

Candy ban leaves some with sour taste

By Wilfred Manzano
Third Place, News Writing
Division: High School

People say that the world revolves around money. Clearly, at Armijo High School — along with many other high schools — this is not caused by candy sale profits.

This year, the Armijo administration has banned the sale of candy as a source for fundraising in order to promote a healthy lifestyle and to combat obesity. Negative reactions, especially from the campus clubs, have erupted due to this sudden ban on these sweet delights.

With their pillars of candy undermined, campus clubs whose fundraising has been rooted in candy sales for many years must now turn to less satisfying, and often less rewarding, alternatives. Although some clubs do not require excessive money and, as a result, are not affected much, this candy ban has effects that ripple to essentially all the clubs, especially the larger ones.

In years past, band has been using other sources of fundraising; however, candy sales were the enormous contributor. Band

must now shift to their alternatives, including selling raffle tickets and working shifts at the bingo hall. According to the majority of the band members, selling the raffle tickets and working the bingo shifts are much more difficult than selling candy at school.

Band is in constant need for money but, without the ability to sell candy, there will be difficulty in covering the manifold expenses, including those for transportation, equipment, and alleviating the expenses of band members, among others.

Leadership is also feeling the burden. Candy sales easily reaped a consistent \$1,500 in a mere two weeks.

Other fundraising, such as car washes, restaurant nights, concessions, and selling spirit items do not even come close. A recent restaurant fundraiser through Hungry Hunter in Fairfield only brought in around \$300. Simply put, many of the other fundraising alternatives are not as easy or consistent for bringing in the cash.

Key Club is in a disconcerted state. Like leadership and band, Key Club has thrived on candy sales, reaping close to \$2,000 with each candy sale set. Other fundraising in past years include car washes, which gener-

"Simply put, many of the other fundraising alternatives are not as easy or consistent for bringing in the cash."

— Wilfred Manzano

ated around \$400 every time, but required more work, planning, and time. The money is geared toward their District Key Club Convention held in April annually. Convention costs soar close to \$400 to \$450, but with

of candy for a price to fellow students for their own personal profits!

Even without the black market, students may still be eating candy, junk food, and other unhealthy snacks at home, where school administrators have no control. As a result, the candy ban would simply be a detrimental, but futile effort.

Furthermore, students will criticize the "extremely hypocritical nature" of the candy ban. "The school still serves food laden with calories, fat, and mystery substances along with sugar-laden juices and cookies," said senior Javier Mendez.

Still others push for the middle ground, saying that the candy ban is too excessive, but should not be lifted completely. "There should just be a limit to the amount of candy sold," junior Nick Marlow said. "This way, both parties will be happy."

So, the contentious question arises: which is more significant — a healthier lifestyle or an easy, efficient source for fundraising?

The author was a junior at Armijo High School when this entry was submitted in February 2008.

Talib Kweli album offers a journey for ear drums

By Anthony Wong
Third Place, Opinion Writing
Division: High School

During a time in which hip-hop music is defined by nothing but beats that bump and lyrics filled with weak punch lines, one man takes a stand.

If success in hip-hop were measured by talent, Talib Kweli would undoubtedly be one of the most successful emcees today.

With his third studio album, the expectations are higher than ever, and Kweli delivers, successfully surpassing them.

"Ear Drum" is exactly like its namesake, an 80-minute journey for the ears. If you are looking for Soulja Boy, turn back now.

The album features a diverse list of guest appearances from jazz legend Roy Ayers to pop superstar Justin Timberlake. Yet even with so many guests, Kweli refuses to allow himself to be upstaged, as every song displays Talib's tremendous lyricism.

As if the lyrics weren't enough, even the beats blow the mind.

Instead of the recycled sound of the bubble gum pop songs that have dominated this summer, true producers make their stand with production credits to the likes of Will.i.am and Kanye West.

A good example of this is "Hostile Gospel Pt. 1," in which Just Blaze's pow-

erful beat itself would be enough to make the entire song.

"Ear Drum" has a little something for everyone.

There is not one topic Kweli doesn't touch upon: women ("Hot Thing,") haters ("Say Something,") the essence of hip-hop ("Listen!!!") health ("Eat To Live,") religion ("Give 'Em Hell,") and life itself ("The Nature.")

The first thing Kweli asks at the start of the album is, "Yo, what becomes of a dream deferred? That never makes it to the world to be seen or heard? Do it breathe, do it got heart beat? Is it alive, do it live only to be a star in the sky?" Throughout the entire album, Kweli makes sure

his dream is heard with your ears and seen with your mind.

The most amazing thing about Talib Kweli's music is that while he continues to appeal to the mainstream he still stays true to himself, never selling out. This is more than hip-hop. This is music and creativity in its essence. Forget about clever rhymes, this is poetry in motion.

This album gets 4.5/5 stars.

The only thing keeping "Ear Drum" from classic status is a huge song that sets the tone for the rest of the album, just as "Get By" did for "Quality" five years ago.

The author was a senior at Rodriguez High School in Fairfield when this entry was submitted in February 2008.

"The most amazing thing about Talib Kweli's music is that while he continues to appeal to the mainstream, he still stays true to himself..."

— Anthony Wong

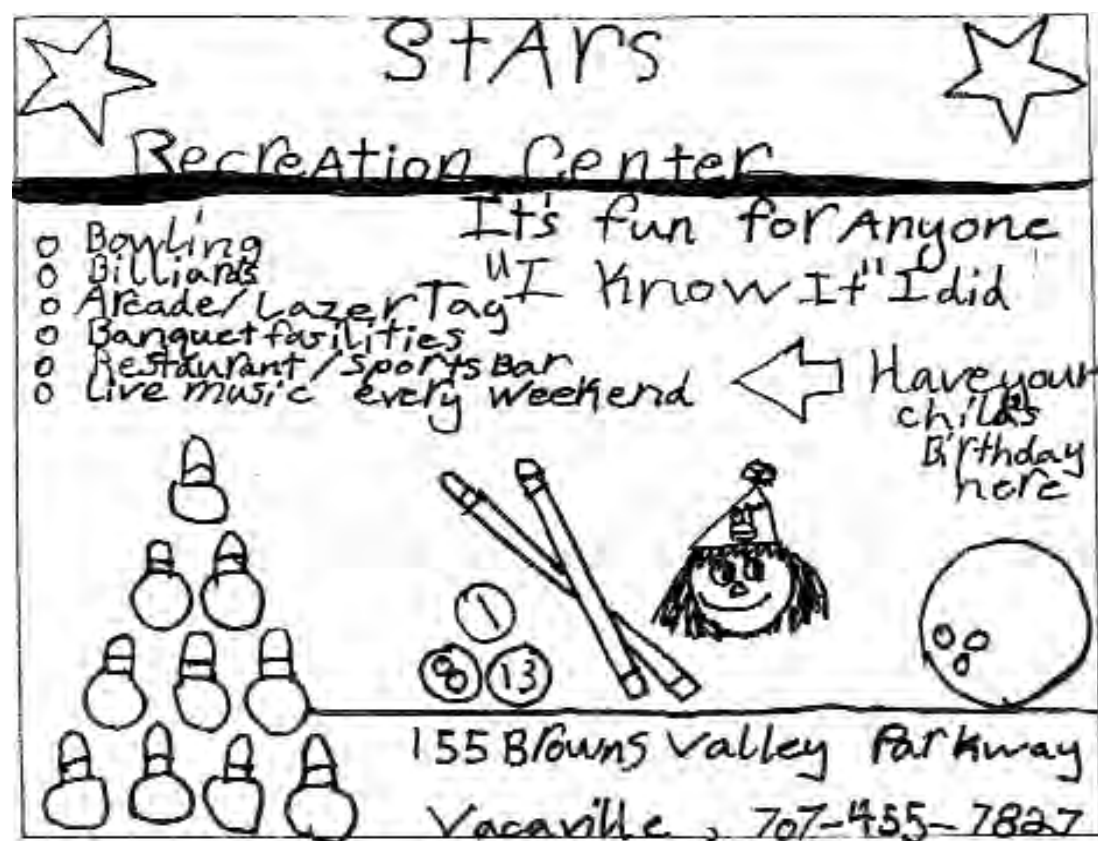
A pup's plea



Shelter seeks adoptive families

This photograph of a pup at the local animal shelter earned student photographer Isabel Soloaga an honorable mention in the 5-6 grade division for photojournalism in The Reporter's Campus Star student journalism competition. Isabel was a fifth-grader in Mrs. Kealy's classroom art Notre Dame School in Vacaville when this photograph was submitted to the competition in February 2008.

Design-an-Ad winner



This advertisement for Stars Recreation Center, designed by Browns Valley Elementary School student Sjolli Nolan, earned the student a second-place honor in 3-4 grade division of The Reporter's Design-an-Ad contest in the Campus Star student journalism contest. Sjolli was a student in Mr. Richardson's classroom when this was submitted in February 2008.

Puzzles, games winner

VACAVILLE SCHOOLS

C	O	U	N	T	R	Y	H	I	G	H	S	C	R	N
S	I	E	R	R	A	V	I	S	T	A	E	P	X	O
V	U	V	N	C	S	P	D	K	D	R	P	R	F	B
A	T	A	R	O	L	C	W	R	P	V	N	U	R	O
C	S	C	L	O	D	A	A	O	I	O	R	O	K	R
A	R	A	K	P	L	H	M	L	S	A	W	G	J	C
H	Q	V	C	E	C	K	L	I	C	N	X	Y	E	H
I	P	I	O	R	N	A	L	H	S	B	K	Z	P	A
G	O	L	L	Q	C	L	I	V	D	E	F	G	S	R
H	M	L	M	L	A	D	A	J	W	M	N	O	O	D
P	A	E	E	C	U	L	T	K	L	Q	R	S	N	T
G	L	C	H	R	L	K	B	P	A	D	A	N	T	C
E	A	H	R	E	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	K	L	M
Q	D	R	Y	G	O	Q	F	A	I	R	M	O	N	T
R	Q	I	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
X	Q	S	Q	Y	D	M	A	R	K	H	A	M	L	H
U	O	T	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B
T	R	I	N	O	T	R	E	D	A	M	E	C	P	E
U	R	A	V	A	C	A	P	E	N	A	T	P	L	B
V	C	N	W	I	L	L	C	W	O	O	D	R	Q	L

Sierra Vista Vacaville Christian Country High Markham
 Vaca Pena Browns Valley Hemlock Orchard
 Padan Fairmont Callison Will C Wood
 Vaca High Jepson Alama Notre Dame
 Cooper

School search

Vacaville schools are the featured search item in this puzzle designed by Sierra Ross of Hemlock Elementary School. Sierra won a second-place honor in the 3-4 grade division for the puzzles and games category of The Reporter's Campus Star student journalism competition. She was a student in Mrs. Carlson's classroom when this was submitted in February 2008.