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Sports, p. 17



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March of the Living



all photos courtesy of Rachel Sabes



Four SHS students went on a two-week journey to retrace their Jewish heritage. Top: Seniors Rachel and Nicole Sabes, Gabe Essner (not pictured) and junior Hana Pruzansky at the march in Poland. Bottom left: inside of a concentration camp in Poland. Bottom middle: Nicole and Rachel with a Holocaust survivor. Bottom right: path outside a camp, pictured on the right.

Four students connect with their roots by going to Poland, Israel

by Brian Kim

While most students were spending their recent weeks cramming for AP exams, studying for SATs and preparing for CCS qualifiers, four students were halfway around the world searching for a deeper understanding of their Jewish faith.

The students, seniors Gabe Essner, Nicole Sabes and Rachel Sabes and junior Hana Pruzansky joined 10,000 Jewish students across the globe in a life-changing two-week experience called March of the Living. They ventured to Poland and Israel on April 28 to witness the remnants of the Holocaust, and they came back with a stronger sense of identity.

In addition to their absence from school, the Sabes twins made a significant sacrifice by going to March of the

Living. Attending the event meant the twins could not compete with the track and field team in league finals, thus leaving them unable to advance to CCS in their individual events. Their relay teams, however, qualified for CCS with substitute runners. The sisters regained their places on the relay teams upon return.

March of the Living honors Yom Hashoah, or Holocaust Remembrance Day, with a three-kilometer march from Auschwitz to Birkenau, both Nazi-built concentration camps of World War II. The program was created to allow students the opportunity to walk the same path that countless others had been forced to take on the way to their deaths.

The march was not the only highlight of the trip, however. These students met with camp survivors and visited

memorial sites, concentration camps, celebrated Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's 60th Independence Day and more.

The students spent their first days in Poland, a country that had been left in shambles as a result of the Nazi takeover. Isaac Goldstein, an 83-year-old Holocaust survivor, accompanied the students and their small group, known as "the West," on their journey through his hometown. Sharing stories and experiences from his past, Goldstein made the students' trip memorable.

"[Goldstein] was one of the nicest guys I'd ever met," said Rachel. "His stories made the Holocaust seem all the more realistic."

After visiting four of six concentration camps, the students felt emotionally drained. They then rejoined 10,000 others and members of the Israeli Army to silently walk the solemn March of

see MARCH, p. 4

Staff changes announced

McFarlen, Newport retire; Navrides goes to Los Gatos

by Ben Clement
and Alex Sclavos

With the end of the year approaching, many changes are being made in preparation for next year. These include the retirement of assistant principal Gail Wasserman, another English teacher being hired and Child Psychology teacher Jill McFarlen, World History teacher Chuck Newport and guidance office staff member Becky Allen retiring.

The school replaced Wasserman's with guidance counselor Brian Safine, but is still seeking McFarlen's successor.

Teachers announce retirement plans

McFarlen, who has been a teacher at Saratoga High School for 37 years, has decided to retire. She says that leaving will be one of the hardest things she has ever had to do.

"I grew up here," said McFarlen. "I started at 23. It is going to be hard to leave the great staff and students behind."

McFarlen, who began at Saratoga as the home economics teacher, helped found the pre-school, where she now works in conjunction while teaching psychology and child psychology classes.

"She really loves her job and it is going

see STAFF, p. 2

Yowell earns Teacher of the Year award

by Tiffany Tseng
and Jocelyn Ye

A Music Theory teacher and Choir Director Jim Yowell was recently named the District Teacher of the Year for 2008-2009.

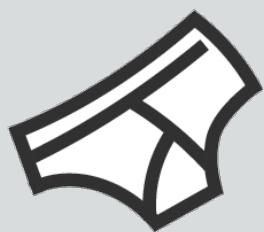
"I feel very fortunate to [have been] selected this year," said Yowell. "All teachers have their own special talents and deserve to be honored. This great recognition is rather humbling and means a lot because other teachers are complimenting you."

Yowell, who has been teaching at Saratoga High for five years, has worked hard to build a positive atmosphere toward students and other staff members. His greatest goal is to encourage his students to return to the music program each year and also consider music as part of their futures.

"I like to have the approval of my students and colleagues," said Yowell. "Otherwise, I never know how I'm doing as a teacher. I want my students to love what they're doing and to be confident."

At the end of each year, the Los Gatos or Saratoga faculty selects one teacher to

see YOWELL, p. 3

NEWS
BRIEFS

'08-'09 commissions chosen

After a week of interviews from May 19-23, all the commissions excluding Events and Benefit have been finalized. Events and Benefit commission will undergo a different selection process.

This year, the selection process changed so that application slips had to be filled out beforehand and students came in on their own to be interviewed. The changes were made to quicken the selection process and make a smoother transition into next year.

ASB members performed interviews in groups of at least two. On May 23, they picked the commission heads and commission members. Another change made was the combination of Spirit and Publicity Commission for next year. ASB evaluated the success of the commissions this year and increased or decreased the number of members for each commission where necessary.

Next year's ASB Board Representative junior Corey Rateau, who played a role in choosing commission members, said, "I think more than anything, it was exciting to see so many new students come out here really enthusiastic and who will inevitably play a huge role in the commissions next year. It looks like things are shaping up for a good year."

Go team stands out in school tournament

On May 17, the SHS Go team placed fourth in the annual High School Go tournament. The highlight of the tournament was freshman Brandon Lin, who scored a perfect 3-0 and beat three opponents rated higher than him. Other Saratoga participants included freshmen Kevin Rahn, sophomore Lawrence Chou, and senior Michael Su.

"I think we are pretty happy with the way we participated," said sophomore Anthony Su, member of the Go team. "Having someone who did so well [like Lin] also makes us feel good."

Played on a 19 by 19 board, Go consists of two players competing against one another by placing white or black stones on vacant intersections. The

Falcon Photo of the Week | by Brittany Judoprasetijo



Spanish teacher Arnaldo Rodriguez springs out and starts dancing after being covered by a drape at the last rally of the year on May 30.

Soundings publishes work from imprisoned graduate

by Andy Tsao

Criminals and literary geniuses usually have nothing in common. These two entities, however, constitute the persona of 1998 alumnus Matt Hahn. Hahn led a life of poor decisions and frequent law breaking, but he created a highly inspirational work that was published in Saratoga High's 2007-2008 Soundings literary magazine.

"It was abnormal; it doesn't fit the bill for usual stories," said Soundings coordinator Mike Tyler.

In his essay, Hahn puts forth his belief that the vision of a utopian society should be the primary motivating force that drives a flawed society toward perfection.

According to Hahn's mother Kathy Davidson, after graduating from Saratoga High, Hahn fell into a cycle of "self-medication" and drug abuse, resulting in burglaries to support his habit. He got arrested, spent time in jail and a local rehabilitation program before being sent to the Department of Corrections' "California Rehabilitation Center" for a year. After his release, he became a full-time student at De Anza College, maintaining an A-average while also working full-time. He was named one of De Anza's top 10 Student Leaders in 2003.

Davidson said Hahn turned once again to drugs after the death of his best friend. During one of the break-ins, however, Hahn discovered pictures of an adult man molesting a young girl. Hahn decided to risk life in prison to help bring the molester to justice. Davidson said the child's mother calls Hahn her daughter's "Guardian Angel," believing that he saved the girl's life. After an outpouring of community support, a plea bargain was reached resulting in his release date of 2013. The case drew national attention.

Hahn is currently in Folsom State Prison (FSP), finishing his BS degree through the Distance Learning Program at Ohio University. He is a full-time apprentice in a welding program and will be doing a fire-training program next year.

"He is eloquent, thankful for his education, remorseful, and has a sense of his future amongst some of the worst conditions that can be faced in America today" said US Government teacher Mike Davey, who submitted the piece to Soundings on Hahn's behalf.

Hahn wrote his article as a response to a prompt given by Davey to his class. According to Davey, his article was one of the best among those that he received.

"Matt is [one of the] most well-read and thoughtful students I've maintained contact with," said Davey. ♦

STAFF | changes for 2009

continued from p. 1

to be almost impossible to replace her spirit," said junior Harriet Russell, a student in McFarlen's child psychology class.

According to assistant principal Karen Hyde, McFarlen has contributed a great deal to students and the school that will never be forgotten.

"She came at time where there were a lot of home economic teachers, which was basically a generation ago," said Hyde. "Most were not able to adapt to the changing times, but she did and that is unique to her."

The administration is currently going through the interview process and has a few potential applicants for her position.

Newport is leaving after 40 years of working at Saratoga High.

"After 40 years, I think it is time to have some fun," joked Newport. "I wouldn't say I will miss the students because that would ruin my reputation."

Over Newport's time here he has taught Government and World Geography, but has mainly stuck with World History. According to History in Film teacher Kim Anzalone, filling Newport's position is not going to be easy.

"He is an icon," said Anzalone. "Every year you expect him to be here and now he won't. The new teacher has some big shoes to fill."

Another staff member who will retire this year is Allen, who started out as a volunteer in 1993 and has worked in the guidance office since 1997.

Allen was in charge of staffing the College and Career Center with parent volunteers as well as training them. She also helped Wasserman with managing and updating registration information and many other tasks.

"I originally started out volunteering in the College and Career Center when my boys attended Saratoga High," said Allen. "At one point, the office was looking for someone who could manage forms and enter them in on the computer. I was familiar with the software, and that's sort of how I started."

The retiring teachers will be missed,

The retiring teachers will be missed, but Wasserman feels the new additions will be appreciated.

but Wasserman feels the new additions will be appreciated.

Another teacher who will be leaving Saratoga High next year is math teacher and department head Mike Navrides, who is leaving to fill an opening at Los Gatos High. He will continue to teach AP Statistics and Algebra 2.

Navrides said he decided to teach at Los Gatos because he feels he is ready to do something different.

In addition, because the statistics program was started only two years ago at Los Gatos, it is not yet as successful as the program at Saratoga High. Navrides hopes to improve the program to meet the needs of the students there.

English class sizes reduced

Next year, the English Department plans to add five more sections after a district decision to decrease class sizes. English Department chair Cathy Head hopes that this will reduce class sizes.

One section will be added to English 10 and two to English 11 Honors to help reduce class sizes and workloads for teachers, so that they can focus more attention on individual students. English Language AP will also have another section. Also, there will be one section added to English 9 classes for students who come in during the summer.

Next year's teaching schedules changed

Not only are teachers retiring, but there are also changes to next year's staff.

"Mrs. Tseng will be increasing one period as well as teaching the English Language Development Class, and Mrs. Battey will be increasing to full time teaching," said Wasserman.

Drama and English teacher Chris Mahle will teach only drama next year. Also, current first-year and AP Biology teacher Bob Kucer will exchange his introductory biology class for Chemistry Honors, a class he previously taught.

The school will be hiring a new English teacher, Ken Nguyen, who teach AP Language and English 10. Nguyen is coming from Leland High School, where he also taught English. ♦

YOWELL | Choir instructor recognized by fellow teachers

continued from p.1

receive this prestigious award, through a series of nominations.

Yowell taught choir at two other high schools, Clovis West school and Acalanes school, before teaching at Saratoga. His interest in choir stems from the influence of his family and grandparents.

"I was greatly influenced by my parents and grandparents because they were all great singers and my grandmother used to be the choir teacher at University of Wisconsin," said Yowell. "When I grew up, my parents,

grandparents, cousins and I all lived in the same house and we all sang so it just seemed natural."

Because Yowell grew up

"Mr. Yowell definitely deserves his award, and he's such a great teacher. He does a good job making everyone feel welcome, and he pushes everyone to do their best."

—junior Chris Rea

singing with his family, he was surprised when his teachers considered him a talented singer and encouraged him to pursue his natural gift.

"Whenever our family went on trips, we would sing in the

car and it just seemed natural to do harmonies so I never thought that it was anything special or unique," said Yowell. "I got great music teachers throughout junior high, high school and college who were patient with me because I was really shy and rarely stood out, but they made me feel like I was loved."

Yowell's students and colleagues feel that the faculty's choice to name him Teacher of the Year was well-founded.

"Mr. Yowell definitely deserves this award, and he's such a great teacher," said junior Chris Rea who takes AP Music Theory. "He does a good job making everyone feel welcome, and he pushes everyone to do their best."

Yowell has offered many opportunities for students to

become involved in the music program. For instance, he conducts four different choir groups as well as the AP Music Theory class.

In addition, he hosts informal groups such as Men's Choir during lunch and holds voice lessons at De Anza College at night.

"I like to see my students extend themselves more," said Yowell. "For example, the musical *West Side Story* was a good testament that students are willing to go beyond themselves into a make-believe world, and that's what I like to see."

Because Yowell believes that students find it easier to learn in a positive atmosphere, he likes to pick inspirational pieces for his students to sing.

YOWELL



Choir director and AP Music Theory teacher Jim Yowell has been teaching at Saratoga High School for 5 years.

"I want them to feel the emotion [of the piece]," said Yowell. "Many of the songs convey strong emotions, such as love, friendship, or hate."

Yowell said the thing he enjoys most about teaching is that it challenges him to be a better person every day and makes his life "more meaningful."

"I didn't always know that I was going to become a teacher," said Yowell. "But I definitely wanted to be like my teachers because I saw such great qualities in them." ♦

FALCONFOCUS



courtesy of Michael Tidd

Freshman Brian Tidd skis down a run during the Junior Olympics in March.

Freshman competitor skis his way to Junior Olympics

by Ben Clement

Freshman Brian Tidd's palms began to sweat in his gloves as he waited for the countdown at the start of the Junior Olympics downhill skiing competition; his face was numb from the cold, constant winds atop Bald Mountain in Idaho. He bent his knees and leaned forward, as he waited for the word for the word.

1...2...3...GO!

With a skillful lunge, he flew out of the start and down the run skillfully maneuvering to the finish.

Tidd, a competitive skier since age 10, qualified for the Junior Olympics this year and competed in the first round of the competition in Idaho in March.

According to Tidd, there were nine qualifying races: Three at Mammoth, three at Squaw, and three at Sugar Bowl. In order to advance to the Junior Olympics, you needed to do well in six of those nine races. Roughly 25 from his age group were chosen.

Despite his many other accomplishments, Tidd holds this one above all the others.

"I think that making the Junior Olympics this year is definitely my biggest accomplishment," said Tidd, "although I would have liked to have advanced further in the competition."

Tidd learned to ski at age 2 and has been training ever since.

"Some of my family friends from Bear Valley started [skiing] and my dad kind

of got me into it, so that's how I started," said Tidd.

Tidd competes in four events: the Slalom, Giant Slalom, "Super G" (Slalom) and Downhill.

"Slalom is really short radius turns where you see people hitting the gates down, the panel-type things we have to go through, and downhill is the one where you see professionals going really fast down the run," explained Tidd.

Tidd has lived at Tahoe every winter since eighth grade so that he can train every day. There he attends The Forest Charter School, where he is able to choose how many classes he takes.

"I take three classes at the school and do the rest as independent study," said Tidd. "There, I ski every morning, go to school in the afternoon and then go home and do my independent study work."

When he is at Tahoe, Tidd participates in a competition roughly every other weekend, either in competitions for his age group or open competitions in which anyone 13 or older can participate. Both of these types of competitions can have anywhere from 50 to 150 participants.

Tidd came back to Saratoga High on May 4 and is waiting to return to training.

"I'm going to a camp this summer at Mt. Hood in Oregon and plan to live in Tahoe again next winter," he said.

Tidd hopes to qualify for the Junior Olympics again next year and aims to qualify for nationals. ♦

Alumnus journeys to African orphanage

by Sophia Cooper
and Annie Lee

For many students, attending a four-year college is the epitome of education. For alumnus Michael Nguyen, however, it just wasn't enough.

Nguyen, currently a freshman at UC San Diego, has decided to take on a greater project during his high school career in order to benefit orphans in Tanzania.

Nguyen will venture to a Tanzanian orphanage this September with fellow class of 2007 alumna Sue Anne Cho.

The pair will be in Tanzania for about 10 weeks, missing the first quarter of their college courses.

Nguyen and Cho will be volunteering for an organization called *One Heart Source*, a community service organization dedicated to helping orphans in Tanzania.

"A lot of people travel to Africa, and when the opportunity came up I just went with it," said Nguyen.

One Heart Source owns 10 acres of

"[My favorite part will be] just to make a difference in one child's life. I want to go there and do some good and come back with new experiences."

—alumnus Michael Nguyen

seniors at Saratoga High to join them in their once-in-a-lifetime Third-World adventure.

"[My favorite part will be] just to make a difference in one child's life," said Nguyen. "I want to go there and do some good and come back with new experiences." ♦

Interested students can contact Michael Nguyen at (408) 621-1259.

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MARCH | Students visit Israel



courtesy of Hana Pruzansky

People from around the world marched through Poland in an annual event to visit past concentration camps and reflect upon the historical importance of past actions that took place in the country.

continued from p. 1

the Living.

On their second to last day, the students witnessed the site of seven tons of human ashes. Pruzansky, shocked by the memorial site, said that the spectacle was intense for all of them.

Despite the somber experience in Poland, the trip brightened up once the students flew to Israel. The excitement provided encouragement for Pruzansky, a first-time participant.

"We met Jews from all over the world, like Argentina and France," said Pruzansky. "It

made me feel really proud."

They had spent their first days on the beach and swimming in the Dead Sea.

One of the more memorable experiences, according to Nicole, was the hike up the summit of Masada, a site atop a large rock plateau of ancient palaces.

On their second to last day, the students made a final march in honor of Israel's Independence Day from Safra Square in Jerusalem to the "Kotel," or Western Wall.

The students spent their last night in Israel at the Mega Event Party filled with singing, dancing and praising. Nicole

felt that the two-week experience taught her a lot about the importance beyond material things, even though it was her and her sister's second time participating. She feels that the experience has something different to offer every year.

The educational program strives to teach students to learn from the past and never allow a horrific event like the Holocaust to occur again. Serving as more of a historical field trip, the students said that this program, with its first-hand experiences of living history, had struck them harder than any classroom textbook ever could. ♦

Business students start courier service

by Tiffany Tung

The Introduction to Business class intends to use the idea of supply and demand, the fundamental basis for business, by fulfilling the demands of the students at Saratoga High have for off-campus foods by creating a "food courier service."

In order to help fund the various trips and guest speakers for the class, which is in its first year, senior Blake Paisley decided to help the class institute the service that provides off campus food for all students and faculty, charging a service fee of \$2 per order.

In order to help fund the class, Paisley decided to institute a service that provides off campus food.

"I came up with [the idea] because I have a freshman brother and his friends always ask me to get them food from off-campus. I thought there was a need here and that we could help fulfill it with some type of program," said Paisley.

For approximately a month, the completely student-run business will offer their services every Tuesday and Thursday.

They offer food from select restaurants, such as In-N-Out, Taco Bell and Chipotle. On Mondays and Wednesdays the participating students from the Introduction to Business class will have sign-up sheets out on the quad where students can order food.

Despite the fact that some restaurants are located almost 20 minutes away from school, Paisley remains confident that students will get their orders on time.

"We're going to call [the restaurants] beforehand so [the order] will be ready for us to pick up and pay for when we get there," said Paisley.

However, every new idea does have its problems. During the first week that they began, customers complained about the lateness of the food arrival as well as mistakes made ordering foods.

These problems have not dampened the spirits of the Introduction to Business students, and they intend to try to raise as much money for their class as possible. ♦

CSF honors sophomores, juniors

*by Tiffany Tseng
and Theresa Yeh*

The California Scholarship Foundation (CSF) Underclassmen Awards Ceremony was hosted in the school cafeteria on May 28. For over 20 years, CSF has hosted this annual event to celebrate a selection of distinguished juniors and sophomores.

CSF began sponsoring the awards because the school already had senior class awards, but there were no events congratulating underclassmen. Each year, the club raises money through bake sales, candy sales and other fundraisers to host the event. However, the awards ceremony has changed significantly throughout the years.

"It used to be a two-three hour ceremony at night, and it was more formal," said Patel. "It's a much smaller event now, held in the morning with breakfast and coffee."

11 juniors and two sophomores were honored with different awards. Each of the awards has a unique title, often named after a famous scholar or college. For each individual award, the department must evaluate which student is best qualified to

receive the honor.

"We sent out the specific criteria for all the awards, which the schools and people sponsor," said Patel. "Teachers pick which junior, or sometimes sophomore, meets the criteria."

Winners of each award are then sent back to the schools or sponsors so they are aware of who won their award.

Although the majority of awards are given to juniors, two sophomores were also honored this year. Maddy Renalds and Rebecca Amato received the Northern CA Youth Leadership award and HOBY Leadership award, respectively. Renalds and Amato were informed of their accomplishment earlier in the year because they were also given the opportunity to attend a conference with students from across the state.

Throughout the years, the CSF Underclassmen Awards have celebrated the deserving underclassmen who have demonstrated positive qualities in the classroom.

"It has nothing to do with grades or GPA," said Patel. "It's just a way of honoring what students do in the classroom and the work that they produce for their teachers." ♦

like sausages," said Anzalone.

Cochrumb goes to the ER

Biology teacher Lisa Cochrumb's school spirit brought her a trip to the emergency room when she became a victim of a dunk-tank incident on April 24, during Spring Fling week.

Cochrumb fell into the tank after a student hit the target. Once inside, she could not figure out how to get out.

When Cochrumb put her body weight on the seat to hoist herself out of the tank, the seat suddenly collapsed and slammed into her face. It hit her glasses which cut her face just below the eye.

After her visit to the hospital, Cochrumb resurfaced with eight stitches and a minor concussion.

"When I came back on Monday, there were all sorts of rumors flying about," said Cochrumb. "[One was that] I was punched in the eye by Mr. Bosco."

Despite her injuries, Cochrumb found a way to look on the bright side. Since her glasses were completely destroyed in the accident, she hopes to get glasses with sparkles to match fellow science teacher Kristen Thompson.

Running to injury

Math teacher Julie Scola injured her calf when she jogged out of her classroom.

"She couldn't walk, so I went over and helped her get back into the classroom. Some teachers came and [Amy] Obenour said that it was probably a strained calf," said junior Kian Banks.

French teacher Kim Bergkamp was running as well when she received a foot injury and hopes to be back on the trails soon.

"Students have expressed concern, and have suggested a break from grammar and homework to speed the recovery," said Bergkamp. ♦

2008 CSF Award Recipients

Rebecca Amato

Hoby Leadership Award

Michael Chen

Bausch and Lomb Honorary Science Award

Sukai Chen

Dartmouth Book Award

Ashley Chou

MIT Leadership Award

Alan Menezes

Rensselaer Medal Winner

Aadrita Mukerji

Yale Book Award

Maddy Renalds

Northern California Youth Leadership Award

Dorey Schranz

Mount Holyoke College Book Award

Rishi Taggarsi

Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony Award in Humanities and Social Sciences

Alina Yang

Wellesley Book Award

Jocelyn Ye

California Mathematics Council Certificate

Jeff Young

Caltech Signature Award

Sarah Zarrin

Harvard Book Award

4 in a row—chess piles up state titles

by Robin Liu

Checkmate! The chess team is once again on top as it won first place for the fourth straight year at the CalChess State Scholastic Championships held May 17-18.

The competition, held at the San Jose Convention Center, had about 1000 participants, eight of whom were from Saratoga High.

Junior Jeff Young tied for first in the tournament. As the co-state champion, he will compete against one other player to determine who will go to the tournament of state high school champions in Dallas this August. Young prepared for the CalChess tournament by playing chess every day.

"I play chess every day online against other people, and I watch professional people in the world play games online," said Young. "I play for maybe an hour or two hours a day."

Seniors Marvin Shu and David Chock, junior Aaron Garg and sophomore Charles Sun all placed within the top 20 individual categories. Shu placed 12th, Sun placed 14th, Garg placed 16th and Chock placed 19th.

They each scored four points in



Young

Junior tied for first in the Cal Chess tournament and will compete with another player to determine who will play in the championships in Dallas.

their six games. The other state champion team members are juniors Avinash Kumar and Alex Lun and freshman Amol Aggarwal.

Kumar received 34th in the high school section. Although he did not place in the top 20, he feels the experience was worth it.

"[The highlight of the whole event] was when I checkmated last year's champion," said Kumar. "Also, the team winning first place was great."

Although he did not place, Aggarwal also enjoyed the experience of competing. "[Being able to compete] was really fun," he said. "I'm definitely going to do it again." ♦



Melody Zhang

Seniors Kristin Gochnauer and James Knight, hosts at Coffee House on May 19, entertain the crowd as the next group prepares to perform.

Campus groups perform to raise end-of-year funds

Spring Swing and Coffee House take place, while Lip Sync canceled due to lack of interest

by Rahul Thakker
and Holden Sparacino

As summer vacation slowly approaches, various groups around the campus are looking to raise money to fund end-of-the-year activities or simply to pay off a debt.

Spring Swing

A new tradition has started at Saratoga High, thanks in part to freshman David Mandell. On May 16, the freshman class held the first annual Spring Swing dance. Mandell said he got the idea for the event after he and his friends started talking about how much fun people had at Jazz Cabaret. Mandell, who was the main coordinator for Spring Swing, planned the date, bought decorations and made arrangements for a DJ.

The dance was supposed to raise funds for the freshmen as well as for Pennies for Patients, but only 40 or so people showed up, limiting the amount of money the class could bring in.

"The turnout wasn't as good as I expected, but I think the people that went had a really good time," said Mandell. "I'd like to find out what people would be attracted to so that the dance would be more successful if it happens again next year."

Coffee House

Coffee House, an annual fundraiser for the drama department, was held on May 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the Little Theatre.

Audience members who attended the event were treated to Starbucks coffee and student performances ranging from monologues to dances.

Entertaining performances, such as junior Eddie Zhang and seniors Nelson MacGowan and Danny Lulu's parody of the popular "Flight of the Concords" as well as a magic show from freshman Jay Lee, made Coffee House a fun time for all.

Senior Kristin Gochnauer, who produced the show, said Coffee House brought a lot of "unfound talent" to light because there were no auditions and anyone could perform, whether they were a part of the drama department or not.

According to Gochnauer, the drama department acquired a debt after the one act play festival, and Coffee House's profit went to ease this debt.

Lip Sync

The senior class intended on hosting Lip Sync on May 22. However, lack of student participation forced senior class president Nikhil Sheel to cancel the event.

"It is always tough to generate interest for this event and was even harder this year because of AP testing," said Sheel. "Therefore, we thought it would be better to incorporate whatever acts we did have into the rally instead."

According to Sheel, the money raised through Lip Sync would have helped the seniors pay for events such as prom and Grad Night. ♦

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HILLARY CLINTON: MISSTEPS DOOMED CHANCES

by Brian Kim

Six months ago, the name "Hillary Clinton" spurred cheers and tears of joy among crowds of hopeful Americans, as many citizens rooted for the first female president of the United States, and her nomination seemed inevitable.

Fast-forward to May and the tide has turned; hope for the candidate has died to a couple of crossed fingers.

Rival democratic candidate Barack Obama is destined to become the nominee to face Republican candidate John McCain in November, bringing up the question whether Clinton played her cards right during this election.

Despite Clinton's seemingly inevitable loss, should she continue to campaign?

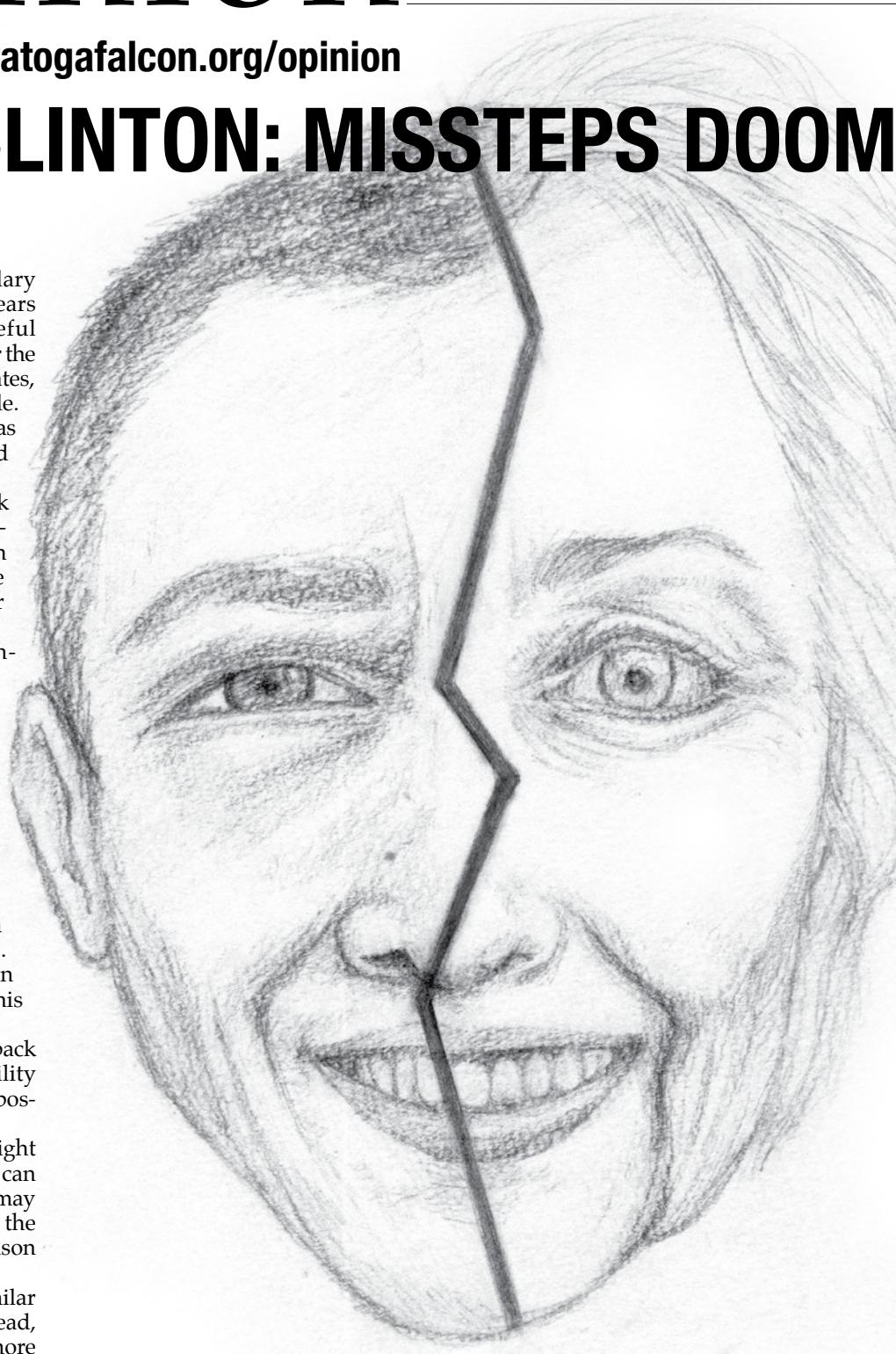
Like former Democratic candidate John Edwards, Clinton should quit wasting funds toward her own loss and encourage voters to finalize their decision between Obama and McCain.

If Clinton remains in the race, it may become too late for her voters to make a firm decision between the more realistic future nominees. Clinton's chances are slim to none in becoming presidential nominee at this point in the race.

Although she's made quite a comeback early on in the election, the possibility of her making another is almost impossible.

Clinton is not in the race for the right reasons. Although she feels that she can still win and shock all of America, she may be deteriorating Obama's chance at the big win, and her selfish nature is poison for the election.

Obama's policies are relatively similar to hers, and if McCain takes office instead, the country would have to wait four more



Lisa Clark

years to elect a democrat.

From the beginning the Obama campaign held strong to the one thing people wanted most: change. The first mistake Clinton made was that she believed the American people desired experience, when, in fact, most believe that America is going in the wrong direction. Her miscalculation led to a fall Clinton from which was not able to pick herself up.

Recently, Clinton openly stated that one of the main reasons for the continuation of her campaign is the potential assassination of Obama, comparing him to the 1968 presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy, who was gunned down after his win in the June California Primaries. Although she later apologized, Clinton's out-of-line statement is not, in any way, appropriate in this election, nor is it a positive outlook for voters.

Significantly, Obama has become a more personable candidate than Clinton. Sure, Clinton's tears caught on and an emotional movement swept audiences off their feet, but that's as close as Clinton gets to her voters.

Point blank, Obama knows how to show his fun side, which appeals to America. His knowledge of what the people want is one of the reasons why voters can hope that popular interest will trump the government.

Clinton's hands are full and she should drop everything before her reputation dies completely. Every day counts for Clinton.

As long as the candidate plans on returning to the Senate, she should quit and exit gracefully rather than destroy her and her husband's legacy. Any more stalling will only result in regrettable shame for the Clinton family. ♦

Why 'The Falcon' isn't 'The Paper'



Dorey Schranz

Hilariously Hungarian

Ever since MTV's new reality show "The Paper" debuted this April, I've become quite disenchanted with our own school newspaper.

For anyone who has been living under a rock and happened to miss the first few episodes (which have only been playing 24-7 since the series premiered), the show chronicles the lives of the editors of *The Circuit*, the school newspaper of Cypress Bay High School in Florida.

Like most reality shows, "The Paper" is at no loss for drama. In the first episode alone, half the staff decided to start a revolt, all promising not to listen to Amanda, the annoyingly bubbly copy-editor who believes "a purple edit is a happy edit" and to whom the advisor had given the coveted position of editor-in-chief.

It's things like this that prove to me our paper will never be cool enough to be televised. There were no attempted section editor coups to overthrow next year's editors-in-chief, and the only death threat was half-hearted at best. Boring.

On the second episode, the positions for the next year were decided. It was time to get down to some good old-fashioned staff bonding. How do they accomplish this? An ice-cream social, of course (courtesy of Amanda).

Normally this would be lame, except

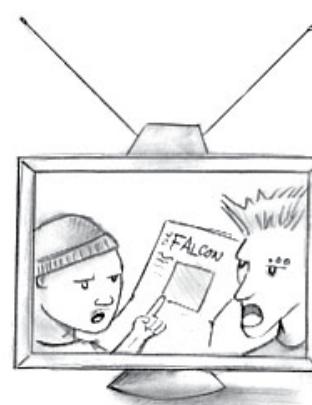
MTV found a way to make even the most low-key event a dramatic episode. The "cool" half of the staff (basically all the seniors except Amanda) ditched the festivities and went to Laser Quest. After our last staff bonding event, which was a dinner at BJ's, (much cooler than an ice-cream social), people also went and had their own adventure... at the library... studying for SATs. Yep. That's Saratoga.

In the sixth episode, the meek advisor, who clearly got more than she was expecting with this group, had to hold a meeting to address the grievances over the humor column. Dan, who had been promised the opportunity to write the column for the first two issues, had unwittingly allowed Amanda to steal the column when she asked if she could write about Halloween. He was clearly not in his right mind when he agreed, for Amanda had called him early on a Sunday morning. By waking him up from a dream (probably about Amanda impaled by her purple pens), she was able to swoop in and steal the precious story.

Actually, I plan to employ a similar tactic against my editors. Maybe if I call Michael at four in the morning and force him to edit this, he will sign off in only one draft. Probably won't work though, since Michael (like many species of bats) is awake all night.

To compete with "The Paper," we need to make our newspaper more exciting by increasing the rivalries between staffs. I for one think a fight to the death between the two editors-in-chief

Drama in The Saratoga Falcon



Oh my God, the picture's off by a pica!

—by Nathan Kim

would make things very interesting.

We could also try to incite a student riot by printing false information. A story on Aeries being shut down forever would probably lead to the destruction of (at the very least) the math wing.

Alas, all these riots might lead to a drop in our school's API score, which we all know would be the end of the world...

Maybe we should just own up to the fact that all in all, the most exciting things that happen in our J-Room usually involve a printer jam and, unfortunately, even MTV's audience won't watch that.

If we ever want to be on a future season of "The Paper," *The Falcon* is going to have to do some real work on adding to the drama. ♦

TOPTEN

THINGS TO DO OVER THE SUMMER

- 10 Get a job at Jamba Juice and create some new flavors.
- 9 Eat as many popsicles as you can and see if your skin changes color.
- 8 Go skinny dipping with your worst enemy so they will never talk to you again.
- 7 When you run out of money, go to Costco and eat a lunch of free samples.
- 6 Create a lemonade stand monopoly using the knowledge you gained from AP U.S. History.
- 5 Have a bonfire and burn all your schoolwork.
- 4 Go stand in the window of an SAT class and make fun of all your friends.
- 3 Go pool-hopping in the middle of the night.
- 2 Hide in the freezer at Safeway and pop out to scare someone.
- 1 Cut holes down the sides of your pants and get a polka-dotted tan.

—by Annie Lee

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.

MISSION STATEMENT

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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Saratoga Falcon welcomes all signed letters of opinion, which are subject to editing for length, accuracy and grammar. Please send them to editor@saratogafalcon.org. For ad information, phone (408) 867-3411, ext. 222.

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Myanmar crisis requires foreign aid

In recent weeks, Southeast Asia has been rocked by two calamitous natural disasters. A 7.9 magnitude earthquake struck Chengdu, the capital of the Sichuan province of China, on May 12, destroying the province and even shaking buildings in Beijing 932 miles away. Just eight days before, a cyclone struck Myanmar, previously known as Burma.

Although both events have left thousands devastated, the earthquake in China has dominated the news. While this is largely due to the military junta's stranglehold on foreign media entering Myanmar, this oppressive dominion over news flow should

provide all the more reason for people to try and help in Myanmar.

China has vast resources and is better equipped to handle the disaster.

The government would be able to produce aid for displaced individuals. On the other hand, the military dictatorship in Myanmar needs all the help it can get in bringing food, clean water, and shelter.

Burmese exiles worry that the country's dismal political record will prevent aid from being sent. Because Myanmar's

history is saturated with oppressive military regimes and human rights violations, America has refused to help the nation.

Though the junta has recently agreed to allow international aid past its borders, the UN estimates that only 25 percent of the storm's 2.4 million victims have been reached. Despite this act, many countries are reluctant to send aid to Myanmar because they feel that by funneling money into a military dictatorship, they are propping up a corrupt and abusive government.

World powers should assist the individuals whose lives have been altered by the tragedy. Independent organizations are sending valuable resources to help the rebuilding process, but they can never hope to match the relief that can be provided by the U.S. or other nations. ♦

STAFF EDITORIAL Opinion of *The Falcon* editorial board



Aadrita Mukerji

Bear with me...

I've never been much good at goodbyes. When I left Valley Catholic Middle School at age 12, a grand total of eight people knew I was moving to California. When changing schools in the middle of fifth grade, I told my classmates about the move on the day it happened. The funny thing is, I never remember leaving. Saratoga High is my eighth school, and somehow I can't remember my last day at any of the other seven. But something tells me I'll remember this one.

Let provide some context for this column before moving on: My family is moving to London—England, not Texas—this summer, and I'm going to spend my last year of high school at the American School there instead of as a senior at Saratoga High. It's a move we agonized over for ages (and ages and ages), and as much as I hate what's happening, I can at least understand my parents' reasoning—so you can stop worrying, Mom and Dad; I'm okay. Eventually, I think I'll see the merit in this move and may even be grateful for it; I'm just not quite there yet.

But then I think about everything

I'm leaving, everyone I'm leaving, and I'll admit I get more than a little choked up. I won't—my fingers are stalling as I type this, as if they can change the truth by refusing to put it in print—I won't get to be editor-in-chief of *The Falcon* next year. This paper has been my bright spot throughout high school; the day I was named next year's editor-in-chief was one of the happiest of my life, and the thought that I can't be a part of the newspaper next year physically hurts.

I wish the best of luck to next year's editors, Michael Chen and Dorey Schranz (who will be taking my place). People say some thoughts are the stuff of dreams; this is the staff of dreams. Next year, guys, through the flurry of cover sheets, hollering for copy editors, impromptu Photoboothing and Thursday deadline nights, I hope you'll remember to send a copy my way. If I'm being clichéd, I might as well embrace it senior-style and list the juniors with whom I began this odyssey: MC.EC. KS.BT.KL.AJ.KL.JY.GQ.AS. NB.DS. AC.JT.BJ.AT.TT.TY: We're finally on top—make it epic.

I'm prepared for the incredulous looks this is going to get me, and I'm gonna suck it up and say it anyway: I love Saratoga. SHS isn't money or cliques or academic pressure or bubble-dom. It's sidesplitting locker cave lunches, profound thoughts around the track, sunset on Skyline, the brilliance of the J-room, weekends of debate tournaments, mountain/molehill prom drama

and Otis Spunkmeyer's chocolate chip cookies. That—not the SATs or the stress or the 3 a.m. emotional crises—is what sticks. I'll remember every teacher I had, though I know some won't remember me and others will wish they didn't. I'll remember care packages of pizza and Gatorade, overdressing for swing dancing and sneaking into *Borat*. I'll remember smiles on the faces of the people I love. A quick challenge for all self-professed Saratoga haters: Try leaving. You'll see what happens.

Yes, I don't get to be a senior at Saratoga High. I don't get Beach Day or a license or a "Friends" page in the *Talisman*. But I do get these last few days, and I did get the last three years.

I don't get to have Kucer, but I do have Drennan; I don't get to skip STAR testing with my friends, but I do get to stress with them about college apps; I don't get senior mag, but I do get this column. I'm going to bawl like a baby at graduation this year—not that I wouldn't have anyway—because part of me feels like I'm graduating, too. I'm still a Class of '09er—I just finished a year early.

And now I'm going to stop rambling and try and get to my point concisely: Thank you, Saratoga—for the memories, the experiences, the lessons, everything. There are, I believe, four days of school left; three of them will be ordinary, and the fourth will be my last one here. You've already made sure that I'll remember it. ♦

'EDITOR-TO-BE' BIDS FOND FAREWELL TO SHS

by Elizabeth Lee

Another school year has come and gone, and students continue to fill up their schedules with various activities for the summer. Items vary from trips abroad to local jobs and, less surprisingly, academic summer classes.

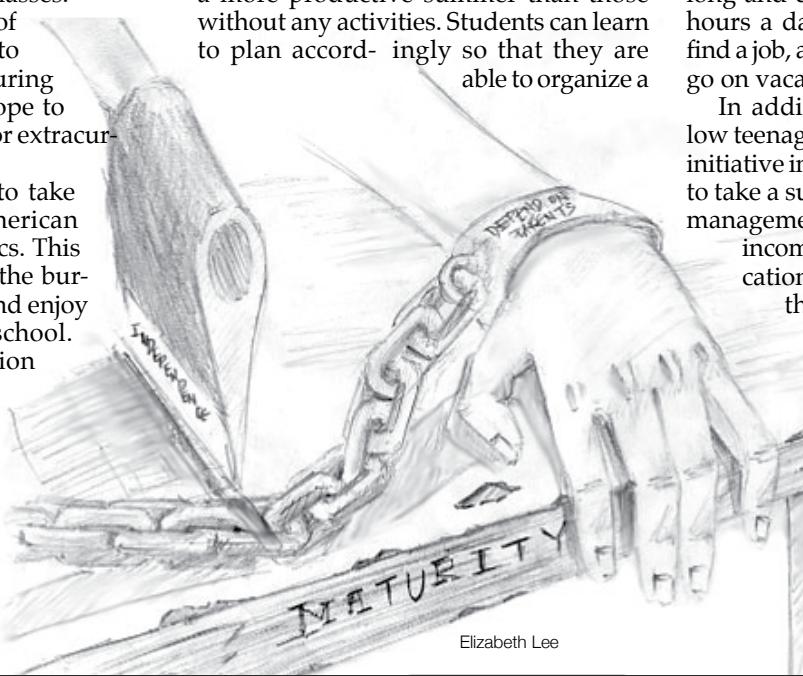
For some, the purpose of taking summer courses is to reduce their workload during the school year. Others hope to gain more time for sports or extracurricular activities.

Some popular classes to take over the summer are American government and economics. This allows students to lessen the burdens of their senior year and enjoy their final year of high school. Unfortunately, this decision sometimes receives objections from parents.

The reason: It's summer, which means time to relax, have fun, and spend time with family. But some students see their parents' objections as a restriction of freedom. As students be-

come independent individuals, it would be better to let them decide for themselves at this age.

Although summer school is a time-consuming activity, students are able to learn without the distraction of numerous extracurricular activities and can have a more productive summer than those without any activities. Students can learn to plan accordingly so that they are able to organize a



schedule that best suits their needs.

Such classes offer students different ways to learn. For those who do not prefer a traditional classroom environment, online courses, which are more convenient, are offered in nearly every subject.

Because classes are three to six weeks long and do not run for more than four hours a day, students still have time to find a job, attend educational programs or go on vacation during their summer.

In addition, summer classes also allow teenagers to gain independence. The initiative involved in making the decision to take a summer class is a lesson in time management and scheduling. This helps incoming seniors with college applications and teaches entering juniors the importance of managing a full workload.

This makes it imperative that students practice time management as workloads increase every year.

Summer courses, while not the most exciting way to spend months free of traditional school, allow students to gain independence otherwise rarely found in high school. ♦

Alumni band ALO earns 'Jammy' nomination

by Mary Mykhaylova

Three 1993 alumni, Steve Adams, Zach Gill and Dan Lebowitz, formed Animal Liberation Orchestra (ALO) when they were students in Redwood Middle School. Since then, they have come as far as a record label and a Song of the Year nomination for their song *Maria* for the Jammy Awards, a play on the popular Grammy awards.

While the Grammys recognize mainstream music artists, the Jammy Awards recognizes "jam bands," or groups of artists associated with live, improvisational music.

The band was not able to clinch enough votes to win the final award, but the members are still grateful to have been nominated and recognized for their hard work.

"We're stoked to even have been nominated for the award," said Gill.

ALO has been described by critics to be a mix of groove, pop, jazz and blues. Each member of the band partakes in vocals, along with specializing in different genres of instruments. For example, Gill plays keys, accordion and the ukulele while Lebowitz and Adams play guitar and bass, respectively.

"I'm thankful for my time in SHS, since it gave me solid roots and a good foundation."

—alumnus Zach Gill

Brushfire Records made their last two albums available internationally. Fan favorites *Walls of Jericho* and the critically acclaimed *Maria* are currently available for download on iTunes.

As of now, ALO is on hiatus, since the members are each planning on releasing solo albums. Gill's album is to be released in July.

"I'm thankful for my time in SHS, since it gave me solid roots and a good foundation for my career," Gill said. ♦

international critics?

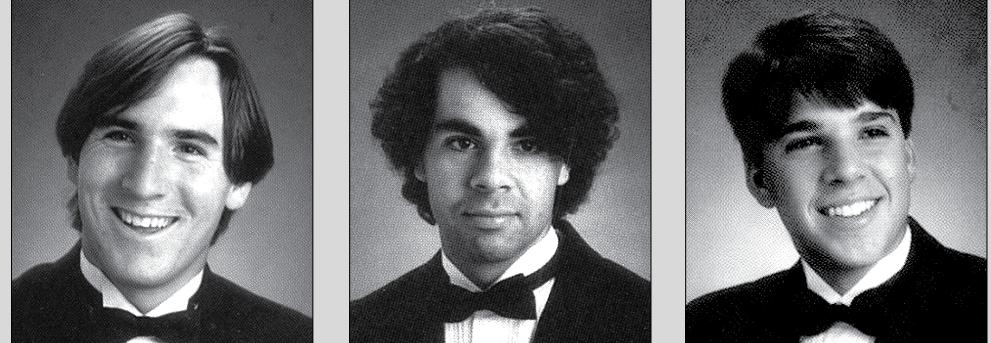
"I can kill people and jack cars and do everything that I can't do in real life. I'm basically God," said sophomore Andy Berman.

Grand Theft Auto IV puts the player in a world where he or she can do anything from shooting a pedestrian to getting a burger at a fast food restaurant. This game intrigues players because of the freedom to do anything and the superior visuals. Freshman Sam Mohazzab said the violence and drugs are not key in the game just options to choose to make the game as realistic as possible.

"None of the violence is out of context, the violence doesn't feel unnecessary as in other games," said Mohazzab.

However, graphic violence and stealing cars are not things that frequently happen in real life. This brings more va-

THEN | AND | NOW



Above, from left: Zach Gill, Steve Adams and Dan Lebowitz in their senior portraits from the 1993 Talisman. Below: The band poses for a promotional photo.



courtesy of Zach Gill

Game scores high, brass knuckles and all

GTA IV receives rave reviews despite watchdog outcries for a restricted rating due to questionable content.

by Sulmaan Hassan

Grand Theft Auto IV. Shooting people, stealing cars, and doing drugs seem like things all but felons would approve of, right? Not the case. The sixth game in the controversial series made its debut on April 29. This particular game has been rated as a No. 1 game and scored 10/10 on Gamespot.com and IGN.com, currently the only game with a 10/10 rating on those websites. How can a game rated "M for Mature" and containing such lewd themes and graphic violence gain such spectacular ratings from in-

ternational critics?

"I can kill people and jack cars and do everything that I can't do in real life. I'm basically God," said sophomore Andy Berman.

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"None of the violence is out of context, the violence doesn't feel unnecessary as in other games," said Mohazzab.

However, graphic violence and stealing cars are not things that frequently happen in real life. This brings more va-

riety to the game that people can enjoy and do things they would never do. *Grand Theft Auto IV* gives players freedom of choice creating unique pathways through the story. Players can choose to abide by all the rules, or they can choose to kill people and steal cars.

"In the game there is no reason to go on rampages and go get drugs. You can, but that's not the point of the game," said Mohazzab.

The excellent ratings come from the fact that players can virtually do whatever they want whenever they want.

"It's different from any other game, even the previous GTAs because I don't think I have found anything yet that I can't do," said Berman.

In contrast to other games, *Grand Theft Auto IV* brings a completely different feel.

Games normally follow one theme such as shooters, racing or strategy, but *Grand Theft Auto IV* is a combination of them, all which adds to the game's high critical success. Sophomore James Kim agrees with the reviews.

"The critics rate games on how good the plot is, how realistic it is and the fun factor. *GTA IV* has all that," said Kim.

Many complaints come through from organizations such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), which says the game promotes violent and crude behaviors in children and should be re-rated as "Adults Only," making the game only available to those 21 and over. With its suggestive themes and vulgarity, the game does not promote peace; however, according to senior Eddie Koai, the game wouldn't be as good without a little indecency.

"People who complain about the violence and profanity should either not play it or forget that and take it for the great game that it is," said Koai. ♦



Nathan Kim and Alex Song

Breaking Dawn completes Twilight saga

by Elizabeth Cheng
and Mary Mykhaylova

There's nothing better than relaxing in the sunshine and getting lost in a book this summer. *Breaking Dawn*, the fourth and final installment of the *Twilight* Saga by Stephenie Meyer, will become available to readers Aug. 2. The heartwarming story of the relationship between a human girl and a vampire has appealed to millions of teenage girls nationwide.

The series has turned into a worldwide phenomenon with millions of copies being sold internationally. It has even spawned a movie that will be opening in December.

"People really enjoy connecting with the characters," said sophomore Kristin Combs. "The intensity of Bella and Edward's love for each other is carried across in an exceptionally realistic manner."

Part of the books' appeal comes from the characters. Bella, the main character, is a normal girl who is easy for young readers to relate to. She is clumsy, unlucky and shy. To contrast her normality, there is Edward. Edward is the ideal and perfect man. He is kind, witty, and talented. He's also a vampire. The rest of the cast is a quirky mix of vampires, werewolves, and humans, each with different and distinct personalities.

The story attracts all sorts of people and is not solely for girls. Other than

the romance, the story also contains suspense and mystery. The intensity can be witnessed in the opening of the first book, *Twilight*, where Bella claims that she is about to die. Other fun things include a secret vampire organization, werewolf packs and crazy vampires out for revenge.

Twilight, *New Moon* and *Eclipse* have successfully sustained the interest of their readers. Unlike most sequels, which often cannot measure up to the originals, Meyer has managed to leave the readers wanting more from the *Twilight* Saga.

"What makes this series interesting is its different twist from the typical modern teen romance novels," said sophomore Sahar Navid. ♦

New series breathe life into old TV

by Nathan Kim

Welcome back the TV as a fresh wave of shows airs this summer. Now that the writers strike is over, it's time to get fat and lazy again.

Flashpoint (July 11)

Step aside *CSI*, a new crime-fighting show is in town. *Flashpoint* features risky situations based on similar events faced by Toronto's Emergency Task Force. Unlike regular cops, these experts use an arsenal of bomb-defusing and hostage-rescuing skills to save the day. The show focuses on the crew's ability to negotiate and get inside the minds of their suspects.

Big Brother (July 13)

A decade is reached this summer with the premiere of *Big Brother*'s 10th Season. A group of strangers are brought into the Big Brother house for

the summer. These guests will be filmed 24/7 as they try to avoid being evicted in whatever way possible.

High School Musical: Get in the Picture (July 20)

In this summer music program inspired by the *High School Musical* franchise, kids from all over the country compete in a competition of musical ability. As they hone their skills throughout the course of the summer, contestants will face weekly eliminations. By the end of the

season, one winner will be given a once in a life-time opportunity: to appear in the credits of *High School Musical 3: Senior Year*.

Jingles (July 27)

Survivor producer Mark Burnett has come up with a new reality show, involving tunes and commercials. Contestants will have to work out their brain to create catchy tunes with clever hooks and lyrics to accompany a commercial, whether the product is a Ferrari Enzo or an erectile dysfunction pill. ♦



BOOKS, TV SHOWS, MOVIES—
PLEASURES FOR THE HOME-BOUND STUDENT.

Tiffany Tung

Big-name music festivals in the Bay

by Mary Mykhaylova
and Alex Sclavos

Summer is the perfect time to attend live performances of the favorite artists from everyone's Top 25 Most Played playlists. The Bay Area will host a variety of concerts from June to August.

Kanye West revisits San Jose

Tomorrow night at the HP Pavilion in San Jose, Kanye West will take the stage for his Glow in the Dark Tour, which also features fellow Grammy winners Lupe Fiasco and Rihanna as well as the electrifying group N.E.R.D. The concert is a second chance for those devoted fans who missed Kanye West's April stop in San Jose. Because the concert is tomorrow, tickets will only be available outside the theater or online.

Brad Paisley

Another way to kick off the summer concert season is to attend the Brad Paisley concert, held on June 20 at the Shoreline Amphitheatre in Mountain View. Appearing with Paisley will also be Jewel, Chuck Wicks and *Dancing with the Stars'* Julianne Hough. This concert, and the atmosphere at the amphitheatre, could be a fun time out with friends and a great way to start the summer.

will each perform for about half an hour on one of as many as 10 different stages throughout the day, from noon to late at night. Band members can be found at their merchandise tents in between shows, so the concert is an opportunity to get to know both famous and underground talented musicians.

Projekt Revolution

Linkin Park's 7th annual worldwide Projekt Revolution Tour is coming to Shoreline Amphitheatre Aug. 9. The main focus of the music festival is to bring together artists and fans in punk and hip-hop as well as various other genres. The concert will be performed on two stages: the Main Stage, featuring Linkin Park, Chris Cornell, The Bravery and Ashes Divide; and the Revolution Stage, featuring Atreyu, 10 Years, Hawthorne Heights, and Street Drum Corps. The event will start at 2 p.m. and is the last in a series of Bay Area concerts available to students staying close to home for this vacation. ♦

More than 100 rock bands from all over the country will sweep the nation with the Warped Tour.

Vans Warped Tour

More than 100 alternative rock and punk bands from all over the country will sweep the nation this summer with the 14th annual Vans Warped Tour. Northern California has the privilege of hosting the tour thrice: at San Francisco's Pier 30/32 on June 21, Fresno's Save Mart Center on July 13, and the most local venue, Shoreline Amphitheatre, on August 15. All Time Low, The All-American Rejects, Angels & Airwaves, and numerous others

AUG 15 WARPED TOUR: SHORELINE

AUG 9 PROJEKT REVOLUTION

AUG 2 BREAKING DAWN RELEASED

JULY 13 WARPED TOUR: FRESNO

JUNE 21 WARPED TOUR: SF

JUNE 6 KANYE: HP PAVILION

Tiffany Tung

generations separation



Q&A with Leslie Rourke

The Falcon spoke to freshman Katelyn Rourke's mother about the changes in lifestyles that she has witnessed since graduating from Saratoga High in 1985.

Affluence

On average, how much money did you spend a week?

10 dollars could get you through the week. If you had a 20, you were rich! Five or 10 dollars could get you through the weekend too.

Do kids have it easier today?

I think it is much more difficult to be a kid today; the world is a scarier place. The first thing that comes to mind is school violence. A shooting at school was unheard of when I was a teen, and now the schools have regular drills to prepare for a campus intruder. Our biggest fears were the Russians, hitchhiking (in Health class we were lectured constantly and shown weird old movies about the dangers of hitchhiking) and LSD (we were always being warned that someone was going to slip us some LSD and we would hallucinate and jump off a building; again with the weird movies) and earthquakes.

With all the academic pressure to get into the best college, be involved in the best activities, live a scheduled life, and television and internet telling you any time day or night what is going on in the world—plus just the difficulties of being a teenager—it does seem more difficult to be a kid these days. Perhaps that is why we parents work so hard to prepare you and protect you; we want the best for you. Forgive us if we sometimes overstep our boundaries. We do it with the best of intentions.

Do you think your daughter is more privileged? If so, in what aspects?

Growing up in Saratoga, we were privileged, but I actually was unaware of how privileged we were until I went to college and found out that people had stereotypes about kids from Saratoga—that we were rich, spoiled brats. I just didn't realize that our world pretty much ended at the Saratoga border.

The difference is that kids today have more stuff. Valley Fair was nothing but an old Macy's, and most of us did our school shopping at little department store in Los Gatos called Christlow's. Designer purses, designer jeans, iPods, your own computer, a cell phone—that was just not part of our reality. Our moms maybe carried an expensive purse, but we gals didn't. However, whatever generation you are in, growing up in Saratoga is a privilege, and something to be proud of. It's a wonderful place to grow up.

A Typical Week

What was your typical weekday like?

It was pretty much the same as it is for my daughter and her friends with a few differences: We didn't have a blocked schedule, so you went to all of your classes every day, and everyone had to take P.E. regardless of whether you were involved in a sport or not—sports were extracurricular, not graded.

I was involved in student government and was on the yearbook staff as well as softball and basketball. We went to class, ate lunch within our cliques (preppies, punk rockers, jocks, surfers), did our after school activities, hung out at a friend's house, [ate] dinner, [did] homework, [watched] television (there were only about 5 channels in Saratoga then—we were one of the last towns to get cable!), and talked on the phone. One thing that is different is our parents didn't really get involved in our school lives as much as they do now. I am not sure if my parents ever checked my homework, they didn't schedule my activities, and if I went to a friend's house after school, as long as I was home around dinner no one really worried.

Also, our parents didn't drive us anywhere. If you didn't have a car or know someone who could drive, County Transit Bus 27 got us wherever you needed to go. I don't think our parents could even imagine having to wait in a carpool lane for drop off or pick up! And to see a parent on campus was almost unheard of. It would have been like an alien had landed at the school!

We couldn't text our friends during class, so we had to be more creative. We had an elaborate system of note-writing and note-passing that would go on all day long, and at one point we all learned sign language so we could communicate during class—my generation's version of text-messaging. But if a teacher found a note, he or she would read it to the class, so you had to be very careful.

Another funny mention of the past, you could smoke at school. The back field was a smoking section. Crazy, huh?

What about weekends?

For fun, football games were the biggest weekend event, but our games were played at Helm Field (Los Gatos High). Afterwards, everyone would hang out at Golden Mushroom Pizza at Quito Center. There were school dances, but NOBODY went—it was very uncool to go to a dance (except for prom, of course).

There was drinking, there were drugs and some of it was bad. My senior year in 1985 we had a school drug bust. We had police officers posing as high school students, and the day of the bust, several kids were arrested. It was a pretty dark day in Saratoga history.

Changes

How has SHS has changed?

Let's start with what is the same: the building seems pretty much the same, and I think you use the same lockers we did. The rumor that the school was designed by the same architect who designed Alcatraz was going on even back then. The amazing woman you all know as Ms. Hyde was there for all us students, watching out for us, caring about us as she does now. Ms. Sutton was teaching us to love Shakespeare whether we wanted to or not (all these years later I can recite every Shakespeare sonnet we were required to memorize!).

So what is different? Well, I have mentioned that all of you seem like you are under intense academic pressure. College was competitive back then, but not like it is now. We had AP classes, but only a few kids took those, and a 5.0 GPA was almost unheard of. It seems kids are much more involved and passionate about Saratoga High. You are spoken to frankly and honestly about formerly taboo subjects such as drugs, drinking and sex. The Every Fifteen Minutes program is a perfect example; I think that program had an impact not just on you, the students, but the community as a whole. The school works hard to open your minds and get you to think, more so than in the past.

So yes, Saratoga has changed. And I think for the better.

on ation

Rewind to the 1970s and 1980s.
How was life different for teens then?

Sabes' mom recalls different Saratoga memories

by Tiffany Tseng

On a typical school day, senior Nicole Sabes puts on a T-shirt and jeans, grabs a bagel and drives to school. Although this may be a usual routine for Nicole, her mother would have appreciated the chance to ride to school mid-May in an air-conditioned car when she attended Saratoga High 35 years ago.

"Many of the students [back then] either walked to school or rode their bikes to school, although I did get to drive more often my senior year," said 1973 graduate Robin Sabes.

Sabes moved to Saratoga from Los Angeles during her junior year of high school, and her family currently lives in the same house she did when she attended Saratoga High.

While many aspects of Saratoga have remained the same over the years, Sabes has noticed considerable differences in academics and resources.

"When I was at school, there were no AP classes, and it was not very hard academically. Saratoga High also offered



Robin Sabes

several classes like speed-reading and auto shop," said Sabes. "Now, it seems a lot more competitive. In my day you could have a 3.6 or 3.7 GPA and get into UC Berkeley with no problem, but that's not the case anymore."

In contrast to students today who often fret and lose sleep over academic stress, Sabes remembers that school never interfered with her daily life and that finishing homework on time was never an issue.

"I had more free time back then than my daughters do now," said Sabes. "During lunch, I used to go to the library to get a head start on my homework and finish it right when I got home from school."

Another change Sabes has noticed over the years is in the school's sports teams.

She remembers going to the local store with her teammates to buy patterns for their tennis uniforms.

"When I was on the tennis team, we were given a pattern number and had to sew our own uniforms," she said. "Also, back then, not that many parents came to watch the matches. Now you notice that parents come to support every sport

there is."

The school's atmosphere in Sabes' day was also different from what it is today.

According to Sabes, Saratoga High was much less diverse, with almost every student being Caucasian.

However, even 30 years ago, Saratoga had a reputation for being an accomplished school in a wealthy area.

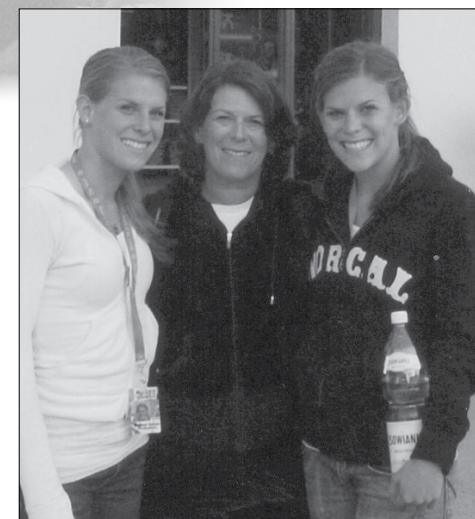
"When I first moved to Saratoga from Los Angeles, it had a small, country setting," said Sabes. "I really liked how the kids didn't care much about what you wore. I think now, students are more fashion-conscious and there is a larger emphasis on material possessions."

When scanning the student parking lot these days, some of the fancy, new cars are hard to miss. Sabes said fewer students owned their own cars back then.

"There seems to be more excessive spending now," said Sabes. "When I turned 16, I chose to get a bike instead of a car."

Although Sabes considers her children fortunate for having the advancements of today's world, she said her social life in high school actually did not differ much from her children's lives today.

"I would try to get all my homework



photos courtesy of Robin Sabes

Robin Sabes with twins Rachel and Nicole during a family vacation.

done after school so I could go out with my friends at night a couple of times every week," said Sabes. "In the end, we pretty much did the same things students do nowadays, such as going to the movies or dinner, or even hanging out at a friend's house." ♦

If I've told you once, I've told you a million times

Two columnists reflect on their parents' stories and notice the differences in their cultures



Emily Chen
Papaya warrior

Few of us can say that we're successfully juggling two full-time jobs while at the same time attending night school. Probably none of us can say that we've almost hacked off a thumb while killing a chicken for dinner. My mother, however, can, and it's this added experience she has that leads to many of the rather lengthy conversations that we've had.

Sometimes I really dislike going grocery shopping with my mom. A simple question about what the difference is between a red bell pepper and green bell pepper can earn me a 15-minute lecture about how when she was just 7, she was already cooking dinner for her entire eight-person family in the rural area of Gaoxiong, Taiwan.

Cooking for a family of eight at an age when I didn't even have my multiplication tables memorized is indeed impressive, but I feel a bit insulted that she doesn't know me well enough to be thankful that I don't cook our nightly meals—or at all.

Similarly, a complaint about a tough day at school usually doesn't elicit the

soothing motherly sympathy—preferably in the form of some sort of baked good—that I hope for. The fact of the matter is that we're growing up in different times and places.

It simply wouldn't be realistic for me to create an entire meal from start to finish. While my mother's daily chores included feeding her turkeys and geese, mine may be just to wash the dishes. I can't help it if my daily routine doesn't call for chasing after rogue fowl.

While I can't help the fact that I was born into this world and not a rural village in Taiwan, it is true that it wouldn't kill me to do more chores. Living in Saratoga undoubtedly puts many academic strains on my sanity, however I've come to appreciate this not as a curse, but rather a blessing of privilege.

Though my parents' numerous imitations to understand their point of view often leave me at a loss, just because I can't experience it for myself doesn't mean I can't respect and appreciate the endless sacrifices that they've made for me. And though the lack of proper sympathy for my problems often irritates me, I've realized that my parents have gone through things that I can't even begin to comprehend.

It's from these experiences that my parents have gleaned the wisdom that they try to pass on to me, and it would be to my benefit to try and learn a thing or two from them. After all, if I knew how to make a hat out of a grapefruit peel, I'd want to tell my kids, too. ♦



Mabel Hsu
Maybe it's Mabel

Parents teach. They teach us how to be polite, to share our lunches and that cooties aren't a real disease. Though their constant teaching sometimes leaves us rolling our eyes in exasperation, I've come to appreciate all the colorful stories my mother has regaled me with throughout my childhood.

My mother has 200 stories to my every one when it comes to childhood memories.

I generally love stories, especially since my mother does have exciting stories about her childhood. Stories about how successful or happy she was in comparison to my failures or complaints, however, are not so entertaining.

For example, while driving to dinner one night, we arrived at a stoplight. I took

that moment to voice my lack of love for walking home since it was getting hotter with summer soon ahead. I quickly learned just how bad an idea that was. A red light meant that my mother didn't have to concentrate as hard on driving and instead could formulate—I mean, recall—a story to inform me that walking home was the best thing that could have ever happened to me in middle school.

So the reminiscing began, and she told me of how she walked home every day in the blistering heat of Taiwan and counted off the interesting people she met and friends she made while walking by the street vendors and shop owners on her way home, including the street vendor who saved her the broken parts of sweets that he couldn't sell.

She fails to note, however, that it would be impossible for me to do such a thing, mainly because of the "stranger danger" policy ingrained into my head by my kindergarten teacher. Another obstacle for me to do any such thing is the fact that I, quite sadly, don't pass by any street vendors or shops on my 15-minute walk home.

I have learned, however, just how much these stories mean to my mother. I try harder now to listen to my mother when she tries to pass on advice through her stories, because it's the best way that she knows. ♦

Summer Spice

What happens when athletes, teachers and students depart for June, July and August?

Ridge teaches national cheer program

by Melody Zhang

After a long and stressful school year, students take their separate paths to summer relaxation. Often overlooked, teachers also find activities and jobs during the break.

For instance, math teacher Laressa Ridge, who also stands in as the Cheer team adviser, has been an integral part of the Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA) every summer since 1997. A cheer enthusiast, Ridge started the sport in high school. Her deep love for cheer stemmed from several years of experience as a competitive gymnast, which she continued through her college years, performing at Chico State, University of Washington and Sacramento State.

The UCA is an association that organizes cheerleading camps and clinics and hosts competitions throughout the year.

It also organizes public performances for various events, including pre-game performances for the Capital One Bowl in Orlando, Fla., half-time performances at the Aloha Bowl and Pro Bowl in Hawaii, and many holiday parades throughout the year.

"We do special events such as the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and the London New Year's Parade," said Ridge. "Cheerleaders from across the nation perform in the parades."

Performance preparation is intense—participants have to first learn the routine from a DVD on their own. The hundreds of cheerleaders often only have a few practices together to perfect the routine.

"It always turns out great, and the cheerleaders are always a huge crowd-

pleaser along the parade route," said Ridge. "It's especially fun in London because cheerleading is not common in Europe. A lot of the participants give their pom-poms away at the end of the parade and you see people walking around London with their new pom poms."

Every summer, the UCA dispatches about 150 staff members across the nation to teach at camps.

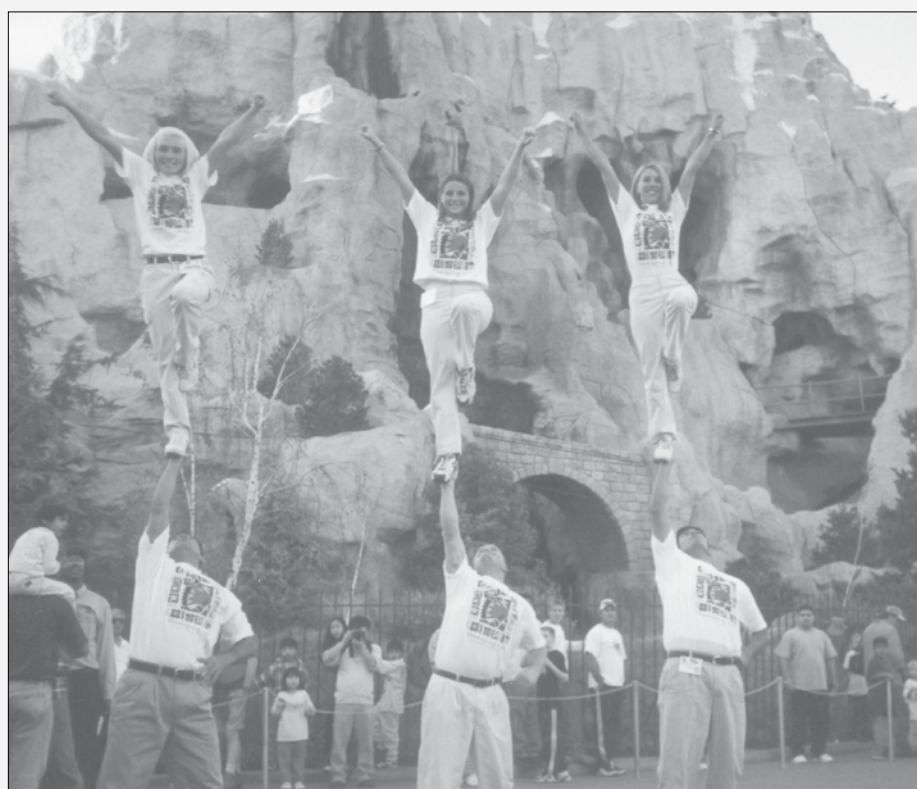
Ridge has dedicated seven years to teaching at camps and has been the contact person for the West Coast staff for the last four years. While the camps are in session, Ridge holds the role of coordinator, overseeing camp coaches' schedules.

Working for the UCA is not just a summer job for Ridge. Throughout the year, she judges competitions, including the televised High School and All-Star Nationals at Disneyworld, where qualifying teams from across the nation compete and hold two simultaneous competitions at Disneyworld's Indiana Jones Theater and Wide World of Sports. The competitors are divided into different divisions, each evaluated by eight judges.

"I get to watch the best teams from across the United States perform their routines that they've been working so hard on throughout the year," said Ridge. She needs to take a day off from school in order to arrive at the competition in time.

What had started out as an extracurricular activity during high school has blossomed into Ridge's passion.

"I don't have time for any other jobs over the summer," Ridge said. "This is a full-time job, and I love it!" ♦



courtesy of Laressa Ridge

Top: Ridge (center) performs at Disneyland during college.
Bottom: Ridge (far right) cheered for the Universal Cheerleaders Association during college and now coaches at summer camps.



courtesy of Laressa Ridge



Sophia Cooper

Sophomores Andy Berman, Bryce Dozier and Trevor Teerlink run liners at practice on May 21. The football team holds spring training and summer practices to prepare for the

Athletes spend summer sweating

by Amanda Yi

Most students are sleeping in the first weekend after school ends. However, junior safety and quarterback Michael Guercio will be in pads playing football with some of the best players in the area at Cal Camp, a three-day program at UC Berkeley.

Guercio is one of dozens of student athletes who participate in summer practices and camps. Teams such as football and field hockey dedicate their free days to conditioning and scrimmaging.

Football is the sport most known for its intense summer practices, and rightfully so. The team has already started spring training by doing light conditioning a few days each week. The boys kick off their summer training the first weekend after school gets out by traveling to southern California and attending Cal Camp.

"It's an opportunity to refresh our memories," said Guercio. "A lot of team bonding happens there: You room with your team, eat with your team and you're together for three solid days of football."

Immediately after Cal Camp, the Falcons start their five-days-a-week summer program.

For six weeks, the team weightlifts three days and conditions for two days. Then, after a week off, the boys will have double days for two weeks before school starts.

"Double days are the hardest because it's really hot and you have to practice two times a day," said Guercio. "You're still adjusting your pads and learning a lot of the new

plays."

Another team with summer practices is field hockey, which has started training for the regular season. Like football, practices start a week after school gets out and double days, start two weeks before school begins, when the team holds tryouts.

"I don't think anything is quite as intense as football summer workouts, but we do work hard so that we can be ready for the regular season," said junior forward Kelly Darchuk.

During the summer practices, coach Amber Wilson holds practices that consist of drills and scrimmages to help the girls focus on skills for the fall season.

Although Wilson runs the practices, returning varsity players lead the team runs and conditioning during the days off.

"Summer practices are to try and get an idea of what girls would be good for which team and to get a sort of team chemistry started," said Darchuk.

Football and field hockey summer practices are optional until double days; however, the teams usually get good turnouts at these events.

"I love field hockey and I can't imagine my summer without it," said Darchuk, who attends school practices and other summer field hockey camps.

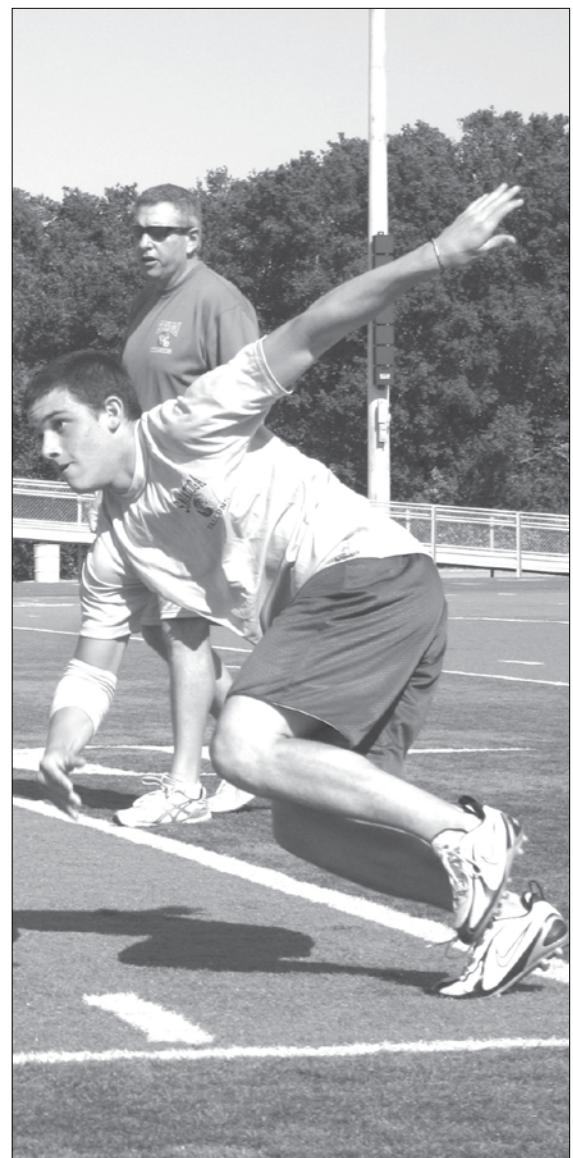
Guercio also enjoys practicing during the summer.

"You become so close as a team and you make really good friendships," said Guercio. "It never quite seems like work; it's always really fun and you're always having a good time. It really flies by." ♦



Amanda Yi

Junior Ashley Charette sprints down the field during practice on May 22.



Sophia Cooper

Junior Michael Guercio runs a drill working on his agility during spring training on May 21.

District summer school offers intellectual enrichment

by Uma Sambasivam

Instead of enjoying a free and relaxing vacation, some students will be using the summer for educational purposes by attending summer school.

The district's summer school campus alternates yearly between Los Gatos High and Saratoga High and will be held at Saratoga High this year.

The session will begin on June 23 and end on Aug 1, with an observed holiday on July 4. Classes will be in session every weekday, starting at 8 a.m. and ending at 12:35 p.m.

Summer school applications have been accepted since mid-March, but the deadline for submission is today. Forms should be submitted to either the SHS or LGHS guidance departments or to the district office.

Class lists will be posted at both

high schools, the district office and the district website, www.lgsuhisd.org, on Thursday, June 19.

Summer school offers 17 classes, from Algebra 1 to World History. Waiting lists are expected in English, Ceramics and math.

"While summer school is primarily for remediation, the district is committed to offering students enrichment opportunities in [classes such as] Ceramics, Geometry, Health/Driver's Ed and Computer Skills," said summer school principal Karen van Putten.

This year, 10 of the 17 teachers are

from within the district, while the remaining seven are from the greater Bay Area.

"We are fortunate to be able to staff most summer school positions with our own district teachers," said van Putten, "but I am confident that through the interview process, which involved the input of department heads from both campuses, that we hired the most qualified candidates to teach our students."

—summer school principal
Karen van Putten

most qualified candidates to teach our students."

This year is van Putten's first time working as the summer school principal. Since 2000, van Putten has taught

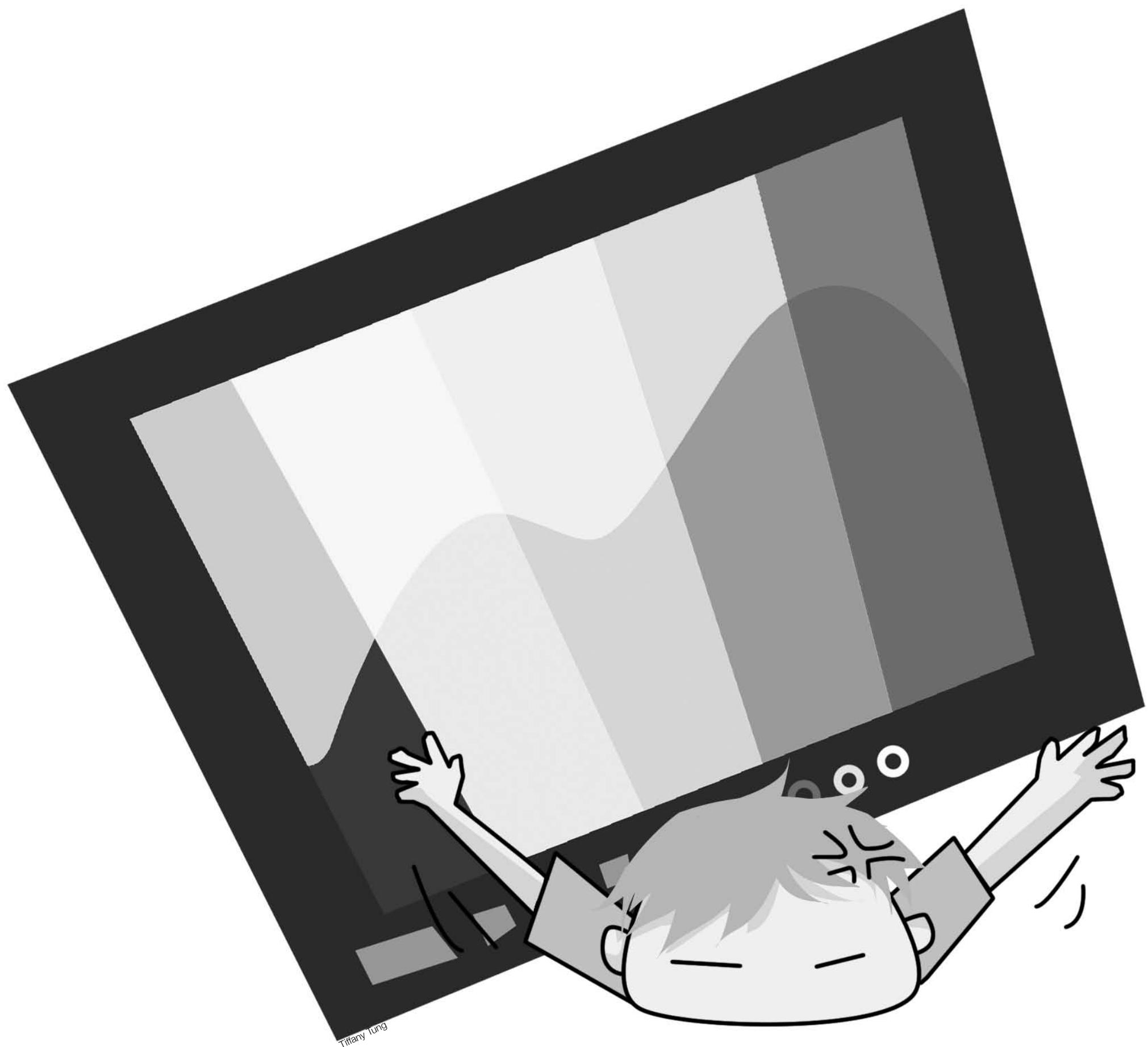
English at Saratoga High.

She is currently working on a two-year special assignment mentoring new teachers in the district.

Though not in her own classroom now, van Putten has been a regular observer at both the Los Gatos and Saratoga campuses, as well as NOVA.

"I am familiar with Saratoga's campus and the facilities, and I'll use my most recent experience as a mentor teacher toward fulfilling the role of summer school principal," said van Putten.

"So far, I've learned so much about all the factors involved in running summer school: fielding individual questions from parents, organizing the logistics and working with departments and curricular expectations," said van Putten. "I'm looking forward to a great summer." ♦



UNDER THE INFLUENCE

**Is it ever possible to escape
the unforgiving clutches of the media?**

Columnist bemoans widespread media dominance



Elizabeth Cheng
Media Monster

The SAT is known for giving ridiculously vague essay prompts that ask things like, "Is lying bad?" I've never been particularly good with writing in a time limit and was naturally freaking out when I sat down to take the test in October. When the proctor said "go," I inhaled deeply and opened my massive testing booklet to the first page, the prompt. Skipping over the quote, because, honestly, those things are absolutely useless, I came to the question: Can people truly be original?

Even though my 25 minutes were ticking away and I was supposed to

be writing an essay, I sat there, thinking in the cramped room. Then I realized: We can't be original. How could we possibly be when we're constantly being swayed with ideas from our surroundings? It's impossible to call what we do our own when everything we do has been influenced by something else. Today, media is one of the greatest influences on our lives.

It's what we learn in our history classes: Propaganda is an incredibly effective means of warping people's opinions.

But even when the media's not trying to convince us that the Middle East is filled with terrorists, it still has an incredible impact on our lives.

Sometimes it can affect a trivial opinion. For me, rats have always been disgusting and dirty creatures to avoid at all costs. Then I saw *Ratatouille*. The

animated film is about a rat who cooks five-star dishes. It is also completely fictional. But after the movie, I found myself thinking that maybe rats weren't so bad after all; they have their own sort of furry cuteness. I guess I wasn't alone—pet rat sales skyrocketed after *Ratatouille*'s release.

Other times, the media can have a widespread effect. Take, for example, the war in Vietnam. The media played an essential role in molding public opinion during the

war. News coverage revealed shocking images and truths that caused many people to join the anti-war movement.

Vietnam was the first war to present such gruesome images to the public; today, the media continues to bring us more regulated images from the front lines. Though nowhere near as appall-

ing as those shown in Vietnam, the images of the Iraqi conflict just make me want to scream, "Can't this end already?" But without media, I doubt the Middle East issues would even cross my mind.

There's also the major influence media has on our daily lives. When I watch television shows like "The Hills" and "Gossip Girl," I get courage for trying out new trends, like those cute headbands the characters are always wearing. Daily conversations are even more influenced: witness the pervasiveness of "that's what she said," a phrase made popular by "The Office."

The media's endless influence can range from something small and seemingly insignificant like the changing of personal opinion to something as undoubtedly significant as a call to action. In all honesty, one would have to live under a rock to not be affected by its vast influence. ♦

TV's wayward moral compass misguides students

by Brian Kim

"*Gossip Girl*," ranked as the nation's third most popular TV show, unveils the lives behind privileged teenagers. Like the title suggests, their community is pilfered with rumors that lead to first-degree murder and excessive alcohol and drug abuse. But when does a show go too far?

"*Gossip Girl*" can be a bad influence," said senior Kendall Callaghan, "but that's why it's so entertaining. I've watched the seasons, and it's not the kind of show that people really have to worry about."

As vile as it may seem, the show is not as many perceive it to be, according to Callaghan.

"The kids from '*Gossip Girl*' have lifestyles that are really different from ours, and I'm thankful for that," said Callaghan. "As great a life they seem to have, they really are messed up, and it shows."

However, the show isn't one that many viewers will find directly promotes good

behavior, but it is seen as any other fictional TV show that pulls in viewers.

"While I don't think the show will teach me any life lessons, it has entertainment value and is easy to follow," said Callaghan.

Alternatively, some parents oppose the negative effect television can have on kids.

"I can't encourage any kid to watch shows like these at all," said Spanish teacher and parent Arnaldo Rodriguez. "I can never be too sure if kids act like this when their parents aren't around, beating each other up and such."

Season after season, shows such as VH1's "Flavor of Love" and MTV's "The Real World" continue to attract viewers with its bundled drama and scandals.

"The contestants on these overrated shows need to pick up a higher lifestyle rather than commit themselves to some guy named Flavor Flav."

—senior Kristin Gochnauer

"These shows are ridiculous," said senior Kristin Gochnauer. "It may be reality, but I think that the contestants on these overrated shows need to pick up a higher lifestyle rather than commit themselves to some guy named Flavor Flav."

Callaghan sees differences between reality TV and "Gossip Girl."

"When we think of shows like 'The Real World,' we think trashy. The difference with '*Gossip Girl*' is that the show is more glamorous. I'm not saying that it's the most positive show on television, but it nails some issues that teens face on the spot."

Opposite these reality shows are shows that examine real-life situations, like MTV's "True Life." These shows pay spe-

THE BIG IDEA | TV Influence

"GOSSIP GIRL": Despite perceived negative influence, show provides entertainment

"TRUE LIFE": Show details consequences of real teen life situations

"THE REAL WORLD": Reality hit spews repeatedly trashy material

cific attention to the consequences teenagers might face if they subject themselves to certain situations.

"[*True Life*] really opened my eyes up to be thankful for what I have," said Callaghan.

Despite what many believe, perception comes down to the eyes of the beholder.

"I think that people can watch trashy television and blame their actions on them, but people act on their own instincts," said Callaghan. "In a way, we're all like gossip girls. Everyone gossips because it's human nature. TV isn't to blame for what society has become." ♦

Internet music inspires junior to make own beats

by Tim Tsai
and Brandon Yang

To say that the Internet has taken over our society is a huge understatement. The Internet gives users lightning quick access to massive amounts of information on every topic imaginable. For some students, the Internet is much more than a place to check up on the latest news or tool to stay connected to friends. For junior Kushal Shah, the Internet is a place for inspiration.

"I have always loved music, and the Internet showed me so much more music and got me involved in creating my own beats," said Shah. "Plus, a lot of my friends were making music too."

After discovering a whole world of underground music on the Internet at the beginning of his junior year, Shah has used the Internet to delve into creating his own music, particularly hip hop.

"I really enjoy a lot of the music I listen to, and YouTube got me involved in trying to make my own beats," said Shah.

Shah regularly checks hip hop websites and numerous YouTube channels to discover new music, as well as to learn new ways to create beats, whether with software, such as Fruity Loops, a down-

loadable DJ program, or his keyboard. The Internet gives Shah virtually endless opportunities, as users across the world have helped Shah with software issues or recommended new music.

Shah particularly likes to mix hip hop beats with piano and classical music tracks. He receives much of his information on the music from Google searches and YouTube videos.

"I get a lot of material from songs that people send to me over the internet," said Shah. "Then I search for programs and tutorials to make beats. Then I mess around with my keyboard and different programs for a beat. Then I plan to mix my beats with original raps."

Shah has long held aspirations of mixing his own beats, and he plans to start to record music this summer with the help of some friends.

"I'm really looking forward to this summer, as I'll finally have time to make some music," said Shah.

Shah credits the music community on the Internet for spearheading his drive toward mixing music.

"I love music, and without the Internet, I wouldn't have been able to discover new music or ways to pursue my goal," said Shah. ♦

Students take style tips from print magazines

by Gautham Ganesan
and Andy Tsao

Clad in a white jacket and tight jeans with multiple necklaces around her neck and an array of wristbands on her arm, junior Karen Hao struts down the halls of Saratoga High as if she was taken straight from a page of one of the Asian fashion magazines she often pores over.

Although a brief survey of any SHS classroom would reveal that students' style preferences largely come from peer influences, fashion magazines

play a major role in the way many students dress. Hao takes some of her style from the various Asian magazines she reads.

"I like the style in Asia, so I look at that, take stuff from that," said Hao. "It influences the way I dress, style my hair and eat."

Hao has been reading these magazines for two years, and she tries to

incorporate elements she really likes into her daily life. However, she does not take elements blindly from her reading material.

"I only take the elements I find most appealing," said Hao.

Although she reads mainly Asian magazines, Hao sometimes turns to other genres of print media.

"I do look at *Teen People* and *People* sometimes, but that's only if there is an actor that I really like," said Hao.

Still, there are others, such as junior Melissa Lin, who do not assign as much significance to magazines when deciding on fashion styles.

"It's cool to see what the styles are," said Lin, "but I don't really apply them to my own life."

However, Lin does admit that there is some influence on her shopping activities.

"If I saw something in a store that was in a magazine, I might take a longer look at it," said Lin. "I'll give it more of a chance." ♦

"[The style in Asian magazines] influences the way I dress, style my hair and eat."

—junior Karen Hao

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BOYS' TENNIS

Nearly perfect season ends in CCS defeat

by Brian Tsai

The boys' tennis team failed to avoid repeating history when the Falcons lost to Sacred Heart Prep in the CCS finals on May 9.

They previously lost to Sacred Heart in the '06 CCS finals.

"They played a lot better, and I think they really wanted to win," said sophomore No.

2 doubles player Aditya Joshi.

"We were too excited about beating Menlo, and we thought we'd [pulled off a] win already against Sacred Heart, so we weren't as focused."

The Falcons lost 2-5, despite defeating Sacred Heart Prep 5-2 earlier this season.

Sophomore No. 3 singles player Michael McGinnis suffered a back injury, causing the team to be at a disadvantage 0-1.

No. 3 doubles players Michael Chang and Sameet Ramakrishnan were close to defeating their opponents, but were mentally affected when Sacred Heart pulled off another win during their match, capturing the CCS title 4-2.

"Everyone was disappointed [when we lost], but I think [Sacred Heart] knew that we probably could have taken

them on if we were all healthy," said freshman No. 2 singles player Nikhil Jayashankar. "It was just unlucky that we were injured."

Placing in the CCS finals meant that the Falcons were eligible to participate in NorCals, held at UC Davis this year.

Five players, however, could not play in NorCals due to national open tournaments in Sacramento and Texas. As a result, Saratoga withdrew.

The team lost only two matches all year.

"This year was good in some ways, in the way that we had really great players," said senior captain Emerson Lin. "I guess the sad part is it wasn't as fun, because we didn't go to Fresno, and we didn't get to go to NorCals. There was a lack of bonding."

The Falcons are only losing three players to graduation: seniors Emerson Lin, Sameet Ramakrishnan and Michael Wu.

The four singles players, Eric Gast, Nikhil Jayashankar, John Lamble and Michael McGinnis, are all underclassmen, indicating a strong, promising future.

"I think [next year] will be great or even better, as long as the key players at SHS try-out," said Joshi. ♦

—freshman Nikhil Jayashankar

"Everyone was disappointed, but I think they knew that we probably could have taken them on if we were all healthy."



Theresa Yeh

Freshman No. 2 singles player Nikhil Jayashankar jumps up as he serves at the CCS match against Sacred Heart Prep on May 9. Due to injuries, the Falcons did not play their

TRACK AND FIELD



Julia Lan

Junior Kiersten Dolbec, the defending CCS champ, competes in the high jump during a meet against Santa Clara. At CCS Trials, she burst her appendix, ruining her chance for a repeat

Falcons fall at CCS finals

by Kelly Lamble

Instead of celebrating another CCS victory, junior high jumper Kiersten Dolbec spent this year's meet on a hospital bed.

During CCS trials, where Dolbec placed third with a 5'6" jump, Dolbec's appendix burst, although she didn't realize it at the time. It wasn't until later that night, at Los Altos' senior prom, that Dolbec realized something was wrong.

She was rushed to the emergency room where they first diagnosed her with food poisoning.

After a CAT scan, it was determined that the real cause of Dolbec's pain was a burst appendix. She was quickly rushed into surgery and underwent an appendectomy.

Confined to her hospital room for the following week, Dolbec was released May 24, a day after the CCS finals meet.

The meet did not go well for the other Saratoga hopefuls either. The girls 4x400m relay team, consisting of senior twins Nicole and Rachel Sabes as well as junior twins Katie and Claire Marsh, placed fifth

in CCS finals with a time of 4:01.84. This time, two places and five seconds off last year's finish, was not good enough for advancement to state finals. Rachel ran a 60 second lap, Katie came through with 59.7 seconds, Claire contributed a strong 59.3 seconds and Nicole anchored in 61 seconds.

"Nicole dropped the baton in the first 100m of the fourth leg. It hit her knee and flew out of her hand," said Katie. "I think if we had gotten that four seconds back, we would've gotten third for sure and would've made state."

Juniors Kian Banks and Alan Menezes also competed in CCS finals in the 800m and 1600m, respectively. Seeded fourth going into the race, Banks finished eighth in the 800m with a disappointing 2:01.08, several seconds off his PR, 1:58.04, which he ran the week before at CCS trials. Menezes likewise did not qualify for the state meet with a 10th place finish in the 1600m and a time of 4:26.67.

Although no one qualified for state this year, the season was not a total disappointment, as more runners made CCS finals than before. ♦

FOOTBALL

On-campus coach hired

by Amanda Yi

The school board has approved a replacement for football head coach Kurt Heinrich, who was recently released after 11 years at Saratoga.

The new coach, Tim Lugo, has a large amount of coaching experience from his time at Pioneer, Leland and Evergreen High Schools. He has had experience as an offensive line coach as well as a JV head coach.

In addition to coaching, Lugo will also teach physical education, becoming the on-campus coach the administration said it was looking for after it let Heinrich go.

"I think Coach Lugo stood out the most because of his passion for dealing with the students," said assistant principal Joe Bosco. "He has had a wealth of experience coming in and he seems mild mannered yet with the knowledge and enthusiasm to build our program up."

Applicants for the position had to go through a four-step process, which included a paperwork screening process and three rounds of interviews.

"We had three rounds of interviews: one with a panel for teaching, one with a panel for football coaching, and if they made it through both rounds, they met with principal Anderson and me and we made our final determination," said Bosco.

The players had their first experience with Lugo in late May during their spring conditioning.

"He's a really great guy, and he's really focused and motivated," said junior Michael Guercio, one of eight captains next year alongside juniors Tim Yen, Scott Thoren, Mathew Spencer, Derek Emerson, Casey Farmer, Alex Wokas and Jasper Loren. "He's made it his idea to go out and meet individually with every player, which I think is really cool."

Both the players and staff have high expectations for Lugo.

"I hope that he continues to build up our program that is already solid and that he will be able to teach kids on the field and off the field," said Bosco. "I also hope that he becomes a strong part of our staff here at Saratoga High School." ♦



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SWIMMING

Boys make history by placing second in CCS

by Guy Quanrud

The last day the three Hinshaw brothers could swim together on the same Saratoga High School team ended in a surprise shocker with the Falcons roaring past Valley Christian and snagging second place overall in the CCS Championship. Not only did the boys place first among public schools, but they also placed second in CCS for the first time since 1969.

"We were definitely proud with the way things finished up in CCS," said junior Matt Murray. "It's definitely a bummer that we couldn't place so well in leagues."

Meanwhile, the Lady Falcons placed seventh, improving on last year's ninth place finish.

With boys placing second and girls seventh, Saratoga made a statement in this year, emerging as an elite competitor for future championships.

Participants in CCS for the boys were seniors Takehiro Kurosawa and Ryan Hinshaw, juniors Ben Hinshaw, Matt Murray and Brad Murray, and freshman Justin Chung and Adam Hinshaw.

In the first event, the 200-yard medley relay, Ben, Kurosawa, Matt, and Adam snagged a close third place. Following the relay, Adam and Ryan knocked in 29 points, taking fourth and fifth place respectively in the 200-yard freestyle. Ben captured first in the 200-yard individual medley while Brad finished eighth.

The Hinshaw family domination climaxed in the 500-yard freestyle, with Ben, Ryan and Adam taking first, third and



photo courtesy of Ryan Hinshaw

Junior Ben Hinshaw stands on the CCS winners' podium, joined by his brothers senior Ryan who placed third and freshman Adam who placed fourth while teammate junior Brad Murray took fifth place.

fourth, respectively. Brad also contributed 13 more points, taking sixth place.

Matt then broke the 100-yard backstroke CCS record with a time of 49.50 seconds. Chung finished 13th behind him with his time of 54 seconds flat.

In the final event, the 400-yard freestyle relay, the Hinshaw trio swam their last race together for Saratoga High School. With Matt as the fourth member of the team, the boys finished in 3:07.27, averaging less than 47 seconds per 100-yard leg.

Individual efforts led to a total of 232 points and the boys admirable' second place finish in CCS.

Girls' CCS

While the boys pursued swimming history, the girls swam for improvement. The qualifying girls' varsity swimmers were senior Hayes Hyde and sophomores Elizabeth Murray, Megan Nolet, Lauren Opatrny and Nora Patzman. Sophomore Lauren Gardanier competed as a diver.

The lady Falcons got off to a rough start with a disqualification in the 200 yard medley relay. After the disappointing relay, Hyde stepped up, knocking a full second of her 200-yard freestyle time for second place. Elizabeth took 13th.

Following the 200-yard freestyle, Opa-

trny got on the scoreboard, placing eighth in the 200-yard individual medley. Nolet then snagged 13th in the 50-yard freestyle, and Hyde swam her last individual high school race scoring seventh in the 100-yard butterfly.

After the butterfly, Elizabeth pulled in a second place in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 5:04, and Opatrny took fifth in the 100-yard breaststroke. In their final 400-yard relay, the girls finished sixth place with an average time of 53 seconds.

In the end, girls' varsity totaled 114 points, capping off seventh place overall on their terrific swimming season. ♦

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BASEBALL



Pro Image Studios

Senior Blake Paisley plans to attend Willamette University to play baseball in the fall.

Senior heads to Oregon

by Mika Padmanabhan

Senior pitcher Blake Paisley will graduate in June, but he doesn't plan on leaving his baseball career behind. Paisley plans to play for Willamette University in Salem, Oregon.

"I really like the coach up there since he knows a lot about baseball," said Paisley. "I am also getting a 40 percent scholarship, which is always good."

When asked to compare it to a local university that would be more recognized by students, Paisley said he believes that Willamette is similar to Santa Clara University.

"The main difference between the two schools is the fact that Willamette has Division III athletics while Santa Clara is Division I," said Paisley.

Paisley said he would like to play baseball after college, but he isn't too concerned if that goal isn't accomplished

to a professional level.

"We will see how it goes," said Paisley. "If I can make it, then good. But if not, then it really doesn't matter."

Paisley started playing baseball at age six and has been working on his game for the last 11 years. However, his years of rigorous work ethic has taken its toll on his body.

"Since I have pitching for so many years, the muscles on one side of my back are more developed than the other," said Paisley. "Because of that, my entire spine became slightly rotated, and I had to see a chiropractor and attend physical therapy."

Due to this injury, Paisley was forced to sit out for part of the season. But Paisley sees a silver lining in every cloud.

"The injury has given me time to recover and hopefully perform better in college," said Paisley. "I am very excited and hope next year goes well." ♦

BASKETBALL

Davey decides to coach girls' team next season

by Rahul Thakker

Longtime boys' basketball coach Mike Davey will coach the girls' team starting the next spring season. The change was a personal decision; Davey's daughters Samie and Rachel, entering sixth and fourth grades, respectively, will be coming up through the high school basketball program in the recent future, and Davey wants to make sure the team is in good condition when they arrive.

"[The Lady Falcons] have had five coaches in five years, so I want to make sure there's some stability to the program since I plan to be here through at least my daughters' tenure through the school," said Davey. "Not that the past coaches have been poor, it's just that I think it's time for some stability."

Davey said that he was originally planning on coaching the girls this season, but he later changed his mind when he was informed that this year's coach only wanted to stay with the team for another year or two.

Senior center Steven Walker was also one of the factors in Davey's change of heart. Walker asked Davey to continue coaching for his last year of high school, and as Davey joked, "It's hard to say 'no' to Steven Walker."

Junior guard Owen Huang said Davey will be sorely missed among the boys.

"Before he came, Saratoga basketball wasn't very good, but under him we started becoming really good," said Huang. "He's not a dumb coach; he knows what he's doing. Everything he's told me I try to keep, and it's made me a better player."

On the other hand, the girls are looking forward to having Davey on their

DAVEY

After 16 years, Mike Davey has decided to coach the girls' basketball team next year.

sidelines next season. Junior forward and guard Alex Sclavos said under Davey's leadership the team expects to do well next year.

"[Davey] is a really good coach and he's been around the game for a long time," said Sclavos. "We're going to be in a tough league next year so having him as our coach will be a big help to the team."

Next year, the girls will be moving

into the De Anza League, the top division in CCS. Because of this, Davey has already started making plans for the upcoming season.

"We need to improve because we're going to be in the A league

next year," said Davey. "I think we are going to run some different offensive sets and be more of a pressing team than we were last year. It hurts losing your point guard and your center, but I think we still have a lot of talent coming back."

The boys will be led by current JV coach Trevor Naas, who has already worked with the majority of next year's varsity players before. Davey said the coaching choice was made with the intention of making the team's transition as smooth as possible.

"I think there's going to be a lot of continuity in the boys' program," said Davey. "I've been involved in it for 16 years, so it's important to me that the boys stay a successful and well-run program." ♦

BADMINTON

Team sends five to CCS; Chock, Chiang take fourth

by Tiffany Tseng
and Jocelyn Ye

As the badminton season came to an end, the major end-of-season tournament CCS determined the top players of each section.

Five seniors from the Saratoga varsity badminton team attended CCS Championships, which were held from May 20 to 22.

Boys' doubles teams David Chock and Kevin Chiang, Michael Su and Andrew Shyu and girls' singles player Emily Hur all advanced from league finals to play against top-ranked Bay Area high school players at CCS.

"It was a great experience to meet some new players from all around," said Hur. "I learned a lot from watching their unique strategies and skills."

—senior Emily Hur

fourth place.

"The pressure was very strong as we advanced further into the competition," said Chiang. "The players got exponentially harder, but we tried our best and kept our hopes up."

The Falcons sent 18 varsity players to league finals, which took place the week before CCS.

In order to qualify for CCS, these players had to be in the top four in their respective categories.

"We were hoping that with all the teams we sent to leagues, at least 40 percent would advance to CCS," said coach Peter Chen. "I was a bit disappointed that our goal was not reached but still very proud of how everyone played at leagues."

The badminton team wrapped up their successful season on May 23 with its annual team banquet at Wildwood Park.

"It's been a great year," said Hur. "I'm really sad to leave this team for college, but CCS was a good ending to the season." ♦



Calvin Shih

Senior Michael Su sets up for the drop at a game against Palo Alto. He along with doubles partner Andrew Shyu made it to the second day of the CCS Championships.

Power Rankings

The Falcon evaluates SHS sports based on a variety of criteria, resulting in these possibly very flawed rankings.

—by Kelly Lamble and Rahul Thakker

1 Boys' Tennis



courtesy of Pro Image

Campus Presence: 4
Physical Demand: 3
Improvement: 2
Winning Percentage: 20
League Title: +2
CCS: 5
Star Factor: Lamble
Total: 36

For the fourth year in a row, boys' tennis tops these charts as the school's most dominant sport. This year, the boys made it all the way to the finals of CCS before being knocked out by rival Sacred Heart Prep. All of the singles players are underclassmen, so a strong team can be expected again next year.

2 Girls' Basketball



courtesy of Pro Image

Campus Presence: 5
Physical Demand: 3
Improvement: 2
Winning Percentage: 20
League Title: +1
CCS: 3
Star Factor: Sclavos
Total: 34

The girls' basketball team surprised many when they became the El Camino League champions this year. The girls managed to make it to the second round of CCS despite Sclavos tearing her ACL during Senior Night. The team is moving up to the De Anza League next year and with three returning starters, the team should have a good year.

3 Girls' Tennis

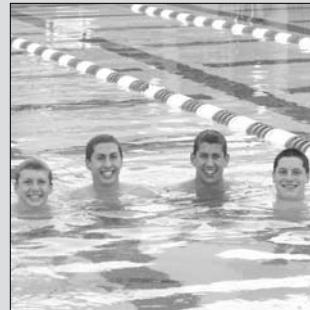


courtesy of Pro Image

Campus Presence: 3
Physical Demand: 3
Improvement: 3
Winning Percentage: 18
League Title: +2
CCS: 4
Star Factor: Raghavan
Total: 33

After several injuries held the girls back last year, they recovered this year to make the semifinals of CCS, losing to their long-time rivals Monta Vista. The addition of freshmen Catherine Nguyen and Shrinidhi Raghavan helped the team get back on top. With only one graduating senior, the young team is looking to improve on this year and possibly capture a CCS title in seasons to come.

4 Swimming



courtesy of Kevin Rollinson

Campus Presence: 3
Physical Demand: 4
Improvement: 3
Winning Percentage: 18
League Title: +2
CCS: 5
Star Factor: Hinshaw³
Total: 33

While the girls placed seventh in CCS, the boys stunned everyone with a second place finish in the tournament. Junior Matt Murray even set a CCS record in the 100-yard backstroke. He, along with the three Hinshaw brothers, freshman Adam, junior Ben and senior Ryan, contributed many points across the board. As only a few seniors, including Hayes Hyde, are graduating, the team can expect to achieve success next year.

5 Football



courtesy of Pro Image

Campus Presence: 5
Physical Demand: 5
Improvement: 3
Winning Percentage: 14
League Title: +1
CCS: 4
Star Factor: Essner
Total: 32

With a strong core of returning players, the team won the El Camino league title and advanced to CCS for the first time since 2003. After a close first-round victory over the third seed, the Falcons suffered a disappointing loss to Live Oak on a last-second field goal. With the departure of many seniors, the team's fate for the upcoming season depends on the incoming underclassmen.

Sport (last year's ranking)	Campus Presence (1-5)	Physical Demand (1-5)	Improvement (1-3)	Winning Percentage (1-20)	League Title (+1 for lower league, +2 for upper)	CCS (0-5)	Star Factor	Total	Evaluation
6. Field Hockey (13)	4	4	3	16	0	4	K. Seago	31	We had to put them in the top ten. Those girls were vicious! Plus, they made the semis of CCS.
t7. Boys' Volleyball (18)	4	3	3	14	0	4	Sabella	28	Led by a strong group of seniors, the team did well this year but will have big holes to fill.
t7. Girls' Track and Field (3)	3	4	2	16	1	2	N. Sabes	28	Despite promising showings throughout the season, the team failed to send anyone to state.
9. Boys' Basketball (7)	5	4	3	13	0	2	Ghafouri	27	After a slow start, the undersized boys advanced to the second round of CCS.
t10. Girls' Soccer (22)	3	4	3	16	0	0	Guy	26	A lower level of competition and a closely bonded team helped the girls escape last place.
t10. Wrestling (8)	1	5	1	16	0	3	Nguyen	26	The team performed well, which will boost them into the upper league next year.
12. Boys' Track and Field (13)	3	4	2	13	0	3	Marshall	25	Strong individual runners led the Falcons, but the team lacked the depth to win their league.
13. Girls' Cross Country (2)	3	4	1	14	0	2	Nast	24	Loss of two key runners left the girls scrambling to regain the past year's success.
14. Boys' Cross Country (13)	3	4	2	12	0	2	Banks	23	A new coach approached the sport differently, leading to many PRs.
15. Girls' Water Polo (8)	3	5	1	12	0	0	Norris	21	In this case, girls are definitely better than boys.
16. Badminton (20)	2	3	2	10	0	3	Chock	20	What's wrong with this high-speed version of tennis? Oh, yeah. Our record.
t17. Girls' Volleyball (16)	4	3	2	9	0	2	Erica Baba	20	This team had a lot of spirit but not a lot of victories.
18. Boys' Soccer (5)	3	4	2	8	0	0	Clark	17	Problems with teamwork and commitment plagued the team throughout the season.
t19. Boys' Water Polo (4)	3	5	1	4	0	0	Mortazavi	13	This young team tried but failed to make up for big holes left by graduated seniors.
t19. Baseball (19)	2	2	1	8	0	0	Hornberger	13	Injuries, including senior Myles Hornberger's season-ending broken arm, crippled the team.
21. Golf (17)	1	1	1	8	0	1	Hoffman	12	The team struggled, sending just one player, junior Stephen Hoffman, to CCS.
22. Softball (20)	2	2	1	4	0	0	J. Gragnola	9	Only two league wins. =-(