

THE VIKING LOGUE



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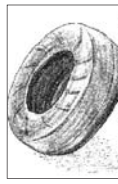
FORUM

The notorious O.J. Simpson lands in the spotlight once again, but why do we care?
Page 5

facebook

A&E

Is Facebook the new MySpace? The online craze gets the best of students.
Page 7



FEATURES

New restrictions plague young drivers. Learn how to deal with them.
Page 8-9



HIGHLIGHT

Check out the four page photo spread on homecoming week.
Page 10-13

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Flyers fuel controversy between two schools

Ajooi Sethi and Rohan Shah

Staff Writer and News Editor

Prior to the homecoming game against cross-town rival Palatine, students saw taunting flyers, either on the windshield of a car or in the hands of a peer. Before the game on Sept. 28, students from Palatine High School left flyers on the cars of Fremd students while school was in session.

The Palatine students distributed the flyers during what they thought were lunch hours, not knowing that the bell schedule had been altered for the pep assembly, according to administrators. When Fremd students came out during a passing period, they drove off the Palatine students.

A few took offense to the flyers, which some speculated were done in response to publicity for the Youth Hunger Opposition in Palatine (YHOP).

The United Clubs of Fremd (UCF), a spirit club, sold t-shirts with the slogan "One Town, One Team" printed on the front to fundraise for YHOP. UCF President Nick Addison says the t-shirts were designed to show Fremd's superiority.

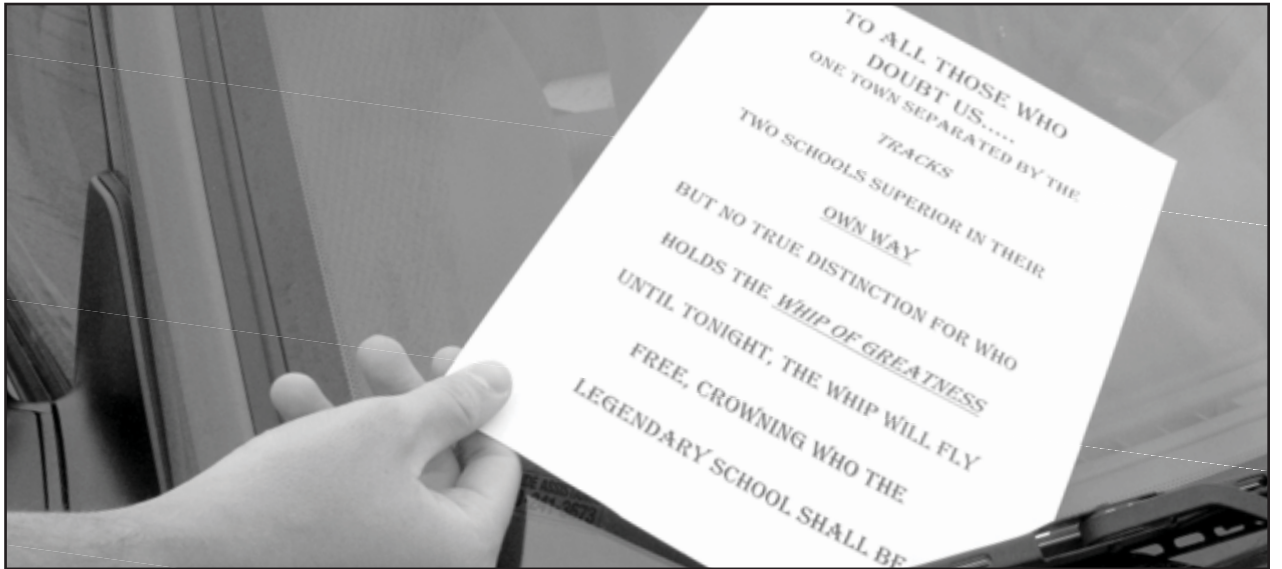
"[The shirts] mean that we're the better team from Palatine, so 'One Town, One Team' all the way," Addison said.

Senior Kellie Kinsella, who started YHOP earlier this year, says both Palatine and Fremd students misunderstood the purpose of the slogan.

"'One Town, One Team' was meant to be fighting hunger, not a fight between Palatine and Fremd," Kinsella said. "We couldn't get the word out fast enough."

Senior Mark Mosias agrees with Kinsella that the goal of the slogan was meant to help the community and not be divisive.

"The point was to raise money for families that needed



Logue photo by John Beyer

SCHOOL RIVALRY. Some students were offended by the flyers Palatine High School students placed on cars in the Fremd parking lot before the homecoming game on Sept. 28.

it, not to say one team was better than another," Mosias said. "I think it's poor sportsmanship on Palatine High School's part."

Because the flyer incident occurred just hours before the game, senior Derrick Walker, a football player, says it tainted homecoming.

"I think it took away from the game," Walker said. "It should have been a friendly game."

But senior Rita Pello says she thought it was done in jest and was harmless.

"I think it was actually kind of funny, and people didn't really take offense," Pello said. "It raises both schools' spirit."

Assistant Principal Eric Wenckowski, the varsity foot-

ball assistant coach, responded to the hype by telling his players not to react.

"We tried not to let the kids get caught up in the outside stuff," Wenckowski said.

Wenckowski says good ultimately came out of the whole ordeal.

"I think it was a situation where good intentions were misunderstood," Wenckowski said. "In between the YHOP, which raised money for breast cancer, and the Children's Medical Hospital, the game blossomed into kids doing something for other people."

Palatine Assistant Principal Craig Kersemeier and Pirates' varsity football coach Tyler Donnelly declined to comment on the incident.

Halloween costumes a thing of the past

Christine Ninchich

Staff Writer

Clothes can make a statement, but a costume can tell a story. For many students, Halloween is a real treat, but this year, hallways will not be haunted anymore.

Principal Marina Scott explained that costumes now are banned because a majority of them were not school friendly and created distractions.

"Over the last three years, our school had increasing problems with the Halloween costumes," Scott said. "In general, it creates an atmosphere that fights against academics. The rules that the administration enforced in the past did not seem to be working."

Assistant Principal Eric Wenckowski agrees the costumes created too many distractions.

"For example, some kids could not do P.E., some students could not sit in their seats and some of the

costumes were offensive to others," Wenckowski said.

Social studies teacher Andrew Larson said he never found the Halloween outfits to be a problem.

"When my students did have a costume that could be distracting, I would ask them to alter it," Larson said.

Scott believes that although dress-up days are similar to Halloween, the same rules do not apply.

"One may argue that the Student Council dress-up day costumes are just as distracting as Halloween costumes, but the Student Council spirit days are linked to the school and are both positive and spirit-building," Scott said.

Junior Bizzy Mellado says costumes make her Halloween enjoyable.

"It's an American tradition. I believe as long as the costume is within the dress code, it should be completely acceptable," Mellado said. "Remember, it's only one day."



Photo courtesy of Katie Melone

QUICK PIC. Seniors Katie Melone and Stephanie Aeschliman dress as a cat and a bunny, but they will have to leave the outfits at home this year as Halloween costumes have been banned at school.

Students upset by the new policy tried to get it reversed.

"A week after the rule was enforced, there was a petition with 300 or more names on it. After the administration discussed this issue, we decided to not turn over the decision," Scott said.

Scott explained that there are many opportunities for students to dress up and show school spirit.

"Fremd allows fun activities that many schools do not allow. For example, we allow powderpuff football, tailgating be-

fore football games, and decorating the school on Thursday nights," Scott said. "These are all spirit-building activities, and Halloween costumes do not fit into this category."

Administrators said students need to follow the no-costume rule being enforced because disciplinary punishments are at stake.

"If a student decides to dress up for Halloween, it will be like any other dress code violation. They would be sent home to change into normal clothes," Wenckowski said.

Union comes closer to strike

Sean Leahy

Editor-in-Chief

The clock is ticking on a potential strike of the District 211 teachers union.

This past Monday night at Conant High School, an adamant and overwhelming majority of teachers voted to file intent-to-strike documents, giving the union and district 10 days to negotiate an 07-08 salary schedule before the union can move forward on a job action.

Job actions include wearing buttons supporting the cause, picketing and, ultimately, striking.

"The teachers are really fed up with the board not being willing to bargain in good faith," head union building representative Maria Mungai said. "I think there is a general feeling among the teachers that they are being treated very disrespectfully."

District 211 Superintendent Roger Thornton told the Daily Herald on Tuesday that although he is disappointed, he's not surprised.

"It's appeared for sometime that at least part of the union has felt that a strike has been what they wanted to do," Thornton said.

The issue stalling an agreement is the pay raises for the last year of the teachers' three-year contract. The district put a 2.5 percent increase on the table as its final offer, while the union is seeking a 3.8 percent increase added to the base salary and a lump sum to bring the total increase to 4.1 percent.

"It is a fact that the district budgeted for 4.1 percent salary increases," said Jason Spoor, the vice president of the union. "It's in the budget. It's already approved."

The district maintains that it does not have the funds for that kind of increase, citing that the consumer price index (CPI), the standard rate of inflation, does not allow for such a raise.

District 214 recently accepted a 4.5 percent increase, and union representatives have used this fact as another argument for their cause.

see NEGOTIATIONS on page 2