



Porterville Youth Commission Senior Year: College Meltdown

By Stephanie Hass

"Your senior year is always the best" or "the most fun year" or "the year you'll remember forever," oh this will be a year I remember for the rest of my life. Trying to get into college has been one of the most challenging things I have ever done. Application processes are so long and tedious that they are a task in themselves. Not to mention the intimidating rejection rates of any California State University or University of California school.

The beginning of the application isn't that hard... all you have to do is dig up every piece of credible evidence that you were a good kid and a better student. And then you get slapped with a fifty-five dollar fee for JUST applying. This process leaves many capable students with fewer options because it is so expensive. So if you are lucky enough to be able to afford these steep costs it is very competitive and rigorous to actually get into a college. With more than 17.3 million students enrolled in college in 2005 application to college is at an all time high and has increased in the past five years. This alarming fact means that the colleges have that much more to choose from. It almost seems like you have to have a 4.5 GPA, play sports all year around, be in all the clubs possible, have a job, and help out shelters or soup kitchens on the weekends in order to barely make it through the outrageous admissions qualifications. But that is absolutely absurd. The deans of admissions need to realize we have many stresses in life and the requirements for college admission are ridiculous. As college-bound high school students we are faced with so many types of adversity, in all of its forms. We constantly have to deal with peer pressure pushing towards drugs, sex, or alcohol, not to mention the stresses of friends and family matters also take a toll on a student's ability to learn and retain knowledge. If there were a simple button we could press it would have already been smashed in nervous breakdowns and in rage. College is a rung we must climb on the ladder of success. So it shouldn't be so difficult to reach the goals and dreams we have been encouraged to have since the first grade.

The Porterville Youth Commission (PYC) evolved in 2008 as Council Member Pedro Martinez wanted to hear what youth had to say and make sure their voice was heard by others. PYC consists of representative's from local high schools. Currently, the 10 member Youth Commission is comprised from Monache, Porterville, Granite Hills, and Citrus High Schools, as well as Harmony Magnet Academy.

The intent is to inform youth of what is happening, find out what the youth wish would happen, and educate them on the process of how things do happen. The Youth Commission conducted a Youth Voice Conference last spring and is in hopes of doing another one in 2010. They also have a couple new projects that are in the preliminary planning stages.

PYC has established a Facebook page, webpage and an activity phone line in hopes that all youth in the area feel they may share their voice to the PYC, and find out what is happening in Porterville for the youth. The PYC normally meets monthly on the first and third Mondays at 4:00pm in the City Hall Council Chambers.