

# SPECIAL EDITION

## The Federalist

Alexander Hamilton High School  
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## 12 Point Plan Advanced

By Principal Paul J. Schwartz

As we begin the February semester, 1970 the following are some of our tentative plans during the succeeding months:

1. Sunday, March 15, 1970, a Parent Convocation. It is essential, we provide this type of opportunity; realistic and meaningful parent involvement. Their concerns and suggestions will be incorporated in the future planning of our school.

2. The final preparation and submission of the "Package" to the Los Angeles City Board of Education and Private Foundations and/or a federal grant for additional funding.

3. Follow-up convocations by the students and faculty. This appears to be a monumental undertaking but we are beginning to prepare some ground work in this necessary interchange.

4. Initiation of Innovations; for example, Volunteer Noon Tutorial Clinics. A teacher will be available at noon to help any and all individual students with their subject problems.

5. A new Humanities team teaching course has begun under the direction of Mrs. Husband and Mr. Shugard.

6. New courses in Cultural Minorities and Asian students are being offered. Mr. Kiriya, formerly teacher at Pasteur Junior High, is the instructor.

7. Expanded reading programs and additional classes have begun under the direction of Mr. Goldman from Audubon Junior High School.

8. Additional full-time counseling time have been provided for this semester.

9. "Pajama Game", a musical comedy, will be offered in the spring.

10. Implementation of flexible scheduling for September is being carefully studied. Mr. Sarna is chairing a committee to evaluate this innovation.

11. Time will be provided for teachers to visit with each other to observe and gain additional ideas, techniques and teaching methods.

12. An experimental course in Human Relations is being taught by Mr. Gaynor to a number of students one day a week. It will be conducted during their physical education period.

In addition, many other interesting areas of education improvement are being investigated and studied. If you have any suggestions or ideas, I am available for a conference. I have one major hope that you can make a reality. Only by your involvement in our school can it become a worthwhile place. My dreams are meaningless without your commitment to build a better Hamilton High School.

## Community Supplies Adult Group Leaders

More than 120 adult leaders will be here on March 15 to help supervise the 112 groups of parents.

In an effort to make the Convocation a success, group leaders have been selected from different agencies and organizations located throughout the city and county.

Group leaders will be from the Assistance League, UCLA, Office of Urban Affairs, USC, Commission on Human Relations-County, American Jewish Commission, Probation Department-County, San Fernando Vally State College, Westside Jewish Community Center, UCLA Neuropsychiatric Institute, Jewish Federation Council of Los Angeles, Jewish Community Centers Assoc. and many others.

## Flexible Schedule

One of the suggestions offered by both students and faculty members in the convocation summarization was to institute modular and flexible scheduling. Hamilton's administration has acknowledged the suggestion and is now investigating the system for future employment.

Modular scheduling involves the division of the school day into 15, 20, 25, or 30 minute "modules." Classes are then scheduled for different number of modules depending on the subject.

Flexible scheduling, as employed by most colleges, allows the student to attend a class for a certain number of days a week. The length of the classes is increased, theoretically improving the education.

Mr. Arthur Sarna is the faculty leader concerned with the institution of the innovative system. Principal Paul Schwartz has already visited Arvin Jr. High School in Bakersfield to examine their present experiment with flexible scheduling. The question to be answered at this and other such schools is whether the change from the standard curriculum really allows for better education.

## Parent Convocation-- 3,000 Expected Today

For the first time in the United States a convocation of parents of high school students will be held. Over 3,000 parents are expected to attend Hamilton's Parent Convocation on Sunday, March 15. The Convocation will last from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

The Parent Convocation is being patterned after the Student-Faculty Convocation held at Hamilton last December 9. At 1:00 the parents will go to one of the six registration desks on the field. After signing in and receiving instructions they will attend an orientation on the athletic field regarding the purpose and goals of the convocation. A printed program will inform parents the rooms where they will meet. There will be 112 rooms with about 27 parents in each. A committee of parents coordinating the convocation have made special plans for the handicapped and for non-English speaking parents.

## PASS-FAIL

### Computer Math Offered

Already, tangible results of the Student-Teacher Convocation are evident. One major example of this is the Computer Math course which is being graded on a pass-fail basis this semester.

The Computer course, aimed to introduce the mechanics of a computer to math-oriented students, is serving as a "pilot course" for the pass-fail system. Earlier this semester, the students in the class were allowed to decide whether they three chose the pass-fail option. Mr. Leroy Pool, who is instructing this wanted to be graded on the standard or the experimental system. All but semester's computer math class feels that the pass-fail system requires responsible students who "have indicated a willingness to do a little work." He also feels that

Under the direction of trained group leaders from the community, the parents will discuss the problems and issues confronting the students. Two parents from each room will record the information and suggestions brought up during the three hour discussion period.

A Parent Summarization Committee will prepare a package of information obtained from the recorders' notes. The package, which will be mailed to Hamilton parents, will be used along with the results compiled from the Student-Faculty Convocation to improve the school.

The parent general chairman is Mr. Robert Bergman. Mr. Herb Levi is in charge of the summarization; Mrs. Herb Nusbaum is coordinating press releases and publicity; Mr. Robert Walker is head of the program committee; Mrs. Francis Lash is the chairman of the hospitality committee.

the elimination of grading chores allows him to teach the class more ably. Three more computer math classes are being offered next semester.

If the innovation is a success, other classes may adopt the system later.

## Noon Clinics Help Students

According to Hamilton High's Girl's Vice Principal, Mrs. Josephine Jimenez, a noon studies program will be instituted this semester. It will be called the Noon Clinics.

The purpose of this program is to attempt to assist students who may be failing, behind, or just generally wanting to improve themselves in a specific field. The students will either volunteer to attend these

clinics or will attend due to referrals. There will be no academic credit given.

The clinics will offer help in math, science, social studies, English and foreign languages. They will be regular sessions run by teachers in each department. There are also possibilities that student volunteers will be able to tutor. Previously, much of this work had been done by the Nevian tutors and First Lady supervisors in study rooms.

# Students' Concern and Apathy Both Felt During Convocation

The student convocation was not a complete success. Many Yankees were keyed up and couldn't wait to say nothing. Why? Many people knew the others in the group and

thought they would step on friend's toes. Others were so active they walked out.

After intensive study and much time, the results of the convocation

were compiled and printed in a seven page pamphlet distributed to the faculty and the student body.

Since the convocation many people talk of what's called the spirit of the convocation. And unfortunately too many other people call it a spirit in the sense of something once but now vanished.

Answers came up to help solve Hami's problems. The answer to the lack of communications between people of different outlooks, races and problems, was to make a P. A. system for the school.

The answer to a somewhat overplayed race problem was to remove bagels and replace them with wat-

termelons or black eyed peas.

The school paper, the Federalist, was attacked as a cause of racial problems, but it's free of censorship and any one has the right to air personal views.

Students complained that they wanted younger more relevant teachers; the next item on the summary was to rid our school of younger more relevant student teachers.

On top of these criticisms the students' summary listed ten major feelings about the school. Nine of these were pessimistic and the other one was listed as "concerned."

For about the past year Hamilton has often been criticized in the papers, radio and T. V. We have often been chastized for dress codes, student disturbances and fires.

On Sunday, March 15 at 1:00 P. M. the parents of the student body can list problems and air their views. Perhaps they can help make Hamilton into a school that is better, real and relevant.

## ONE STUDENT'S OPINION

### Convocation Results Debated

By Glenn Gazin

The results of the convocation have now been made available to the entire student body. The seven page bulletin contains 114 problems as stated by the students and faculty.

In my opinion, the summarization stands as proof of the worthlessness of the convocation. Excellent in concept, it succeeded only in gathering the eternal complaints of many one-sided, confused malcontents.

The summarization is filled with absurdities contradicted by other absurdities. For example, on page 7 of the report, under "Racial Tensions", it is stated that we must "eliminate white earmarks (bagels in lunch-line).

Immediately following it is the statement "have Black earmarks."

Nevertheless, there are a number of valid suggestions. I'll agree that the cafeteria food isn't the finest quality. Vending machines would be a boon. The campus is dirty; drugs are a problem. Of course, these are obvious to all.

Why is it so important that this summarization must be recognized for what it is? First, many of the alleged problems simply don't exist. Should we allow ourselves to be talked into a crisis, we will surely arrive at one. Second, should the public and particularly the press accept it on face value, they'll receive a misconception of the average Hamiltonian. A large segment of the public is already of the opinion that today's students are a worthless bunch. When it comes time to vote for extra school money, many citizens take actions based on those opinions.

### Convocation Couldn't Hurt

March 15 is the Parent Convocation. Will this convocation help much? Some parents know absolutely nothing about the problems of the school. They've never even seen the school, much less been inside its gates.

The majority of the adults are set in their ways. If they are prejudiced against some minority group, they won't be happy or willing to try something like a black studies program. Some grown-ups just wouldn't understand the

school's problems. Some parents are too apathetic to come to the convocation. That brings up one question. The parents aren't forced to come as the students were. Will they come?

But then there is the other side. There are parents who really know and care about the school's problems. They are concerned about the school's present and future. These parents will attend.

But what about the others?

### Hami "In the Beginning"

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth and Hamilton High School. The buildings were without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the lunch court.

And God said, "Let there be students;" and there were students. And God saw that they were hairy. And it was so. And there were students and hair and hair and hair, one day.

And God said, "Let there be teachers." And it was so. And God made the teachers to rule over the students so they would bear fruit and not come to class late. And there were teachers and homework a second day.

And God said, "Let there be parents." And it was so. And God made the parents to receive their child's report card and to punish him accordingly. And there were parents, a third day.

And God said, "Let there be a student-teacher convocation." And it was so. And God commanded that they shall end their problems by talk, improve their school by talk. And there was a convocation and plenty of talk, a fourth day.

And God said "Let there be publicity." And it was so. And God said, "Hamilton shall be on television, in national magazines, and even in the Pico Post." And word of the convocation spread throughout the land. And there was publicity and status, a fifth day.

And God said "Let there be a parent convocation." And the parents saw that it was so. And God said, "The parents shall improve the school through talk and action." And there was a parent convocation, a sixth day.

Thus Hamilton was finished, and all the host of it. And on the seventh day God rested from all the work which He had done and sat back to wait for the results. K.J.

## Plans to Improve Educational Program: More Teachers, Books

There are numerous plans going on that will improve the educational program already being offered. Hamilton needs more teachers, textbooks, classroom space, remedial reading materials and more relevant classes.

Hamilton High has applied for a Federal Grant to meet these needs. If we do qualify for this grant, team teaching, flexible scheduling, and a wider variety of classes will be offered.

Already in progress are two classes of both Afro-American history and literature. "Through these classes our students are sincerely trying to bridge the knowledge chasms about the contributions of the black people," declared Leonard Green, social studies department chairman. Both classes have

attracted a multitude of students from all ethnic backgrounds. To meet the mounting demands for this type of cultural studies, classes in Mexican-American contribution, those of the Jew, the Indian, and other minorities have already been planned for next semester.

The English department has plans for a comprehensive course that will unite the disciplines of literature, history, art and music as a first step towards the development of a humanities approach similar to that followed in many universities.

Our Principal Paul Schwartz remarked, "We shall offer many new exciting courses to meet the demands of our students and we also will be better able to approach the problem of individual differences in learning capacity and needs."

## Convocate Today: Hami Needs You

Are you afraid to get involved? This question will be answered on March 15, the date of the Parent Convocation.

The students of Hamilton have shown their concern and interest in their school through the student convocation. They participated in four hours of thinking and discussion.

But perhaps the real success of the student convocation will be if it has motivated the students to urge their parents to participate and get involved.

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