

Ammara Tan
Period 3AB
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Interview with ASB President, Theary Sim

A: What has been your role/involvement at Century this year?

T: I have participated in student government as Student Body President, as well as participating in senate, varsity cheerleading, Jag Crew, little things here and there I don't think as significant, but some way or another I've involved myself, but those are the main ones.

A: So, in general, how does this school year compare to others that you've experienced?

T: I think this year, compared to past years, have been crazier and more impact... I participated in a lot more, I took on a lot more, doing things here and there, overall it was the best year because I was able to participate in those activities. It was kind of crazy and hectic year, but it was really worth it...I'd say this was the best year.

A: So, you'd say that senior year was the best?

T: I'd say it was the best.

A: How do you feel about budget cuts?

T: I think that budget cuts, this year especially, I know that budget cuts have been going on for ten years, but it really hasn't been a big impact towards us, knowing that next year, I won't be here be here, maybe there e won't be sporting events, no activities, no dances, especially for us student government, I think that stucco plays a huge role. I know it takes a lot of money. Because we do a lot of things in the school that does take up a lot of money. It was hurtful for me knowing I was able to experience all those activities and maybe the underclassmen won't be able to. I think that's why it affected me the most even though I won't be here next year. People say that you're a senior it won't affect you. but really it is because how are they able to experience anything I have if they don't have a chance. And so that's why I really thought you know we have to do something about it, it's a slow process but hopefully something's going to be done. And it won't be taken away. stuff at century.

A: How do you think the 17 days will affect students, staff...at Century?

T: I think the most I've heard, is staff wise. You keep hearing tons and tons of teachers say "I need to get another job, a summer job, filing for employment, trying to money somehow to make up for, you know that's a lot of money that they're losing...\$4,000 that they're losing out of their own pockets. And I think you know for me, the biggest impact was the teachers, and I know students as well, and especially being a senior, I mean people say, "yea you get to get out early, and stuff like that, but really you don't because you don't get to experience the things, you know it's the last year. I really wanted to get every single day, and I wanted to be here for the rest of the two weeks. I think for the students I don't know how they, I've received different opinions from across the scale, from being "well I don't' really want to have it, but tons of people saying I do, but really personally, I think that are really affected more are those that are involved in sports, and activities, and those that participate...it really hurts theme because they don't get that extra time...that they get to do those activities that they participate in.

A: What do you think Century is known for in the community of Hillsboro?

T: I think coming from a community member, not a student, I think that when they here century, I personally think that we have done, especially being open for 6 years, that is so well. Especially compared to Glencoe and Hilhi who have been open for 20 25 years, having a 6 year old school, already competing against these school who have been, already... personally formed, I believe that they already formed a reputation as well as the things that they have done well for their school. And having us, already doing complete awesome: going to state, placing at state, it's great. And I think that, for us, as a new school, has done so much...we've advanced so much more...more than any other school, that I know of in the district. That's what I think of century being a new school but yet we're so known. And it think that's what's really good

A: You mentioned about placing state, what were some highpoints this year?

5 days
17 days
6 days

T: Having my best friend place first at wrestling, it's great to see people that you really know, personally not just exceed in academics, but exceeding at athletics, at activities, I think that was a huge part of ...I see the great points when people will have placed, especially at dance team, girls' lacrosse, who have been undefeated, I mean it's just awesome to hear all of these things. That's the huge high points, and I know besides that we have tons of...our drama department placed first in state, we just have so many great opportunities for people and I think that all around we've done so many things individually: speech and debate, or in lacrosse, and such like that. Those are huge highpoints. As well as, I think that the teachers, who to me, just stand out so much. The teachers who...like Julie Browne, who stays afterwards and always does all these different things, I think that's a huge factor for me.

A: You mentioned Ms. Browne, do you think she really made a difference this year?

T: I think, not only this year, I think this year was one of her, you know, the best year that I've ever seen her. I mean not only has she gone through a lot of personal experiences, but as well as dealing with that and also dealing with schooling and dealing with you know, activities as well as athletics and I think that's a huge factor, that she takes on so much, and I kind of see myself as her, because I took on so much, but at times it can get rough, yet I would not see myself in any other position, and that's how I see her. I don't see anybody else doing what she's doing. That's why I think...it's hard to handle since I've personally experienced what she does, but I think that you know...in the long run, she's meant to do what she's doing.

A: because of all this craziness in the world, with Iraq, with budget cuts, possibly losing the block schedule, how do you think it affected morale with students at Century?

T: I think a lot of people...I'm not sure...they might have gone a little more negative towards things. I think that they said okay because of the war, this and this is happening, and I felt a lot of...not sorry, but a lot of people have come up to me and said "if you're from Iraq, or if you're from that country", they have really been isolated and not really pinpointed but...I'm not sure how to say it but...they kind of pinpoint then and say oh hey look what your country has done to our country, but yet they're an American, and they're here in America, but you shouldn't...I think that was a big key to me that I saw. A lot of people are not really...king of separating themselves and saying okay I'm an American and you're not American so stuff like that and I really don't see the issue of whether you were here, or from immigration or born from another country, I don't see the difference, and I think that to me that was more of the major issue. I think that our school took it pretty much very well overall as a school. I think that we dealt with it pretty well, we hit the issues enough, but we didn't hit it too hard, that it would be too sensitive, and so I think that pretty much we did a pretty okay job as a whole, and the school is handling it okay, as well as the students not trying to go overboard. I know a lot of people are like you know okay well why are we at school? And that was a huge thing for me. Just because you here in the past, when you here about WW2, that people are going out of school and stuff like that. I don't see why something that has to do with fighting for our country, we shouldn't just stop our education. I think that was a big thing about that. But I mean overall, once when I thought it was going to come, when I really thought that war was going to come, that things would change, but really it didn't as much as it thought it would have. And it didn't affect a lot of people as much as I thought it was going to. I mean it's kind of a positive factor about it.

A: so you wouldn't say that Iraq and its issues didn't have that much of an impact on CHS?

T: I mean it had an impact...kind of negatively but also as well as positively because I think that the people that who you never thought of as being...kind of brought them together. People who felt very strongly about those issues, and very strong about getting involved and wanting to do something for our country came together not even knowing who they were and I think that was a huge positive about it. But then there was also negatives about how you know family and friends going to war, having to deal with stuff like that. But I mean sure it made an impact but I don't believe it made a dramatic impact in our school as a whole as any other war has. I know tons of other wars have made a huge, more impact that it has right now. Other than I that I mean it did but in a positive and negative way I mean it kind of just on your views and how you see it really.

A: how would you describe school spirit right now?

School Spirit

T: this year, to me it was kind of harder because school spirit, it's really hard to get an involvement, unless you get involved yourself. Depending on I know they compare us to other schools and start tradition. It's harder to get people involved because there's not really much to go for. And I know that we had a great team two years ago, and that's when our spirit was the highest. To me I don't see how sporting events and everything like that should be our spirit. Our spirit is our school. It's not on how our team does and how well any other sporting event does. Spirit from our school should show respect for our school. I mean I try, everybody as you can tell tries. Browne tries their hardest to get...I mean Kathy and Brandon who are our directors of spirit. I mean they've tried. But it's hard to...it's all those role models in our school, who try to set the trend of school spirit...not just dressing up. I mean, to me school spirit is respecting it our school and being a part of school saying that you're not here, I don't like going to school", "I don't like going to classes". To me showing school spirit is coming to school, participating and not being in a negative attitude. And to me I believe that's showing school spirit. That's a personal opinion. If it was based on that, we've done a pretty good job, I mean from my perspective, my class, there's only about 6 to 7 students who aren't graduating, and to me that's pretty good for a class of 465. it's crazy, I mean school spirit, it just depends on how you feel about the issue and how you feel is school spirit. You know it shows how you feel. Overall we've done okay, we've had our ups and downs and it just depends on how things go it changes really easily but, I mean we've done okay...it could be better but we've done okay.

A: with the Jagfest change was it appropriate?

T: I personally think it was. When we first decided not to change it when we just kept it the USO show. I personally think it would be okay if we didn't hit the soft spots, if we didn't do anything that would be too...stepping on people's feet and I thought personally it would have been an okay theme. But when it did get closer to time to when we actually did hit war, I understand what people were talking about. I mean personally I don't have anybody in the war. I really didn't understand how something like celebrating the soldiers would be something that's a negative, but yet I understood how and where they came from once people explained it and I think changing it. I mean the theme that we have right now, Austin Powers, is a really fun theme: it keeps red, white, and blue and it's still showing our pride for America and as well as keeping what we all wanted before. It ended up being a change for the better. I really would have enjoyed USO show, but it's something we can use 4 or 5 years from now. It's something we can still do. But I think changing it ended up to be for the better. It's going to be a really good assembly.

A: Now, I know you're leaving next year, so it won't be really relevant to you, but do you think block schedule is good for century?

School Spirit

T: I personally being on block schedule for 4 years, every single year, to me it helped me a lot, just because it gave me more time to understand the subject, to go back and get help if needed. For me, I guess I'm a normal student, I'm not high advanced in any education and such like that. So, for me block scheduling was helpful for me in the long run it was easier for me to go back and review what I learned and to get help from teachers when needed and such like that. I know that for teachers it a lot...I know a couple of teachers that are strong about block schedule, and it was the best way for students to learn, and felt that that was their way of teaching their class. Not having it, they feel that it just completely took out what they had to offer and that they're just there to teach and not there to care. I personally thought, especially having that...it gave me a better bond just because you spent more time with them. I mean everyday sure it didn't seem like it but you just went to class to get work and come back. When you have that, you're there for a longer period of time. I really enjoyed having block schedule and I wouldn't want to have a regular schedule, but I know it doesn't apply, but I know that if it helped me in the long run...I mean it might have the same views as others.

A: there are a lot of people retiring this year, who have made the most impact? I mean obviously all of them do of course, but who stands out?

T: Wow...There's a lot of people. I've had a few of the teachers...not a lot of them. I personally think that the counselors have done the most, especially Ms. Parich who's not going to be a counselor but yet still teaching, but to me she wasn't even my counselor but I think the counselors to me have done the

most for this school, even though they don't teach they've done a great job of doing of what they have been doing dealing with everything they have to deal with. I think that they, I would give them the most recognition...of everything they have done. I think the counselors have been there a lot for me especially with everything that I've been through and that I had to deal with. I mean teachers were there for me as well, but I personally think that the counselors are really beneficial to have in such a huge school like this. Having only 3 next year it's hard to hear that all of those counselors are getting let go. It's sad to hear but I mean to me that was the big impact. There's tons of teachers that are not even in this school but in Brown Junior High, where I went to middle school, which are the biggest teenage years of my life. I personally think that that time is just when you're beginning to grow up...they're the ones who first see you and deal with you and everything like that. A lot of those teachers, you know, like my first shop teacher, Mr. Silver, all of those teachers are leaving and it's just really sad to hear. I wanted to go back there and say good-bye and everything. I think that every single teacher that is leaving has made a huge impact no matter if they know it or not...in some way.

A: what do you think has impacted students the most this year?

T: I think the fact that, not just budget cuts or the war, but I think that the fact that it all happened at once. I think that we could have dealt with the war one year and maybe dealt with the budget cuts a couple years later. But the fact that it seriously hit the same month the same exact time. And I think that was a big impact for everyone having to deal with friends and family going to war as well as knowing they're not going to have that certain event next year or anything like that. I know a lot of people are like I can't believe there's no Jagapalooza, I can't believe there's none of that anymore. I never knew they cared about that stuff. Truthfully I never thought they cared about going to a carnival or going...you don't understand that's the last event of the school. I didn't realize how much it meant to people until it's gone. I mean those little things that you don't think of like having the talent show, it gets their minds off of that stuff, it gets their mind off of knowing that maybe we won't have a talent show next year or maybe that not being able to be at school next year. I think a lot of that is the fact that that both of those just hit us at once. I think that was a huge thing for me that I think affected the school as a whole is because of that.

A: alright...is there anything I didn't mention that you want to bring up?

T: not really, you pretty much covered everything...

A: okay good.