**Controversy over prom dates chosen using sports-style "draft "**

Every morning at Corona del Mar High School, students hustle out of their shiny BMWs and head to class.

Corona del Mar is one of the state’s top-ranked schools. But many see it as a place of unlimited money and intense competition, where the pressure to be smart and beautiful are extreme.

Recent controversies have not helped. Earlier this year, the school expelled 11 students accused in a cheating scheme, and a former official complained that the richest students weren't punished.

Over the last few days, news leaked out about the latest scandal -- an NFL-style “draft” to pick desirable prom dates.

**Not So Harmless**

“I think it’s insulting — it demeans girls,” said Andrea Fine, the mother of two students, a boy and a girl, at the school. “Among my circle of friends, we talk about it. We’re kind of alarmed, ‘What’s our school coming to?’”

Over the weekend, school principal Kathy Scott sent an email to parents, urging them to discourage their kids from participating in the draft. “It is not OK for any student to be objectified or judged in any way,” the letter said.

Social media sites buzzed with the controversy. Some condemned the prom draft as “creepy” and “sexist,” though some Corona del Mar students have rallied to its defense. One girl, a junior, said she doesn’t find the practice offensive. She said that most girls knew ahead of the draft who wanted to ask them to the prom.

“There’s still a chance of us saying no,” said the student.

**Defensive Moves**

Students from a group calling itself “the 2014 CdM Senior Prom Draft Committee” sent emails to the media. They claimed the draft “was planned and organized with only the best intentions in mind."

The email said that 40 senior boys met recently at a private location. Numbers were plucked from a number ball roller and issued to the boys, who took turns selecting girls. Each boy was given two minutes to make his choice. The most desirable girls were apparently chosen first.

“The picks were announced by the draft commissioner and were generally applauded,” one email said. It adding that the yearly prom draft “provides a solution for two guys who want to ask the same girl.”

The boys aren't supposed to pay for a higher draft pick, the email said. But during the separate junior prom draft, a boy apparently paid $140 for a better chance of asking out a specific girl.

The email said that the female students were not ranked or rated.

**The Role Money Plays**

Katrina Foley, a school district trustee, called for district-wide ethics training for all students.

“They probably believe it’s not offensive or objectionable and that’s part of the problem,” Foley said. “A lot of this stuff comes back to wealth and being responsible with that wealth.”

Corona del Mar ranks 37th in the state and 222nd in the country. The school is heavily white and minorities make up just 16 percent of the total number of students.

Some observers spoke about a sense of entitlement among kids with money. The kids feel that they can do whatever they want and get away with it. Jane Garland is the school district’s former head of discipline. She said that during the cheating scandal she felt pressure to go easy on kids whose parents gave money to the school.

“We were always told, ‘They’re high-profile, be careful,’” she said. “There is really a bad culture over there, and everyone knows it’s there.”

**Vragen bij de tekst:**

1. Lees de titel en de eerste vier alinea’s. Omschrijf in max. 25 woorden waar deze tekst over gaat.

2. “I think it’s insulting — it demeans girls,” Wat denk je dat “demeans” betekent?

3. Kathy Scoot, de directeur van de school, stuurde afgelopen weekend een email naar alle ouders. Wat wilde ze hiermee bereiken?

4. Hoewel de “draft” op social media als eng en sexistisch wordt omschreven, zijn de jongens die er aan meededen het daar niet mee eens. Beschrijf hoe het proces van de “draft” precies verliep.

5. Welke oplossing bood de “draft” voor de jongens?

6. Onder het kopje “the role money plays” spreken enkele observanten hun ongerustheid uit. Er is een zogenaamde: “ sense of entitlement among kids with money “
Leg deze zin uit.