

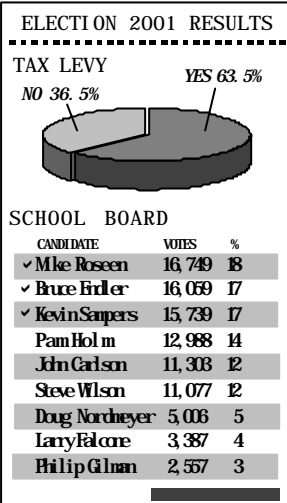
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SERVING THE EASTVIEW HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY SINCE 1997

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Third Time's the Charm

Levy passes overwhelmingly; School Board incumbents re-elected

by James Hohmann
Lightning Reporter

November 6th brought the end to an emotional, hard-fought, multi-year District campaign to increase funding and equalize revenues. The struggle culminated with increased public attention and focus on the financial and leadership structure of the district, strong voter participation, a passage of a \$500 per pupil unit levy referendum, and the re-election of the three school board incumbents in a competitive race between eight.

The outcome of the election was not the close race that many district and community leaders may have originally anticipated.

Of the 36,154 ballots cast on Election Day, 63.5% (22,946) were "yes" votes. The "no" votes amounted to only a fraction of the total vote—garnering only 13,208 (36.5%). Incumbents Bruce Endler, Kevin Sampers, and Mike Rosen were re-elected by narrower margins.

First hand accounts of polling places indicate that they stayed busy throughout the day. Voter turnout was historically high for this off year and non-federal election. The vote total directly reflects increased public interest.

The final vote ended many emotional months of campaigning. Vehement voices could be found in both "yes" and "no" factions. After the failure of two previous

levy referendums, parents and community members formed together to create an organization they called UNITE 196. The club was established to compete and refute the CARE Group (Citizens for Accountability and Responsibility in Education).

Mudslinging was common in letters to the editors of the local newspapers, at district dialogue sessions, and at school board meetings. Both sides made allegations against the other in what turned out to become more of a wrestling match than a respectable campaign. School board member Bruce Endler even went as far as to allege that members of the CARE group were part

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Students Gather For Sadie Hawkins Dance

by Megan Murphy and Sam Lee
Lightning Editors

Last Saturday's Sadie Hawkins Dance was a great time and the Commons was packed with hundreds of Eastview students and their guests who were all looking for a night of fun and a chance to "get hitched."

Attractions included a caricaturist who was sponsored by the NAHS and the "Marrying Sam". According to Kate Munson, a senior at Eastview, the Sadie's dance is "...always the most exciting because it's when us girls get to take charge."

This year, Student Council added live performances from Eastview students in addition to a DJ.

For most people though, the highlight of the dance was the Marrying Sam, which was run by math teacher Mr. Halvorson and Spanish instructor Señora Perona.

"This is a good substitute for the real thing—at least I don't really have to marry him," said senior Laura Anderson.

For a full review of the Sadie Hawkins Dance, including pictures and highlights, see page 12.

To those unfortunate ones who missed the dance, or didn't have enough courage to ask their secret crush, the next Sadie's is in less than three hundred and sixty five days, so start planning ahead for next year!

Money for Patriotism?

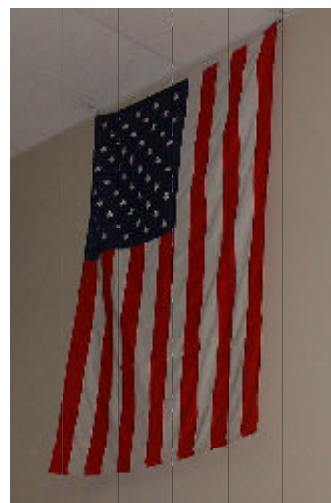
Pledge of Allegiance Causes Controversy

by Katie Ashton
Copy Editor

The Pledge of Allegiance has recently created a bit of controversy in schools all over District 196. Some are happy to say it every morning and show their support for the United States, while others object to the Pledge. There are many different reasons that people are refusing to say the Pledge of Allegiance, but are they doing it for the right reason?

One common reason that students don't participate in saying the Pledge is for religious issues, usually an objection to the "one nation under God" part. Some don't participate because they believe that if patriotism and showing our support for America is so important to us, we should have been saying the Pledge of Allegiance all along. This after-the-fact patriotism seems empty and meaningless. Others feel that the Pledge only becomes empty and meaningless when it gets said every day. An anonymous student said that "after a while you just say it without thinking and it doesn't mean anything anymore."

The reason most often cited by students for not taking part in saying the Pledge of Allegiance is that they think it's wrong for the school district to get money for it. That, however, is untrue. The American Legion *did* ask that District 196 have its students say the Pledge of Allegiance every day, and they *did* threaten to withhold their annual funding if this didn't happen. But our school district *didn't* establish the Pledge of Allegiance policy to get the money from the American Legion. Instead, Dr. Haro and the school board decided that our district didn't need to be blackmailed into being patriotic. The district has refused the money from the American Legion and has



An American flag hangs from the Commons. Contrary to rumors, the flag was not donated by the American Legion.

instituted the Pledge of Allegiance on its own. In addition, flags will be purchased through other funds, even though the American Legion offered to buy them. The school district's decision about the Pledge of Allegiance was not based on American Legion money.

Some students don't care whether or not our district got money to start saying the Pledge, they are just happy that they can show their support for the United States and that "...those who want to say the Pledge of Allegiance have a chance to say it," according to another anonymous student. Remember that you always have the option not to participate, whatever your reasons are.

Di na Vaynerman, Kim Eniru, and Hilary Novacek contributed to this article

Early Action College Deadlines Loom

by Katie Ashton
Copy Editor

Early Action, a relatively new option in college admissions, is similar to Early Decision in that it requires you to get your application in earlier, and the college will let you know whether or not you've been accepted earlier. Unlike Early Decision, however, Early Action is non-binding. If you apply Early Decision to a school and are accepted, you must attend that school and withdraw any applications to other schools. But if you choose Early Action and are accepted, you can still choose to attend another school. At a few schools, you may even have a slightly higher chance of being accepted if you apply Early Action.

The drawback to applying Early Action is that there is an earlier application deadline. Many of these deadlines are coming up soon, from early December to

mid-January. Make sure that all parts of the application will get to the college on time, including counselor and teacher recommendations. Most schools are lenient about SAT or ACT scores arriving a little later, because they know how long it takes for scores to be sent. But you should still try to get the scores sent as soon as possible.

Early Action might be the right option for you if you are on track with the college application process and want to hear back from some of your colleges sooner. Even though the application is due sooner, it's a big relief to know that you have been accepted to a certain school before you've even applied to other ones. If Early Action appeals to you, find out if the schools you're applying to have that option, and start paying attention to deadlines.