



# The Hatchet

September 26, 1992

Washington High School 38442 Fremont Blvd. Fremont, CA 94536

Issue 13 Vol. 99

## Pakistan earthquake gobbles food supply



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Written by Salom Masood  
Staff Writer

ISLAMABAD — A powerful earthquake jolted parts of southwestern Pakistan early Wednesday, leaving at least 150 people dead and hundreds more injured, officials said. The death toll was expected to rise.

The 6.5-magnitude earthquake struck Quetta, the provincial capital of Baluchistan, and several districts of the province between 4:30 a.m. and 5:10 a.m. Wednesday, causing widespread destruction, the state-run news agency reported. Nine aftershocks had been felt by 11 a.m., the officials said.

"It was a shallow earthquake, which are very destructive. The aftershocks will be felt for a week with more or less the same intensity," Qamar Zaman Chaudhry, the director general of Pakistan's Meteorological Department, said. See **DISASTER** on page 3

### Information about CHSPE not readily available to students

Written by Nicole Pham  
Online Editor

Those dissatisfied with the school system can leave early by taking the California High School Proficiency Examination (CHSPE), but few Washington students know about it. Most students drop out, complete independent study or attend an alternative school, such as Robertson. Some students learn about the CHSPE through word of mouth, but the school has not communicated this option to all juniors and seniors.

According to state law, high school principals are required to distribute an announcement explaining the CHSPE to each student in grades 11 and 12. The superintendent is responsible for informing the principals. Students who pass CHSPE earn the legal equivalent of a high school diploma by obtaining a Certificate of Proficiency, even without the required units for graduation. Those interested must be between 16

and 18 years old. The exam includes math and English language arts sections. Taking and passing CHSPE, however, does not necessarily require a student to leave high school. **"I believe students should be made aware of this option by school staff,"**

-Milt Werner

Principal Linda Fernandez relies on career technician Michelene Wittmer and school counselors Carol Brahmst, Britny Stewart and Carrie Merfeld to relay information about CHSPE to students. In her eight years as a counselor, Stewart knows of two students who took the test.

For most people, it's not the alternative they want to take," Stewart said. "They don't want a full exit."

See **SCHOOL** on page 2

### ASB decorates school campus with flowers and walkway

Written by Alex Tyler  
Staff Writer

ASB members redistributed large planters filled with an assortment of wildflowers around campus over the past few weeks.

The students put in a brick pathway outside of the Eggers building, and they also trimmed plants around school, with student activities director Helen Paris wielding an electric edger.

These efforts are appreciated, but some students feel the money should go to school improvements, such as new books and bathroom locks. However, ASB isn't authorized to use student funds on such items.



Kaylee Miul Staff Photographer

Senior John Rasure said although the improvements are helpful "they should have done this a long time ago, at this point the money could be better spent elsewhere."

Paris thought of the idea to move the planters from their original position near the Eggers building because See **PLANT** on page 3

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