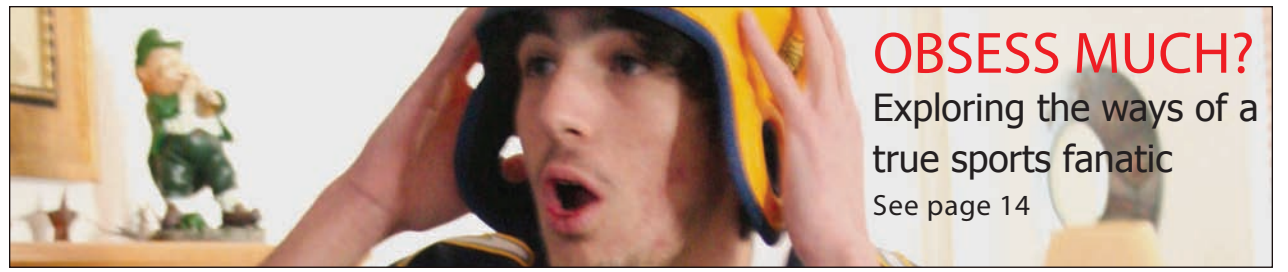




NARROWING IN
Pham sets his sights on a career as a cardiothoracic surgeon.
See page 4



OBSESS MUCH?
Exploring the ways of a true sports fanatic
See page 14

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The Nexus

Volume 6
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NEWS

77,000

-DOLLARS SPENT FROM ASB-RAISED FUNDS ON THE TWO NEW MARQUEES ON CAMPUS
See page 2

SPORTS

1,000

-NUMBER OF POINTS SCORED IN JENNY BRYANT'S BASKETBALL CAREER, REACHED JAN. 25.
See page 12

FEATURES

"At first, I didn't think it was real. It was unbelievable; a kind of thing that you saw on TV, but never thought would happen to you."

-JULIE ATHANS
See page 4

IN THE KNOW

If you could vote in the **Feb. 5 primary**, who would you choose for **president?**

Marshall Fice (11)



"Obama. In other countries, Obama would be respected more. In Iran, women are second-class citizens and that would affect how they view [Clinton]."

Jamila Epps (9)



"I'm not sure. Hillary Clinton is very hypocritical when I see her talking on the news, and Obama is a little new and I don't know what he's doing yet."

Amanda Vidmar (12)



"I registered as an independent, so I'm not allowed to vote in the primary. If I could, I would probably vote for John McCain, but I don't know for sure."

\$25,000 of equipment stolen over break

JOLENE XIE
NEWS EDITOR

On Jan. 7, the Westview administration discovered the theft of digital equipment worth approximately \$25,000, including three digital and four film cameras, camera accessories, six iMacs, two scanners, a laptop, five LCD projector, two CPU units and miscellaneous school supplies, occurred over winter break in the D and P buildings.

San Diego Police Department (SDPD) Officer Terry Marquez said that there are cur-

rently no leads in the case.

"Right now, we're just waiting for results to come back," Marquez said. "The officer who took the case took fingerprints, so we're just waiting for [those results]."

Photography teacher Sarah Layne first discovered the theft the morning of Jan. 7. According to Layne, approximately \$16,000 worth of items was stolen from the photo room.

"I opened the door saw that my computers weren't there, so I thought that the technology technician, [Richard] Garcia, had taken them," Layne said. "Then, I looked around and saw

that my cabinets were open and realized that [the cameras and equipment] had been stolen."

Westview and PUSD schools are self-insured and can replace any losses by themselves instead of relying on an insurance company.

"The district insures itself for the first \$25,000 of any property loss, and any losses after that are applied to an insurance pool that the district belongs to," PUSD Risk Management Director Steve Salvati said. "The \$25,000 is kind of like our deductible on our policy."

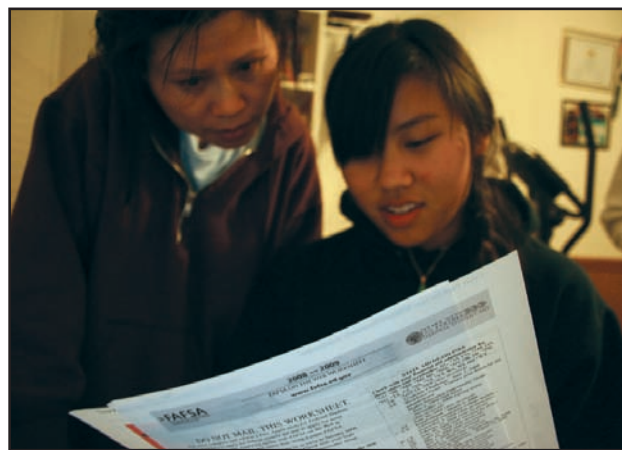
See THEFT, page 3

The Report in Short:

- The D and P buildings were broken into over winter break
- Approximately \$25,000 worth of electronics and equipment was stolen
- Police currently have no leads

TIGHTENING THE BELT

As the middle class scrambles to pay tuition, elite universities pledge relief



Lauren Gray

Eileen Truong (12) and her mother, Joann, fill out the FAFSA. It is due today for many private colleges.

AMANDA CORMIER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

In December, Harvard University pledged its commitment to help financially-strapped families who need a bit of an extra boost so that their students can attain an Ivy League education.

Specifically, the college's new financial aid plan targets families whose yearly income ranges from \$120,000 to \$180,000 a year. Students with families in these income brackets will now only have to pay 10 percent of their yearly income to attend, a drastic departure from the college's advertised yearly cost of up almost \$50,000.

The University of Pennsylvania and Yale University followed suit and released similar plans to expand financial aid by eliminating loans and reducing tuition costs for certain income brackets. Yale President Richard Levin announced Jan. 14 that the university would be using its \$22.5 billion endowment to expand the covered income bracket to \$200,000.

It snowballed from there. Several other prestigious private colleges on the east coast, such as Dartmouth College, Duke University and Williams College, have revised their financial aid policies to target middle-class students. Some of these policies include eliminating tuition fees altogether for annual incomes up to \$75,000, or eliminating

all loans from financial aid packages.

Although efforts to attract low-income students have been in effect at elite private universities since the age of affirmative action, these steps are the first to specifically target the middle-class demographic — a group of people whose struggle to pay for college often is overlooked.

In the spirit of giving

Although giving the gift of education to more people seems like a purely humanitarian aim, some see other motives in the college's actions.

Mark Kantrowitz serves as the publisher of FinAid.org and EduPASS.org, and director of Advanced Projects for FastWeb.com, websites designed to connect students to scholarships and other forms of financial aid. He recently wrote "FastWeb College Gold," a guide to paying for college.

Kantrowitz said that colleges may have public image in mind while trying to lure more top students to apply, responding to criticism that they are not using enough of their endowments to benefit students directly.

"They are responding partly to that [criticism], and partly to the reality

See FINANCIAL AID page 6



JSA explores candidates, casts vote at convention

TAHIYA SULTAN
OPINIONS EDITOR

JSA Co-President Jonathan Palinkas (12) cast his vote for the first time Jan. 19. But instead of voting in the actual primary election, he served as a voter for the mock Junior Statesmen of America (JSA) presidential election.

Palinkas, along with other Westview JSA members, went to Crenshaw High School in Los Angeles to attend JSA's 2008 Presidential Nominating Convention (PNC). PNC only occurs once every four years for the presidential elections and is intended to encourage youth to partake in political activism.

"I'm old enough to vote in the primaries," Palinkas said. "But I wanted to know more about the candidates and become better informed on issues, such

as the war in Iraq, education and civil rights."

At PNC, members took part in debates and heard campaign representatives give speeches about presidential candidates. While Palinkas claims to be a liberal, part of the reason he attended PNC this year was to learn more about the Republican candidates and the issues they stand by.

"There were a lot of students who were very up-to-date on the candidates' platforms," Palinkas said. "I think PNC has reassured my initial hunch for who I'm voting for, and it has inspired me to become more involved in campaigning for the Democratic party in my community."

At the convention, students from across Southern California came together to debate and discuss issues

See JSA, page 2



Shayla Love

Jonathan Palinkas (12) visits a campaign booth at the JSA convention in Los Angeles, Jan. 19.

District proposes extension of bond

HELEN BAVIN
STAFF WRITER

On Feb. 5, voters will have the option to vote for Proposition C, a \$179 million bond measure for PUSD school renovations.

If passed, the bond measure will focus on updating 24 PUSD schools. According to Proposition C Campaign Co-Chair Lorene Joosten, the upgrades include removing hazardous materials from schools, ensuring modern science and computer labs, renovating worn-out roofs, plumbing, heating and electrical systems and updating security systems.

Because Westview is built and maintained on mello-roos fees, it isn't included in the list of schools to be renovated. Even though Westview won't be renovated now, Joosten said that the measure will benefit Westview in the long run because with Proposition C, the district won't have to find funding from other sources that might take money away from Westview.

"I think indirectly, Westview will benefit," Joosten said. "In order to finish upgrading these schools that are on the list, [Prop C] will provide the funding needed to do these renovations."

Joosten said that if the proposition does not pass, the schools will still need to meet basic safety requirements, which will put pressure on the current funding source for all the schools. Either way, the schools that need extensive renovations are going to get them. However, with the proposition, the renovations won't take money away that might eventually benefit Westview and other newer schools.

See PROPOSITION page 3

PUSD budget limits school menu, shelves organic food

NICOLE KUSH
STAFF WRITER

Morning Rush Hour

Every day at 6 a.m., Flora Biglaryan, Westview's Food and Nutrition Area Supervisor, and her staff rush around Westview's cafeteria. Food is passed in and out of oversized refrigerators as workers rush carts outside to food transport vehicles waiting to take meals to other schools in the district.

The scene in Westview's cafeteria is a hectic one.

"We have to prepare food for six other schools in the district and for the students at Westview because Westview is a production kitchen," Biglaryan said. "Everyone is putting everything together."

Biglaryan has witnessed many of the same kinds of food items transported in and out of Westview's facilities and served through its lunch windows for the past five years. Recently, however, due to increasing public interest in organic foods, school cafeterias relying on processed, frozen and packaged foods are facing scrutiny, but tight budgets restrict these cafeterias from changing menus.

See ORGANIC, page 5