

## High school relationships lack longevity



Illustrated By Nicole Doan

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High school relationships may be fun and exciting, but are they going to end in marriage? Not many people end up marrying their high school sweethearts. Not everyone sticks with the same people all through the four years. Coming in as freshmen, students feel excited and nervous about having a girlfriend or boyfriend. By senior year, some students are just ready to leave the immature world of high school dating.

High school relationships start off as crushes. You talk to the girl or guy that looks cute to you, and at one point, if you like them, you ask them out. After you start going out, you find more things in common between you. The school dance is around the corner, and you go dance like you have never before. Everything is nice and smooth until you find something out about the other person, or you start to have arguments. You don't talk to each other for a day or two. After that you apologize and start talking again. Soon enough this roller coaster of ups and downs will lead to longer fights and shorter make-

up times. At one point, you call it quits and become ex-girlfriend and boyfriend. Then you move on to another person.

On entering ninth grade you think you are all grown up, but looking back as a senior you will wonder what you saw in your ex-boyfriends and girlfriends. High school love can be immature. The girl will try to rectify her guy's habits, and boys get filled with anger. Boys tend to be egotistical and want the girl to call and say sorry first. Both of them start becoming jealous and possessive. The couples start disliking their partner's possessiveness while they themselves are being possessive. Hypocrisy and big egos are the main reasons for breakups.

There is also the physical versus the mental liking. At one point, some relationships begin with the person's outer appearance and not with their heart. Many girls and boys get into relationships with the wrong person without knowing the other person's true incentives. Love has to be between two hearts, not bodies, to be everlasting.

Only a few high school couples have gotten married. Most high school love and especially one's first love is never forgotten but rather kept as a experience for the future life.



Illustrated By Brian Jeon

## Staff Editorial: Budget cuts affect school climate

NICOLE DOAN  
Editor-in-Chief

As FUSD schools continue to issue budget cuts, a heavy cloud of irritation thickens among students, teachers and other school workers alike. The district plans to cut teacher salaries and a counselor, in addition to increasing class sizes, causing the school climate to turn sour.

Beginning this school year, the hike in number of students per class robbed us of the luxury of smaller classes, sometimes with less than 20 students, particularly English classes. Previously, teachers had a larger focus on each student, and in the case of English classes, students generally had more meaningful discussions about the books they read. Now everybody can't contribute to discussions or ask their questions because there isn't enough time in a class period to fit that all in. In addition, some classes are so large that there aren't enough desks for students. As a result, students may not be as content or comfortable as when class sizes were smaller.

In addition, with the possibility that the district may cut salaries or have layoffs, teachers and other school staff members may feel less determined to carry out their jobs. They may not completely stop putting in the effort, but there may be times in which they feel like giving up. This may not be true for all staff members.

We must not point fingers at anyone or any entity, for the state is making an effort to preserve our

education. According to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's website, <http://gov.ca.gov>, our governor's 2010-11 budget includes keeping educational funding at the same level year over year. Therefore, it seems as though lower levels of government, such as our school district, are at fault for causing distress among students and school staff members.

However, budget cuts are necessary to saving money during these tough economic times. We can do little to improve our conditions, with the exception of convincing our parents to opt for paying additional taxes. However, adults do not feel eager to pay more taxes, even if that means better education for their children.

Aside from that, all we can do is ride it out together and have understanding about the situation. Without understanding that cuts must be made to reduce monetary spending, people may feel inclined to complain without taking things into consideration. Have patience; we can get through it.

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## 'retard' is not 'stupid'

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Opinions Reporter

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines mental retardation as a "sub average intellectual ability equivalent to or less than an IQ of 70 that is accompanied by significant deficits in abilities (as in communication or self-care) necessary for independent daily functioning, is present from birth or infancy, and is manifested especially by delayed or abnormal development, by learning difficulties, and by problems in social adjustment."

You hear it at school and on the streets. It's seen on TV, it's seen in the movies. It's heard on the radio, and it's read in books.

The word "retarded" was meant to describe people with the con-

ditions Webster lists; however, it seems to have lost its meaning. Now for anything that can be described as ridiculous or unpleasant, we label it as "retarded."

Although it might not seem like much, since it is used constantly, this is merely a gateway for the evolution of hateful speech, not to mention the insensitivity towards those who are mentally impaired.

The word "retard" has even spawned many spin-offs such as "celebutard" (famous stupid person), "debutard" (famous rich person who can't handle money) and "e-tard" (someone not familiar with computers or technology).

Most people know individuals who are challenged. They may have a mental or physical illness. They may be injured, or they suffer from the many different problems of to-

day. We should do our best to help them and not mock them.

"I think the word 'retard' should be used to emphasize a point, but people use it too leisurely," senior Alfonso Bonilla said.

The word "retard" completely undermines the efforts made to prevent discrimination against those who suffer from mental illnesses. This word has such a strong negative connotation, that it gives a poor impression to those mentally disabled, who have little to no control over the situation.

Very few would actually use the word "retard" to label someone with a handicap. It's unfitting as a noun and seems to be more of a term used betwixt friends. Try to remove this expression from your daily use, and be conscious of who you might offend.

## Has the public eye become too sharp?

NICOLE DOAN  
Editor-in-Chief

Ordinary citizens like you and I don't have the right to peer into the private lives of others in hope of satisfying curiosity. Celebrities deserve as much privacy as everybody else. However, people tend to pry into their business and scrutinize the smallest of details in the daily events of their lives.

As of Nov. 27, professional golfer Tiger Woods has been examined closely by the public eye, due to adultery brought to light by his car accident. Woods had minor injuries from the crash, but some falsely believe that his wife, Elin Nordegren, beat him because

Woods supposedly had flings with other women.

Whether or not he had affairs should not matter. Rather, the fact that Woods did not seriously injure himself should carry more weight.

Respectable news sources such as ABC and NBC presented accounts about the car crash, but most of the sources mentioned and focused on Woods' alleged affairs. These news sources obtained information from tabloids such as TMZ. Rather than doing ethical reporting, these journalists opted to use unreliable sources to present gossip, not news.

There is a line that separates news and gossip. The point of news is to inform people about recent

important events, whereas gossip involves trivial things that often involve personal matters. Unfortunately, some Americans go for infotainment and gossip instead of news.

We must admit that we have all been guilty of engaging in gossip: either spreading it or asking about it. It's merely human nature to be curious. But we need to make an effort to fight against the magnetism of rumors before it hurts someone.

Unless a background check is necessary for a job or other similar cases, people should not care about the private matters of another individual. Just as celebrities, public figures or any other individuals, we would not want people to dig their



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noses into our personal matters. So we should all back off, set down those tabloids and let people live

their private lives. People should care more about their actions than pinpointing others.