

*City High has seen two student-orchestrated protests in opposition to the results of the November 8th election.*

## Students, Sensing Tension, Turn to Protest

By Sofie Lie

With a swift tap of her phone, on November 17th, Alma Apolonio-Bernal '17 sent out a snapchat inviting allies and victims of discrimination alike to join her in a silent protest. The request was well-received: the next day, to echo a sit-in led by West High students, ten City High students assembled during lunch to craft signs bearing sentiments of discrimination that they carried through the halls during seventh hour and after school.

"It was kind of a social media thing," Apolonio-Bernal said.

And the reaction, she said, was as expected: some students laughed, some pointed, some expressed their support. Ultimately, though, she hopes that the intent of the protest—to foster a sense of unity in the face of discrimination—was clear.

"I hope that people got our message; I hope that they understood what we were trying to say," she said.

In addition to condemning discrimination, the protest aimed to express solidarity between City and West High.

"We thought that we would put this together to show that, while we're both rivals, we can get along with each other well," said Laura Apolonio Bernal '19, Alma's younger sister who also partook in the protest.

The protest was not randomly timed, according to Byron Ortiz '18; rather, it was in response to a spike in hate crimes (up 6% from 2014) across the United States in the past year, as reported by the F.B.I. in an article released in mid-November. Ortiz, one of the ten silent protesters, cites an ever-intensifying feeling of discrimination, specifically following the November 8th triumph of President-Elect Donald Trump over Hillary Clinton, as his motive for participating in the protest.

"It exists at City High, but it's people giving dirty looks to each other," Ortiz said. "We're all supposed to be equal and happy," he continued. "We're not supposed to feel uncomfortable in the community."

This wasn't the first student-led demonstration following the election results, either; just two days after election day, a group of students, led by Armani Smith '17, staged a walkout specifically in opposition to Trump's win. The march went through downtown Iowa City—where it picked up protesters from the University of Iowa—and ultimately blocked parts of I-80 for half an hour.

*Continued on page A8*

**RIGHT:** Anita Casas '18 (in focus) stands arm in arm with fellow students in the main foyer after school on Friday, November 18th. PHOTO BY SOFIE LIE



## One-to-One: One Step Forward or One Step Back?

*Students and teachers are divided on whether one-to-one—a system where every student will receive a Chromebook—will have a positive effect.*

By Victor Kalil

Students are hunched over their Chromebooks in class, the occasional whisper breaking the constant rhythm of tapping. It's the average day of work in English teacher Colleen Davis' U.S. Lit. Honors class. But next year there will be changes in the classroom—no more classroom cart of laptops and no more lining up in front of the cart. Instead, every high school student in the Iowa City Community School District will be receiving their own Chromebook.

Going one-to-one with Chromebooks will serve roughly 4,000 high school students total, and 2,000 more students when the program initiates in the junior high schools. One-to-one is a significant investment in the modernization of education in today's technologically advanced society and will "provide an

important resource that students can use both within and outside of school," according to Adam Kurth, Director of Technology & Innovation for the ICCSD.

Many students do not share Kurth's belief that one-to-one is a positive step. In a survey of 64 City High School students, 61% of students said that one-to-one would either not affect their classes at all or have a negative effect—possibly because over 90% of those students surveyed already have access to a computer, tablet, or smartphone with wifi at home and usually study there too.

"I don't see it making much of a difference at all. Most of my classes do not necessitate

the use of a computer, and the ones that do have enough computers in the classroom for everyone to use." Quenton Max '18 said. "I see

this as just another vain attempt to improve education by improving technology, even if that isn't always the best solution."

Davis uses Chromebooks almost every week in her classes but believes that putting a Chromebook in every students' hands could lessen the students' attention spans.

"I don't know how the logistics will work, but as someone who watches kids get completely distracted by technology, social media, phones, I'm a little concerned about when they have a computer in front of them all the time and how much they're going to be

**"MOST OF MY CLASSES DO NOT NECESSITATE THE USE OF A COMPUTER."**

QUENTON MAX '18

able to control their desires to move off topic and onto something distracting," said Davis.

Conversely, Serena Collins '18 believes that going one-to-one next year will definitely help shorten time wasted in school.

"We won't have to waste class time lining up to get computers, waiting for everyone to get logged on, and then plugging them back in," Collins said. "Students won't have to waste time searching for a working computer in the library."

Leveling the technological playing field for school work is also an important reason that Collins cites for her support for going one-to-one. Nearly 10% of students surveyed don't have access to things like their school Google accounts at home, but 45% students with access to those accounts surveyed said that going one-to-one would help them.

*Continued on page A3*