

The 360

three weeks in 60 seconds

27 The number of people who auditioned on March 12 to model for Westview Fashion Club's annual Fashion Show. The Fashion Show is scheduled to occur on May 23, but is subject to change.

1 The place obtained by Ariel Stark (12) at the Champion Dance Nationals held in Los Angeles on March 14, where Stark was also named the Overall Senior Champion. Westview's Dance Troupe also received the Grand Champion Award, placed as the Best Small Team, judged as the Best in Modern and Open Categories, and received many other honors.

15 The number of plays that were submitted to English teacher Bob McHaffey's room for consideration in the annual One Acts Festival hosted by Westview Theatre Co. This has been the largest number of submissions since the company first hosted the festival four years ago. Among these 15, only five have been selected to be presented on-stage April 23-25.

2 The number of entries from Westview's student participants that were selected to progress to state level competition for the PTA Reflections Program. Ashley Peterson's (12) literature work and Hayden Boal's (12) film work were chosen along with 21 other local entries, out of more than 400 pieces in the Ninth District.

5-0 The unanimous decision by the PUSD school board that approved Josh Cottrell's philosophy course as a part of next year's curriculum choices. In the board's monthly meeting on March 9, the proposed adoption of the new course was a part of the agenda.

Compiled by Andrew Baek and Andrew Fan

National directors honor AVID program

George Jeng
STAFF WRITER

On March 10, Westview's AVID program was validated as a National Demonstration Program, a prestigious title awarded to approximately 100 schools out of more than 4,000 AVID campuses worldwide.

The AVID program gets its name from their guiding principle of "Advancement Via Individual Determination" and aims to help students attain a higher education.

In order to gain the title of a National Demonstration school, schools first nominate themselves to an AVID regional director.

The regional director then chooses a few to give the opportunity to be validated or approved by national directors.

The award and recommendations were presented last Friday in the theater here at Westview, where AVID students unfurled the banner that named Westview a National Demonstration School.

This honor means that other schools looking to start their own AVID program can visit and learn by example from Westview's.

A board of directors spent the entire day March 10 on campus observing AVID classrooms and evaluating student's academic access and the instructional strategies employed by teachers.

"A leading indicator of the college-ready culture is this site's open access policy," the Board said in a series of commendations to Westview's AVID program.

"This is evidenced by a significant increase in AP enrollment and test-taking while maintaining an 80 percent pass rate."

In addition to the evaluation, the directors also met with small groups of teachers as well as interviewing AVID students about their educational goals and experiences.

"The site coordinators, Dorothy Carlson and Nikolette Lowry, provide energetic, positive leadership to a site team that has embraced AVID strategies and philosophies," National Director of Demonstration Schools Julie Elliot said. "They have worked collaboratively with the staff to expand the site team to include parents, students, site administrators and a wide swath of content teachers. The site team

is a strong example of shared leadership."

Though the program received solid reviews, the directors also noted areas that AVID should reinforce and improve.

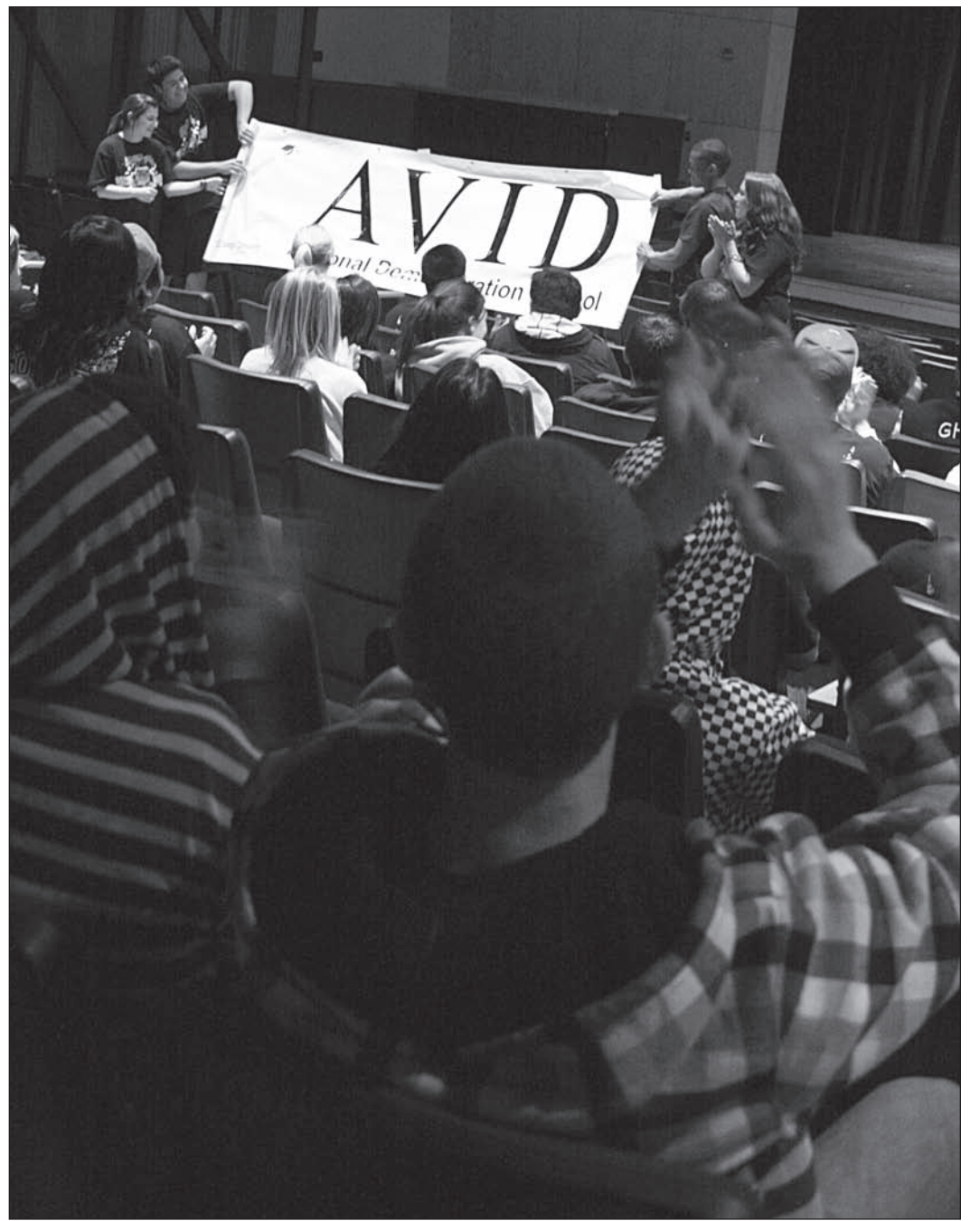
"[The program should] increase AVID professional

development for AVID elective teachers and content area teachers," Robin Kisinger who is the AVID Region 9 Director said. "An increase in breadth and depth by sending teachers to AVID Summer Institutes and county trainings will expand the school-wide affect of AVID."

Overall, Westview's AVID program was validated as an outstanding National Demonstration School.

"The Westview High School AVID program has, as a freshman student so aptly described, an 'aura of learning,'" the Board said. "That aura has infiltrated the school and can be observed across the campus."

"The site coordinators provide energetic, positive leadership to a site team that has embraced AVID strategies."

Julie Elliot, National Director
of Demonstration Schools

Tim Chu

Westview AVID students display the banner given to the school's program when it was validated as a National Demonstration School. The title is only given to 100 out of nearly 4000 schools.

Students connect at Festival of Friendship

Yoojin Kim
STAFF WRITER

Waiting at the finish line of a 5k walk, Danielle Costa (12) was just one of the dozens of people screaming for and cheering on one of Westview's "Best Buddies," Allen, who power-walked past the finish line with a smile of accomplishment on his face.

Best Buddies is an international organization dedicated to bettering the lives of those with developmental disabilities through one-on-one friendships. On March 8, the members at Westview, along with other Best Buddies Chapters from San Diego County, attended the Festival of Friendship, a 5k walk followed by a carnival.

Westview's Best Buddies had set a goal to send at least 25 members to walk along De Anza Cove in Mission Bay, and ended up registering 30.

Ellen Holbrook (9) participated in the walk to support the club's cause and meet other members of Best Buddies from various cities.

"I really wanted to help support our club," Holbrook said. "I just love doing events, not only with our specific chapter but also with Best Buddies members in general. It's just a great experience

to be around them and see all their happy faces and get to know them as much as we can."

After the walk, each school set up a booth with a carnival-type activity. Westview chose to have people play "go fish."

When an 8-year-old boy visited the booth, Holbrook stuck a small prize on his "fishing rod." When the boy saw his prize, he cheered and bragged to his parents about his new toy.

Other than helping out with the carnival, Holbrook said participants walked around, stopped at nearly every booth, meeting people who shared the same interests in devoting their time to helping those with disabilities.

The following talent show gave Best Buddies members and their buddies an opportunity to plan something together to share with others.

At the festival, Costa formed an even closer bond with her "best buddy," Scott, than she had had before.

"I always feel like Scott and I bond every time we hang out and I learn so much about him," Costa said. "I always see him helping a fellow [best buddy], who uses a wheelchair, get on the bus after school. He inspires me to be a better person and love unconditionally like he does."

Holbrook also said that attending the festival strengthened her positive opinions of the Best Buddies club and its members.

"So many people participated [in the fair] and it was just great to see everyone come together like that to have fun," she said. "It was really nice to see the smiles on everyone's faces and how much fun everybody was having, just being with their buddies. That's probably the best part about being in Best Buddies."

Through Best Buddies, Costa learned that accepting people exactly the way they are isn't impossible.

"Scott has truly been an inspiration for me," Costa said. "He loves everyone for who they are. He doesn't judge you and he just appreciates everyone for being themselves."

Holbrook's "best buddy," Johara, has also taught her a few things about different perspectives.

"[Johara] sees the positive things in life and it always surprises me when she points them out because I don't usually see things in the way she does," Holbrook said. "I think it's really cool to have the chance to be so close to somebody like her through Best Buddies."

ASB implements student-designed texting service

Will Ellis
STAFF WRITER

In an attempt to increase school involvement and spirit, ASB has recently implemented an initiative known as Westview Texting.

Designed by media publicity chairs Tifanie Javier (11) and Morgan Dohna (10), the program plans to reach out to the student body through a method completely free for the school and students, described as text blasting.

Every Monday, a mass text message will be sent out to students signed up for the service, updating all subscribers on the week's events.

To subscribe to the service, students simply need to text a number unique to each class and then they are automatically put on the texting list.

Javier said that the idea originated at a Ramona ASB convention.

Though the program provoked great excitement, it had a rough beginning.

"Everyone was really interested in making this a new way of publicizing," Javier said, referencing how in the past ASB had relied almost solely on signs. "But there were concerns about the privacy policy and if it was free. There were also concerns as to if the numbers would be shared with a third party."

However, with the help of a texting service called Tatango, ASB was able to make its idea concrete without compromising student privacy.

Javier said Tatango was chosen over other providers because it was free and easy to use for the student population.

Despite the success in initiating Westview Texting, Javier said one problem is still setting the program back.

"It's difficult getting people to sign up," Javier said. "And we still need as many people as we can get."

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Theater Co. returns with accolades from Fullerton

Kevin Crowley
MANAGING EDITOR

Last weekend, 68 students participated in the annual Fullerton Theatre Festival performing monologues or scenes that were judged by theater educators and theater professionals.

Cat Crowley (12), Josh Montez (12) and Mikey Blunski (12) performed in the first-place comedic ensemble scene, *Titanic*, which was directed by Montez. Crowley also earned second place for her original musical, *The Heart of the Matter*, performed by Cameron Sczempka (12), Lauren Long (12) and Amy Ramsdell (12) and with music by Mark Suennen (12). Katie Redman (12) was awarded first place for a presentation of her set design created for the theater company's spring musical, *Bye Bye Birdie*.

Crowley said that as a winner for both her performance and her writing, the award ceremony on Saturday afternoon was a nerve-wracking experience. Her reaction to the win for comedic ensemble came after the announcement of Redman's award, but the Westview section of Fullerton's auditorium still tensed with anticipation.

"When they got to first place, I couldn't even process it," Crowley said. "I just stood up and everyone was cheering around me. [The cast] went up and took the trophy and took the picture and were so impressed by the situation."

For Crowley, however, the work involved with her scene was minimal compared to the difficulties of the original musical. A new category in the festival, musical entries had a 10-minute time limit that was difficult to operate under for Crowley, Suennen and the cast.

"It had so many different aspects just because it was a musical, and the music was part of telling the story," Crowley said.

Besides the scene and the musical, Crowley also performed as a member of *The Nimble Marmosets*, Westview's improv troupe. Participating in three different categories, along with multiple performances of her scene and the musical, required a lot of running.

"It's crazy," she said. "I did improv first, and then I had to run and do the comedic scene. I think it was one of my most stressful times [at Fullerton]."

Montez, who directed and performed in *Titanic*, said he had a relaxed weekend. While he also appeared as Conrad Birdie in the scenes from *Bye Bye Birdie* performed at Fullerton, he said that *Titanic* was his focus. But success didn't only come down to awards.

After the second performance of *Titanic* for the judges, Montez said that he and Blunski had a conversation about their chances of making it to a final third performance.

"If we didn't get into finals, we wouldn't care because there was nothing we would change about it," he said.

After finals, as he waited at the awards ceremony, Montez was nervous. When he did win, however, the award vindicated Montez's staging of the "deranged" scene.

"[The award] definitely encourages me to keep taking risks," he said.

For Crowley, however, her final festival and two awards added to her interest in making theater her future.

"I felt like I had what it takes, and [the festival] solidified that theater could be what I want to do with the rest of my life," she said.

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