

Principal releases video promoting Samohi

BY SABA HAMEDY

Special to the Daily Press

SAMOHİ On Santa Monica High School's Web site, you can find a variety of things, from links to campus clubs to the daily Blue Bulletin.

But this year something different has hit the Web: a new video called "Why Attend Santa Monica High School," featuring principal Hugo Pedroza.

Throughout the video, Pedroza flaunts Samohi's excellence in academics, athletics

and the arts. He explains that Samohi is wonderful because it is an environment in which anyone can grow. He points out that Samohi ranks in the top 20 percent in the state for academics, top 5 percent for music and top 10 percent for athletics.

The film was made after PTSA chairman Richard McKinnon noticed Samohi needed to connect more with the community.

The intention was to enhance Samohi's Web site and fix the communication gap.

"Videos are a very powerful way to communicate; and Samohi needed much better

communication with the community," said McKinnon.

His idea was to create multiple stories through videos, or "vidlets," each approximately one minute long, so that community members could get a better sense of Samohi and its many activities, faculty, and events.

Samohi's Running with Speakers (RWS) created the video prior to the 2008-09 school year. RWS is an on campus club that is in charge of sound at every Samohi event: pep rallies, concerts, assemblies, plays, and more.

In addition, they make videos and document all the events they help run.

According to RWS adviser Bill Wishart, the video took two to three weeks to both create and edit. However, uploading the video onto the school's Web site took a few more months because of technical difficulties with YouTube.

"It was a smooth process ..., but it took a long time," said Wishart.

Wishart asked if any RWS members

SEE VIDEO PAGE 10



HOT STUFF

Paul Leal hand blows a vase during the third annual Pico Art Walk on Saturday. The event featured the work of a number of local artists and galleries

Fabian Lewkowicz FabianLewkowicz.com

GOP votes not to back redistricting

BY JULIET WILLIAMS

Associated Press Writer

ANAHEIM The California Republican Party voted Sunday not to take a position on a bipartisan redistricting initiative backed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Proposition 11 on the November ballot would create an independent commission to redraw legislative districts. It was the only one of the 12 upcoming ballot measures on which the party's executive committee did not take a position at the state GOP's fall convention Sunday.

Former party chairman Duf Sundheim said Democrats who oppose the initiative will try to sell it as a Republican power grab. The party's endorsement might not help.

Some Republicans also argue the measure's reforms aren't tough enough. Linda Boyd of Los Angeles, a member of the party's resolutions committee, said Republicans are split on the measure, so it was best for the party not to take a position.

Redistricting is a top priority for Schwarzenegger, who is co-chairman of the campaign with former state controller Steve Westly, a Democrat.

But the governor is at odds with many members of his own party, who see him as too liberal. His Republican critics also say he backtracked on promises not to raise taxes by proposing to temporarily raise the state's income tax this summer to help close a \$15.2 billion state deficit.



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ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC WORKS MANAGEMENT

City of Santa Monica

Election features many young faces

FROM YOUTH PAGE 1

School of Public Affairs, said the interest in politics could be a function of demography as the baby boomer population begins retiring and handing over the reigns.

"The baby boomers have held on for so long that it's sort of impeded the progress for the generation behind the boomers," Gilliam said.

The youth trend has been seen locally the past few years, Gilliam said, pointing out some of the relatively younger politicians who have been elected, including Assemblyman Fabian Núñez and state Sen. Alex Padilla.

Other factors such as the war on terror, which tends to energize a younger population, and changes in technology, have also sparked interest for younger adults in civic engagement.

Candidates locally downplay the effect that their age might play in their campaigns, stressing that experience speaks more to their qualifications.

"They see me as someone who brings experience but also a new perspective," Bley, a teacher at the Brentwood School, said.

For some of the candidates, age never even crossed their mind when they first considered running for office.

"I actually forget that I'm young," Braun said.

Braun, a chiropractor, is among the candidates who are running for the first time. An owner of a small business, Braun said he always felt too busy to become more involved and wanted to wait until everything settled with his job before jumping in the race.

While age might not be much of a factor in a race for the Rent Control Board, Braun said it could be more relevant for the City Council where elected officials have to take on more diverse issues.

"My board is very important but it's a little more specific to one area of the city," he said. "But I don't think (voters) should look at age anyway."

Braun added that he isn't surprised by the number of young people running for office, especially with the influence of Obama's candidacy, which he believes brings the youth out at every level of the government.

**IT'S AMAZING
SEEING GROUPS
THAT ARE HISTORICALLY
SEEN AS APOLITICAL
REALLY CARING ABOUT
WHAT'S GOING ON."**

Michael Kovac
City Council candidate

One of the youngest candidates running this year, Blakely said he decided to get involved to try and make Santa Monica a better place.

"People are willing to take a step away from the norm and vote for someone who is not an incumbent," Blakely, an actor and entrepreneur, said. "Those people will look past an age and see what I can bring."

While Blakely said he is well-versed on issues on the November ballot, he did lack knowledge on at least one of the most recent initiatives — Measure R, a school parcel tax measure that voters approved in February. The measure was mentioned during a recent candidate forum hosted by the Community for Excellent Public Schools and Leadership Effectiveness Accountability Direction. Kovac attended the forum last week and said he didn't know enough about Measure R to comment.

For some boards, age could mean a closer connection with constituents.

"I'm relatively close to the student experience and I'm a graduate of our schools," Allen said. "I've got a connection to our district that I wouldn't have if I just came in as a new resident to Santa Monica."

While age can show voters that a candidate offers a new perspective, there is still proving that needs to be done.

"You can't just show up and say I'm young, vote for me," Allen said. "You have to put in serious work to learn about all the things affecting our community."

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Samohi releases video touting successes

FROM VIDEO PAGE 3

wanted to help with the video and Samohi junior Geo Zuniga happily volunteered. He worked on the Pedroza video as well as a "vidlet" spotlighting Samohi's award winning cheer team.

There have been plenty of positive responses to the video on campus.

"I think these videos are an excellent way to highlight Samohi's top programs," senior Maddy Scott said. "They give a chance for people outside the school to see what we students see every day."

"The 'vidlets' are awesome," junior Zac Geoffray said.

However, a few students think the video was made for different reasons. Senior Sophy Cohen guesses that the video was a response to a popular magazine's omission

of Samohi in its list of top 20 Los Angeles area schools.

But despite some speculation, the "Why Attend Santa Monica High School" online success has set a new precedent.

Now, Samohi's two video classes have incorporated creating "vidlets" in their curriculum. They are working on getting more and more "vidlets" finished to be uploaded onto the Web site. The goal is to create "vidlets" for every Samohi activity, so that viewers can check the Web site and learn about anything through the student-made videos.

Next up — a "vidlet" featuring Pedroza speaking in Spanish. The videos can be found on Samohi's Web site www.smmusd.org/Samohi.

news@smdp.com

Live!

this week at SMC

9/30

NOBEL LAUREATE DR. PAL TO DISCUSS CLIMATE CHANGE

Dr. Jeremy Pal, an SMC alum who is Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering and Environmental Science at Loyola Marymount University (LMU)—and one of the recipients of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize along with former US Vice President Al Gore—will give a talk on "Climate Change: Its Impact on Water Resources and Agriculture." Tue, Sep 30 • 11:15 am • Free • Science 145 • SMC Main Campus

10/2

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS LECTURE ON PANDEMIC INFLUENZA

Don't miss this important lecture on "Pandemic Influenza: Is a Global 'Perfect Storm' on the Horizon?" Dr. Melinda Moore, public health physician and RAND Corporation Senior Natural Scientist—formerly with the US Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control—will talk about her work on global health issues, strategies for infectious disease surveillance, and pandemic influenza preparedness. Sponsored by the SMC Associates (www.smc.edu/associates). • Thu, Oct 2 • 11:15 am • Free • Art 214 • SMC Main Campus

10/4

POET LAUREATE AL YOUNG: "NOTES ON THE FUTURE OF LOVE: ART AND HUMAN SURVIVAL"

Al Young—the prolific poet, novelist, and writer of musical memoirs appointed Poet Laureate of California by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2005—will discuss and read from a selection of his works. The "Emphasis Santa Monica" exhibit of leading Santa Monica artists will be open for viewing in the adjacent SMC Pete & Susan Barrett Art Gallery. Sponsored by the SMC Associates (www.smc.edu/associates). • Sat, Oct 4 • 7 pm • Free • The Edge Second Space • SMC Performing Arts Center

also

JOURNALISM LECTURE: Los Angeles Times reporters Molly Hennessy-Fiske and John Mitchell: "From Baghdad to LA: Journalism as Transformative Literature." Tue, Sep 30, 11:15 am, Studio Stage, Theatre Arts Complex, SMC Main Campus • **PLANETARIUM** shows, Fri, Oct 3, "Night Sky" 7 pm, "Dance More, with Feeling: The Last Hubble Servicing Mission" 8 pm, Dressler 223, SMC Main Campus • **JAZZ CONCERT:** Charles Owens Quintet, Fri, Oct 3, 7 & 9 pm (512), The Edge Second Space, SMC Performing Arts Center • **"AMERICAN REFLECTIONS - BROADWAY IN CONCERT" CONTINUES,** SMC Theatre Arts Production, Fri, Sat Oct 3, 4, 8 pm; Sat, Sun Oct 4, 5, 2 pm (520/518/515), Main Stage, SMC Main Campus • **ONGOING EXHIBITS:** Emeritus College Faculty Art Show at Emeritus College Art Gallery • "Emphasis Santa Monica" at Barrett Art Gallery, SMC Performing Arts Center • "Jazz Giants: The Photography of Herman Leonard" continues thru Oct 18 at SMC Photography Gallery, SMC Main Campus • **COMPETITIONS:** Women's Soccer, Tue, Sep 30, 2 pm, Santa Monica Airport Field • Men's Water Polo, Wed, Oct 1, 3 pm, Santa Monica Swim Center • Women's Volleyball, Fri, Oct 3, 6 pm, SMC Pavilion

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For more events: www.smc.edu/schedules/2008/fall/events

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