



## Passwords allow privacy breach

By Ben Damon

New college and career planning software introduced to the district this month has sparked concern over a breach in password security.

Naviance, Redwood's new web-based software, aims at giving students easy access to college, scholarship, and testing statistics. Yet, Naviance's preset password for every student at Redwood has made it easy to access others' personal information.

Paula Vantrease, college and career specialist, has asked students to go in and quickly change their passwords so that Naviance can be used properly as a resource throughout their high school careers.

"I hope that students will go in and use it as part of the college process," Vantrease said. "Everyone has a preset account created at this point."

Yet some students, such as anonymous senior "Greg," were concerned with Naviance's preset password. Greg said he quickly noticed the problem and signed into a few classmates' accounts, simply to see if he could.

"I'm pretty sure any kid at Redwood could figure this out," Greg said. "I would say that it was a mistake on the school's part. I'm sure there are kids out there that are self-conscious about their grades and don't want that information public."

Vantrease is disappointed that students would take advantage of this password issue. She recently sent an email to the entire school, explaining the problem and reminding students to change their passwords.

"That is too bad that students check other student's information," Vantrease said. "There is really no reason to do that other than being nosy. I would hope that every student would go in and change their password."

According to Vantrease, the district chose to use preset passwords, intending on using the same passwords for school computer access, but the Naviance system would not accept them.

Naviance has replaced Prep HQ, the old college and career service Redwood offered for a number of years. According to Vantrease, Prep HQ was no longer active when school began in August, prompting the district to look for a replacement.

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Photo by Lauren Haden

KEVIN GUTIERREZ, Michael Simmonds and Donnie Aldridge (from left) sprint during a workout Monday afternoon in casual track practice attire. The track team has petitioned again for the freedom to run without shirts during practice, which violates Redwood's current dress code policy.

## Track dress debate returns

By Olivia Smith

The sun beats down on the track team while they practice, but school policy still requires them to keep their shirts on while running.

Sweaty students haven't had the option to run shirtless or in sports bras since the fall of 2009, when the administration contacted all coaches and informed them that the sports dress code policy would be more strictly enforced.

The track team recently appealed to Athletic Director Jessica Peisch about the school policy, claiming that practicing without their shirts is more comfortable for

them and allows for optimal performance while at practice.

The policy has been in effect for many years, but the administration decided to crack down in 2009 because of complaints they received from parents and members of community.

In an email to Peisch, juniors Tommy Warfel and Jenny Fant claim that keeping the core body temperature low allows for fluids to move easily throughout the body, delivering electrolytes that allow for high performance.

Peisch responded to their email, saying all students are required to wear shirts while on campus. The students

• **Track team**

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Photo by Lauren Haden

## Day of Silence honored today

By Megan Blanc

With their lips sealed, t-shirts dawned, and purple ribbons tied on their wrists, students came together today and took a vow of silence for an entire 24 hours in order to support the LGBT community in their school.

According to Sasha Perigo, co-president of the Redwood Gay-Straight Alliance, because Redwood students were on Spring Break during the international Day of Silence, the GSA club teamed up with Tam and scheduled a Day of Silence of their own.

"Our specific goal at the Redwood GSA is to show our LGBT classmates that we are willing to sacrifice talking for a day to show our support," Perigo said. "The idea is to show the LGBT students how many people there are who care."

If students are not able to remain silent, Perigo said it was okay to show support by wearing a ribbon or sticker that reads 'I'm participating in the Day of Silence.'

Perigo said that students do not need to be gay or lesbian in order to participate.

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## Obtaining alcohol easy for teens

By Michaela Ravasio

On a typical Friday night, "Kelly" clutches a fifth of Skyy Vodka while standing in line at the CVS checkout counter, anxiously waiting to make her purchase. She steps up to the register, her hands slightly trembling as she passes the dark blue bottle over to the cashier.

With a swift flash of her custom-made fake ID and a convincingly calm smile, the moment of fear fades. Kelly is flooded with a wave of relief as she pays for the alcohol and exits the store, now officially ready to start her night.

Could it really be this easy?

According to the April *Bark* survey, 95 percent of senior girls and 85 percent of senior boys have consumed alcohol. Eighty percent of sophomore girls and 75 percent of junior boys have as well.

Thirty-one percent of students illegally obtain alcohol in some form or another two or three times a month or more.

The most common way students obtain alcohol is through friends and parties, with 45 percent claiming to do this on a regular basis. Eight percent of students rely on fake IDs to get their alcohol, the second most common method.

According to Twin Cities police officer Michael Mejia, a number of different measures have been taken to prevent the use of fake IDs in past years, and alcohol consumption among teens in general.

"The DMV has had made it harder to forge licenses by flipping it from horizontal to vertical if you're underage," Mejia said. "Typically an ID has ultraviolet features as well, which show if it's valid or not with the simple flash of a light."

Mejia said that other attempts to reduce teenage alcohol consumption include efforts from Alcoholic Beverage Control, which regulate and issue liquor licenses to stores and restaurants.

"The ABC makes sure that stores are not selling alcohol to minors by sending underage people to try to buy alcohol from certain stores," Mejia said. "If they sell it to them, they can get a citation or even their liquor license taken away."

Despite these attempts, survey results suggest alcohol usage among Redwood students is just as prevalent as ever.

According to the California Healthy Kids Survey, juniors who had tried alcohol at least once in the past 30 days increased from 54 percent in 2001 to 59 percent in 2009, the last time the survey was administered.

The survey also showed that 87 percent of juniors perceived getting alcohol to be very easy in 2009, in comparison to the 85 percent in 2005.

Kelly, a junior who wished to remain anonymous, spent \$80 to have her fake ID made and has used it for five months

• **Alcohol**

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