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Entertainment, p. 18

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Saratoga High School | Saratoga, CA

An Independent Student Publication

## School fires football coach

by Rahul Thakker

Despite winning seven of 10 regular-season games and advancing to the CCS semifinals this year, the varsity football team will have a new coach when it plays again next fall. Kurt Heinrich will be leaving after 11 years as Saratoga's head coach.

Principal Jeff Anderson said the decision had nothing to do with Heinrich's performance. Instead, it was simply an opportunity for the administration to find an on-campus coach for the Falcons.

"I think it's important to have the leader of the football program be somebody on campus who can see the kids a lot and be in touch with the kids all of the time," said Anderson. "This year there is a physical education job open, and to have a football coach/PE teacher is the best way to fill that spot."

Because Heinrich worked at a job outside of the school and coached on the side, the administration feels the move is in the best interests of the school, but many football players disagree. Support for Heinrich is so strong that over 150 students have joined a Facebook group to keep him as coach. Junior Mat Spencer, who has played under Heinrich for the past two years, said the school is making the wrong choice.

"I don't really know all the facts behind the reasoning, but all in all I think

see HEINRICH, p. 21

## 'Bombay in the Bay' is on its way

by Aditi Jayaraman  
and Saniha Shankar

After years of performing crowded dances on the tiny stage at Argonaut Elementary School, the Indian Cultural Awareness Club will shift its venue for the annual "Friends and Family Night" to the McAfee Center, for the first time. This year's event will be held tomorrow at 6 p.m.

Themed "Bombay in the Bay" and hosted by ICAC's 60 members, Friends and Family Night is an annual event that brings the community together to experience authentic Indian culture through songs and dances. The All Males' dance became a tradition after being performed by ICAC members who graduated in 2006. A new addition to this year's show will be the All Girls' Fusion dance.

"All of the dances take a lot of work to choreograph and teach," said dance coordinator Sabrina Rohatgi, a senior. "It's also really hard to coordinate. It's almost impossible to get twenty people that can

see BOMBAY, p. 3

## EVERY 15 MINUTES



Theresa Yeh; photos below taken by Theresa Yeh, Julia Lam and Kevin Rollinson



## Dramatic two-day program shows dangers of drunk driving

by Michael Chen  
and Jocelyn Ye

As blood trickled down the hood of a crushed car, senior Andy Capek desperately shook senior Pete Florence's body, but with no avail. Seconds later, Capek trembled and sank to the ground, covering his face with his hands. A police officer slowly approached him while firefighters surveyed the scene and the piercing wails of ambulances grew steadily louder.

Nearby, 18 students with paled faces stoically observed efforts to rescue unconscious victims from the car. A little farther, 1,300 students looked on.

The simulated accident was

part of the "Every Fifteen Minutes" (EFM) program. It is named for a statistic from the 1990s when the U.S. experienced a fatal alcohol-related traffic collision every 15 minutes. The two-day event began March 25 and sought to discourage students from drunk driving.

This year, the students that were chosen to act as occupants of the cars that crashed during the "accident" included Capek, Florence and seniors Nikhil Sheel and Katie Low, who was unable to participate in the simulation and was replaced with a member of the local fire department.

Eighteen sophomores, juniors and seniors were also chosen to be "living dead," representing

the unnamed individuals who die in alcohol-related collisions across the nation.

"We all met in June to start planning the event," said sophomore Maddy Renalds, a member of the Events Commission, which was in charge of organizing much of the event and selected students to participate. "When we were picking people, we really took everyone into account and thought about who would be good for the event. It really came down to who we thought would have a major effect on the community."

The bell schedule was modified on March 25 and 26 to include a 75-minute assembly for

see EFM, p. 12



## EVENTS CALENDAR

**April 4** Praise Night will be hosted from 7-10 p.m. in the McAfee Center.

**April 18-25** Spring Fling. Powderpuff matches will take place at lunch.

**April 5** Bombay in the Bay will be put on by the Indian Club from 6-10 p.m. in the McAfee Center.

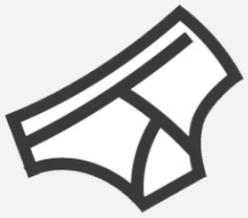
**April 17-19, 25-27** Drama students will perform One Act in the McAfee Center.

**April 7-11** Spring Break. History students will go on the Wild West trip.

**April 26** The Benefit Fashion Show will be performed at 2 and 7 p.m.

## NEWS

## BRIEFS

**Christian clubs organize McAfee 'Encounter'**

Christian clubs Faithwalk and Living Water will hold a praise night called "Encounter" in the McAfee tonight from 7-10 p.m. The event will include dancing, live music, skits and a message from inspirational speaker Jeff Devoll.

"I'm pretty excited, but at the same time, I'm really nervous," said senior Daniel Yang, who helped organize the event. "We've been preparing for almost two months now, but I know that's not what matters. It's really up to God."

Senior Sean Pierce and Kimi Hosseinian will open the night as MCs. They will then be followed by the performing arts group CENT, which includes seniors Randy Chang and Tim Cheng, sophomore Brian Kim and students from other Bay Area schools.

"Students from Lynbrook, Monta Vista, Evergreen, Leland and Leigh are all coming," said senior Emerson Lin. "We're trying to aim big and fill up the McAfee."

The praise night was organized by Yang and Cheng, who attended a similar event at Los Altos High in January and decided to hold their own event at Saratoga.

"Encounter" will also include live sets of music from club members Yang, Lin, seniors Spencer Sutterlin and Peter Park, junior Tyler Comes and freshman Hannah Harter. The band will play Christian rock songs as well as modern versions of hymns and will be followed by an altar call from Devoll, director of My Destination: Campus Ministry.

**Student fashion show benefits the disabled**

The Benefit Fashion Show will be held at Argonaut Elementary School on April 26 to raise funds for the National Disability Sporting Alliance.

There will be two showings of the fashion show: one exclusively for students at 2 p.m. and the other for all families at 7 p.m.

Joe Wise, a representative of NDSA, an Olympics participant and a victim of muscular dystrophy, will speak at the show along with his swim team from Saint Francis.

The theme of this year's Benefit Show is "California Classic," with fashion designs based on famous California cities and vacation sites, including "Ski Weekend Tahoe," "Teatime in Carmel" and "San Diego Zoo Wildlife." The categories were selected by various theme heads, who planned the designs and contacted stores for supplies.

"It is a lot of fun for kids to get involved in," said Benefit head senior Zo Shain. "Everyone should come."

**Successful Jazz Cabaret inspires 'oldies' themed dance**

After the success of the Jazz Cabaret held on March 8, freshman David Mandell and senior Hanah Yendler plan to hold a similar event later this year.

The unanticipated crowds who attended the Jazz Cabaret motivated the two students to arrange another one. Yendler said that in the past few years, the Jazz Cabaret has become increasingly popular among people of all ages.

"I think people find [the Jazz Cabaret] so fun because it's something different," said Yendler. "We have dances all year round that play hip hop and rap, and even though I like that music, it's nice to have a change."

A similar dance was held at the end of the last school year, but due to conflict with final exams and poor publicity, there was only a small turnout.

For such reasons, the dance will be held in the cafeteria on May 16, following AP testing. Although music will not be played live, a variety of songs from the early 1900s will be played. Admission will be \$5.

**Student Government elections to be held a month earlier**

The Associated Student Body officers decided to hold both ASB and class elections a month earlier than usual this year. In previous years, both elections were conducted in early May. ASB final elections for this year were held yesterday and will continue through today.

The current ASB wants to give more time to the newly-elected ASB to finish the task of placing students on commissions.

"Placing students on commissions has always been a difficult process to go through, especially in the end of the year when people have AP testing and finals," said ASB vice president senior Katie Low.

Low, along with the seven other ASB officers, felt that with earlier elections, less chaos would ensue while trying to place students on commissions.

New ASB officers will be decided by April 14.

—by Aditi Jayaraman, Vivian Liu, Aadrita Mukerji, Shannon Nguyen, Jennifer Tien and Amanda Yi

# College Night helps juniors

by Elizabeth Cheng

"Now I'm going to tell you how to get into community college," said the speaker from West Valley College. Silence filled the theater as the audience listened in anticipation.

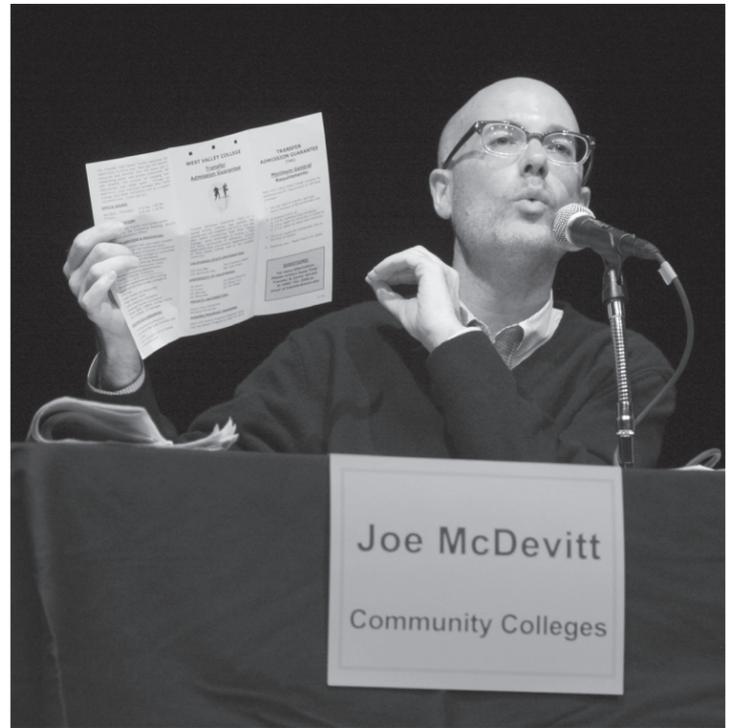
"Got a pulse? Well, folks, you're all in!" he said, as everyone in the McAfee Center burst into laughter.

College Night, designed to give juniors and their parents more insight into the different college systems, was held on March 19. Four speakers from the four college systems (community college, CSUs, UCs and private colleges) gave brief overviews of each system and answered questions at the end.

All four speakers discussed the application process, competitive majors, financial aid and how to prepare for each system.

"Hopefully it [broadened] their horizons on college options and they may [have found] out some colleges to which they'd like to apply and [which] they hadn't thought about before," said assistant principal Gail Wasserman.

A good number of students turned up with their parents.



Theresa Yeh

Speaker Joe McDevitt discusses West Valley College at College Night.

However, some juniors felt that the event did not provide extra information.

"I thought it was a waste of time," said junior Stephen Lee. "I didn't learn anything new. Most of the information was really basic."

Others saw some benefits

from attending.

"The time they were speaking wasn't all that interesting, but after, I got to meet the speaker from the University of San Francisco," said junior Sunil Srivatsa. "And, plus, the guy from West Valley was really funny." ♦

# One Act plays in the works

by James Jiang

With only 44 days between setting the final casting lists and opening night, the One Act Festival will be a composition of nine hilarious and different shows.

The eight shows and one movie are all based on comedy. The nine directors, eight seniors and one junior, each chose their own plays and cast and directed the entire act, with help from a student producer.

All eight shows will be performed nightly on April 17-19 and 25-27 in the McAfee Center.

**Variations on the Death of Trotsky**

Junior Eddie Zhang's play, *Variations on the Death of Trotsky*, discusses the comedic ways in which the anti-Stalin leader Leon Trotsky dies.

"This play isn't about [Trotsky] so much as about how a person can lose their ego before they die," said Zhang.

**The Hardy Boys and the Mystery of Where Babies Come From**

Senior Kristin Gouchnauer did not realize her show would be deemed "too controversial" for the One Act Festival. Instead, it will be shown as a movie the week before.

The show spoofs the mystery novel series *The Hardy Boys*, putting the boys in a situation that involves a lot of sexual innuendos.

"They're on a new adventure when they find out that Nancy Drew has a 'bun in the oven' and they try and find out what it means, so they go to the sex-addicted school nurse," said Gouchnauer.

**There Shall Be No Bottom**

It is one thing for an actor to act, but it is quite another to have the actor act like another actor. In senior Niamh McGinley's one act, four actors will portray actors who must save a show from themselves.

"Each actor has their own little quirks," said McGinley. "One skips large chunks of the script, another can't improvise very well and another keeps misdelivering his lines."

**An Actor's Nightmare**

We all know the saying "Good night; don't let the bed bugs

bite." However, in senior Nelson MacGowan's show, bed bugs are the least of your worries. An accountant dreams of stardom but soon realizes it is not all that easy to be famous.

**"The One Act Festival allows us to get involved in a drama experience that we wouldn't normally have."**

— senior Trent Dozier

bite." However, in senior Nelson MacGowan's show, bed bugs are the least of your worries. An accountant dreams of stardom but soon realizes it is not all that easy to be famous.

"In the dream, he's the lead of his show and he doesn't know any of his lines," said MacGowan.

**Boiling People in My Coffee**

Some people believe in a life after death and others don't. Still others refuse to acknowledge that a person is dead and dig them out of the grave. Such is the story of senior Dilara Cirit's play.

Even though their son is dead, two parents refuse to accept the fact.

"They're having a really hard time coping with his death, so

**The Complete History of America: Abridged**

US history is a tough subject to learn, something juniors can verify. Senior Sean Pierce simplifies things in his show by summing up everything American and historical into one act.

"Three characters try to explain to the audience the complete history of America, but they completely butcher and distort every aspect of it," said Pierce.

**King Arthur's Socks**

As if love entanglements aren't confusing enough, there are situations when three women, two of whom are married, all love the same man, who is also married.

"[A married woman] is engaged to [another] married man," said senior Carolyn Miller. "The maid kissed the married man the night before, and then the man comes in."

**The Spot**

Ratings play a huge role in whether or not a TV show will continue. TV shows get cancelled over bad ratings and new seasons come with good ratings. But when the ratings carry an election talk show, chaos ensues. Senior Kevin Cho's play, *The Spot*, reveals the insanity.

**The Advantages of Being Shy**

Shyness is almost a way of life in senior Kendall Callaghan's show. This shyness is treated by a psychiatrist, who gets entangled in one man's personal life.

"This guy pretends to be shy so she'll help him and spend time with him," said producer senior Ted Sclavos. "It turns out that he has gotten engaged to three sisters at the same time." ♦

## PTSA honors volunteers

by Sophia Cooper

The Parent-Teacher-Student Association held the annual Founders Day luncheon to honor 10 staff members and parents for their service to Saratoga High yesterday.

The awards included a school-wide Certificate of Appreciation, state-wide Honorary Service award and the Golden Oak Service award, which is the "most prestigious PTA award in California," according to PTSA co-president Helen Chang.

"[The Golden Oak Service award] is given to an individual that has made significant contributions to the welfare of children and youth in the school community," said Chang in an e-mail.

One staff member received this award, but *The Falcon* was not able to publish the names due to publication deadlines.

The Honorary Service award was presented to one parent who has given a considerable amount

of time and energy for the Saratoga High community and youth. Four staff members and four parents received Certificates of Appreciation.

All recipients were nominated by parents, staff and students.

A committee reviewed the nominations and chose the recipients based on "the depth and breath of the volunteer work of the each individual," according to Chang.

**"An award recipient [is] usually involved in many different areas of school and with a great deal of effort and work."**

—PTSA Co-president Helen Chang

recipient [is] usually involved in many different areas of school and with a great deal of effort and work," said Chang.

Students are also eligible for these awards, but they must be "above and beyond the regular involvement in the student body, activities or clubs," according to Chang.

"Founders Day is the most appropriate occasion to recognize the outstanding volunteers who contribute so much to the school and in turn help to achieve the goals of [PTSA]," said Chang. ♦

## Falcon Photo of the Week | by Elizabeth Shin



History teacher Matt Torrens and his wife dance to "Stayin' Alive" as students look on at Junior Prom. The dance, themed "One Wish," was held at the Los Gatos Opera House on March 22.

## School names top scholars

by Vivian Liu

When seniors Angela Chiang and Jessica Ye met in fourth grade at Argonaut Elementary School, they found they had a lot in common. They were both the same height and shared a love for mystery books. Nine years later, the close friends share the honor of being selected as valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, for the class of 2008.

Chiang and Ye often encouraged each other to do their best.

"Healthy competition always serves as good motivation," said Chiang.

In addition to taking nine AP classes over the past four years, Chiang participates in several extracurricular activities. She is a speech and debate captain and an editor-in-chief for the *Saratoga Falcon*, but

being chosen as valedictorian was not one of her goals.

"It wasn't as if I was working with the goal of being valedictorian in mind, but I'm ecstatic," said Chiang.

Chiang and Ye were selected since they held the highest GPAs in the grade. If multiple students were to have extremely close GPAs, more than one person would be selected, according to assistant principal Gail Wasserman.

"I was really in shock because I never expected it," said Ye, who preferred to take classes that she enjoyed rather than maximizing her GPA.

"I was taking classes I thought I would achieve well in. I never felt it was right to boost your GPA by taking AP classes," said Ye.

Ye is a member of the school band as well as the Color Guard and Winter Guard. She has also played piano and

taken art lessons for many years.

Chiang plans to attend Stanford University; Ye is still undecided about which college she will attend this coming fall.

"There's no need for students to take classes based solely on honors or AP credit," said Chiang. "SHS has incredible programs, like band and drama and, of course, journalism. By taking them, people may miss out on the opportunity to tack on an extra point to their GPA, but they'll miss out on even greater opportunities and learning experiences otherwise." ♦



Chiang



Ye

## BOMBAY | ICAC holds event

continued from p. 1

all show up on the same day and practice until their moves are all together."

The club, headed by senior co-presidents Deepti Rajendran and Nikhil Sheel, hopes to give its audience a flavor of traditional Indian entertainment while also bringing something new to the scene for everyone to enjoy.

"We plan to have dancing in the quad following the event," said Rajendran. "Hopefully this, along with the usual catered Indian food, will be a motive for people to come enjoy the show."

Despite the loss of numerous active members who graduated last

year, ICAC hopes to host a successful show with the addition of many freshmen this year. All proceeds from the show will be donated to Udavam Karangal, a program that helps poor children in Chennai, India.

"It feels good to be working for causes like this because we're having fun and helping out at the same time," said Rajendran.

Tickets for "Bombay in the Bay" cost \$12 in advance and \$14 at the door.

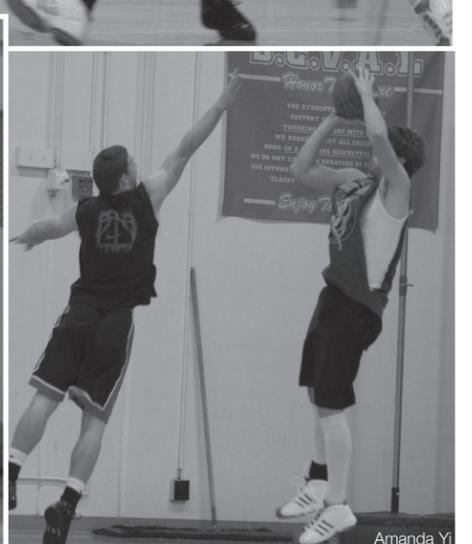
The show will begin at 6 p.m., and end at 11 p.m. Tickets include food, and can be purchased at the Activities Office, or from club presidents Deepti Rajendran and Nikhil Sheel. ♦

## STUDENTS DRIBBLE OUT OF MADNESS



March Madness basketball games provided friendly competition and plenty of enjoyment for all

(clockwise from top): Seniors Jason Chun, Jared Eller, Andy Capek, Steven Walker, Gabe Essner, Edmund Ye and Erica Baba



Amanda Yi

# Spring Fling week planning faces setbacks

by Vivian Liu  
and Andy Tsao

As spring blossoms, students have something to look forward to apart from academics. Beginning April 21 and preceded by a rally on April 18, the annual Spring Fling week features Powderpuff football matches between the four classes and culminates in the final match between the two top teams as well as other special events.

According to senior Kimi Hosseinian, head of the Spring Fling commission, the commissioners had a really difficult time finding a suitable week for holding

Spring Fling.

"We had a bunch of events, so it was really hard for us to pick a week," said Hosseinian.

Hosseinian originally hoped to end Spring Fling week with the Sadie Hawkins dance, but the dance was cancelled due to drinking at an earlier dance.

"We already kind of knew. It was bittersweet," said Hosseinian. "It was expected because we already heard about it just because there

was a lot of drinking at the last dance."

Sadies' cancellation has decreased the week's importance for some, which has led class officers to wait on setting up Powderpuff teams and cheerleading squads.

"We've had to really beg the class officers to get going," said Spring Fling commissioner senior Ryan Stoffers. "A lot of them don't realize how soon Spring Fling week is, and early preparation is key to having good

Powderpuff teams."

Hosseinian is trying to find new activities in which students can participate.

"Hopefully what we're going to have is games in the quad because there's not going to be Powderpuff every single day," said Hosseinian. "We're just trying to get the commission together and figure out what's going to happen."

As of now, Hosseinian and the other members of the commission have a few ideas but have not yet turned them into reality.

"We have to make up somehow for Sadies, so I'm still brainstorming to see what I can do," said Hosseinian. ♦

**"We have to make up somehow for Sadies, so I'm still brainstorming to see what I can do."**

—senior Kimi Hosseinian

## Oh, the places we'll go!

Classes, clubs take trips to Utah, Sacramento and LA

by Sophia Cooper  
and Elizabeth Cheng

As spring leads to summer, many students are using next week's spring break and the week following for travel. The Wild Wild West history trip will take place over spring break, followed by a newspaper staff trip to Anaheim and a Key Club excursion to Sacramento.

### Wild Wild West Trip

A group of 21 students left today with history teacher Matt Torrens for South-eastern Utah to participate in a history-filled trip based on the Wild West.

The students will visit a Japanese relocation camp, the Butch Cassidy and Sundance Kid hideout and much more. The trip will also include many athletic components, such as mountain biking, rafting and hiking.

"I am stoked," said junior Lisa Chang. "It is a week in the middle of nowhere, where no one has been before, and we're going to be such mountain men and women. It will be stress-free and so much fun."

### Newspaper staff visits Anaheim

Thirteen members of both *Falcon* staffs will attend the annual Journalism Education Association conference in Anaheim, from April 17-20.

"I've gone to several of these conferences and the best one that I've ever gone to was in Anaheim," said journalism adviser Michael Tyler. "I wouldn't want to miss a journalism conference [there]."

The conference includes write-off competitions among the students in categories such as editorials, news, features, sports and photography. The paper will also be critiqued by professional journalists from around the country, which will help future

newspaper issues.

"The main thing for students is the opportunity to see that what they're doing here is the same thing that other students at other high schools are doing across the country and kind of compare notes," said Tyler.

Educational sessions focus on topics such as "How photography changed my life" and "Whipping a large newspaper staff into shape." As on all trips to Anaheim, the students will visit Disneyland for an afternoon.

"The beauty of journalism conferences is that [they] get students together from [across the country] all in the same spot with some of the top people in scholastic journalism as well as professional journalism," said Tyler.

### Key Clubbers of Cali-Nev-Ha Unite

Key Club members will travel to Sacramento to attend the Key Club District Convention on April 18-20 with over 3000 students from California, Nevada and Hawaii.

The members will together elect new district officers and complete workshops to train new officers of individual clubs.

"[By going], the members learn about Key Club through the workshops," said senior Leslie Liao, Lieutenant Governor of the D12W division. "They experience it through the environment, and they can participate in it by listening to caucus speeches."

The conference also focuses on getting to know fellow members and meeting new people.

"There are spirit competitions where each division, which are divided sections of the district, is expected to show pride for their divisions," said Liao. "Each division comes up by coming up with cheers and being loud. The best division gets the spirit stick." ♦



courtesy of Danny Lulu

Senior Lee Garrett belts out a solo for Anoka High students at an exchange concert held in the McAfee Center on March 14.

## Music department hosts Minn. school

by Elizabeth Cheng  
and Aadrita Mukerji

Music students often meet and work with other students from California, but on March 14, they were bonding with students from across the nation.

From Ultimate Frisbee on the lower field to a dance-off in the quad, Saratoga students got to know the 50 Anoka, Minn., students who had traveled across the country to hold a joint concert with them.

The Symphonic Wind Ensemble held a concert at the McAfee Center with the Anoka High band. Both bands played four individual pieces and then combined at the end to play two songs together.

After the concert, the Anoka students spent the night in Saratoga homes before continuing on their tour. Students volunteered to host up to four members of the Anoka band for the night.

"The people were really nice," said junior Kiyoshi Harada, who hosted two Anoka students. "The funniest thing was how they were all in shorts and T-shirts when it was 50 degrees and windy."

Saratoga band director Michael Boitz felt particularly close to the group from Anoka because he had attended the same high school.

Two days earlier, the Lynbrook High concert band had come to the McAfee

Center to play with the Saratoga symphonic bands.

The Saratoga bands had little time to rest after the two joint concerts, as they had to prepare for the California Music Educator's Association Festival that took place on March 28 and 29 at Saratoga High.

The festival was an opportunity for school bands and orchestras to perform for adjudicators who in turn give the group ratings ranging from "Superior" to "Poor."

"It's good because [the students] get feedback from adjudicators who are often well-known professionals in our field, and they get an opportunity to perform," said band director John Zarco.

Saratoga students were enlisted to help guide schools and oversee the events.

For the most part, April is a slow month for the music department. The bands and orchestra are preparing to travel down to San Diego for their mini tour at the end of this month.

They will share a concert with Rancho Bernardo High, which has one of the best music programs in the state. The band and orchestra will also attend a performance by the San Diego Orchestra.

"I'm really excited for the trip," said freshman Pamela Lee. "Since marching band, everyone's drifted, but now we can all come back together and have fun." ♦

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Theresa Yeh

Juniors Sonali Dujari, Pedraam Behroozi, Diana Seo and Pamela Tran look over their results from the March 20 History Day competition. Unfortunately, no Saratoga teams advanced.

## History buffs compete

by Gautham Ganesan

History buffs nationwide rejoiced as March 20 arrived, signifying the start of the 25th annual National History Day competition. Open to students across America from grades four through 12, the long-running competition, which includes a district-level tournament at Saratoga High, celebrates history by pitting teams against each other. Groups create videos, research papers, performances and other forms of history-related media on a specific historical topic to compete.

The topics they covered and the research they completed provided them with vastly different perspectives and unparalleled historical insight.

"Magnificently huge," said history teacher Matt Torrens about the impact of the educational opportunities of National History Day. "These kids do projects exploring topics of their choice, and they're presented in interesting ways."

This year's competition revolves around the motif "Conflict and Compromise in History."

"Students need to address the conflict as well as the compromise of their event,"

said Torrens. "In doing that, they also have to show perspectives, a variety of research and primary and secondary documents, so it's a really broad topic."

Many students are veterans of the event. Senior Daniel Yang participated in the 2007 National History Day.

"It was a rewarding experience," said Yang. "It was great to put my interest [in history] to use outside of school."

Other students, including seniors Julianne Freeman, Yang Hong, Tiffany Pan and Sruthi Swami, competed as a group.

"We did ours about the history of women suffrage," said Pan. "We chose the exhibit category and researched a lot at the Martin Luther King library in San Jose."

Despite Saratoga having no qualifiers, the group largely echoed Yang's sentiments regarding their experiences at the tournament.

"When you do a project in class, you don't really have the time to go in-depth and you don't get to choose your topic," said Freeman. "But for History Day, it's completely different and you learn so many things you didn't know before. It's also a great bonding experience [with your teammates]. It's just awesome." ♦

## School offers new classes

by Elizabeth Lee  
and Guy Quanrund

As the end of the school year draws near, students browse through the course list and fill out course request forms. Students will always see the traditional offerings, but several new classes are possible for the 2008-2009 school year.

"The [outcome] of these courses is still tentative," said assistant principal Gail Wasserman. "Any elective course demands the number of students interested."

### Student Leadership

Inspiration comes in many forms. For junior Paul Stavropoulos, it has led to the initiation of a class that will improve the school: leadership.

According to Stavropoulos, the class is an endeavor to enrich the leadership skills of recognized school leaders. Members will also attend to the problems that are recurrent in the school campus and try to alleviate them.

This class will be taught by assistant principal Karen Hyde and will be for students who want to help the community and improve their leadership skills.

"As of now, the curriculum of this course is wide open. We just know that we want a better SHS," said Stavropoulos. "We all know that Saratoga High School has its problems, and this class is an attempt to get those who want to take initiative to 'fix' the issues instead of gossip about them."

The class' debut is still uncertain, but there is a possibility of availability for next school year.

### Oral Interpretations

This class has been on the course list for a long time. While the name will remain the same, the purpose has changed.

The emphasis of Oral Interpretations has shifted from group work and presentations to individual projects. The stricter format allows students to perform events by themselves to enhance their public speaking skills, "[It's recommended] to speech and debate members," said Wasserman. "They can do Oral Interpretations by day and speech and debate by evening."

In class, participants will perform in front of a community audience. The course is intended for people who prefer working individually while learning the basics of performing as

an actor. Students will gain practical and theoretical knowledge of theatre.

### AP European History

After being pressured for a long time by students, administrators decided to include another AP class for history lovers. AP European History is finally up for grabs in the curriculum next year.

In the class, students will journey through well-known events in time, such as the Black Death, the Renaissance and World War II, from a European perspective. American involvement will be touched upon, but the course focuses mainly on Europe.

"I'm excited. It's a new class, a new challenge," said AP European History teacher Jerry Sheehy. "It seems like it will be fun to teach because you don't sign up for it unless you are interested, and I envision [teaching] the students I had in sophomore year."

Priority enrollment will be given to seniors.

### TV/Video Production 2

Taught with the TV/Video Production 1 class, TV/Video Production 2 is more advanced and allows students to expand their video production skills through class projects. Students will build upon the knowledge they obtained from TV/Video Production 1

**"It seems like it will be fun to teach because you don't sign up for it unless you are interested, and I envision [teaching] the students I had in sophomore year."**

—history teacher Jerry Sheehy

to complete projects for events and contests. Students will also be able to become a leader in the class.

Teacher Tony Palma, who teaches the TV/Video Production 1 class, will also be teaching the advanced level class.

### Computer Applications

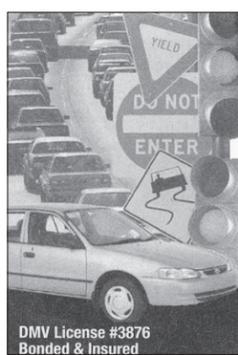
Computer Applications may also be taught by Palma. The class will be a broad computer-based course that will teach the fundamentals of modern technology and computers.

Once students retain basic computer knowledge, they will be able to apply their new computer skills in useful applications that include word processing, digital presentation and graphic manipulation among others.

### Media Arts Program

A new addition to the school is the MAP program, which integrates media arts, such as video and web design, into academics. This "school within a school" is for 10th and 11th graders, and centers on the rigorous standards of English and social sciences. Through the curriculum, students will have the chance to bond with their instructors and peers.

The program will begin next year for incoming sophomores. ♦



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## Veteran teachers snagged by old law require additional training

by Ben Clement

Roughly 90 teachers at Saratoga and Los Gatos High Schools recently got a rude wake-up call from the district: they will need an authorization that allows them to teach English language learners in their classes.

Although the state has required the authorization for years, Bob Mistele, assistant superintendent of Human Resources, said that an audit in February forced the district to increase the number of teachers with this authorization. The district is hoping for as much as 100 percent compliance, Mistele said.

Affected teachers must now take either costly and time-consuming courses or pass a test that costs \$250

and involves considerable studying.

The problem affects mostly veteran teachers. Younger teachers got their California Teacher of English Learners (CTEL) authorization with their credential.

For English teacher Cindy Tolliver, the call to receive her CTET Authorization comes at an inconvenient time.

"It came as a surprise to me considering I'm already working on several other time-consuming development projects," said Tolliver.

Many teachers will be able to work together in their studying, and Mistele said the district will be working with teachers to reach their goal.

"The good thing is, a lot of us are in the same boat," said science teacher Jenny Garcia. "If it were just me, I'd be freaked out, but it isn't." ♦

# buzzworthy

## A Facebook story fit for movies

by Emily Chen  
and Jocelyn Ye

Advertised as a "social utility that connects you with the people around you," Facebook has in recent years become a nationwide phenomenon for virtual friend-friend conversations and pictures.

For one determined college girl looking for a relationship, however, Facebook was the key to a much greater quest.

During an otherwise uneventful airplane ride, the woman made friends with a particular man that was seated nearby. They took a picture together but didn't exchange names.

They parted ways, but the woman found herself looking back at the ride a couple months later and desired to rekindle her short-lived friendship with the attractive yet unnamed man.

Soon after, she decided to start her own Facebook group titled "Do you know this guy? Help me FIND HIM!" The group attracted thousands of users, including junior Paari Kandappan.

"One of my friends invited me to it, and it looked interesting," said Kandappan. "I figured that at the least it was an interesting concept."

A while later, Kandappan was curious to see if the girl ever found the mysterious boy. When he visited the group, however, he found that the girl's account had been frozen by Facebook because too many people had messaged her about the group. Now that the administrator spot for the group was open, Kandappan, or any other member of the group was eligible to take it.

"I went to check on it to see what had happened so far, and on the side it asked me if I wanted to be an administra-

tor," said Kandappan. "I thought 'Wow, that's cool,' so I clicked yes."

Though Kandappan received messages from a few confused people who noticed that his profile picture did not match the picture of the group shown, there were some who told Kandappan that they hoped he would eventually find the boy that he was looking for.

In the end, Kandappan's efforts came to fruition, and he was able to serve as a medium for the two parted friends to come into contact with each other once again.

**"The guy contacted me first and was wondering if I could give him the girl's information. The next day, my phone buzzed and the girl wanted her group back. I was like, 'Sure, and by the way, here's your guy.'"**

— junior Paari Kandappan

"The guy contacted me first and was wondering if I could give him the girl's information," said Kandappan. "The next day, my phone buzzed and the girl told me she wanted her group back. I was like, 'Sure, and by the way, here's your guy.'"

Soon afterwards, the girl updated her Facebook account to let everyone know that she had found her mysterious airplane friend. Kandappan, however, was slightly irritated at her indifference toward the role he had played in maintaining the group.

"I felt kind of cheated," said Kandappan. "She never responded to my message, and she didn't even acknowledge me. It's not a big deal though."

While the two acquaintances both said that it was a great experience to finally come in contact again, the degree of their friendship was extended no further, as the boy was already involved in a relationship.

"I think that even though the two didn't end up together, it's still an amazing thing that they met, and I find it hilarious that I was actually a part of it," said Kandappan. ♦



## Junior seals the 'new deal' for prom date

by Aditi Jayaraman

Forget Recovery, Relief and Reform. Out with former U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal, and in with the three D's of junior Mat Spencer's "Real Deal:" Divine Dancing and Dining.



Spencer

Spencer devised the three D's after AP US History teacher Matt Torrens assigned his students a 20-point project to incorporate American history into their lives outside of school.

Students could either visit historical landmarks such as Alcatraz and the Golden Gate Bridge or incorporate a historic idea into their date for Junior Prom.

Spencer used his rendition of FDR's New Deal to ask his friend from Archbishop Mitty to Junior Prom. Spencer proposed to her the three D's and his plan mimicking the New Deal.

"My friend was totally quiet after I asked her," said Spencer. "She seemed to think I was crazy or something."

Because his class had been learning about the Great Depression of 1929, Spencer felt inspired to stand by its principles. He took his date to McDonald's preceding prom for an inexpensive light meal, as many Americans of the early 1900s were forced to spend frugally on most items in order to conserve money. ♦

## NJB gives players sense of coaching

by Ben Clement  
and Tim Tsai

Juniors Ryan Pak, Chris Owyang, Alvin Hsia and Owen Huang finished their basketball season after a second round loss at CCS but could not keep themselves off the court. When boys' basketball coach Mike Davey offered the players the opportunity to coach the fifth- and sixth-grade Saratoga National Junior Basketball All-Stars, they jumped at the chance.

"We played on similar teams a while ago, so it's kind of cool to now be coaching an NJB team," said Owyang. "It would be interesting to be on the coaching side of a basketball team for once."

The team practiced for two weeks before traveling to Redwood City for their qualifying games the weekend of March 15-16.

The coaches had to work out a strategy and game plan that was simple enough for sixth graders to understand and implement but effective as well.

"We tried to put in plays, but they were always too out of control during practice to really remember them at the games," said Huang. "Our game plan was pretty much a run n' gun offense and man-to-man defense or 2-3 zone depending on how the other team adjusted."

Unfortunately, the team only won one out of three games and did not qualify for the national NJB tournament in Los Angeles.

Throughout the season, the juniors found it difficult to coach the sixth graders at times because they often would not listen to their coaching or advice.

"It's hard coaching sixth graders because they have too much energy and don't listen to what we say," said Huang. "When we tried to install a play, they wouldn't listen and would go crazy."

In order for the coaches to maintain order, they did what every coach does to command authority: made the kids run when they did not listen.

"It was hard to get the kids to pay attention and to focus, but after we made them run, they began to listen to us," said Hsia.

All the coaches agreed the experience was a positive one and they will coach again next year.

"It was good to see what coaches expect from their players," said Owyang. "It helped us understand what coaches go through."

For Huang, the experience was an interesting change of pace.

"It was fun doing the yelling for once instead of being yelled at by [Coach] Davey." ♦



Saniha Shankar

Freshman Keerti Shukla and juniors Paari Kandappan and Farid Jiandani prepare for their Student Congress debate tournament outside of Fremont High School March 19. Kandappan is first alternate

## 9 head for state speech tourney

by Emily Chen  
and Saniha Shankar

The speech and debate team had a strong showing at recent tournaments determining who would qualify to go to the State Competition on April 18-20 at Santa Clara University.

The Congress team had its state qualifiers on March 19 at Fremont High. Seniors Arjun Shenoy and Anirudh Subbarao placed first in their rooms and junior Farid Jiandani placed third in his room, giving them all a place in the State Competition.

"Before they announced, I thought I did really

badly, but it turns out I did well. I hope I'll do even better for the state tournament," said Subbarao.

Sophomores Varun Parmar and Saniha Shankar and freshman Keerti Shukla all placed in the top seven speakers for their rooms, but did not qualify for States.

Junior Paari Kandappan and freshman Harsha Murthy placed fourth, making them the first alternate team for states at the Public Forum State Qualifications competition. However, a spot opened up, and the team can now attend the tournament.

Also attending States are juniors Aadrita Mukerji and Connie Shang in Parliamentary, senior Alex Liu in Humorous Interpretation and senior

# What's up, homie? ...Not your education!

Parents who act as their children's teachers need to be competent and have the necessary credentials

by Aadrita Mukerji

When a California state appeals court ruled on Feb. 28 that all homeschooled children should be taught by a credentialed teacher, homeschoolers and their supporters were outraged. Focus on the Family, a Christian values organization, deemed the ruling an "assault on family"; Gov. Schwarzenegger vowed to overturn the court's decision; and 74 percent of participants in a *San Francisco Chronicle* survey voted against the appellate. A deeper analysis of the court's motives, however, reveals that the ruling may actually have more benefits than harms.

The case began when one of Phillip and Mary Long's eight homeschooled children accused Philip Long of physical abuse. A three-person Los Angeles appellate court then ruled that all children in California ages 6 to 18 should either attend public or private high schools or be tutored by a credentialed teacher, which set off a chain of angry parents and students across the state and, eventually, across the country.

California has over 150,000 homeschooled children,

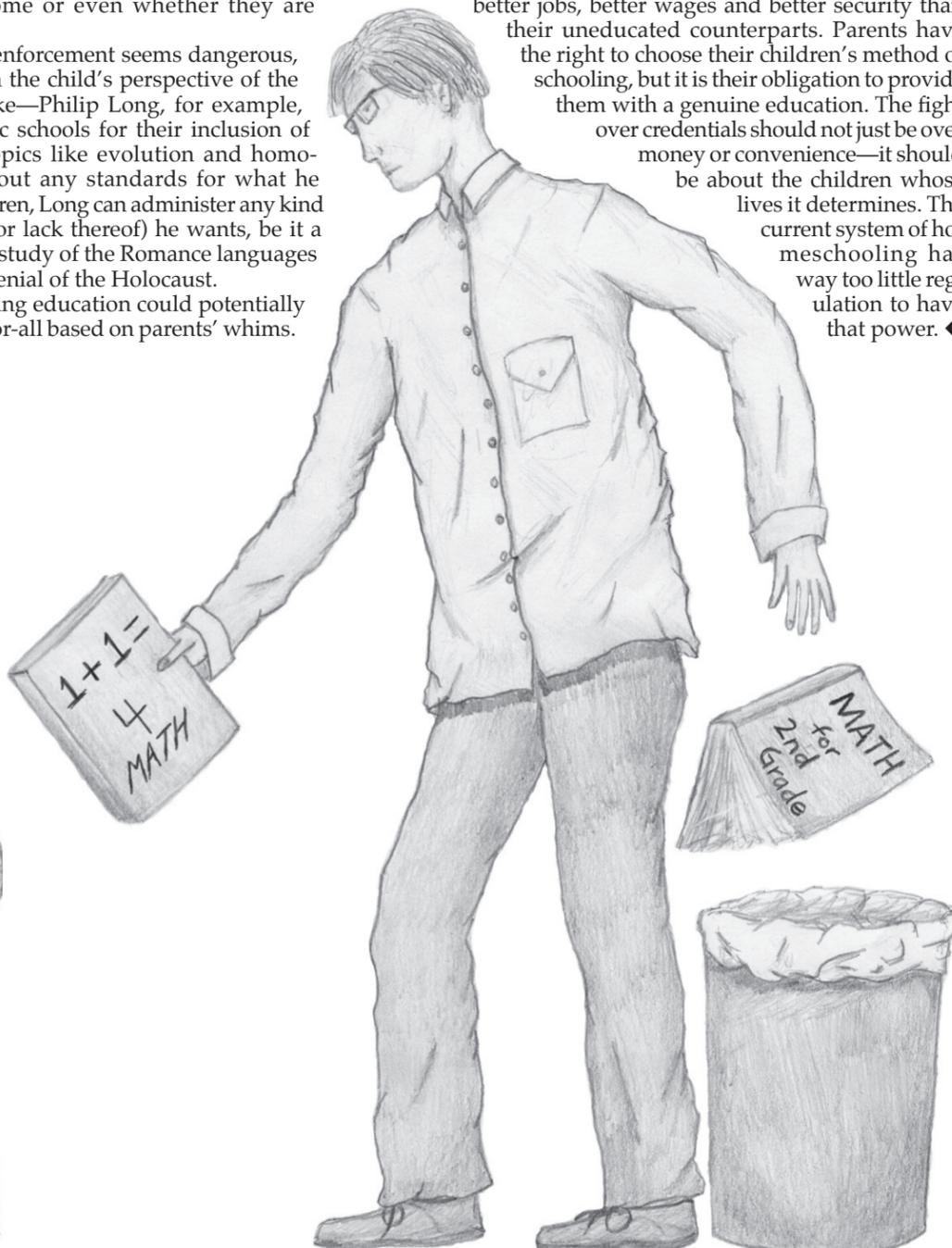
many of whom left public or private school systems for religious reasons. The state itself has few provisions or regulations for homeschooling. Parents wishing to educate their own children may apply to become small private schools, complete independent study programs in concurrence with other schools or just pull their kids out of school without any notification whatsoever. The state, therefore, has no say in how the children are educated at home or even whether they are educated at all.

This lack of enforcement seems dangerous, especially when the child's perspective of the world is at stake—Philip Long, for example, objects to public schools for their inclusion of "hazardous" topics like evolution and homosexuality. Without any standards for what he teaches his children, Long can administer any kind of knowledge (or lack thereof) he wants, be it a comprehensive study of the Romance languages or a complete denial of the Holocaust.

Homeschooling education could potentially become a free-for-all based on parents' whims.

A little standardization—at least making sure that children are taught somewhat properly—is a perfectly logical solution to this problem. Whether this is better achieved through standardized tests or teaching credentials remains to be seen, but the status quo doesn't solve for either one.

Education is the most substantial advantage one has in the real world. Adults with degrees or diplomas receive better jobs, better wages and better security than their uneducated counterparts. Parents have the right to choose their children's method of schooling, but it is their obligation to provide them with a genuine education. The fight over credentials should not just be over money or convenience—it should be about the children whose lives it determines. The current system of homeschooling has way too little regulation to have that power. ♦



## MIT takes positive step with Open CourseWare

COURSEWARE OFFERS FREE ACCESS TO ONLINE COURSE MATERIALS, PACKAGES MIT EDUCATION

by Vijay Chetty

When it comes to having access to an advanced education, there is a big difference between an engineering student at a premier university and a bicycle repairman in a rural village in China. Now, thanks to a rapidly growing program called Open CourseWare—popularized by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)—that repairman can, with a little bit of initiative, learn the same material as the student.

Open CourseWare provides online course materials, such as lecture notes, problem sets, labs, videos and demonstrations, completely free of charge. According to *USA Today*, more than 150 universities have adopted the Open CourseWare program, but the MIT website is still the most developed. Started in 2002, it has had 52 million visitors worldwide, including

students, educators and self-learners. By November 2007, materials from all 1,800 courses spanning 33 disciplines had been published, and many have been translated into other languages. The most impressive aspect of the program is its simple user interface. Students simply select a department, a course, the desired material and then the specific lecture—down to the level of individual lecture phrases.

MIT took a serious risk with this program. In the past, universities and institutions made materials available only for a per-item or subscription price. With Open CourseWare, MIT essentially packaged an MIT education—sans the professors, environment, lab experience and face-to-face contact—to anybody interested in staying up-to-date on developments, enhancing their curriculum or even designing their entire education. Yet MIT administrators risked diluting the value of an MIT educa-

tion and missing out on profits.

While MIT may be losing out financially, its stature has increased due to its avant-garde belief in disseminating knowledge. Universities have always kept their knowledge locked up in the ivory tower, but MIT democratized a college education, giving anybody anywhere, with a little bit of initiative and a modem, the ability to learn entire fields.

Some people argue over copyright and censorship issues, but MIT places trust in its users to credit material to the institution. A more serious issue is that students may fake MIT degrees; however, the rate of incidence is so low that the benefits still far outweigh the costs.

This is a valuable step in the direction of free movement of knowledge. After all, a researcher on the other side of the globe would not know about recent advancements in their field if MIT and other uni-

versities controlled cutting-edge material. While users will not be able to engage in the discussion environment and guided learning that truly solidify knowledge, MIT has come incredibly close to such a state through its pioneering program. It will, in fact, cause many college teachers to focus less on conveying basic knowledge and more on advanced concepts and the process of discovery. Also, MIT has added to the program with a website geared specifically toward high schools.

MIT has clearly defined social goals through its work with Open CourseWare, and other universities should follow its successful lead. Thanks to Open CourseWare, an inquisitive inventor in rural India, a factory team in Mexico and a repairman in China can all have access to the same advanced material as that of a university student. That is no small feat in this age of globalization. ♦

# MTV plagued by reality shows

'Music television' prefers producing scripted 'reality' shows to playing new music

by Megan Lee  
and Alex Scavos

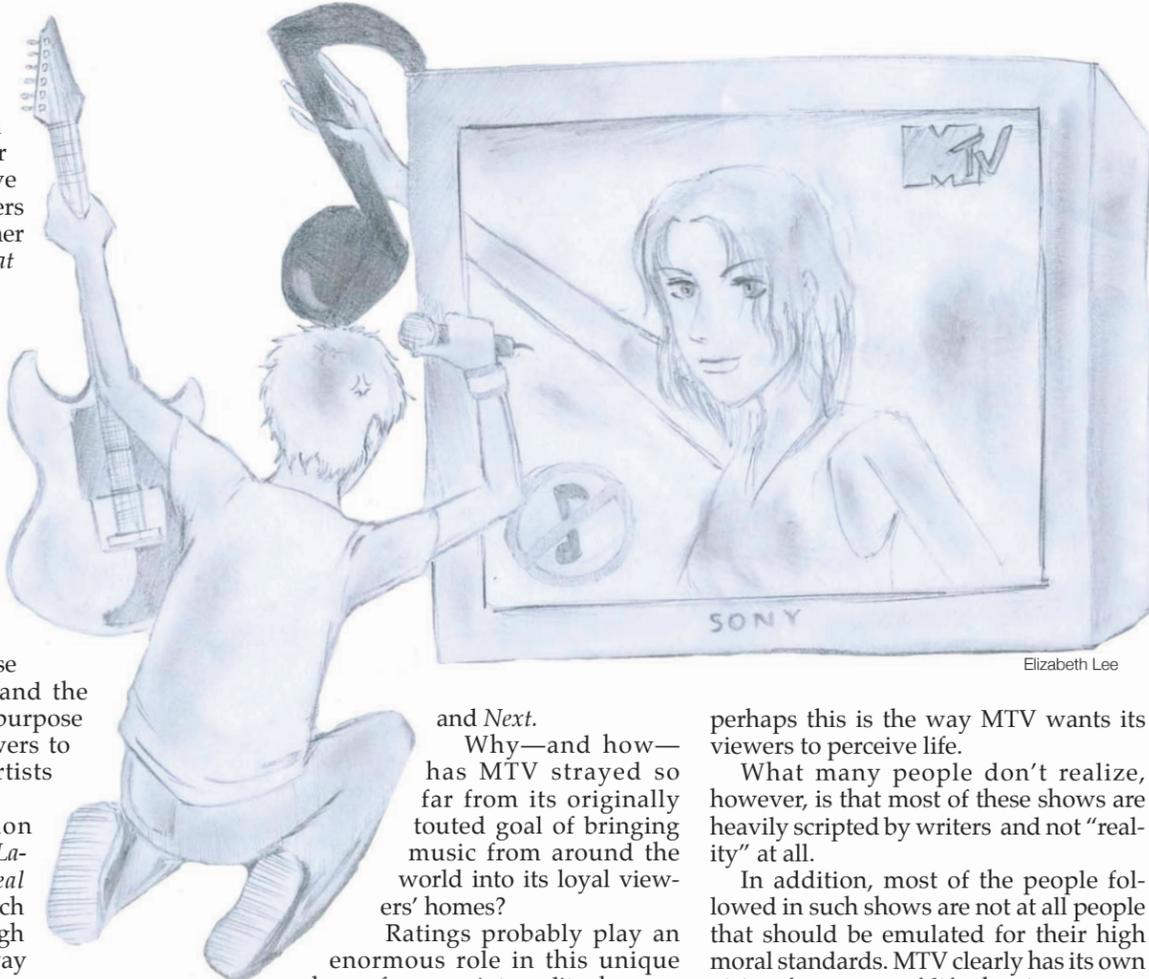
"I'm a bisexual!" said Tila Tequila to her group of prospective female and male lovers on the premiere of her MTV show *A Shot at Love with Tila Tequila*.

"You're going to the Gauntlet," said TJ Lavin, the host of MTV's *Real World-Road Rules Challenge: The Gauntlet*.

But "shawty" can't "get low" on MTV anymore thanks to the channel's overwhelming obsession with reality television program (such as those mentioned above) and the loss of its original purpose of exposing its viewers to new and unique artists and songs.

This phenomenon began in 2004 with *Laguna Beach: The Real Orange County*, which portrayed normal high school drama in a way that lured millions of teenagers worldwide into the soap opera-esque lives of Laguna Beach's elite high school students.

MTV has very quickly progressed further, producing raunchier and more degrading shows that consist mostly of participants hooking up, partying hard and generally making fools of themselves, which of course make such shows extremely appealing. Some of these include *The Hills*, *Date My Mom*, *Parental Control*



and *Next*. Why—and how—has MTV strayed so far from its originally touted goal of bringing music from around the world into its loyal viewers' homes?

Ratings probably play an enormous role in this unique change from music to reality shows—people are obviously more drawn to the drama that occurs in the exciting lives of supposedly average Americans with, unfortunately, very below average intelligence.

Even the little music and few videos that currently play on MTV have changed greatly. Scantily-clad girls, stripped down and oiled up, gyrate provocatively in most videos, as mainstream and overplayed music finds yet another outlet on TV. Yet

perhaps this is the way MTV wants its viewers to perceive life.

What many people don't realize, however, is that most of these shows are heavily scripted by writers and not "reality" at all.

In addition, most of the people followed in such shows are not at all people that should be emulated for their high moral standards. MTV clearly has its own vision for a way of life that it seems to be singularly bent on implementing into our society.

MTV needs to go back to playing music that people can appreciate and enjoy without producing trashy shows that simply do not belong on television. Although ratings may say otherwise, most people are tired of watching inebriated couples hook up and break up.

Remember: it's supposed to be *music* television, not *reality* television. ♦

## THINGS TO DO BEFORE GRADUATING

- 10 Get your friends together and have a pen-clicking contest in Ms. Cochrum's classroom while she's giving a lecture.
- 9 Tie a bunch of thin strings at the entrances to the school before lunch, so when people leave, they walk into an invisible wall.
- 8 TP the entire school. Good luck with that!
- 7 Surf the crowd at a rally.
- 6 Go tanning on the roof of the school.
- 5 Hijack a janitor's golf cart, then drive away from Mr. Bosco during tutorial.
- 4 Jump off the roof like Mary Poppins and use an umbrella to float down to safety.
- 3 Bring your own folding chair into the library so they let you in.
- 2 Build a tree house in the huge tree that is in the quad and live in it until we beat Los Gatos at football.
- 1 Turn on the air-conditioning in a classroom and leave it on over the weekend so that there will be snow when you come back!

—by Mika Padmanabhan  
and Saniha Shankar

## Mom and dad, it's time to let your little girl go

Senior trip plans excite columnist, concern parents



Shannon Nguyen

Life is Good

As a second semester senior, I often find myself lost in thoughts of summer vacation, and one in particular never seems to escape my mind.

The trip I have been looking forward to for the past four years of my existence—my senior trip, the trip of all trips—now seems so close and yet so far. I've assumed I'd be able to go wherever I wanted, no questions asked.

I was in for a rude awakening.

One night at dinner, I regrettably brought up the idea of going to Cabo San Lucas with some of my best friends for my senior trip. Bad idea.

My parents said it was out of the question. "No adults? No way!" They had a valid argument, but I will be 18 by summer, so in a way, I will be an adult soon enough. Also, if they aren't willing to trust me to make the "right" decisions on my own, what will they do when I go off to college a few months later?

I told them that I was old enough to

take care of myself and would not make any regrettable decisions. That's when my mom began to quote John Stossel from ABC News' *20/20* episode, "Vanished Overseas," bringing up hypothetical scenarios about the worst possible things that could happen to me while on the trip.

Those hypothetical situations, surprisingly, really did scare me, covering everything from date rape drugs to gnarly cases of salmonella.

So at the end of our conversation, my parents were somewhat set on the idea of "no senior trip," but I think with two months between now and the supposed trip, I can work my teenage magic and do some hardcore convincing.

Inevitably, there comes a point in every parent's life in which they must ask themselves: Is my child grown-up enough to do this on their own?

Though the adolescent may think, "yes," and the parent may reprimand, "no," this whole process is an integral aspect of the circle of life—if you could call it that. It's a circle that is composed of nurturing, protecting and finally, trusting and liberating.

So, Mom and Dad, it's now the trusting and liberating time. Your little girl will be okay. It's just like what the Huggies Pull-ups commercials say: I'm a big kid now! ♦

## Struggle to stand out universal, destructive

It's that time of year again. As winter turns to spring and raincoats and umbrellas are exchanged for shorts and flip-flops, college acceptance and rejection letters litter the mailboxes of seniors everywhere. As students discover whether they gained admission to their top choices, we must reexamine the lofty standards and distinctions they must achieve to remain afloat in the murky sea that is the college admissions process.

Students find themselves rummaging for qualities that will set them apart from the "crowd." This desire, however, has become so common amongst the younger generations that it defeats its own purpose: with so many individuals competing in the race for uniqueness, all students attempt to find an "exceptional" inner quality. Then, of course, the genuineness of those qualities comes into question.

Many high school students strive to participate in rigorous and time-consuming activities in an effort to separate themselves from the norm in the eyes of college admissions officers. Students find themselves doing many hours of community service, interning at well-known companies and self-studying dif-

ficult courses to gain an advantage over their competitors. Unfortunately, such activities prove to be damaging to their everyday lives.

Colleges can't expect students to volunteer 20 hours a day, take 15 AP courses, play soccer, track, water polo and also learn three instruments. Saving

the world or winning the Nobel Prize isn't needed to charm the administrators. The life students are living is happening now, so they should enjoy it instead of living for the prospect of something bigger.

The net effect of the universal struggle to be unique is this: students are chang-

ing who they are based on acceptance letters and are consequently pressuring those who choose not to do so. As this downward spiral continues its descent, taking casualties in high schools across the nation, Saratoga students should have the common sense to stay out of its way. If the college applications process is a "survival of the fittest" environment, an internship here or there won't change anything. Only the person who comes to this realization and starts living his life the way he—not some faceless dean of admissions—wants is truly unique. ♦



## The Saratoga Falcon

### STAFF POLICY

The Saratoga Falcon is published bi-monthly by the Advanced Journalism classes of Saratoga High School, 20300 Herriman Ave., Saratoga, CA 95070.

Views expressed in *The Saratoga Falcon* are those of the writers and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the administration, faculty or school district.

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The staff of *The Saratoga Falcon* is committed to objectively and accurately representing the diverse talents, cultures and viewpoints of the Saratoga High School community.

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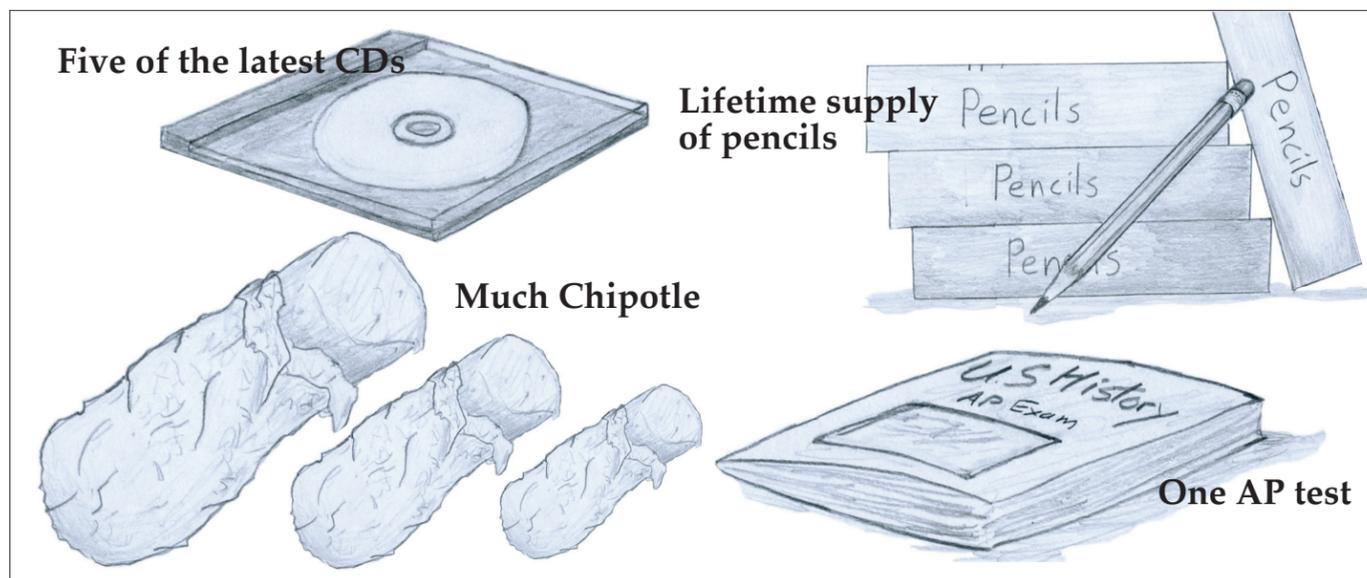
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## Cartoonist's view—What can I buy for \$84? | by Daniel Yang



## AP tests cost more than they're worth

by Gautham Ganesan  
and Ketaki Shiram

There are a variety of items one can purchase with \$84: airplane tickets from San Jose to Chicago, a Motorola RAZR cell phone or the right to take one of the annual Advanced Placement tests.

AP testing has generated public outcry for myriad reasons, but an oft-overlooked one is the cost. While SATs cost a mere \$43, AP test administrators charge nearly twice that amount for an examination most colleges do not even take into account during the applications process.

Of course, money isn't the only gripe students and teachers alike have when it comes to the controversial subject of AP testing. Questions regarding the tests' necessity are far more common.

When students take AP exams, they may be allowed to skip the same course offered at their college one or two years later.

While this seems like an advantage, there are many reasons why skipping a college course after a 5 on an AP exam may not be the wisest decision.

Although high school AP courses claim to be teaching at the university level, the amount of reading in real college classes

and the difficulty of the coursework is usually not reached in high school classrooms. This often results in students being unprepared for the higher level of difficulty in such courses at the university level.

These factors combine to make AP testing not only a waste of money, but also a waste of students' time and effort in preparation. Even if a student scores high enough on an AP test to bypass a university course, doing so is largely counterproductive as it deprives that individual of the greater resources and knowledge provided by that class' college counterpart. ♦

## Poorly motivated internships waste time

by Ketaki Shiram  
and Jocelyn Ye

Intel. Cisco. NASA. These high-tech companies have one thing in common.

Supposedly, they don't offer high school internships. Yet every summer, interns under the age of 18 somehow end up in these corporate offices.

Summer internships are a growing trend among incoming high school seniors. To put a real world job on college applications is an increasing pressure, which often leads to wrongly motivated students with jobs in large, powerful companies. The effort by seniors to add yet another extracurricular activity to perfect their applications quickly becomes fruitless if done for the wrong reasons.

"Lots of students feel pressured to conform to a standard set by the people around them," said one senior student. "Since lots of people do internships, now everyone feels like they have to do one to get accepted into a good college."

This same student spent eight hours every day over the summer supposedly conducting medical research at a hospital in Los Angeles; however, much of his "work" consisted of performing basic experimental procedures and running minor errands for a professor.

Although there are occasional situations where a high school intern may be given real work to do, most end up filing papers or "assisting" another worker bee in the company, both of which contain little academic stimulation.

This ends up being a waste of time

for the interned student, who could have spent his or her summer taking an academic class or pursuing an enjoyable activity, both of which may be exponentially more beneficial.

The true experience of working in the adult world that students believe colleges are looking for is not always found in high-profile companies, but more often in students' everyday interactions with adults.

Rather than creating a false image of themselves solely for the purpose of padding their applications, incoming seniors should instead enjoy their final summer as high schoolers.

After all, for many colleges, completing 200 hours of placing papers into alphabetically organized folders can hardly be considered a worthy accomplishment. ♦

## Bad memories of prom to last a lifetime

Columnist despises the annual tradition of dresses, corsages, dancing and dates



Megan Lee

### Emotional Trainwreck

Prom. It's a word that I have dared not mention over the past four years and represents a supposed "highlight" of my high school career, one that I've sneered at whenever mentioned. I'm not a girly girl and really can't handle the drama that follows the "glitz and glam" of prom.

To be honest, this whole prom frenzy makes me puke a little in my mouth. And I don't consider myself a loser for being "anti-prom."

There are plenty of girls, and guys, who feel the same way. Anyways, I'm sure I can find something better to do

than prance around in a puffy pink dress, wear a ridiculous flower on my hand and gush about how amazing everyone looks.

So I've come up with three reasons (mostly to stop people from begging me to change my mind) for why I refuse to go to senior prom.

First off, my junior prom was an utter disaster. I went with a friend who agreed to go with me even though I was totally apathetic about the whole experience. I had such a horrible time that I faked feeling sick and made my date drive me home. To top it all off, on the way back, he was given a ticket for driving with his high beams on. I honestly can't expect it to be any better this year.

My second reason is the price of prom. Last year, I expected my date to pay for everything, but that certainly was not the case. I ended up spending my allowance for the next two months on one (not so memorable) evening, which I really later regretted. In my

opinion, prom just isn't worth my time or money (which I am lacking at the moment). I'd probably have to work about 20 hours a week at Hollister to afford it. Great, that sounds really enticing.

Finally, and I believe most importantly, is the fact that I am completely over high school and all the drama that goes along with it, including what came to be known last year as "proma."

At this point in my life, I know more people that are out of high school than people who are actually in high school. As a second semester senior, I'm ready to pop this high school bubble. I am too close to college now and would rather avoid any final confrontations with stupid traditions that I don't think I will enjoy in any way whatsoever.

Then again, if someone did choose to ask me to prom, and I managed to find a gorgeous designer dress, and my heart-throb of a date paid for everything else, I suppose I could put aside my complaints and enjoy myself. Maybe. ♦



Emily Chen

Reporter Emily Chen takes a bite from a Taqueria los Pericos chicken soft taco. In addition to Mexican food, the restaurant also serves horchatas, a rice-milk drink, with free refills.

## Restaurant serves authentic, tasty Mexican food

by Emily Chen

Taqueria los Pericos, a small Mexican taqueria, or family-style restaurant, is filled with decorations of colorful tropical parakeets that give the restaurant its namesake. Upon entering the restaurant, one is presented not only with birds, but a number of other Mexican decorations and art that lend it an authentic feeling.

My favorite thing to order here is the taco salad. After ordering, the cashier will give customers a number plate, and they are free to sit down at a table inside or outside the restaurant. The food is typically made quite fast and brought to the table. After a couple of visits, the workers recognize customers and greet them with a smile when they come in.

The taco salad comes in a large crunchy taco shell that is deep-fried and delicious. There is a variety of meat to choose from, ranging from two types each of chicken, pork and beef, with varying degrees of heat. The meat is perfectly tender and marinated, and comes nestled in copious amounts of lettuce, tomatoes, guacamole, rice and cheese. All ingredients are always extremely tasty and always fresh, and portions are large enough to feed any hungry student.

One of the best things about this restaurant is that there are unlimited bowls of free chips if you are dining at the restaurant. That's right, not only are the chips all you can eat, but they come at no extra for customers to take as many bowls as they wish. Personally, I prefer Taqueria los Pericos's chips to Chipotle's because

they are perfectly salted, crunchy and warm. There is also a free salsa bar with a variety of salsas, sauces, and guacamole to choose from that range from mild to extremely spicy.

The restaurant also has a jukebox with Mexican songs and two arcade games. If one is in the mood for a departure from Chipotle's burritos or tacos, Taqueria los Pericos is definitely worth a try. The soft tacos have so much meat piled on them that it is physically impossible to fold the tortilla into a taco-shape—not that I'm complaining. At just \$2.10 for one, these tacos are the perfect choice for the student on a budget. The super burritos come bursting with rice, beans, cheese, guacamole, sour cream, salsa and meat, and at \$6.25 are well worth it, especially considering their hefty size. Though the



**Taqueria los Pericos**  
**Drive from SHS:** 15 mins  
**Location:** 1581 W. Campbell Ave.  
 Campbell 95008  
**Phone:** (408) 374-0200

restaurant is a 15-20 minute drive from campus, if you are a second semester senior, or just someone who proclaims to love Mexican food, Taqueria los Pericos is well-worth the drive and will not disappoint. ♦

### CROSSWORD | Hunt through the issue

11) The show that broadcasted the lives of the elite in Laguna

**Across**

- 6) Club that will host "Bombay in the Bay"
- 7) Last name of newest baseball pitcher
- 9) Name of band of senior Mike Vetrone
- 10) Freshman Hanna Nielson excels at this sport

**Down**

- 1) First name of student trying to convince her parents about a senior trip
- 2) Popular tanning salon in S



Fill out this crossword and be the first to turn it in to editor-in-chief Katrin Cooper for a \$5 prize.

—by Vivian Liu and Saniha Shankar

## A stranger in my family

SOPHOMORE REALIZES GENDER AND AGE GAP MAY CAUSE STRAIN IN SIBLING RELATIONSHIPS



**Annie Lee**  
**Cook a pineapple!**

There are three types of sibling relationships: the siblings who are so close they're practically best friends; the siblings who get along pretty well despite the occasional fight; and then there are the siblings like my brother and me.

Ever since he left for college, we've barely talked to each other except for the rare "Hey!" on AIM. But our relationship wasn't always like this — in fact, it was worse.

When I was born, my brother was the best big brother ever. He always took care of me and loved spending time with me. But as I grew up, we started to argue. We fought almost every day for a couple years. I even remember going up to my mom and saying with a huge smile across my face, "Mommy, I didn't cry today!"

As I entered middle school and my brother became an upperclassman at Saratoga High, he was practically nonex-

istent in my life. The only time I saw him was right before going to sleep. He spent almost every day out with his friends and almost no time at home. I started feeling like I didn't even have a big brother anymore, merely a distant cousin living in the house.

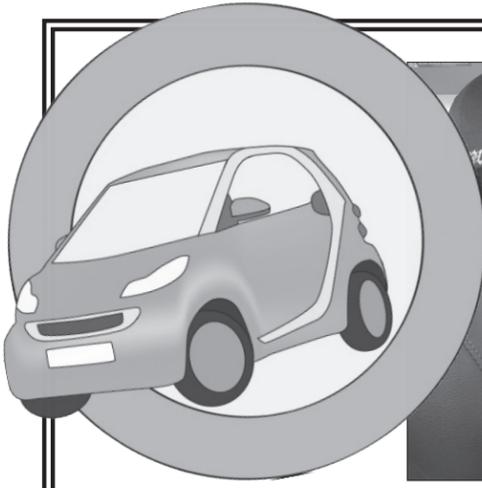
Now, I only see him a couple times a year, but even then, he's either out somewhere with his friends or in his room with the door closed.

Maybe it's not his or my fault that we are not very close as siblings. We have a five-year age difference, and it's always been hard to connect with each other. Also, not to state the obvious, but he's a boy and I'm a girl. There's definitely going to be a difference in interests and opinions.

Sometimes I wish I could invent a time machine to go back and spend some more time with my big brother, but we all know that's not going to happen anytime soon. Also, I'm not sure if it would even help because our age and gender difference puts such a big gap between us.

I guess my brother and I just weren't meant to have a close bond, but despite our age and gender differences, my brother has helped to guide me through my early life. And maybe not all hope is lost. Maybe we'll get closer as time goes on. It would be hard to be any more distant. ♦

**I started feeling like I didn't even have a big brother anymore, merely a distant cousin living in the house.**



Theresa Yeh

Juniors Neil DeVera and Brian Tang converse and bond during their "man date."

## Bonding with 'GAI'

by James Jiang

One of the best definitions of a "man date" came from Michael Scott, a fictional character in the TV show *The Office*. After being excluded from a woman's luncheon, Michael Scott decided to create his own. However, his description of a male luncheon actually resembles a

"man date."

"Sort of a guys' night out. A GNO, if you will. A 'guh-no.' Actually, it's more of a Guys' Afternoon In. A GAI. Not ... not it's uh, not gay. It's a bridal shower for guys. A guy shower. An hour-long shower with guys."

For him, the idea of a "man date" is quite complex. Although the concept of a "man date" doesn't sound appeal-

ing to men, the phenomenon actually happens quite often.

"The idea of a man date is when guys hang out and talk about something more mature than how hot a girl is," said junior Neil DeVera.

Both DeVera and fellow junior Tejas Mulye admit to partaking in GAIs. However, DeVera's version of the GAI differs from Mulye's in many ways. For DeVera, a GAI is much more aimless.

"Our man dates are normally in the car in any miscellaneous parking lot," said DeVera. "One time we went to a friend's house, parked outside and just started talking."

The topic of the conversation ranges from politics to moral dilemmas.

"We usually stay away from grades because it gives us a lot of anger," said DeVera.

For Mulye, a man date is merely time to reflect with friends on a woman date.

"We just talk about females and woman dates," said Mulye.

Mulye still has moments of dis-

cussion regarding non-woman date topics where Mulye plays the part of a psychiatrist.

"We say life's not fun and why life's not fun," said Mulye. "Then we talk about our problems. But I'm a specialist in solving problems. It's my friends that need help."

Like DeVera, Mulye has experienced GAIs inside of cars, but he has also gone out with his fellow guys, turning the GAI into a GNO.

"A few friends and I went to a Mexican restaurant in Milpitas. It was our first road

trip," said Mulye.

After the meal, the group went to a friend's house and they discussed "guy matters." Mulye feels that the dinner and discussion helped the friends bond into a relationship of very close compadres.

Whether it's called a GAI or a GNO, a man date allows guys to get together and discuss problems in their lives as well as to get to know each other better. Most guys may not admit it, but they've probably been on more than just a few GAIs. ♦

**"A man date is when guys hang out and talk about something deep."**

—junior Neil DeVera

# LEISURE *time*

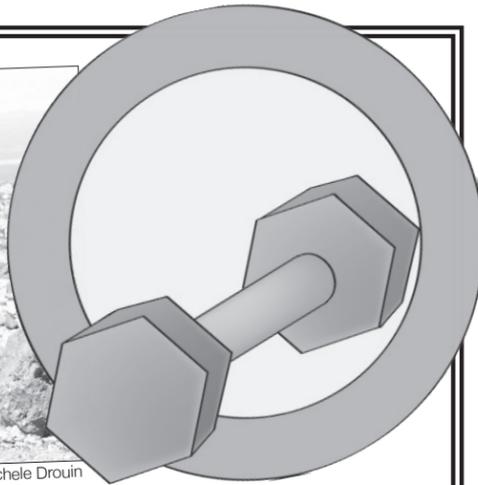
SHS students and faculty fill their free time with a variety of unique activities and pastimes.



Amanda Yi



courtesy of Michele Drouin



Math teacher Michele Drouin keeps fit by eating healthy and exercising outdoors as well as in the gym.

## Drouin works to stay healthy

by Shannon Nguyen

While most are still sound asleep at 5 a.m., math teacher Michele Drouin is pumping iron at the gym.

As if teaching three periods of Trig/Pre Calculus and two periods of AP Calculus isn't tiresome enough, Drouin spends a lot of her extra time working out.

"I try to do something active every day. It's rare that I don't," said Drouin. "I think the only days I don't work out is when I'm really sick, on vacation [where it's not an option] or when my body needs a break."

During the school year, Drouin works out first thing in the morning for at least an hour a day. During summer, her workouts are even longer.

"I lift weights at 24 Hour Fitness and during the school year

that's also where I do most of my cardio," said Drouin. "In the summer months, I spend a lot of time outside on my bike or hiking."

Drouin's main motivation for exercising so early in the day is that if she puts off her workouts until the end of the day, she won't do them. If her morning doesn't start with gym time, her whole day feels off.

"I'm too tired at the end of the day. I also just enjoy starting my day with exercise," said Drouin. "It gives me a chance to clear my head and sort through things or think about what needs to get done that day."

Drouin, however, hasn't always been so adamant about exercising. As a teenager, she wasn't very active.

"I didn't play any high school sports. It wasn't until I was out of high school that I became active

and started eating better," said Drouin.

She started a healthier lifestyle when she was about 19 and can now be considered a health nut. The more Drouin worked out, the more she became aware of what she was and wasn't eating.

"I started paying attention to the nutrients in foods and by the time I was 22, I had cut the majority of junk out of my diet," said Drouin.

Though she does enjoy a pizza or a Chipotle burrito once in a while, she stays away from mayonnaise, butter, deep-fried foods and red meat.

Drouin's day starts long before most students roll out of bed—whether by participating in a spin class or eating a well-balanced meal for breakfast, for this math teacher, she wouldn't have it any other way. ♦

## TOGATALKS

What do you do in your leisure time to unwind?

I sleep in my free time because it makes me feel relaxed, happy and rejuvenated.



senior Andrew Chang



I like to walk my dog because it lets me blow off steam from my busy schedule.

sophomore Kayla Epsman

I find music to be a great way to relax and escape because it drowns out everything else that's going on in my mind.



junior Corey Rateau



I go to the gym to relieve my stress and when I'm really angry; it's a great place to just release all my feelings.

senior Sahar Padash

—by Audrey Yang

## EFM | Program wrenches hearts

*continued from pg. 1*

the entire school. On the first day, the living dead were taken from their classes by a grim reaper. Each student's belongings were gathered and a black rose was set on his/her desk in the classroom. A police officer then read the student's obituary to the class. Obituaries were also posted on the cafeteria windows and tombstones planted into the grass in the quad.

"We didn't really know what was going on at first," said junior Vicky Chang. "When we finally realized why there was a grim reaper in the classroom, the atmosphere completely changed."

After second period, all students were ushered to the football field bleachers, where they watched the recreation of the car accident complete with medical response workers, police officers and firefighters. The individuals involved in the crash were separated for the next step of the simulation; Capek to the local jail, Florence to the morgue and Sheel to the hospital. Participants attended an overnight retreat at a nunnery in the Santa Cruz mountains, where they heard the firsthand story of a man who was paralyzed for life as a result of drunk driving.

"It was eye-opening experience hearing from someone who was paralyzed from the neck down," said senior Nikhil Sheel. "Seeing how it affected his life really made me think about everything that I've ever done."

The second day of EFM included an emotional mock funeral in the school's gym for all the participants. Keynote speaker Judy Peckler, a Los Gatos mother whose husband and two children

were killed by a drunk driver in 1997, spoke of how drunk driving changed her life forever. With brief video clips and interludes from the orchestra and chamber choir, four letters were read aloud from peers and parents to the "dead" students and two letters were read by the participants themselves.

"It was just such an emotional day," said Chang. "Having our own peers talk to us so sincerely made us think about our own lives and relationships with our families. I really think that it touched everyone in some way."

Although the students who were involved as living dead were notified a few weeks in advance to ensure their participation, EFM was kept top-secret from its initiation last year to the day of the event itself.

"The fact that the event was unannounced was part of what made it so effective," said Renalds. "When something as serious as a drunk-driving accident occurs, it's always so sudden. Nobody knows when something devastating like that will happen and the shock is what moves people."

The Events Commission worked closely with a large group of parent volunteers, students and the local fire, sheriff and medical departments while organizing the event.

"[EFM is] one of those high-risk events that takes tremendous planning and resources, and you never know what the outcome may be," said assistant principal Karen Hyde. "In my dreams, it opened doors and made kids think. For a moment, there's always that effect on most people." ♦





## Columnist reflects on crash experience



**Nikhil Sheel**

### Sheel's Spiel

I hope no one ever has to go through the living hell I went through the last week. Sure, it was all a simulation. No, I did not actually die. But the mere thought of it actually happening sends shivers down my spine.

As I collect myself after this life-changing experience, I guess the best way to organize this would just start from the beginning.

Three weeks ago, I was notified that I would be participating in "Every 15 Minutes," a program that teaches teens about drunk driving and its lasting effects. I was also told that I would actually be in the mock car crash, wounded and eventually die upon arrival at the hospital. After a little bit of an initial shock, I thought to myself, "It will all be a huge simulation. Not to worry. I'm a real man." Little did I know what I was in for.

Fast forward two weeks. My accomplice, Katie, who would also eventually die from injuries, was getting made up in the woodshop room. Blood was painted everywhere, bruises all over her body. After seeing herself in the mirror, she was not able to make it through. Suddenly, I realized how real this was. After an hour of getting made up, I climbed into a crashed Saturn. A tarp was over me, so all I could hear were the murmurs of my peers on the bleachers.

"911, we have an emergency. I believe two cars crashed near Saratoga High School."

Everything was silent. Not one student was saying anything. My heart began to race as the tarp was pulled off and I saw Andy running around, finding Pete ejected from my car and dead on the ground. Firefighters came rushing in and cops surveyed the scene. They began the long process of trying to extricate me from the car. I was flung onto a headboard and stripped down to my boxers (luckily, I had my nice baby blue pair on). I was carted into an ambulance and given oxygen.

As they moved me from the ambulance to the hospital, all the nurses were doing everything they could. They put more blood into me, shocked me, checked my pulse. When nothing worked, I heard some of the scariest words in my life.

"Any other suggestions? No? Well, we now pronounce the victim dead at 12:01 pm."

I was in shock. Sure, I wasn't *actually* dead, but I might as well have been. After icing my hands, my dad walked in to see me. He's a pretty strong guy who does not get too emotional, but as he ran his hands through my hair and touched my palms, my stomach turned upside down. Though my eyes were closed, I could feel him starting to tear up. No one should have to go through that. Not a dad, not a mom, not anyone.

After lunch, Pete, Andy and I met up with the others at a retreat at the Presentation Center.

We heard from a man who was paralyzed from the neck down after an unfortunate accident on a three-wheeler about how his life changed and the

life-long struggle he is now left to face everyday. Later, we watched a video, had a candlelight talk and wrote letters to our parents. Mine was selected to be read at the funeral the following day and I knew this was in fact going to be the hardest thing I'll ever have to do.

We dressed in our formal attire for the funeral the next morning. I rewrote my speech so I could read my handwriting and was ready to go. After a little bit of a wait, the bagpiper began to play and the funeral procession started. Following an extremely emotional speech by Mr. Slavos, it was my turn.

"Dear Mom, Dad, Sonali and Shreya..."

I felt queasy as tears begin to come to my eyes and I was not sure if I could make it through. As I looked up to the crowd, I saw tissues being passed around. I made eye contact with my dad and, for the first time, saw him choking up. As we filed out to signify the end of the funeral, it was all over. Yet the lasting effect could still be felt throughout the school.

I took two things out of this experience. First would be the obvious: do not drink and drive. Do not let your friends drive drunk. It's your choice.

The second would be to live life to the fullest. After meeting the coroner, she portrayed one of the best attitudes I have ever seen. She said that every day you have to live your life as though it's your last day so if heaven forbid something does happen, you can chalk it up and say you did everything you could. You never know when something can happen to you that will change your life and everyone's around you.

After all, it does happen every 15 minutes. ♦

W  
E  
N  
Two days  
we'll never  
forget



—photos by Theresa Yeh



photos by Brittany Judoprasertijo

Clockwise from top: Journalism students converse during class; seniors Clara Wang, Jonathan Tien, Daniel Yang and Patrick Chang gather in the journalism room to relax during tutorial; the newspaper staff mingles during "story discussion" to exchange ideas.

## Nights to remember inside the 'J-room'

by Tim Tsai  
and Daniel Yang

The J-room. This phrase is often tossed around on campus, yet many students do not know what it means. The Journalism Room can always be found filled with students screaming for their stories and editors dashing across the room to a printer.

The Journalism team is nothing if not a bustling work environment, yet publication staffs have also come to share a close, familiar bond.

"Newspaper really lets you get closer with the other people on staff because everyone is going through the same kind of stress," said junior Brian Tsai. "You really learn how to pull through with your friends and it's an amazing experience."

For the newspaper staff, as much of the work on every issue winds down, students scramble to finish up the issue. This rush culminates with Deadline Night every other Thursday night, when the journalism room is open until 8:30 and students need to finish layouts and stories.

Students find that this rush, combined with dinner and talking, allows for a great chance for students to connect as they share the burden of finishing the paper.

"Deadline Night is great for bonding because it's so hectic and people work together," said junior Melody Zhang. "Newspaper helped me make new friends. Working together brings the staff closer together."

Even though the newspaper staff seems to be a stress-filled group, students often find ways to have fun and make each other laugh while working through their issue.

"It's really not as stressful as everyone thinks it is," said Tsai. "We goof off more than people think we do. There's a lot of screaming and yelling going on in the J-Room and everyone is super hyper."

The staff also holds an annual staff dinner at either a member's house or a restaurant. In addition, the staff has a potluck each summer at Wildwood Park, where new and old staff members can get to know each other even before the start of the year.

Yearbook, the other journalism publication, despite not having an "obvious" bonding event like Deadline Night, also smoothly brings together its members.

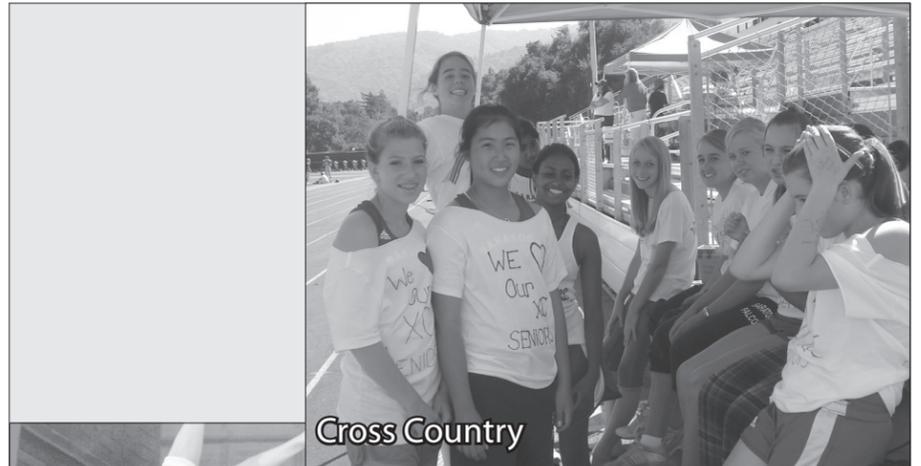
"We don't have the Deadline Nights the newspaper staff has, so we aren't together for a long period like the newspaper, but we do spend a lot of time after school as well," said junior Sarah Zarrin. "Everyone gets along well, even if there's deadlines and a lot of work to do."

For some people on the yearbook staff, it's the enormous job of putting together the yearbook itself that gets them to interact with each other. The staff knows that not getting work done will result in a dull yearbook or even no yearbook at all.

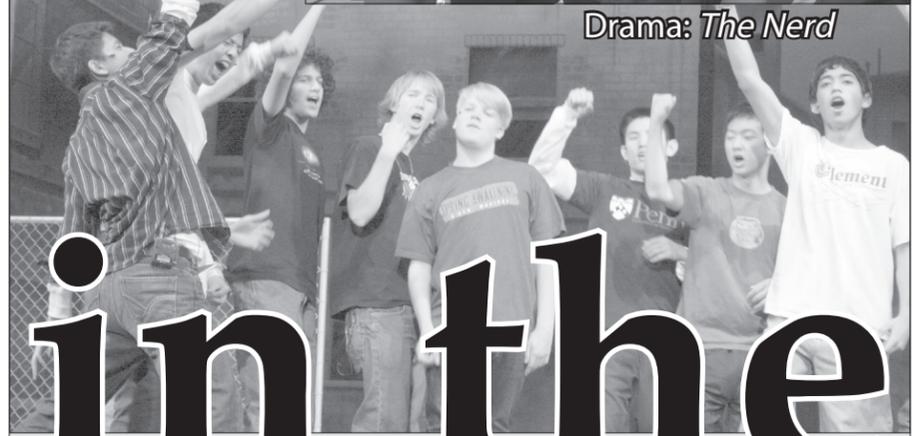
"It takes a lot of work to put together the yearbook," said junior Felix Tuan. "The goal of putting together the yearbook helps bring us together because we know we have to work together and bond; otherwise nothing will get done."

One way that the staff eases the transition for new staff members, called "yearbies," is for them to be introduced to everyone and given easier assignments. Zarrin's entry came easily.

"It wasn't hard to fit in the group," said Zarrin. "I knew people in the staff already, and I branched out from there." ♦



Cross Country



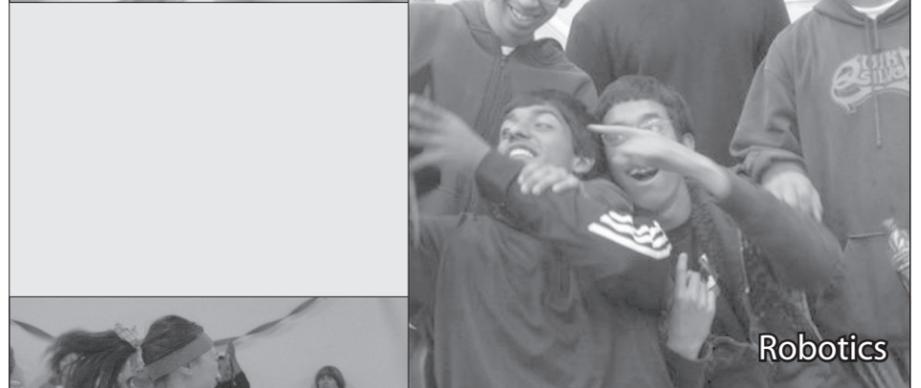
Drama: *The Nerd*

# in the club

The Falcon looks at the friendships that develop as a result of clubs, groups and teams on campus.



Mock



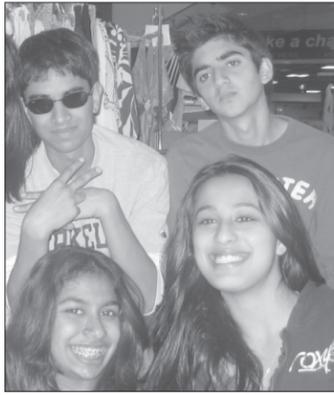
Robotics



Girls'



Aditi Jayaraman



Aditi Jayaraman

## Indian Club as close as 'friends and family'

by Vivian Liu  
and Tim Tsai

At Saratoga High, the Indian Club is well known for Friends and Family Night, a cultural show of student-choreographed dances, singing and skits. As one of the largest ethnic clubs on campus, bonding is key to putting the show together.

"We spend a lot of time together, so if we didn't get along with each other, it wouldn't be as fun," said senior Deepti Rajendran, who is co-president with senior Nikhil Sheel. The two are in charge of organizing the performance, which members work toward during the club meetings.

During the months leading up to the performance, weekend rehearsals provide excellent bonding experiences, particularly for the younger members.

"We all come together and learn about the culture. [The underclassmen] are go-

ing to be the future leaders of the club, so we try to educate them," said club member junior Kushal Shah.

Occasionally, the club collaborates with other school's Indian clubs and students participate in other schools' performances and vice versa.

"We know each other from school already and because we're in the Indian community, we know each other pretty well. It's not like we're totally foreign to each other," said junior Rishi Taggarsari.

Due to the large time commitment, Taggarsari believes that their familiarity has helped facilitate choreographing and rehearsals.

"I really got to know a lot of the upperclassmen, and now I'm an upperclassman, so it's fun to get to know [the underclassmen]," said Shah. "This club has really helped me get to know people from all grades and groups of Saratoga High."

The club's performance last year, dubbed "Bombay in the Bay," attracted



courtesy of Deepti Rajendran

From left to right: Indian Club members bond over dinner at BJ's Restaurant; four close Indian Club friends pause for a quick photo while they spend some time shopping together; students dance during "Bombay in the Bay," the club's big performance last year.

many friends and family members alike.

"We got a lot of people last year and we're hoping to have the same turnout this year, if not more people," said Rajendran.

In addition to being a success, the show was another chance for members to get to know everyone.

The Indian Club hopes that all its hard work and team bonding will pay

off on April 5, when this year's Friends and Family Night will take place in the MacAfee Center.

"We've all become so close! I remember this time when we had a dance off between [seniors] Nikhil Kaul and Sabrina [Rohatgi] for the dance coordinator position," said Rajendran. "It was so funny, and being in Indian Club has been such a great experience." ♦



courtesy of Emily Cheng



courtesy of Kyle Short

## Band builds big bonds

by Daniel Yang

Students dressed up as ninjas wave inflatable swords, whacking each other and laughing as they clobber their friends. This bizarre game is just one of the many activities the band does to get to know each other during marching season.

"We had dress-up days, like we had 300 or so secret agents or ninjas to try to liven up practices again," said senior Kyle Short.

Competitions, concerts and field rehearsals are only a few of the activities the band does together as a group. This wealth of interaction has strengthened existing relationships and has helped students make new friends as well.

"You're with each other for 20 hours a week and you get to know everyone extremely well, especially with all the [band] trips," said senior Emily Cheng.

Band members also have traditions for after concerts and competitions, such as going to BJ's restaurant.

"We go to BJ's to hang out. We talk and buy pizookies [and then] split the check, which is always hard to do," said Short.

In addition, band members get to know each person in their own instrumental section really well.

"[Being in band] makes it easier to talk to people about topics because you have common ground with them," said Short. "Overall, it has helped [me] get to know more people."

People in the music department have taken their friendships outside of band as well. Short often talks to people he met in band during his spare time in class or around campus.

"I hang out with [senior] William Chen during Chinese when we used to have it [together]," said Short. "He would also drive me out to lunch sometimes."

In the end, though, most of the time the friendships that already existed between students before they joined band are stronger than the ones between new acquaintances.

"For me, some of my friends were already in band," said Cheng. "Since we had trips, we roomed together. After rehearsals [we would] hang out for dinner at Saratoga High."

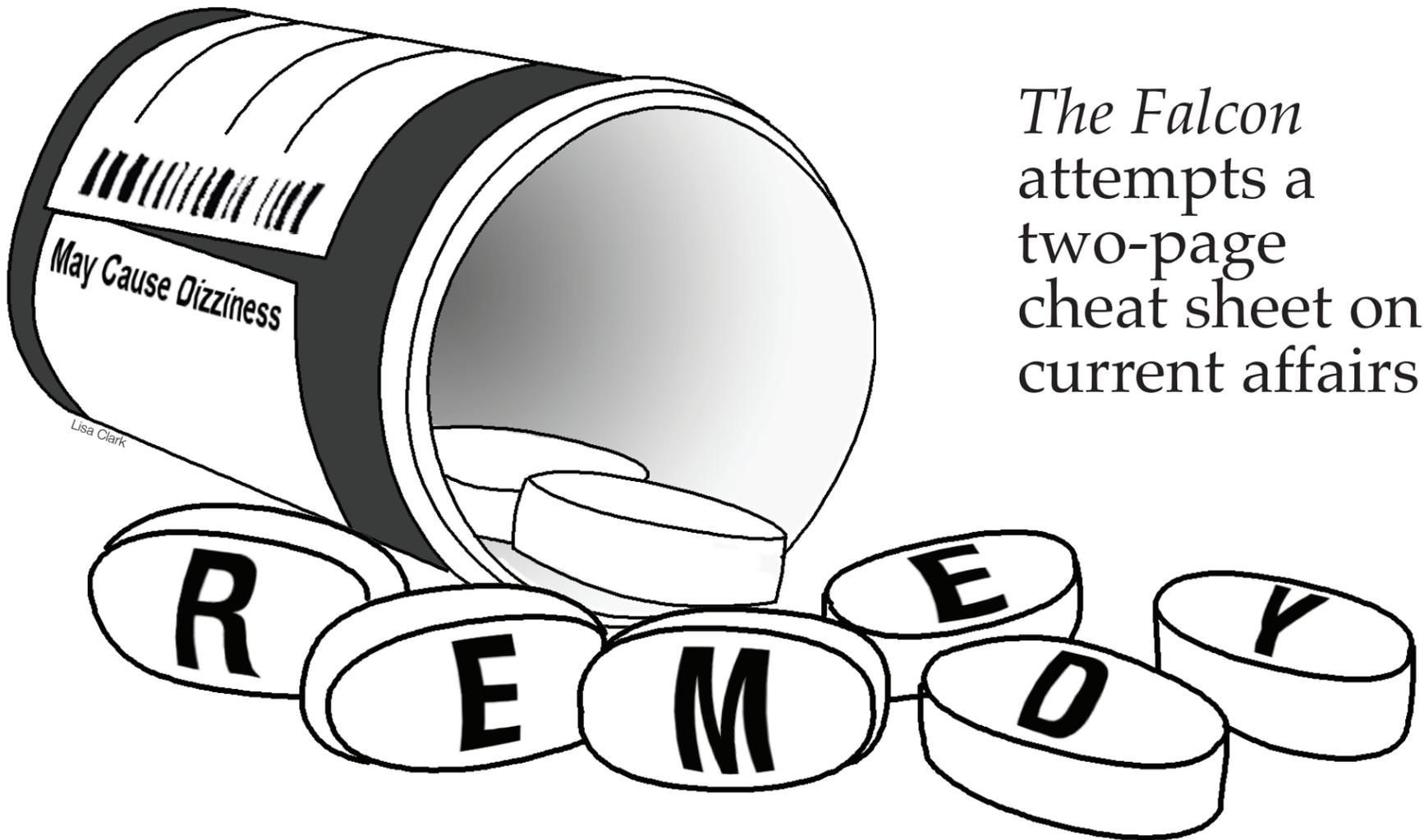
Overall, it's the amount of time that the band members spend together that has caused them to form such a close relationship with each other.

"After four years of sweating and work, you sort of bond with the people who have to endure it with you," said Short. ♦



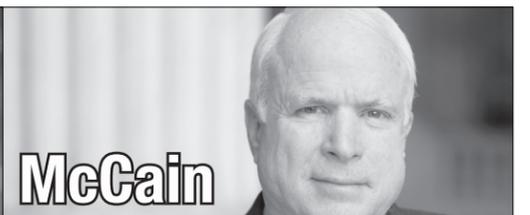
courtesy of Emily Cheng

Clockwise from bottom left: Band students flash a smile on the bus ride to a music competition; seniors Vera Lee, Emily Cheng, Jessica Pi and Angela Lee dress up in the choir room before a football game; students enjoy themselves on the way to Long Beach.



*The Falcon* attempts a two-page cheat sheet on current affairs

# for ignorance



## Health Care

- Private insurers offer policies regardless of medical history
- Covers 23 million of the 47 million people who currently don't have insurance; mandated coverage for children

- Mandated coverage for all 47 million people without health care
- Health care remains despite unemployment or job changes

- No mandates, but will provide \$2500 tax credit to individuals and \$5000 to families to increase incentives for coverage
- Could drive up costs in order to add more clinics and give pay raises to doctors deemed effective in treating their patients

## Energy

- Pledged \$150 billion over the next 10 years to transition into the next generation of energy
- Plans to double the funding for research on clean energy; offset costs by auctioning off rights to emit carbon

- Ten-year, \$150 billion plan to create a \$50 billion "strategic energy fund"
- Double the funding for federal basic energy research; increased federal incentives for renewable energy

- Co-sponsored the Climate Stewardship and Innovation Act of 2007 which would authorize \$3.7 billion in federal subsidies for new nuclear power plants

## Money

- Boost taxes on high earners by letting income-tax cuts expire to fund targeted tax cuts for the middle class

- Would also let the Bush tax cuts expire in 2010 and end the loophole that allows hedge-fund managers to pay lower tax rates than their secretaries

- \$5 billion in the next four years for a high-tech fence along the U.S.-Mexico border
- Keep Bush's tax cuts permanent and support additional tax cuts despite having opposed them in the past

## Iraq

- Pull all combat brigades out in 16 months, leaving no permanent American bases in Iraq
- Will keep troops in Iraq if Al-Qaeda forms an Iraqi base

- Finalize a plan in first 60 days of presidency to pull all troops out of Iraq
- Organize multi-billion dollar international effort with the UN to aid Iraqi refugees

- Supports continuation of the war
- Increase number of troops in Iraq

## Social

- Wants to protect Roe v. Wade
- Legalize same-sex unions

- Supports Roe v. Wade
- Will overturn "Don't ask, don't tell," the policy that bans openly gay people in the military
- Legalize same-sex unions

- Opposed to abortion; will overturn Roe v. Wade
- Opposed to gay marriage

## Students

**"I think a younger man with newer ideas is better suited for the presidency."**

—junior Avinash Kumar

**"Clinton has the experience necessary for the successful leadership of this country."**

—junior Catherine Wang

**"McCain knows that it will take conservative values to bring the country back to the gold standard it once held."**

—senior Colin Campbell

# Third-world issues of first-world importance

by Elizabeth Cheng  
and Andy Tsao

In the halls of Saratoga High, supposedly one of the top schools in the country, a shirt with the words "Save Darfur" elicited the question, "Is that Saddam's first name?"

Many students are oblivious to pressing world matters that affect millions of lives around the world. But several clubs on campus, such as Amnesty International, are now moving to combat this ignorance and make sure students are well-informed of global news.

"There are so many things going on in Africa, [especially the issues in] Darfur," said Amnesty International co-president junior Paul Leung.



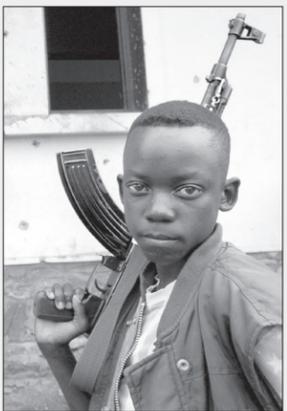
## Sudan Darfur genocide

Though perhaps under the radar at Saratoga High, the current genocide in Darfur is one of today's most pivotal human rights issues. In 2001, the Sudanese government hired militant soldiers called the Janjaweed to kill hundreds of thousands of people, forced over 2.5 million refugees to flee their homes and rape countless women. Interference from foreign countries was promptly rejected, and with all the refugees spilling into neighboring Chad, the government is calling for a second genocide to happen—this time in Chad.



## Kenya Election riots

Another area of unrest in Africa is Kenya, which used to be one of the continent's most tourist-friendly countries until its election in 2007. Because the incumbent party refused to relinquish power, riots broke out in Kenya and killed over 1,000 people. With help from former U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, both parties signed an agreement to work under a coalition government last month. The storm of publicity in Kenya has since subsided, but the elections controversy is far from over.



## Uganda Child soldiers

Invisible Children, another club on campus, is trying its best to promote awareness about the child soldiers in war-torn Uganda. These young recruits were threatened with death if caught trying to escape and many of the children were forced to watch the deaths of their siblings at the hands of rebel troops.

"The rebel army captured African children, brainwashed them and trained them to kill," said Invisible Children co-president senior Erica Baba.

Peace is now in sight after 20 years of continual warfare, but other African countries like Liberia, Burundi and Sierra Leone still recruit child soldiers.



## Cameroon Funding corruption

African issues are not restricted to military warfare; in some cases, government officials take advantage of unsuspecting citizens for their own benefits. The government of Cameroon, for example, claims that it is spending millions of dollars on AIDS treatment, but only a small portion of that money pays for drugs and antibiotics. Indeed, much of the money received by local committee presidents and treasurers in order to combat AIDS are used to stock up on grain—grain that is later sold for a hefty profit. The \$133 million coming from the World Bank is being used for selfish purposes, not for helping AIDS patients.

Countless other topics have a huge impact worldwide but receive little exposure at school.

"There are so many different things happening [in the world]. Sometimes it feels overwhelming," said English teacher and Amnesty International adviser Kerry Mohnike.

With current events mostly absent from school curriculum, students who wish to find a remedy for ignorance must be able to find the information themselves. Knowing that "he" is a subjective pronoun is great; knowing that Darfur isn't Saddam's first name is priceless. ♦

For more information, visit [news.bbc.co.uk](http://news.bbc.co.uk) and [www.invisiblechildren.com](http://www.invisiblechildren.com)

all photos courtesy of MCTcampus

# Pakistan in turmoil

Recent assassination of Bhutto leads to violence, riots

by Ketaki Shriram

On Dec. 27, 2007, what would have been a devastating death in any other age was reduced to a surge of news coverage that disappeared within weeks. Benazir Bhutto, leader of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), was assassinated while leaving a rally in Rawalpindi, Pakistan. The uproar that followed was both expected and instantaneous. After a suicide bomb blast killed numerous Bhutto supporters, the country fell apart. Civilians stoned government buildings, burned cars and rioted for nearly two weeks before Prime Minister Pervez Musharraf used the nation's army to subdue the furious crowds.

Politicians all over the world had been awaiting the results of January's elections in hopes of seeing Pakistan return to a true democratic government, a hope that had been extinguished since Musharraf's military coup in October of 1999. This past summer, when the United States and Great Britain negotiated with Musharraf to allow an exiled Bhutto to return to Pakistan, many believed the country would enter a new era. It was not to be.

Although she was widely received as a hero by many Pakistani civilians, suicide bombs and countless death threats haunted Bhutto during her final months in her home country

of Pakistan. She ignored all of them and continued with her campaign for prime minister.

Shortly following Bhutto's death, statements that a highly ranked Al-Qaeda official had organized her death sprung up on Islamic websites. This evidence, as reported by the *New York Times*, lessened the credibility of the government's information and true feelings about Bhutto's campaign. The uncertainty of the truth behind her death only adds to the convoluted plot of Pakistani politics.

After the death of its leader, the PPP has regrouped and joined forces with a previous opponent, Nawaz Sharif. Although he denounced Bhutto's policies and beliefs while she was alive, Sharif believes that the way to success in Pakistan is through a coalition government with the People's Party.

Unfortunately, achieving success is easier said than done. With stubborn refusal by Musharraf to step down from his position as Prime Minister, the civilians of Pakistan may have to wait another decade before democracy can settle their country. Until then, they will have to fight to keep it from falling apart. ♦



Bhutto

# Continuation of Iraq war divides students, nation

by Emily Chen

A recent study by National Geographic revealed that 63% of American high school students cannot identify Iraq on a map of the Middle East. Many may know the basics of the Iraq war, but some fail even in that regard. Rarely, however, does anyone delve further into the issue. This war goes much deeper than a simple recitation of statistics.

After the attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, President Bush was informed that Iraq was supposedly producing nuclear weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) in violation of a 1991 agreement. His declared intentions for the war were to protect Americans and stop the dictatorship of Saddam Hussein. The war, which began in 2003, has since drained the United States of \$491 billion and killed more than 100,000 people.

"[The war] sounded like a noble idea at first," said junior Lisa Chang. "Obviously, it didn't turn out that way."

After the discovery that Iraq had no WMDs, many Americans challenged the cause of the war itself. With the capture and execution of Saddam Hussein and a re-established government, some opponents of the war believe the U.S. should leave Iraq as quickly as possible. In addition, people fear the effects of growing Iraqi resentment of the imposition of American troops.

"Our presence in Iraq is extremely unjust to the Iraqi people," said sophomore Girish Swaminath. "If we stay in Iraq, we give them no freedom to practice their own religion and culture. If we want Iraq to prosper, and if we want to

[help] our federal deficit, then it is best to withdraw troops from Iraq."

Others argue the United States is responsible for Iraq's current state of disorder and it is America's responsibility to stay in there until the situation is fixed. Furthermore, if the United States were to pull out now, they say the Iraqi government would not be able to sustain itself.

"I think we should stay because we made a mistake going there in the first place and now it's our job to fix it. [Our presence] has helped in Iraq; civilian violence has gone down and the country itself is stabilizing a little bit," said junior Adeeti Aggarwal. "I don't believe in war in general, but us getting out too quickly is just going to make the mistake worse."

**"We made a mistake going [to Iraq] in the first place, and now it's our job to fix it."**

—junior Adeeti Aggarwal

A report by the SF Gate found that a shocking 80,000

to 100,000 Iraqis are displaced as a result of the unrest and are either scattered across countries like Syria, Jordan and Turkey, or desolate and homeless within their own country. The U.N. believes that around 40% of Iraq's middle class has fled. Many of the fleeing female Iraqi refugees are forced to turn to prostitution. According to independent co.uk, in Syria alone, approximately 50,000 Iraqi women and girls have become prostitutes just to survive.

Advocates for the war, such as actress and humanitarian Angelina Jolie, urge America to fulfill its moral obligation to improve conditions in the Middle East and make it safe for the refugee families to return.

Regardless of which view students choose to take on the presence of troops in Iraq, it is important, especially with the upcoming presidential elections, to understand the implications and effects of the war. ♦

# Local concerts draw large Saratoga audience

The Venue in Los Gatos and the MACLA in San Jose successfully bring music and social life to Silicon Valley

by Megan Lee  
and Mary Mykhaylova

The indie soul was quite apparent at Los Gatos High School's "Venue" March 21 as local bands performed live to cheers and clapping. Senior Vivian Wang produced the show through her production company, Sideways Productions, along with Pin Up Productions.

Senior Neil Shenoï opened the event with several original songs on his acoustic guitar as well as singing. Many students were at the event to support Shenoï as well as Wang in her endeavor to produce her first show.

Other bands included The Pilots Wife from Gilroy, who headlined the concert and kept the audience in awe with their single "On Blast." Razing Alexandria traveled from Vacaville to play and gained new fans with their indie melodies and strong vocals.

Senior Melissa Morton attended the concert and thought the bands were really able to draw the audience into their music.

"I really liked [Razing Alexandria]. They did such an amazing job and I wanted to by their CD," said Morton.

Unfortunately, due to a mishap with an intoxicated girl, the police and an ambulance detracted from the overall atmosphere of the show. Despite the interruption, the concert was ultimately a success.

"It was a lot of work, but I think it turned out well in the end," said Wang. "Everyone in the audience was enjoying the music and having a good time."

## From indie to hardcore

The following evening, senior Mike Vetrone's band, North of the Woods, played at the Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana (MACLA) in downtown San Jose. The show was made up of six San Jose hardcore bands, including Left of Christ, Taste of Blood, Red Fall, North of the Woods, Saryn, Dry Creek Manor and Munich.

Although the event started late, the bands performed well and the MACLA's acoustics helped improve the quality of the performances.

"There were a lot of bands there I hadn't seen in a while and they had really improved," said Vetrone.

"Red Fall always does awesome and Left of Christ were perfect. Left of Christ has been around for about a year, and they have always been great."

Vetrone joined Dry Creek Manor's vocalist for a duet, exciting the crowd for North

**"It was a lot of work but I think it turned out really well in the end. Everyone in the audience was enjoying the music and having a good time."**

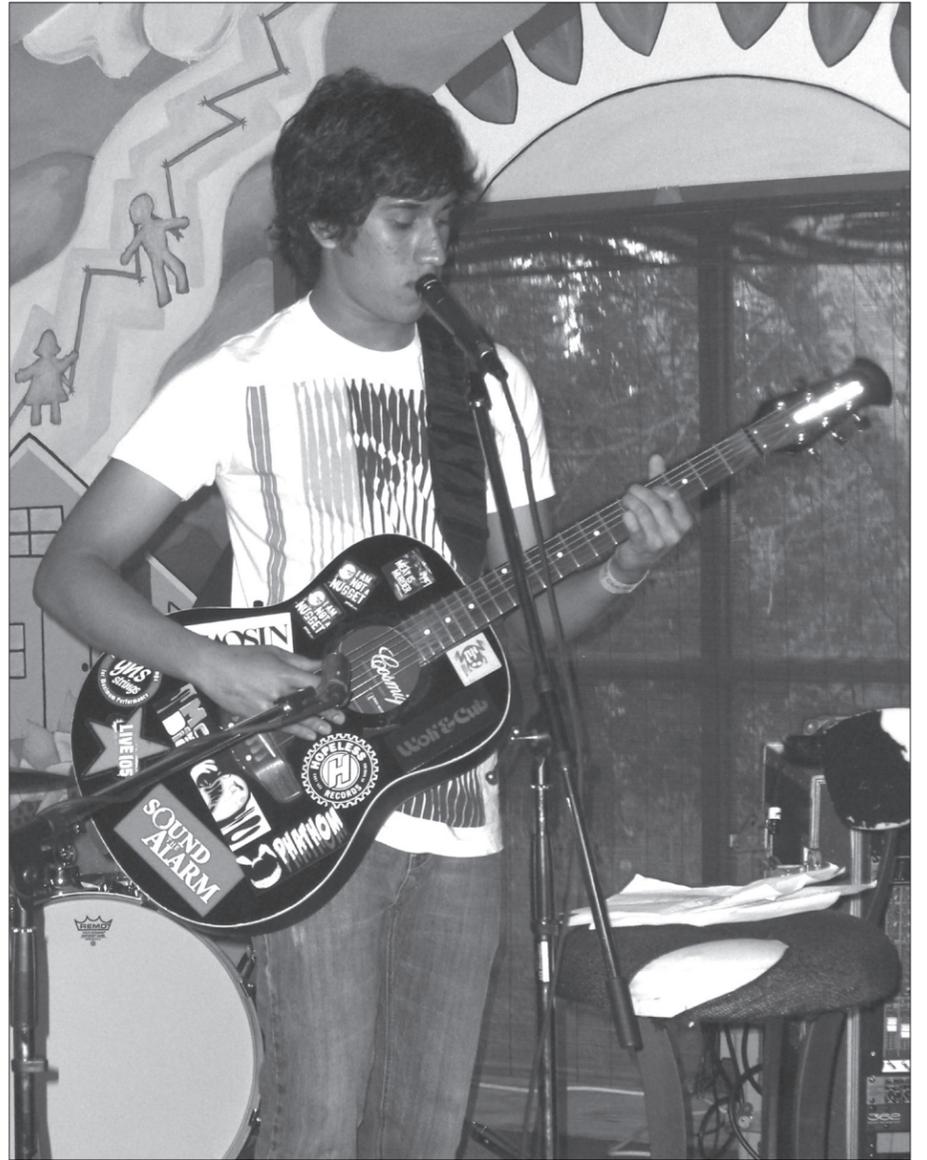
—senior Vivian Wang

of the Woods' performance later in the evening.

North of the Woods is currently working on new songs and planning to record a new album.

"We're trying to improve the quality of their live performances and also trying to book another show as soon as possible," Vetrone said.

All in all, the popularity of music that the Bay Area has produced has greatly increased in the past few years along with a growing interest in the concert scene. The energetic mood of the bands and the audience creates an experience unlike any other, and in such a populated area, such an experience should always be welcome. ♦



Megan Lee

Senior Neil Shenoï, vocalist for his band, belts out the lyrics to one of his original songs during his performance at Los Gatos High School's "Venue" on March 21.

## DOWNLOADS OF THE WEEK



MUSIC

### Foundations Kate Nash

This UK singer gets down to the nitty-gritty in this song about a relationship that is tumbling down. Accompanied only by the keyboard and light drumbeats, her lightly-heart wrenching and cynical voice speaks of life the way it really is.

### 2 Days in Paris

This short movie was not advertised as it should have been—following a French-American couple as they travel through France and encounter awkward situations and interesting people along the way. It is a great comparison between American and French culture.



MOVIE



### Comedy Central Stand-Up

Looking to laugh? Download the Comedy Central Podcasts which cover a wide range of stand-up comedians, on the stage and off. There is a great selection of any type of comedian, and it's free!

—by Megan Lee

## TLC now provides healthy methods to lose weight

Television will no longer be an unhealthy pastime

by Aditi Jayaraman

Have you ever heard a weight-loss guru tell you to eat when you are hungry, eat what you want and enjoy every mouthful? I didn't think so.

TLC's new show, "I Can Make You Thin," urges healthy yet practical eating habits. The show, hosted by British best-selling author Paul McKenna, advocates four clear and easy-to-follow steps, the "Four Golden Rules": 1) to eat when hungry, 2) to eat, not what you think you should eat, but what you want to eat, 3) to eat consciously and 4) to stop eating once full.

Most other shows that promote weight-loss tend to encourage far-fetched habits with foods that are usually expensive, too difficult to make or just nauseating in taste.

TLC's refreshing take on eating habits, however, provides a manageable, more effective regimen for the dieter, thereby appealing to a wider audience. McKenna is highly credible and is considered one of the world's most prominent food gurus. He says the secret to losing weight is not a diet, but a "psychological system" to changing the way one thinks and act around food.

The first episode is titled, "The Secrets of Naturally Thin People," covers new ground as it explores the idea that individuals can eat their favorite foods and still lose pounds. Here, he introduces the "hunger scale," and reveals to his audi-

### THE BIG IDEA | Eating healthy

TLC gives viewers a new idea on how to be healthy eaters and thin without succumbing to harsh diets and dangerous starving techniques.

#### "The Four Golden Rules"

- 1.) Eat when you are hungry.
- 2.) Eat what you want to eat, not what you think you should eat.
- 3.) Eat consciously.
- 4.) Stop eating once full.

ence how unhealthy starving actually is.

Episodes that follow, such as "Busting Your Cravings" and "Overcoming Emotional Eating" relieve the dieter from feeling bound to certain "comfort" foods.

The show gives helpful tips and attainable solutions to problems that many dieters commonly face. Information is insightful, and TLC balances practical guidelines with comprehensive research to deliver an engaging and interesting TV show.

"I Can Make You Thin" airs Sundays at 9 pm on TLC. ♦

# The Scene in San Jose

The growing alternative music scene in the Bay Area has been a phenomenon for the past few years and has been turning local bands into national idols.

## Bands to look for

**Ashes Ashes**  
Alternative/Rock  
San Jose

**A Portrait in Grey**  
Hardcore/Alternative  
San Jose

**Dry Creek Manor**  
Hardcore  
San Jose

**Expose the Flaw**  
Alternative/Hardcore  
Gilroy

**Heavy Heavy Low Low**  
Hardcore/Thrash  
Gilroy

**North of the Woods**  
Hardcore/Death Metal  
San Jose

**The Pilot's Wife**  
Rock/Indie/Ambient  
Gilroy

**Picture Atlantic**  
Rock/Indie/Alternative  
Gilroy

**Revive the Lifeless**  
Hardcore/Death Metal  
Saratoga

—by Megan Lee

## Rock music blossoms in SJ

by Megan Lee  
and Mary Mykhaylova

"Breeee, Breeeee," sings senior and lead vocalist for the hardcore-metal band *North of the Woods* Mike Vetrone at their most recent show at the Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana (MACLA) in downtown San Jose. Vetrone had always been interested in music and wanted to be a part of a band for many years.

"I was in a few bands, but they never really worked," said Vetrone. "One band was pretty big here, but it broke up, so these two guys wanted to start a new band. We jammed and then we clicked."

Vetrone's band was originally named *Kill the Kids*, but the new name boosted their popularity greatly over the past year.

Senior Vivian Wang played a large role in Vetrone's love of the San Jose music scene.

"[Wang] always went to shows and she asked me to come with her to a few. It kind of changed my life," said Vetrone.

There are hundreds of bands in the San Jose area that play many different types of music – from indie ambient music by Gilroy's *The Pilot's Wife* to Vetrone's hardcore *North of the Woods*. There are often hundreds of people from all over Silicon Valley crammed into the small venues who drive to watch their favorite bands for a typically cheap price of \$10 any night of the week.

Sophomore Sarah Raisian has attended local shows for over a year and first gained interest after meeting a local band at the Vans Warped Tour in 2006. They invited her to one of their local shows and after finding out about more bands, she started going more often. She

now usually attends two to three shows a month.

"I love going to shows because I love the energy of the bands when they perform live," said Raisian.

The closest locations that host shows are San Jose Skate, the Venue, the MACLA and Dance Unlimited in Morgan Hill. At the MACLA, attendees are given colored wristbands to see who has paid and who hasn't. Raisian has competitions with friends to see who can keep the wristband on the longest after the show.

"I often have three or four wristbands on my hand and I often keep them on for over a month," Raisian said.

Raisian has become friends with a lot of bands, her closest friends being from *Dry Creek Manor*, *Circus Circus*, *Eskimo Dance Squad* and Saratoga's own *Revive the Lifeless*.

"I have this tradition where I always bake a batch of cookies for a band I'm friends with if they are performing," said Raisian. "I bake a lot of regular cookies and then one really big one."

Raisian also loves photography and often takes pictures at the shows she attends.

"*Dry Creek Manor* loves the pictures I take, so they're going to start paying me pretty soon," said Raisian, who has also been offered the job of band manager for the band.

So next time you're sitting around on a Friday night, log onto *myspace.com*, to find the dates and times of local concerts that play every weekend all throughout the Bay Area. From Gilroy to Saratoga, there are always bands playing.

"Kids always complain 'There's nothing to do in Saratoga,'" said Vetrone. "But just go to a show instead of another movie. People don't really give [the concert scene] a chance, but it would be cool if they did." ♦

## Senior starts own concert production company

by Aditi Jayaraman

Senior Vivian Wang is more than just your avid listener of music. She began attending shows at age 12. At 16, she began her first production company and today she operates Sideways Productions, which books local music shows.

Wang, now 17, has always expressed a love for music, and constantly longed for a way to get more involved in the industry. After attending numerous local concerts, she was inspired to start her own production company.

"To make it in the music industry, you have to have connections," said Wang. "By [attending] tons of shows, I got people to notice me, which helped



WANG

Senior began her own production company, called

Sideways Productions.

get me into the music scene."

Wang and senior Rosie Belpasso started a production company for bands playing in the Bay Area called *Silhouette of Sound* in 2006. The ambitious duo's plans, however, fell through. After a hiatus, Wang would decide to restart her musical

endeavor.

Wang is currently gaining unparalleled musical experience working as an intern for another production company, Pinup Productions, located in San Jose, where she is learning the ropes of the music industry and was encouraged to regenerate her company.

"I've just always had such a passion for music. I figured if it's going to play such a big part in my life, why not just make it my life," said Wang.

Wang, although currently set on majoring in music, will ultimately base her choice of major on how well she does as a production manager.

"If [Sideways Productions] doesn't work out the way I want it to, then I'll declare myself pre-med," said Wang.

"At least I would've [chosen] my own path."

Wang will have to merge her company with another due to legal reasons. Plans to do so are currently undecided. Still, Sideways Productions has booked shows lined up throughout this year, beginning on March 21 at the Venue in Los Gatos, for which senior Neil Shenoj opened. The company will also hold shows on May 2 and July 7, but the bands that will be playing are still tentative.

"When you love something so much, like I love music, you don't doubt it, and you know right away that it's your passion," said Wang. "You feel it in your mind, your body and your heart." ♦

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BASEBALL

# Team struggles to recover from loss of star pitcher



Pro Image Studios

Junior Joey Avery took over starting pitcher after an injury sidelined senior Myles Hornberger. The team has had trouble winning since losing Hornberger.

by Guy Quanrud

Life without senior pitcher Myles Hornberger has not gone well for the baseball team. Still winless since Hornberger's injury March 13, the boys continue to struggle.

"Everybody is going to need to step up," said junior Joey Avery. "We don't have that insurance anymore, so it's going to take a real team effort to win."

As for Hornberger, who broke his humerus and dislocated his shoulder, he had a successful surgery and will start rehab soon. He still hopes to continue playing baseball in college as a walk-on.

"Right now my shoulder is really tight," said Hornberger. "They put a metal plate in my arm, so my rehab is going slowly. It might go as long as April next year."

### 3/27 Saratoga 11, Mountain View 12

The Falcons pulled ahead briefly in the sixth inning, but that was all she wrote as Saratoga lost the second of back-to-back games with Mountain View. The team scored runs with every inning but could not get the revenge victory that they hoped for.

After only managing four runs in their previous match up, Saratoga surged for 11 runs on 12 hits. Sophomore Grant Thomas was a perfect four-for-four.

Pitching for the team were juniors Christian Biedermen starting and Alex Wokas in relief. Biedermen started off well, but began to fade with fatigue until Wokas and took over.

"We played a lot better and it was a completely better game," said junior outfielder Matt Brading. "Everyone was hitting, and it just came down to some tough calls and a lot of rallies only to fall

behind again."

The Falcons came all the way back to have a one-run lead in the top of the sixth, only to have it taken it back by Mountain View, who barely hung on.

### 3/25 Saratoga 4, Mountain View 14

The game was close initially, but ended in a blowout as Mountain View routed the Falcons 14-4. For up to four innings of play, Saratoga was only down by one, but errors and singles eventually propelled Mountain View to victory.

Early on, it appeared that the Saratoga players were heading toward another loss, falling behind by four runs after three innings.

The team bounced back with three runs thanks to a home run from junior centerfielder Marcus Lefton in the fourth inning, but from then on, Mountain View team dominated.

In the fifth inning, Mountain View hit hard consecutive hits expanded their lead to 6-3. In their half of the inning, The Falcons had a one-out, bases loaded situation, but two consecutive strikeouts ending their scoring opportunity.

Mountain View continued their surge by tallying in three more runs using the "hit and run" strategy. Their strategy was perfect as it seemed every time a base runner stole bases, batters would knock them home with groundball singles.

After a quick three outs for Saratoga in the sixth inning, Mountain View raised their game another notch in the top of the seventh. Once again, their "hit and run" strategy played to their advantage as singles and steals contributed to a five run streak.

Saratoga's final inning included a run-scoring double by Lefton, but that was not enough to catch Mountain View. ♦

BOYS' TENNIS

## Defining dominance: team remains unbeatable

by Kelly Lamble  
and Mika Padmanabhan

This year's boys' varsity tennis team has proved unstoppable. As of March 28, they remain undefeated.

Especially dominant have been the team's singles players. In fact, No. 1 singles player John Lamble is leading the impressive squad with an impressive undefeated record and has not even dropped a set.

Lamble, who has been playing since he was 5 years old, is currently ranked 55th in the nation in the under 18's division at only 15 years old. His consistent effort and work ethic are an inspiration to the team.

Most recently, Lamble and the rest of the Falcons blazed through one of their major CCS rivals, Sacred Heart Preparatory. Lamble defeated senior Erik Blumenkrantz, who will be playing tennis for Yale next year, 6-3, 6-4.

No. 2 singles player freshman Nikhil Jayashankar also came through with an important victory, beating senior Jamie

Hutter, who has been struggling with injuries but was recruited to play for Stanford next year. No. 3 and 4 singles players sophomores Eric Gast and Michael McGinnis, respectively, won as well, shutting out the singles.

Doubles didn't fare as well, however, as the No. 1 and No. 3 doubles' teams fell 6-4, 6-0, and 6-0, 6-2, respectively.

Although the Falcons handled Sacred Heart, they surprisingly had some difficulty with Gunn High on March 26. They squeaked the match out to come up with a 4-3 victory.

"I guess we sort of overlooked them and were unprepared to face a pretty good team," said McGinnis. "We came out and didn't play so well, and they did."

The deciding match came down to the No. 2 doubles team of sophomores Aditya Joshi and Andrew Hsieh in three clinching sets, 7-5, 2-6, 6-2. The other victories included McGinnis and Gast with scores of 6-1, 6-3 and 6-4, 6-0, respectively, and Lamble with a 6-1, 6-3 win.

The boys hope to extend their dominance over Palo Alto April 14. ♦

BOYS' VOLLEYBALL

## Seniors lead team to wins

by Ketaki Shriram

Boys' volleyball is kicking it up a notch for the second half of their season, with easy wins and good overall performance against other schools in the De Anza league.

"We're working on our weaknesses and filling in for our losses because some people are injured," said junior Shawyon Malek.

Seniors Kent Johnson and Mike Vetrone have been injured for most of the season; Johnson is able to play for one or two games, while Vetrone continues to struggle with a shoulder injury.

The team has come together during the latter half of the season, improving their on-court teamwork. This bonding has paid off as the Falcons have won their past three matches, even breaking a three-year losing streak against Mountain View.

### 3/26 Saratoga 3, Santa Clara 0

In another easy league win, Saratoga beat the Santa Clara Bruins in three straight games, putting the team at a 8-4 season record and a SVCALs record. Seniors Doug Sabella and Andy Capek led

the team with a combined 23 kills.

### 3/20 Saratoga 3, Mountain View 0

The Falcons dominated over Mountain View for the first win over the Toros in three years. After good blocks by Capek and eight consecutive points served by Malek, the team won 25-21. Following the win, Saratoga ranked second to the reigning league champ Homestead. The additional and unexpected highlight to this match came when the team learned that TV20 had filmed it. The match was re-played March 23rd at on cable 13.

### 3/16 Willow Glen Tournament

At one of its larger tournaments of the season, the team pulled out several wins and reached the semifinals. Led by Capek, who had 26 kills and five blocks during the course of the tournament, the team crushed their opposition. This performance, combined with the stellar play of Vetrone and Sabella, has given Saratoga confidence for upcoming matches.

If this current Falcon winning streak continues, the league may have new champions at the end of the year. ♦

## HEINRICH | Administration searches for teacher-coach

continued from p. 1

[firing Heinrich] was a really foolish decision no matter what the cause was," said Spencer. "I think [the administration is] making a huge mistake because it's coming right after a year where we got to the semifinals of CCS and right in the year where we're moving up into one of the

hardest leagues in the region."

Spencer also said that the administration's decision of letting Heinrich go was a poor one because Heinrich was a great mentor on as well as off the football field.

"Coach Heinrich had the greatest personality you could ask for in a coach," said Spencer. "You could talk to him about stuff

other than football and he'd give you advice and help you out with whatever you needed. It was like you had a brother on the team and he was coaching."

Heinrich said that even if he is able to find another coaching job in the near future, he will miss all of his players and will never forget his time and experience at Saratoga High.

"Being involved with Saratoga High School over the 11 to 12 years I was there has changed me forever," said Heinrich in an e-mail. "Being aligned with these young men at such a wonderful period in their lives is a blessing and I am a better man for it. It is a special place and I will miss it very much. I love our kids, always have and always will." ♦

## TRACK AND FIELD

## Early success leads to CCS opportunities

by Sophia Cooper

**P**R: running slang for a personal record.

Typically, PRs occur when athletes are gearing up for their end-of-season finishes. This year, however, the PRs have been rolling in at the meets, including the Hampton-Phillips meet at San Jose City College on March 29.

The boys ran strong, starting with junior Alan Menezes who placed seventh in the 1600m at 4:29.44, a tie for his PR. In the 400m, senior Mike Marshall broke through the epic 50-second barrier in an outstanding 49.48. Junior Kian Banks also turned in an impressive performance, taking second in the 800m with a PR of 1:58.17. Banks, Marshall and Menezes later teamed up with junior Tim Yen to race to a third place finish in the 4x400m relay with a time of 3:31.76. The team qualified for the Stanford Invitational tomorrow.

"The boys' 4x400m team was one of the most exciting ones because

that's four guys working together and [they] ran the fastest time all year," said head coach Peter Jordan. "They're probably pretty high up on the top 10 in CCS."

In one of the first races of the day, junior Katie Nast placed second in the 1600m race at 5:21.48. Senior Nicole Sabes similarly placed second in the 800m with 2:19.89. Juniors Katie and Claire Marsh and seniors Nicole and Rachel Sabes took third in the 4x100m race in 51.26 and second in the 4x400m in 4:02.80.

Several top Falcon runners were missing from the Hampton-Phillips meet due to Frosh-Soph Top 8, which took place on March 28. Wai qualified for the CCS Top 8 meet in the 1600m with a seventh place finish and time of 5:32.07.

The Falcons' PR streak carried on from the March 27 meet against Fremont.

The girls' 4x100m relay team taking first place. Nast, N. Sabes and senior

Katrin Cooper finished first, second and third, respectively, in the 1600m. Menezes came in a close second in the 1600m, followed by senior Will Perera in third.

Senior Walter Lam placed first in the 110m high hurdles. Junior Katie Gasik and senior Anna Souskova placed first and second, respectively, in both the 100m and the 300m hurdles.

R. Sabes won the 800m, and sophomore Jordan Leonard placed third. In the boys' 800m race, Banks ran to a strong first place finish with junior Michael Beam in third.

Both 4x400m relays teams won, with Ashley Cole filling for C. Marsh.

PRs started at the West Valley Relays March 22.

The races started off strong with Lam placing sixth in the 400m hurdles at 60.54 seconds, seven seconds faster than his previous PR. Banks raced to a sixth place

finish in the 1500m in 4:14.63 and later placed eighth with 2:01.74 in the 800m, followed closely by fellow Menezes who finished 11th at 2:02.94. Both ran

**"Winning is fun, but improvement is really the best thing."**

—head coach Peter Jordan

PRs.

Wai finished 11th in the 1500m in 5:14.92. Nast ran to a third place finish in the 3000m in 10:46.67. N. Sabes led the pack with an amazing first place in the 800m and a PR of 2:18.35.

Cole placed seventh in the triple jump by jumping 31'-1.5". State-ranked high jumper and defending CCS champion junior Kiersten Dolbec jumped her way to second place with 5'-6".

Just two days before West Valley Relays, the Falcons defeated the Santa Clara Bruins at home in their third dual meet of the season.

So far, the varsity girls are undefeated with a record of 4-0.

"Winning is fun, but improvement is really the best thing," said Jordan. "People are running their fastest, jumping their highest this early in the season. It's exciting. There's no telling how far we will go." ♦



Pro Image Studios

Junior Ashley Cole triple jumped at the West Valley relays and placed seventh overall.

## BADMINTON

## Team falters trying to extend win streak

by Tiffany Tseng  
and Jocelyn Ye

**A**fter a solid victory over Palo Alto High School on March 13, the varsity badminton team has struggled in subsequent games against other schools in the league.

The team played Monta Vista, one of their strongest opponents in league, on March 25, but lost 9-21.

The doubles team of seniors David Chock and Kevin Chiang were the only varsity No. 1 players to win their match. This severely hurt the team's overall score.

"Their varsity one players were just too strong for us," said No. 2 varsity doubles player junior Chris Sirivoranankul. "We couldn't really do anything about it."

The Falcons entered an away game at Gunn High on March 20 with high hopes but emerged with a disappointing score of 10-20.

While several players were able to win their matches, the losses of the majority of the key matches dealt a great blow to the whole team.

"[Assistant coach Ben Cobarrubias] and I had high expectations going into the game," said coach Peter Chen. "We thought that the team had a really good

chance of winning. We should have won a lot of the games that we lost. Unfortunately, we just weren't playing that well in general."

Two days earlier, the team played a home game against Wilcox and managed to win 16-14. Many of the matches were close, with the Falcons making use of their ample endurance training to win.

"It was such a close game," said Sirivoranankul. "I think it's a really good thing that we had so much conditioning in practices before the game. It helped us maintain focus."

Chen hopes that extra conditioning and more disciplined practice will improve the team's general endurance and stamina.

Because these factors seem most important, and physical fitness is pivotal to the team's success, running exercises have been included in the practices.

"The team gets tired too easily," said Chen. "They need to stay focused and be at top performance in order the win their games."

As of the March 25 game, the Falcon's league record is 2-2.

The Falcons played archrival Lynbrook yesterday, but results were unable to be published due to printing deadlines. ♦

## GOLF

## Win gives Falcons chance at top record, CCS berth

Team stands second to Los Gatos in De Anza League

by Patrick Chang

**A**s the April 29-30 league tournament draws closer, it remains unclear if the Falcons will be able to compete as a team for a spot in CCS this year. Saratoga currently stands at 6-2 with losses to Los Gatos and Monta Vista. The team is ranked at second in the De Anza League behind its rival Wildcats.

The Falcons faced off with Los Gatos for the second time this Monday, but results could not be printed due to publication deadlines.

Despite the two-stroke loss against Monta Vista, Saratoga triumphed over Lynbrook at the Vikings' home course, Deep Cliff Golf Course, March 17 with a cumulative score of 178-188.

Saratoga's victory over Lynbrook was important, despite their inconsistent record, as they were able to knock Los Gatos out of the lead last season on the same course.

This allowed Saratoga to continue on to the SCVAL League tournament in a three-way tie with Los Gatos and Monta Vista.

No. 3 golfer freshman Andrew Cho was the low scorer of the day, posting a 32 while the No. 1 and No. 2 golfers, juniors Stephen Hoffman and JB Lee, posted

scores of 34 and 33, respectively.

"I think that these lower scores are boosting the team's confidence," said Lee. "We have been progressively performing better both as individuals and as a team."

Following its victory against Lynbrook, the Falcons sealed a shaky victory against Milpitas March 26 at Summit Pointe Golf Club with a score of 231-266.

The team performed far below par, with high scores due to a combination of high winds on the course and aerated greens.

No. 2 golfer Lee posted 48 after having a tough time with the punched greens, making many uncharacteristic three-putts.

No. 3 and No. 4 golfers Cho and senior Patrick Chang both found themselves taking two provisional shots off of the fairway on separate holes due to the high winds that pushed their balls out of bounds. The two posted scores of 47 and 49, respectively.

"Even though I was making square shots off of the fairway, I found myself out of bounds, twice," said Cho. "The greens were ridiculously hard, like concrete, and I could barely stick any shots on the green." ♦

SOFTBALL

# Former Cal Bear pitcher gives team pointers

by Tim Tsai  
and Amanda Yi

The softball team had a unique experience on March 24 when professional softball player Christina Thorson, a Cal Bear alumni, attended their practice. Thorson helped the pitchers with their technique and the team played a scrimmage with Thorsen pitching. She also gave the team a pep talk about the mental aspects of the game. Her pitches come in around 60-64 mph and thus only a few players were able to make solid hits off her pitches.

"We used a lot of what Christina taught us in our games this week. She told us to pretend to flush a toilet or pick up some dirt and throw it away after we made an error," said junior Satomi Ishikawa. "It really helped us move on from our mistakes."

Also affecting the team's play was the "Every Fifteen Minutes" program, which proved to have a much greater effect on students than just their views toward drinking and driving. The Falcons were missing junior starting shortstop Laura Ruddy, who participated in the program, during their league game against the

Santa Clara Bruins.

"Santa Clara was definitely a beatable team, but we were emotionally out of the game because of Laura's participation in 'Every Fifteen Minutes,'" said Ishikawa.

The team, who is 2-2 in the regular season as of March 27, was unable to capitalize on a tremendous double play in the early part of the game and unfortunately lost 7-14.

Absences of key players also affected Saratoga in their league game versus Cupertino on March 27. Senior centerfielder Erica Baba, senior third baseman Jackie Gragnola and sophomore infielder Nicole Gragnola all missed the home game against Cupertino because of a volleyball tournament. The Falcons sorely missed the power hitting of Baba and J. Gragnola, and thus crashed to a 2-14 loss.

"We did not play bad individually, but later we collapsed. Our plays wouldn't connect, and we didn't play as a team," said Ishikawa.

Due to publication deadlines, *The Falcon* was not able to publish the results of the team's next two games, which were at home on April 1 against Palo Alto and April 3 against Wilcox. ♦



Pro Image Studios

Junior Laura Ruddy pivots to field a ball during the March 20 game versus Gunn.

ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

## Senior competes in triathlon

by Kelly Lamble

As the weather gets warmer, many students are cooped up inside, worrying about AP tests and the growing pile of schoolwork beside them. While these unlucky students merely see the sun through the window, senior Will Perera is outside enjoying it.

Perera, who is on both the track and swim teams, ran the Diablo Man Triathlon March 16 in Danville. The 11.75-mile course wandered throughout scenic Mount Diablo and included a .25-mile swim, a 9.25-mile bike ride and 2.25-mile run up a 3,000-foot mountain.

"I've been thinking about [doing a triathlon] for a long time because I thought it looked really fun, said Perera. "It looked like a cool sport. It looked like an extreme sport and I'm an extreme person."

Perera placed seventh overall out of 53 men and first in his age division with a time of 1:25:52.

"I wasn't that tired, but it felt like a great accomplishment to get out there and do it," said Perera. "It was something I always wanted to do but just never got around to."

This was the triathlon's first year and Perera became the first person ever to finish the course.

"I was in the first heat and I placed first in my heat, so I was the original person to complete the course," said Perera.

Perera didn't explicitly train for the triathlon, but his swim and track workouts prepared him for the grueling race.

"I usually run by myself most days then go swim," said Perera. "I get all my homework done during school, then work out in the afternoons."

Perera plans to compete in the Windman Olympic Triathlon in Los Banos on April 13.

"I got a new hobby, so this is something I'll pursue through college," said Perera. ♦



Brittany Judoprasertijo

Senior Will Perera recently competed in his first triathlon, where he ran 2.25 miles after a 9.25-mile bike ride and .25-mile swim.

SWIMMING

## Coaching, lineup changes hurt team

by Audrey Yang

With new coaches this season, the swim team has undergone a lot of startling changes, but even further changes awaited the Falcons with an internal coaching swap.

Coach Cristin Reichmuth, who initially started out coaching the entirety of the JV team, took up coaching all the girls on the team while coach Christian Bonner, who instructed the varsity team at the beginning of the season, is now coaching the male swimmers.

"The two coaches are both really good, but they have completely different methods," said senior Kimi Hosseinian. "[Reichmuth] is more about making us work our butts off with really hard, fast-paced sets while [Bonner] has short, efficient sets that really focus on stroke-work."

But despite these sudden changes in coaching styles, the team hopes to use the varying methods to their advantage.

"It's good to have two coaches who have different approaches to swimming," said senior Alison Wu. "This way, we're able to have more opinions on how to improve our strokes."

Along with the new coaches comes a new responsibility for the team itself: organizing the swimmer line-up for meets.

Throughout previous years, former coach Kristen Thomson dealt with this task, but due to the unfamiliarity that new coaches often face with such a large number of swimmers, organizing the line-up has fallen upon veteran members of the team.

"This year, we have a lot of say in our line-up," said Hosseinian. "We get to change it up for every meet, which eventually allows everyone to swim the events they want to swim."

Even with all the new changes this year regarding coaching and line-up, the team still hopes to succeed throughout the season.

"Change is good," said Wu. "I'm sure we'll be able to use it all to our advantage."

3/15 Saratoga 137, Monta Vista 213

The team dealt with last-minute changes to line-up, which complicated the start of the meet.

"No one was sure of what they were swimming, so it was a bit confusing to begin with," said Wu. "Even minutes before the meet [was to start], we were finding mistakes within the line-up."

The team managed to fix the errors and successfully finish the meet without any other complications.

"Overall, I don't think the line-up issue affected our team's ability," said Wu.

The varsity boys dominated the 200-yard freestyle where senior Ryan Hinshaw placed first with a time of 1:48.71, freshman Adam Hinshaw took second at 1:48.80 and junior Matt Murray placed third in 1:50.59.

The Hinshaw brothers later swept the 500-yard freestyle event. Junior Ben Hinshaw took first with a leading time of 4:44.47, A. Hinshaw placed second at 4:47.81 and R. Hinshaw came in third in 5:02.83.

On the girls' team, senior Hayes Hyde placed first in both 200-yard freestyle and 100-yard butterfly events with times of 2:00.98 and 59.89 respectively. Sophomore Lauren Opatrny also won the 200-yard individual medley event in 2:09.92.

Despite individual wins, the team still lost overall. The Falcons competed against Lynbrook last Friday, but due to printing deadlines, results could not be reported. ♦

# Superstar Comparisons

How Saratoga athletes match up to some of the best-known stars in their sports

Photo illustrations by Kelly Lamble, Guy Quanrud and Alex Sclavos

## Reaching new heights

Nielson follows volleyball ace's footsteps

by Alex Sclavos and Kelly Lamble

Saratoga is a small town that cannot boast of many outstanding athletes. Three-time world champion volleyball player and Saratoga native Kerri Walsh is the exception.

The lanky 6'3" blonde has been hailed as the best women's beach volleyball player ever. This year, Saratoga got its own force to be reckoned with in the form of 5'10" freshman Hanna Nielson. Both towering blondes have learned to use their height to dominate the court.

Like Walsh, who led the 2000 U.S. Olympic team to a fourth place finish in Sydney, Nielson plays right side.

The two also share similar strengths: an intuition of where the ball is going and where it needs to be hit.

"When I hit, most of the time I know where the block will be

so I don't hit into the block," said Nielson.

Before Walsh jumped headfirst into her volleyball career, she dabbled in other sports. In an interview with *USA Today*, Walsh said if she could play any Olympic sport other than volleyball, she would choose basketball, her second-strongest sport. Similarly, Nielson made the varsity basketball team this year and made first team All League as well as being a key contributor to their CCS run.

Nielson was the only freshman to make the Saratoga varsity volleyball team this year and was even able to secure a starting spot. Walsh was also a standout on her Archbishop Mitty team for all four years. Nielson is already accruing awards—she was named Freshman of the Year for the DeAnza League.

"[Nielson] is really consistent," said volleyball teammate sophomore Chelsea Sabella. "She's our go-to person under pressure." ♦



Hanna Nielson vs. Kerri Walsh



Mat Spencer vs. Reggie Bush

## Running fast with Bush

JUNIOR'S SPEED ECHOES RUNNING BACK'S BRILLIANCE

by Guy Quanrud

Arguably one of the most entertaining professional running backs of his generation, USC legend and current New Orleans Saint running back Reggie Bush sprints, dodges and spins by defenders. On our own Benny Pierce field, junior Mat Spencer, though lacking the superstar's speed and strength, exhibits a style comparable to the great runner.

Although both Bush and Spencer are smaller than most running backs, they elude their opponents with trick moves and quickness, leaving their opponents in the dust.

"I don't have very much mass on me, so I can't break tackles," said Spencer. "Instead, I do my best with my sense of style of play by avoiding the tackles, doing spin moves, juking, stop juke."

Another key aspect of Bush and Spencer's talent in football is

their receiving games. Both backs line up as receiver at times, hoping to create mismatches against the slower linebackers or nimbler but lighter defensive backs.

"I do move to the slot, so I am more prepared for the catch," said Spencer. "Like Bush, I have had success in my catching. It is a focal point of my game."

While Spencer and Bush can catch and run, their most entertaining performances come when playing special teams, as both backs can be dangerous return players.

Of course, neither running back makes the whole team, but they find themselves cast as a powerful and explosive threat on offense.

"One player only helps to formulate the team. Like Bush on the Saints, I am just a feature of the Saratoga football team," said Spencer. "I'm just one small particle out of one giant molecule."

In comparing styles of play and skill levels, Spencer is the Reggie Bush of the Falcon football field. ♦

## Senior matches Davis in style of play, leadership

by Guy Quanrud and Alex Sclavos

The little general in the Oracle has just met his Saratoga double. The general is Baron Davis. His match is senior Keon Ghafouri. On Saratoga's home court Ghafouri exhibits the skills of the NBA superstar with an exciting style of play and impressive leadership.

Both Ghafouri and Davis are motivated to lead their team, whether by dribbling down the lane or taking the shot, especially clutch ones.

Ghafouri shined this year on a buzzer-beating three against Cupertino, as well as a buzzer three that sent the Milpitas game into overtime, where the Falcons were ultimately victorious. Likewise, Davis has scored many game-winning shots in his basketball career.

"Being the one to make the game winning shot is always exciting," said Ghafouri. "In the end, though, the win is a team effort. I am just a piece of the puzzle."

Davis and Ghafouri both display a certain excitement within their game.

When it comes to Davis, he is one of the most unpredictable and exciting players to watch. His amazing fade away shots often hit nothing but net. Ghafouri's style of play is very similar. His jump is extremely quick and his dribble can drive down the lane.

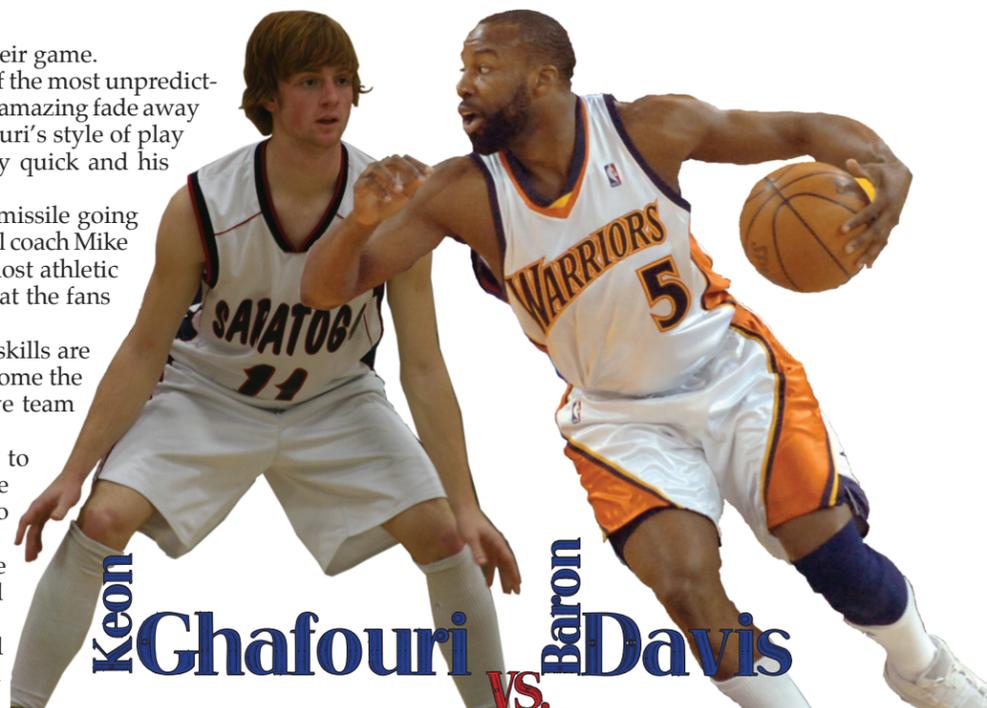
"I would describe [Ghafouri] as a missile going down the court," said varsity basketball coach Mike Davey. "He is absolutely one of the most athletic guys we have had here and I think that the fans enjoy watching him."

Davis's and Ghafouri's basketball skills are so well-developed that they have become the core of their teams as well as effective team leaders.

This year, Ghafouri led his team to the second round of CCS. Meanwhile Davis hopes to drive the Warriors into the playoffs.

"I just do what I can to make sure our team can win the game," said Ghafouri.

In almost every aspect, Davis and Ghafouri both have a similar basketball



Keon Ghafouri vs. Baron Davis