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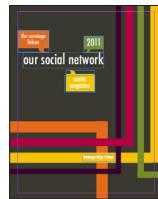
what's inside >>

THE



SPORTS | 20

Power rankings are out! Where does your team stand?

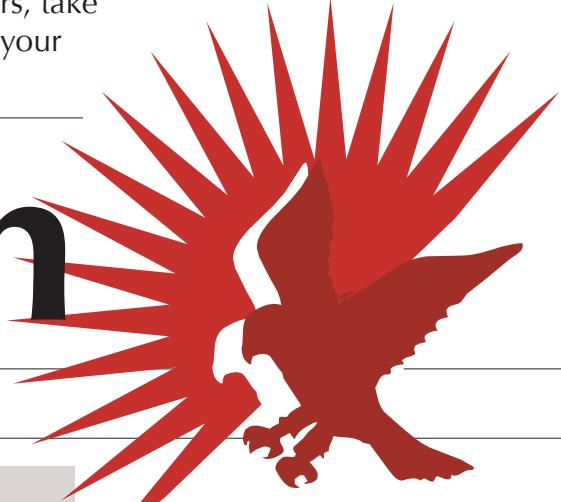


SENIOR MAG | INSIDE

Outgoing seniors, take a last look into your social network!

saratogafalcon

Vol. 51 >> Issue 11 >> Thursday, June 9, 2011 >> Saratoga High School >> Saratoga, CA >> saratogafalcon.org



PARCEL TAX PASSAGE

Measure A reduces class sizes

BY Emily Williams

Administrators, teachers, students and parents breathed a collective sigh of relief on May 3 when Measure A, the parcel tax in the Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District, passed with a 72.59 percent support, according to the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters. Measure A marked the first time that voters in the district have been asked to approve a parcel tax measure for the two high schools.

"It's kind of historic," superintendent Cary Matsuoka said. "To have it pass on our first attempt is a big deal."

Measure A will implement an annual \$49 parcel tax to support both Saratoga and Los Gatos High Schools. The tax is expected to generate \$4.8 million over a six-year time span.

"This parcel tax ... gives us some much needed breathing room as we look forward to the future," Matsuoka said.

The vote was conducted via mail-in ballot. Overall 14,700 votes were cast, with 10,671 people voting for Measure A and 4,029 people voting against it (27.41 percent). The tax needed 66.7 percent to pass.

The success of Measure A does not solve all of the district's budget problems, but many proposed cuts will no longer have to be implemented.

"It means that our budget will be stabilized," Matsuoka said. "[We can] stop annual spring cutting and maintain everything that we have in our school."

The money will be used to support the core programs: English, math, sci-

falconfigures

1 The number of California's high school bands performing in the Macy's Day Parade in 2012.

400 The number of parents and students expected to go on the trip.

6 The number of days music director Michael Boitz planned the trip to be.

\$2,000 The approximate cost of the Macy's Day Parade trip for each student.

>> Ashley Tang

>> **BUDGET** on pg. 5

>> upcoming events

June 10-15 Finals Week

Start studying for your second semester finals (unless you are a senior)!

June 16 Graduation

Watch the graduation ceremony and bid your seniors farewell!

Aug. 10 Schedule Pick Up Day

Get your new schedules for the new year. Be sure to look good for your school picture!

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SWIMMING

Hinshaw breaks Spitz's all-time record

BY Michael Lee
& Aasim Naqvi

In swimming, a tenth of a second can separate victory from defeat, a place on the podium from a place on the bleachers.

A tenth of a second was all senior Adam Hinshaw needed to break the Santa Clara Valley Athletic League's 40-year-old 200-yard freestyle record on May 6.

At the De Anza Athletic League Finals meet at Saratoga High's pool, Hinshaw finished his race with a time of 1:40.40, just ahead of all-time great swimmer

Mark Spitz's SCVAL record of 1:40.50.

At the peak of his swimming career, Spitz won seven gold medals at the 1972 Olympics in Munich. Michael Phelps is the only person who has surpassed this feat, with his eight golds at Beijing in 2008. An alumnus of Santa Clara High, Spitz had held the SCVAL record in the 200 freestyle since 1968.

"I knew the record going into the race, and it was my goal to break it," Hinshaw said. "I don't really shoot for [records], but if I happen to see one that's achievable, I'll try to get it."

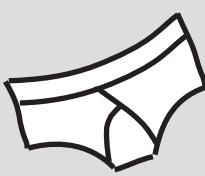
Going into Leagues, Hinshaw's best time in the 200 freestyle was a 1:37.70.

However, he swam that time last year at CCS after tapering—a process of rest and recovery before big meets. At Leagues, Hinshaw did not have the benefit of a taper.

"I felt terrible [during the race], because I was tired," Hinshaw said. "I had a hard workout the day before and it took a lot of mental and physical effort to go that fast."

Hinshaw said that the fact that Spitz, who set 33 swimming world records in his career, held the record made him happier.

>> **HINSHAW** on pg. 21



news >> briefs

Science teachers to teach different classes to accommodate students' interests

Starting next year, some teachers in the science department will teach different classes in order to accommodate students enrolled in some of the department's more popular courses. AP Physics will need a new teacher due to science teacher Bill Drennan's decision to retire at the end of this year.

Currently, the school is not looking to hire another teacher to take the AP and regular Physics classes that Drennan teaches. Instead, teacher Kirk Davis will teach all AP Physics classes next year, along with a few regular physics periods, while current Biology and Chemistry Honors teacher Jenny Garcia will also teach a few regular physics classes.

Teacher Cheryl Lenz, who currently teaches only one period of biology, will likely take on more Biology or Chemistry Honors classes, according to assistant principal Brian Safine.

Safine also said that there may be three AP Physics classes next year because of increased interest in the class. Currently there are only two.

Davis, who currently teaches four sections of regular physics and one section of Sequential Math 2, has never taught AP physics before, but is "looking forward to doing so."

"Of course, Mr. Drennan will be hard to replace," Davis said. "He has taught here for 35 years and knows the subject and the AP curriculum so well. He will be a big loss."

—Aashna Mukerji and Deborah Soung

Bell Tower hosts Spanish culture nights

The Bell Tower restaurant in downtown Saratoga had a busy night on May 19 due to Spanish 4 Honors classes' "Paella y Guitarra" night. Spanish teacher Arnaldo Rodriguez's students must attend three cultural events per semester for a participation grade, and this event proved to be popular. On May 26, a subsequent event was held for AP Spanish 5 and 6 students.

"It was nice to do something different—eating, taking pictures and enjoying the company," Rodriguez said.

Fifty students attended this event, which aimed to expose students to authentic Spanish culture, as musicians played live Spanish folk music on guitars while flamenco dancers stepped to the beat on the outdoor terrace.

The dinner consisted of fresh salad and paella, a mix of rice, seafood and chicken, or a similar vegetarian option.

Junior Nicole Shadman, a Spanish student and the daughter of Bell Tower's owner, Michael Shadman, said she thought the night was fun.

"It was busy. We actually ran out of paella," she said.

This is the first time that Rodriguez's classes have had a cultural activity at the Bell Tower.

"It was convenient that the event was local," junior Kristine Johnston said. "Everyone chatted while enjoying the paella."

—Sabrina Cismas

Alumnus donates equipment to school

Bradford F. Martin, a Saratoga High alumnus from 1978, recently donated a Hi-Lo table to the athletics department, according to athletic trainer Liz Gilmore.

A Hi-Lo table, usually worth about \$1,500 to \$4,000, allows an athletic trainer to treat her patients with greater ease as the table can adjust to many different heights.

"The Hi-Lo table is extremely helpful when providing treatment to our student athletes," Gilmore said. "I can raise or lower them to the appropriate height for each treatment."

Martin is a physical therapist who owns and runs the Orthopedic Physical Therapy Specialists of Saratoga, which he established in 1986.

He also donated a slide board and a resistance training parachute because he is downsizing his physical therapy facility in preparation for retirement. Martin said he had no trouble on deciding where to donate his equipment.

"I like Saratoga High, [and] they needed a Hi-Lo table," Martin said.

The addition of the Hi-Lo table will be very helpful for Gilmore when she treats student athletes.

"[The table] allows me to place the athlete in an accessible position," Gilmore said. "I no longer have to stand on a stool or bend down while treating a student athlete."

—Allison Toh

>> picturethis



Teachers celebrate a homerun hit by English teacher Eric Rector at the staff softball game on April 27.

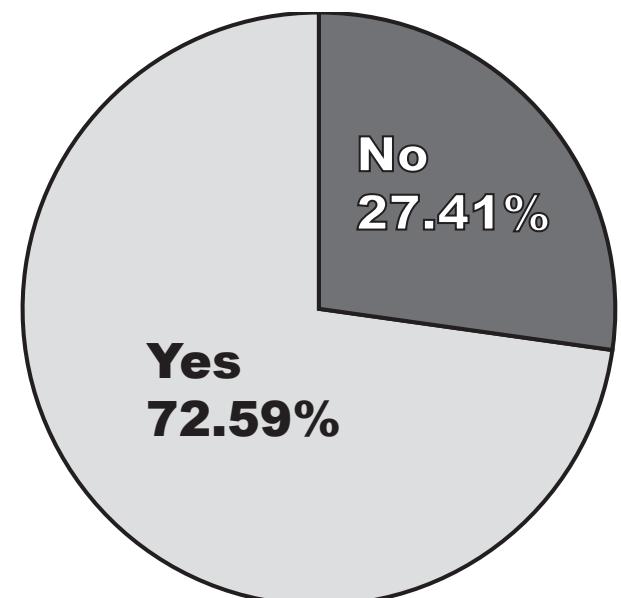
FALCON // DYLAN JEW

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Measure A

The data represents the distribution of the votes for Measure A, which passed with 72.59 percent out of 14,700 votes cast in favor on May 3, according to the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters. Measure A will implement an annual \$49 parcel tax to support both Saratoga and Los Gatos High Schools. The tax is expected to generate \$4.8 million over a six-year time span. The money will support core programs, like English, math, science, social studies and world languages, and help to keep class sizes small.

Source: Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters.



VIVIAN LETRAN

>> falconfocus

Science teacher juggles family, coaching, job

BY Michael Lee
& Emily Williams

Kristen Thomson watches out of the corner of her eye as her 3-year-old son, Spencer, plays on the bleachers on the pool deck. Meanwhile, she explains a set to a group of JV swimmers.

Thomson's multitasking results from her hectic life in which she juggles teaching, coaching and family commitments.

Thomson has been teaching and coaching the boys' and girls' swim teams since she first started teaching at Saratoga in 2000. She teaches two periods of biology and three periods of AP Environmental Science.

Balancing the team and her classes was always a challenge, but in recent years Thomson has added a whole new level of responsibility.

Thomson gave birth to her two children, Spencer and Isla Lily in 2008 and 2010, respectively.

"It was tough without kids. It was tougher with one and exponentially tougher with two," she said.

Now, Thomson balances parenting, coaching and teaching in a world of constant scheduling conflicts. She says that the key to maintaining a busy schedule is good communication.



>> Teacher Kristen Thomson

Thomson's multitasking results from her hectic life in which she juggles teaching, coaching and family.

fellow head coach Christian Bonner and three assistant coaches. She says that having back-up in swimming is nice when something comes up last minute and she cannot attend practice.

While family is her first priority, Thomson's passion for working with kids drives her to continue coaching and teaching, despite her busy schedule.

On the swim team she feels that she develops a less formal

relationship with her athletes, as she is more laid-back and tends to joke around more.

"I love getting to know kids outside of the classroom," she said. "If you just look at our team this year, it is full of characters. In a classroom situation, you kind of have to water it down so that everyone can learn. It's nice to see people's true colors."

Thomson finds the rewards in teaching as she introduces students to topics about which she is passionate and watches her students grow intellectually. But the best parts of both jobs are the relationships that she forms with students.

"Both of [the jobs] let me get to know students and, to me, that's the most important thing," she said. "You teach because you like it and that's doubly [true] with coaching, because you put in so much time and you really don't get paid much at all."

Thomson takes the time out of her busy life to coach school sports because she loves what she is doing, not because she wants the money.

"The day that I coach for the money or the day that I teach for solely myself and not for my students is the day that I think I should retire," Thomson said. "You have to be in it for the students. They're the most important." ♦

History Day and science fair make history

BY Samika Kumar

As the school year wraps up its odds and ends, Saratoga High showed off its top entries and projects at History Day and science state fairs. The Qualifiers included 31 students who showcased 16 total entries at the History Day State Fair and two students who presented their projects at the California State Science Fair.

History Day: 'Debate and Diplomacy'

For the first time in history, the school saw three of its students' projects qualify for the National History Day competition to be held from June 12-16 at the University of Maryland.

The prerequisites were the school, county and state competitions. Judging at the state level was held at the Double Tree Airport Hotel in San Jose on April 30.

The winners successfully tied a historical event to this year's theme, "Debate and Diplomacy: Successes, Failures and Consequences." Junior Ariella Yendler's individual performance on the Scopes Monkey Trial, juniors Christine Tseng, Sanjana Chetia and Jennifer Yang's group documentary on Japanese

internment during WWI and freshman Anushree Dugar's historical paper on the Colorado River Compact trumped the other entries that reached the state level from each of the nine presentation categories.

Of the 232 entries at the state level, these students will be among the 18 high school entries to represent California at the national competition.

Junior David Eng's individual website on the Iran-Contra Affair and junior Myron Zhang's historical paper on the Cuban Missile Crisis placed third, making them the first runners-up within their respective categories.

Eng was also given the Webmasters Special Award. Dugar received the A.P. Malvino Award, awarded to students for using clear writing to present complicated topics.

Dugar, the only freshman from Saratoga High to participate in History Day,

is additionally the school's only student to have reached the national level in the past.

"I'm really excited. I decided to do [a History Day project] in eighth grade because I had heard about it, and I like history a lot," Dugar explained.

Dugar looks forward to the national competition after her positive experience from last year.

"There was a big parade, and I met students from all over the country," Dugar said.

"I was grateful for the opportunity to compete this year and felt honored to represent my county alongside such qualified peers."

>> Junior David Eng

Science projects navigate to state

A few days after the National History Day competition, sophomore David Zarrin and junior David Eng represented Saratoga High in the California State Science Fair. The fair was from May 2-3 at the California Science Center in Los Angeles. These two were among the 60 students that qualified for the state fair from the approximate 1,000 students who participated in the Synopsis Science

Fair.

Neither won awards, but Zarrin received special recognition for being one of 10 students to have reached the state fair level five times.

Zarrin's project was a "centimeter-accurate indoor navigation system that is commercially plausible."

Using a process he coined radio oscillation, Zarrin created a navigation method that is cheaper and more precise than many of the devices today. The device helps one find anything, from a seat in a restaurant to the fire exit of a burning building.

Eng's project centered around the effect of septins—a special type of protein—on a host cell's ability to endocytose the fungus *Candida albicans*.

The project directly influences membrane biology, according to Eng. Its research can help synthesize agents that fight the disease that is caused by this fungus.

As this was his first year participating in a science fair, Eng was happy to reach the state level.

"I was grateful for the opportunity to compete this year and felt honored to represent my county alongside such qualified peers," Eng said. ♦

>> thewinners

Five students will move on to the national History Day Competition.



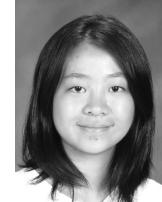
freshman
Anushree Dugar



junior
Sanjana Chetia



junior
Christine Tseng



junior
Jennifer Yang



junior
Ariella Yendler

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Upcoming AP Test
May 2nd - May 13th

Juniors receive kudos at CSF Awards Ceremony

BY Aashna Mukerji

Eleven juniors received awards at the CSF Award Ceremony held on May 18. At 7:30 a.m., parents and students went to the cafeteria, where students were recognized for their exceptional conduct and academic excellence by various teachers, guidance counselors and administrators.

The California Scholarship Federation (CSF) is a statewide community service organization that hosts the CSF Awards Banquet each year. Awards are given for outstanding performance in areas such as science, math, English, history and leadership. Students who receive CSF awards are then eligible to win scholarships.

Junior Meghana Rao received the Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony Award in Humanities and Social Sciences after her AP U.S. History teacher, Kim Anzalone, nominated her.

"Winning this award raised my self-confidence and boosted my ego, not that I really needed that," Rao said. "But, more importantly, I was touched that Mrs. Anzalone thought so highly of me. It means so much more when a teacher makes that extra effort to show their appreciation."

Math teacher Audrey Warmuth decided to present junior Evan Ye with the California Mathematics Council Certificate.

"Not only does he have extraordinary skills, but he's a wonderful personality to have in the classroom," Warmuth said.

Ye felt very proud to receive the award "among such a strong and talented math class."

>> the award recipients

Award (Nominator): Recipient
Bausch And Lob Honorary Science Award
(Kucer): Myron Zhang

California Mathematics Council Certificate
(Warmuth): Evan Ye

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

(Anzalone): Meghana Rao

George Eastman Leadership Award (Hyde):

Anshu Siripurapu

Harvard Book Award (Ritchie): Michael Chang

MIT Leadership Award (Nakamatsu): Alissa Zhang

Mount Holyoke College Book Award

(Mohnike): Penny Burgess

Rensselaer Medal Winner (Drennan): Chris Jones

Wellesley Book Award (Mohnike): Megan Yen

Williams Book Award (Anzalone): Antara Rao

Xerox Award for Innovation and Information Technology (Troxell): Elaine Chou

After receiving the George Eastman Young Leaders award from assistant principal Karen Hyde, junior Anshu Siripurapu felt honored to be distinguished from the other notable leaders on campus.

"I was also humbled to be in the company of the other award winners because they are all extremely talented. Any of them could have received all of the awards," he said.

Warmuth added, "Many teachers, including myself, feel bad that there aren't more awards that can be given out because there are many worthy students at Saratoga High." ♦

LEGENDARY DRENNAN RETIRES

BY Emily Williams

Physics teacher Bill Drennan has touched the lives of countless students in the classroom, on the wrestling mat and on the golf course. For 35 years at SHS, he has challenged students to open their minds and think outside the box, but he is retiring at the end of the year.

"I think that we are losing a huge personality in the science department. He is just such a character; he is a legend," science teacher Kristen Thomson said. "No one can replace him, no one can come close to him, he's just a legend and it's definitely the end of an era."

Where did he come from?

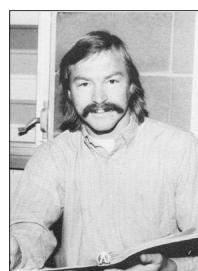
Drennan was hired here in 1976; it was the only teaching job he had ever applied for.

He was hired primarily as a wrestling coach who would also teach math. Reflecting on his time at the school, Drennan noted how much the place has changed as the values have shifted from athletics to academics.

Drennan was inspired to get his teaching credential when, as a young man, he worked at a school for wards of the state and witnessed how they were mistreated by the owner of the school. He wanted to be able to help them, and he dreamed of one day starting his own school for these kids.

Drennan attended UCLA on a wrestling scholarship and later got his teaching credential from UC Santa Barbara.

Since he started at the school, Drennan has taught 10 different classes,



Then: 1979



Now: 2011

everything from Algebra 2, Geometry, General Math and Science to Chemistry. Drennan currently teaches his favorite subject, AP Physics.

According to Drennan, his retirement has been a long time coming, saying, "It's about time."

A passion for teaching

Drennan is perhaps best known for his stories. Yet Drennan's stories are more than just entertaining. Although he likes to joke around, Drennan truly loves teaching, and his stories are part of his teaching strategy.

In his class, he values a combination of learning and fun. In his end-of-the-year evaluation he asks students three questions: "How much did you learn?" "How much did you enjoy it?" and "How hard did you work?"

Not all students appreciate Drennan's style of teaching, but despite criticism,

many will definitely miss his antics.

"It is so sad that he's retiring because no one will truly appreciate the 'Drennan experience,'" senior Kent Paisley, who knows

Drennan well from his memorable time on the golf team. "It's kind of an important thing to go through, in my opinion."

Plans for retirement

Drennan does not yet know exactly what he will do after he retires.

"I might just not do anything at all for about a half a year and just get used to what life's like without the pressure," he said.

Throughout the year, he has been working hard to stay in good physical shape after three back surgeries.

"[I am] just getting healthy and staying fit so I can do whatever I want, enjoy this time. I can't wait. I don't know what it's going to be like not having that pressure."

Although he does not have an exact plan, Drennan has many hobbies that he would like to continue to pursue. He plays three-cushion billiards and loves to shoot pool. He also plans to play golf and work on projects around his property where "there's always a lot to do."

He doesn't want to stop teaching and hopes to continue to teach through private tutoring and golf instruction.

"I've always liked coming to class, but other things to do with teaching I'm not really fond of," he said. "If I just [spent time in the classroom] and nothing else then I'd probably keep teaching."

Although he will miss aspects of teaching, Drennan feels that he is leaving on a positive note.

"I'm very, very happy right now. Looking back, you know you have good years and bad years, but overall I feel proud and I've had a lot of kids come back and tell me nice things, this year especially," he said.

A legacy of "speaking truth to power"

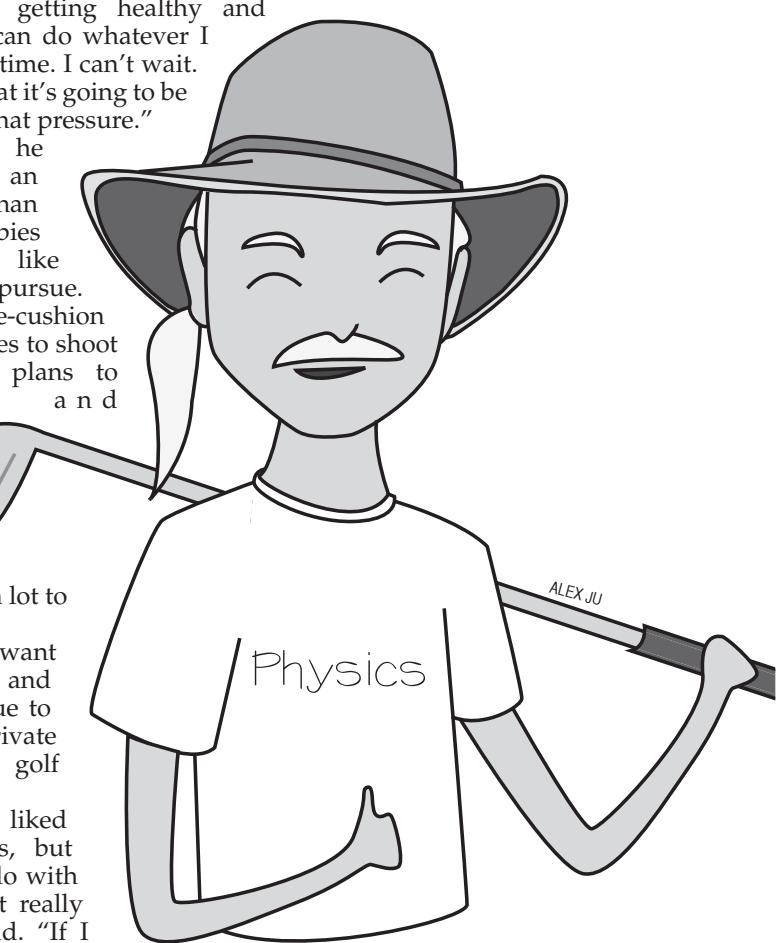
Drennan hopes that he leaves a lasting legacy by teaching his students to "speak truth to power" by "standing up and speaking out" when they believe something isn't right and training

them to question everything.

"I've always said that I think it's so important that students see teachers as models of courage. I hope I've made them question—and I don't just mean laws of physics. I mean what their contribution to the world is? How their life is going to make the planet better or worse?"

Drennan practices what he preaches at school as part of his legacy. He is known for speaking up when he feels that something is not right.

"I'm not sure if I'm ever going to find someone so passionate about things as him," Thomson said. "I've had some great discussions with him, and I think that he is one of the smartest people I know. I will miss him and his antics." ♦



Cali looks forward to having more free time

BY Ashwini Velchamy

Most students cannot wait to get out of school. Very few even consider coming back to teach. For many, four years of high school seem to be more than enough. However, guidance counselor Christy Cali is only now ending her career in education after 39 years of teaching and counseling.

"I'd like to try something different and still be healthy and energetic enough to do it," Cali said. "I look forward to very simple things like reading the paper or taking a long hike on a day when the weather is perfect for hiking."

She also mentioned how she is looking forward to opportunities that would come with retiring such as traveling and taking advantage of off-season prices or not worrying about getting up at 5:30 a.m. to drive to work.

"[I look forward to] getting involved in a project late into the evening and not having to worry about getting up at 5:30 in the morning, or sleeping in on a stormy winter day, or spending an entire afternoon reading a book," Cali said.

She has been working at the school for a total of 11 years, before which she taught at Mt. Pleasant and counseled at James Lick. Next year, she will be replaced by Lisa Kellert, who has worked at Wilcox High School.

She said that she will miss the labor-intensive job of college letter writing the least.

"Counseling is all about the students. I like the fact that they are motivated and they have a good global awareness.

They are also diversified, and I just enjoy their challenges. They've been given the opportunity to expand on their talents," Cali said.

Throughout her years, Cali has also been involved in extracurricular activities.

She was the California Scholarship Federation advisor for five to six years, worked for the District Teachers Association, and was involved with Mock Trial for seven years.

As for her favorite memories from the years past, Cali finds events like Halloween and rallies to be at the top of her list. She also mentioned her love of the music program.

One of the biggest moments this year, she said, was the Mock Trial team getting into the Santa Clara County finals.

"That was a very high point," she said. "One of the students I've had for four years, the other for three, and this year all the students came together as a team. After watching [students] grow, I thought that was really special."

Junior Michael Chang, who has Cali as a counselor, said that Cali became so much more than a counselor to him and others he knows.

"She's one of those rare people who is driven by passion to go above and beyond in her job," said Chang. "The school will lose one of its most dedicated and supportive leaders when Ms. Cali retires."

Sophomore Elyse Berlinberg added that she was sad about Cali retiring.

"I really wish she could stay throughout my applying to colleges

and all. I'm really sad that she's retiring, but I hope she has a great time taking time off, traveling, and all that jazz," said Berlinberg.

Looking further back, Cali laughed about how when she first started teaching in 1972 at Mt. Pleasant High School, the

technology was completely different from what current students are used to.

"Well, back then we didn't have computers; we used a typewriter, and we used what was called a ditto machine [a machine similar to a copy machine]. Well, if you used it at the last minute, right before you ran into class, the fluid would still be wet. And the kids would get very excited, pass the papers around and sniff the fluid," Cali said.

She expressed amazement at how different the times were and how they have changed. There was no Internet, record players were used and all the teachers used chalk and blackboards. The movies teachers showed students



Counselor Christy Cali sits in her office, hard at work. This is her 11th year counseling at Saratoga High and 39th year working in education.

were on actual film.

"One time I was showing a film, and I didn't realize the film had stopped, so it was all over the floor. I had to sit there and roll it back up with a pencil," Cali said.

As for her parting words to the school, Cali said that they were similar to what she would say to departing seniors.

"You're moving on to something new and no one can take the memories away," Cali said. "Your lives are enriched, and I feel that my life has been very much enriched by being here. With that, we can move on to a new adventure and a new experience and cherish what has happened over the last 11 years." ♦

Leadership, administration preach unity, equality to freshman class in assembly

BY Michael Lee

"Loser." "Geek." "Stupid." The girl on the projector screen wore a bored expression as she slandered her classmate. As the scene faded to black, some words flashed: "If you wouldn't say it in person, why say it online?"

The overhead lights illuminated the faces of the more than 300 freshmen sitting in the McAfee Center's seats during a tutorial assembly on May 13. Chief Trial Deputy Rey Mendoza took the microphone and addressed the students.

"I see kids being hurt and I hear about kids being hurt online every day. And some kids suffer from severe depression. Some kids don't want to come to school. And what happens in adolescence affects you your entire life."

The leadership class and the administration organized this assembly to discourage the students from falling trap to bullying and other negative behaviors. Assistant principal Karen Hyde said the school will organize similar events next year, along with shifting the focus of Link Crew from school spirit to class unity.

"The piece that we have lost over time is the honor of all students, for whatever they do, for wherever they exceed or excel," Hyde said. "I think the seniors have it, but there's less embracing of it [with the underclassmen]."

Hyde and assistant principal Kevin Mount both emphasized the need to combat recent issues like bullying, especially in the form of cyberbullying on websites like Facebook and Formspring.

"The research says that the best way to deal with bullying is to purposefully create a culture of prevention," Mount said. "The idea is how to encourage students to take pride, not just in their academics and extracurriculars, but in the way they treat each other."

Mount said other schools across the nation are focusing more on creating a culture of prevention.

"Well, we had a couple of instances [of bullying] this year, but nothing out of the ordinary. I think it's kind of in the national mindset right now," Mount said. "President Obama delivered a speech on bullying, and there's a heightened awareness around treating people right."

Mount asserted that the main goal is to make Saratoga High "a peaceful and positive place to go to school."

"What's more interesting to me is not just preventing bullying, but creating a positive culture where everyone feels good about going to school," Mount said.

As ASB president, senior David Mandell believes that the underclassmen are more disconnected from the school and each other than previous classes have been. He feels they have a lack of respect for their peers, the upperclassmen and themselves.

As a result, the underclassmen may be more prone to bullying-related problems.

"My freshman year, I felt really welcomed, and I tried to dive into the Saratoga culture. I feel there's more of a barrier between [the older students] and the freshmen," Mandell said. "As upper-



FALCON // VIVIEN LU

Psychologist John Piña speaks to freshmen on bullying on May 13 in the McAfee Center.

classmen, it is our job to be the example and not the exception."

Freshman Nikhil Goel, too, has noticed varying levels of unity among the classes.

"I have heard of instances where people think of the freshman class as more into bullying, but I don't really see it personally," Goel said. "I guess I'm in the grade and I'm used to it."

Goel believes that students need to change themselves and their behavior early.

"I think it really starts at the middle school level, because that's where a lot of

the problems happen," Goel said. "You can't really change their state of mind at that point, because kids have already kind of matured."

Mandell, Mount, Goel and Hyde all remain hopeful of the school's ability to create a culture that will positively influence new students in the future.

"Popularity is not what earns you a place on this campus," Hyde said. "It's more important about accepting, embracing, allowing people to find their passions and moving forward. And we need to keep the culture of Saratoga High School moving forward." ♦

MACY'S >> Trip planned

Continued from pg. 1

Current juniors also missed the Redwood Marching Band trip to Washington, D.C., during Barack Obama's inauguration. Some of the current freshmen and sophomores are among the lucky few who have been to both the inauguration and to Carnegie Hall; now they will also play in the Thanksgiving parade.

Boitz agrees with the upperclassmen and feels bad that they will not be able to attend. However, many of them were able to travel to Europe and Carnegie Hall.

"It just kind of happens the way it happens," said Boitz, who does not have control over which year the marching band will be able to perform in the parade.

In fact, Boitz had not even expected that the marching band would have this opportunity so early, for this was his first time applying to the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Usually, groups must apply three or four times to get accepted into an event or clinic, according to Boitz.

"I kind of sent in the application secretly not knowing whether we would get accepted or not, so I was equally sur-

prised that we did," Boitz said. "I wasn't anticipating it."

To be a part of Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, Boitz sent in an application that included information about the directors, accomplishments and accolades that the music program has received and DVDs and videos of performances.

"It was kind of fun to put the application together because I had to make a bio of everything we've done in the past 10 years, both band and orchestra," Boitz said.

"I included orchestra too because when we've traveled internationally, to the Sydney Opera House and to Europe, we've done it together as a group," he said.

However, the trip may be pricey due to the cost of transporting instruments, called the "second baggage fee." Boitz estimates that the total cost of the trip will be about \$2,000 per person.

"The cost of the trip might be a problem because I know these trips tend to be pretty expensive," freshmen Derek Tanaka said.

"But I know it will be worth it," He said. ♦

BUDGET >> Parcel tax passes

Continued from pg. 1

-ence, social studies and world languages. In order to ensure that this happens, the district office will be organizing an oversight committee made up of Saratoga and Los Gatos citizens.

In a board meeting on May 17, the board of trustees decided to spend \$550,000 to shrink class sizes and add sections that were cut because of the budget. English 9 and Algebra 1 will benefit the most from the added sections, although the whole curriculum will gain sections.

They also decided to "restore per-pupil spending," provide support and

reinstate the NOVA alternative program guidance counselor position. The rest of the issues are on hold until the California state budget is passed, according to a message that Matsuoka posted on the district website. The community, especially parents, students and teachers, had to lead the campaign. Shinku Sharma and Cathie Thermond ultimately ran it.

In an email to district staff, superintendent Cary Matsuoka said that they "each played a part in this historic step for our district by [their] support of Measure A, and the work [they] do to make our district such a great place for students." ♦

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The final curtain call: 'Noises Off' ends year

Drama department upperclassmen showcase play about the hectic scramble behind a show

By Vivian LeTran

From June 2-4, both of the drama classes showcased the last production of the year in the Little Theatre: "Noises Off," a 1982 comedic play written by Michael Frayn about the hectic scramble behind the scenes of a drama production.

"Noises Off" is about a group of actors aspiring to produce a successful play, "Nothing On," a comedic love farce.

Along the way, however, the actors are faced with missed cues, personal problems between cast members and many other hectic situations.

The three acts take place during the last dress rehearsal, the matinee show and behind the stage during the final performance, depicting the hilarious disorder of a production of a play.

"[Noises Off] is really awesome. It's basically a play about a play," junior Penny Burgess said. "My character is the assistant stage manager, so she's running about back stage trying to help out in any way."

The play highlighted different actors in each act. "Noises Off" has no main character, but it is instead an ensemble effort. This fast-paced play often combines several conflicts together, at times with several conflicts simultaneously occurring, to exaggerate the turmoil and disorder of a real production.

"The second act that is a backstage scene is the most fun. Only the people on stage are talking and everyone off stage is completely silent," Burgess said. "It's really hectic though. Like you're [in

the middle of an argument] and then you realize, 'Oh, my cue!' and you run onto the stage."

This production has two casts of 10 actors each. Cast members received their scripts at the beginning of the semester, and they have been rehearsing since the beginning of April.

The main cast, completely comprised of seniors, will perform three shows, and the understudy cast, comprised of underclassmen, will perform the matinee show at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

"We're excited we [could] all work together to put this play together since it's our last year," said senior Arianna Paranzino, who plays Dotty in the main cast. "It's [was] great because we [had] all the people with the most experience trying to make the play work."

Drama teacher Kerry Mohnike, who directed the play, chose this play especially for the seniors.

"First, 'Noises Off' is one of my favorite shows of all time, and it's hysterical," Mohnike said. "And second, which is probably the most important reason, it absolutely fits the talent that we have in the advanced drama class. Right now, we have a class of seniors that are all really



Paranzino



FALCON // JUSTINE HUANG

The cast of "Noises Off" is all smiles as they take a break from a last minute rehearsal in the Little Theater on June 1, one day before their first performance.

>> **MEET the cast**

"Noises Off"

Lloyd Dallas: David Mandell

Dotty Otley: Arianna Paranzino/Shayda Roohparvar

Garry Lejeune: Jay Lee/Mitchell McGuire

Frederick Fellows: Chaz Main/Michael Gee

Belinda Blair: Mikaela Burton/Pavi Sadras

Young writer nationally recognized

By Deborah Soung

In late March, junior Akash Kar was shocked by the news that he had won the state level Letters About Literature (LAL), a national writing competition sponsored by the Library of Congress.



"We're lucky to have such a great library, so I'm happy to be able to contribute to the funding."

>> **Junior Akash Kar**

Past LAL winners have been publicized by well-known media companies such as the National Public Radio, as well as on television shows.

"It's a huge opportunity," Kar said. "[The school] gets grant money; we get

a lot of publicity because of it."

Kar spoke at a local reception in Sunnyvale on June 5 and will be speaking at the Library of Congress on a date not yet determined.

Kar stated that he never expected his letter to get so far in the competition; he only submitted the letter after much coaxing from his peers and mentors.

"I didn't expect to do anything with [the letter]," he said. "I turned it in as a practice write." ♦

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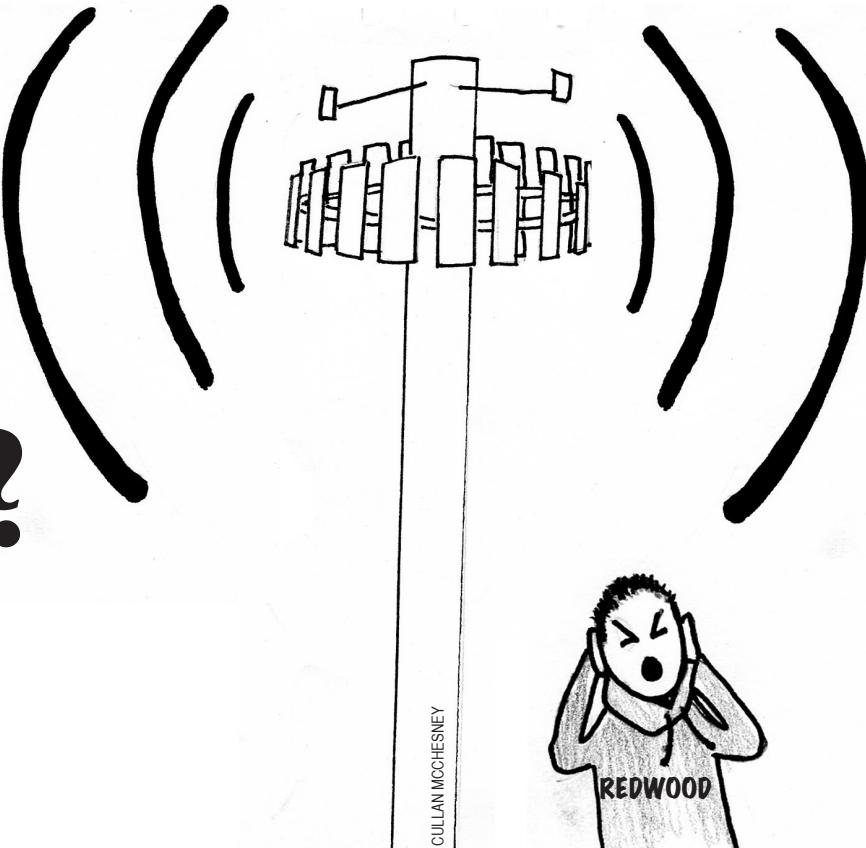
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Is it really worth one more bar?



CITY NEEDS TO RECONSIDER CELL TOWER PLACEMENT

BY Izzy Albert

Imagine Redwood Middle School as it is now—a friendly and intellectually stimulating environment located in the heart of Saratoga, a suburban and especially safe town.

Now imagine it with a 97-foot cellular phone tower just 100 feet away from the school's basketball courts.

Cell phone provider T-Mobile has proposed the construction of a wireless communication antenna right outside of Redwood after being denied permission to build it closer to Saint Andrew's School. The pole would provide better cellular signal in the neighborhood known as "The Golden Triangle," which includes the streets Glen Brae and Beaumont. According to T-Mobile, the towering height is necessary to provide coverage over the tree line.

The proposed construction of such a tower has justifiably angered many citizens. The presence of a cell tower right by a middle school poses many imminent dangers, including several that the town has never faced before.

Whether cellular towers actually emit radiation has been the center of scientific debate since the invention of cell phones. With even the slightest of health risks, why would city officials consider T-Mobile's proposal, when it could pose potential hazards to children?

In addition, the tower would pose further dangers in the case of an earthquake. The community center across

the street from Redwood is the primary evacuation site in the event of a disaster at the middle school. However, with the enormous structure right nearby, the evacuation site wouldn't be able to provide a safe escape in case of an emergency, as the tower could potentially fall on or near the center.

Along with its numerous dangers, the tower is aesthetically not in sync with the community's suburban setting. The tower would fit in well in an industrial-based city, not a town with a plethora of trees, orchards and schools.

From a political standpoint, the tower seems to violate the city's two-story maximum residential building allowance. Just as Saratoga citizens are required by law to obey this code in order

to preserve the town's bucolic nature, T-Mobile should respect the town's law and rural essence. While the new tower may provide marginally better service, it would do so at the price of tarnishing the village charm.

Lastly, AT&T recently announced that they would merge with T-Mobile by the next year. This will inevitably result in overlapping coverage, proving the "need" for the tower unnecessary. If anything, the city should wait until the two cellular companies officially merge to see if the cell tower is even still crucial.

Essentially, the city council members and citizens of Saratoga should evaluate and carefully consider the pros and cons of the building of the cell tower in their town, right by their children's school. Is that extra bar of service really worth all of the potential dangers? ♦

Teaching to the test detrimental to education

BY Jackie Gu

A 7th-grade public school teacher in Oakland is preparing her students for impending STAR tests by drilling them with facts, dates and formulas. She gives them endless worksheets repeatedly reviewing the same concepts. Her school is ranked one of the lowest in the state, and if her students score under the mark, they risk significant budget cuts.

By contrast, a 7th-grade teacher from an affluent public school feels no need to specifically prepare his students for these tests. His students anticipate STAR test days as breaks from the usual academic rigor rather than exams worth stressing over.

His style of teaching contrasts greatly with that of the poorer school's teacher: rather than using the "drill and kill" method, he uses an inquiry-based style of teaching that enables his students to develop critical thinking skills. He gives them labs and experiments with open-ended results, for example, and guides them to desired learning goals without explicitly telling them what they are.

In poorer schools, teachers often feel pressured to abandon such methods due to the weight that state and federal governments place on standardized testing. This means that the students at these schools, those who most need to be taught the value of education, are

instead presented with worksheets and flashcards as methods of learning, making school an endless series of painful memorization for them. The fiscal punishments forced upon lower-performing schools only serve to undermine the potential these schools have for successful teaching.

Problems with the method

The concept of teaching to the test is perhaps one of the most ineffective and damaging methods of educating students. When teachers tailor educational material to fit solely that which will be tested, students become restricted to learning only the material required in specific standards.

However, the practice of teaching to the test leads teachers to focus more on what is probable to appear on standardized testing than actual course material. They are taught how to memorize rather than to truly understand the material; to store information in their heads, but not to expand their knowledge of a subject with critical thinking. The value of inquiry-based learning is lost in the rush to prepare for standardized tests; which, in AP courses, lasts for the entire duration of the school year.

This time spent in preparation

for testing is valuable time wasted. Through the education system, students should be instilled with the values of lifelong learning and prepared for real-world application, not drilled with facts and questions that will appear on AP tests or SATs but never again in their lifetimes.

Because of the progressively weighted influence of test scores on high-stakes decisions such as college admissions and school ratings, teachers and students alike have heavy incentive to use every method possible to ensure that students will score highly. However, while students are motivated by the promise of high achievement, teacher incentive stems from actual monetary benefit.

Historical examples

The Chicago Public School system embraced high-stakes testing in 1996 by enforcing a policy where a school with low scores would be placed on probation, facing the possibility of its staff being dismissed. By linking student test scores to teacher employment, high-stakes testing pushes teachers to target test specifics in teaching curriculum or even cheat.

In 2010, fifth-grade teacher Scott Mueller from Milford, Ohio was discovered to have helped his students cheat on their standardized math exam. Peeking at the test before hand.

and including the questions in a study guide for his students the day before. Upon exposure, Mueller resigned from his position and his teaching license was suspended. Similar situations show teachers coaching students on test specifics or staying after school to re-bubble their students' answer keys with the correct answers, tampering directly with the forms.

Teaching to the test also makes it nearly impossible to draw valid conclusions about a student's intellectual capability based on such standardized testing. Perhaps adapting a more inquiry-based form of teaching will result in students capable of critical thinking that will benefit them throughout their lives, or even infuse them with the love of learning, rather than the grade- and test-obsessed teaching style too common in public schooling today. ♦

>> bigidea

Teaching to the Test

Problem: Underprivileged schools often have to resort to rote learning in order to meet standardized testing benchmarks.

Bottom Line: Though it is important to have some performance standards for education, teaching to the test ultimately quashes intellect.

iPhone tracking should be allowed

BY Elijah Yi

The iPhone provides a multitude of services to millions of tech-savvy consumers, who demand perfection from their devices. Recent findings, however, have unveiled a particular feature of the phone's software that has its users up in arms.

Experts have uncovered a hidden log on the iPhone containing a history of the locations where the device has gone. This folder has raised suspicions that Apple has been tracking the location of its users. Some have argued that this tracking is a violation of their privacy and that Apple has no right to implement such a program on their phones.

Critics have the right to be suspicious, but this tracking serves purely as a tool to bring new features into the phone's applications. The iPhone with its tracking systems is able to perform useful tasks and this application along with the storing of information brings positive improvements and should be acceptable for use by the company.

One particularly useful application

that the tracking system uses is "Google Maps." This app allows for users to navigate from one place to another by being guided along the way using the GPS location of the iPhone. With the tracking device, the iPhone is also able to provide real-time traffic reports and updates.

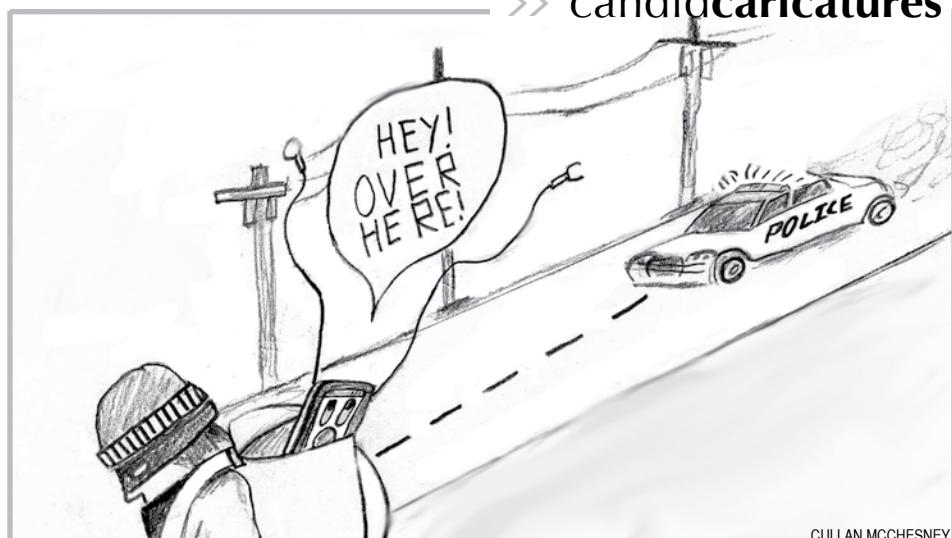
Another handy application, "Find my iPhone," uses the tracking device of the phone to find the location of an iPhone. When lost, the device will track and display the location of the phone and will make locating misplaced or stolen iPhones easy.

Also, location-based advertising can also be useful to consumers. With the locating devices, users can learn about local restaurants and businesses.

These applications show the advantages that tracking functions bring. However, some customers seem skeptical and Apple has sought to combat criticism by updating the iPhone's software.

Apple has released a new iPhone software update 4.3.3 that empties the caches that hold memory of location after a few days. Apple also reassured its customers

>> candidcaricatures



CULLAN MCCHESNEY

that Apple has been tracking the phones only through Wi-Fi hot spots and cell phone towers and any data gathered is sent anonymously back to Apple. Also, for many applications that utilize location, the iPhone gives the user the option to give their current location or not.

Users of the iPhone and other smart-

phones have a right to be suspicious of the iPhone location tracker. However, Apple has assured its customers and the United States government that locations will remain anonymous to the company and iPhone users can rest assured knowing that Apple has taken steps to ensure their privacy. ♦

Owners and NFLPA must find a key to end lockout

BY Will Edman

On April 28, National Football League commissioner Roger Goodell walked on stage at New York's Radio City Music Hall to announce the first pick of the 2011 NFL Draft and was greeted with a chorus of boos. A far cry from the usual celebratory mood, this year's draft was marred by the contentiousness and uncertainty due to the lockout which has endangered the 2011-2012 NFL season. During the lockout, players are not permitted to meet with coaches or work out on team facilities, and player transactions are also barred.

The Lockout

The lockout crisis stems from a collective bargaining agreement (CBA) between the NFL owners and the NFL players' association that ended after the most recent Super Bowl. Among other issues, the main reason for the lockout is the debate over the shares of NFL money that the players receive. Following a series of tense negotiations, the two sides revealed that their proposals for a new CBA had irreconcilable differences.

The disagreements over the new CBA are understandable, as the NFL is a \$9 billion industry, but the labor

dispute has done much to alienate fans, a consequence that could cost the NFL large amounts of money.

The Influence of the Media

The media has largely portrayed the NFL player's association (NFLPA) as the victims in this dispute, with the players suffering without wages through the work stoppage as the greedy owners thirst for more profit despite their affluence. However, such a one-sided view should be cautioned against as both sides have legitimate qualms.

For example, in negotiating the new CBA, among other provisions, the owners advocated an extension of the regular season to two games along with a rookie wage scale to control the salaries of draft picks. The wage scale would set a maximum salary that teams could pay to each draft pick, an effective solution to the skyrocketing salaries of top draft picks in recent years.

The extension to the regular season has been protested extensively by the players, and for good reason, given the prominence of concussions in the NFL. The addition of two games to the season would be hypocritical, considering Goodell's recent push to decrease the numbers of dangerous hits during games.

However, fans should be cautioned

before throwing too much support behind the players in the labor struggle because much of the NFL's popularity is due to the CBA provisions that favor owners, such as the salary cap and the franchise tag, which are two tools used to control player salaries and to limit player free agency.

If the players were to have their way, a new CBA would lack the salary cap and franchise tag. However, these tools of free agency should not be removed, as they are part of the reason the NFL is so successful.

Restrictions that should be retained

The salary cap establishes a maximum for a team's player salaries, preventing the teams with the richest owners from signing all the best players. Because of the salary cap, no team can dominate the league by spending inordinate amounts of money, (as, for example, the New York Yankees do in baseball).

Because no teams are completely dominant, the NFL attracts fans who believe that their favorite teams could experience success any given year. The franchise tag allows teams to retain one star player each, even if his salary causes the team to exceed the salary cap. Because of the franchise tag, teams can keep their star players through free agency, and players cannot flock to de-

sirable teams, as LeBron James and Carmelo Anthony did in the NBA.

A Solution

Because the owners and players both have negative and positive plans for the NFL, the only good solution to the lockout is for both sides to cooperate in creating a new mutually agreeable CBA. Although negotiations have made little progress so far, both sides must realize the potential profit loss that could result from a lockout-shortened season.

Ideally, a new CBA would call for the normal 16-game season with the preseason shortened to benefit player safety. Additionally, a rookie wage scale should be instituted, but the current free agent system should not be changed. In this situation, both sides would receive some of their desired aspects, while player safety and NFL popularity would not be affected.

Although Goodell's reception at the draft was shocking to him, a more encouraging moment occurred when second overall pick Von Miller, who is a plaintiff in the players' lawsuit against the NFL, gave Goodell a sustained embrace, possibly foreshadowing a more conciliatory attitude in the future between the NFL and NFLPA.♦

Birthers must stop crying foul over Obama's birthplace

BY Priyanka Nookala

In a poll conducted by the Washington Post in April 2010, 14 percent of Americans believed that President Obama was not born in America. Obama's birthplace has been questioned by many citizens and political figures who wrongly believe that he is not an American by birth. This was a widely debated question because only native-born U.S. citizens are allowed to serve as president under the country's Constitution. The ridiculous "birther" issue persisted until Obama released the extended version of his birth certificate on April 27, which confirmed beyond doubt that he was indeed born in Hawaii on Aug. 4, 1961.

Although Obama should have released his long form certificate much earlier to tackle the issue head on, his

decision to release the certificate now has successfully dispelled rumors and allowed the president to focus his attention on important national issues, of which there is never a shortage of, rather than having to deal with these birthers.

Attention seeking rabble-rousers like Donald Trump and Glenn Beck, who stirred up this controversy, failed to understand that they were diverting attention from far more crucial and pressing issues.

Newsmongers jumped at the chance to sensationalize the issue and opponents of Obama, like Sarah Palin, used these charges to draw votes away from the president. The use of such base per-

sonal attacks by politicians is detrimental to our nation.

Debate over the trivial and illegitimate concern of Obama's birthplace has detracted from real problems like the budget deficit, health care, unemployment and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Politicians and other citizens had an opportunity to raise and resolve the "birther" issue during the presidential primaries.

The fact that Obama is in office proves that he met the basic criteria for being president which undoubtedly includes the Constitutional requirement of being born in the United States of America. All evidence indicates without doubt that

the President is indeed a US citizen. The continuing conspiracy theories surround his birth accomplish nothing besides distracting America.

If Republicans, Teapartiers or any others want to question Obama's validity or run against him in 2012, the "birther" issue will only hurt their cause because it proves that they waste time on trivial matters, cannot listen to logic and have forgotten that the meaning of politics is to serve the nation.

With the GOP already fragmented and lacking a forerunner, the birther issue will only further hurt their electoral chances. Such easily distracted people will drag our country into deeper trouble and give people the impression that politics is about finding ways to discredit opponents at the expense of leaving glaring national problems unsolved. ♦

The fact that Obama is in office proves that he met the basic criteria for being president.

Mavs owner too harsh on online journalism

BY Kelly Liu

Online journalism is often accused of allowing aimless articles, inaccuracies and sloppy reporting. Mark Cuban, the owner of the Dallas Mavericks, is one of the foremost critics of the rising online journalism industry. He believes that the majority of online journalists are negligent about upholding the values of journalism and are not as committed to "real" reporting as traditional print journalists are.

In a blog post on April 4, Cuban wrote, "I'm a firm believer that [Internet reporters'] interests are not aligned with sport teams like the Mavs, but in fact are diametrically opposed. They tend to look at the number of page views they get of any article as their 'ratings.'"

Cuban gives examples of traffic-generating questions he hears from online writers. "Are you upset about your divorce?" or "Who is better: Kobe or Babe Ruth?" He believes these types of shod-

dy questions "make a recipient look at the person asking and either roll their eyes or wonder why the person is even there."

But such qualms are unfounded; online journalists should be considered legitimate reporters because of the speed and magnitude with which they can spread essential content to the public.

In a world where the media options are so diverse, it is difficult for a reporter to compete with a plethora of other stories and their often freelance writers.

Cuban's views are only factual toward the few online reporters who feel the need to dig up insignificant facts and rumors that pique the public's various interests.

Although journalism is about taking a subject and looking and discovering the person or topic from a different angle, this commonly used tactic of public provocation shames the name of journalism. It is unfair for Cuban to stereotype against an entire profession because of

the actions of a very few.

Despite the lack of depth in some articles floating in the web, readers still encounter a wide variety of legitimate stories.

There are still genuine online reporters who stick to the code of journalistic ethics, especially the ones who report to the international audience.

With the power of the Internet, writers can spread information about global events like the Japanese tsunami to readers incredibly quickly. The amount of time it would take for such vital news to be delivered onto print paper is incomparable to the amount of time it takes for online journalists to report the information.

Cuban's criticism of online journalism stems from his comparison between print and online journalism. He praises the newspaper for its detailed accuracy and depth of reporting. However, his generalization should not be assumed correct because not every newspaper

reporter maintains integrity like Cuban expects.

Falsifications can be committed anywhere, including in traditional journalism. A Pulitzer Prize-winning story about the life of an 8-year-old heroin addict, "Jimmy's World," by Janet Cooke, was found to be completely fabricated. Scandals, defamation, slander and fraudulent stories are not unique to the online journalism realm.

Although online media is perceived by many as Cuban does, as another media to access tabloid journalism, it enables the quick relay of crucial information, which Cuban disregards in his criticism. As long as online journalists continue to produce a balance of crucial and trivial journalism, then online media is still an indispensable source of information to the world. ♦

To see Cuban's blog entry, visit <http://blogmaverik.com/2011/04/04/whats-the-role-of-media-for-sports-teams/>

>> togatalks

How do you feel about online journalism?

It's faster but not necessarily more reliable.



sophomore Victor Wang

Not all online journalism is good, so I try to make sure it's a reliable source.



junior Anjalika Goyal

It's a better way to become aware of what's going on in the world, but it's sad that print newspapers are declining.



sophomore Laura Hannibal

THE Saratoga falcon >>

NEWEDITORS

STAFFPOLICY

The Saratoga Falcon is published five times per semester by the Advanced Journalism classes of Saratoga High School, 20300 Herriman Ave., Saratoga, CA 95070.

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

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

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JOANNA LEE



However, those with an affinity for the humanities but have difficulty in math and science classes often cannot enroll in courses offering a GPA boost until reaching junior year AP United States History or at least the third or fourth year of high school language study.

With such restrictions, there is an obvious advantage for a science minded student when it comes to the calculation of weighted GPAs because of the larger number of classes that students may be concurrently enrolled in that give students an extra grade point.

World History Honors, Economics Honors, AP US Government, Honors English 9 and 10 and AP European History are all courses offered at Los Gatos High School, but are currently ab-

sent from the Saratoga High curriculum. While a limit on the number of AP and honors classes one can take per year may be necessary for students to maintain realistic schedules, all disciplines of study should offer equal numbers and levels of classes than currently available.

All students who show promise in certain academic areas and wish to challenge themselves should be encouraged to, not limited to opportunities outside of school.

Students cannot successfully prepare to determine a college major without first exploring advanced level work in several fields, yet many allow humanities courses to fall by the wayside due to pressure from AP science and math classes.

Though the budget situation does not allow it now, implementation of more AP and honors courses in the humanities would allow students to gain a more well-rounded perspective and a broader view of the possible study options instead of being limited to math and science. For this reason, more focus must be placed on the eventual expansion of the humanities offerings when the budget improves. ♦



STAFFEDITORIAL

Opinion of the Falcon Editorial Board

The Saratoga Falcon voted 44-2 in favor of advanced humanities courses

Opinion Editors

Anshu Siripurapu

Jason Wu

Editors-in-Chief

Christine Bancroft

David Eng

Cecilia Hollenhorst

Helping the poor in other countries

BY Vivian LeTran

In a stuffy classroom near Chiang Rai in northern Thailand, students ranging from 5 to 15 years old blurted out various animals as guesses to a round of animal charades between waves of laughter. The boy at the front of the room, who was acting out an elephant, brought his arm up to his face to mimic the elephant's trunk. "Ostrich. Giraffe. ELEPHANT!" the other students shouted.

The teachers, juniors Kellie Chiou and Connie Wang and students from other high schools, went to Thailand through the Wisdom Culture and Education Organization (WCEO) on a mission to teach the kids English through games,

songs, arts and crafts and other activities last summer for ten days.

"We taught them songs about animals and played a lot of charades. The kids really liked ants, giraffes and buffalo," Chiou said. "We also taught them about random topics, such as hygiene."

Besides teaching English, Wang and Chiou bonded with the students, explored the area and helped with chores for the community.

"While the kids went to school, we went fishing with our bare hands in a pond, baked cakes from a banana-like fruit and helped harvest the crops on their farm," Wang said. "Sometimes we would go into town and explore too."

The children stay at the youth area,

"Even though we were the ones teaching English, I felt that they taught us just as much as we taught them."

>> Junior Connie Wang

called Samuel's Home, while their parents recover at the Drug Rehabilitation Center up the street. Although some of the kids leave the after their parents recover, many stay there because their parents cannot afford to take care of them.

The kids were energetic and enthusiastic, according to Wang. The volunteers did not have any access to technology, so instead of spending their free time on the computer or watching television, they helped with housework or learned instruments, such as guitar.

"A lot of [volunteers] learned to play guitar during our time in Thailand," Wang said. "It was interesting to see people live without technology. We spent 10 days without Facebook, computers or cell phones, but we [were never] bored."

Fighting heart disease in China

Junior Jennifer Yang also regularly travels abroad to volunteer over the summer. She began volunteering two summers ago in one of China's poorest provinces, Gansu, with an organization called Angel Heart and has continued working with the organization in the subsequent years.

The volunteers of Angel Heart help children with congenital heart disease.

"We visit the kids in their homes in the countryside and help give them check-ups," Yang said. "When they get to the hospital, we keep them company as they

go through the [intensive care unit] and we interact with the children because they're all really young."

In addition to dealing with children, Yang also supports and encourages the parents to help them get through the difficult time.

"I really enjoyed getting to know the parents and the kids and learning their story," Yang said. "You listen to their story and tell them your own. It's a mutual learning experience."

Time spent abroad unforgettable

Volunteering in a different country is an extraordinary experience, said Yang. Not only do volunteers learn to appreciate what they have at home, they feel a sense

of accomplishment and achievement as they are able to directly see the results that their help yields.

"It's really fulfilling because you're not just throwing money at them and leaving, you're getting involved in the process," Yang said. "It was definitely eye opening for me. It changed a lot of things I do and changed the way I see the world."

The citizens the volunteers encounter abroad can make a great impression on their lives and the memories they create can last a lifetime, according to Wang.

"The trip was amazing," Wang said. "Even though we were the ones teaching English, I felt that they taught us just as much as we taught them." ♦

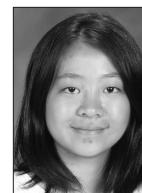
>> Chiang Rai, Thailand



Junior Kellie Chiou

Traveled to Chiang Rai, Thailand, last summer to teach local children basic English through games, songs, arts and crafts and other activities

>> Gansu, China



Junior Jennifer Yang

Volunteered abroad in China with Angel Heart, an organization that reaches out to children with congenital heart disease and their parents

Students start early and seek internships in the government

BY Jennifer Jin

As junior Megan Yen read about Gary Locke, the first Chinese American to be elected governor in the United States, and Bobby Jindal, the first Indian American governor in U.S. history, she realized that she would like to join their ranks or work for them. Through a program called Vision New America, she realized that she can begin to carve her political career.

Vision New America is a program that promotes civic participation of underrepresented groups, such as Asian Americans, in the American government. It takes place every summer, with training starting early April, and internship at a government official's office starting in early June and ending late August.

Yen decided to join this program because she wanted to get involved with the community over the summer.

"Since I knew that I wasn't interested in math or science, I thought that this would be a good

program to take," Yen said. "I hope that I will be able to increase my leadership skills, see what it's like to work in an elected official office, and experience what civic engagement really is. I'd like to learn more about politics and policies that I care about."

Currently, Yen is in training, learning about the history of Asian Americans and how to act in a professional environment such as a government office.

Through this program, Yen will be placed into a local, state or federal government office, probably San Jose City Council member Pete Constance's office.

"[Constance] is in charge of West San Jose, which is pretty cool because I used to live there," Yen said. "I'm really looking forward to getting involved somewhere that means something to me."

As an intern, Yen will be doing a variety of jobs from filing papers to answering phone calls from constituents. As a member of VNA, Yen will be required to do one large

community service project with other interns and register at least 15 new voters.

Last summer, sophomore Maggy Liu was also part of the VNA program.

"I really enjoyed meeting all the other interns and all the people that VNA brought in, such as different government officials," Liu said.

Liu interned at California State Assembly member Jim Beall's office and plans to return again this summer. Beall represents the 24th Assembly District, which includes some parts of Santa Clara, Saratoga and Los Gatos.

"I had a pretty positive experience and I really liked it," Liu said. "It's not like learning about government in a classroom. You're really there and you feel like you're a part of history."

As an intern at a government official's office, Liu was required to act professionally.

"Because you're representing the government, you have to be on top of things all the time and watch what you say," said Liu. "You have to dress professionally all the time and be very patient."

Liu's professional attitude and maturity surprised her peers and supervisors and allowed her to become well respected within the office.

"I was really happy that I was taken seriously because I feel like I have never been taken seriously before," Liu said. "Although I was a freshman when I did this program, I felt that they still treated me as equally as the college students."

Junior Carolynn Choi, who interned at the South Bay Labor Council in the elections department this past summer, added that the transition to such a professional environment can be difficult, as typical high school students have not

ALEX JU
been exposed to that type of setting before.

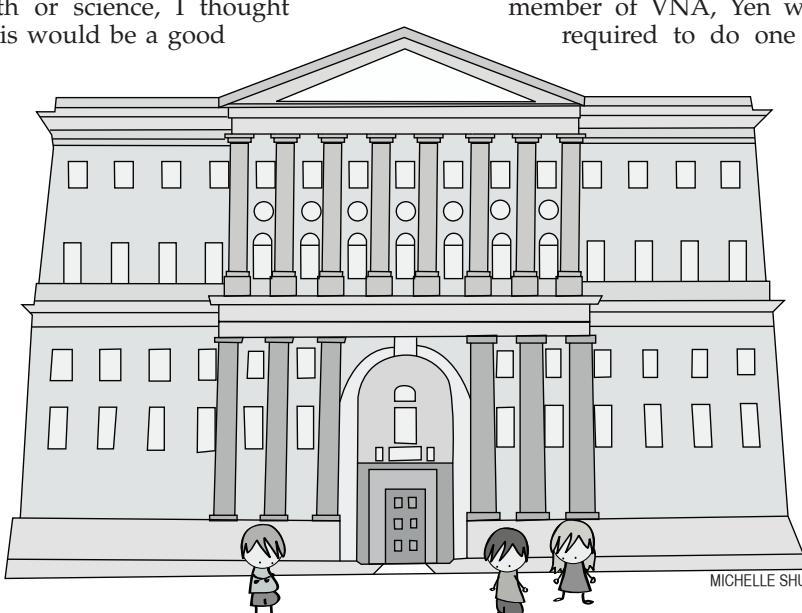
"At first it was kind of hard, but I got used to it by the end of the summer," Choi said. "It's completely different from a high school environment and it's not like working at a restaurant or at other jobs."

Although the first day as an intern can be intimidating, Liu advises that all students need to do is to calm down and not panic.

"Remember that people that work in the government are humans too. They aren't robots," said Liu. "It's OK to just relax and be yourself."

While at first students faced some difficulty adjusting to the new environment, the experiences they had while interning at government offices truly piqued their interest in the subject and inspired them to get more involved in the field.

"The amount of dedication the people in the office have really surprised me," Choi said. "They work such long hours, but they always have a smile on their faces. I hope that one day I can be like them." ♦



MICHELLE SHU



Young scientists research at labs

BY Samika Kumar

A six-hour operation at Stanford University takes place to remove a cancer patient's thyroid gland. Junior Nicole Shadman stands in the hospital room clad in a scrubs uniform. She observes the scene with bated breath. She knows that a thyroid is normally about the size of a baseball, but as the surgeon scrapes out the cancerous tissue, the segment appears as large as an eggplant.

Part way through the process, the surgeon unintentionally cuts into the jugular vein, the primary vein in the neck. Mayhem breaks loose as blood splatters everywhere, a grotesque version of a medical drama.

The situation was rare, but as an intern last summer, Shadman had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to watch such a surgery.

Her internship with Stanford's

otolaryngology department—the ear, nose and throat division—in Lucile-Packard Children's Hospital were unique. Shadman's adventures started off with an application to Career Explorations, a program that helps students find internships.

"I was really lucky because the head of Career Explorations knows people at Stanford," Shadman said. "Otherwise I probably wouldn't have gotten the internship."

She faced a rigorous work schedule from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday, for six weeks. Her days consisted of following different pediatricians and observing them diagnose patients in clinics. She also oversaw surgeries and spent a few days in the lab, where she studied the inner ear.

"I didn't really have a job," Shadman said. "It was more of an observing thing for if I wanted to go into pediatrics [or just] become a doctor. I think I do now. It definitely opened my eyes."

Outside the Stanford realm

Many students spend summers at Stanford labs and clinics, but science internships are not limited to this one university. Senior Daryl Chang spent his last summer with the Garcia Material Research Science and Engineering Center (Garcia MRSEC) at Stony Brook University in New York. He researched the proficiency of

internships this summer.

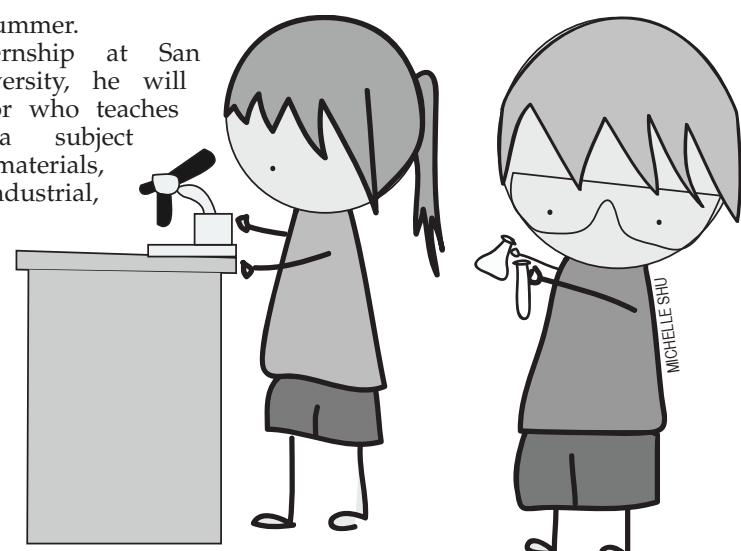
In one internship at San Jose State University, he will assist a professor who teaches mechatronics, a subject that combines materials, mechanical, industrial, computer, chemical and electronic engineering. Some tasks will include testing in labs and cleaning up aspects left behind from the previous school year. If time permits, Shah may also create new hardware for the professor's course.

Shah's second internship will take place at Stanford's neurology department. Here, he will help a doctor who treats spinal metastases. Duties will include gathering and processing the doctor's data so that the latter can send it to coworkers.

Shah's summer will consist of alternating between the two different internships.

He was able to acquire a flexible schedule by directly emailing professors for summer opportunities.

"These two opportunities seemed to interest me the most, so when it came



fills out patients' medical record numbers and organizes their files. This volunteering has given her invaluable experience as she awaits her summer internship.

Kempf-Luu emphasizes that students must have the correct frame of mind when searching for internships.

"People should be applying because they want to learn something new," she said. "If you want to intern at a specific site, then frequently check to see if the site has opened up a new internship. You should know what you want, but be open-minded to new ideas."

Tricks of the trade

Why do so many students chase after science internships? Guidance counselor Christy Cali attributes it to the idea of receiving "first-hand knowledge."

"It's getting away from the lecture, reading and test kinds of format to actually seeing day-to-day work and how you view science and apply it," Cali said.

Cali finds many students and parents asking her about internships. She suggests that students visit the College and Career Center or ask their science teachers for internship openings they know of.

She agrees that such internships add color to college applications.

"It's showing that you really have an interest in a particular area and a passion for it," Cali said. "Anytime that you do a job that shows responsibility, that you're dependable, that you can work with adults. Those are things that will help you get into college."

As summer creeps closer, science internships swim in the minds of many students, and while it may often seem difficult to obtain one, the actual process can be quite simple.

"A lot of people think that you can't get an internship," Shadman said, "but honestly, if you just go on [a university's] website and email 15 professors, one of them is bound to get back to you and let you shadow [him or her]. I definitely recommend internships to people who are looking into a specific job. It's a really good experience." ♦

scienceinternships

40-45 The average number of students that are accepted into Stanford Institute of Medicine Research program (SIMR)

18 The percent of applicants who are accepted into the National Institute of Health summer internship located in Bethesda, Maryland

4,000 The amount interns at the City of Hope Eugene and Ruth Roberts Student Academy are paid

54 The number of research opportunities listed by the Rochester Institute of Technology

>> Sarah Hull and Parul Singh



>> Saratoga, CA

Junior Darisha Jhutty

Worked at Ms. Marianne's Preschool for 2 summers where she led activities and supervised the children during outdoor activities

Junior Sachi Dholakia

Assisted the elderly at the Saratoga Adult Care Center leading bingo games and preparing snacks for the senior citizens

online extra

For the full story on local volunteering, visit:
www.saratogafalcon.org

specific scaffolds for the growth and development of stem cells into bone cells. Such research can aid bone fractures in the future.

"It was a fun experience, and I learned a lot about how stem cells grow and differentiate, in addition to finding out how science research works at universities," Chang said.

Chang used his research to create and submit a project for the Siemens Competition in Math, Science and Technology. He and his partner worked into the summer and through the end of September. They qualified for the New York regional finals.

As a common feeder program into Siemens, Garcia MRSEC can be a useful tool to acquire lab experience and materials for science projects.

"I would recommend it to anyone who has a passion for science and research," Chang said.

Twice the fun

Students who are searching for a middle ground between the Stanford and non-Stanford realms of internships—and are savvy enough—may find that two different internships suffice. Sophomore Parth Shah plans to pull off the feat as he takes on two science

time to choose, I decided to pursue both of them," Shah explained.

The omnipresence of internships

Sophomore Angela Kempf-Luu applied for her first summer internship this year. She submitted the application to Johnson and Johnson's youth education and career exposure program, Bridge to Employment. The program offers various six-week paid internships where students can try different jobs.

Kempf-Luu submitted her top choice of internship for research at Stanford. She chose the internship to gain familiarity with earning money while working in medicine.

"I wanted to get first-hand experience in the medical field so I could have some inspiration," Kempf-Luu said. "When I get to medical school, if I'm like, 'this is really hard,' I can think back to my internship and think about what experiences I had from it."

But this will not be Kempf-Luu's first time working with Stanford. Last summer, she took on a similar application process to volunteer at the university. Volunteering jobs include delivering products, working at the gift shop, transferring patients around the hospital and more.

Kempf-Luu has been fortunate enough to have such a volunteering opportunity at a Stanford clinic, where she fills out paperwork. She has been volunteering at the clinic since last summer. She

**Laser Quest**

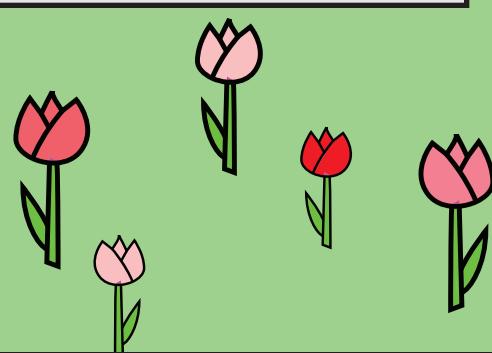
Price: \$\$\$

Location: 1400 North Shoreline Blvd. # C3, Mountain View

Category: Recreation

At Laser Quest, you choose a code name for yourself, grab your equipment and prepare for the oncoming game. It is an easygoing competition, and you get to shoot at each other with lasers.

Feeling like a ninja?

**KTV Music Tunnel & Cafe**

Location: On De Anza Blvd. in Cupertino across the street from Baskin Robbins

Price : \$\$\$

Category: Recreation

At this venue, you can choose a room, from which you can order food and sing with your friends. The venue offers many mainstream songs to sing along to, as well as some lesser known music. It is a nice place to just hang out and eat at, and is enjoyable for people of all ages.

Falafel Drive-in

Price: \$\$

Location: 2301 Stevens Creek Blvd., San Jose

Category: Restaurant

At Falafel's Drive-in, you can purchase much more than falafels (patties made from ground chickpeas and/or fava beans). Along with more unique dishes like Koubby (a Middle-Eastern meatball) the store offers classics like hamburgers, fries and onion rings. A 15 to 20 minute drive from Saratoga High, the restaurant is a worthwhile stop if you enjoy diverse dishes, especially falafels.

Like to try new foods?



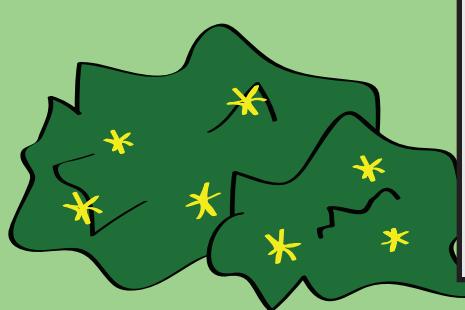
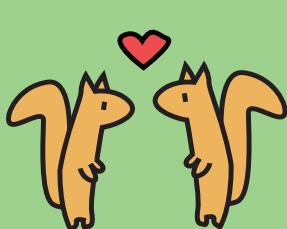
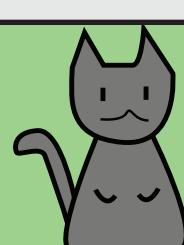
Got a car?

**OFF
ADVENTURE**

Bored? Short on inspiration? It's the p
(Prices ou

Born to be a star?

Short on cash?

**Head to the Beach**

Price: 0

Category: Outdoors

Bring out your inner California spirit and drive over to the golden coast! Grab some sunglasses, a group of friends, and lots of sunscreen before relaxing on the warm sand or venturing into the salty waters. Nice beaches in the area include Pebble Beach, Bonny Doon Beach and Capitola Beach.

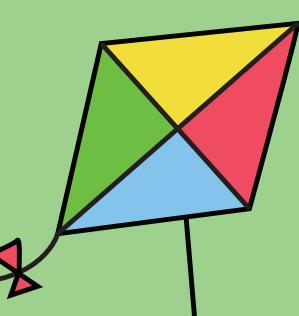
Petroglyph

Price: \$\$\$\$

Location: downtown Los Gatos Cin

Category: Rec

In this "ceramic" choose a piece pottery that yo decorate. You p pass for all sup as well as for e of pottery. Des cal "little kid" venue is enjoya



Saratoga Farmer's Market

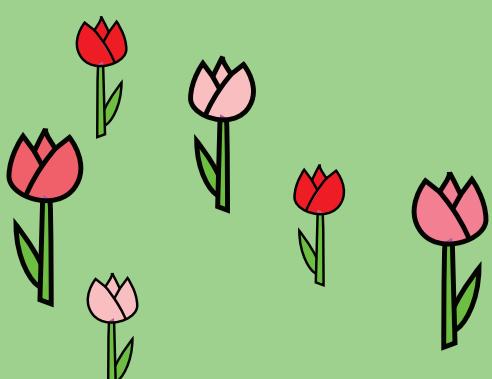
Price: \$

Location: West Valley College Parking

Lot

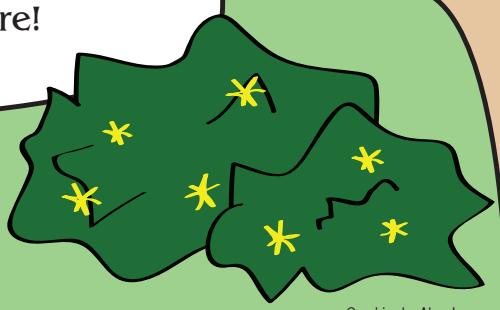
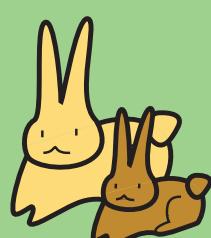
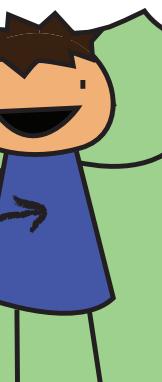
Category: Market

Saratoga's farmers' market is open from 8:30 a.m. to noon. each Saturday morning at West Valley College. Customers can buy anything from your general fresh fruits and vegetables to honey, flowers and shaved ice here. Also available are a variety of international foods, such as crêpes, curries and tamales.



ON AN ADVENTURE

A perfect time...for a summer adventure!
out of \$\$\$\$\$



Graphics by Alex Ju

Don't have a car?

Got money? Take the bus.

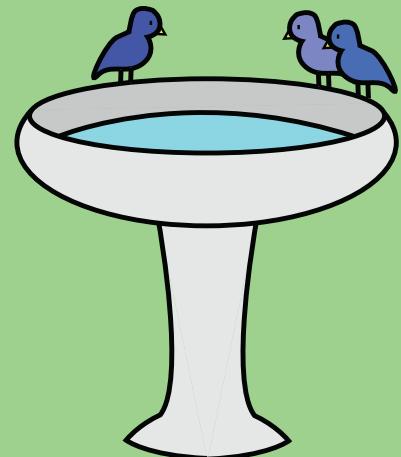
Want to try something new?

Hungry?

Feeling artistic?

downtown Los Gatos
to Cocoa and the
emas
reaction

“lounge,” you can
of white bisque
u wish to paint and
ay for a one day
plies and support,
ach individual piece
pite the stereotypi-
image it holds, the
able for all ages.



Fleur de Coco

Price: \$\$\$

Location: downtown
Los Gatos next to the Los
Gatos Cinemas

Category: Café

In this pastry shop, you can choose among the delicious delicacies including sandwiches and drinks in addition to the expected sweets. The cafe has a relaxing atmosphere, making visiting this venue even more appealing.

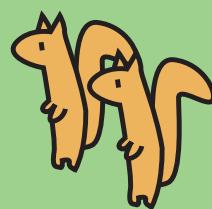
Villa Montalvo

Price: 0

Location: Saratoga Hills

Category: Outdoors(Art

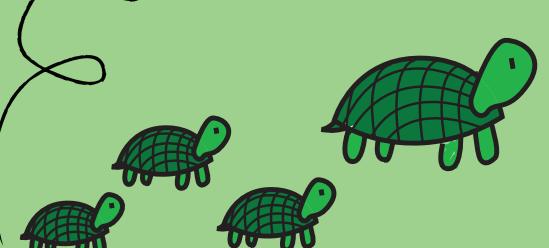
At Villa Montalvo, famous for its stunning views and arts center, visitors can enjoy miles of hiking trails, gardens and exhibitions. Both the drive up and the trails have plenty of shade and fresh air. Parking and admission for most exhibitions are free.



Anywhere

Price: \$

Riding the bus is a fun way to get from place to place and allows you to see the city in a new light. A day pass costs only \$6 per adult and \$5 per youth, or each ride is \$2 per adult and \$1.75 per youth. From Saratoga you can take the bus to many popular sites such as Cupertino Square, Santana Row, the Stanford shopping center and Gilroy Outlets.



BEST OF 2010

Year marked by movie successes

BY Olivia Chock
& Allison Toh

Summer is approaching! For those of you who are at home for the summer with nothing to do and were too swamped to see these movies during the busy school year, here are our opinions on some of 2010's best movies. These movies are great DVD picks and some might even be instant downloads at this point!

Harry Potter 7: Part 1

Are you into action, adventure and a crazy load of magic? If so, go rent "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1" today! One of the most anticipated movies of the year, the final installment based off of J.K. Rowling's cherished series topped the box office when it was released last November.

The film, much like the book, centers on Harry (Daniel Radcliffe), Ron (Rupert Grint) and Hermione (Emma Watson) as they leave Hogwarts in pursuit of destroying Horcruxes—Voldemort's sources of immortality. Unlike the past six "Harry Potter" movies, this seventh flick is the closest in its depiction of the novel. Complete with Death Eaters, mentors and, most importantly, the new relationship between Hermione and Ron

(Romione!), this movie gets its audience excited for the summer release of the final part of this magical series.

"Tangled"

Unlike traditional Disney princess movies, "Tangled" shows woman power. "Tangled" is a spin off of the classic story "Rapunzel," which features a damsel in distress in a tall tower with freakishly long hair. The main character, Rapunzel, is a great role model for younger girls to show that a girl doesn't need "Prince Charming" to rescue her. Her love interest is actually a runaway thief.

Instead of him saving her, she actually saves him from trouble. If you're into cute movies that contain suspenseful scenes and songs about every emotion felt by the major characters but still have happy endings, you should definitely see "Tangled."

"Black Swan"

Natalie Portman and Mila Kunis.

What more could you ask for? In this movie, these two women play ballerinas who compete for a leading role in the ballet, but main character Nina (Portman) takes her role too seriously, and let's just say she goes a little nuts.

Although she is an innocent girl, the process of auditioning for the ballet reveals her dark side. Looks like Portman really can play any role she sets her heart to, no matter how diverse the roles are. Did we mention Portman won Best Actress in the Academy Awards, and director Darren Aronofsky won Best Director for this film? If you're into psychological thrillers, this is definitely a must see movie for you.

"Easy A"

Since we finally understand what the meaning of a scarlet letter is thanks to our English class, this movie makes

perfect sense. It's about a girl who wears a letter A on her chest for "committing" adultery when she really just pretends to be promiscuous because she wants to help raise her peers' self esteem. (High school boys. We understand.)

Not only do viewers get a short historical lesson on what the scarlet letter is in the movie, they learn that little lies can lead to big ones, and high school peer pressure is hard to escape even for the most confident person. This is a must-see chick flick!

Sequels coming soon!

If you liked Owen Wilson's goofy voice in "Cars," you're in luck! "Cars 2" is coming out June 24 to a theater near you with new secret agents and villains. Of course, these are all cars.

Megan Fox may not be in the new "Transformers 3: Dark of the Moon" coming out on July 1, but another equally attractive actress, Rosie Huntington-Whiteley, will be taking her place. Boys, you definitely don't want to miss out!

"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2": July 15. Need we say any more? Dress up in your Harry Potter outfits for the last ever "Harry Potter" movie. Buy your tickets soon!

You don't want to miss these much anticipated upcoming sequels! ♦



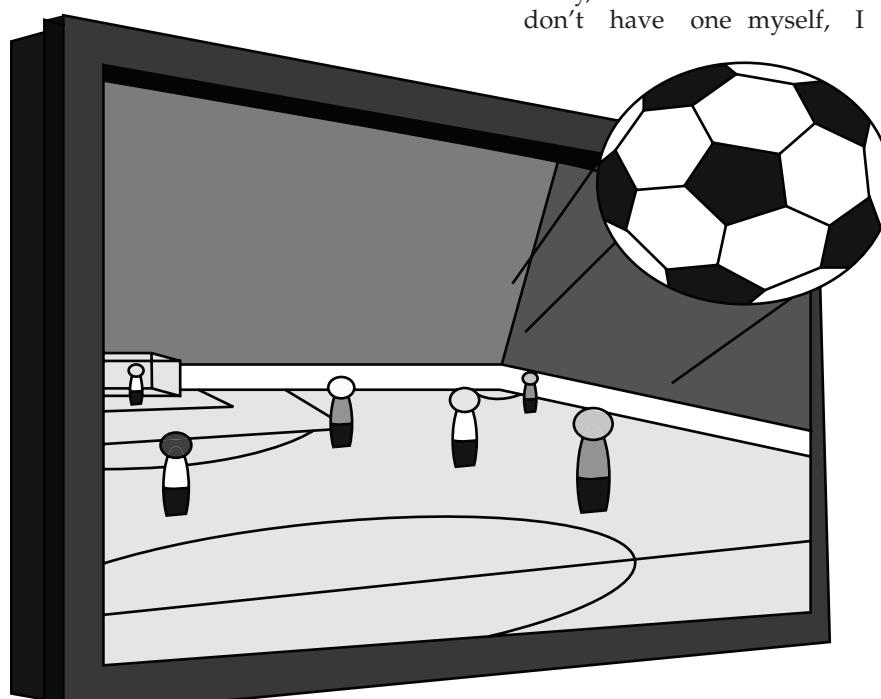
Students link up with new gadgets

BY Dylan Jew

Sophomore Jonathan Boldt's room, cluttered with a variety of gadgets, is a perfect example of technology's role in today's society. An iPhone lies on his desk, an iPod is plugged into a speaker system in the corner and a Macbook Pro charges by his bed.

Just like Boldt's room, technology has pervaded the modern world.

The 2010-11 school year can be seen as a great period of technological advancements. Apple led the charge with the unveiling of its iPad 2 and opening up the iPhone 4 to Verizon. Other notable technology pushed this year include 3-D TVs and 4G networks.



iPhone Sensation

The iPhone 4 was originally released in June 2010 and became available to Verizon users in early February. A white model recently hit the market on April 28, 2011.

"This is the greatest piece of technology I own," Boldt said. Boldt received his iPhone 4 last December.

With the capabilities of a mini computer in a more convenient size, the iPhone has revolutionized the mobile industry. It makes advancements everyday with its dynamic AppStore, allowing companies to distribute useful programs to iPhone owners.

Sophomore Tyler Bakke enjoys the iPhone's ease of use. "It's really user-friendly," Bakke said. "Even though I don't have one myself, I know

how to use it from playing around with other people's."

The iPhone 4 has brought about more innovation in video, with the addition of Facetime and higher resolution screens.

Facetime allows users to communicate while seeing their contact via the front-facing camera. "Facetime was a fun addition," Boldt said. "It feels more personal than just listening to them or looking at words on the screen."

Tablet Success

New features that set the iPad 2 apart from its predecessor include a slimmer design and some of the best features of the iPhone. The front and back camera setup from the iPhone 4 was added to the iPad 2 to allow it to make use of features such as Facetime.

Senior Chris Chung was skeptical when the iPad was first released, seeing it as "impractical due to its size." However, Chung has discovered the iPad's size allows it to excel in areas an iPhone may have lacked in.

"It's actually pretty convenient," Chung said, "especially if you want to take notes with it in class."

New Dimensions

Another field being given another look is 3-D technology. Many companies, such as Toshiba, Panasonic and even Nintendo, are exploring the capabilities of this technology. Nintendo released the 3-DS, a 3-D portable gaming platform, in March.

"3-D TVs are pretty interesting," Boldt said. "I'm only concerned whether it will be fully utilized if not all shows are 3-D compatible."

Others are not convinced going forward is always better, especially into the field of 3-D television. "I think they are a little too much," Chung said. "Sometimes I just want to watch my TV shows and sports without everything popping out at me."

4G Arrives

Verizon wireless launched its 4G network in December; however, this was limited to laptop use. The first 4G phone to be released was the HTC Thunderbolt in March. The 4G network is roughly ten times faster than its 3G predecessor. Although it is currently much faster to watch videos on a computer than on a phone, in the future, a phone may become more convenient even when a computer is available.

"It's pretty amazing what they have been able to do with gadgets," Chung said. "It will be interesting to see how much faster it can actually get."

With the speed and power increases that will accompany 4G technology, possibilities such as turning in worksheets and handouts using a cell phone may become a reality.

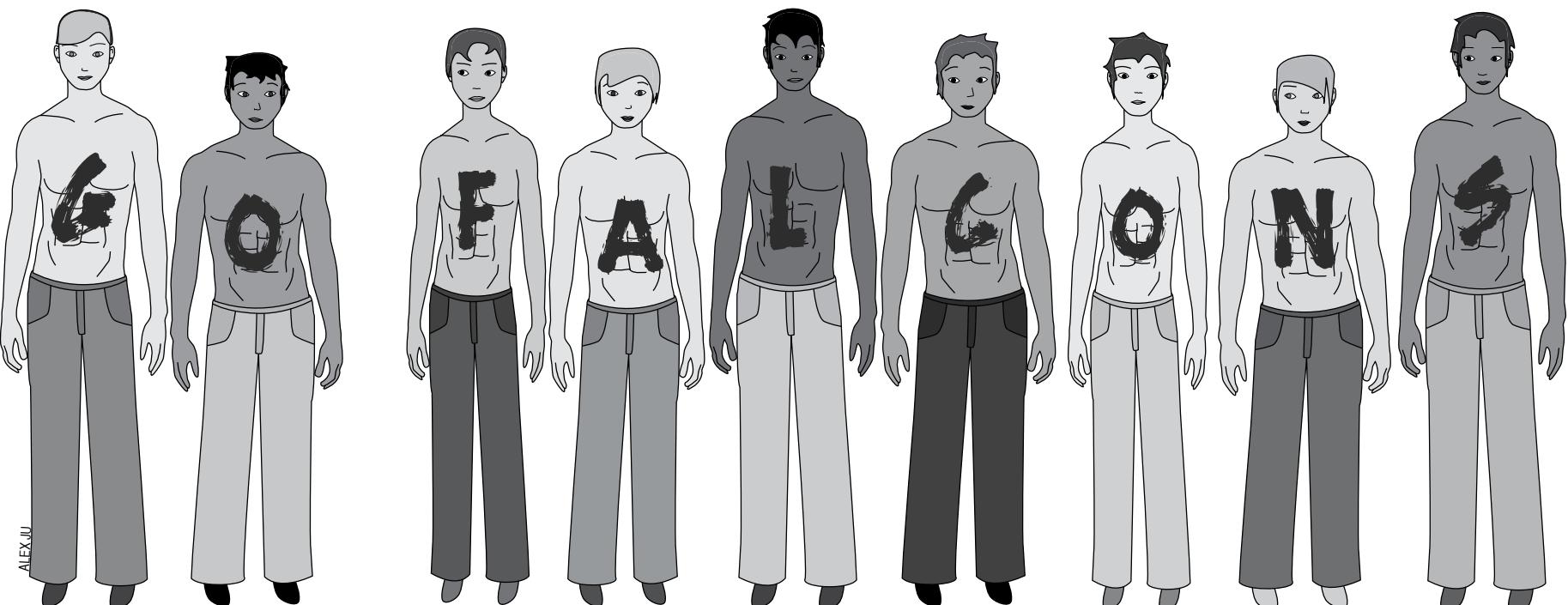
Future Advancements

The first half of the year has been a great step for electronic gadgets. Even if many of the releases this year seem insignificant, they all show how the field of technology is nowhere near its end.

"It's a scary thing when computers can get this close to actually thinking," Bakke said. "At the rate Apple is developing its products, there are going to be iRobots walking among us in the near future." ♦



Boldt



STUDENTS HAVE FINALLY EARNED THEIR TITLES AS THE FIERCE FALCONS FOR THEIR RISING SPIRIT

Seniors Doug Sabella, Kendall Callaghan and James Knight perform for their Quad Day on Oct. 12, 2007.



Courtesy of KEVIN ROLLINSON ('08)

On the rally commission...

"Games such as "skiing" your way across the gym ... aren't very exciting. If the commission were allowed a little more freedom, games and activities would provide students with more reasons to attend rallies."

-Sophia Cooper ('10)

(from the Falcon Archives)



Christina Roberts ('09) busts a move with her father at the Daddy-Daughter Dance on March 7, 2008.

On school spirit...

"Instead, the school spirit has become so bad that faculty has begun to take notice and have instituted policies enforcing student participation."

-Gautham Ganesan ('08)

(from the Falcon Archives)

Student reflects on recent changes in school spirit



>> Brandon Judoprasetijo

Teach me how to Judo

Saratoga is dead; it doesn't have any spirit," my rather pessimistic sister Brittany said when I asked what rallies and Homecoming were like when she went to Saratoga High. Before I entered high school, older friends shared their stories of how school spirit makes high school memorable.

Inspired by their stories, I looked forward to a spirited high school experience in spite of my sister's bitter view of Saratoga's school spirit. However, she was sadly right, and I had to admit to this ugly truth

during the first few months of high school.

My class was nonexistent at rallies during freshman year, as nobody seemed to have the spirit in them to root vigorously or even dress in our class color. I felt ashamed at how lost we looked whenever it came for us to do our class cheer.

During my first Homecoming season, a striking majority simply accepted mediocrity while planning for quad day due to the fact that we were freshmen and "we were supposed to fail anyway." In the end, we delivered a show of a dance composed of around 12 people and two break dancers showing off their skills.

Perhaps many of us felt the same way as I did for a while: spirited on the outside but peer pressured to be lame or apathetic toward school

events. But during my time as a sophomore, I have noticed that our attitude and spirit have drastically changed at our school. A sense of pride finally emerging.

A new wave of spirit took my class by storm, especially during Homecoming. Even my parents, who constantly urge me not to waste

my time with any optional school events, could not stop me from participating in quad day.

Our dedication was resilient; sometimes we stayed at school until 10 at night practicing. Other times we woke up before school started just to rehearse. I never knew how great it felt to witness so many people put aside their differences and perform their hearts out.

This streak of spirit continued to burn in everyone's eyes up to the game against Los Gatos. Ironi-

cally, when everyone was pumped up about "this being the year" that Saratoga beats Los Gatos in the big game, my sister had somehow convinced me to not attend the milestone game, cruelly saying, "That's what they say every year, but we still lose."

My disbelief in actually letting my sister's words shake my faith in our team like that resulted in my sister receiving many bitter texts the next morning.

Despite the sting of regret that I felt for missing possibly the greatest event in the past 27 years at Saratoga High, I rejoiced at the fact that the hundreds who went to the game to root had come together not as different classes but as Falcons. The week after we had defeated the Wildcats, everyone rambled on and on over how incredible the game was.

The spirit has turned into a shining light that even my sister can't deny. ♦

I felt ashamed at how lost we looked whenever it came for us to do our class cheer.

School spirit to soar to greater heights

BY Aashna Mukerji
& Ashwini Velchamy

Saratoga High. The first words that come to mind are typically academics, over-achievers and stereotypical nerds. Enthusiastic and spirited? Probably not. According to the rally commission, however, things are beginning to change.

Senior and rally commissioner Brandon Pierce feels that "this year, school spirit has picked up a lot. More people turn up at sports games, and sports are the fundamentals of school spirit."

Despite this recent spirit upswing, compared to other schools, Saratoga High is somewhat lacking.

"A lot of private schools like Mitty have really big spirit days," senior Leah Copek said. "Spirit [at Saratoga High] definitely went up this year with the Class Cup and rallies and everything, but there's still room to improve."

Every year, Archbishop Mitty holds a school pride event called "Monarch

Madness."

This involves classes competing against each other with dances, games and all-out spirit. Although rally commissioners have not discussed next year's plans in detail, the school might host some madness of its own.

"We're moving in that direction already. We have something big planned for one of our rallies in the future," Pierce said.

Capek also had some ideas on why Saratoga High falters when it comes to school spirit.

"At Saratoga, there are a lot of people with their own extracurriculars," Capek said. "They have pride in their individual sport and individual classes, but not really in the school as a whole."

According to the rally commission, this year's spirit seems to have stemmed from the new class cup and the unprecedented football victory against Los Gatos High School.

"The LG-SHS game made an impact, especially from that point on, with spir-

it," Pierce said. "That may have been the ignition, but ever since then, things have been building up."

In comparison to the Project Cornerstone survey held in May 2007, this year's survey shows an increased sense of belonging among Saratoga High students.

Some, however, feel that the Los Gatos-Saratoga game was the only instance of school spirit at Saratoga High.

"I've only been to one rally this year, and I didn't like it too much," sophomore Liana Riley said. "It was mostly just inside jokes with the people on the rally commission, and I didn't feel like it was anything I needed to see again."

She does believe that school spirit can be a great thing, "if it's used in the proper way, and if people rally to get something out of it."

Capek feels that spirit will improve if more students make an effort to get involved in school activities.

"Part of it is just that students have to appreciate other sports and activities

>> THE big idea

Overall SHS school spirit

At other schools: Monarch Madness at Archbishop Mitty; more spirited than SHS

Commissioners' take on SHS: growing because of Class Cup and football victory against Los Gatos

What needs to be done: SHS students need to balance between academics and spirit events

that go on at the school, like football games or Homecoming," Capek said. "It's not that academics is a bad thing, but they need to find a balance."

Though the rally commission admits that Saratoga High is not the most enthusiastic, they agree that the students now are more spirited than ever.

"I know that a lot of schools are still more spirited than we are," he said. "I hope we [will get there one day]."



The senior class lets out a roar during the kick-off rally on Sept. 17, 2010.

Seniors Aditya Dev and Chris Chung unveil the Class Cup at the kick-off rally on Sept. 17, 2010.



The football team raises their helmets for the win against Los Gatos High on Oct. 22, 2010.



Alumnus, faculty recall past Falcon pride

BY Amy Jan

At recent rallies, hearing the entire gym chant together "go home, freshmen" can be overwhelming. Students cannot help but join in with the rest of the school.

According to a recent survey by Project Cornerstone, there has been a 22 percent increase in school engagement since May 2007 to September 2010.

Some students say school spirit has improved over time due to increased student participation in events. The school has broken away from the stereotypical image of just a rigorous, academic-based school, but it was not an easy feat.

"SHS excels at academics," 2005 alumnus Kathleen Chan said, "but it's difficult to work up school spirit over a high API score."

When Chan attended high school, she witnessed sophomores walking out in the middle of a rally.

As they filed out of the gym, they grumbled about how rallies were always rigged so that seniors won every competition.

"There was the one time during Spirit Week that the sophomores tied the seniors in Powder Puff and there was a special assembly held to determine the winner," Chan said. "During the rally the sophomores felt the seniors were getting much easier questions so they walked out."

Rallies have not changed much in the past six years. The rally format has, for as long as students

can remember, included a rally commission skit, student games and, to close it off, a class competition for the loudest cheer. But in Chan's years at the school, there was a slight difference.

"They stopped allowing the 'go home, freshmen' chant because one of the administrator's kids was a freshman at the time. It put a damper on friendly class competition," she said.

According to assistant principal Karen Hyde, rallies used to be a part of the school day and classes were shortened

"SHS excels at academics, but it's difficult to work up school spirit over a high API score."

>> Alumnus Kathleen Chan

to make room for them. More students attended them because it did not conflict with tutorial, when rallies currently occur.

Homecoming celebrations have changed a lot in the past few years. According to Hyde, the school stopped using floats a decade ago. The Homecoming events now involve more students and parents in decorating the quad.

"We used to do floats at Homecoming. Parents weren't involved and [students] could only have a certain number of kids doing things," Hyde said. "They had to do a quad day and build a float so it was crazy for 20 or 30 kids [to complete] so we changed that so it wasn't as overwhelming."

Students were not as involved in Homecoming during Chan's years in high school. It was not an event that everybody was crazy about or especially looking forward to.

"It wasn't something that the whole

school got extremely excited over," Chan said. "Part of it was probably that the school's football wasn't great so it's not like we had something to get excited for."

Four years ago, the school held a daddy-daughter dance where girls would just have a night of fun with their fathers and similarly, a mother-son breakfast. The popularity of the daddy-daughter dance faded to the point where very few people attended, therefore it was discontinued.

"We used to do a daddy-daughter dance a hundred years ago. The population has changed and girls don't want to dance with their fathers anymore," Hyde said.

To get students more involved, school events are now publicized with the use of Facebook events. More students are notified this way rather than just the old-fashioned method of announcements and posters.

"The rally commission has definitely become more spirited," junior Connie Wang said. "There has been more publicizing, which improved our school spirit."

CAN'T GET ENOUGH

The buzz of caffeine, the glow of late-night electronics and the vortex of never-ending television have clamped us in their intoxicating grip



Junior, teacher fight caffeine addiction

BY Michael Lee
& Aasim Navqi

Last year, junior Nick Turpin attended an after-school science lecture. Everything was going reasonably well, until the speaker turned off the lights to use the projector. Within minutes, Turpin was passed out on his desk.

"I knew something was wrong," Turpin said. "I don't usually fall asleep during class."

A day earlier, Turpin had tried to cut back on his previous daily intake of 400 milligrams of caffeine. Turpin achieved this quantity by either drinking eight Mountain Dews, taking two caffeine pills or drinking one Venti Bold coffee at Starbucks.

Whenever he did not have caffeine, Turpin experienced powerful

exhaustion. He wanted to eliminate this nasty side effect.

"It kind of sucks if you don't get caffeine because you're just tired for the rest of the day," Turpin said. "That's why I thought I should cut back and not have so much."

Dr. Suzanne Yokoyama, a physician of internal medicine at Kaiser San Jose, said caffeine has some temporary benefits like mental alertness and improved athletic performance.

The stimulant, however, creates many long-term problems, such as heart rhythm disturbance, dehydration, inflammation of the stomach lining and decreased bone density among other medical issues.

"Caffeine withdrawal can lead to headache, fatigue, declining alertness and irritability," Yokoyama said. "All the reasons you chose to use it in the first place will be accentuated with continued use and withdrawal."

Yokoyama emphasizes that students find alternatives to better deal with the pressures of school.

"I would highly recommend in-

stead that students participate in cardiovascular conditioning as a means to increase their mental focus and physically vent the stresses of academic life," she said.

Despite its negative side effects, Turpin said that the stimulant did help him get through school from time to time.

"I think it really does make you more awake [and] more alert, especially when you drink a lot," he said.

However, even though caffeine did help him when he needed those extra few hours to study, Turpin said he felt some negative side effects.

"If you drink too much at night, it really is hard to fall asleep," he said. "It'll take an hour or two."

Turpin is not alone. About 90 percent of adults consume caffeine regularly.

Whereas Turpin's caffeine reliance peaked in his sophomore year, science teacher Jenny Garcia experienced a dependence on caffeine as an adult, just after her children were born. Her reasoning was simple.

"I like the way it tastes," Garcia said.

Although she only had a few cups of coffee a day, Garcia still felt negative side effects—mainly headaches—when she did not drink coffee. These consequences eventually

drove her to quit.

"I knew that it was a problem and I tried to quit because it was nasty," Garcia said. "There are times when you can't drink it, if you're traveling or you're sick and you can't have food. Then it becomes a problem."

While she agreed that caffeine has some potential uses, Garcia agrees it only creates problems over time.

"You do become dependent on it, so it doesn't help you in the long run," Garcia said. "After you've had it for a while, having it is no different from not having it before you were addicted to it."

Despite making the big decision to quit, it took time before she felt like she was finally over the addiction, Garcia said.

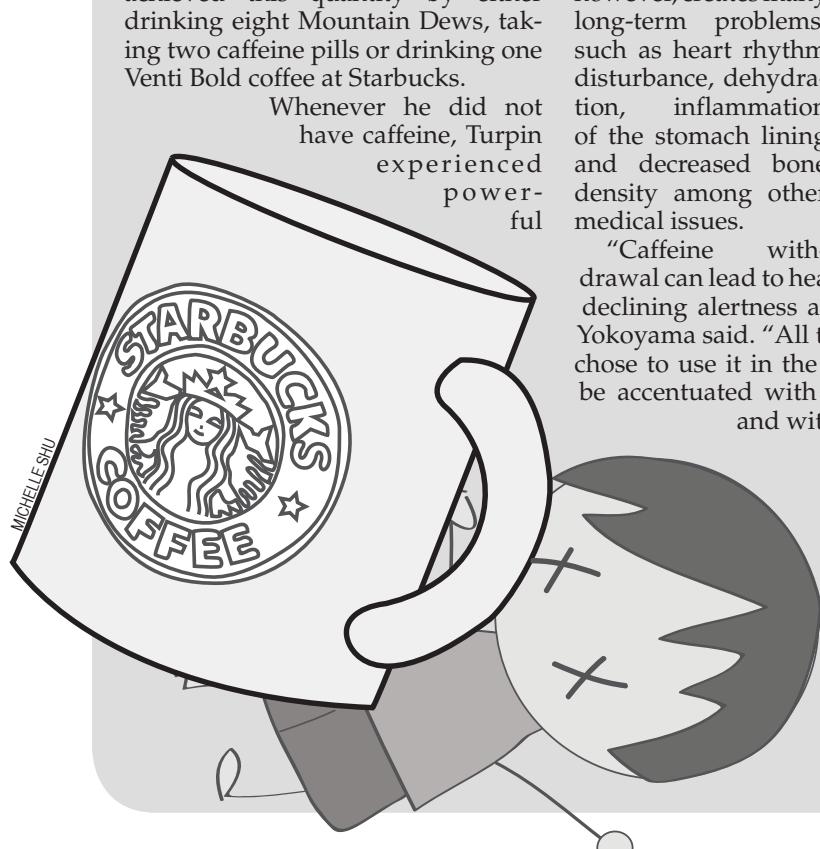
"I would say it was probably a couple of weeks before I didn't notice being tired anymore," Garcia said. "I [quit] during the summer, when I didn't have to get up in the morning and be at school so I could sleep more."

Garcia does not consider herself dependent on caffeine anymore. Turpin, however, said that he still drinks caffeinated beverages.

"I definitely drink caffeine less, but I still drink a fair amount of it," Turpin said. "Last year, I'd make it a point to have caffeine."

Ultimately, Garcia, Yokoyama and Turpin agreed that caffeine really isn't necessary for students, despite its short-term benefits on late-night study sessions.

"I wouldn't [recommend it]," Garcia said. "Why put yourself in that position if you don't have to? If you're tired, get some sleep." ♦



Students combat attachment to electronics

BY Elijah Yi

Sophomore Edward Yang has had his share of experiences with addictive video games.

At one point Yang was so hooked that he would start playing right after he returned home from school and continue playing until early in the morning.

"I would stay up late on school nights playing, sometimes to 3 or 4 in the morning," Yang said.

However, in this day and age, one would be hard-pressed to find a teenager unfamiliar with the addictions that the Internet and new technology bring.

Experts have found that generally found that the students who use the Internet excessively are inclined procrastinate.

In an article for a journal titled CyberPsychology and Behavior, Punjabi University psychology professors Kanwal Nawla and Archana Preet Anand wrote, "[Students] were found to delay other work to spend time online, lose sleep due to late-night log-ons, and feel life would be boring without the Internet."

The lifestyle brought along with the addictions to

video games can lead to an unhealthy one. For Yang, the continual gaming lifestyle shifted his priorities from a school-orientated lifestyle to one that revolved around video games.

In addition to virtual pastimes on the Internet, students can often be drawn to video games as well.

Sophomore Edward Yang has experienced some addictions in the past with certain ones. Yang was particularly enjoyed Modern Warfare 2, which sold over 47 million copies in one day alone.

"My grades freshman year were a disaster," Yang said. "I just spent too much time playing video games."

Addictions to pastimes such as these can bring trouble.

Even simple pastimes can become the priority for students instead of work and can leave negative impacts in social and academic life.

However, in some cases, use of the Internet can be a beneficial way to spend time.

S o p h o -

more Maggy Liu uses her time on the Internet to educate and enjoy herself.

By looking at other people's blogs, Liu finds articles, books and art that she is drawn to.

"I sometimes spend a few hours reading articles and books that are free online," Liu said. "I like seeing other people's art, especially university students' thesis projects, because I am interested in making art myself."

Liu considers her grades to be satisfactory and her parents have given her freedom to con-

tinue surfing the Internet.

"Through Internet, I think that I am a lot more knowledgeable about what is happening in the world," Liu said.

Moreover, in an article by Nicole B. Ellison, a professor in the Department of Telecommunication at Michigan State said, "Various

forms of social media, including ties with friends and neighbors, are related to indices of psychological well-being, such as self-esteem and satisfaction with life."

The Internet contains a plethora of information. It can be a positive way to learn and update themselves on current events, and it can provide students with relaxation and entertainment.

However, with poor time management and excessive usage, it can become an addiction that is hard to shake off.

"I think that I have learned a thing or two about time management through the hours that I spent with games," Yang said. "I still play once in a while, but I try to make sure to keep my priorities straight." ♦



>> togatalks

What are you addicted to?

Probably Tumblr. I like spending a lot of time on there doing not just social stuff, but creative writing.



freshman Kayla Berlinberg

My iPhone, because there often isn't much else to do in class.



sophomore Neil Prasad

The internet, like Facebook and social networks. I spend about eight hours a day on the internet.



junior Phoebe Wong

Don't watch TV? Get 'LOST'



>> Aashna Mukerji

Slouch Potato

In the days before technology, people amused themselves with writing. They read books, wrote letters, played games and took walks—all of which now sound completely alien to me as I vegetate in front of my computer screen, waiting for my next show to download online.

Having been born into the technology era, I can barely remember a time when I would pass up the opportunity to catch up on one of my favorite TV shows. The day I discovered that TV was available for free online was a major turning point in my life—whether it was for better or worse is debatable.

I vaguely recall carrying a book with me everywhere when I was in elementary school; I loved reading. Now, however, I can name more free-stream sites off the top of my head than books intended for my age group.

Being able to marathon an entire

season of a show (like "Veronica Mars," "One Tree Hill," "Chuck," etc) in one sitting isn't something to be proud of, especially when you've done it multiple times. Nevertheless, it can be considered a skill and I've learned quite a few tips to aid me in my quest for Internet TV.

Knowing how to sync a link's audio with a duplicate link's video so that the characters no longer look like they're speaking a different language takes practice. When clips take too long to load, opening them in multiple links at six-minute intervals saves valuable time. And always remember to click full-screen.

There was a point during my freshman year where I kept up with nine different shows at once. I was a few seasons behind on some of them, which left a whole host of "new" episodes at my disposal. My TV schedule effectively replaced my calendar. Instead of going out and interacting with real people, I regularly found myself choosing to catch up on old shows. I had a problem.

When the two-and-a-half hour series finale of "LOST" aired, I was

I realized that if I wanted to get into a respectable college, praying for an extra 12 minutes on Megavideo was not the way to do it.

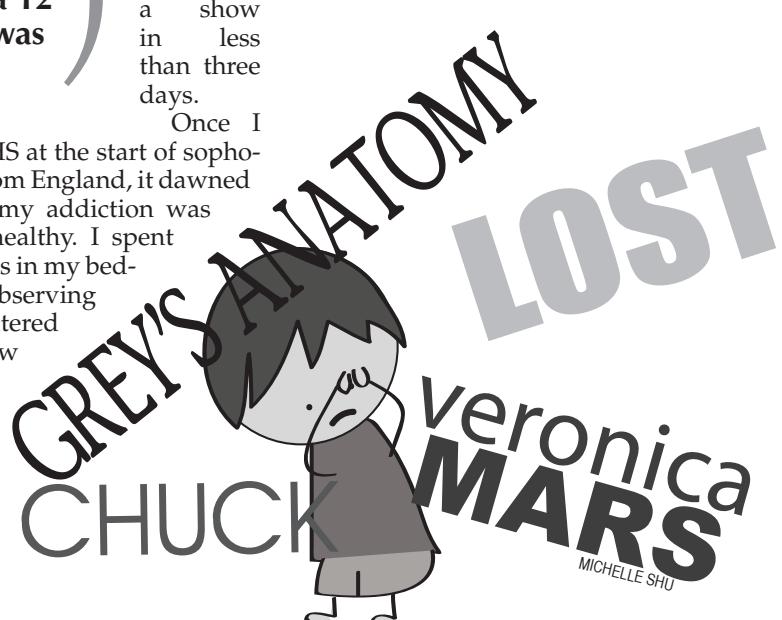
managed to watch three seasons of a show in less than three days.

Once I arrived at SHS at the start of sophomore year from England, it dawned on me that my addiction was severely unhealthy. I spent full weekends in my bedroom, idly observing my unwatered plants grow moldy and die, wondering whether House and Cudly would ever

officially tie the knot. My grades took a sharp nosedive and I finally realized that if I wanted to get into a respectable college, praying for an extra 12 minutes on Megavideo was not the way to do it.

Currently, I'm on a strict real-television-only diet; no computers. I occasionally allow myself to browse my Netflix instant-queue for dessert, but the elimination of all other TV sites has helped my focus enormously (and I think my eyesight has improved as well). If I can hold out until after finals, I'll be set.

And who knows? Maybe I'll even try reading a book. ♦



Power Rankings

After a year in which SHS athletics reached new heights and achievements, *The Falcon* ranks each of the school's sports teams.



Sarah Lum (11)

Michael Chen (11)

Suman Sabada (12)

Ian Burns (11)

Sneha Shrikumar (11)

Girls' Tennis (1t)
Campus Presence: **4**
Physical demand: **4**
Improvement: **3**
Winning %: **20**
League Title: **2**
CCS: **5**
Star Factor: **C. Yen**
Total: **38**

These 25-0 girls were one of the most dominant teams in SHS history, winning both the CCS and NorCal championships.

Boys' Golf (18)
Campus Presence: **2**
Physical demand: **1**
Improvement: **3**
Winning %: **20**
League Title: **2**
CCS: **2**
Star Factor: **R. Parden**
Total: **30**

Inspired by Coach Drennan's impending retirement, these guys went 12-0 in the El Camino League, but struggled at CCS.

Boys' Tennis (1t)
Campus Presence: **4**
Physical demand: **4**
Improvement: **1**
Winning %: **16**
League Title: **0**
CCS: **4**
Star Factor: **N. Jayashankar**
Total: **29**

Dominated en route to the CCS semifinals despite a season in which almost every player was injured at some point.

Boys' Swimming (3)
Campus Presence: **3**
Physical demand: **5**
Improvement: **1**
Winning %: **14**
League Title: **0**
CCS: **5**
Star Factor: **A. Hinshaw**
Total: **28**

Despite little success at the league dual meets, Adam Hinshaw and Ian Burns ensured a fourth straight top-five CCS finish.

Girls' Soccer (7)
Campus Presence: **4**
Physical demand: **4**
Improvement: **2**
Winning %: **13**
League Title: **1**
CCS: **3**
Star Factor: **K. Clark**
Total: **27**

As usual, another successful league season for these girls, who continue to build an SHS dynasty.

Sport (last year's ranking)	Campus Presence (1-5)	Physical Demand (1-5)	Improvement (1-3)	Winning% (1-15 lower league, 1-20 upper)	League Title (1 for lower league, 2 for upper)	CCS (0-5)	Star Factor	Total	Evaluation
6. Boys' Soccer (6)	4	5	1	13	0	3	M. Raghavan	26	With a plethora of juniors returning, expect success next season.
7. Girls' Track (12)	2	3	2	15	1	3	A. Nguyen	26	Jumper Ailene Nguyen and two-sport star Crystal Yen ran over the competition.
8. Girls' Basketball (11)	4	4	1	12	1	3	H. Johnson	25	These dominant girls went undefeated in their league this season.
9. Girls' Cross Country (16)	2	4	2	12	0	4	C. Schlossareck	24	Strong performances led to a fourth place CCS finish.
10. Boys' Basketball (17)	5	4	2	12	0	0	S. Berman	23	Sophomore sensations Stevie Berman and Kyle Dozier led a strong team.
11. Football (15)	5	5	1	10	0	0	C. Guengerich	21	Defeated Los Gatos for the first time in decades.
12. Badminton (9)	3	3	0	10	0	4	J. Kuo	20	Jeffrey Kuo won CCS boy's singles, and the 67-person team performed well in league.
13. Boys' Water Polo (19)	4	5	1	10	0	0	N. Doyen	20	Great league season followed by disappointment in not making CCS.
14. Boys' Cross Country (20)	2	4	1	9	0	2	K. Fukui, G. Chan	18	Great performances by perennial stars Kyle Fukui and Garrick Chan.
15. Wrestling (13)	3	5	0	8	0	1	A. Murabito	17	Despite an injury-riddled season, junior wrestlers look forward to next season.
16. Girls' Swimming (10)	2	5	0	8	0	1	N. Cheung	16	Although overshadowed by their male counterparts, the girls swam well.
17. Baseball (23)	4	2	1	8	0	0	D. Pak	15	A year of transition, with many underclassmen gaining experience.
18. Boys' Lacrosse (14)	5	4	0	5	0	0	E. Van Nooden	14	Despite performing worse than last season, this team did beat Los Gatos.
19. Boys' Track (8)	2	3	0	8	0	0	E. Chuang	13	A talented team that was derailed by injuries.
20. Girls' Volleyball (5)	3	3	0	6	0	0	H. Nielsen	12	Big drop-off from last season, but there is always room for improvement.
21. Girls' Water Polo (24)	2	5	0	4	0	0	M. Crase	11	Development needed for struggling girls' team.
22. Girls' Golf (21)	1	1	0	7	0	0	U. Sivaram	9	The many fresh faces on the team bode well for the future.
23. Field Hockey (4)	4	4	0	2	0	0	V. Block	9	Injuries led to a disappointing season, despite Code Red's support.
24. Girls' Lacrosse (22)	1	3	0	3	0	0	E. Scott	7	Season was highlighted by team bonding, but not wins.
25. Softball (25)	1	1	0	3	0	0	M. Brading	5	Season was highlighted by a solid two-game winning streak.
26. Boys' Volleyball (26)	1	2	0	2	0	0	G. Huening	5	Hopefully next year, this team can finally get out of the basement.

Alumni inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame

By Vivien Lu

The Saratoga Sports Hall of Fame, started in 2007, is such a new tradition that the plaque for it has not yet been created, but the honor still holds its prestige.

The second Saratoga Sports Hall of Fame, hosted by the Events Commission, was held in the McAfee Center on June 2 at 7 p.m.

During this year's ceremony, the school recognized its current athletes who will be playing sports in college next year. Then, the school honored alumni who not only played all four years of sports during high school but also excelled in college athletic programs.

One of the attendees, senior golfer Andrew Cho, had played golf throughout high school and will play it at Boston University next year.

"I was really excited to go," Cho said. "I love the sport I play and it was great to be invited to such an honorable event. It was exciting seeing others who were recognized as well."

The Sports Hall of Fame is held every four years, similar to the Olympics.

"He is a teacher, a coach and an inspiration. He is just a phenomenal human being."

>> Assistant principal Karen Hyde on coach Benny Pierce

Four athletes, alumni champion swimmer Brad Hinshaw, softball player Liz Kelly, runner Anne Ricketts and NCAA Tae-Kwon Do Champion Andrew Bosworth were inducted into the Saratoga Hall of Fame.

Even though Ricketts did not attend, all were inducted.

Bosworth is now the director of engineering at Facebook, making him one of the top employees there. Kelly is now the head coach of the Dutch National Softball Team and brought the team to the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Also, former football coach Benny Pierce was honored by being named Coach Emeritus and inducted into the Hall of Fame as well.

Pierce was at one time the winningest football coach in California and the lower field at SHS is named after him. He started the football program in 1959 and retired in 1994.

"He is a teacher, a coach and an inspiration," assistant principal Karen Hyde said. "He is just a phenomenal human being."

In order to be inducted into the



FALCON // DYLAN JEW

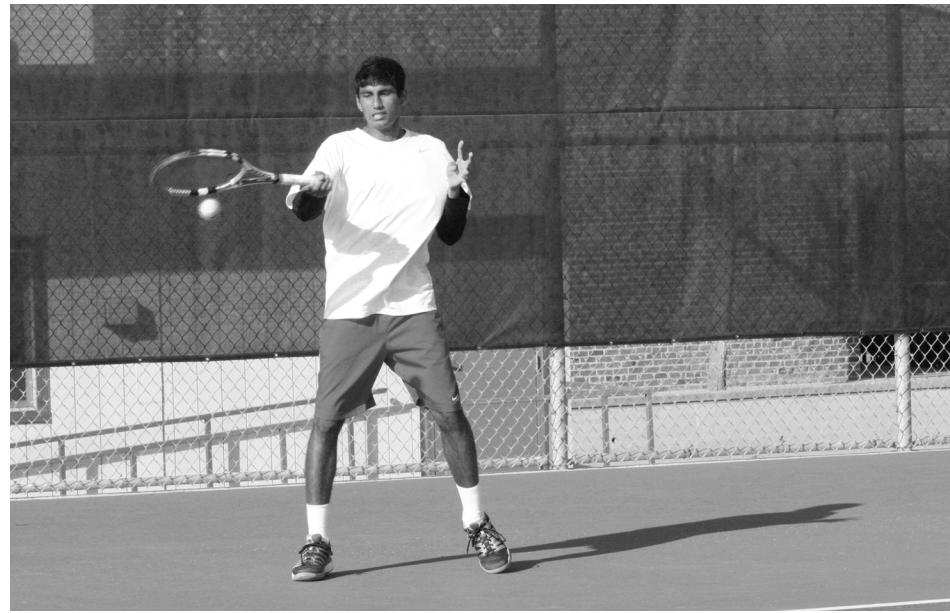
From left to right, Hall of Fame inductees Brad Hinshaw, Liz Kelly, Andrew Bosworth and Benny Pierce look on at the induction ceremony in the McAfee Center on June 2.

Sports Hall of Fame, alumni must have been athletes at Saratoga High School over 10 years ago and athletes in college.

The Events Commission advertised this to alumni groups, current parents, students and in the local *Saratoga News*. The community nominated new athletes, and applications were

reviewed by the Events Commission, which then selected the winners.

"I enjoyed meeting the people who came [to the event]," events commissioner Mac Hyde said. "I knew some of the former students when I was little, so it was nice to see them again. Overall, it's just a fun event we like to do." ♦



Senior Nikhil Jayashankar hits a shot on Mar. 4 during a win versus a Menlo opponent.

Star athletes shine at CCS

BY Amy Jan
& Brandon Judoprasetijo

No. 1 badminton singles player, junior Jeffrey Kuo and boys' tennis No. 1 undefeated singles player senior Nikhil Jayashankar dominated their CCS competitors and each took first place in their respective tournaments.

"My matches were pretty easy, even easier than I thought they would be," Jayashankar said.

Jayashankar's 6-0 and 6-3 wins in straight sets over Ben Vierra from Stevenson were even more impressive given he played with an injured pinkie.

"I just had to be careful not to bend my pinkie too much and use my other fingers more," Jayashankar said.

Jayashankar attributes his success this year to the efforts he has put into the sport since he was nine years old. His personal practice schedule consists of over 20 hours of practice per week and private physical training three times a week.

"I want to start [on my college team] as a freshman next year," said Jayashankar, who will be attending Northwestern University in the fall.

While Jayashankar was still playing in NorCal tournaments, he was ranked second in 18 and under singles. He currently ranks 51st nationally as well.

His teammates recognize him as an outstanding player and leader.

"He's got leadership skills and a commanding presence. He won the [league] sportsmanship award this year," senior teammate Chris Han said.

This year was Kuo's third competing in CCS. Kuo defeated his toughest opponent of the season, Gary Wang from Monta Vista, to take first place.

"My speed and power gave me the upper hand," Kuo said.

Kuo has competed in several state-sanctioned tournaments since he started playing badminton in sixth grade. Just last year, Kuo received third place at a national tournament and first place at the Junior International Trials.

Kuo's hard work and talents have earned him the respect of his competitors and teammates.

"He has been training for a long time and his body height and structure are perfect for badminton," sophomore teammate Derek Chao said.

Both star racket players showed promise for future athletic success. Kuo aspires to qualify for the Olympics while Jayashankar hopes to start high in the Northwestern lineup and make the Men's NCAA tournament.

"Tennis is a hobby that I'll always have," Jayashankar said. "It's a sport that I'll always be able to enjoy." ♦

HINSHAW >> New record

continued from pg. 1

"I was happy because it's an old record and it's always fun with the old records," Hinshaw said, "especially [the record of] Mark Spitz, who's an Olympian."

In addition to the 200 freestyle, Hinshaw scored points for Saratoga at Leagues in the 500 freestyle, 200 medley relay and 400 freestyle relay. He also managed to break his own year-old League record in the 500 by about half of a second, with a time of 4:29.82.

Two weeks after Leagues, Hinshaw broke another record—this time in the 500 freestyle.

His brother Ben had held the previous CCS record of 4:21.54 for two years, until Hinshaw hit the wall with a time of 4:19.08. Hinshaw finished

first in the 500 freestyle and second in the 200 freestyle at CCS Finals.

Varsity swim coach Kristen Thomson attributed Hinshaw's success to his dedication

"He's got a great work ethic," she said. "He definitely deserves every bit of it."

Thomson envisions great things in Hinshaw's future.

"People still know Mark Spitz's name," Thomson said. "Who knows? Years from now, if this record ever gets broken we'll be saying Hinshaw's name."

His teammates also praise him.

"He deserves a lot of recognition for his achievement," teammate

hinshaw figures

1:40.40 Hinshaw's 200 freestyle time at the SCVAL race that broke Mark Spitz's previous record.

1:41.06 Hinshaw's time at the CCS race that won him second place in the 200-yard freestyle.

4:19.08 Hinshaw's time for the 500-yard freestyle that broke his brother Ben's previous record

.10 The difference in seconds between Spitz's record and Hinshaw's

>> Cullan McChesney

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SWIMMING & DIVING

Burns and Gardanier excel at CCS, Hinshaw shatters brother's record

by Michael Lee
& Ashwini Velchamy

Santa Clara Swim Center roared with cheering on May 21. People screamed in the stands and athletes stopped mid-warm up to watch as eight swimmers cut through the water. It was event 16, the boys' final heat of the 500-yard freestyle.

The clock raced — 4:17, 4:18 4:19.08. The crowd erupted as senior Adam Hinshaw hit the wall, stopping the timer. He had smashed the previous CCS record of 4:21.54, set by his brother Ben two years ago.

"I had an idea going into this race that I could get it," Hinshaw said. "Well, I started, and I realized that if I wanted to get under 4:20, I just had to keep pushing it and never get into a comfort zone."

Fourteen Saratoga swimmers and one diver competed at CCS Preliminaries on May 20. The next day at CCS Finals, two individual swimmers, Hinshaw and junior Ian Burns, and two relay teams returned and netted the Saratoga boys fifth place overall. A medley relay and a diver, senior Lauren Gardanier, scored points for the Saratoga girls.

Despite the successes of these athletes, the Falcons did not place in the league rankings as well as in recent years.

The varsity boys hold a 1-5 league record, with the sole win against Lynbrook. The girls have a 2-4 record, with victories over Homestead and Lynbrook. At the SCVAL Finals meet between all seven schools in the league, the girls and boys placed fourth and sixth overall, respectively.

Nevertheless, varsity swim coach Kristen Thomson said that the whole team's performance pleased her.

"[The team] did great," Thomson said. "We got a lot of best times for the season. I think that there is so much sup-



FALCON // MICHAEL LEE

Junior Ian Burns (second from the left) dives off the blocks in the 100-yard freestyle CCS finals at the Santa Clara International Swim Center on May 21. Burns took first overall in the event with a time of 45.83, about 0.6 seconds ahead of Menlo-Atherton's Nick Henze.

port there, both at Leagues and at CCS."

Hinshaw placed second in the 200-yard freestyle and first in the 500. Burns finished fourth in the 200-yard individual medley and first in the 100-yard freestyle. Gardanier took fifth place for girls' diving.

"We didn't have many swims, but the ones we did have were phenomenal," Thomson said.

Thomson attributed the success of Hinshaw and his brothers, Ryan and Ben, to their work ethic and devotion to

the sport.

"I think we're going to see the name Hinshaw for sure," she said. "Keep your eyes peeled out at the next Olympics. There's a lot of talent, dedication and hard work with that family."

Hinshaw, like his brother Ben, will swim for UC Berkeley next year. Gardanier will attend Yale University and continue to dive.

"Lauren was definitely a key part of the team all four years that she was here," Thomson said. "She really has

done a lot being the sole diver. She was the diving team and I'm really going to miss her."

Thomson insists that next year looks promising.

"We're [losing] a lot of big names, but we still have excellent swimmers and we have some wonderful freshmen coming in," she said. "I think that they ended the year with a bang, and I wouldn't change anything. We're going to miss our swimmers, but I'm looking forward to next year." ♦

BOYS' TENNIS

Falcons fall short at CCS

by Jason Wu

Saratoga's bid for the CCS title in boys' tennis ended with a semifinal loss to No. 3 Bellarmine College Prep on May 11 at the Courtside Club in Los Gatos.

Bellarmine won at the No. 2 and No. 4 singles spots and swept the three doubles matches en route to a 5-2 victory. Senior No. 1 singles player Nikhil Jayashankar defeated Bellarmine's Trevor James and freshman No. 3 singles player Kial Kaiser defeated Bellarmine's Rohan Shankar in straight sets.

In the finals, Bellarmine lost 7-0 to No. 1 seed Menlo.

Faced with the absence of No. 1 dou-

bles player Roshan Sriram due to conflicts with AP testing, the Falcons paired senior Suman Sabada with sophomore Henry Shen for No. 1 doubles and sophomore Deepak Ravikumar with freshman Zach Hewlin for No. 2 doubles.

"It was a tough one, but no excuses," said head coach Tom Uyehara. "We had our opportunities, especially in the No. 2 and No. 3 doubles matches that lost in three sets."

The Falcons ended the season with an 18-6 record.

Senior No. 1 singles player Nikhil Jayashankar finished with a record of 24-0, and won singles at CCS on May 24 and May 26 in Aptos. ♦

Seniors moving on to college athletics

Name	School	Sport
Vanessa Block	Wesleyan	Field Hockey
Andrew Cho	Boston University	Golf
Justin Chung	Carnegie Mellon	Swimming
Kyle Dickson	UC San Diego	Rowing
Kyle Fukui	Occidental	Track
Lauren Gardanier	Yale	Diving
Chris Guengerich	UPenn	Football
Adam Hinshaw	UC Berkeley	Swimming
Nikhil Jayashankar	Northwestern University	Tennis
Greg Johnson	Chapman	Football
Grace Kim	Columbia	Archery
Debra Lin	Carnegie Mellon	Swimming
Hanna Nielson	UC Santa Barbara	Volleyball
Kent Paisley	Chapman	Golf
Courtney Payne	Bowdoin	Rowing
Srinidhi Raghavan	UPenn	Tennis
Deepak Sabada	University of Chicago	Tennis

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>> photoreel

Me and umm ... dances...



FALCON // LILLIAN CHEN



FALCON // LILLIAN CHEN



FALCON // ROHAN RAJEEV



Courtesy of Sasan Saadat

SOCK WAR! JUNIOR NATALIE LIU PARTICIPATES IN APUSH TEACHER MATTHEW TORRENS' TRENCH WARFARE SIMULATION IN CLASS ON JUNE 3. **SENIOR SERVANT DAY** SENIOR CHRIS CHUNG FLAUNTS A TRADITIONAL CHINESE DRESS WHILE PULLING HIS MASTERS, SOPHOMORE ALEX WANG AND STEVIE BERMAN, AROUND ON MAY 27. **DANGEROUSLY CHEESY** SOPHOMORE NEAL SIGNAPORIA DRESSES LIKE CHESTER THE CHEETAH FOR RALLY TRYOUTS ON MAY 16. THE THEME FOR RALLY TRYOUTS WAS FOOD CHARACTERS. **CAN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF OF YOU** SENIOR DAVID MANDELL ASKS SENIOR MIKAELA BURTON TO PROM IN THE QUAD ON MAY 13, ATTRACTING AN AUDIENCE DURING LUNCH.



>> David Eng

2 Deng Good

When school started, "grinding" was an innocuous word which I associated with information extraction and black pepper shakers, underscoring my unfamiliarity with the high school dancing culture. How was I supposed to acquire the "dancing-lingo," having not attended a dance my entire life?

As the year concludes, having attended my first dance, I think about my naive former self and chuckle. A "bid" is no longer just a type risky poker play, a "corsage" is no longer a typo that Microsoft Word won't auto-correct to "courage" and "prom" is no longer a dance that I'd even consider skipping.

The beginning

I confess: "dances" and I actually go way back. I attended the first "activity-night" in sixth-grade, envisioning it to be a night of activities from sporting contests (Ping-Pong tournaments) to delectable cuisine (campfire s'mores).

Instead, I found myself playing Hide-and-Go-Seek among the hordes of shifting obstacles on the gymnasium dance floor. As for the sports tourney and delicious food? The ping-pong station was lavishly furnished with one paddle, but no ball. The cafeteria sold s'more-flavored Granola bars.

The preparation

People see me as a sleepy-eyed junior who

only wears T-shirts and shorts, not a glitzy tuxedo and tie. I get my hair cut by my dad (no-bowl-cut-zone) in my garage. I spend hours on my computer tweaking my fantasy sports teams, not designing a graphic to ask someone to a dance.

In retrospect, persuasion (eh hem, harassment) from my closest friends compelled me to attend—they helped me overcome my phobia of dances. Seniors also somehow convinced me that prom would be the "best night of my life." Still can't believe I asked.

No turning back

Asking a girl to a dance is the most nerve-wracking endeavour in which a boy will ever partake. Not necessarily because of the possibility of rejection (I confirmed she'd say yes at least 20 times with her friends), but mostly because we also had an AP Chemistry exam. Out of my studious character, I prioritized devising a creative punchline to ask her to prom over reviewing acid-base problems. She said yes.

The night

I never realized so many activities straddled the 7-11 p.m. time allotment: Tuxedo Warehouse (I wasn't about to wear my brother's Orchestra tux), the florist, and a pre-prom photo shoot. When we finally arrived at the "Corinthian Grand Ballroom," I was awe-struck. For me, it truly was "A Whole New World." I danced with a girl for the first time and didn't suffer the urge to play Hide-and-Go-Seek. Though there was no Ping-Pong table, I made a s'more-like marshmallow in the chocolate fountain.

I even made a conscious effort to open the car door for my date (which turns awkward when she rejects you and opens another one of the four car doors by herself).

This experience topped the "activity-night" by far. Who knows. Senior Prom? ♦

Prom asking recreates movie

BY Justine Huang

A group of students gathered around the quad steps during lunch on May 13. Suddenly, senior David Mandell stepped out from behind a bush and pointed at senior Mikaela Burton, singing: "You're just too good to be true, can't take my eyes off of you." Executing a flawless dance move, he continued, "Hit it!"

"1, 2, 3, 4!" answered a voice, fellow senior Jason Schiuan. Fifty members of the marching band then entered and accompanied Mandell's singing with a loud fanfare as he executed his plan to ask Burton to the May 21 senior prom.

Mandell continued to sing "Can't Take My Eyes Off Of You," a song by Frankie Valli. Senior Jay Lee, dressed in a convincing police officer uniform, ran toward Mandell, jokingly scolding Mandell for "disturbing the peace," as a police officer.



cer did in the 1999 movie "10 Things I Hate About You."

The audience laughed when Mandell feigned surprise and continued to sing. The two hugged, and Mandell announced triumphantly, "She said yes!" to which the audience replied with booming cheers, whistles and a resounding, "Aww!"

"I thought it was really sweet," Burton said. "I love that movie ... I was totally off-guard, and I thought it was so neat how he got almost the whole band involved."

"I saw the movie when I was small," Mandell said. "I've always wanted to do it; I'm just happy I was able to do it for her."

Plenty of organization was required to make this elaborate plan a success. "I want to give a shout-out to all the band people who helped," Mandell said. "It was great, so thank you to them."

If you missed out on Mandell's prom asking, here's the link for it: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AihgrzVfOp8&feature=player_embedded ♦

top ten



WAYS TO END THE YEAR WITH A BANG

- 10 Play sexy saxophone songs in the any possible classroom you can think of. That never gets annoying.
- 9 Set off fireworks in the math quad during finals week. "Do you ever feel like a plastic bag?" - Katy Perry
- 8 Grow hair to cover your forehead. Hehe, get it? Bangs ...
- 7 Start studying for next year's STAR test. Afterwards, pat yourself on the back for a real bang-up job. Cliff.
- 6 Pursue the girl/guy of your dreams. You're not man enough ... I guess end your year with a lack of bang.
- 5 Ponder the creation of the universe. That'd be a Big Bang.
- 4 Mashup William Hung and Rebecca Black. "She Bangs on Fridays."
- 3 Study really hard for finals. Especially freshmen. "O.M.G. HEALTH/DRIVER'S ED FINAL."
- 2 Pull a prank on Mr. Drennan. He's retiring in a week, so he can't get back at you.
- 1 Come to school dressed for "summer." Freshmen have been doing it all year.

>> Aasim Naqvi and Rohan Rajeev