



Crescent Crier

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Crescent Valley High School

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Made Up?
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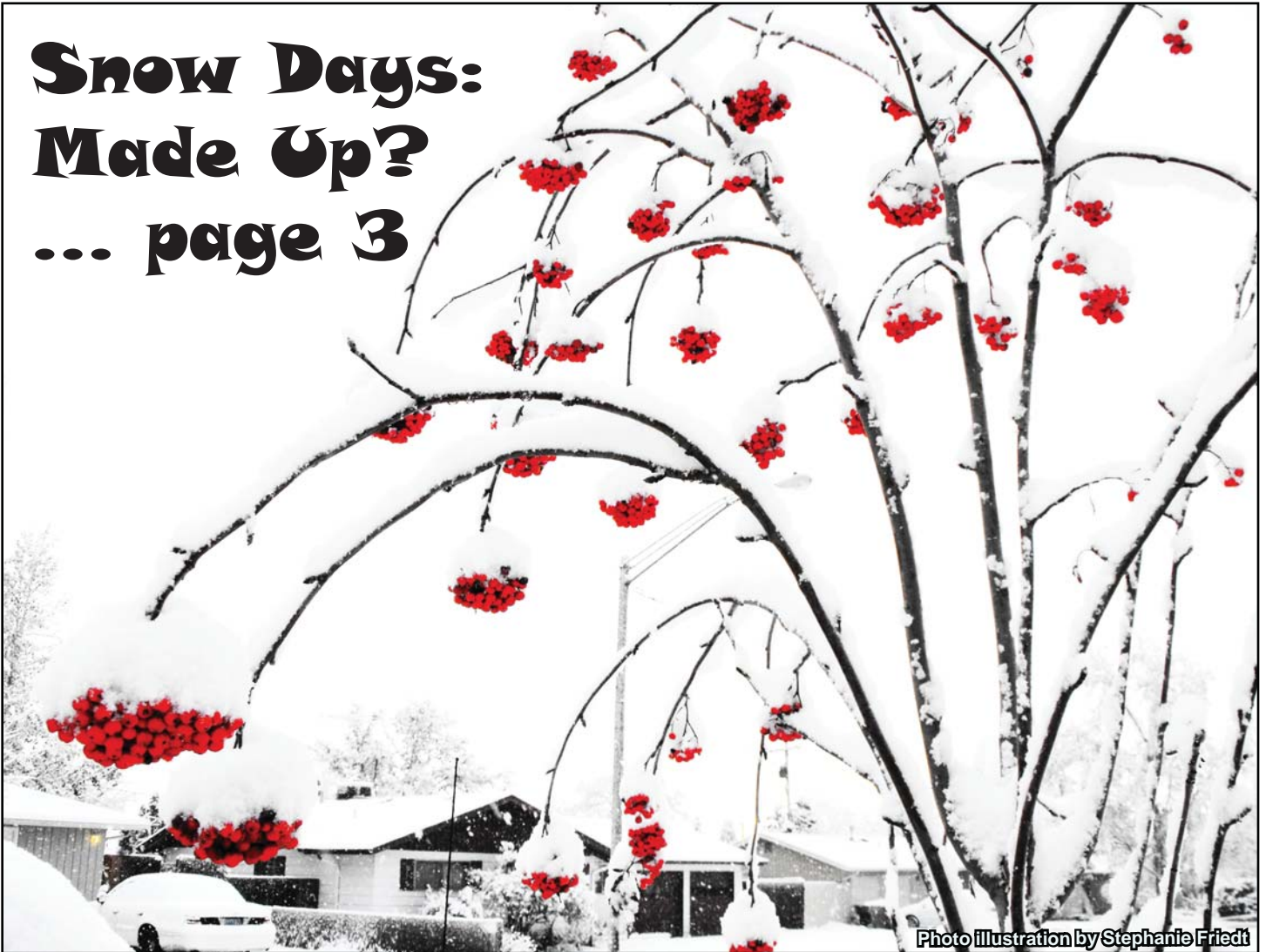


Photo illustration by Stephanie Friedt



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Many CV students think new president is off to a good start

By Amina Hassan

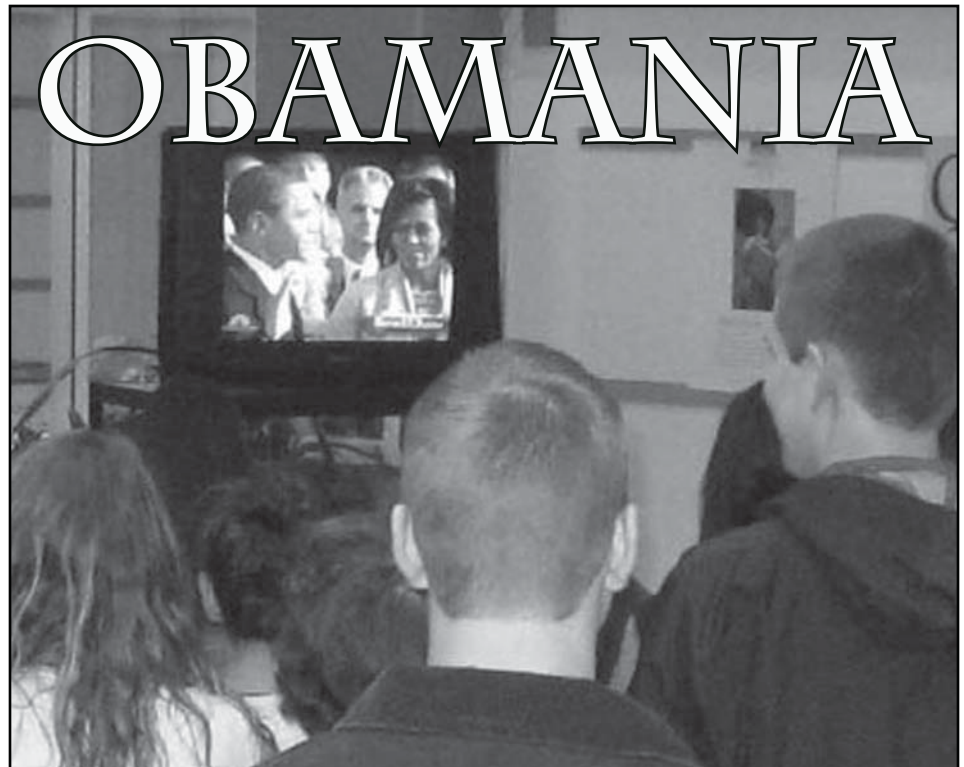
On Jan. 20, the 44th President of the United States, Barack Obama, made a hopeful speech. In his inauguration speech it was obvious that he, like most Americans, was not happy with the way the country was being run in the last eight years but as the president he is planning on changing that.

Throughout the whole 2008 presidential campaign there was for lack of a better term, Obamania. Americans have been tired of everything from the economy to the war in Iraq. When people heard of someone who was planning on taking them in a better direction they were all over it.

The proof is in the numbers. In Benton County, Obama received 65 percent of the vote and Republican candidate John McCain received 33 percent of the vote. This means that 29,421 people in Benton County voted for Obama and 15,036 voted for McCain.

In Oregon, Obama received 57 percent of the vote; nationally, he received 53 percent. Now that the election and inauguration are over and Obama is officially our president, has Obama kept any of his promises?

In his first weeks in office, Obama has signed an executive order to close down the detention center at Guantanamo Bay, required the closure of CIA "black sites" and banned CIA interrogators from using harsh interrogation methods, and lifted the ban on stem cell research funding.



Crescent Valley students watch Barack Obama's presidential inauguration.

The long awaited change has come and many Americans see their country as finally, after so long, going in the right direction. For lots of Americans, the Obama administration's first big moves have been hopeful and exciting.

Ashley Rausch a freshman at Crescent Valley, said: "I am really happy with what has been done so far by the Obama administration, especially with the closing down of the detention centers of Guantanamo Bay. I'm also happy that he is really working hard to getting to know more about peoples lives and I am re-

ally happy to have that in a president."

Junior Maisa Athamnah pointed to other issues.

"The Obama administration working hard to fix the economy and the issues in the U.S.," Athamnah said. "And they are also reaching out to the international community."

Freshman Jessica Soderquist, who described herself as a Republican, said of Obama: "I think that he has done okay but he could work on his speeches." Soderquist added: "He definitely takes peoples voices into consideration"

Raiders grit their teeth, donate 92 pints of blood

By Katie Bryan

The Crescent Valley blood drive is a time of happiness for some, and sacrifice for others. It takes a lot of guts to have someone drain a whole pint of your blood in one sitting, yet the donors sacrifice for the people who they know need it-the ones who have been in bad accidents or needed surgery.

Senior Amanda Gordon gave blood at the recent blood drive on Jan. 13, the third time she has given blood.

"When I first gave blood I couldn't even look at the needle," Gordon said. Now, she has gotten much more comfortable with it, and likes to chat with the nurses and other leadership people nearby.

"I chose to give blood because I have AB positive blood which is the universal blood type," Gordon said. "I can give and receive any kind of blood so it isn't used often, but when it is it's really needed, which makes me feel like I can help."



Senior Amanda Gordon donates with a smile during the annual blood drive in the CV library. Photo by Katie Bryan

Many kids and adults are very thankful for blood donations, because it can save them from a tragic accident or a fatal disease.

Donated blood has many uses in the medi-

cal world. Children and adults with leukemia, sick-cell disease, bad infections, and premature babies are just some of the people who need extra blood. Also, major surgeries such as bone marrow transplants, open-heart surgery and organ transplants need blood.

This year, the CV blood drive was a great success, and the Raiders sent the Red Cross away with 92 pints of blood. Of the 165 potential donors, 67 of them donated for the first time. 8 people were not able to finish their donation, due to health reasons, and about 23 donors were deferred to give blood at a different time.

It can be scary to willingly let someone drain blood from your body. But once you have gone through it, you will know that you did the right thing and helped someone have a better life.

"I feel great [giving blood] because I feel like I'm helping a bigger than me cause," Gordon said.

Mixing music & fun

Pep Band rocks for basketball

By Irene Klock

If you have ever been to a Crescent Valley varsity basketball game, you probably have noticed the mob of cheering high schoolers on CV's side of the bleachers. Next to them is a crowd in black t-shirts holding instruments and cheering even louder. This is the Crescent Valley High School Pep Band.

As the starters of the basketball team get introduced, the sounds of "Mars" can be heard. Then band director Kristen Janes steps in front of the band and directs the Star Spangled Banner. Throughout the game, songs such as The Lion Sleeps Tonight, Fat-Bottomed Girls, Final Countdown, and one of the crowd's favorites, Hey Baby, are played during breaks, timeouts, and halftime.

When asked about the band, most of the students' replies were positive and enthusiastic.

"Pep band is one of the most fun things anyone can do during high school," sophomore Carl Lucker said. It "combines music and a fun time had by all that participate in it."

"It's so much fun to cheer the Raiders on with music!" cried freshman Hannah Sneller. And Noah Vulfson said that "in our unity, we transcended the vigorous, radio-active energy of our opponents."

Students who were not in pep band also had positive things to say.

"I like pep band. I think that they are fun to have at games, and I honestly believe that they are the best pep band in the district," Drummond Fudge said. "I think music is fun, the more fun you have, the better music you make. The better music you make the more fun everyone has."

But aside from playing music, the CV pep band also likes to dress up by wearing a variety of costumes such as dinosaur onsies, feather boas, headbands, fake beards, and even hats with straws that hold cans of Mountain Dew.



The Pep Band entertains at a basketball game. Photo by Irene Klock

Why do they do this?

According to freshmen Camille Walker who plays the saxophone in the band, it is because they are "enthusiastic band geeks and it's an outlet."

Others, like Lucker, confessed, "It's more for the fun in the moment and having a good time. I guess we do it, or at least I do it, because its fun to look ridiculous in a public place."

So when you're at CV to watch varsity basketball, look for the kids in black. They will be sure to get you hyped up and excited for the game.

Snow causes school schedule changes

By Kira Sarnoff-Loo

The changing of seasons brought forth an early winter for Corvallis, around the winter season's roughly two inches of snow found its way into our little valley. Because of this snow, school was cancelled Dec. 15, 16 and 18.

During this cancellation Crescent Valley's student body took part in a multitude of activities. Coming to things like sledding around, or just drinking hot cocoa while watching daytime television.

The days we spent recreationally would be later cut off the year because of budget cuts. Due to the failing economy only one of the three scheduled snow day make-ups will be served and that was Feb. 16; before the snow days, this was a day regularly scheduled as a day off for Presidents' Day. This make-up day was carried out and the students and staff of CV attended school on Feb. 16.

Besides this day, budget cuts have also



Snow closed school for three days in December. Photo by Stephanie Friedt

taken one day off the scheduled last of school, June, 11, making the last day June 10.

Vice Principal Melissa Harder talked about how the snow days this winter have affected

the remaining school year.

"What is going to happen is that in the school some of the teachers are going to take some of their hours as non-pay days," Harder said. "And there is going to be one day taken off at the end of the school year, a lot of budget cuts are affecting our school so some numbers and dates may change."

What is Harder's opinion on having days canceled for snow?

"Well, I think in some cases it's warranted," Harder said. "There are a lot of young drivers at our school, so the hills in icy conditions could be a safety concern. We also have buses full of kids coming through those, too, so that's definitely something we pay attention too."

In conclusion, Harder said what is being planned for future snow days.

"We have our Calendar Committee which is a group who are looking at ways we can better build in snow days," Harder said.



Photo by Irene Klock

By Ellen Yin

Feb. 14 always arrives with a grand spectacle of paper hearts, flowers, and an infinite supply of sweets as couples, families, and friends alike celebrate Valentine's Day.

This infamous day of love dates back to 498 A.D., when Pope Gelasius declared Feb. 14 as St. Valentine's Day, in honor of martyr Saint Valentine. Legend has it that St. Valentine served as a priest in Rome during the third century, and was sentenced to death for secretly marrying lovers after Emperor Claudius II had outlawed marriage for young men. It is rumored the term "Valentine" was coined when St. Valentine allegedly signed a love letter "From your Valentine," shortly before he died.

Now, centuries later, his name and holiday has become internationally known. The day is of special significance to Oregon, which became a state on Feb. 14, 1859. This year, Oregon celebrated its 150th birthday alongside the day of St. Valentine's remembrance, a holi-

day that has blossomed into a major cultural part of our society. The students of Crescent Valley are no exception.

"I love Valentine's Day!" exclaimed freshman Maddie Hamlin. Freshmen Reid Wells wholeheartedly agreed, adding: "It's an excuse to eat chocolates."

Wells also gave insight on the beginnings of the more well-known commercial Valentine's Day: "It's cool because it was a holiday before, but Hallmark really produced it."

Many however, don't share the enthusiasm of Hamlin and Wells.

"I don't like Valentine's Day," sophomore Elizabeth George said. "We never do anything."

Senior Ryan Higgins took a more neutral approach.

"Well personally, I'm not in a relationship so it's just another day to me. If you think about it, now it is stressful situations like, 'Oh, I want this girl to be my Valentine!' In elementary school, everyone was friends and girls had cooties. We need to bring back the fun in Valentine's Day."

This seems to be a common opinion of many students at CV, including George, who liked it better in elementary school.

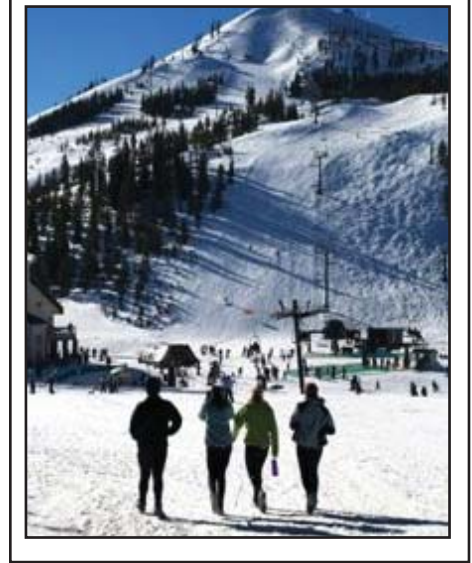
Freshmen Julia Martins thought the same, sharing: "I think it was nicer in elementary school because everyone got candy back then." Not surprisingly, candy is among the important aspects associated with Valentine's Day. However, Raiders never fail to remember the true meaning of Valentine's Day. Mr. CV held a fundraiser this year selling Valograms; all profits were donated to benefit the Jackson Street Youth Shelter, Children's Miracle Network, and The Old Mill Center.

"The boys come dressed up as Cupids and sing to the people who get Valograms. It's fun...they get pretty embarrassed," laughed senior Kacie Melton, a member of Mr. CV 2009.

When asked the same question as the other students interviewed, Melton smiled and replied: "I love Valentine's Day," remembering the simple four-letter word that we all celebrate on that special day.



(Above) Kelsey Ward races during the state Nordic ski championships. (Below) Ian Morrell, Kai Hundemer, Kara Doescher and Katie Bryan get ready to race at Hoodoo during the meet. Photos by Ed Bryan



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