'm fine with however many people want to join us," he said. "It's great if people want to help out."

Gamelson said that once the club members establish a routine manning the receptacles locally, they hope to establish other sites around the school district. Green Earth will give revenue to the lumberjack club based on the volume of electronic recyclables they collect, but the executive members must decide where they will ultimately invest the revenue – whether they donate it to Westview or keep it for themselves. Gamelson said the current plan is to give the money back to the school. Oydn said he's not sure yet.

"We'll probably give it to the school, but it's hard to choose between free pancakes and doing community service," he said.

For now, Gamelson focuses the club meetings on relaying any updates from Green Earth and the status of their pending ASB approval for the project, which he expects by the end of this month.

"After that, we usually just hang out, talk about axe-men and eat pancakes," he said.

Pancakes aren't the only thing that unites the lumberjacks. In times of difficulty, Tullsen said fellow lumberjack club members remember one phrase to help keep their goals in perspective:

"Go America," he said.