

ALL'S FAIR IN COLLEGE FARE



By Gabriel Gutierrez & Mazikeen ("Maze") Larson

Seniors gather in a line inside the library entrance, checking in at a table with the guidance counselors. They are dressed up to the nines, with button ups and high heels, ready to make a good impression on prospecting universities. The university representatives, in turn, sit at decorated tables armed with pamphlets, business cards, and convincing pitches eager to drum up excitement for the institution they each represent.

Juliet Aguh is most interested in applying to La Verne, University of Redlands, and Cal Baptist. "I don't think I've heard of the others," she remarks. When choosing schools, her main considerations are cost first, and reputation second.

"I can't go broke," she jokes with a smile. Her majors of choice are "statistics, applied mathematics, or data science." "I'm a nerd who likes money," Aguh shares, "little secret, I did not spend a dime on any single college application." She seeks to continue this trend by taking advantage of the fee waivers offered by the schools present. Though, "it would be better if they gave out candy," she suggests.

Aniya Magee's university search concentrates on "the area that they're in and the programs that they have," though sports, extracurriculars, and whether a major is impacted remain important factors. She's looking to major in biology or nursing, and applied to University of La Verne. If not at the fair, she would've probably applied to schools from another one of A.B.'s helpful programs, AVID, following their advice for applications. "Whichever one they said to do, then I would've did," she explains.

Using fee waivers from the Collegeboard, private universities, and A.B. Miller, Dana Edrees has applied to "6 Cals, 3 UCs, 4 privates, and Chaffey." At the event she applied to Redlands, Sierra, and La Verne. "I consider the one-on-one [of schools], so of course I would love to go to private," she explains. "Honestly, [prestige] doesn't matter to me as long as I get the education that I need," the to-be business major explains.

Elijah Robles looked forward to getting "more information about some of the private colleges" at the fair. "What I really expect from a school is, I guess, the demographic and the climate. I really want to meet people that share the same vision I do—computer science wise—and I guess overall temperature," he states.

While he admitted that the lines were somewhat long, Robles got the information he



was seeking, including "tuition and everything", a success for Robles to be sure. Planning to stay in a school with warmer climates, he applied to Northern Arizona University, La Verne, and Redlands at the event.

Marching band drum major Angelica Aniciete showed up to the college fair dressed to impress. Since she tries her best in her academics, she wants her school to "be a little more on the prestigious side." Her major "right now" is economics. "It altered," she laughs. Apart from "being well-known" and "how good the school is" Aniciete doesn't have many requirements for her preferred universities. She applied to La Verne, Azusa Pacific, and Cal Baptist.

Many seniors walked away satisfied with their college fair experience and it should be no surprise that the university representatives shared the sentiment.

The representative from Northern Arizona University (NAU), Betsie Rugg-Stassen, serves as the California Admissions manager and largely works with San Bernardino students. A joy to talk to, she explains, "I usually come with no expectations because every single fair is different. But yes, I expected I might be going over some transcripts with them as well." "So that was nice, I don't think I've ever had that opportunity at a lot of fairs, so this is lovely," she smiles softly, "A little more personable." Ms. Rugg-Stassen seemed ecstatic about the event, describing it as goldilocks-like (not too big, not too small), "it's great! It's small too, sometimes we're at these fairs and they're huge and so it's hard for students to meet with everyone but I thought it was very well organized." She felt honored to be invited since "they just picked a few schools that were very popular."

"I don't do a lot of events like this where I'm actually meeting with students face-to-face with their transcripts to look at their academics," admitted Michael Taylor, the enthusiastic associate director of admissions for Hawaii Pacific University (HPU).



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