

OUR EYES

By teens • For teens • About teens

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Life of ASB student not what you imagine

Four young journalists sat in a newspaper conference room, avoiding eye contact and making awkward comments, trying to come up with ideas for their new project. We had never met before and were completely uncomfortable around each other, as most teenagers are when first meeting each other.

Progress was not made, and the whole situation looked bleak, until someone mentioned ASB. The room burst with energetic talking and a conclusion was reached.

They run the whole school, and no one else may ever find the opportunity to put a word in otherwise. If there is a choice to be made, they make it. If there is money to be spent, they spend it. If there is credit to be handed

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'Our Eyes' sees world through teens' eyes

Welcome to "Our Eyes," The Salinas Californian's new twice-monthly feature by, for and about Salinas-area teenagers.

This special pull-out page, which will publish every first and third Tuesday, is conceived and produced through the eyes of teen writers drawn from local high schools.

We are still recruiting additional writers to join the staff. We hope to have one from each high school, and we already have selected students from Salinas High School, Alisal High School, Everett Alvarez High School and North Monterey County High School.

Interested students are invited to contact Features Editor Sierra Rendon at srendon@thecalifornian.com as soon as possible. Send your name, age, grade, school and phone number, as well as the name of an English teacher or journalism/yearbook teacher who can recommend you.

Though Our Eyes is aimed specifically at readers ages 13 to 18, we welcome your suggestions and ideas regardless of age. Send comments by e-mail to OurEyes@TheCalifornian.com or call 754-4270.



MySpace popular, problematic for local teens

SCOTT MACDONALD/THE SALINAS CALIFORNIAN

Pablo Felix, 17, an Everett Alvarez High School student, is pictured with his MySpace page in his Salinas home Jan. 10.

By RIA MEGNIN
The Salinas Californian

Forget the phone book. If you want to connect with a Salinas-area teenager today, you'll have better luck with MySpace.com.

MySpace, the giant of online networking communities, is on track to reach 50 million members this month — a

virtual explosion since the file-sharing site's founding in January 2004.

Thousands of people in Salinas have signed up, mostly teens and young adults, who "pimp out" their free personal pages with photos, music, videos and themed backgrounds to connect with friends. It can become a time-consuming obsession.

"Everybody at school was talking about it," said Pablo Felix, 17, a senior at Everett Alvarez High School in Salinas, who also is a teen writer for The Salinas Californian's new bimonthly teen page, "Our Eyes."

"You can talk to all your friends on it, with instant messages and e-mail and blogs (online journals). Even if

you're out of town, in another state, your friends are always going to be there."

But spend time surfing around MySpace, and you'll find far more than social postings.

Member pages play songs and music videos on startup. Site features include local classified and event listings, dating support, discussion

forums and online games. The company sold for \$580 million in July to Rupert Murdoch's News Corp., which started a MySpace record label and will offer television and movie downloads on the site.

Chelsea Schreiber, 16, a junior at North Monterey County High School in Castroville, said she loves updating her profile page. She signed up for

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SOUNDBITES

The thing I do that annoys my parents the most is...

Our Eyes writer Corinne Warnshuis posed this question to her fellow Salinas High School classmates. Here are the results:

To suggest a question for SOUNDBITES, send e-mail to OurEyes@thecalifornian.com



"When I tell my mom the truth about my opinions on things. She doesn't always agree with what I say."

- Genesis Aguilar
senior



"It's probably when I don't do my homework."

- Joel Ancheta
senior



"I don't know why but my parents get really annoyed when I roller blade on the hardwood. I have to do it; I'm practicing for the Ice Capades!"

- David Ezekiel
senior



"When they don't know where I am and I come home really late."

- Chelsey Gordon
sophomore



"They get annoyed 'cause I go 'What...what?...what?...what?'"

- Heather Hays
sophomore



"Stay out late, but it just depends on their mood. They're what you might call 'straight-laced.'"

- Claire Plemmons
junior

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