



Columbia Eagles' Watch

Vol. 5 No. 3 ■ Tradition ■ Pride ■ Excellence ■ Feb. 28, 2011



Columbia Eagles lay waste to Gidley in basketball opener

by Michael Trinh

During the first ASPIRE basketball game of the season, Columbia once again displayed absolute dominance over its rival school, Gidley. In the elementary games, Columbia was disappointed by the forfeit of the rival team. But as the day moved on to the middle school games, students were able to relish the merciless pummeling of Gidley school — the boys won 40-15, the girls 32-4.

Our students expected little else, however. There seems to be some sort of tradition regarding this matter: In any ASPIRE-sponsored sport, Columbia almost always crushes the competition, especially Gidley and Frank Wright, with little, if any, resistance. "Gidley barely scored a single touchdown when we played football," said player Moises Gutierrez. "It's not like they would suddenly be great at basketball." ■



Basketball Action — Columbia takes to the court against archrivals. **Above:** E. Canales making another basket. **Below, Left:** Columbia tangles with Wright. **Below, Middle:** J. Lam refreshes during a game. **Below, Right:** Gidley and Columbia players await free throw.



Columbia continues dominance over rival Frank Wright

In the second game of the season, Columbia once again showed its absolute supremacy by crushing Frank Wright 62-2 (girls) and then 71-12 (boys).

Despite these immense wins, Columbia players remained respectful of the rival players: They refused to speak negatively about Frank Wright. Remaining modest and gracious is indeed quite a difficult task after such a smashing victory.

And our players weren't just being kind to Frank Wright — they were criticizing themselves. Star player Angelina Lam, who scored untold points for her team, even believed that she missed too many shots, in spite of an extremely impressive 62-2 victory.

However, audience members did not share this innate kindness. "It was DOMINATION!" Bryan Gomez said.

Others reminisced about the previous unwillingness of Frank Wright to face their losses, particularly the numerous forfeitures that dampened Columbia's spirit of undefeatedness.

One anonymous and very shy student even expressed shock at the visiting team's arrival. "I didn't think they were even going to come!" she explained. "Like the last time!"

The single, mildly impressive thing about Frank Wright's performance was their new-found acceptance of utter defeat. According to Frank Wright's Selma Benavidez, their team "really needs to improve, not just in communication, but in everything else, too."

Soon, however, our players will face their first true challenge: Potrero. During the football season Potrero stood out from other rival schools by defeating Columbia in close — and actually exciting — games.

But this time Columbia has fine-tuned its basketball team and has become a very real powerhouse. Under the guidance of Ms. B. Jaime and numerous others, Columbia will not let Potrero win again without giving it the fight of a lifetime. ■

Columbia students raise more than \$10,000

Annual Jog-a-Thon huge success: establishes new record

by My Nguyen

Columbia's exciting the Jog-a-Thon, our largest fundraiser, has created an opportunity for students to raise money for the school. Students were required to run as many laps, each estimated at one-eighth of a mile, as they could in one 45-minute period of time.

Some of Columbia's fastest runners surprised everybody with their astounding endurance: 8th graders Edwin Canales



Born to Run — 8th-grade student Edwin Canales half-way through his 3rd mile.

and Julian Sandoval both ran 35 laps. "I really wanted to raise money for the school. I was born to run!" stated Sandoval.

"Teachers gave me a quarter for every lap I ran," Canales reported, "and I wanted to help in the effort to go to Knott's." Other runners also showed determination and ran their best.

"I was ahead at first, but I couldn't keep going and ended up only running 26 laps," said eighth-grade student Michael Trinh.

Even teachers got in on the act. "I ran 34 laps. I was really happy to run with the students," said Christine Jung, a seventh-grade ELA teacher. Other teachers who ran included seventh-grade ELA teacher Sara Schommer and math teacher Emy Ngo. Even Juan Munoz, our vice principal, could be found running among the students.

The whole point of the Jog-a-Thon was to raise money for Columbia, so speaking with last year's top fundraiser, Isabella Muriel, was a top priority. When asked about her current aspirations, Muriel answered, "I'm planning to bring around \$350. I don't have *that* much yet, but I'm getting there."

Of course, getting sponsors is the most challenging thing about fundraising. An eighth-grader who wished to remain anonymous commented, "I begged my dad for money. He said no, but I threw a tantrum. He finally got sick of it and gave me \$50."

Many middle school students, however, had another concern: Many thought



Some Teachers Join the Fun — Smiling ELA teacher Sara Schommer mercilessly passes many very tired students.

the elementary students' prizes were much better than their own.

"We should've gotten a jumper and barbecue," said eighth-grader Alejandro Hernandez. "I would trade one of our prizes for that."

One of the things that eighth-graders are planning to do this year is to have a great time at Knott's Berry Farm with their friends. Will the Jog-a-Thon's money make that possible? "I don't think so. Some are too lazy to ask for sponsors," said 8th grader Ramon Gutierrez.

He may be correct.

Columbia School managed to raise over \$10,000 with less than 2 hours of running. While this number is indeed astounding, it averages out to somewhere between \$10 and \$15 per person, far short of the \$30 necessary for prizes like Knott's. Maybe there won't be Knott's this year after all ... ■

Columbia Egged!

Unfortunately for our custodians, Columbia School was egged late Wednesday night, Feb. 2. Witnesses report seeing two white eggs thrown. Though one thankfully hit the ground, the other did manage to hit Alba Zamora-Day, an eighth-grade ELA teacher at Columbia School. Although Zamora-Day was not hurt, the incident certainly did create a mess.

The culprits are widely believed by Columbia students to be students

(or former students) from Columbia School or other local middle schools.

If you have any information you believe can lead to the identification of those responsible, please contact the principal, vice principal or our own Columbia Eagles' Watch at (626) 539-5331.

Though Eagles' Watch did not obtain photographs of Zamora-Day's egged clothing, photographers assigned to the talent show were able to snag some shots of the remaining yolk on the night following the egging incident. ■



Egging at Columbia — The remains of the egg the next day. The shells had been removed by then.

Election special: Columbia candidates speak about issues

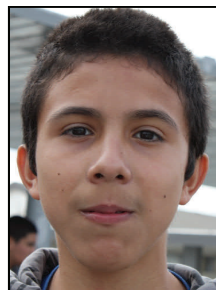
Columbia students are feeling an increased responsibility to vote for candidates who will make and keep promises that are reasonable, or at least worth the time and effort to pursue, even if they might be challenging to keep.

So, for the first time ever, Columbia's Eagles' Watch is help-

ing voters decide who to support by publishing candidate profiles; it is expected to become a regular feature at election time.

Answers are based on completed surveys and are the exact answers given to Eagles' Watch by each respective candidate, except for a few minor grammar and spelling corrections. ■

March 9 Candidates for Columbia Student Body President, (left to right) — Gabriel Montes, Angelina Lam, Julian Sandoval, Kevin Flores. Not pictured: Kenya Ortega. Each of the six candidates have been certified as qualified to run, based on citizenship marks and academic grades.



Presidential candidates offer insights, recommendations, and solutions

Eagles' Watch: What makes you the best choice for president of Columbia's 7th- and 8th-grade student body?

Kenya Ortega

I will help out both the seventh- and eighth-graders in any problem they have. I want to make a difference for the seventh-graders, to leave them an example so this year they could try their best as well as next year.

For the eighth-graders, I want them to have a very memorable year full of wonderful experiences so that along the years they could say eighth grade was one of their best times. I also want every eighth-grader present in the promotion ceremony.

Gabriel Montes

I feel like I could make more fundraisers to help us reach our goals.

I could hold more unique activities to help motivate students.

Every Tuesday and Thursday I would take out a suggestion box.

Angelina Lam

I make the best choice for president because I have the ambition to satisfy the students by giving them what they want, and to make Columbia a better school.

Julian Sandoval

I know I am the best choice for president because I'm smart and a unique person. I'm also a great leader, responsible, and fun to be around.

Kevin Flores

Of all the candidates, I'm the only one that has had experience from last year — and last year, I thought it was an amazing year, at least for seventh-graders. So, even though the school year has only four months left after the election, I'll make sure we have an outstanding school year.

Eagles' Watch: How would you increase participation in school activities?

Kenya Ortega

I would increase the participation in school activities by rewarding them in what they mostly ask for: free dress. Also, we could reward them with healthy treats. I think that maybe we should extend the permit of free dress. For example, if we have it for one day, it could be for two days instead. Also, we could make fun activities that will make them want to join.

Gabriel Montes

I would use students' suggestions that I believe will receive more participation, and I would increase the time available for sign-ups.

Angelina Lam

I would increase participation in school activities by offering more school activities. We haven't had that many activities lately. Another way to increase participation is to offer other incentives, such as a pass to the front of the lunch line or gift cards from Jamba Juice.

Julian Sandoval

I would increase participation by giving better prizes to the winners.

Kevin Flores

Mr. Galindo says, "The only award one should achieve is self-confidence and knowing that you accomplished something. However, some need a push, an external award." So, maybe instead of free-dress passes, awards can be food or a treat along with free-dress passes.

Eagles' Watch: What is Columbia's biggest problem and what would you do to help solve it?

Kenya Ortega

Columbia's biggest conflict is students being lazy. I would help out by motivating them to actually take the time to get their homework, class work, etc., done. I will tell them what the good results would be: better grades, better citizenship — whatever it is that they didn't get when they were lazy.

Gabriel Montes

Columbia's problem is that, although its students have great ideas, they aren't motivated enough to express them. That's why I propose to go around every Tuesday and Thursday with a suggestion box that will let students voice their opinion.

Angelina Lam

I think Columbia's biggest problem is bullying. Talking about other people, tex-

Presidential Candidates

Continued from pg. 3

ting about other people, and fighting with other people are all forms of bullying. What can I do to solve it? I'm already trying to solve it; I'm in a committee organizing an assembly about stopping bullying.

Julian Sandoval

Columbia has two big problems: money and participation in school activities. I would help the money problem by holding more fundraisers. I would give better prizes to the winners of the activities to increase participation.

Kevin Flores

Deficiency. Many of us usually think "So what?" ... "I don't care" ... "So?" I don't believe any of us do this so we can look cool or seem like an awesome guy or girl, but rather it's a lack of spirit. Many people want stuff that are sometimes impossible, and they know it. In order to solve this epidemic, all of us — teachers and students — need to cooperate. Teachers have to listen. When an event causes havoc, the suspect isn't always the usual trouble-maker. Problems like this cause a rift between teachers and students. Cooperation is vital.

Eagles' Watch: Cite two fundraising activities you would like to have at Columbia. Describe how would make sure they were successful?

Kenya Ortega

I think maybe we can have some parents and teachers volunteer to make food and we can sell them after school or on weekends. I will make sure this will be successful by inviting many people to

come and eat to help out fundraising.

Another thing would be to get students, teachers, and parents to donate things they don't need anymore to make a yard sale. We could make posters and announcements so many people could come.

Gabriel Montes

I would hold a raffle with tickets that cost \$.75 and \$1.25 for two. The prize would be determined by whatever students suggested most.

I would try to hold another Family Fun Night, and pass out flyers to advertise it.

Angelina Lam

I would like to have a Green Week and an auction where students bid on the teachers they would want to "pie." I would make sure these fundraisers are successful by checking if everything is carefully planned out, prepared early, and executed well.

Julian Sandoval

I would like to have an "Eastergram" sale and a Recycling Week. I will put up advertisements to make sure these are successful.

Kevin Flores

Since most people come early on Thursday, maybe we could sell hot chocolate from 8:00-8:45. If it's cold, hot chocolate. If hot, then Capri Suns. I believe a lot of people will purchase it.

A "Break the Rules" day. We'll charge \$.50 or \$1.00 for a ticket, then on Friday you can bring jeans, free dress, wear a hat, and — maybe — chew gum. Who wouldn't want to break the rules and raise money?

Eagles' Watch: What is Columbia's greatest strength?

Kenya Ortega

I think Columbia has many great strengths, such as lots of smart, determined students. I know that many of us are great when it comes to the CST. Most of the students here have a very positive attitude.

Gabriel Montes

Columbia's strength is that all of its

students have an opinion that can help this school.

Angelina Lam

In my opinion, Columbia's greatest strength is its students. Columbia is a school of the students, by the students, and for the students. The students of Columbia make Columbia a great school, and without them it would be empty.

Julian Sandoval

I do believe that Columbia's greatest strength is the students themselves because they make Columbia "Number 1" — and without them Columbia would be the worst school.

Kevin Flores

Columbia's greatest strength is the amazing duo of brains and brawn. Columbia has some of the most gifted athletes, and improved test scores prove knowledge is running high in this school. Some people have both and Columbia is really fortunate to have them.

Eagles' Watch: What three things would you do to make Columbia a better school?

Kenya Ortega

One thing would be to move all those students from an intervention class to an elective. I would motivate them to do better and see all the fun electives they could join.

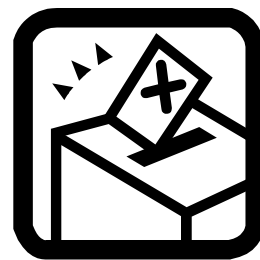
Another thing would be increasing participation in fundraising. I will tell them how it benefits the school and themselves.

Another thing I would do is to help students take the CST seriously. I know most of the students do, but the other ones that don't — I will help out to change their minds.

I picked these three things because I know they will help Columbia become a better school.

Gabriel Montes

I would increase participation by making activities that would motivate students.



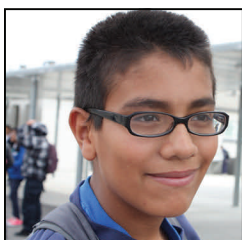
Sergeant-at-arms candidates questioned

Eagles' Watch: What makes you the best choice for Sergeant at Arms of Columbia's 7th and 8th grade student body?



Erika Ortiz

What makes me, Erika Ortiz, the best choice is that I will take this job seriously and I will do everything that a Sergeant at Arms duties are. I will help and assist the other Student Congress officers. Also, I will always be present to every meeting and pay attention to what we are talking about.



Kenneth Flores

What makes me the best choice this office is that I'm very organized, nice, smart, and cooperative. I can also work well with others. Most everybody here trusts me to do a good job.

Eagles' Watch: Cite one thing you would do to make Columbia a better school, and explain how you would do it.

Erika Ortiz

One thing I would do to make Columbia a better school is to get kids to have enthusiasm to coming to school. Like them wanting to come to school already. If I see a kid who's bored, I'd give him enthusiasm and maybe he'll be happy and have fun at school.

Kenneth Flores

How I would make Columbia a better school is by having a catching-up time for students that have trouble keeping up with assignments. That way, they can catch up, keep up with others, and have less missing assignments.

Eagles' Watch: What is Columbia's biggest problem and what would you do to help solve it?

Erika Ortiz

I think the biggest problem in Columbia is all the fights. I would help solve this by talking to the people and giving them advice and telling them about all of the bad things or consequences they're going to get in return.

Kenneth Flores

Columbia's biggest problem is raising money for field trips. What we need to do is hold more fundraisers besides the Jog-a-Thon. Maybe we could hold car washes or book sales to raise the money. ■

Editor's notes: Eagles' Watch did not receive a response to the questionnaire from Xorge Lopez.

*The following candidates are running unopposed and therefore did not receive any questionnaires: **Michael Trinh**, vice president; **Vanessa Melchor**, treasurer; and **Naomi Ramirez**, secretary. We wish them well; they are all highly-qualified.*

The debate will take place next Wednesday; voting will occur on Thursday and Friday.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Columbia Journalism has a phone number! Call or text (626) 539-5331 now. Feel free to split texts over 160 characters; do not send picture mail. Include your name and homeroom in your message. Don't worry, we won't use your name without your permission.

Submit letters to the editor through the CMG staff. Give your opinion on school issues or topics like global warming, immigration, our city, or anything else you're interested in or ticked off about.

By the way, voting for "Best Eagles" is now closed.

Come on! Send in those baby pix! You know you want to: So just be brave. Give them to any member of the CMG staff.



Important Issue for Today? Could this kid really become our next Columbia vice president?

Presidential Candidates

Continued from pg. 4

I would make more fundraisers and try to increase participation by making them exciting.

I and some Student Congress members would go around with a suggestion box, and we could spread the news in the morning announcements.

Angelina Lam

To make Columbia a better school I would promote anti-bullying, have a group of volunteers help clean the school, and involve the primary grades in some of our activities. I would accomplish these tasks by having an assembly on bullying,

asking for volunteers during the announcements, and informing the primary teachers about upcoming sales and events.

Julian Sandoval

I would have more fundraisers, activities, and increase participation. I will ask for support, advice, and ask people if they would like to have those things. I would choose these things because I know that doing these things will help Columbia be number one.

Kevin Flores

Work with seventh-graders. Right now there might be a separation between our seventh- and eighth-graders. Eighth-

graders get most of the attention, so I believe seventh-graders need to feel like I will be serving them as well as eighth-graders, and that I like it. Maybe seventh grade should have its own day.

Recycle. Mass participation last year gave us some money. So, if successful, Columbia will have money for field trips.

All of us need to have pride in our school and not throw trash on the ground. ■

Editor's note: We wish to thank our candidates for answering our questions.

