

The Hatchet



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Mission

The Hatchet is a forum for student expression and discussion of ideas uncensored by school officials. The Hatchet staff seeks to ethically produce an accurate record of the news, sports, issues and people of the Washington High School community.

Letters to the Editor Policy

The Hatchet encourages public opinion through Letters to the Editor, which represent the opinion of the writer only. An editor must confirm submission of all letters with the writer. Writers may request that their letter be printed anonymously, but The Hatchet will not print letters submitted anonymously. Letters will not be edited. If a letter is not publishable due to legal liability, poor taste or length, the letter will be returned to the writer for revision.

Letters should be addressed to "the editor," and given to a Hatchet staff member, hand-delivered to Room E221, sent via email to <editor@whshatchet.com>, or mailed to WHS-The Hatchet / 38442 Fremont Blvd. / Fremont, CA 94536.

Additional options needed for healthy lifestyles



Staff Editorial

Individuals must make their own choices about their lifestyles, but outside forces can undoubtedly influence those decisions with little steps. The series of California laws against junk food alone are not completely effective in promoting a healthy way of life. However, they influence people into making the right choices. Despite this, we must take further steps into helping future generations become fitter groups of people.

The previously named Senate Bills 12, 19 and 965 force schools to stop selling junk food that does not follow the health guidelines listed in the documents. In addition, serving sizes are generally smaller, but food and beverage prices are high due to more costly packaging costs. The larger the container, the cheaper it is to package the item. These inconveniences have impelled students to flock to vendors that have the same items available for cheaper prices. Students are willing to take the time to walk off campus to satisfy their wants. Otherwise, they can bring food and drinks from home.

One way of solving this issue is to close the campus. Of course, the majority of students would disagree with this idea. As long as the school continues to have an open campus, there is no solution to this particular problem.

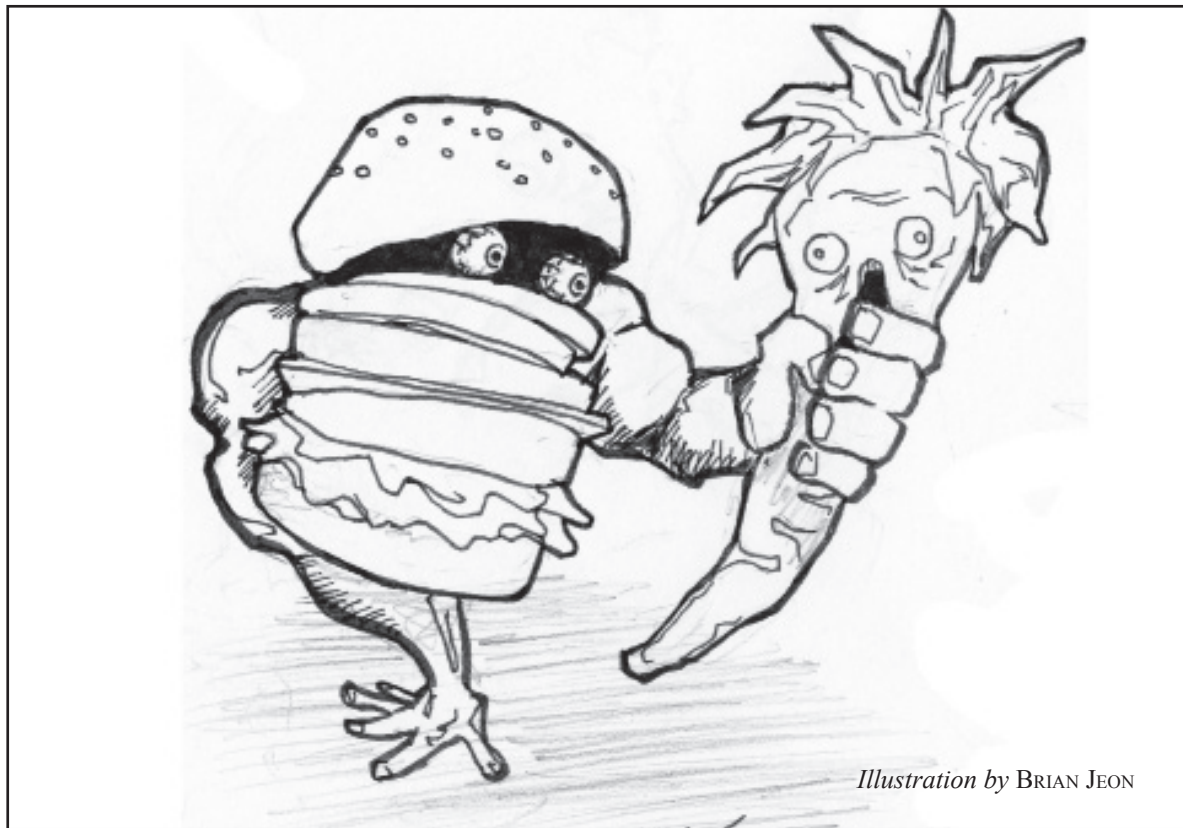


Illustration by BRIAN JEON

However, there are other ways to lead people to a healthier lifestyle.

As a school, we must come up with efficient ways that we can carry out directly. Not only that, but we should give people a choice to take up a healthy lifestyle, rather than forcing it on them. After all, everyone should have the responsibility to make their own decisions. Students should exercise and eat healthier, rather than give their consent towards the ban. If anything, they can moderate the amount of junk food they consume.

Fortunately, our school already

presents us with opportunities to maintain healthy living. With the requirement of taking two years of P.E. class, students have a choice to take additional years, but the school doesn't force students to spend all four years of high school taking this class.

In addition, certain clubs, such as the Ultimate Frisbee Club, allow students to have fun moving around and playing games. These student associations also give students a chance to make new friends and share interests.

It is also great that PTSA plans

to provide sources for recreational activities on campus. Once basketball hoops and tetherball courts are installed, students would have more opportunities to become active.

Such resources add to the external factors that hopefully influence individuals to make physically beneficial choices. We shouldn't rely on laws to force people to become healthier. As mere individuals, we can be just as strong—if not stronger than the Senators and other politicians within our state capitol.

Pros and cons: closed campus Supervision prevents misconduct

JOSHUA DAS
Opinions Editor

Sometimes what is good for us isn't the thing we always want. For instance, most students prefer an open campus during lunch, regardless of the side effects.

When on campus, students are less likely to be tempted into some form of delinquency. How many times a year have you heard, "Hey did you hear about that fight in McDonalds?" Fights occur off campus every year. Without proper supervision, the outcomes are unpredictable. If we disallow students from

leaving the campus, there would be less violent encounters.

Also, the more drivers get around in their cars, the more likely they are to get into an accident. With the parking lot mayhem during lunch, the new drivers are merely asking to test their parents' auto insurance. Cars can crash into each other or into pedestrians. Accompanying this worry, drivers would have to be wary of all the gas they spend. Sure, it doesn't seem like much to drive to Subway and back, but the amount of used gas does add up.

A closed campus would ensure fewer tardies to class as well. Students wouldn't have to deal

with going to the Fremont Hub or farther locations, and hurrying back before the second bell rings. The food at school would also be healthier, such as a salad, in comparison to a Big Mac.

In addition, with a closed campus, students may feel compelled to bring their own lunches. This would save them even more money, since they would not have to pay unreasonable prices for food that is half as good.

So even though a closed campus is not what everybody wants, the scenario's pluses outweigh the minuses.

Students cling to lunch privileges

SARAH DELANDA
Staff Reporter

For as long as I have been at Washington High School, and even, in all probability, before, there have been debates about closing our campus at lunch. While it has been considered a "success" on other campuses, WHS can't do it quite yet. We don't have the structures to hold that many kids on campus, much less provide adequate food for them. At this point in time, I can't imagine we have

the money we would need to get them, either.

Even assuming that we did, there are plenty reasons we shouldn't close the campus. Namely, we should have a choice in what we eat, and most of us don't have the time to make our lunches every morning. It has been mentioned that we could bring businesses onto our campus. With or without the new health regulations in place, WHS would still be hard pressed to find options that are both affordable and edible.

And as far as junk food goes,

even if we were allowed to buy it at school, it's a step back from things. At least, before, we're doing a little bit of walking before we fill up on Trans fat.

It's both unfair and unrealistic to strip WHS students of our lunch privileges. Yes, there are late students and off-campus fights, but there are late students and fights on campus too. There will always be a few bad eggs in any group, but that doesn't mean the majority should have to pay for it.

Spirit Week takes time away from teaching

JIMMY YOUNG
Staff Reporter

As a great teacher once said, "time is money." So are you spending that intangible time? Was Spirit Week really worth it?

Those countless hours put into a skit that will go on for 25 minutes. All that practicing, planning, writing, drawing and flying—did we spend a month's worth of time, just so we could jump around in the gym during lunch?

I know a lot of you are going to college. Doesn't that have more weight than a week of recreation? You could have taken the SAT's last week.

Spirit Week used to be a tradition of preparation for Homecoming, a week to boost our school morale for the upcoming game. Nowadays, people who dress up don't even attend the game. The tradition has morphed into an emphasis on spirit, rather than the game. It seems appropriate as it blurs the line between school spirit and game spirit. But now our generation has become one that contains numerous activities that occupy us in too many ways. Our lives have so many things to attend that Spirit Week isn't necessary.