

Frankly Speaking

Obama stirs controversy and reform



FRANCESCA PELUSI
Writer

With America still emerging from an economic crisis, it's time to unify, not to object. On Sept. 9, President Obama spoke to the joint session of Congress. The crowd, including the American people watching from home, was anxious to listen to Obama's plan for America's health care system.

Health care is punishing the middle class and those of low income. Health insurance companies have power over cutting off Americans if they get too expensive, or they have the ability to randomly raise fees. It is becoming true that only the wealthy receive a true and full health system.

Obama told stories of middle class citizens who experienced unacceptable events.

He said, "One man from Illinois lost his coverage in the middle of chemotherapy because his insurer found that he hadn't reported gallstones that he didn't even know about. They delayed his treatment, and he died because of it... That is heart-breaking, it is wrong, and no one should be treated that way in the United States of America."

The new health care plan will begin to take place in four years. To summarize, it will be illegal to 'jack up' prices or only insure those who seem to be the healthiest. Also, the plan is designed to eliminate unnecessary sums of money paying insurance company executives, who also may be involved in fraud.

After this was announced, Congress applauded him. On Obama's left, a certain group did not. They remained staring down at cell phones, or checking their watches. Who might this group be? Well, the Republicans of course.

In regard to health care reform, Republicans are opposing Obama for their selfish and greedy benefits.

Apparently, Obama's plan is pushing their level of fairness and reform a little too far. Republican Joe Wilson, who shouted "You Lie" after Obama said illegal aliens are not included in this plan, set a charming example.

While the Democrats progress and make reform for America, unfortunately the Republicans will be sulking because they didn't get their way. Frankly, something has got to give.

School spirit, lack of sportmanship shows



KAITLIN DUNN
Editor-in-Chief

There have been enormous amounts of school spirit this year surrounding athletic events, particularly football games. Every Friday during football season, it is almost a tradition for students and teachers to dawn their purple apparel. At night, the bleachers are packed with students and fans. Cheering can be heard and a sea of purple can be seen from the stands. In the student section, painted chests that spell RAIDERS, painted faces, and even painted hair can be seen. This school spirit is great because it shows that we take pride in our school and the athletic teams.

School spirit is fun for many people in the school. Take the pep assemblies, for example. Students and the athletic teams get pumped up for upcoming games with speeches from athletes, performances from the cheerleading squad and the poms team, and music from the band.

Our school spirit does not go unnoticed. The drum line that is famous for pumping up fans

during games was recently featured on the local news.

Our school spirit is heard and seen, but so is our unsportsmanlike-like conduct. Recently, during Intercity, booing and degrading of Normal Community could be heard from the student section. Normal is and has always been our biggest rival and friendly competition is acceptable but there comes a point when it gets taken too far.

After the game, students were even yelling at the band when they walked by. The other team does not deserve this treatment by students in our school. The lack of sportsmanship portrays our school as being classless and sometimes, downright mean.

As a school, let's keep up the school spirit, and work on sportsmanship. Next time you go to a football game or any other sporting event do not focus on insulting the opposing team, focus on cheering for our team.

Our Views:

Celebrities not the best role models for students

High school students are on the computer a lot, whether it is at home or even at school. Email websites such as AOL, MSN, and Yahoo! all put recent news on their home pages. The majority of the news isn't political, environmental, or sports, but it is celebrity gossip. Students and even adults use celebrities as role models. They may look up to them because of their entertainment, appearance, or charitable attributes. The news sites focus on the negative behaviors of celebrities. The sensationalism of this kind of news draws people's attention especially student's who are online all the time.

Students see these things and talk about them often. Chris Brown, for example, is looked up to because of his music. Recently, he was charged with beating his then girlfriend Rhianna. This event was posted everywhere and talked about in the halls of BHS. Not only was the event seen and talked about right after it happened, but it was followed and still talked about weeks after it happened. Students who look up to Chris Brown may not see the problem with what he did because after all, he is a celebrity with good music.

Students need to know that news sites are always going to focus on the negatives of celebrities because let's face it, people like gossip and news sites need viewers. Students need to find role models that are not constantly being followed because of negative behavior.