

Teen Beat

High School Roundup

By Sven Nielsen

• Fremont Union School District

The Fremont Union School District recently implemented a new transfer policy that allows a student to transfer in and out of any of the five schools included in this district (ie. Cupertino, Fremont, Homestead, Lynbrook and Monta Vista High Schools). However, Homestead and Monta Vista are exempt because they cannot accept new students due to the fact they are filled to capacity. Prior to this new policy, a student had to have sufficient need and reason to switch schools. Now, a student may do so for any reason. This also gives parents and students a broader selection of schools.

• Leland High School

The Western Association of Schools and Colleges (W.A.S.C.), an organization that determines the accreditation of a high school for students entering colleges and universities, recently visited Leland High in San Jose, CA. While schools usually receive a full accreditation of six years, Leland students were upset to learn that they will only receive a partial accreditation of three years. This affects college admissions because to attend a college or university, one must receive a diploma from an accredited high school. However, at the end of the accreditation period, W.A.S.C. revisits the school to make sure that it has implemented required changes to benefit the school and campus. Commented Leland High junior Stacey Shintani: "I think that maybe they should reconsider [their decision] and tell the people who looked at the school to look at themselves first and see if there was a bias against us." Reasons given for this partial accreditation (including the school's short five-period day) were said to be obscure.

Shintani also added that other five-period per day schools received a six-year accreditation.

W.A.S.C. revisited Leland High after an appeal made by Principal Don Bell. Results will be in by the end of January. Leland English teacher Julie Pearson commented that: "W.A.S.C. did not grant us a full six year accreditation because of our five period per day schedule, but because of 'a minor technicality' on Leland's report to W.A.S.C. earlier last year."

• Monta Vista High

On Wednesday, January 12, 1994, Vice President Al Gore paid a visit to the students of Monta Vista High in Cupertino, CA as part of his "technology tour" of Silicon Valley. The school, which has access to the Internet, as part of its curriculum, includes a class in teaching students how to communicate using the Internet's resources. As a demonstration for the Vice President, students sent e-

mail back and forth with pen-pals in Germany, chatted with a scientist in Antarctica and downloaded a copy of Gore's speech of a week before.

Monta Vista began this venture with the aid of NASA, which sponsors both the live connection to the Internet and the class, entitled "MacProducts."

—Sharon Choe and Sven Nielsen, Saratoga High School