


DECISION TIME

OBAMA VS. ROMNEY 2012

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SPORTS

Varsity volleyball players team up with boys for the annual Halloween volleyball quad.

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END OF FIRST QUARTER

Today, Nov. 2

SAT

Tomorrow at 8 a.m.

POPS AND PASTRIES CONCERT

Tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. in the gym

NO SCHOOL

Tuesday, Nov. 6.

OPEN HOUSE

Community open house on Sunday, Nov. 11 from 1 to 3 p.m.

FALL SPORTS AWARDS

Tuesday, Nov. 13 and Wednesday, Nov. 14 at 7 p.m. in the PAC

FINANCIAL AID NIGHT

Thursday, Nov. 15 at 7 p.m. in the PAC

IDEAS

“WE DON'T HAVE TO BE THE ONES OUR CHILDREN ARE ASHAMED OF AS WE TENTATIVELY SIP OUR COFFEE OUT OF THEIR VIEW IN BACK ALLEYS AND BEHIND GARAGES.”

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THE *Evil* IN THE ink?

By Lauren Semack
EDITOR

Junior Natalie Schaefer fidgets with her pencil in her AP Language and Composition class, waiting for her impromptu to be passed back, hoping that English teacher Jonathan Byrne didn't bleed red pen across her most recent argumentative essay.

"I get sad because it feels like I've done a lot of stuff wrong. It seems like I didn't do anything right, and if I see all the red pen, I feel like I missed the tasks," Schaefer said.

In a 2010 study done by the European Journal of Social Psychology, results showed that teachers who use red pen to grade assignments tend to find more errors and mark up a student's assignment more than a pen of another hue.

"My concern with the stories and research would be why more comments and criticism on a paper is necessarily a bad thing," Byrne said. "The article's comments didn't say the people grading were being overly critical, they just said that they were more critical."

While attending Oakland University for his Master's in English

Education, Byrne said his professors discussed how red pen raises anxiety, but increased mistake-finding was not mentioned. Coincidentally, he has converted into a full-time red pen fiend this year.

"Mr. Young just ordered supplies for the English department, so I just pulled a box of pens that happened to be red, but once I started writing with the red, I liked how it looked when I wrote," Byrne said. "I thought it might just pop off the page, instead of kind of being mellow. There is no chance that a kid's going to be reading an impromptu and miss one of my comments because it's just like, 'Pow!'"

According to the color psychology research done by Faber Birren in the 60s, red tends to raise pulses and cause over-agitation. It can mean passion, negative or positive.

"To me, as a psychologist, what I would want students to know is that mistakes are very good opportunities to learn, and that there is actually a whole other breadth of research that ... we tend to learn things better and retain them longer if we make mistakes," North's psychologist Christine Kuhl said. "So my concern wouldn't really be

the medium used to make corrections. It would be that both teacher and student are using that as a teachable moment."

Kuhl said that in today's fast-paced society, she often has to remind students that an easy way to prevent red pen anxiety is simply living in the now. If a student looks for potential improvements in those red marks, they can plan for success next time.

"If you stop trying to assert control in the environment, but focus that anxious energy on stuff you can control and achieve, it can really relieve anxiety," Kuhl said.

Kuhl also said that different levels of anxiety correspond with age. "All of those stresses increase with age. Especially with middle school. It's a very stressful time," Kuhl said. "There are so many hormonal changes going on, and too many social changes going on, that I think those issues tend to be most evident by late elementary and middle school."

Kuhl suggests middle school teachers consider whom they are grading.

"There's a lot of kids, and you have to be careful. It is a fine line

ILLUSTRATION BY MARIA LIDDANE

to walk," Brownell Middle School English teacher Susan Dempsey said. "If you put too much criticism or red marks, they shut down. You have to be careful about balancing about how many comments you're going to make."

Dempsey says she takes into account how her students will react and is always trying to find new ways of grading papers. She even used highlighters instead of red pen at one point, but found it less effective. She hesitantly returned to the red pen.

"I had someone say years ago when they were talking about grading papers that you shouldn't mark a paper so it looks like you were hemorrhaging on the paper," Dempsey said. "I always think of that. When all your red marks look like more than what they put into it, it's too much, you need to stop."

While Schaefer doesn't enjoy the markings all over her paper, she said it makes her look for the comments detailing how to improve. But in teaching middle-schoolers, Dempsey sees her students only looking for the grade.

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Teen magazines may mount pressure on young girls, but some ladies fight against the feat of being told who to be, what to wear and what to weigh

By Emma Ockerman
MANAGING EDITOR

Senior Kyndall Echols knows intimately the gaze of heavily-edited female models staring back at her from a magazine's glossy pages. Fashion is her calling; it's only natural.

But from her work as an intern for Nordstrom's, she has learned that there's nothing natural about the painstakingly photoshopped women staring back at her.

"They portray women as the kind of women guys want to be with and girls want to be: the skinny waist, the big chest, big bottoms. But realistically, that's not possible," Echols said.

But not every female sees the reality of photoshop. National statistics show staggering rises in the number of teens with eating disorders, as 90% of those are adolescent females.

"My advice for anyone going into the fashion industry, especially as a model, is that you have to learn to accept who you are," Echols said.

In July, Seventeen magazine was prompted by Julia Bluhm, an eighth grader from Maine, to show more than skin-and-bones models. By August, Editor-in-Chief Ann Shoket promised to "celebrate every kind of beauty" and "never change a girl's body."

Showing a girl's true being is coming into vogue this year – literally. Vogue agreed this past May to use "real-looking" models, but protesters still await a response from its adolescent counterpart, Teen Vogue.

Former North student and fashion model Britany Burke doesn't see a reason to always blame the fashion industry for the woes of teenage girls, especially since she practices healthy habits.

"These photos that young girls see in magazines are sometimes edited, correcting 'imperfections,'" Burke said. "Making the model look bigger, smaller, have bigger eyes or lips – basically this is a model's job. We are there to be a piece of someone else's artwork and, when we are finished with our job, they can do whatever they want to do with their piece of art."

But Burke says sometimes the pressure is still on to fit a particular mold.

"I do see the pressure in not just models, but in many girls to look a certain way. People are worrying about what they are consuming on a daily basis, their skin, hair, weight – this is just too much, why not enjoy life a little bit? Sweets or chocolate cake won't harm anyone!"

Still, a survey conducted by Glamour magazine reported that 61% of its readers were unhappy with their hips, 64% felt ashamed of their stomachs and 72% detested their thighs, all while running photos of stick-thin models and dieting tips.

"It's more about the stories the media chooses to concentrate on. I think young people need stronger women role models who know the difference between a shallow life about looks and a much deeper, more meaningful life with a purpose," Suzy Berschback, Spirit of Women manager for Grosse Pointe Beaumont Hospital, said.

In a society where a plus-sized model is a size six, low self-confidence is hard to combat.

"I wish that our contemporary media would both show and truly value the full range of beauty in society," English teacher Geoffery Young said.

But progress is being made. Marie Claire magazine runs spreads entitled "What I love about me," and some magazines have even begun to work in reverse, photoshopping models to make them look a healthier size..

Still, according to South Carolina Department of Mental Health, 50% of 13-year-old girls have attempted to lose weight or view themselves as overweight. Echols, though, is content.

"I'm not a stick, and honestly, I'm kind of glad I'm not. I mean, what would I look like without a butt? Seriously," Echols said.

Freshmen campaign for student council spots

By Jordan Radke
EDITOR

In the din of the cafeteria, posters were taped, candy was pounced upon and freshman Connor Sickmiller, campaigning for a "classy presidency," stood out in his navy suit, blue tie and khakis.

There were several more formally-dressed figures making their way throughout the room on Monday, shaking hands and vying for freshman class student council positions, which were determined in primary elections Tuesday and subsequent elections Thursday.

Freshman class adviser Marilyn Withers orchestrated Monday's event at both lunches so freshmen could "put a name to a face" for each of the six presidential, four vice-presidential and three secretarial candidates.

"It's making them step out of their box a little, step out of their comfort zone," she said. "They step out of that box. They don't just sit there and quietly observe anymore. I step back and push them forward."

Certainly, Sickmiller and freshmen Mason Liagre and Jay Garlapati, campaigning for president, vice president and secretary, respectively, were not reticent, but outspoken, willing to talk hall sweep enforcement and the contentious issue of distributing candy to campaign.

"I'd like it so if you're a 3.5 GPA or above, and you get your first hall sweep, it's just a warning," Sickmiller said.

Garlapati and Sickmiller's self-proclaimed "bodyguard" and cabinet member, Vincent Provenzano, broke out laughing. Garlapati likened Sickmiller's policy to "discrimination." The group exchanged perspectives on hall sweeps.

Then conversation turned to candy.

"We're not buying votes," Sickmiller said, just after Garlapati, dressed in a suit and white, untied sneakers, interjected he would be passing out candy.

"I will be giving out candy, but it's not

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