



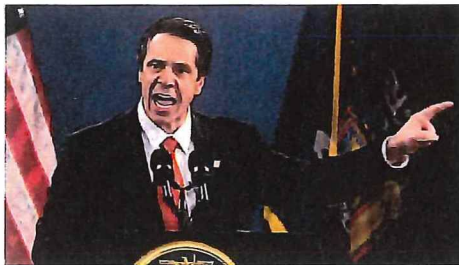
New York Approves Free College For Middle Class Families

By Elizabeth Akinbami

New York, has become the first state in history to make state colleges tuition-free. Similar to Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders proposals during their failed presidential campaigns, Democratic Governor Andrew Cuomo announced his proposal in January in Queens in front of the LaGuardia Community College.

"In this economy, you need a college education if you're going to compete," Cuomo said. "It's incredibly hard and getting harder to get a college education today. It's incredibly expensive and debt is so high it's like starting a race with an anchor tied to your leg."

The governor's plan is free tuition for those



New York's Democratic Governor, Andrew Cuomo

who attend the State University of New York (SUNY), City University of New York (CUNY), including two year community colleges. In order to qualify, the resident's family must earn less than \$125,000. New York has the largest public university system with almost 500,000 students spread along 64 campuses.

"Although SUNY and CUNY offer among the lowest tuition in the nation, currently, the average New York student graduates college with a four-year degree saddled with more than \$25,000 in student loans"(SUNY News).

However, there are some who do not agree with Cuomo because it does not benefit or aid the low income students. Last year An-

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Sharpstown Students Take Part in Day of Silence To Support LGBTQ Community

By Nancy Medina

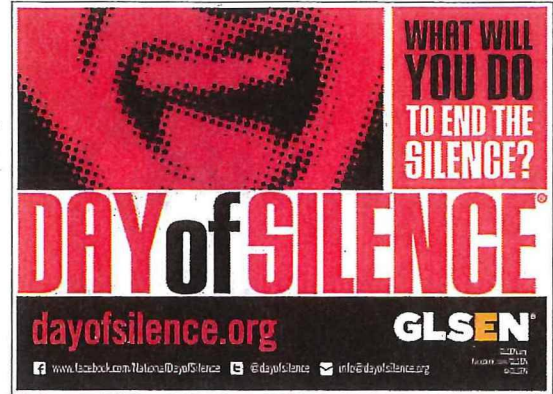
Sharpstown High School students are participating in the fourth annual Day of Silence. It's a day where we can show solidarity with the LGBTQ community and show support for those students who have been bullied because of their sexual appearance," said Sharpstown Theatre instructor Julio Morales. It was started by Sharpstown graduate De'ja Hines during her junior year.

Some students will have whiteboards or a red paper linked to their necks and state that they are contributing in the Day of Silence. However, students are allowed to speak to their teacher and do what they

are told when a teacher gives them instructions.

Students in past years have refused to

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Texas Senate Passes Transgender Bathroom Bill, Bill Moves to State House

By Elizabeth Akinbami

The Texas State Senate has passed a bill that forces individuals to use the bathroom corresponding to their birth gender, a bill would prohibit transgender individuals from using the bathroom of their choice. Sponsored by Republican State Senator Lois Kolkhorst of Brenham, Senate Bill 6 affect transgenders using the bathroom in public schools, universities and government buildings based on their biological sex, not their gender identification.

The bill has now been sent to the Texas House, where if it passes, it will become law.

LGBT individuals are in uproar over the bill, and Texas business leaders warn that

any discriminatory action taken against the LGBT community could cause a significant economic downfall. Many believe, like Texas Association of Business President Chris Wallace, that the bill is "discriminatory and unnecessary" and "does nothing to address safety."

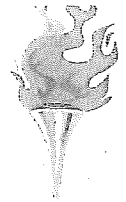


Republican lawmakers disagreed, citing safety and protecting the children from predators as their main reasons for supporting the bill. The left-

leaning ACLU disagreed, saying transgender people are the ones who need to be concerned about their safety. According to them, 70% of transgender men and women report having been verbally or physically attacked while using the restroom.

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NEWS



High School Journalists' Questions Lead Hired Principal to Resign

By Sarahi Ruiz

Maddie Baden, a 17 year old journalist at Pittsburg High School, was supposed to write a welcoming story about the school's incoming principal, Amy Robertson, but a simple online background check and interview answers, led students to question who she really was.

Baden decided to share this information and her personal opinion with the 5 other students part of the school newspaper. The students published the newspaper article with a story that showed curiosity about her education proof. It only took 4 days for the principal to resign after the article was posted.

In early March, Pittsburg Community Schools hired Robertson to be the new high school principal based on the district being "impressed by Robertson's decades of experience in education, which include international exposure as a teacher and administrator."

The Booster Redux, journalist club name at Pittsburg High School, found a lot of misun-



Journalists at Pittsburg High School in Kansas, part of The Booster Redux

derstandings from Robertson's background. Robertson plead that she had earned her masters and doctorates degree at Corllins University. When the students looked at the university's website, they came across the fact that it didn't have a physical address on it. The students were exposed to numerous of articles that portrayed the school as a "diploma mill" university, meaning that students could legitimately buy their degrees.

Adding on, Robertson claimed that she has also earned a bachelor's of fine arts degree awarded by the University of Tulsa. The students went one step ahead and

called the university to later find out that the university "has never awarded that type of degree".

Through it all, the students were very surprised from the fact that they discovered all those lies that other professors couldn't. In fact, Baden stated, "We were all kind of wondering, 'Well, if we could have found this out, why didn't the leaders of this district find this too?'"

The district then released a statement adding, "In light of the issues that arose, Dr. Robertson felt it was in the best interest of the district to resign her position. The Board has agreed to accept her resignation." If Robertson would have been the principal of the high school, she would of started her \$93,000 a year position on July.

Students learned that Amy Robertson has "recently worked as the chief executive of an education consulting firm, Atticus I S Consultants." This is another business that students couldn't seem to find any information of it on the internet.

NY Governor Proposes Free College Tuition

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drew Chingos, an education policy researcher, tweeted "...free college plans that don't cover non-tuition costs such as living expenses leave significant uncovered costs for low-income families."

Lawmakers approved the state budget on Sunday for free tuition at public colleges and universities. The tuition plan will pan out over the course of three years, granting eligibility to families makes \$100,000 in the fall of 2017.

In other parts of the nation, there is tuition-free community colleges but New York is definitely changing the course of history with the future of post-secondary school.

Students Participate in Day of Silence

Day of Silence from p. 1

Do their work because they thought was the real meaning of the Day of Silence . If it gets in the way of learning and students refuse to participate then the school would stop the action. This means these bullied students would no longer have this voice in our school.

"The Day of Silence is an important way for LGBTQ students to advocate for their right-dand to draw attention to the mistreatment that these students receive in schools," said event organizer GLSEN Co-Chair Holly Brown.

This morning the Sharpstown Drama Club, the Thespian Honor Society and the Gay-Straight Alliance are sponsoring and giving

out tickets before school and in the courtyard during lunch."

JOKE OF THE WEEK:

What do you call a famous fish?

THE LIGHT

- Design..... Sarahi Ruiz
- News..... Kimberly Jaimes
Elizabeth Akinbami
- Art/Culture..... Nancy Medina
Virginia Gutierrez
- Sports..... Jaden Taylor
- Editorial Staff.... Sarahi Ruiz
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