



the saratoga falcon

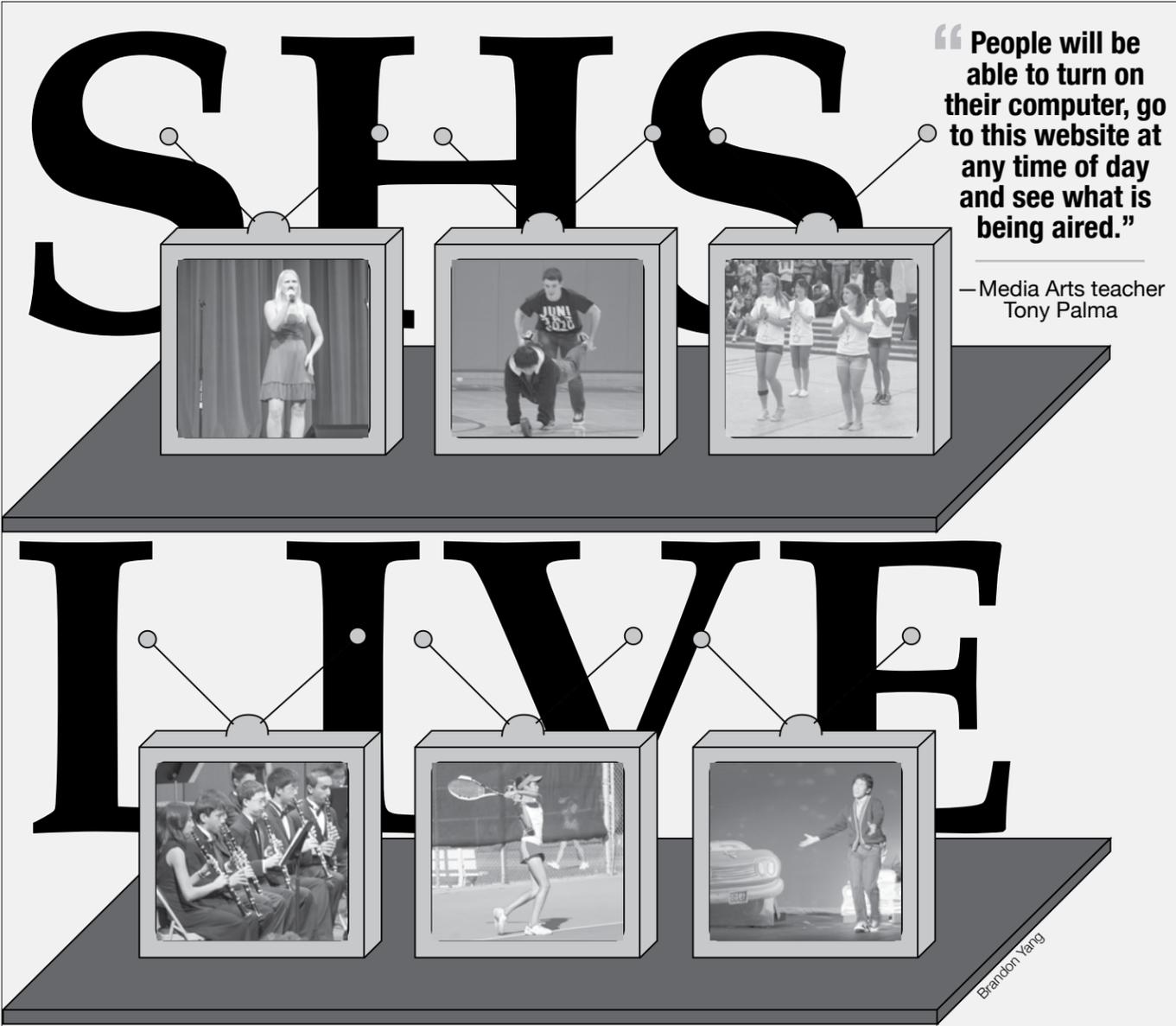
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Media class to start video streaming

by Tiffany Tseng

Imagine coming home from school, going online and viewing all the morning announcements that you missed as well as pictures of the recent basketball game all in one streaming video. The next day, you come home to watch the lecture from your biology class to review material you couldn't understand in that short class period.

The new multimedia journalism class starting next fall, headed by video production and media arts teacher Tony

Palma, has plans to host a Saratoga High website "channel" that will constantly stream videos. Although this idea is not new, the recent demand from teachers and students for a higher level of interaction has made it more necessary.

"People will be able to turn on their computer, go to this website at any time of day and see what it being aired," said Palma. "The multimedia journalism class will be deciding the name of this channel and its content."

The class is expected to run both live and prerecorded videos online, from

simple billboard-like slideshows of pictures and announcements to more complex ideas such as live lectures, guest speakers and even the graduation ceremony. Possible videos that could be streamed also include student films, movies and news reports.

"The constant streaming will allow students to be more involved with all the various school activities because we will be able to re-air events like sports games," Palma said. "The people who

see VIDEO, p. 5

Spring events anticipated

by Grishma Athavale and Aditi Jayaraman

With the Indian Cultural Awareness Club (ICAC)'s "Bombay in the Bay," the Alternative Energy and Fuel Faire (AEFF), Career Day and Junior Prom approaching, the next couple weeks promise excitement and lots of activity on and off campus for students.

Bombay in the Bay

Preparations for "Bombay in the Bay," which began in December of last year, are coming to a close. The upcoming event will be held on April 4 in the McAfee Center. The event will showcase different dances and songs depicting Indian culture as well as a skit comedy, which members hope will be a success. Senior Co-Presidents Aditi Jayaraman and Kushal Shah said practices for the show have been picking up pace and that members have been vigorously working on arrangements for the show.

"We're definitely making some changes [for the show] this year," said senior Farid Jiandani, "but those who attend can definitely expect the same entertaining dances and tunes at the show."

Career Day

Career Day 2009, which will be held on April 21, will allow students to listen to presentations from adults currently working in coveted jobs from those in law enforcement and real estate, to those working in bioengineering firms and as chefs. Students were told to post their three top career choices in advance on Naviance in preparation for the event, and those who don't get all of their top three choices will be put in careers that are close to what they signed up for.

"My hopes for Career Day are that the students have an informative day, gaining insights on various careers," said College and Career Center Coordinator Bonnie Sheikh.

About 70 speakers are expected to

see EVENTS, p. 6

Administration stands behind marijuana crackdown

by Brian Kim

Several students are facing suspension or expulsion after a recent crackdown on the use and sale of marijuana on campus. The investigation has led to much rumor and worry among students and parents.

Because of privacy laws, the administration was able to provide only a few details about the investigation. Earlier this month, principal Jeff Anderson sent an e-mail that informed parents about the situation.

"In Saratoga, people hear stuff pretty

quickly," Anderson said in an interview. "We've recently had evidence that indi-

cates that [drug sale and use] is happening and we're dealing with it, but I mainly wanted parents to know how their kids are doing and that they should check in with them. They see their students at home and may have some insight that might help prevent a problem."

"We've recently had evidence that indicates that [drug sale and use] is happening [at SHS] and we're dealing with it."

—principal Jeff Anderson

He said possible punishments include suspensions for the use of drugs while students are on campus and expulsions for students caught dealing drugs.

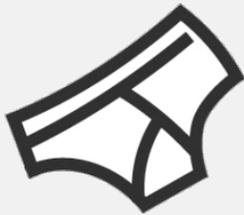
Many students have expressed concern that the investigation is including searches of their lockers, backpacks and cell phones, but Anderson said students should have no expectation of privacy while on campus.

"As it's parents' rights to go through their students' stuff, with reasonable suspicion that they may have something that is against school rules or is illegal, [the school] can search their locker or their backpack when they're on school grounds," said Anderson. "[Students] have less privacy rights as a citizen at school than if they were in their community."

He said that parents and students should also note that cars are also searchable under reasonable suspicion.

see DRUGS, p. 6

NEWS BRIEFS



EMS combats environmental issues with Awareness Fair

The Environmental Management System held its first Environmental Awareness Fair on March 25. Several representatives of eco-friendly companies and non-profits in the Bay Area came to campus during lunch to promote environmentally sound actions and to teach students how they could help.

The organizations included Whole Foods, the California Native Plant Society, Green Mouse Recycling and Sustainable Spaces. These representatives hoped to provide interested students with information on how they can be pro-active in doing the best for the environment. The event targeted mostly underclassmen that preferred to stay on campus.

Senior Heraa Hyder, a member of EMS, said the event was "an experiment to see how students would react to interacting with 'green' leaders instead of just students because past events didn't bring about a high enough turnout."

Fun-filled Grad Night 2009 approaches

As the end of the school year and graduation day approach, parents, seniors and Grad Night Co-Chairs are eagerly anticipating "Grad Night 2009." As always, Grad Night, an annual tradition sponsored by parents for graduating seniors, will be full of entertainment and food. It will take place on campus from after graduation on June 11 until 5 a.m. the following morning.

Although this year's theme for Grad, as usual, is a secret until the night itself, this year's GN Chairs—Helen Chang, Jeri Finch, Vasanthi Jayaraman and Charlotte Sparacino—plan for a night that 2009 Grads won't want to miss.

"The parents are working really hard. We want to give all the students an exciting night to remember," said Jayaraman.

The Senior Video that will be shown at Grad Night, complete with every milestone that the Class of 2009 has experienced, can be ordered in advance through the PTSO website. Bids are currently \$225. Students can check the SHS PTSO website or get in touch with assistant principal Karen Hyde if they have questions.

Amnesty International hosts benefit concert

Amnesty International was scheduled to hold a benefit concert for women's rights last night in the Little Theater. The show featured performances by seniors Brian Tsai, Christina Robert, Yvette Young and Sarah Baldwin. Senior co-presidents Aditi Jayaraman and Paul Leung hoped to spread awareness about what "needs to be done to help women around the world, what our goals are and how we hope to achieve them," according to Jayaraman.

The club has not yet decided which organizations will receive the proceeds, but it is considering Women of Zimbabwe Arise (WOZA), a women's activist group in Africa. A mandatory fee couldn't be placed because the goal of the club is "not to raise money, but to raise awareness."

Although the club did not ask teachers to give extra credit to their students for attending the event, Amnesty put up several fliers around the school in order to attract more students.

"I think the event attracted those concerned about the issue [of women's rights]," said Jayaraman. "I think that made the show a bigger success. We touched people who really care."

Senior becomes semifinalist in Physics Olympiad

The annual USA Physics Olympiad tests were held in February and March. All students were eligible to take the preliminary test, but only a few advanced. Quarterfinalists included sophomore David Zeng, junior Rolland Wu and senior Andy Tsao. Only Tsao advanced to semifinalist standing.

"I like science in general," said Zeng, "particularly physics since it's very math oriented."

Throughout summer and first semester, Zeng prepared for the Physics Olympiad. During the test, however, Zeng was unable to solve all of the problems in the quarterfinal test and didn't qualify for the semifinal round.

Tsao said the semifinal round was tough.

"The semifinal round was where it really got difficult," said Tsao. "It covers all areas in physics, so I needed to study extensively."

Students who advance to the final round of the Physics Olympiad can attend the prestigious Physics Camp, held during two weeks in May. At camp, students do about eight hours of physics every day and take exams to determine who will represent USA in the International Physics Olympiad.

Tsao will find out whether he is a finalist in mid-April.

-by Aditi Jayaraman, Lyka Sethi and Andy Tsao

Robotics competes at FIRST

by Kevin Mu
and Jenny Zhang

Capping off a tumultuous building season delayed by a shortage of funds, the Robotics team finished 31st out of 48 teams at the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) regional competition held from March 12 to 14 at the San Jose State Spartan Stadium.

Going in, the team did not feel very confident about their robot, and it showed in their performance.

"I don't think we did as well as we hoped," said junior club vice president Kandice Wong.

Club president junior Erika Ye said the team made some errors while building and designing the robot.

"There were a lot of things we could have done differently during the build season," Ye said. "We should have tested our design more."

As for the competition, robots were put into teams of three and faced off against opponents in a

wild, action-packed game called "Lunacy."

"It's like a game of basketball, except the hoops are moving," said Ye.

Technological difficulties also hindered the team during the contest.

"Our 'shooter' component malfunctioned on the first day, so we couldn't do what we wanted with our robot," said Wong. "We needed to make sure all of our parts worked."

During the match, a trailer was attached to the back of each robot. The goal of the game was to score points by shooting or dumping as many balls into the opponents' trailers as possible. In addition, the robots' wheels and the flooring were low-friction in order to simulate driving in a low-gravity environment, causing the robots to slide and making them harder to control.

Because of the exciting nature of this year's game, many Robotics club members thoroughly enjoyed the competition despite the results.

"It was fun because it was so

chaotic," said sophomore Craig Shih. "The concept was really different from previous years."

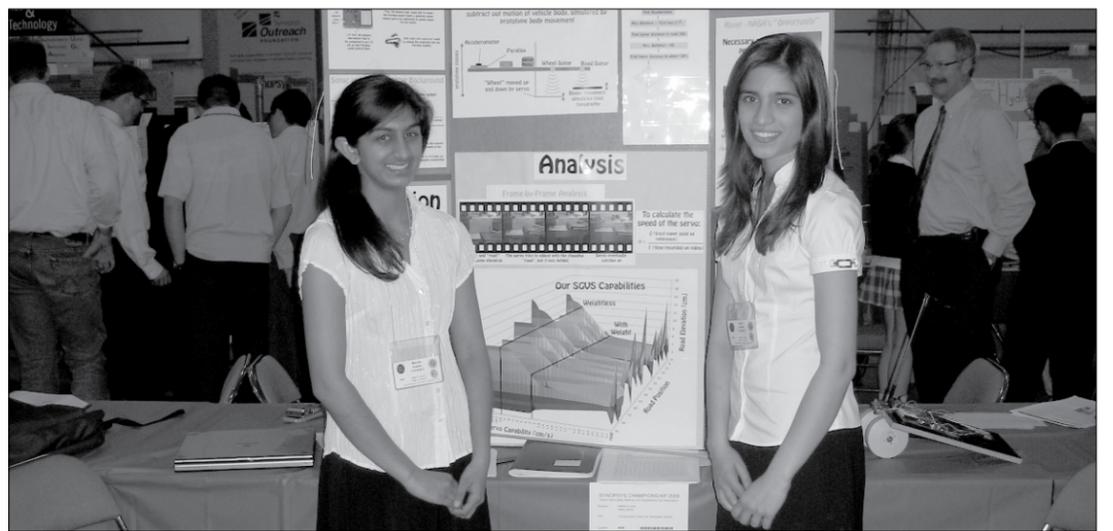
Bellarmino, Gunn and Monta Vista High School were among the eight teams who advanced to the finals during the tournament, but the winner of the FIRST regional competition was Mountain View High. The FIRST Championship will not take place until April 16 at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta.

The FIRST Competition will also be the last this year for the team, which lacks the funds to take part in any more events.

According to Ye, participating in another regional would cost more than \$1,000.

Because the team was unable to find sponsors, Robotics has been struggling through financial issues. They are currently reapplying for a sponsorship with Festo, Bosch, Silicon Light Machines and Automation Controls.

"There are lots of regionals out there," said Ye, "but we just don't have enough money [to compete]." ♦



courtesy of Haley Zarrin

Juniors Malika Kumar and Haley Zarrin pose with their poster on a vehicle stabilization system on March 18.

9 go to Synopsis Science Fair

by Abhi Venkataramana

The San Jose Convention Center was packed with colorful tri-fold posters and students displaying homemade robots on March 18. Over 800 students from schools from the Bay Area competed in the Synopsis Silicon Valley Science and Technology Championship. Six teams from Saratoga competed in the prestigious competition.

"The Synopsis Science fair is a great opportunity for people who are really interested in science and actually want to do scientific work instead of just reading about it in school," said junior Dhruv Seshadri. "There are college professors and scientists who talk to you about your project and sometimes even offer you a summer job if they really like what you did."

The students have been preparing for the competition since early September. Some students worked with professors and others chose to work alone. Seshadri, who did his project on the impact of heat on bacterial transformation, decided to work with a professor from UC Santa Cruz for his project.

"My project was relatively complicated to do on my own, so

I decided to talk with a professor to get help," said Seshadri. "He gave me a list of books and resources and he let me use his lab to conduct my experiment."

The students had to put together a poster detailing their experiment as well as writing a paper about their experiment for judges and company recruiters.

"For me, the hardest part of my whole project was doing the poster," said Seshadri. "It seems really easy to do, but it took me more than ten days to make my poster."

Scientists from universities and high profile companies such as NASA and the Air Force judged the posters. In addition, recruiters from biotech companies came to scout out good project ideas and recruit science fair students for jobs or internships. Projects were judged based on the student's poster, experiment and presentation.

"The judges are great," said Seshadri. "They know what they are talking about so they really give you good advice."

Teams will be eligible for awards in category of their experiment, in addition to special awards given out by specific companies. The award ceremony will be held at Great America on March 29. ♦

EXPERIMENTS

Hannibal Chang

Peer-to-Peer Based Artificial Intelligence in Domotics: A Heuristic Approach (Engineering)

Malika Kumar, Haley Zarrin

Creating a SensorGVS; A Sonar/Accelerometer Guided Vehicle Stabilization System

Vijay Menon, Abhi Venkataramana and Karthik Sreedhara

A Comparison of Cellulose and Non-Cellulose Ethanol Sources: Net Energy Yields, Product Yields and an Analysis of How Temperature of Fermentation Affects Yield (Chemistry)

Shirya Nagpal

Chemicals and Cosmetics (Chemistry)

Dhruv Seshadri

Impact of Heat Shock and pDNA Concentration on Bacterial Transformation Efficiency (Biochemistry/Microbiology)

Caroline White

Automatic Dice-rolling Machine for Finding Defective Dice (Engineering)

CORRECTIONS

- On page 21 of the March 13 issue, the girls' basketball team was mistakenly said to have had 154 players instead of 15 players.

'Guilty as charged': DUI trial held in McAfee

by Kelly Lamble
and Amalie MacGowan

Students can turn on the TV anytime and see legal drama on screen. But on March 13, the drama was brought to life as more than 200 students gathered to watch a real DUI trial in the McAfee Center. The judge was real. The lawyers were real. The court reporter, witnesses and bailiff were all real. Most importantly, the crime the defendant was charged with, driving under the influence, was real.

As the trial unfolded, a 12-member student jury panel, as well as a crowd of peers, watched as the consequences of drinking and driving became real before their eyes.

When assistant principal Karen Hyde first found that hosting a DUI trial at school was an option, she believed it would be a beneficial experience for students.

Planning the event began weeks before with the interviewing of more than 40 students for a position on the jury. The events commission tried to get a mix of seniors to participate.

"They asked me questions about my feelings and experiences with drinking and driving to detect if I had any biases," said senior Katie Nast, a juror.

In preparation for the trial, the jurors learned how a normal trial operates.

"I thought it was interesting to see how the court process worked," said Nast. "[The jury] was much more prepared [than the other students] so I really got a better understanding of what a real court trial is like."

The proceedings included an experienced judge, a court reporter and graduate lawyers for both defense and prosecution. Students filed in from English, health, government and economics classes, with the jurors in formal attire seated on stage.

Students sat patiently as the defendant pleaded not guilty to the charge of driving under the influence last October. After several witnesses took the stand, the jury deliberated privately in the back of the theatre.

"We went back and were sitting around a table and were trying to determine whether or not the defendant was



Melody Zhang

Seniors Christina Lauro, Paul Stavropoulos, Kaylee Pettengill and Swupnil Sahai served as jurors during the trial, March 13. The advisory student jury found the defendant guilty.

guilty of the two charges presented to us," said Nast. "We started arguing then realized we were all arguing the same thing so it was pretty easy to come to a unanimous decision in this case."

Like the judge, the jury came to the conclusion that the defendant was guilty on both counts: driving while impaired and driving with a blood alcohol concentration of more than the legal limit of .08%. She will be sentenced

at a later date. In exchange for her participation in this trial, she will receive a reduced penalty.

A question and answer session followed the verdict, allowing students to learn more about the case and the legal system in general.

"The trial was different than I expected," said juror senior Christina Lauro. "It was much longer than I thought, and more dramatic than I expected." ♦

Literary essay surprise

Student unknowingly makes it to final round in prestigious "Letters to Literature" writing contest

by Brandon Yang

When English teacher Natasha Ritchie gave her English 11 Honors class a "practice write" assignment last November, junior Steven Hong thought it was just another 800-word essay assignment. So a few months later in February, when Ritchie congratulated several of her students for making it to the state level in a contest, Hong, like a few other students who had advanced, was confused at first.

"I completely forgot because I wrote the letter sometime in first semester," said Hong.

To participate in the contest, Letters about Literature, students selected a book they felt strongly about and wrote to the author about how the book influenced them. Hong, who wrote to Amy Tan about "The Joy Luck Club," became one of the top 10 finalists in California.

"I was pretty surprised because I honestly didn't expect to place in the contest," said Hong. "I didn't expect them to actually take my letter seriously, and I thought that they would easily pass over my letter for some other person who wrote about a deeper connection to literature."

Of the students from SHS who submitted a letter, 13 made it to state level, compared to six last year. Juniors Emily Baba, Cindy Chang, Eva Chen, Rita Chen, Priyanka Hardikar, Mindy Hsiao, Shawna Khorsani, Angeline Lee, Edward



HONG

Junior submitted an essay for an English assignment and was startled to find

it earned him recognition in a nationwide contest.

Saavedra, Aveena Shenoy and Erika Ye were also chosen for state level.

"To advance to the state [level] in this contest is huge," said English teacher Kerry Mohnike. "They had tens of thousands of letters submitted this year, and The National Center for the Book (based at the Library of Congress) only forwards to the states those they feel the state can consider for semi-finalist."

Although teachers have only been actively encouraging students to enter the Letters About Literature contest for two years, they feel that having students participate as an assignment is a good experience for them to reflect upon their lives and write what they feel.

"Writing for your teachers is great to learn, but sometimes the extra adrenaline that comes from realizing new eyes will see your work is enough to push students to craft whatever they are most capable of creating," said Mohnike. "By making it an assignment, I'm hoping to encourage students to consider finding their own contests where they can shine." ♦

Falcon earns 2 Columbia Gold Crowns

by James Jiang

The Falcon has finally brought home a Gold Crown—one of the top awards in scholastic journalism.

In the past nine years, The Falcon has received four Crown Awards from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA), all of them Silver.

This year, The Falcon won a Gold Crown for both the print publication and online edition of last year's newspaper. The Falcon was the only newspaper in the country to win Gold Crowns for both versions.

"It's just a nice acknowledgement of the hard work the students put in," said journalism adviser Mike Tyler. "There were a lot of great people in that class and they really deserved this pat on the back.

[Last year's] Editors-in-chief, Angela Chiang and Katrin Cooper and many other students put a lot of effort into [the newspaper]."

Cooper found the award to be a significant honor.

"This is absolutely amazing. It's a great honor to get a Gold Crown," said Cooper. "I'm proud of everybody because this was a team effort; this is for all those late nights and early mornings."

In total, 1,795 high school and college publications were reviewed by judges. In the high school category, only 20 Gold Crowns were awarded to print newspapers and four to online newspapers.

The Crowns were announced during a ceremony at Columbia University on March 20. ♦

SHS students saddened by tragedies at Los Gatos

by Neyha Bhat
and Alex Scavos

The three student deaths at Los Gatos High School (LGHS) in recent months have led Saratoga students to reach out to those who are suffering.

"People think because they are Los Gatos and we are Saratoga we hate each other," said senior Marcus Lefton, who previously attended LGHS. "I have best friends at Los Gatos and what is going on there has been extremely tough on them."

Since the death of senior Michael Halpin in mid-December from a heart condition, the school has lost senior Dennis Cyncor-McMillan in early March when he was lost in the ocean near Davenport, and this month a freshman girl who died in unclear circumstances.

Friends of the deceased at SHS are also feeling the sadness of the deaths.

"It is really hard to concentrate on school," said senior Rana Mehdizadeh, a very close friend of McMillan. "I go out a lot more now to get my mind off

of it, but it still hasn't really hit me that my friend is gone."

During this time of turmoil, according to Lefton, the Los Gatos senior class has become more united than it has ever been in the past.

"They are organizing memorial events to honor each of their friends," said

Lefton. "It's really hard to see my best friends go through this. No student or school should have to experience three deaths in one year."

"No student or school should have to experience three deaths in one year."

—senior Marcus Lefton

LGHS also had an assembly in honor of the students on March 17 for students to get closure and remember the friends they lost. Along with this memorial, the family of McMillan asks students to donate to the Dennis Allen McMillan Scholarship Fund.

Saratoga students said they would like to offer their condolences to LGHS in this time of tragedy.

"It is not about rivalry and competition anymore," said Lefton. "The students at Los Gatos are people too, and our friends. We need to come together, in a sense as one school, and be there to help in every way we can." ♦

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Zhang, Patrick Xu, David Tse, Fangzhou
Wei, William Wang, Xijia Sun, Joe Shao,
Benqiao Qin, Grace Patil, Janice Lu,

Kids shows give students chance to write, direct

by Holden Sparacino

The process of writing, directing and producing a play is a long and complicated one. But for a few students, it is now a familiar one.

The Children's Theatre projects by seniors Christina Lauro, Juliana Lustenader and Diana Seo and juniors Hannah Brown and Natalie Riccomini have allowed these directors to learn how to write a script.

They took traditional folk and fairy tales from their cultures and upbringing and converted them into short plays. These plays will be performed for elementary school children.

Seo said the process of making books into plays had unexpected challenges.

"We weren't allowed to use narrators, so it was hard to tell the story just using the characters," said Seo.

Seo is using a Korean folk tale called "Hump-Beak Grandma" as the basis for her play. The story tells of an old woman who is initially ugly, but through her good acts and intentions, she becomes attractive and a much happier person.

"It's not too well known, but I think it's going to be good," said Seo.

Brown also had problems changing her story, "The Frog Prince," to a production.

"Script writing is a lot different than story writing," said Brown, who fre-

quently writes stories for fun.

Brown didn't just want to write a play based on a children's book, so she tried out putting her own spin on the old tale.

"At first I wanted to change the story to a modern one, but [drama teacher Chris] Mahle said that the kids wouldn't like it as much, and in the end it worked out," said Brown.

Brown's show, which only has three actors, will rely more on the character interactions than some plays.

"I could have added more people to the show," said Brown, "but I wanted to keep the dynamics between the characters."

Riccomini decided to change her story, "Taylor and the 'Giants,'" to a story not of true giants, but of very small people with huge personalities.

Lauro's play will be "Strega Nona," the story of an old woman who has perfected magic and uses it to run a small shop. She says that the hardest part was finding the right story to transform into a play.

"I didn't want to do the traditional fairy tale with a prince and a princess," said Lauro. "I thought it was too cliché."

Lustenader, who had her mind set on a Grimm brother's story from the start, also had a hard time finding the perfect fairy tale. She decided on "Prince Thrush-beard," the story of a prince who takes the form of a farmer and has to learn to be nice.



Holden Sparacino

Sophomores Kaitna Shankar and Leah Capek and senior James Arroyo practice for a skit that will be performed as part of the Children's Theatre in the McAfee Center on April 16-18.

"I wanted it to have a good message, and a lot of the Grimm brothers' plays are, well, grim," said Lustenader, who thinks of her play as "a work in progress."

Because the play wasn't quite as light-hearted as she would have liked, Lustenader decided to lighten it up a bit.

"I added some jokes," said Lustenader. "I'm adding to it every day."

Since many fairy and folk tales are similar, directors are trying to cut production and time costs by reusing common set pieces.

"At least three of the shows need some sort of castle," said Brown.

The directors will be able to see their creations performed three times, on April 16, 17 and 18. All of the shows will be performed in the McAfee, with the first two being performed during school for an audience of a few hundred elementary school children from multiple grades and schools, and the third being performed at night to an open audience. ♦

How many tardies and absences can I have?

by Grishma Athavale
and Nandini Ruparel

At some time during the semester, some seniors—and even other students—will find themselves in an awkward situation: they've missed too many classes, far too many, and their tardies are off the charts.

It's common knowledge that a Saturday School or two will end up being assigned to the student. However, the consequences can be far more serious—for example, being dropped from a class. Is that possible?

Assistant principal Joe Bosco explained that if a student has an excused absence, it is fine with the school and the only consequence is making up all the work that he or she missed.

However, as these absences pile up, so does the make-up work, since the student may not be able to complete the assignments.

Unexcused absences, however, are a different story. These absences have much more severe consequences, such as Saturday School. If the absence is not excused, then it will be counted as a cut on the student attendance record.

Also, after three unexcused absences, a student is required to attend a Saturday School. After 10 cuts in one class, a student could also be forced to drop that class.

A third group of absences is the unexcused but verified absence, meaning that a student leaves for a legitimate reason not related to health, such as a science fair or college visit. The absence would still be counted as unexcused, but the students can make up the work. Attendance secretary Julia Peck said that in the eyes of the school, an unexcused verified absence is the equivalent of an excused absence.

Tardies are far more common and can still have consequences if they become a recurring problem for a student.

Attendance technician Anna Ybarra said that on the sixth

tardy, students can receive a Saturday School.

In addition, several teachers incorporate tardies into their participation policies in order to give students an added incentive to be on time for class.

Even when a student arrives at school and picks up a pink slip, it is necessary for them to have their parents or guardians to call in within 72 hours—starting at the beginning of the day—otherwise, it will be counted as a cut.

Being absent or tardy happens all the time. However, the consequences are there as well, and although they are not as widely known, they are still rules that apply. ♦



New classes bring diversity to '09-'10 student schedule

by Grishma Athavale
and Ren Norris

New classes that are being offered for next year include Japanese 3 Honors, Computer Science AP/A, AP Environmental Science and three new advanced Multimedia Arts Program (MAP) classes: multimedia journalism, advanced digital animation and filmmaking.

These courses have been in the works for a while, with staff collaborating and gaining feedback for whether they would be successful.

The new courses, however, will only be official in early April if enough students sign up for them.

"We don't want to give the impression that these courses are guaranteed," said assistant principal Brian Safine. "It depends on how many students sign up for each class to make them official."

Following discussion with Los Gatos teachers, it was decided that the curriculum covered in the current Japanese 3 class should be changed to an honors course, said Safine.

The language department changed the level of the course because it was too challenging of a curriculum for high school students.

Computer Science AP/A will be an advanced course, but it will not be as in-depth as the existing Computer Science AP/AB class.

However, for students who are interested in a more advanced class, a variety of computer science courses are offered at most colleges.

The science staff and administration also decided to add another AP science option, particularly in response to a popular interest shown by students in a poll taken by science classes, which gave students a choice between AP Environmental Science and biotechnology.

AP Environmental Science, which will be offered to juniors and seniors,

is intended to teach students scientific principles regarding the natural world and help them understand environmental problems. The school can only offer one period of AP Environmental Science. Seniors will have priority over juniors for the class.

Biology teacher Kristen Thomson views this as a great opportunity for students who are really passionate about environmental studies.

"I think if enough students are interested in this class, it will be a huge potential for them," said Thomson.

The MAP program is going into its second year with a full plate of offerings.

Multimedia journalism will incorporate audio, visual, and website designs to make documentaries, news reports and a video connection for the entire school's use. It will be advised by Tony Palma.

(See story on page 1 for more information.)

Advanced Digital Animation, also taught by Palma, teaches the fundamentals of animation drawing examples from animated movies and cartoons, and introduces new software to create original animation.

In filmmaking, students can learn techniques of movie making and create their own short films. It will be taught by Chris Mahle.

"There is a thirst among students for classes with more technology that does not lose the fundamentals of art and design," said Palma.

The teachers of each of these new additions are not a 100 percent certain, because the plans for them may change.

"We want to encourage students to choose a course by their interest in that course," said Safine.

The administration hopes that the new classes will open opportunities for students with unique interests.

"I believe these classes will be successful," said Safine. "Since people on staff are so dedicated, most of these classes will definitely be a go." ♦

"I think if enough students are interested in this class, it will be a huge potential for them."

—Biology teacher Kristen Thomson

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Amanda Yi

Mutanabbi Street poems, by last year's poetry classes, were on display until March 6.

Poetry class commemorates Mutanabbi Street in library

by Albert Gu
and Jenny Zhang

After being displayed in San Francisco for several months, poems about downtown Baghdad's famous Mutanabbi Street, written last year by Judith Sutton's Poetry 1-3 classes, are back at SHS. The poems were on display at the Saratoga Community Library last year to commemorate the one-year mark for the tragic incident and were on display in the school library from Feb. 27 to March 6 for the event's second anniversary.

These poems memorialized the tragic bombing of a vital street in Baghdad, Iraq, on March 5, 2007. The street was famous for centuries as the intellectual center of Iraq, a place where people could exchange their ideas without consequence. Most other places in Iraq repressed freedom of speech and constructive discussions on heavily debated topics. The bombing of Mutanabbi Street represented an attack on the freedom and culture of Iraq and, in effect, the possibility of such an attack in any intellectual center in the world.

"[These poems are] commemorating the role Mutanabbi Street was trying to [play]," said senior Steven McLellan. "It

was trying to show that there is culture in Iraq, in an area that seems so war [stricken], so impoverished and that there can still be hope for the future."

Sutton's students had their poems presented at the Pleasanton Arts and Poetry Festival last April. Senior Adela Chang's poem "Storefront" won first prize. The founder of the Mutanabbi Coalition, Beau Beausoleil, was so impressed with the poems that he read some of them at coalition forums held across the nation. In addition, Coalition member Mike Day, also printer and publisher at Studio 1801 in Los Altos, was so moved by them that he offered to publish them as a group. The book of 27 poems, "Demons or Martyrs," was released on March 7.

Students whose poems are featured in this book are each entitled to a free copy but have chosen to pay for them anyway to help support a man who was injured on Mutanabbi Street.

"Throughout this project, we learned all about Iraq. We saw Iraqi art and read Iraqi poetry and cooked Iraqi food," said Sutton. "And I think that the most important lesson we all learned was that contrary to how they are portrayed, they are not really 'the enemy.'" ♦

FALCONFOCUS

Alumnus creates fashion website

by Lyka Sethi

There is an overwhelming and ever-growing list of accomplishments that alumni of Saratoga High have achieved. Each success story seems to top the rest, yet all are unique in their own way. Alumnus Roza Pyghambarzadeh, who graduated from Saratoga High in 2007, is not only one of these graduates who has raised the bar in the past few years, but also has done it in style.

Pyghambarzadeh, a sophomore at the Marshall School of Business at USC, started her own social network website for females to "swap dresses by simply going online and browsing each other's profiles."

The site, www.dressshare.com, was the outcome of an assignment for Pyghambarzadeh's marketing class. The assignment entailed developing a "hypothetical business idea and forming it into a business proposal."

Pyghambarzadeh was inspired to formulate her business proposal by watching the girls at her sorority, Delta Delta Delta, exchange clothes for events and realizing that there could be a more efficient way to make these transactions.

"I thought it would be great to have a public domain similar to Facebook that would allow girls to [trade clothes]," she said.

The budding website allows users to post their clothes and accessories on their "galleries" so their friends can view them. There are also "communities," similar to Facebook networks, which are groups of friends that anyone can create so that profiles can be kept private.

Through this process, Pyghambarzadeh said, "Not only can girls network with their friends, but they can save



PYGHAMBARZADEH

Alumnus starts up website for women to swap dresses.

time and money that would otherwise be spent on outfits that they could probably just as easily borrow from a close friend!"

Though Pyghambarzadeh has come across this success, she holds firm to her belief that school should be her first priority. With her busy academic schedule, Pyghambarzadeh admits that working on the website can be hard to squeeze in.

"It can get very overwhelming to try to work on dressshare.com when I have projects and tests to prepare for," said Pyghambarzadeh. "One strategy I have found to be effective is putting a couple block hours into my schedule that I devote to solely this task. Scheduling [this way] allows me to manage my time."

Pyghambarzadeh hopes to keep putting her entrepreneurial skills to work after graduating from USC while also furthering her studies at law school. She also hopes to keep dressshare.com going for as long as possible. Her short-term goals for the website, however, include broadening the user base of the website.

"I truly believe that this website can provide a great tool for girls and cut down on unnecessary shopping for dresses they would probably buy and wear only once," said Pyghambarzadeh. "So my main goal is to get the word out so that girls in high school and college can take advantage of this." ♦

Challenge Day experience inspires students to reach out

by Amalie MacGowan

More than 80 students entered the gym on March 17, to loud cheering and high-fives by a crowd of teachers and faculty.

However, Challenge Day preparations began long before that. The planning began with seniors Mara Couch, Sanketh Katta and juniors Cindy Chang and Aameeka Shenoy. With collaboration from assistant principal Karen Hyde, countless hours were spent raising the \$3,200 needed and filling out a web application for the Challenge Day Organization.

Once they received the set date, students, facilitators and the PTSO worked to create a day during which students had the opportunity to look under the surface of the relationship with their peers.

"The purpose of Challenge Day was

to help chip away at the walls we build between ourselves," said Couch. "Just like any other high school, Saratoga has its own set of stereotypes and cliques. Challenge Day was an attempt to flip 'what you think' and 'what you know.'"

Some students were selected to make a diverse group, while others volunteered.

The day started with activities that included volleyball with a giant beach ball and dancing with unfamiliar people in order for everyone to become more acquainted with one another.

After lunch, things became slightly more serious. Students were separated into groups of five or six with an adult facilitator and spent time talking about

personal challenges and hidden qualities of themselves. Although students were at first timid with the idea, it progressed into a memorable experience.

"In one activity, we had to cross a line, every time there would be a certain category," said junior Ally Doles. "It ended up

being one of the most powerful moments of my life, looking at who crossed the line, or if I would."

Each category involved teasing, family issues or personal

problems. It became extremely emotional for some students, witnessing the different people who crossed, and recalling their own problems.

"With so much pressure stemming from different areas to 'fit in,' it was really

refreshing to be given the chance to be exactly who I was for a day," said Couch. "I got to dance around Ally Doles like a goof ball. I got to cry about how much I miss my grandmother. People I've never spoken to before gave me bear hugs. You'd be surprised to see what happens when people finally start getting real."

After the "cross-the-line" activity, people were able to share their experiences with the entire crowd. Whether it was apologies, gratitude or a personal anecdote, everyone learned from the experience.

"You probably won't see all 80 of us singing Kumbaya together in the quad on a regular basis," jokes Couch, "but the day granted us a chance to view each other's strengths and weaknesses in an open, supportive environment. I left school with a new point of view and sincerely hope that other students share my sentiment." ♦

"You'd be surprised to see what happens when people finally start getting real."

—senior Mara Couch

VIDEO | Multimedia journalism to stream content online

continued from pg. 1

are actually able to watch sports and drama are limited, and we want to be able to highlight all the student activities."

Palma hopes the streaming will allow events to be seen in real time. Students who will be leading this new multimedia journalism class will mainly come from the Media Arts 1 class, journalism 1 and the newspaper and yearbook staffs. The class will grant them the opportunity to work in a real television broadcast environment.

"[This project] will prepare students to enter a working field in this area because they will have had hands-on experience, which will make them much more desirable when looking for jobs or going to college," said Palma.

In addition to learning useful skills, students will be taking advantage of technological advancements and incorporating them into the daily school experience. A new MAP building behind woodshop is scheduled to be finished in August 2010, so the transition from the current classroom to a state-of-the-art facility

will allow for the MAP classes and the video streaming project to reach their full potential in the next few years.

Palma said he hopes the video streaming will start next year, though funding for some expensive and needed equipment needs to be determined.

"We are planning to get our equipment from a variety of sources," said Palma. "Cisco has some really good products and I would love to buy from them, but we're looking at all kinds of alternatives because we want to spend our money appropriately."

The main goal behind all these efforts is to create content that students want to see and allow for them to get news from multiple sources. One day, there may even be the possibility of viewing live feed from screens located at different spots on campus.

"It's about opening up access to information and finding different ways to disseminate that information," said Palma. "We have the newspaper and we have the morning announcements already. This will just be a new, advanced way of getting things out." ♦



courtesy of Julia Lan

Sophomore Jasneil Nat and junior Divya Singh perform at last year's "Bombay in the Bay." The Indian Cultural Awareness Club will be holding the annual event on April 4.

EVENTS | Busy spring ahead

continued from pg. 1

arrive, including the CEO of Splunk, an actor from the San Jose Reparatory starring in "The Kite Runner" and former state senator Liz Figueroa.

Alternative Energy and Fuel Fair

AEFF will be a fair promoting alternative and eco-friendly energy methods. The event will bring together green companies PG&E, Toyota, Lexus and other auto associations around the Bay Area, to showcase their green products. Events commissioners junior Sophia Cooper, freshman Mac Hyde and sophomore Amalie MacGowan are heading the event, which will be held on April 22 during lunch and after school at 7 p.m.

Junior Prom

Junior class officers are looking for-

ward to Junior Prom, which is to be held on April 25 at 7 p.m. at the Fairmont Hotel in downtown San Jose. The junior class has found it particularly difficult to work with minimal funds, but has adjusted well as a result of the success of Saratoga Idol.

"We're trying our hardest to cut down on costs, so we've gotten free centerpieces, a free photographer, a cheap DJ and I think we're going to end up doing most of the decorations ourselves with the help of AMB designs," said junior class president Tiffany Mo. "So far, everything has worked out well, and we've been able to negotiate successfully with all our partners, so it should turn out really well and we're hoping for a big turnout."

Official announcement of the theme and prices of bids will be made in about a week. ♦

DRUGS | Students caught

continued from pg. 1

"The main thing is that if [evidence] connects you to the school, you're under the umbrella of the school rules," said Anderson. "When we get information on the act, we can react to things we see and hear and information that is provided for us."

He said the use of drugs is a suspendible offense if it is done on-campus. The distribution of illegal substances, however, requires a more thorough disciplinary procedure, involving action from both the administration and the district.

"It's an offense that mandates that we put the student up for expulsion," said Anderson. "[A district panel] decides

whether or not that person ultimately gets expelled. There are a variety of things that the expulsion panel can decide that I have no control over."

Despite the school's efforts, some students feel the investigation has gotten out of hand.

"I think it's stupid how they are calling in random people," said junior Aditya Joshi. "Some of them don't even have a connection with drug use."

Some students feel that the consequences are not helpful for an ongoing situation as this.

"The school isn't handling the drug

THE BIG IDEA | Drug Busts

SUSPICION: Multiple students have been caught using and selling drugs

SEARCHES: Under reasonable suspicion, the administration can search through phones, cars, lockers or any other personal items

problem well," said senior Hana Pruzansky. "It's gotten worse and worse in the past two years. Expelling kids isn't helping, but having drug counseling programs would help."

Anderson believes that SHS is not as severe as other districts but is still efficient in handling such issues.

"While we know things go on, we know that relative to other places, [the drug problem] is not as

extensive," said Anderson. "Knowing how to be proactive but not invasive can be a challenge. We definitely do not sweep anything under the rug."

The administration advises students to be more wary of their actions.

"I would encourage students to realize the ramifications of their actions and know that as a school, if we're confronted with information about something that is going on campus, we have no other choice but to deal with it," said Anderson. ♦

see related Staff Editorial on pg. 7

Math club adds wins at local competitions

by Albert Gu

Critics of the United States' education have long cited American students' failure to compete in mathematics on the international level. Saratoga High's math club, however, seems to have no problem in this arena.

Since the beginning of February, the math club has been busy with several math contests and competitions. The most recent competition was on Feb. 28 when the club sent two teams of eight people to the Stanford Math Tournament.

The competition consisted of two team rounds, the Power Question and Team Event, and two individual rounds, in which contestants chose to take either the algebra or advanced topics test and then the geometry or calculus test. Saratoga's teams placed first and 12th out of a total of 28 participating teams, beating rival schools such as Gunn, Lynbrook, Mission San Jose and Palo Alto.

In addition to their stellar team performance, several students placed individually. Sophomore Albert Gu placed third in algebra, losing to the second-place competitor in the tie-breaker round and freshman Brian Wai placed first in advanced topics and third in geometry with perfect scores in both.

"This competition wasn't the most important to me," said Wai, "but I feel good that I contributed a lot to the team."

Saratoga High also gave two other math contests, the AMC A and AMC B. Each of the contests had two divisions, the AMC 10 and AMC 12. Underclassmen had the option to take either test, while upperclassmen were required to take the AMC 12. Both tests gave 75 minutes to solve 25

problems on pre-calculus topics.

Among top scorers were sophomores Amol Aggarwal and Logan Short with perfect scores of 150 on the AMC 10A, Wai with a perfect score on the AMC 10A, senior Andy Tsao with a score of 138 out of 150 on the AMC 12A and sophomore David Wang with a perfect score on the AMC 10B.

"Ever since seventh grade, I've been trying really hard to get the perfect [score]," said Aggarwal. "I was really happy to see that I finally got one."

The contest is also used to qualify for the American Invitational Mathematics Examination, a three-hour, 15-question contest held on March 17. Saratoga High had a total of 20 AIME qualifiers.

Aggarwal, Gu and sophomore David Zeng were also invited to the Asian Pacific Mathematics Olympiad on Feb. 9, an international contest offered to countries around the Pacific Rim. Each country allows up to 30 students, and since Aggarwal, Gu and Zeng qualified as three of the top 25 last year, they were selected to take the APMO. The test is a four-hour, five-question test with proof questions.

Several students also participated in the Bay Area Math Olympiad, which was held on Feb. 24. The BAMO is another four-hour, five-question test, offered exclusively to Bay Area schools. Saratoga High placed first in the team division. In the 9th and 10th grade divisions, Aggarwal placed first, Gu placed second and Wai received an Honorable Mention.

In the next few weeks, several members of the math club are preparing to participate in the USAMO on April 28-29, a two-day contest with four and a half hours for three questions per day. ♦

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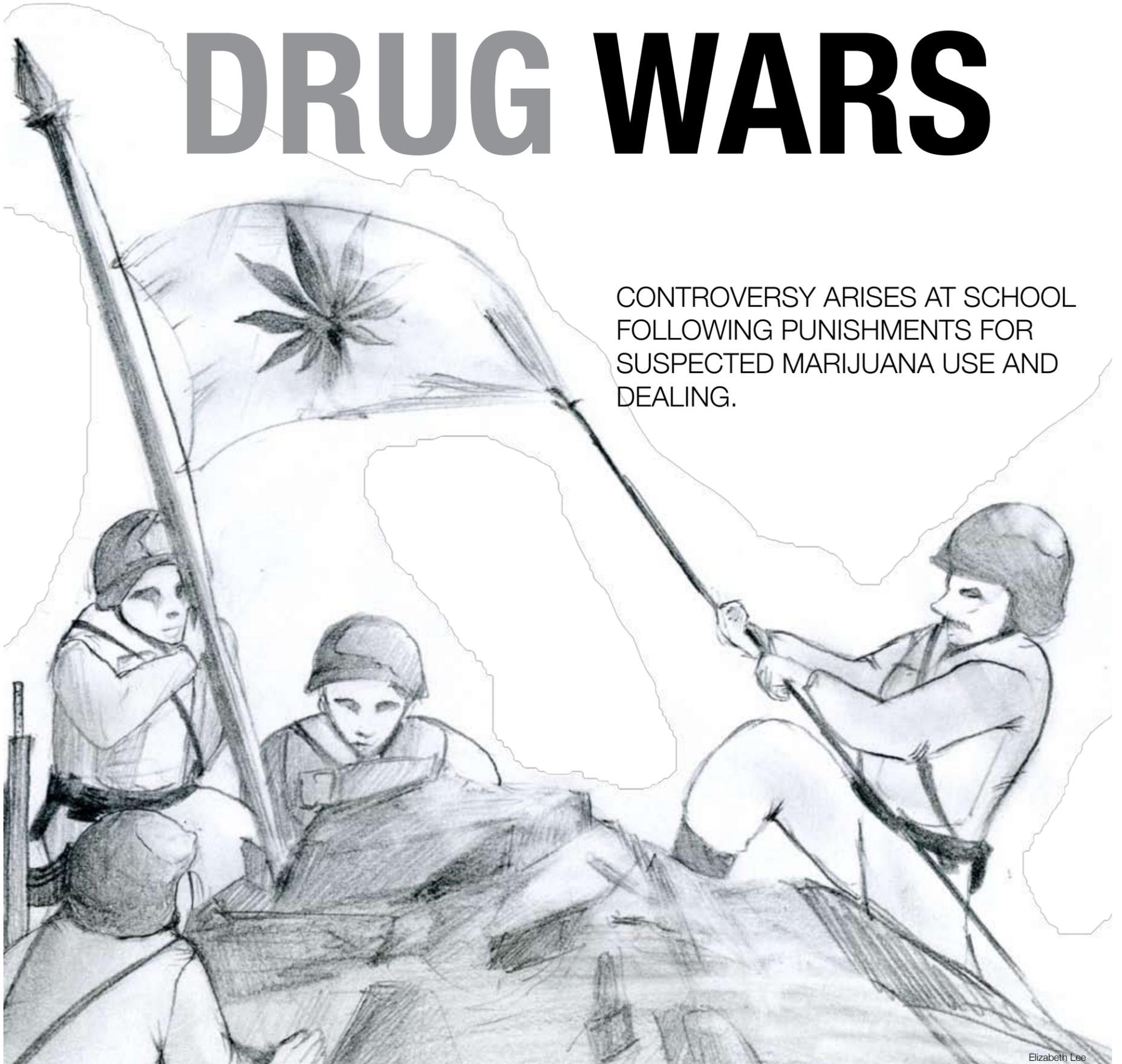
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DRUG WARS

CONTROVERSY ARISES AT SCHOOL FOLLOWING PUNISHMENTS FOR SUSPECTED MARIJUANA USE AND DEALING.



Elizabeth Lee

Administrative action creates witchhunt atmosphere

Nineteen “witches” were hanged in Salem during the infamous trials of 1692. All it took was one accusation, a little suspicion and a whole lot of fear. Today, in another town, also beginning with the letter S, a witch trial of its own is brewing. Except this time, the feared entity is not witchcraft, but marijuana.

In recent weeks, the administration, responding to the instances of marijuana use and its sale that came to their attention, has started to pursue and punish drug offenders on campus.

Of course there is nothing wrong with punishing a student for marijuana possession, as long as the administration adheres to the laws for handling such an incident. The problem, however, stems from the fact that instead of merely punishing the students for whom they have solid evidence or searching the bags of those who arouse “reasonable suspicion” (which, by the way, is what exactly?), the administration has been encouraging students to name others as a form of “cooperation” and has been actively pulling any suspected students out of class and subjecting them

to questioning.

This method creates a dangerous “us versus them” mentality on campus, closing any lines of communication that could have been used to help alleviate the problem. Students who have never even tried marijuana, much less resorted to selling it on school grounds, are outraged at this investigative tactic and are feeling sympathy for the innocent and guilty alike.

Fearful questions of “who is being called next?” and “could I be implicated?” are circulating around campus as more and more students are being pulled out of class, and are not returning. We aren’t a dumb school (have we not proved that, yet?); we know they aren’t going to any farms in the countryside. What they are probably doing is sitting in an office being stared down by the administration, having their personal items strewn about and being told to give

names or suffer the consequences.

This method of finding more culprits seems neither ethical nor effective to many students. Just as in Salem, where women accused of witchcraft would often say they had been acting under the spell of another woman, people will point fingers in any direction to be let go. The poor victims of the accusations, even those with nothing to hide, will immediately have their right to privacy revoked (an act that is, unfortunately, legal) and their reputations can be trashed beyond repair. “So-and-so got called into the office, but he didn’t get suspended, he must have talked. Funny, I had no idea he

was a dealer.” Modern technology allows rumors to spread like wildfire.

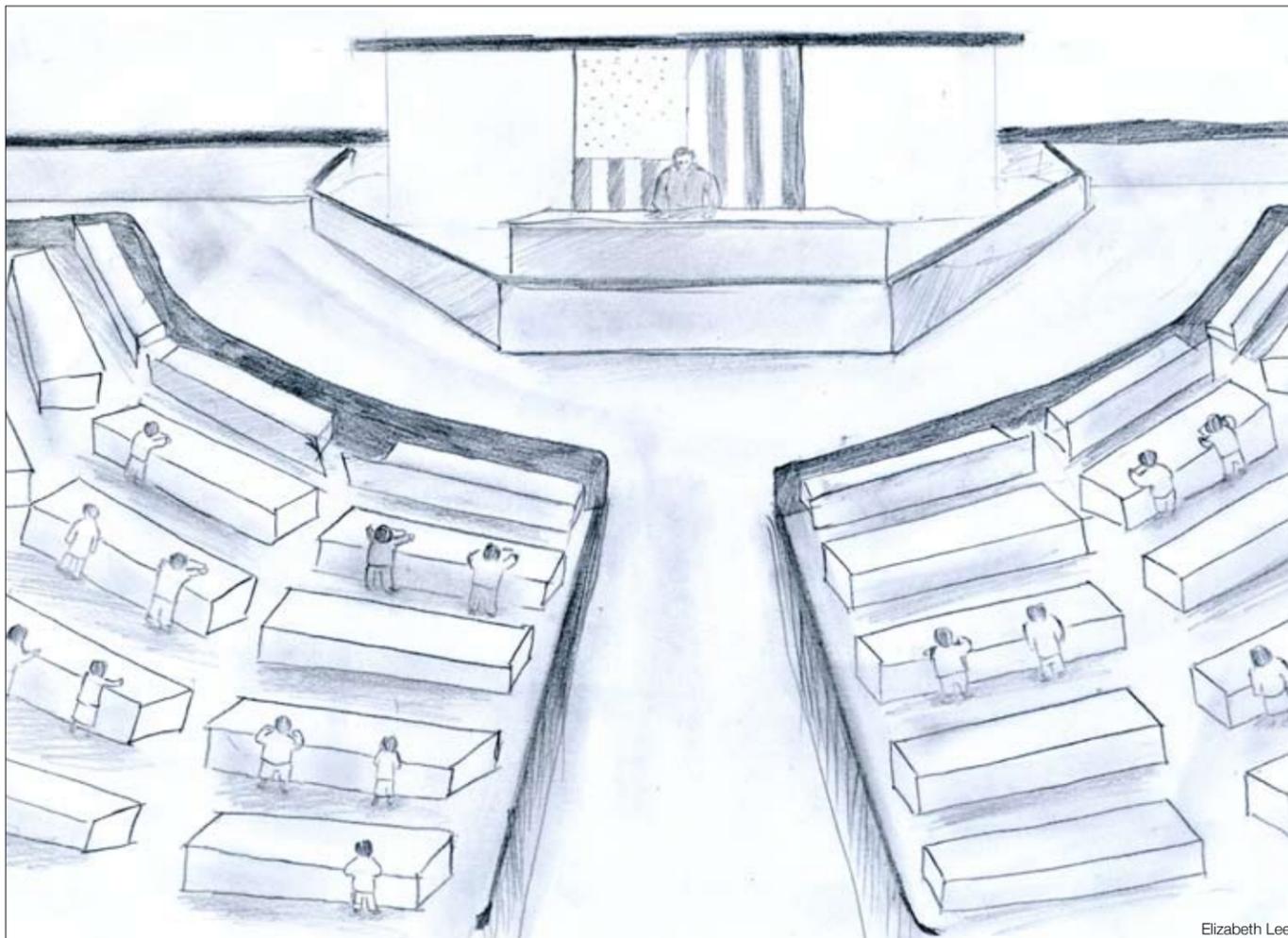
Even for the guilty students, the administration, though it finds its hands tied by district policies in some cases, needs to focus on ways to help these kids, not just ruin their lives by branding them as “drug

users or dealers” and throwing them out of the school.

What, really, have these students done? They have made mistakes. Everyone makes mistakes, and while this may be a more serious one, it is important to not let one bad decision, or a string of related bad decisions have consequences that will follow them for the rest of their lives. The users were only hurting themselves and the dealers were supplying an ever-increasing demand (at least they paid attention in econ). In fact, the school should be glad that it is a minority of students who are using drugs, and that harder substances or more violent behavior do not run around on campus, as they do at many other schools.

Here’s a message to administrators: Do not get swept up in the momentum of the investigation. Many students have already gotten the message and stopped using and dealing the drug. There is no point in suspending and/or expelling people who are trying to change. With patience, the problem is likely to shrink on its own, without the witch-hunt atmosphere that is tainting the school. ♦





Supreme Court should repeal Prop 8

by Maggie Lin
and Ketaki Shriram

Last November California voters voted in favor of Proposition 8, which reversed a previous state ruling that gay marriage was legal. The decision made to restore and continue marriage discrimination is shocking.

Most dissent arises from the Christian right wing. They adhere to the idea that the Bible states that marriage is between a man and a woman. Because of this message, many devout Christians view gay marriage as a ticket to hell.

Thankfully, however, proponents of gay rights have now brought the case to the California Supreme Court, on the grounds that the proposition changed the state constitution so drastically that a legislative body must approve it. According to the New York Times, if the court determines that the state Constitution was

indeed revised by this proposition, then Proposition 8 might be reversed.

Should the court choose to rule that the proposition was not a revision, however, then the unfair words of Proposition 8 will stand. Supporters of Proposition 8 argue that if the measure is recalled, it is unfair to the voice of Californians who voted for the proposition in November.

The problem with such an argument, however, is that Proposition 8 is not an ordinary measure: It seeks to remove and restrict the marriage rights of Californians based on their sexual orientation, something that undermines the freedom of expression.

The overturning of Proposition 8 would also affect other areas of the country. States including Florida and Arizona have similar restrictive measures regarding gay rights and marriage. If California is able to take the first step in giving everyone equal rights, than other states

might soon be compelled to follow the example. In this way, the decision of the California Supreme Court might not only liberate people within the state, but could also begin the change required to provide every man and woman in America with the equal right to marriage.

Some argue that California is not ready for equal rights. Californians voted against gay marriages in 2000. Following that, however, there have been two more bills passed to legalize gay marriage in 2005 and 2007, respectively. This shift in votes shows that California is indeed ready to allow equal rights for all. The court has 90 days before it must decide the outcome of the battle over Prop 8. And if they choose to let the measure stand, gay rights activists will continue to fight, as did those in the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s, and the Women's Rights movements of the 1970s—and they will continue until the battle is won. ♦

Fashion faux pas appeals to sophomore



Ren Norris

Overall Opinion

When most people think of overalls, they think of the strange denim jumper worn by an old farmer milking his cow with a straw hat and dirty cowboy boots... or they think of the 90s. But hey, no one ever said it was impossible for a city girl to bring back this classic look. Besides, old styles are constantly coming back: converse high tops, leg warmers, shoulder pads even crazy bell bottom jeans have found their way to Cosmo. So, I guess there's hope for me.

I defy the fashion police (a.k.a. every teenage girl) every weekend by sporting my very own pair of dark denim overalls, chest pocket and all. Before you stop reading this and decide I am no longer cool enough to be your friend, let me rewind to last Christmas and explain.

For our family Christmas card, my mother thought it would be nice to reenact a picture taken eight years ago of my sisters and me sitting on a log, all sporting our very chic denim overalls (this was a time when they were actually cool for a first grader to wear, I swear). So that's when the search for overalls that would fit a teenager began, but (perhaps not so surprisingly) no store sells overalls ANYWHERE. That's how I ended up with a pair bought online for \$40.

When I saw them for the first time, I did not expect to wear them ever again in my life. But then I realized how useful they really were—with adjustable straps that hold up the pants making it impossible for them to fall down, their usefulness for messy projects, and their importance to people you see painting their picket fences.

But more important than any of these practical uses, there is one reason I wear them that trumps the rest: I truly love them.

I love the way they cover me top to bottom, in uniform denim, and that you can wear anything underneath them (tie-dye patterns being a favorite of mine). I feel so secure in overalls; they

are like my bodyguards. Literally. After all, no one will come within 10 feet of me when I wear them, not even my King Charles Spaniel, Lucky (apparently, royalty and farm-wear don't mix.)

Believe it or not, every weekend, I pull them out to wear since:

a) They were \$40—I better get my money's worth.

b) It is usually laundry day—why get another pair of pants dirty for no reason?

c) They are comfortable and easy to “chill” in with their nice 6-inch crotch space (a nice fork hiding place for the Falcon Assassin game.)

d) No one usually ever sees me on the weekend. Well, except for last weekend when some of my friends dropped in for an unexpected visit. They had a good laugh.

It may be a fashion crime, but who cares? No one could possibly say or do anything that would stop me from wearing them. I guess the moral of the story is to wear whatever makes you happy, and if that's hick-town overalls, then fine. I'm telling you, they're coming back with a vengeance—or rather, I'm bringing them back in style. ♦

The Saratoga Falcon

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CURRENT EVENT

Clinton lets China off easy on human rights

by Uttara Sivaram

America would surely be a very different place if Barack Obama had run for president of the PTA instead of for the presidency. In fact, the world would be a distinctly different place if everyone followed that kind of lead—doing things and going places simply in the interest of expediency.

Similarly, Hillary Clinton, our newly minted secretary of state, decided to dig her hole to China and address the public there about what her aims were going to be during her term.

Clinton's plans did not stop there, however, and she soon had her audience double-taking as she bluntly told everyone that she would be focusing her time and effort on the looming threat of global warming while unceremoniously pushing the hot and extremely controversial topic of China's human rights violations to the backseat. It wouldn't be surpris-

ing if Obama at this point had punted his hypo-allergenic dog out of the window in frustration.

One can understand his chagrin. After all, Clinton had been doing so well in her new post—instead of paying highly publicized house calls to various presidents and prime ministers, she visited Jakarta and Indian marketplaces to meet with the local people and learn about their day-to-day hardships.

While visiting Asia, she could do no wrong until she reached her most important pit stop. Unfortunately for her, what happens in China does not stay in China.

The roar of approval Clinton had once enjoyed died down after her speech, as one can imagine. Of course, the Chinese government kept a steady round of applause for her, undoubtedly with a sigh of relief as well. After all, she's giving China a pass to emerge into this new era

of change with a clean slate.

Agreed, the charismatic new U.S. government really shouldn't be alienating any countries at this point. But when all is said and done, there are innocent civilians in China getting killed under communist rule while Clinton is publicly announcing her concern about whether her front lawn is going to turn permanently brown in the next couple of decades. The world is not Clinton's playground, and she cannot believe that her opinion will be respected just because she comes right out and says it.

Charter 08, a manifesto signed by Chinese human activists, hopes to reach the Chinese government's ears with their cries for justice. The group demands what Americans take for granted: freedom of association, assembly, expression and religion, election of public officials and other basic rights.

Clinton's priority-rich speech made the

Charter 08 supporters nearly apoplectic with rage, especially since many of those who had signed the manifesto had been arrested prior to her arrival in China.

Clinton may have charmed her Chinese hosts, but she certainly put a grimace on the faces of countless Chinese citizens hoping for change in their country.

Yes, it's true, trying to change China's mind on policy matters can be like walking on a treadmill. Clinton, however, should not shrink from the challenge. Rather, she should push even harder to pressure the Chinese government to slowly begin much needed reforms.

Clinton is a seasoned sailor when it comes to politics, but she still has a lot to learn about sending a message in the interest of inspiring, not imposing. The current administration has given Clinton a long, long leash. One can only hope that she puts it to good use, and not to hang herself with. ♦

The world isn't Clinton's playground, and she can't expect her opinion to be respected automatically.



Elizabeth Lee

UC BUDGET CUTS IMPACT ADMISSION AND TUITION

by Elizabeth Lee

Following large budget cuts made by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to cope with the devastating state budget crisis, the University of California (UC) system has incurred a budget deficit of nearly \$450 million. As a result, UC authorities have announced plans to cut enrollment for at least seven of its 10 campuses and hike tuition by 10 percent.

This is simply adding another pile to the mountain of difficulties the applicants are facing. To begin with, the task of acquiring a college degree is strenuous. As competition in high schools for applicants of the current generation is the highest it has ever been, the increase in tuition by the UC system is yet an-

other obstacle that must be conquered. Students who were relying on the relative "cheap" cost of the UC system for in-state students will see their belts tighten as fees and tuition jump this year, and may jump again in the future. Expect to spend \$25,000 a year at one of these "bargain" schools.

An example is that many qualified candidates who would have previously raised the quality of education are now being rejected due to cuts in class size, or worse, can no longer afford the tuition fee, and must attend college elsewhere. This will soon affect the UC system negatively, as they lose many strong students to other universities.

In addition, there is the irony of the situation; after making the radical decision to eliminate the requirement of SAT

IIs, a change meant to help poor students, officials decided a week or so later to increase tuition. Any equal opportunity supposedly given to apply to a UC is immediately pointless if students can't afford to pay tuition. Scholarships, which normally would have helped financially struggling students, are dwindling in size and number as the economy continues to plummet. This makes the UC system even less attractive to lower-income families, who would most likely receive much better financial aid packages from private schools and schools out of the state.

Instead of drastically raising tuition by nearly 10 percent this year, the UC system should have slowly increased the cost of attending a UC by a smaller, publicly announced, percentage annually. This would make it easier for families to figure out

just how much the college tuition will cost them. For now, people should expect to pay at least \$25,000 a year at one of these "bargain schools." It is a large price, but then students should also consider that they are getting back a lot more from the quality education they pay for.

Although parents and students may be upset by this change, there isn't much they can do. Applying for financial aid, or for the number of scholarships that are left to decrease financial burden remain the only two viable options for applicants. For the middle-class, median student, however, financial aid is rarely offered and scholarships are hard to come by. Meanwhile, they will have to wait for time to heal the economy. Perhaps then the state will restore college tuitions to reasonable rates once more. ♦

After attempting new sport, athletes return to old

by Sulmaan Hassan

Juniors James Kim and Zakir Khan play two very different sports: volleyball and lacrosse. But what factors contribute to what makes each sport so different from the other?

Kim is one of the top players on the varsity volleyball team. Being the athlete that he is, however, he has decided to focus on volleyball rather than branching out to pursue his passion for playing lacrosse.

Khan is a solid player on the varsity lacrosse team who is a firm believer that volleyball is far more inferior to lacrosse.

An experiment was put together to put this theory to the test by swapping the sporting lives of both Kim and Khan during a practice. On March 16, the two juniors went to each other's practices for one day.

"In playing lacrosse, I noticed that it was a lot like soccer in the sense that you are constantly running," said Kim, "so you need to have a lot more stamina and endurance than is required in volleyball."

This was the first time Kim had played lacrosse on a team, going in with confidence and the mind set that his sheer athletic ability could guide him through. As it turned out, he was right. According to junior Ben Clement, who has played

lacrosse for six years, Kim's performance was good for someone who has never played.

"I don't think [Lacrosse] is a hard sport to pick up on," said Kim. "I felt like all I was using was human instinct to get the ball past the



Khan

defenders and into the goal."

In Kim's opinion, the skills required for playing volleyball are much harder to perfect.

"Volleyball is like golf," said Kim. "You have to have amazing coordination, and just a simple mistake can cost you the game. Unlike lacrosse, you can't just pick yourself up and earn your team that point."

The switching of teams was a completely different experience for Khan.

"In volleyball, the drills seem rather

pointless," said Khan. "When playing lacrosse, I'm used to heavy contact with other players, but I didn't get the same enjoyment from volleyball."

Khan switched to the JV volleyball team, but he still found difficulty at the JV level, even though he is on the varsity lacrosse team.

"Volleyball is a hard sport to play," said Khan, "but I had no fun, especially with those coaches that are more concerned in the pointless drills they want to do rather than improving upon the players' ability."

After only 45 minutes of practice, Khan's stay on the volleyball team came to an unfortunate end.

"I got into an argument with a player, and the coach sent me out of the gym," said Khan. "She thought I was a threat to her authority."

Khan's feelings about the sport declined drastically after his experience. Volleyball is not a very action-packed sport, said Khan, while lacrosse really challenges one's physical ability. The more relaxed feel of the non-contact sport did not allow Khan to blow off the steam that



Kim

switching places | sports

Who: Juniors Zakir Khan and James Kim
What: Swapping teams
Result: After difficulty and friction at each other's practices, the two athletes will stick to what they know best

lacrosse's combative and quick style help alleviate.

Both Kim and Khan came away from their practice with different outlooks on the two sports. Kim describes volleyball as an intricate and tough sport to master, while Khan sees it as a mess of useless drills that don't benefit the player. Both said lacrosse is an endurance-testing and physical sport.

Volleyball and lacrosse are not only geared for two different skill sets, but also for two different types of personalities. Khan and Kim agree, an athlete must be both physically and mentally suited to their sport to really have success. Neither athlete would want to switch places permanently. ♦

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Life

Columnist tries ceramics, discovers difficulty with clay



Thereseh Yeh

Junior Karen Lyu begins throwing pottery by "wedging" clay.



Karen Lyu

I'm not a loser

Today, I found myself throwing pottery, and not at a wall either.

But before we get to that, I should explain that I had no real business in a ceramics classroom: I'm the kind of girl who is perfectly happy talking on the phone for hours on end or sitting inside on a rainy day, painting my nails. I can come out victorious in shopping marathons, and I am the champion of telling jokes that only I seem to find funny. I am not, however, by any means, a master of the kiln.

But on March 11, I spent my fourth period playing with clay instead of playing with layouts for the next issue.

Even though I am undoubtedly talented (again, this fact cannot be doubted or disputed), I never thought I'd end up wrestling wet clay from a gray bin in the back of the ceramics room and learn how to throw pottery. I guess the art just called to me.

As I walked into the ceramics room, I was greeted with friendly chatter from all the students crowded on the big tall tables that took up half of the room. The huge room emitted cozy, friendly vibes while the smell of clay was overwhelming. Most of the students were painting small cars while the movie "Cars" (how appropriate) played overhead. Ceramics teacher Leah Aguayo greeted my reporting assignment with a certain genuine warmth that can only come from standing by a kiln all day.

Throwing pottery refers to the process of shaping a ball of clay by placing it in the center of a turntable and then using one's hands to mold the clay as it spins. Using this technique, potters can shape and change their creation however they

desire. Aguayo made it look so easy and I thought I would be able to accomplish this feat with ease. Wrong.

My mastery of ceramics goes as far as the techniques that the volunteer art docent parents taught us in elementary school. In the past, I've successfully managed to make a seal and a house that has stairs leading up to a doorway, impressive, except that the entire thing was somehow... backwards. Obviously, I was hesitant to undertake this artistic endeavor.

Aguayo demonstrated wedging, a process of preparing fresh clay to throw onto the wheel, while the rest of her beginner students and I looked on. We were also taught to push as much air out of the clay as we could. Although it was hard not to cringe when I tried to grab at some of the clay from the gray bin, it was admittedly entertaining and strangely stress-relieving to really get into the clay and knead it like bread dough; that was the easy part. The next step was to center the clay, the first task to the complicated skill of throwing pottery. Centering was probably one of the most challenging tasks I have ever tried to perform. I had to remember that the palms of my hands became a sort of clock, the numbers dictating where I would put my hands next and how the clay was to be shaped.

At the end of it all, I can safely say I have no hidden genius in ceramics, although I did find great joy in playing with the Play-Doh-like substance. To excel in ceramics, you have to be artistic and truly have a love for the art. As for the latter objective, I have no confidence in myself. Despite my initial curiosity, as I walked out of the classroom, it was obvious that the skills that I had learned had already been filed into the back of my head. I was much more worried about the leftover clay underneath my nails and the dried tan streaks I had so artistically dashed across my cheek and arms than about how my clay pot would turn out. Whether or not I proved myself ceramics-worthy, I may or may not take ceramics in the future. If I do, one thing is obvious: I have a lot to learn. At this point, I can only hope it won't be backwards! ♦

Teacher trade leaves students dazed, confused

by Nandini Ruparel

It seemed like a normal day. A visitor to Matt Torrens's AP US History class would not have been surprised to see the students taking out their homework, chatting quietly and settling down. This person, however, would have gotten quite a shock when they saw a certain curly-haired science teacher at the front of the class. Why, they would ask themselves, is Lisa Cochrum (a biology and earth science teacher) teaching Torrens's class?

On March 2, Cochrum taught fourth-period AP US History in place of Torrens, and Torrens taught sixth-period biology in place of Cochrum. For 15 minutes each teacher attempted to teach a different class while the students asked questions and "learned." The students knew about the exchange before it took place, and both teachers prepared the students to ask hard questions and make it more difficult for the "exchange-teacher" to teach.

"I don't need to prepare, I am a professional," joked Torrens before the experiment. Both were confident about doing

well in the other's class. Torrens and Cochrum, who have a friendly, always joking relationship, are continuously teasing each other and trying to (playfully) one-up the other and were the perfect choice for the experiment.

Cochrum started out by grading a presentation that two students were giving on the environmental movement. Using Torrens's lesson plan, she asked them some questions but gave them hints, too. Then, she moved on to the Treaty of Versailles.

"I had no business teaching APUSH," said Cochrum of her experience.

The students asked many questions—about both the Treaty of Versailles and earth science. When students realized Cochrum did not know much about U.S. History, they started asking questions about plate tectonics, at which point Torrens got up and started relating the lesson to earthquakes.

Torrens showed how the Treaty of Versailles's attendees clashed just like the plates during earthquakes. Once the 15 minutes were up, Cochrum left the classroom.

"I thought it was an interesting experience and it should be encouraging to everyone on campus," Cochrum said. "It makes a difference when you're trained [in your subject]. I thought I knew about WWI, obviously you have to be professionally trained."

Later in the day, Torrens taught biology to Cochrum's sixth-period class. The students were supposed to be learning about populations, but Cochrum decided to make it difficult for Torrens and make him teach photosynthesis. She left the classroom to take care of Torrens's class.

Torrens started out by trying to use Cochrum's legendary microphone system, but since Cochrum had anticipated this, he could not turn it on because she had disabled it. Then, as soon as he began teaching, students asked difficult questions he could not answer. Torrens tried answering the questions, but soon realized that he was incapable of doing so.

Instead, Torrens used Cochrum's toys and stuffed animals that she treasures to entice the student into answering questions for him. He gave the apparently sa-

switching places | teachers

Who: Science teacher Lisa Cochrum and History teacher Matt Torrens
What: Swapping classes
Result: The two teachers have decided to not attempt this again for the sanity of their students

cred playthings to the students for asking questions, and then to the students who would answer the questions for him.

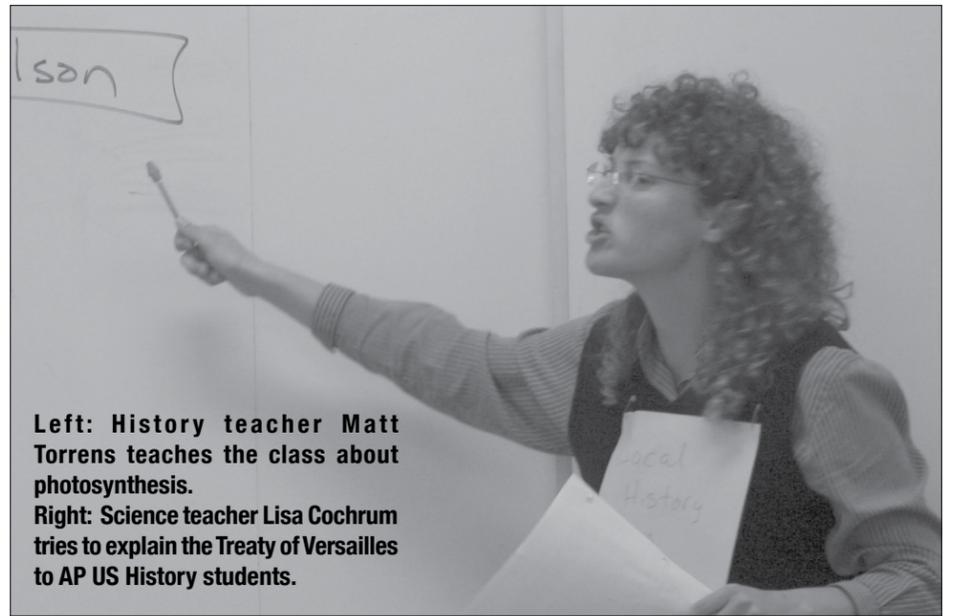
After his time was up, he handed out the remaining toys to the class and left. When Cochrum returned, all of the students threw the stuffed animals at her. Cochrum vowed revenge.

"[Cochrum] was really mad at [Torrens], and she wanted to get him back during Saratoga Idol," said Varsha Ramesh, a student in Cochrum's class.

Although both of the teachers could not teach the other's class, the experiment was a success. It was clear that teachers should stick to what they know best. ♦



Nandini Ruparel



Nandini Ruparel

swap

Students switch homes, families for a day

by James Jlang

"A house is a home when it shelters the body and comforts the souls."

...But what happens when you live in someone else's home?

Seniors Austin Shieh and Sandeep Chandrasekhar found out when they swapped homes over a weekend, and subsequently, swapped lives.

The seniors chose a day to switch when they were relatively free, so they didn't make any long-term mistakes that would affect the other.

However, they did get to experience a lifestyle different than their own.

Shieh, whose house is next to Argonaut Elementary, spent a day in the Chandrasekhar's residence in the mountains. Students who have had the opportunity

to visit the Chandrasekhar residence are often awe-struck by the size of their home, along with the beautiful and high-tech interior.

"There was everything you could want in the house," said Shieh. "If I wanted to watch a movie, there's a theater. If I wanted to go swimming, there's a pool. The

only problem was getting around the house because it's so big."

Chandrasekhar, on the other hand, left his spacious home in the mountains to stay in Shieh's less spacious home. However, the size of the house made

Chandrasekhar feel more in touch with the rest of the family.

"It didn't feel much different [living in a smaller home]," said Chandrasekhar. "I actually felt that I was closer to their family by living in a smaller house."

Shieh and Chandrasekhar also come from different cultural backgrounds, so dinner was a new experience for both of them.

"The food was interesting," said Shieh. "It took a while to adjust to Indian food, but I found it to be enjoyable once I got used to it."

Chandrasekhar also experienced the difference in cultures.

"It was completely different from my parents," said Chandrasekhar. "I even learned from [Shieh's] parents to eat with chopsticks."

Compared to a normal day, the seniors agreed that switching homes was an enjoyable experience. Changing homes and living with a different culture gave the students a chance to see "how the other half lived."

However, for Chandrasekhar, this change in surroundings also gave him



Chandrasekhar



Shieh

switching places | houses

Who: Seniors Austin Shieh and Chandrasekhar
What: Swapping houses and families
Result: Both found the experience to be interesting in terms of cultural differences between their homes

an opportunity to work on skills that he couldn't have otherwise completed as well at home, such as playing video games.

"I played lots of [Super Smash Bros.], so I could eventually compete with [Shieh]," said Chandrasekhar.

For his part, Shieh had no problems returning to his own home.

"It was pretty cool living in [Chandrasekhar's] mansion," said Shieh, "but in the end, I guess there really is no place like home; my family is my family." ♦



While theatrical hypnosis is portrayed by the media, clinical hypnosis is an approved form of therapy that helps solve problems.

Hypnosis growing in legitimacy as accepted form of medical therapy

EFFECT ON WEIGHT LOSS, PHOBIAS CONCRETELY ESTABLISHES RESPECTABILITY OF PRACTICE

by Alex Sclavos

The word “hypnosis” conjures images of an individual swinging a yo-yo in front of someone else, inducing a spiral-eyed state in the person being “hypnotized” and then acting like various farm animals or engaging in some other equally ridiculous activity.

In reality, however, most hypnotism is anything but. Hypnotherapy has been accepted by the National Institute of Health as a form of medicine to treat chronic pain, often used for coping with abuse, addictions, eating disorders, mood swings and fear.

A recent study conducted by the American Health Magazine cited evidence of the therapeutic ability of hypnosis. There was a 93 percent recovery rate for individuals undergoing hypnotherapy.

“When you’re overweight, there is a conflict between the conscious mind and the subconscious mind. The conscious mind says, ‘I know I want to lose weight,’” said Philip Shenefelt, associate professor of medicine at the University

of South Florida, to the website Boston Hypnosis. “However, the subconscious mind tosses up roadblocks such as emotional eating. Hypnosis can help get the two parts of the mind together.”

Evidence from the University of Connecticut supports Shenefelt’s contention. A study proved that hypnosis patients lost more weight than 90 percent of non-hypnosis patients.

Misconceptions abound regarding hypnosis that may cause people to be skeptical of the therapeutic technique. Although some may think hypnosis can make a person do things they would not normally, such as robbing a bank, the fact of the matter is that it cannot. According to Dr. Bruce Goldberg, a directly proposed hypnotic suggestion cannot make someone do anything against their morals, religion or self-preservation. Due to the presence of the subconscious mind, even after the hypnotic state is achieved, one will still

be able to hear, talk, think, act or open one’s eyes at anytime. As a result, the mind will reject any inappropriate suggestion made.

Hypnosis can, however, help implement positive change in one’s life. According to the American Health Magazine, when compared with regular talk-therapy, hypnosis was more effective and the results were more evident. Since hypnosis is client-centered, the focus

of the healing process is to discover the original cause of the individual’s problems.

According to Ravi Oza, of Ezine Articles, the way hypnotherapy works is by putting the mind in its hypnotic state, one of the four the brain operates in. This state of mind opens the doorway between the conscious and the subconscious mind and memories become easily accessible while new information is being stored. Also during this state, the

brain is experiencing without questioning and without judging.

The hypnotic state allows specific thoughts or suggestions made to be lodged into the subconscious part of the brain, which can ultimately direct someone toward a goal or a change in behavior in a positive and permanent way.

For example, at the New Horizons Hypnotherapy Clinic, a man named James Maunganui was being treated by a hypnotherapist, Richard McNair.

“I was treated by Richard at a hard time in my work career,” said Maunganui. “I was skeptic it would not work, but then Richard helped me build my confidence and stay more calm in stressful situations.”

This is only one of the success stories that hypnosis has created.

With hypnotherapy now being a commonly accepted form of medicine and therapy, more people who may not want to try conventional forms of medicine in the form of prescription drugs and psychiatry can find relief by turning to the process of hypnosis. ♦

“Hypnosis can help get the [conscious and the subconscious] mind together.”

— professor Philip Shenefelt

Sheu recounts hypnotic Grad Night experience

by Gautham Ganesan
and Theresa Yeh

Grad Night is a special event held each year for all participating seniors, but for Saratoga High graduate and current UC Berkeley freshman Vincent Sheu, last year’s event was a truly unforgettable experience...at least for those who were watching. Sheu, however, was in a hypnotic trance and does not recall any of it.

He was one of several students chosen at random by hypnotist Michael Blaine. Sheu recently recounted what little he remembered of the proceedings.

“[Blaine] told me to relax, close my eyes, and listen to his voice,” said Sheu. That’s about when things start to get fuzzy for the SHS grad.

From what his fellow graduates have told him, Sheu was subjected to twenty minutes of hypnotically riding on an amusement park roller coaster, being in a surreal dream state and on the set of children’s television show “Barney.”

“I got a dreamy feeling, but I don’t remember anything specifically,” said Sheu. “Apart from that, [Blaine] told us ‘When I do this, you’re going to do this,’ right

before the [hypnosis] began.”

A distinction is made in the field of hypnotherapy between clinical and theatrical hypnosis, and the form employed by Blaine clearly falls in the latter category.

“The method I use is called a progressive relaxation method,” said Blaine. “Reactions [to it] vary [from person to person] due to factors such as depth in trance and prior life experiences.”

Blaine has used hypnotherapy for purposes other than comedic value as well.

“I have used it to [counter] negative habits,” said Blaine, “and I have assisted police agencies with hypnotizing witnesses to gain information regarding a crime.”

Although theatrical hypnosis does not usually provide psychologically therapeutic help to its subjects, it can still prove to be a spiritually uplifting experience for the individuals involved in the hypnotic process.

“He can only make you do things you would do in real life,” said Sheu, “and can’t force you to act against your morals, which makes it an interesting experience that I would recommend for people who are willing to expose themselves and have fun.” ♦



courtesy of Shamita Jayakumar

Professional hypnotist Michael Blaine works his magic on several Saratoga High graduates at last year’s Grad Night, including Vincent Sheu (second from left). “I got a dreamy feeling, but I don’t remember anything specifically,” said Sheu regarding the event. “[Blaine] told me to relax, close my eyes and listen to his voice.”



“ [Hypnotists] can only make you do things you would do in real life and can't force you to act against your morals.”

—alumnus Vincent Sheu

HYPNOSIS FACTOIDS

- 1 All your senses are awake and alert while you are in a hypnotic state
- 2 Hypnosis does not involve mind control, unconsciousness or sleep
- 3 You cannot be forced to enter into a state of hypnosis against your will
- 4 You can only say and do in hypnosis what you would normally say and do
- 5 Hypnosis was approved for use by the American Medical Association in 1958

Source: Bonnie Lee Gibson, Certified Hypnotherapist

TOGATALKS

What is your perspective on hypnosis?

It's dangerous. I think people can use it to control other people, which is scary.



freshman Antong Liu



senior Daniel Wu

I've heard of it working, but personally, I'm a little skeptical. I've never tried it, though.

I think hypnosis is bad because it can make people do things they don't want to do.



senior Shawn Cho

Q&A with Kevin Mount



Former SHS teacher and current head of NOVA is licensed to practice hypnosis.

trust relationship would probably yield better results. Also, the nature of the post-hypnotic suggestion has to be a good thing. Certainly, no one is going to do something that goes beyond [his or her] own personal beliefs

Q: Are there cases where people are unresponsive to hypnosis? If so, why?

A: The process takes a long time. It takes some consistent work. Again, it depends on the level of trust and the skill of the practitioner, the appropriateness of the post-hypnotic suggestion and it depends on the subject and what he wants to achieve.

Q: What kinds of purposes have you used hypnosis for?

A: [I've used hypnosis for] relaxation, stress reduction, improved performance and insomnia.

Q: How does hypnotherapy benefit a person?

A: [Hypnotherapy], at the deepest level, allows him to maybe change the beliefs that might be getting in the way of their ability to change one of their behaviors.

Q: Can hypnosis have negative effects on people?

A: I think some people can see it as kind of creepy and something to have fear about, but as far as I understand, there's no harm that can come from it.

Q: Anything else?

A: People don't realize that they fall into states of hypnosis all the time, and it's not that unusual. Driving long distances, all of a sudden you may realize that you've traveled a hundred miles and it seems like five minutes; that would be a mild trance state. Losing yourself in a movie at the theater would be falling into a trance state and losing yourself in a good book would be a trance state. We go in and out of trance states all day long, so being in a hypnotic trance is really not that unusual. ♦

Q: Is hypnosis something that everyone can learn with some practice? Or is it an extremely complicated process where you have to be very experienced to be able to hypnotize someone?

A: Anyone can learn to do [hypnosis], but it certainly takes some practice to be efficient and effective at it.

Q: Can you briefly describe the method you use to hypnotize a person?

A: There are a variety of methods. One method is the old way of swinging a shiny object back and forth in front of someone's eyes. Usually, I use just the spoken word, which is just talking to someone, and sometimes I use some background music.

Q: Does the hypnotized person know what's happening to them, and can they recall what they have done when they were hypnotized?

A: It depends on the person, some people are very aware of what is going on, other people experience what we call wild amnesia, in terms of not remembering anything at all.

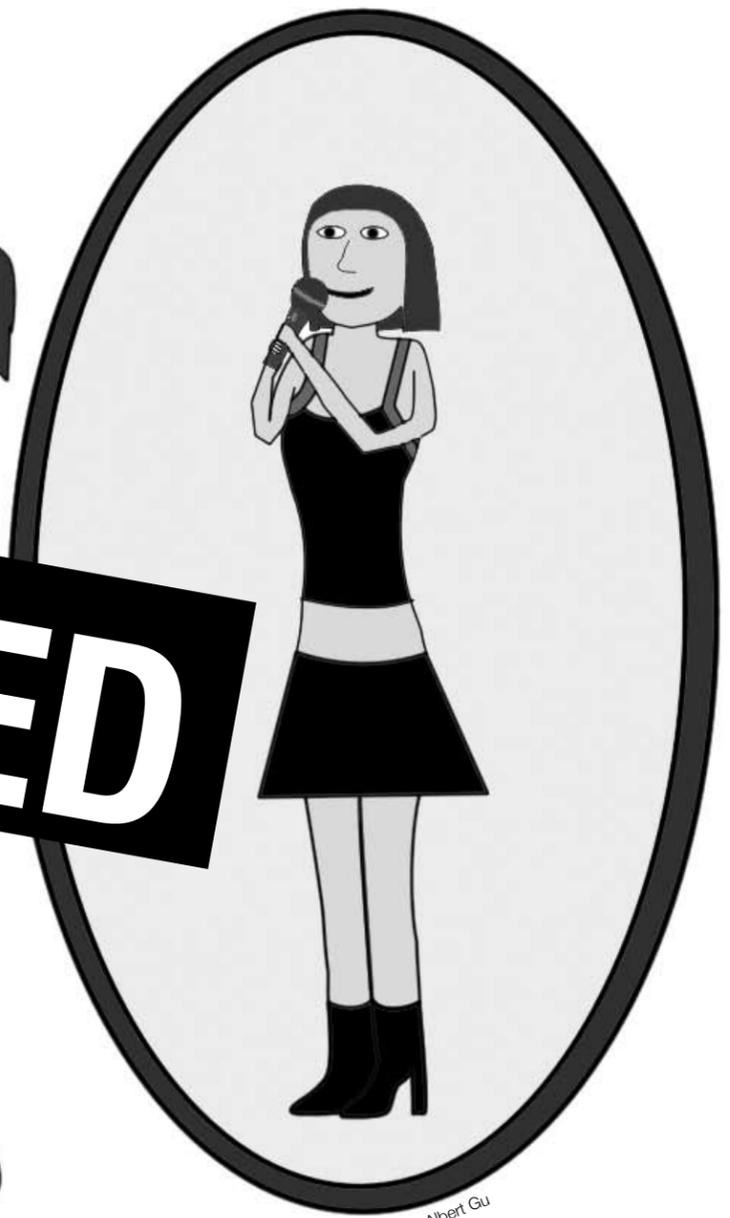
Q: Do different people react differently to orders given during hypnosis? If so, what causes the different reactions?

A: Part of it is the person's level of susceptibility; part of it is the relationship between the person practicing the hypnosis and the subject. A long-term

EXPECT THE

UNEXPECTED

Though stereotypes may sometimes hold true, these students are proof that it is never good to judge a book by its cover.



Albert Gu



Felix Tuan

Daniel Chou, a member of Varsity basketball, is an avid watcher of the "Titanic."

'Titanic' serves as an outlet to athlete for stress relief

by Lyka Sethi

Between enduring grueling basketball practices, studying for AP chemistry tests and balancing his social life, junior Daniel Chou, shooting guard on the varsity team, rarely has time to kick back and relax.

When he does get the chance, however, he likes to slide a DVD in the player, get some junk food and watch a movie.

Surprisingly, the movie this teenage basketball star chooses most often is not about hoops or girls, but rather, one of the most famous love stories of all time: "Titanic."

"I know some people characterize it as a 'chick flick,'" said Chou. "But I think ['Titanic' is] just a well-made movie with a good storyline. I don't feel like any less of a guy just because I like it."

Chou, who has watched the movie "about six times," said his guilty pleasure serves as an escape from the stresses of real life.

"I've watched it a couple of times when I've been stressed out or bored," said Chou. "Junior year has been hard, so it's nice to take a break and watch the movie once in a while."

Chou also admitted that people who don't know him very well find his movie obsession a surprise.

"Some people think it's funny that I like the movie so much since I play sports and don't seem like the kind of person who would watch it," said Chou.

Chou has noticed, however, that it is a good way to allow people to see a different side of him.

"Once people get over making fun of me, they realize that I like

the movie for a good reason," said Chou.

"I can relax while watching it, but it also makes me think."

Though Chou hasn't watched it a ludicrous number of times, he isn't any less of a fan of the film.

"I decided not to watch 'Titanic' too many times because that tends to ruin a movie for me," said Chou. "I want to be able to watch it when I really feel like it without having memorized every line and knowing everything by heart."

Finding time to watch movies with his busy schedule has been a tough task for Chou.

"It's been a while since I last watched Titanic," said Chou. "Hopefully I'll have time to let loose and watch it soon." ♦

"Once people get over making fun of me, they realize I like the movie for a good reason."

— Daniel Chou

Sophomore perceived as shy and reserved has unknown passion for hardcore music

by Kevin Mu

Sophomore Ramiz Sheikh sits quietly and listens intently to the teacher. Students and teachers who see him in class consider him to be kind and reserved, so when Sheikh told his French 3 class about a hardcore concert he attended during Winter break, naturally, many of his classmates were astonished.

"They were pretty shocked," he said. "My friends asked me lots of questions and couldn't really believe that I listened to hardcore."

The hardcore genre of music developed in the late 1970s and stems from American punk rock. It is characterized by quick tempos, heavy guitar distortion and screaming of lyrics. Sheikh began listening to the genre last year and immediately fell in love with the fast-paced beats and complex instrumentation.

Even more surprisingly, Sheikh not only loves listening to hardcore music; he also plays bass guitar in local hardcore band "Revive the Lifeless" three hours a week.

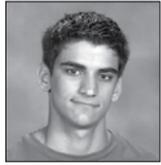
"[Hardcore] is really energetic and [its] great bass really inspired me to play my own music," said Sheikh, who started playing the bass guitar three years ago. "It's just... awesome."

"People are surprised when they find out that I play in a [hardcore] band because I don't really advertise it," Sheikh said. "Plus, hardcore music is very loud, [while] I'm not."

Sheikh joined "Revive the Lifeless" this January. He said the band is planning to play shows and release an EP, or short music CD.

"I definitely think the future is bright," said Sheikh.

So, what about becoming a professional musician? "That would be nice," said Sheikh, "but the chances of that



SHEIKH

Though he may seem reserved, the sophomore enjoys listening to hardcore music, which inspired him to play bass guitar.

happening are low. I still have to look at things realistically."

For now, at least, it seems that the enthusiastic bassist is happy with practicing with the band and rocking out to "Parkway Drive" on his iPod.

But not everyone shares Sheikh's love for hardcore. Many students often have preconceived notions about the genre, due to the forceful guitar riffs and screaming of lyrics; however, Sheikh says these students are misinformed about the true nature of hardcore.

"Everyone hates the screaming, but they shouldn't judge too soon," said Sheikh. "I didn't like it either, at first, but it definitely grew on me."

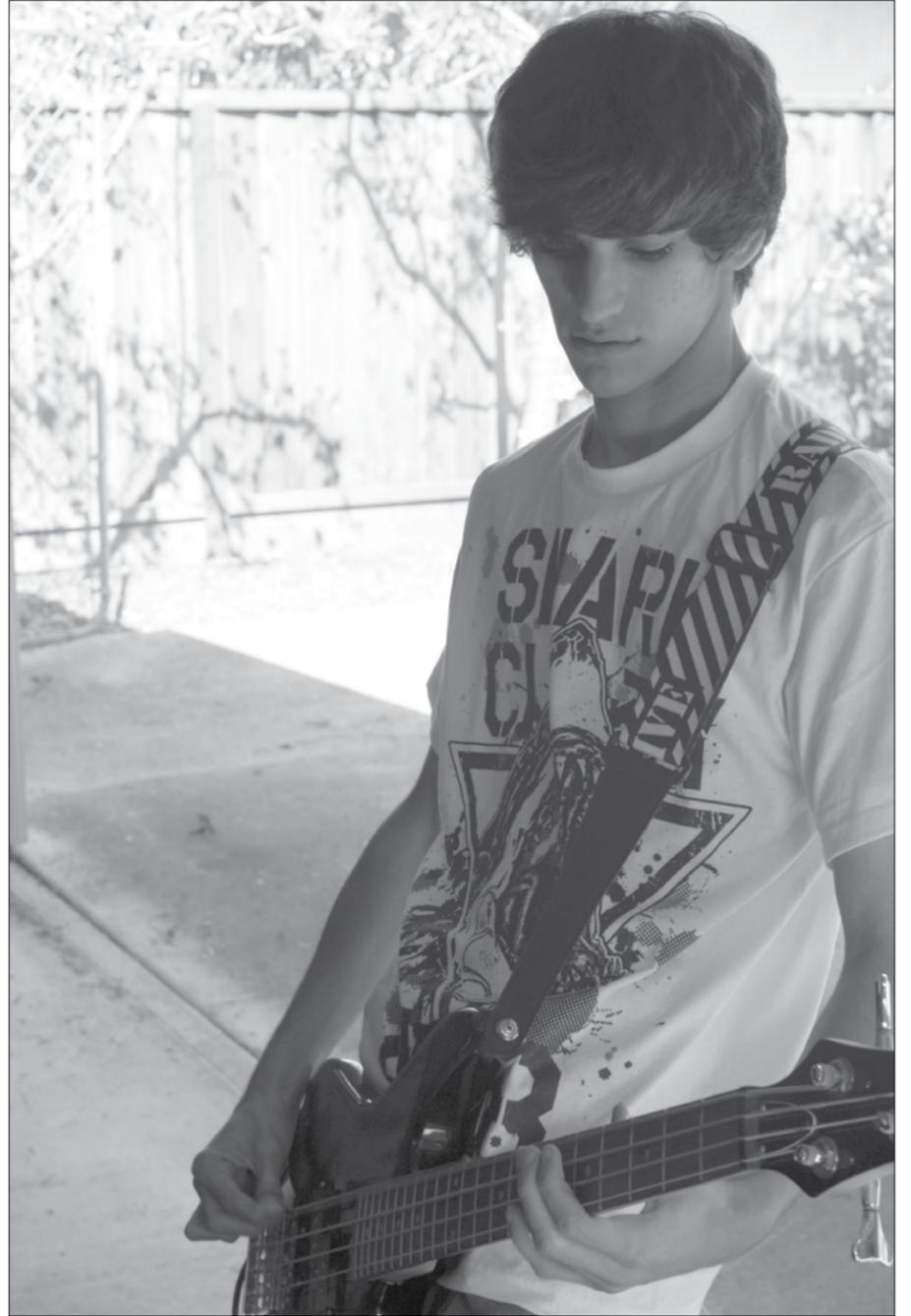
Oftentimes these negative stereotypes carry over to hardcore music lovers in general, and Sheikh believes that these stereotypes are partly why people are so surprised when they discover that he loves hardcore.

"People wrongly think everyone [who listens to hardcore] is demonic and aggressive," he said.

To disprove this misconception, Sheikh claims that none of his fellow hardcore fans fit any of the stereotypes. Sheikh often enjoys going to concerts of local hardcore bands because he loves the energy of the crowd. "When I go to shows, everyone is extremely nice," he said. "You can talk to people very easily. It's like one big family." ♦

"People are surprised when they find out that I play hardcore."

—sophomore Ramiz Sheikh



courtesy of Ramiz Sheikh

Ramiz Sheikh jams guitar with his hardcore band "Revive the Lifeless" in his free time.

Anime art transfixes sophomore

by Amalie MacGowan
and Uttara Sivaram

A loophole has been found in that old stereotype of Asian fascination with Anime. Happily immersed in a world once dominated by Japanese-descended individuals, Sophomore Abby Frankola likes nothing better than doodling famous Anime characters or curling up in front of a good Japanese cartoon show.

"I still love watching shows like 'Speed Racer' and 'Sailor Moon,'" said Frankola, referring to her early interest in Japanese children shows. This interest in all things Anime was a fluke. She had never really had an introduction to the richly historical cartoon, and the more she was exposed to it, the more fascinated she became.

Frankola started to show interest in shows like "Ouran high school club," "Code Geass," and "Eureka 7" and Manga, such as "Deathnote," "Hana Kimi," and "Paradise Kiss" to name a few. Each week, Frankola uses some of her free time to peruse the Manga and Anime sites for any new finds. Thanks to the many stresses of school and extracurricular activities, Frankola now finds it difficult to find free time to catch up

with the latest in Anime. In addition to being a form of entertainment, Anime proved useful in sparking Frankola's interest in pursuing drawing and graphic design. She explored the different styles of art used in Manga and found ways to use them in her own drawing, still making them "uniquely Abby."

"I began to draw a lot and get into more advanced forms of artwork, like graphic design," she said.

Frankola's skill at what started out to be simple sketches rapidly progressed while her flexible style of drawing became more and more known throughout the school.

The fact that Frankola was able to draw complex landscapes, cars and dresses in addition to distinct Anime characters surprised many students. Not only does she watch Anime, but Frankola also enjoys playing Japanese video games. Her favorites include the "Legend of Zelda" and "Assassin's Creed." She is also known to be particularly adept at the popular "Super Smash Bros." Her friends say she is yet to be defeated in a "Smash Bros." battle.

Frankola's interest in these games were further supported and influenced by her father, a big fan of all kinds of video games in college.



FRANKOLA

Most students would not expect the sophomore girl to have become so obsessed with this Japanese art from a young age.

When Frankola and her little sister started to display interest in them, her father encouraged them to continue.

"My dad was one of those people who played Dungeon's and Dragons in college," Frankola laughed. "So he was pretty excited when my sister and I started playing video games."

Now, Frankola has taken these interests and incorporated them into her artwork. "I first started watching Anime just because I liked it," she said. "But then I noticed that it really impacted my style of drawing. I guess it boosts my creativity."

As for defying stereotypes, Frankola is, at most, indifferent.

"I don't really think I stand out that much when it comes to stereotypes—I just do what I'm interested in," said Frankola. "If a blonde, white girl playing anime is called 'breaking a stereotype' then sure. I don't really think about my interest in anime that way, though." ♦

[Frankola] just started to watch Anime, and the more she was exposed to it, the more fascinated she became.

TALENTSPOTLIGHT

Unexpected Saratoga Idol performers wowed the crowd.



Eric Sun

Even Sun's parents did not know about his voice until that night.

In a line up of talented singers, Chock was the only freshman.



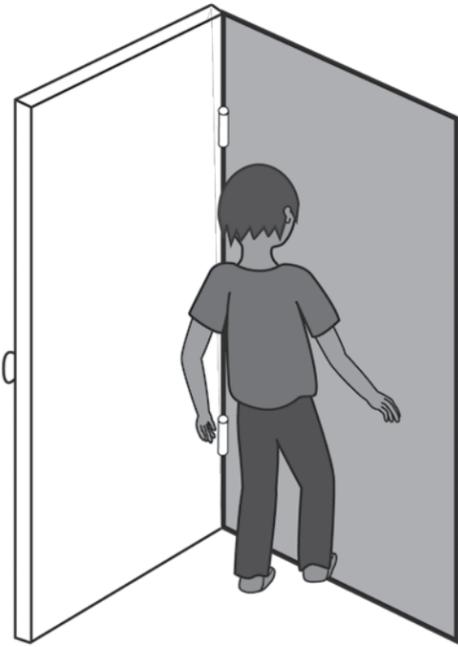
Olivia Chock

Previously, Menezes was only known to excel in academics and sports.



Alan Menezes

—by Mary Mykhaylova



I never I would

Bringing back the hippie movement

Sophomore Jay Lee spent a day at school dressed as a female hippie.



by Anna Shen

As sophomore Jay Lee walked into his math class, students and teacher P.J. Yim looked at his attire in astonishment. Disregarding their reactions, Lee just casually twirled his black-shoulder length hair and readjusted his tie-dyed headband. It wasn't until Yim humorously told Lee he looked slightly different than usual that Lee started to present his orange-striped leggings topped with a pair of Spongebob Squarepants boxers to the class.

Lee decided to try something new and novel for the day to celebrate his 16th lunar birthday. So, he dressed up as a lady hippie, assuming the name of "Jeanette." Lee's whole outfit consisted of a

black wig, tie-dyed headband, pink-tinted glasses, orange-striped leggings, knee-high black socks, Chuck Taylors and, of course, the cherry on top of the sundae—Spongebob and Patrick boxers.

“What’s great is that he’ll do anything for a few laughs.”

— sophomore Joyee Woodrow

“As I got out of the car visualizing myself in my head, I kept thinking ‘I can’t believe I’m doing this,’ and then I heard someone say ‘What the [heck]’ and I started chuckling to myself,” said Lee.

While there are many people who

tend to shy away from speaking actively in class or participating in school-related activities such as Homecoming or Spring Fling, there are also many—or maybe just a few, like Lee—who will always go to the extreme to see smiles on people's faces.

“I, myself, love laughing,” said Lee, “so passing on those joys of laughter [to others] fills me with joy.”

One of Lee's close friends, sophomore Joyee Woodrow, reacted to Lee's outfit by doing a double-take.

“What’s great is that he’ll do anything for a few laughs,” said Woodrow.

Despite the odd attire, Lee gradually assimilated into his normal and cheerful self as if he were wearing his everyday jeans and T-shirt.

“The more you do embarrassing things, the less embarrassing they become and the more confident you get,” said Lee. ♦

What’s with the new hair color?



Grishma Athavale

In a fish bowl

I used to have a fish when I was seven. It was a small, orange little creature always eager to see me—well, at least it didn't hide from me under the coral when I came to feed it. As a young girl, I used to wonder what it would be like to be a fish in a fish bowl—being stared at all the time, and having to endure people tapping on the glass, wanting you to do something more? I never imagined actually having this experience—but oh, was I wrong!

I like taking risks, if they don't involve anything *too* extreme. The only problem is, in the Saratoga environment, chances to go beyond the expected are rare. So when my newspaper staff decided to profile students and Falcon staff members who did something unexpected for a day, I viewed it as my chance to do something exciting and totally “Un-Grishma.”

My friends suggested coming to school in a clown costume, but I decided that in today's fashion-forward society, those oversized shoes and red nose were definitely a no-no. Some of my classmates suggested bungee jumping. I was in mid-nod when all of a sudden, a flood of bad thoughts poured into my

mind. “What if the rope broke?” “What if the rope wasn't secured properly?” No thanks. Others suggested going to a French restaurant and eating escargot—but I was *not* willing to eat snails, whatever the reason.

The only option that I liked was dyeing my hair an unexpected color, and what better color to complement my brown complexion than pure blonde? That's right — blonde. Performing the experiment, however, was not so easy. There were a few things that needed to be done first.

1) Convincing my parents

I was not met by an enthusiastic response when I told my mom that I wanted to dye my hair blonde. She explained to me that dye, even for a day, would be bad for my hair, due to all the harmful chemicals in the product. But after much deliberation, we finally compromised that I could just wear a blonde wig. After all, it would still have the same effect.

Now the hard part was to go out in public. I was both curious and nervous of the reactions my teachers and peers would have for the experiment.

2) Wearing the wig

I finally bought a wig at Party City (bright blonde, as promised), put it on and turned to find my mom laughing hysterically at me. But the fun was just getting started, as I had a variety of very serious, very public extracurricular activities planned for the day. I had to teach a Hindi class at 10 a.m., go to a si-

tar class at 1 p.m. and end the day with Tae Kwon Do class at 3 p.m.

At Hindi class, my fourth and fifth grade students laughed at me for at least five minutes about how ridiculous I looked. Even after they settled down, I noticed that they weren't really focused on the lesson and kept shooting quick glances at my uncharacteristic hair and texture. At first it was funny, but then it started to get a little annoying. After all, the hair color was one that has often occurred in the natural world, although mostly on girls with slightly lighter complexions.

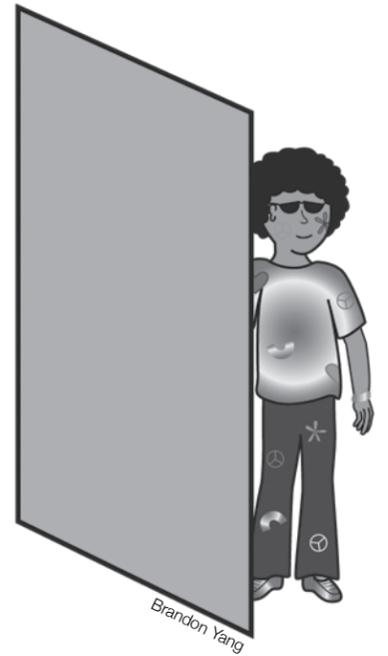
Hardly had I put it out of my mind when I headed off to sitar and then Tae Kwon Do class, where the reactions continued in the same way. My instructors were appalled and laughed at my explanation of why I had dyed my hair.

3) Being in a fish bowl

You know that fish I was talking about? Well, that was me for a day. I was stared at from the moment I walked out of Party City, like some type of walking disaster. I was far more conscious of how people perceived me than I initially thought I would have been. It was something like being an animal at the zoo, receiving frequent—not to mention annoying—gawks from spectators.

And yet, it was fascinating to spend a day under society's microscope. The interesting reactions I received from friends and teachers have provided me with an experience that I will remember for a very long time. ♦

thought



Sophomore feels wardrobe deja vu

by Amanda Yi

While most students wake up in the morning and spend time trying to put together an outfit to wear, sophomore Joseph Kim was spared from this tedious act for one whole week.

When asked by the newspaper staff to do something he would not normally do, Kim suggested giving up his life of cleanliness, though he would be able to take showers and change his underwear. Kim, who despises being dirty, did this by wearing the same shirt, pair of jeans and jacket for a whole week from March 2-8.

"At first I didn't really care or think it was that bad, but it actually was really hard and gross for me to wear the same clothes all week," said Kim, who washes his clothes regularly and takes showers twice a day. "I don't like feeling dirty."

As fate would have it, there was excessive rain that week, which made Kim's situation even worse. This, along with his regular activities and habits, caused his clothes to become dirty.

"It rained a lot and my clothes got really wet, so after it dried I smelled like

a wet dog," explained Kim. "I am also a messy eater and I spill a lot so my clothes were stained for a week. Plus, I am in ceramics and it gets kind of messy, so I had clay on my shirt and jeans."

If feeling uncomfortable and filthy was not bad enough, by the third day, Kim's friends started to notice his repeated outfit and comment on the smell.

"My friends didn't come near me at all," said Kim. "The worst part was they said I smelled like butt and Doritos."

On the other hand, not everyone noticed or criticized Kim. Some encouraged Kim by reminding him there were not many days left in his hefty challenge. Teachers and Kim's own family did not notice his repeating outfit.

"My family didn't really notice; however, my mom asked me why I didn't have much laundry," said Kim.

At the end of his challenge, Kim described his experience as "gross" and would not want to go through this experience again.

"It was kind of embarrassing when people constantly looked at the food stains on my shirt, said Kim. "They would ask, 'saving that for later?'" ♦



Sophomore Joseph Kim spent a whole week wearing the same articles of clothing, without washing them. This was a challenge for Kim, who describes himself as a neat freak. Amanda Yi

Students make sacrifices in celebration of Lent

by Aditi Jayaraman

Staring longingly at the double mocha latte sitting on his classmate's desk, senior T.T. Tu clenches his fist to avoid temptation. "Just 40 more days," he thinks to himself. "Just 40 more days."

Tu is just one of the many Saratoga students who, in honor of Lent this year, is giving up an important aspect of his life until Easter as part of his Catholic religion. In Tu's case, caffeine happens to be the item that he found significant enough to give up.

"I'm continuously drinking iced tea and coffee all the time," said Tu, "so I guess this just seemed like something that would be good to give up for some time."

The celebration of Lent and the process it entails of giving up a seemingly crucial or essential component of one's life, commemorates Jesus' victory over sin and death. The story is that when stranded in a desert for 40 days preceding the beginning of his public ministry, Jesus went without food, water and other items thought to be essential to life. Though tempted by Satan, Jesus didn't fall for his tricks and made it through the difficult circumstances without even a morsel.

"In past years I've given up candy and coffee, but I guess this year I just wanted

to step it up a little, so I decided to give up caffeine in general," said Tu.

Senior Paul Leung, also Catholic, decided to give up cookies, a major weakness he has in his everyday diet. Though Leung found the experience particularly tricky at first, he has slowly begun to embrace it.

"Everyday, people are always eating cookies around me and when they offer me food, I generally end up eating too much," said Leung. "But now, I don't really even care anymore— I definitely don't regret the decision I made of giving up cookies."

While some students like Tu celebrate Lent for its religious connotation, other students decided to give Lent a chance this year, solely for the personal benefits that they'd receive.

For senior Catherine Wang, Lent offered the motivation she needed to completely halt consumption of junk foods.

"I'm not Catholic, but the celebration inspired me to do something good for myself," said Wang.

After hearing about Tu's plan to give up caffeine, Wang decided it would be a good experience and would also help out her friend by providing him a "support system" during Lent.

"You could say I'm doing it out of respect for those who do it—it's not some-



Senior Paul Leung stands next to items that he has given up for Lent in past years; the items include: meat, cookies and candy. Leung celebrates Lent as part of his Catholic religion. courtesy of Paul Leung

thing I have to do, but rather, it's a choice and it is forcing me to eat healthier," said Wang.

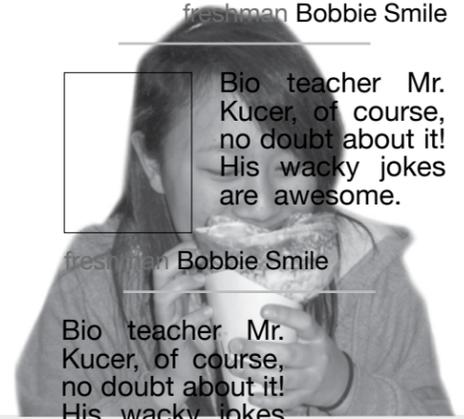
Although avoiding junk food has been difficult, Wang believes helping Tu and her other friends celebrating Lent this year

has made the experience worth it.

"I want them to know that I'm there for them, especially when they're going through something difficult that is going to ultimately help them out," said Wang. ♦

SUPER SWEET SECRETS

We took on the arduous (well, not really) task of exploring the lesser-known treats on popular menus that are often overlooked in favor of their more famous friends. See what our critics had to say!



Who is the coolest teacher at school?
Bio teacher Mr. Kucer, of course, no doubt about it! His wacky jokes are awesome.

freshman Bobbie Smile

Bio teacher Mr. Kucer, of course, no doubt about it! His wacky jokes are awesome.

freshman Bobbie Smile

Bio teacher Mr. Kucer, of course, no doubt about it! His wacky jokes are awesome.

Animal style fries soar in taste buds

In-n-Out. Few words are capable of making the hungry teenager salivate more profusely than the name of this tasty fast-food joint, and the contents of its secret menu only add to that popularity. Obviously the items on this menu are a complete secret, but not everyone knows the menu's complete inventory.

The first item on the secret menu is the grilled cheese sandwich. This option is more for vegetarians, because who could go to In-n-Out and then order something other than one of the burgers? I've never sampled one, but I've heard that they're quite good (if you actually consider grilled cheese a dish to be worth a rating).

TOGATALKS to alternative impress

Who is the coolest teacher at school?

It's amazing what people are willing to do for a delicious and hearty burrito. I decided to the south-of-the-hipotle, rush off campus in hopes of getting a meal. Most are probably return to class late.

All of us have ever stepped foot into Chipotle before (don't judge us, we're talking), when told about the lesser-known quesadillas sold there, we jumped nally go.

Bio teacher Mr. Kucer, of course, no doubt about it! His wacky jokes are awesome. What started as excitement

Toasty treat warms frozen yogurt shop

I love frozen yogurt. When the fad swept from Southern California up to the Bay last year around this time, I instantly fell in love. With the craze leading to no less than six different frozen yogurt stores popping up within the Saratoga and Cupertino city bounds, I probably get froyo at least once a week.

Imagine my hesitation when my friend asks me to try a crepe at Tartini in Cupertino last week. Though not on a "hidden menu" as Jamba Juice's White Gummi and In-N-Out's Animal style fries, the crepes' advertisement isn't clad in the bright blue that paints Tartini's signature look. Instead, the offer is on a stand, placed right before

In and Out freshman Bobbie Smile

★★★★★

Hidden items: grilled cheese sandwich, protein style, animal style, Flying Dutchman.

Location: 604 E. El Camino Real Sunnyvale 94087

Chipotle Bio teacher Mr. Kucer, of course, no doubt about it! His wacky jokes are awesome.

★★★★★

Hidden item: Quesadilla

Location: 10385 S. De Anza Blvd. Cupertino 95014

Tartini

★★★★★

Hidden item: Crepes

Location: 20488 Steven's Creek Blvd. #2040 Cupertino 95014

Next comes the protein style, a burger wrapped in hand-leafed lettuce rather than a bun for all those carb-conscious individuals...because, after all, it's the carbs that will kill you, not all the cholesterol.

On to the most popular portion of the menu: animal style, served two ways. First is the animal style burger. This is a burger where the patty is cooked in a mustard sauce and served on a bun with lettuce, tomatoes, extra spread, grilled onions, and pickles. The other option, my personal favorite, is animal style fries. This translates to the regular tasty fries, topped with cheese, spread and grilled onions (a heart attack in a little paper tray). While a stomachache usually follows, I have not once regretted my order.

The most obscure item is the "Flying Dutchman." How it got its name, I haven't the slightest clue, but it's basically just a patty with cheese. Yes, that's it. Many who order the item order a side of fries, slice up the patty with cheese, put it on the fries, and consume it with a fork. Why, might you ask? As it turns out, the whole combo only costs about \$3 and supposedly fills you up as much as a double-double; however, I can't speak to the truth of this theory as I don't ever intend to spend a visit to In-n-Out by eating a mashed burger and fries.

If you're in the mood for something new on your next trip to In-n-Out, there are plenty of options to choose from, though you might have to go beyond what is on the display menu. ♦

—by Ben Clement

soon turned into embarrassment when we noticed that quesadillas were not on the menu. If it weren't for the kind gentleman in front of us, we would have wasted 20 minutes standing and squinting awkwardly at the menu while searching for something that was not there.

By the time we finished the burrito, we didn't have much of a stomach left for the quesadilla, which was also pretty hefty. While the burrito was delicious as always, we expected the quesadillas to be just as good and live up to Chipotle standards. Unfortunately, we found it not up to par. In other words, we had hoped for more.

The lack of cheese between the tortillas hindered the total taste of the item. The "quesa" in quesadilla is supposed to refer to cheese, but clearly, the hard and dried cheese remnants did not satisfy or even keep the tortilla slices together. While we expected a string of cheese to ooze out after taking a bite off, this quesadilla was pretty dry. And the chicken, despite being very tender and seasoned, was all concentrated in the center, leaving the rest of the tortilla bland. Of course a quesadilla needs those bland tortilla parts to balance out the flavors, but with so much chicken at the center, it would take us four or five bites of tortilla just to even out the taste of chicken.

Whether it was the fact we were already full, or that the quesadilla actually was no competition to the burrito, we came away disappointed. There's probably a good reason Chipotle is known for its burritos and not its quesadillas. Sometimes it's better to stick to what you already know. ♦

—by Maggie Lin and Alicia Lee

the cash register. Many patrons, distracted by their mountain of yogurt and toppings, fail to notice this offer.

Assuming the crepes were not very well made thanks to the lack of advertising glamour, I hesitated as I considered giving up yogurt this visit. Though the frozen tart treat enticed me from its metal handles along the side of the wall, my friend was able to coax me with the thought of the delicious Nutella hazlenut-chocolate spread on a warm crepe. It was raining, she argued, and the crepe would make a better snack to warm up rather than the cold yogurt. I gave in and waited 10 minutes for the crepe to be made; my impatience grew as I imagined immediately eating the self-serve yogurt.

But the crepe was delicious. Some toppings are free, included with the price of just your simple crepe. Such toppings include powdered sugar and dulce de leche. Each of these toppings can be added onto the crepe at no additional charge. Typical toppings such as mango, strawberry and Nutella can also be added for 35 cents each. For the customer that can't bear to walk into the store without having some frozen yogurt, a scoop of any flavor can be added into the crepe for a dollar more than the base price of \$3.

The next time I visited Tartini happened to be another rainy day, and nothing satisfied my sweet craving more than their delicious crepe. While frozen yogurt will be a treat that I will always love, the crepes offered at Tartini have given me another option. From the delectable toppings to the warm shell, Tartini's crepes will not disappoint anyone ready to try something new. ♦

—by Kirstie Lee



Fan roots for UCLA, bets on Louisville

by Vijay Menon
and Abhi Venkataramana

For sophomore Robert Yu, the annual NCAA basketball tournament, known to many simply as March Madness, is more than a sporting event—it's a cause for celebration.

"I love watching college basketball," said Yu. "I watch the games all year just to see how it all breaks down in the tournament."

Yu first got interested in college basketball at a young age when cousins watched UCLA games at family get-togethers. Since then Yu has come to become a die-hard UCLA Bruins fan. Every year, Yu invites friends and family over to cheer for the Bruins as they advance through the tournament.

"March is always a fun time for me, especially since the Bruins have made the

final four three out of the last four years," said Yu. "This year has been slightly disappointing, though, since they only got the sixth seed."

In the tournament, Yu will be cheering on his favorite player, UCLA point guard Darren Collison.



Yu

Apart from rooting for UCLA, much of the excitement for Yu comes from filling out a tournament bracket with others and attempting to predict the outcome of the tournament.

Every year my friends and I fill out our brackets in an on-line group," said Yu. "It's really fun trying to predict the upsets and trying to fill out the perfect bracket."

This year, Yu's pick to win it all is Louisville. The team went 16-2 in the season and is ranked first overall after recently winning the Big East tournament

"I'm taking Louisville to win the title," said Yu. "They're a strong team and I

picked them to go far in last year's bracket and it paid off."

Yu believes that Louisville's strong defense, which is ranked as the second best defense in the league will help Louisville beat some of the tougher teams in the competition.

"They went 7-1 this season against the top 25 teams in the league mainly because they allow [their opponents to score] less than 60 points a game," said Yu. "If they keep up this performance, they should be able to cruise to the Final Four."

Even though Yu is betting on Louisville to win the championship, he is still rooting for his sentimental favorite, UCLA.

"In my heart I want the Bruins to win," said Yu, "but I have to put my money on Louisville."

Yu plans to host several viewing parties at his home over the course of the tournament, especially if UCLA advances far in the bracket.

"If UCLA wins it all," said Yu, "it's going to be crazy at my place." ♦

TOGATALKS

Who do you think will win March Madness and why?

It all depends on the health of North Carolina's man Ty Lawson. If he can play, then UNC wins.



teacher Mike Davey



senior Arun Bajaj

I say UNC wins it all because they are just the best team. I think UNC will beat UConn in the finals.

I kind of like to just enjoy the games, but if I had to choose a team to win it would be North Carolina.



sophomore Keerti Shukla

THE FALCON'S FINAL FOUR PICKS

Louisville Cardinals: The Surprise of the Year

This year's No. 1 overall seed, the Cardinals are a relatively new face in the championship hunt this year. Louisville is often streaky on the offensive side of the ball, but its dominating defense could make the team a legitimate title contender.



Pittsburgh Panthers: Offensive Powerhouse

DeJuan Blair is a monster. Averaging over 15 points and 12 rebounds a game, the massive forward is the heart and soul of a Pitt team that held the top spot in the nation for several weeks. Blair epitomizes the Panthers' style: brute strength.



North Carolina Tar Heels: The One to Win It All

The Tar Heels are the popular favorites to win this years tournament. UNC's squad has more experience than the majority of other teams and are an offensive powerhouse, led by Player of the Year candidate Tyler Hansbrough.



Connecticut Huskies: The Underdogs

Probably the weakest of the four, the Huskies are anchored in the center by 7'3" Hasheem Thabeet, a strong defensive presence and shot-blocking machine. However, UConn hasn't won a tourney game since 2006 and could struggle relatively early.



—By Rahul Thakker

3-on-3 tourney returns

by Kelly Lambie

While seniors may be caught up in college admission decisions during the month of March, other students are preoccupied by a very different kind of stress—the stress of watching their favorite basketball teams go head-to-head in the annual NCAA Basketball Championships.

In addition to watching March Madness on TV, student athletes and teachers are competing in Saratoga's own version of the tournament.

Although a main organizer of the tournament, former teacher Mike Navrides left to teach at Los Gatos this year, the tournament has survived thanks to popular support from both faculty and students.

"We had originally not planned on having March Madness this year, but when we heard that people were still interested in it, ASB decided to run the event again," said ASB president Ketaki Shriram.

The format of the tournament is three-on-three. Each team needs to have at least one girl. Also, only one varsity player may be on each team. Games will be played from March 23-27.

Although most of the teams are comprised of students, teachers are also getting in on the fun. History teachers Kim Anzalone, Matt Torrens, Rick Ellis and Kirk Abe have teamed up to form the "History Geeks." Anzalone said they "are definitely going to take it all. The other

teams don't stand a chance."

Anzalone thinks the tournament is a good way of inspiring school spirit.

"I think participating in events like this shows a lot of school spirit on our part," said Anzalone. "Plus, we're all really immature people and it's a lot of fun for us."

However, just because the tournament is only meant to be pure fun doesn't mean "The History Geeks" aren't taking it seriously.

"I'd just like all the students to know that grades do ride on this tournament, now and in the future," joked Anzalone. "If we play a team of freshmen and they beat us, we will remember their names, hunt them down and make sure we give them Fs."

Ellis says that he really wants to play against the team "El Matadors" consisting of juniors Vinnie Carstens, Bryce Dozier and Nicole Gragnola.

"Right now, my main rival is Vinnie Carstens," said Ellis. "I am calling out team 'El Matadors' because I know that [we] can beat them. Though we haven't had any formal practices yet, all of us have been shooting around. I am confident of this matchup."

Dozier, in response to Ellis' call out, thinks that "The History Geeks" have not even a single chance against his team.

"We have better talent and more heart," said Dozier. "I think we will going to smother them, like a wool blanket thrown over a fire." ♦

BASEBALL

Falcons try to charge up a change in offense

by Lyka Sethi

With a winning record of 4-2 at the beginning of the season and a new set of enthusiastic coaches, the baseball team is working toward a stellar season.

The boys played three preseason games, first defeating Westmont 2-1 on Feb. 25, then Leland 11-4 on Feb. 26 and finishing with a close loss to Harker 5-3 on March 5.

They then took home a victory in their first El Camino league game against Gunn on March 10 with a score of 2-1 before losing to Mountain View 7-10 on March 12, and finally scoring a 3-0 victory against Fremont on March 17.

"Pitching and fielding have been really strong so far," said junior outfielder Grant Thomas of the recent games, "but our offense has suffered and we've been leaving a lot of people on base."

Thomas attributes their early victories to both the youngest and oldest players on the team. With two sophomores on varsity this year, Greg Johnson, who plays second base and catcher, and Dylan Pak, who plays shortstop and second base, six juniors and several returning seniors, the team contains a good blend of experienced and new players.

Top hitters include Thomas, seniors Casey Farmer and Joey Avery and sophomore Greg Johnson. Top pitchers include Avery, senior Alex Wokas and senior Christian Biederman. With all of the talent on the team, it's no surprise that the boys have been gaining several victories this early in the season.

"We've been playing pretty well," said Thomas, who has played on varsity since his sophomore year. "The team works well together but a lot of the returning players are frustrated because we haven't been playing as well as we could be."

With new coach Manny Steffen and assistant coach Travis Hatfield, however, the boys hope to improve their playing throughout the season.



Theresa Yeh

Fellow seniors Joey Avery and Marcus Lefton cheer on teammate senior Michael Guercio as he connects during the game against Fremont on March 17. The Falcons, primarily led by seniors, brought home a decisive 3-0 victory against the Fremont Firebirds.

"The new coaches are both really young and energetic," said Thomas. "They definitely have the desire to win and have a lot of baseball knowledge."

By taking advantage of these new

coaches, the boys hope to work on their techniques and skills for their upcoming tournaments and league games.

"We need to work on everything, of course, because we can always get better,"

said Thomas, "but one thing we have to improve is our hitting. I'm pretty sure we'll start showing improvement as we play more games and get back into the right mindset." ♦

SOFTBALL

Girls look for improvement, cope with replacing graduates

by Pia Mishra
and Ren Norris

Just improve, winning is a bonus. That's the message coaches are relaying to a softball team trying to rebound from losing many key players to graduation. Recent results indicate the team will have to work hard for every win.

They lost their first game to Monta Vista 4-12 on Feb. 24. The girls redeemed themselves the next day by defeating Prospect 14-4. This win was shortly followed by a loss to Willow Glen 4-8 on March 11. The team also played a nail-biting game against Silver Creek, which ended in a 2-3 defeat. Their streak of bad luck continued with a disappointing 9-13 loss to Cupertino on March 18.

"We tried hard in all of our games, but sometimes it just doesn't go our way," said sophomore right fielder and catcher Whitney Hansen.

The team has a new coach this year, Ray Sisco, who recognizes the tough competition in the El Camino League and has set the goal of a .500 winning percentage. This would be an improvement as the softball team has struggled to win games in the past few years.

"I'm lucky to be coaching such a great group of girls," said Sisco.

Even with a new head coach, the

team faces many challenges this season. Not only have injuries and poor weather plagued the team, but the loss of many starters from last year to graduation has left the team in a challenging position.

After the completion of the basketball season, several freshman basketball players came out for softball, allowing them to field two complete squads. Still, some juniors were placed on JV because of low turnout of younger girls.

"There just isn't as much interest in softball anymore," said assistant coach and alumnus Katie Reed, "and we've had to fill positions left by really good seniors who graduated last year."

"We have had really good hitting so far and have never been out of a game, even if we were down in the score," said Reed.

Despite a few losses, the girls are confident in their teamwork and feel like they still have a successful season.

"We really seem to have it together even after losing a lot of our key players last year," said senior shortstop Laura Ruddy, "and so far this season is looking good."

Even though the team is looking to win games, the focus is on developing each individual player and growing as a team.

"We will have a good season as long as we keep playing well," said Reed, "but the main goal is to improve, not to win." ♦

Recent slump concerns die-hard Sharks fan

Gautham Ganesan
Gotham City

For hockey fans around the globe (all seven of us), Christmas comes four months late each year as the grueling monotony of the regular season's latter months gives way to, quite objectively, the best tournament in professional sports: the Stanley Cup playoffs.

When Santa descends down the chimney in two and a half weeks, the San Jose Sharks will, for the fifth consecutive postseason, be very much a part of the festivities, having clinched both a playoff spot and their second straight division title.

They will also enter the NHL's second season in a fashion unlike past years. While in 2006 through 2008 the Sharks began the regular season entrenched in mediocrity before redeeming themselves by putting together remarkable winning streaks to close out the year, San Jose got its winning done early and often this season. The fifth-best start through 25 games in league history gave the

Sharks an insurmountable division lead and put them in prime position to finish first place in the competitive Western Conference.

As of late, however, the Sharks have slumped.

After impressive starts to the year, key forwards Patrick Marleau, Devin Setoguchi and Ryane Clowe have been consistently laying goose eggs in the goals department. All-Star goalie Evgeni Nabokov has looked surprisingly human and long-term injuries to Jeremy Roenick and Mike Grier have taken a toll on the team's leadership. Even assist machine Joe Thornton's passes have been errant and off the mark.

By default, pessimism reigns supreme among the Shark Tank's patrons. How can it not, with the Sharks having underachieved to second-round exits the past three postseasons after entering each of those playoff campaigns as the popular pick among media pundits to win it all?

While the fact that those same fickle-minded pundits are veering away from picking San Jose this postseason in light of the Sharks' recent doldrums, they should alleviate some of the pressure on the team. Unless the San Jose Sharks manage to recapture the lightning in a bottle they possessed earlier in the year, fans can expect hearty lumps of coal once again. ♦

GIRLS' TRACK

Dolbec pulls off 5'8" jump at K-Bell meet

by Nandini Ruparel

Though her appendix burst last April, effectively putting senior Kiersten Dolbec out of state contention in the high jump, Dolbec has recovered and is back for her last high school season. She is going to UC Santa Barbara on a full scholarship in the fall and wants to make the most of this final season.

So far, with the first meet of the year, the K-Bell Invitational, behind her, Dolbec is right on track. She placed first in the high jump, making a 5'8" jump.

"For me, it was less about getting first place and more about almost making the 5'10" jump," said Dolbec.

Dolbec wasn't the only success story. The first track meet went well for the Falcon girls in general, with many runners placing in the top 10.

Senior Katie Nast placed eighth in the varsity 3200m race with a time of 11:36.9. Fellow distance runner junior Karen Wai ran a 5:28.2 season-opening 1600m, landing her in 10th place.

The first track meet went well for the Falcon girls in general, with many runners placing in the top 10.

Meanwhile, in the long jump, senior Ashley Cole placed sixth, freshman Ailene Nguyen placed seventh and junior Sonya Brenner placed eighth. In the triple jump, Cole placed ninth.

In the 4x100 relay, seniors Katie and Claire Marsh, junior Danielle Conway and sophomore Shea Sullivan teamed up for a third place finish in 52.50. They came in on the heels of Archbishop Mitty, who placed second, and St. Francis, who placed first.

Junior Sarah Guy was unable to run with the team at the K-Bell meet and was replaced by Sullivan. Guy showed great promise her freshman year running a 58-second 400m; however, she was unable to participate in her sophomore year due to a back injury.

Many members of the track team, however, were not able to compete in the invitational due to SATs or NCL Presents. The full team was in attendance, though, at the West Valley Relays held at Westmont High School on March 21. Due to publication deadlines, the results of this meet could not be printed. ♦

SWIMMING

First swim meet shows promising season ahead

by Lauren Kuan and Tim Rollinson

Both the boys' and girls' swim teams began their seasons with dominating victories over Lynbrook at home on March 12.

The girls' 100m backstroke was the only varsity event that Saratoga lost and the girls' 50m freestyle was the only event in which no Falcon swimmer qualified for CCS.

"It's amazing how many people qualified for CCS at the first meet," said girls' coach Kristin Thomson. "We have never had that many at a first meet."

The boys' team, which placed second to Bellarmine at CCS last year, is led by seniors Ben Hinshaw, Matt Murray and Brad Murray.

The boys are looking to take the De Anza Division and CCS titles. The three dominated at the first meet, earning a cumulative five individual victories and contributing to all three relay wins.

Young talent has also surfaced for the boys. Sophomore Adam Hinshaw won the 200m and 500m freestyle races, and freshman Ian Burns dominated the 50m freestyle and finished second in the 100m freestyle.

The final score was a whopping 115-55 victory for the boys.

"The first meet went really well," said varsity coach Christian Bonner. "I have really high expectations for the rest of the year."

On the girls' side, juniors Elizabeth Murray, Lauren Opatrany and Megan Nolet led the team, winning a combined five individual events and each helping out on the relay teams.

Freshman Natalie Cheung and sophomore Caroline White each contributed a win in the 100m breaststroke and 50m freestyle, respectively. The final score for varsity girls was 118-61.

The highlight of the meet was not the individual events, but the relays.

Five of the six girls' relay teams and four of the six boys' teams made the CCS cutoff times.

Some of the highest level of competition came from two very unlikely swimmers; juniors Kyle Borch and Christine La made a splash in their first ever high school swim meet. Former track runners, La and Borch both made the transition to the pool this season.

Borch qualified for CCS in the 200m and 400m freestyle relays but narrowly missed the cut in the 100m and 200m freestyle, coming up two seconds short in both.

"I'm hoping to make CCS in an individual event," said Borch. "It was a rush making it on the relay team though."

La also qualified in the 200m freestyle and the 200m medley relay. She missed the CCS mark in the 50m and 100m freestyle by less than a second in both events.

"I was really nervous going into the meet," said La, "but nothing bad happened, which was a relief."

There were many other close calls throughout the day. Several swimmers missed CCS qualifications by as little as five one hundredths of a second but were told by coaches to keep their chins up, as this is only the first meet of the year.

Other CCS qualifiers include freshman Rebecca Chen for the 200 freestyle and the 100 butterfly, along with sophomores Debbie Lin in the 500 freestyle and Justin Chung in the 100 backstroke and the 200 freestyle relay.

Junior Norah Patzman also qualified for both the 200 and 400 freestyle relays and senior Erica Kumala qualified in the 100 freestyle.

The team swam against Los Gatos on March 20 but due to publication deadlines, results were not available for publication. ♦

BADMINTON



Theresa Yeh

Freshman Jennifer Yang executes her swing at a pre-season game against Oak Grove on March 17. The team currently has a strong 5-2 record against local schools.

New coach shifts focus to team spirit, match play

by Karen Lyu

High hopes and birdies are flying as the Falcons won five of seven preseason matches. The real test, however, will come on March 31 when the team plays Gunn High School in an El Camino league match. Gunn, who defeated Saratoga twice last year, is the team to beat.

"I think the real challenges will start coming once the real season begins," said senior Joyce Wu, who plays the No. 1 varsity girls doubles spot. "Playing Gunn as our first school will push our players to improve."

With new head coach John Phung at the helm, the team is proud of their progress and hopes to carry its momentum through the rest of the season. Phung's new strategy involves scrimmage games to prepare players for matches and to refine each player's skills.

Despite several preseason wins, the varsity badminton team is apprehensive about the impending season.

"Pre-season games [help] prepare the new players. By playing games against other teams, not only do they get to experience what a game is like, but [they] also [get to] find their weaknesses," said senior Chris Sirivoranunkul, who plays varsity boys doubles No. 2.

Because Saratoga is in the highest league and most of the matches are

against teams in lower leagues, the preseason games may not necessarily be indicators as to how season play will go. In that regard, they have a positive and negative effect on the team.

"Badminton consists of individual effort, so [whether we play a bad team or good team], we can work on things," said Sirivoranunkul. "In a way though, it also makes us feel better than we really are."

Others feel that the preseason games allow them to learn the rules and strategies of the competitive sport.

"I think it's great [because] we get more experience through playing," said senior Jennifer Li, JV girls doubles No. 1. "It's different from last year. Now we aren't so worn out from over-conditioning."

Phung has also made changes to the practice schedule. Instead of having grueling mandatory practices on each day of the week, the athletes are given Friday off because of the many players were unable to attend. Phung holds optional practices on Saturday mornings for all interested players. Phung also finds that a tight knit team is an important factor to train a winning team.

"I'd like to create an exciting and motivating environment in all of our practices and games," said Phung. "My ultimate goal is to have the team bond and care for one another." ♦

BOYS' TENNIS

Falcons bounce back from unexpected loss



Theresa Yeh

No. 1 singles player sophomore Nikhil Jayashankar hits a forehand in a match against Lynbrook on March 19. Jayashankar beat a tough opponent, senior Eugene Muchynski, helping propel the team to a 7-0 win.

by Kelly Lamble
and Mika Padmanabhan

Some would say that there is little pressure on the boys' varsity tennis team this year. After all, they will not be competing for the CCS title as a result of the team's suspension for failing to appear at NorCals last year.

However, doubts are now surfacing as a result of the boys' second place finish at the Fresno Tournament.

The team lost a tough match 4-3 to Monte Vista, but defeated Palo Alto. Palo Alto in turn beat Monte Vista, leading to a three-way tie, broken by counting the number of individual matches each team lost.

"In Fresno, we tied for first place with two other teams, but they gave us second because they narrowed it down to who won the most games," said sophomore No. 1 singles player Nikhil Jayashankar.

As a result of this finish, the Falcons are looking to prove themselves in any way they can—which means winning the De Anza League championship.

The regular season hasn't really picked up yet, but the team is settling into their new line-up. The most significant difference is that junior Michael McGinnis,

who played No. 3 singles last year, is playing No. 1 doubles this year due to a recurring back injury.

At this point, in order to manage his pain, he is only able to practice a few times a week. Doubles is proving a good solution as he can still get out on the courts without oversteering his back.

In the first league match of the season on March 17, the boys defeated Monta Vista 5-2.

In the second match against Lynbrook on March 19, the Falcons dominated, taking home a 7-0 win. Jayashankar pulled out a tough three-setter against Lynbrook's Eugene Muchynski, who is going to Santa Clara University on scholarship next year. Jayashankar came through with a 10-5 victory in the third-set tiebreaker.

Sophomore No. 2 singles player Deepak Sabada almost faltered in his undefeated streak in a close match, but he came out on top 10-7 in the third-set tiebreaker.

"The season has gone really well for me so far," said Sabada. "I'm excited to play No. 2 singles this year, especially since I haven't lost a match yet."

Next up on the schedule is Palo Alto on March 31. Although the boys beat Palo Alto in Fresno, Palo Alto took the title so the boys are hoping to avenge their disappointment in Fresno by defeating the Vikings. ♦

LACROSSE

Teams begin regular season, take on experienced opponents

by Ashley Chou
and Ben Clement

Preseason games are over. No more practice scrimmages. No more friendly competition. And definitely no more room for doubt. With the arrival of spring, both lacrosse teams now face their first and probably toughest season in history.

The preseason brought home a mix of results, ranging from highly motivating to completely crushing. In their last two scrimmages on March 11 and 13, the boys experienced a rollercoaster of future implications.

Playing on Falcon turf, the boys' varsity team beat Pacific Collegiate in overtime with a score of 8-7. Shortly after their victory over Pacific Collegiate, the boys played their last preseason game against Los Gatos on March 13, with a home field advantage. The team lost 12-1; however, players said the score inaccurately depicts the difference in skill.

At the end of the first quarter, the score was 3-1 with Los Gatos in the lead, with both defense and offense playing a clean game. In the second quarter, the Falcon offense made continually poor decisions, resulting in a score of 8-1 at the end of the half. The Falcons had roughly four power play opportunities in the second half. Had the offense held onto the ball and scored on those four plays, the game would have been much closer.

Following another poor offensive play at the start of the second half, the coaches removed the first-string players and

played the second—and third—stringers for the rest of the half. Los Gatos kept in the majority of its starters and only scored four more goals.

"Had we played the rest of the game like we did the first quarter, it would have been a much closer game," said head coach Nathan Zanon. "Los Gatos has more players who have played lacrosse before; however, talent-wise, they really don't have much of an edge."

While the boys have received mixed emotions about their ability to succeed, the girls' lacrosse team has been able to

face their losses with less disappointment, since they don't have the same stress as being in an official league.

Their loss against Burlingame High School on March 9, 14-2, was seen as more of a win due to

the two goals they were able to score—their first of the season.

Their following two-week period of no scheduled games allowed the girls to further work on their defensive skills and learn more offensive strategies.

While the girls continued two weeks of rigorous training, the boys played Menlo on March 17 in their first season game but lost 19-2. Competition against Menlo was extremely tough because the Menlo-Palo Alto area has had lacrosse teams for the longest period of time in the Bay Area.

The boys also played Mountain View High on March 23 and Archbishop Mitty on March 25, and the girls against The Harker School on March 24, but due to publishing deadlines, the scores could not be printed. ♦



Jordan Waitt

Junior midfielder Andrew Lee takes the face off vs. the Mountain View Spartans March 6.

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BOYS' TRACK



Amanda Yi

Junior Nick Olsen runs the 1600m race during a meet against Homestead on March 19.

Varsity's K-Bell struggles start season on bad note

by Kelly Lamble

The boys' varsity track team got off to a less than perfect start on March 14 at the K-Bell Invitational, which hosted athletes from 33 schools. The first races of the season are always a little rusty, and this meet proved no different.

Sprints started off the day with senior Phil Chen and junior Trevor Teerlink finishing 20th and 24th, respectively, in the competitive 100m dash. Teerlink also competed in the 200m dash where he placed 14th, 16 spots ahead of senior teammate Michael Beam.

Things improved for the team as the day progressed with the distance events. Senior Kian Banks placed sixth in the 800m, but was disappointed with that finish and his time of 2:01.21, in light of the 1:57.16 he ran just a few weeks ago. Senior Alan Menezes competed in the 1600m, placing ninth in 4:34.94. Junior Nick Olsen came in 34th in the same race.

"It was a rough start for some people, but overall it looks like we are going to have a good season," said Menezes.

In his final track season, Menezes has one main goal.

"I want to break the 4:15 school record

for the 1600m," said Menezes. "It's not expected but [setting the school record] would be cool."

Although the varsity team struggled, the frosh-soph boys enjoyed some success. Freshman Harry Curtis placed seventh in the frosh-soph 800m race with a time of 2:10.93. Curtis ran again later in the day, finishing 15th in the 1600m. He broke the infamous 5:00 mark, coming in at 4:59.10.

Sophomore Garrick Chan also ran the frosh-soph 800m race, placing 25th. He was happy with his results because of the early stage in the season and because he has been coping with shin splints. Likewise, sophomore Kyle Fukui placed 25th in the 1600m frosh-soph event.

In the frosh-soph field events, sophomore Eric Chuang placed 10th and 12th in the long jump and high jump, respectively.

Saratoga's highest place of the day came in the frosh-soph shot put, thanks to freshman Brando Oliveri-O'Connor, who placed second.

The boys also competed in the West Valley Relays on March 21 but the results of this event were unable to be printed due to publication deadlines. ♦

BOYS' VOLLEYBALL

Team remains upbeat despite losing streak

New players try to fill in the gaps left by graduates

by Sulmaan Hassan
and Amanda Yi

After some significant changes this year, the volleyball team has lost its first five matches of the regular season.

Saratoga lost to St. Ignatius and Sacred Heart Prep in five games each, with Sacred Heart Prep winning by a mere two points. Westmont, Willow Glen and Los Gatos also defeated the Falcons at home in three games.

"We lost the first five games, but then again we did move up a division this year and all of the teams in this division, in a way, are CCS candidates," said senior setter Shawyon Malek. "At least there's good competition."

Along with moving up a division, another reason for the team's tough start is the graduation of last year's talented seniors.

"After last year, we lost five starting seniors, so it's definitely a year for me, Kevin [Fongson], and all this year's seniors to really step up our game and lead the team," said Malek, who is the team's co-captain alongside senior hitter Fongson.

The team has added five new play-

ers: senior Ryan Pak, juniors Nathan Kim and Daniel Chou, sophomore Garrett Huening and freshman Steven Sun.

"We're a really new team," said Malek. "Pak has been playing [volleyball] for three weeks and he's our starting middle. So that's an example of how new we are this year."

Pak, who was the boys' basketball captain this year, decided to try something new this season.

"[Ryan] is pretty much an all around athlete," said Chou. "Whatever he plays he's pretty much good at."

In order to improve, the boys will need to work on playing as a team and spreading the ball around. However, they do have a strong point that they hope will help them this season, Malek said.

"Our back row people can get stuff off the floor, so our defense is pretty good," said Malek, "but we need to step up our game and learn from our mistakes."

Even so, the team hasn't given up hope.

"We're going to win games, there's no doubt about that. The only thing is, our competition is much more difficult this year than it was last year," said Malek. "There's no doubt we'll get better. We're getting better every day." ♦

"We need to step up our game and learn from our mistakes."

—senior Shawyon Malek

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Falcon assassins walk amongst student population

Thirty-two minutes into the game, sophomore Anna Shen was "dead." The weapon of choice? A plastic, white Solo-brand fork wielded by Shen's gleeful assassin, junior Robin Liu.

Since its inception on March 4, an assassin game involving staff members of *The Falcon* has consumed the lives of its participants. Seldom is a staff member seen without a fork in their hand and, if they are, it's safe to assume they won't be alive much longer.

Organized by junior staff members Brian Kim and Annie Lee, the game is based on a rather simple set of rules, but has incited intense rivalries between staff members. Each participant received a fork and an e-mail with the name of another person on staff to "kill." Tagging one's target with a fork results in a kill, as long as the target is not holding their fork and as long as the kill does not occur within the confines of the Journalism room or a school bathroom. Once a kill is validated by Kim, the assassin's new target becomes that of the person they "killed."

"It's gotten to the point where it's so intense that in order to survive you have to constantly be on the hunt and choose your alliances carefully," said senior School Scope editor Holden Sparacino, one of the handful of members still alive.

Some people are more tenacious than others.

"I've already killed two people," said senior editor-in-chief Dorey Schranz. "And that's just the beginning."

Senior TT Tu works to ensure success of BAY Magazine

With graduation nearing, Bay Area Magazine's original staff of senior students is about to face some inevitable changes. Editor-in-chief TT Tu has decided to establish a way for his masterpiece to continue its cycles of production after he leaves for college.

"I don't want to give too much away, but I can say that I am looking for three people to take over my position," he said. "There will be a standard editor-in-chief, a separate creative director to be in charge of layout and a business manager who will be responsible for finance-related matters."

Tu hopes the new leaders of this staff, as well as new editors for the specific sections, will be assembled and decided upon in time for a fall issue and hopes that current juniors will apply for these positions.

He still hopes to leave his mark and continue to make an impact on BAY Magazine, a free seasonal publication that covers the South Bay and is targeted toward young adults.

"As I go off to college, I think I will still over see it, since, considering the amount of effort I put in, it would seem weird for me to just leave."

Tu believes he will aid the magazine through the transition and provide more stability before it can stand on its own.

"It is definitely something that I will miss," said Tu. "The original staff and I have grown a lot since the beginning. It will be sad to see them leave for college."

—by Gautham Ganesan and Mary Mykhaylova

FALCON FREEZE FRAME



Melody Zhang



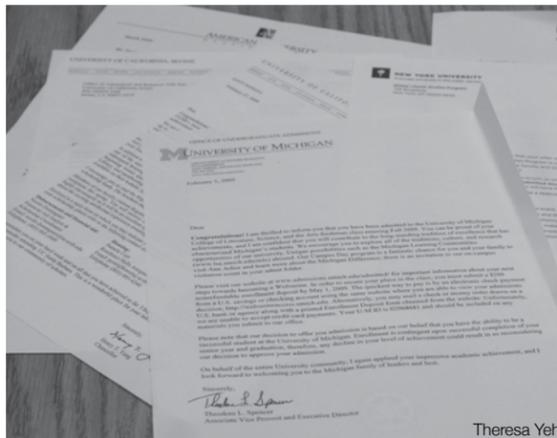
Neyha Bhat



Amanda Yi



Neyha Bhat



Theresa Yeh

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: **ON TRIAL** JUDGE DEBORAH A. RYAN PRESIDES OVER THE DUI TRIAL ON MARCH 13. **LUCK OF THE IRISH** SENIORS KATHY KOO AND SONALI DUJARI SHOW THEIR SPIRIT BY DRESSING UP ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY. **GIRLS JUST WANT TO HAVE FUN** JUNIORS JORDAN LEONARD AND SAM LI DRESS UP FOR FIELD HOCKEY BONDING. **GOOD NEWS** MANY SENIORS ARE STARTING TO ACCUMULATE LETTERS OF ACCEPTANCE. **SHAKALAKA BABY** INDIAN CLUB MEMBERS PRACTICE THE ALL GIRLS DANCE FOR THEIR UPCOMING SHOW ON MARCH 19.

TOPTEN

WAYS TO GET A PROM DATE

- 10 Make her an adorable sign and surprise her,
- 9 Have her best friend ask her because you're too afraid... Girly man.
- 8 Ask her over Facebook/text/IM.
- 7 Just like a middle-schooler. Ask her mom if you can take her daughter.
- 6 It's good to know you look up to Napoleon
- 6 Sneak into her room and "surprise" her ... Creeper.
- 5 Tell her you love her, and pretend you do
- 4 Decorate her car.
- 3 She'll probably say no after she flips out.
- 3 Buy her a diamond necklace.
- 2 ~~Culture~~ trip trouble if she says no.
- 1 Just what a girl would do. Forget it, you're too ugly.

—by Ben Clement and Sulmaan Hassan

Never again will I watch another scary movie



Karen Lyu

I'm not a loser.

I've never ever experienced the joy or thrill others obviously get from watching horror movies. What can possibly be so intriguing about a two-hour movie that makes you lose two days of sleep? It doesn't make any sense to me. So, last month, I took it upon myself to venture into a quest that would provide me with all the answers. Of course, I had to have a witness of my bravery. That's how my friend and I became the next victims of "The Unborn."

The Flashback

Ever since I was forced to watch "Resident Evil," I've rejected all possible contact with anything even mildly creepy—and high budget horror movies with gruesome images of

mangled body parts can't really be described as "mild;" it's more in the "panic" zone on my radar.

The movie, which told the story of several survivors stuck in a quarantined city infested with ugly, flesh-eating zombies, left a lasting impression on me. It took me a really long time to get over it. I remember very clearly my embarrassing attempts to drag someone to the bathroom with me in the middle of the night, and my also very shameful practices of falling asleep with all the lights on in my room (and the rest of the house), habits that stayed with me for months.

The Quest

OK, so I lied. In fact, I hadn't even really wanted to see "The Unborn." I was brought to the movie theater against my will, complaining all the while that I'd rather watch Owen Wilson wrestle a disobedient dog. I was secretly crying inside. My friend, however, thought I was kidding when I informed him of how "brave" I was and overruled my vetoes. I reluctantly walked into the theater and chose a seat close

to the emergency exit, a crucial detail in my escape plans. The lights dimmed. I chewed the inside of my cheek.

I hated it. Big surprise. People were mutilated and realities twisted.

It became so that everyday things, like mirrors and wind chimes, could announce the presence of the supernatural.

The Aftermath

After the movie, I couldn't look into any mirrors for a while, which led to somewhat interesting morning routines. Nor could I drive by myself at night or avoid jumping at the tiniest creak in my house. I started sleeping with my lights all on again. And kids? So not cute anymore.

I guess I've recovered a little since it's been a while.

According to my research, excluding the parts where I covered my eyes, I've concluded that scary movies are completely pointless. Threatening or bribing me won't help. From now on, I am determined to protect myself from monsters and the other shadows of the big screen. ♦