



Will Ellis

SIX DEGREES

## Support for new job bill will beget possible rewards

In his State of the Union address, President Barack Obama stated that he wished to double our nation's exports within five years.

This bold statement should put fire under feet of Americans everywhere, especially Westview students, to support the president in his efforts with the new job bill he is trying to push through Congress to help Americans.

By increasing the amount of exports coming from our country, the United States will reap many benefits. For one, our country will become more internationally relevant as a positive economic force.

Also, an increase in exports would mean that the United States would encounter an increased cash flow than what we're seeing right now. When exports are increased, that means more money is being funneled into our country by others buying our products.

Finally, it will mean more jobs for Americans, since to increase the amount of exports we are sending out, we will need more workers to create those exports.

That final step is why it is so important that we support the president's efforts with his jobs bill in Congress.

Not only will it create jobs for us just as we are exiting college, it will also create a better economic environment for our entry into the real world.

And the positive economic impact will help Westview students even more than students in, say, Bakersfield, since San Diego is one of California's most affected metropolitan areas, feeling crippling damage dealt by the recession. With an improved economic climate, we San Diegans and Westview students can breathe more easily than the unfortunate Westview alumni of today, who were forced to bear brunt of the Great Recession.

In order to make sure these coming days will be more pleasant for us, we must be vocal citizens, going to the streets if necessary to make our voices heard. Only then will we garner the attention we need from our Representatives.

Only with their support can this legislation go through and save us from this difficult future. And as we will soon join the ranks of American voters, our voices to those in Congress will be strong, and will be heard.

So it is imperative that we as Westview students support the president's new jobs bill. It could easily mean the difference between a doomed future, and a bright one.

# Carey organizes diversity show

Andra Kovacs  
FINAL FOCUS EDITOR

For almost a year now, Shreya Carey (11) has been single-handedly planning a one-night theater event. To earn her Girl Scout Gold Award she is coordinating a performing arts show called "Diversity," tonight at the Neuro Sciences Institute in La Jolla. The performers will include high school students from across San Diego County.

To earn her Gold Award, she must have an 80-hour community service project where she shares something she loves doing with her community. She said she came up with the idea when Girl Scouts asked her in what areas she was talented and passionate in, and she had immediately thought of singing and dancing.

"I think the performing arts are one of the best ways people can learn about different cultures and exercise styles and random expression," Carey said.

She said that Diversity will be a collaboration of various stylistic acts and a way for people to see their peers doing things they haven't seen before.

The night will consist of a band, two orchestra pieces, two singing acts and seven different dance performances, including many cultural acts such as Cultic, South Indian, Irish Step and many other unique styles.

Although Carey says it's stressful to

take on so much, she cares about it for more reasons than just getting her award.

"I find [the diversity in styles] fascinating, and hopefully it will be interesting for other people to see too," she said. "Especially high school [students] because we're so young and we haven't been exposed to much. But if kids see other high school kids doing it, they might want to know more about it."

There are many relatively unknown styles of dance to high school students, and Carey says she believes they are worth experiencing and learning about.

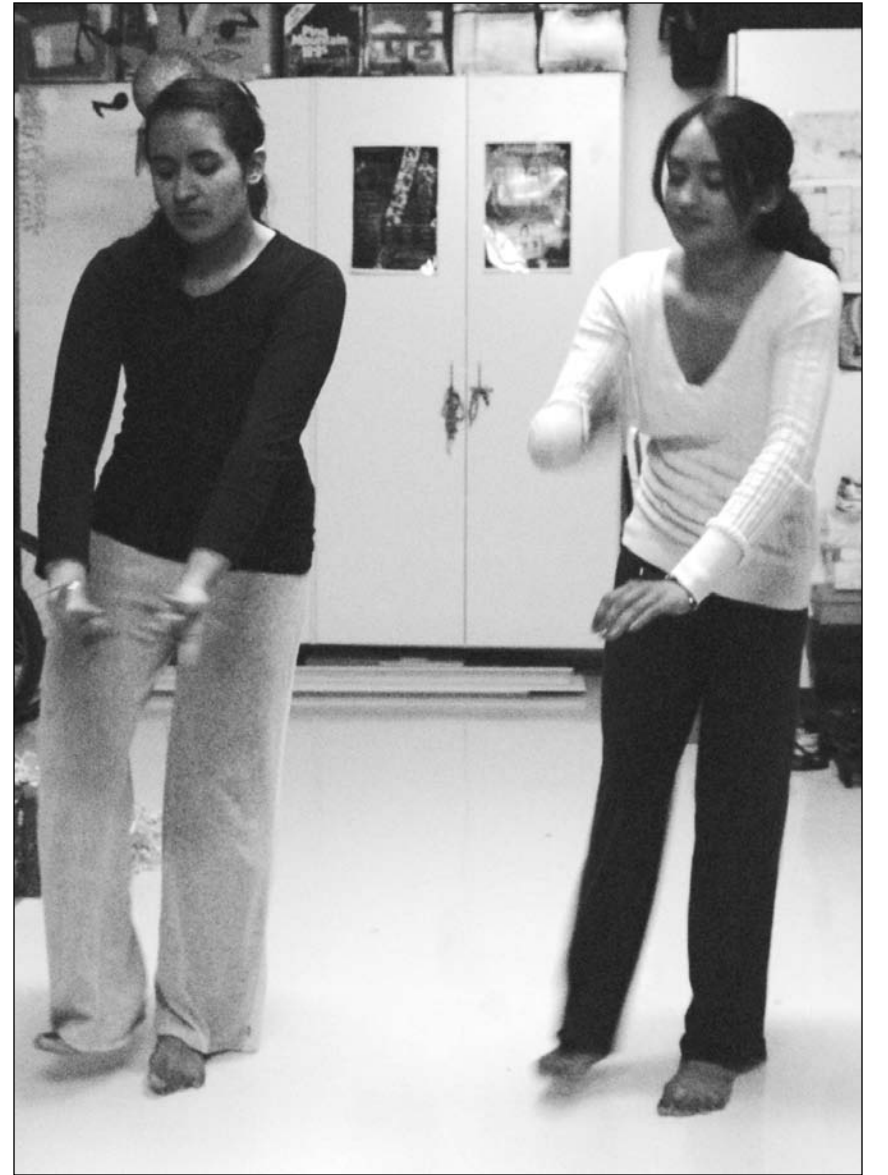
"When you get a taste of what other people can do, it can either inspire you to do something on your own or learn more about it," she said.

Carey said that one of the things she's most excited about is the evaluation form that will be on the back of everyone's ticket.

"People will get to fill out what they did and didn't like, and what they learned, or just any comments and feedback," she said. "I can picture myself coming home, dumping the box on my bed and just reading all of them."

As Diversity approached, Carey has been under a lot of pressure, yet she said she knows that in the end it will be worthwhile.

"This is something I want," she said. "And, it's something I know other people can get something out of, too."



Dominic Lucisano

Sumeeta (11) and Bani Ghai (9) rehearse for "Diversity." The event tonight, planned by Shreya Carey (11), will showcase various cultural performances.

## Wuehrmann honored at CETA theatre festival

Amanda Floco  
STAFF WRITER

William "Danger" Wuehrmann (12) waited anxiously at CETA (California Educational Theatre Association), the annual theatre festival, Jan. 16. He was anxious for two reasons: the awards were about to be announced, and he really had to go to the bathroom.

Suddenly, the judges called Wuehrmann's name. He stood in shock, the moment not clicking in his brain. Slowly, he made his way to the stage to accept his award for Best Supporting Actor in CETA's Festival of Scenes.

Each year at CETA, eight to ten schools are invited to compete in the Festival of Scenes, showcasing each of their respective fall plays in a 10 minute scene.

Westview performed a scene from their fall play "Fools." Wuehrmann won for his role as Dr. Zubritsky.

"It was amazing to win something," he said. "Not just personally, but I'm glad Westview got to bring something home, too."

Competing at CETA is one of the most pressure-filled experiences for an aspiring actor.

"There's a lot of deadline crunching, a lot of last-minute changes," Wuehrmann said. "But everything is still fun in the end."

Wuehrmann started out as an actor in middle school when he was pushed towards the stage by his drama teacher and he hasn't left it since. For him, acting was invigorating and liberating.

"I felt like there was finally some kind of natural talent that I could embellish," he said. "It was nice to have something that I wanted to work at, instead of something I was supposed to work at."

Since coming to Westview, he has continued to

pursue his passion, reveling in the constantly stimulating atmosphere of high school theatre.

"Westview theatre is exciting all the time," he said. "No matter what."

But as his high school career comes to a close, Wuehrmann intends to remain on the stage, acting in the One Act, "The Placebo Effect," as well as in the spring musical "Grease." But that isn't the end of his ambition, as he's decided to pursue acting in college.

"I'm going to do the regular thing: go to college, get my degree, work at fast food restaurants trying to find acting jobs," he said. "I'll go anywhere I can get work. The life of an actor is the life of a gypsy."

For Wuehrmann, acting is a part of who he is and what he's about, and this is only fueled by his belief in one thing.

"Do what you love," he said.

## Basketball game benefits Haitians

HAITI RELIEF, from page 1

was donated by Westview students and the community.

Having a personal connection with the destruction in Haiti, Soleil Wallen-Balmir (9) was excited to hear that Westview was collecting money to help her native country. A few days after the earthquake, Wallen-Balmir received calls from her family telling her that her mother's godmother, as well as multiple cousins, had passed away.

"I wasn't expecting Westview to do a fundraiser for Haiti, but I'm so glad we did," Wallen-Balmir said. "It makes me feel really happy that Haiti is getting help. We need help. It's different than other disasters because Haiti is already so poor and having an earthquake is devastating to the people out there."

With the planning of the fundraiser so last minute, Wild wasn't sure what to expect.

"Part of me thought that if every kid brings in a dollar, that's \$2,500, but there's also the reality that some of our families are suffering as well and might not be able to donate," he said. "So I didn't really expect anything, but for me, something was better than nothing. I don't know what \$1,100 will do or who it'll help, but better something than nothing."

Cavendish said she was also a little worried about the planning of the fundraiser prior to the game, but is thrilled with the fundraiser's outcome.

"At first I wasn't sure if it was going to work out since it was such late notice, but we ended up raising over \$1,100 so it was a really good way for our school to help," Cavendish said. "People who couldn't make it to the game still came into [the finance office]



Linnea Whitney

Albert Gehami (9) collects donations in front of the gym at the basketball game on Jan. 28. ASB organized this fundraiser to assist the victims of the Haitian earthquake.

and donated money. With everything, we were able to pull together a lot of money and help out."

After putting on this fundraiser during the game,

Wild said that students can look forward to something similar next year. As he's always wanted to have a school-wide fundraiser, he used this as an opportunity to start a tradition, and thinks the student vs. staff basketball game is a good event to serve as a platform.

"We can pick a different charity every year," Wild said. "Maybe it's domestic, maybe it's international, maybe it helps battered women or the homeless."

But for me, I took on this job not just to put on fun activities and help kids plan it,

but true leadership is about influencing culture." Besides the fundraiser, Cavendish said the actual game was successful as well. Both sides of the stands were filled and Cavendish felt that everyone had a good time.

"It was a good thing to get the students and staff connected and it was a good thing for the boys and girls seniors to play together for their last time," she said.

The students ended up taking the lead and beat the staff 26-24, but Wild said that after such a positive experience with the fundraiser this year, the annual game won't return to being just a basketball game.

"I don't think we'll go back," he said. "We're onto something here and it's important for kids to get the idea that there's more to life than just what they see here."

## Quinto crowned first in Mr. Bayanihan pageant

Katelyn Hennes  
STAFF WRITER

As he stood in line with the three other boys remaining out of the original 16, Brandon Quinto (11) shifted from one foot to another, staring at the judges' mouths, waiting to hear the name of the winner. Although the venue, his act, his clothes and his responses changed over the three years he participated in the pageant, he was waiting for the same thing.

Quinto was waiting to see if he would be crowned the pageant winner and gain the title of Mr. Bayanihan. But most of all, he was waiting to see if he would be the first junior to ever win the pageant and beat his title of runner-up.

Since he was a freshman, Quinto has competed in the Mr. Bayanihan pageant, which has been hosted by the Westview Bayanihan club for the past five years.

However, like most guys, Quinto doesn't compete in the event just for a love of pageants. He participates to help the Bayanihan club raise money to give to charities that the club chooses.

This year, proceeds from the \$5 tickets went to victims of the earthquake in Haiti and the typhoon in the Philippines.

The event was open to the public and took place at the Westview Theater. With the help of advertising for the event on Facebook, the club ended up raising a total of \$1,000 from ticket sales alone.

Quinto and the other pageant contestants competed in different pageant activities during the four-hour event.

"There are three different times to show what you wear: sportswear, casual

and formal," Quinto said. "There is also a talent portion, and throughout the whole event, you can be funny or serious."

There is also a part of the pageant where the judges, who are a mixture of Westview teachers, club members and former winners of the pageant, ask the contestants questions.

Quinto said that he practices for weeks in order to perfect what he plans on doing for the pageant.

"The hardest part is [trying to think] of what the judges would ask you and what you would answer," Quinto said.

The talent portion of the competition is also something Quinto says is hard to prepare for. In years past, Quinto has danced and read poetry. However, this year he chose to do something most people don't know that he does: play piano.

While the contestants were competing, the rest of the club members who weren't competing in the pageant helped out everywhere they could. They served free lumpia and drinks to 200 audience members and got the pageant contestants ready for their different activities. However, for Quinto, the four hours were all worth it when his wait was over and he was crowned Mr. Bayanihan.

"I kind of felt like, did they really choose me?" Quinto said. "I was confused but happy."

Although Quinto has won the title of Mr. Bayanihan, he can't wait to take part in the event next year.

"I definitely will participate next year, Quinto said. "They may not let me compete again but I want to be there any way I can."

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