

what's inside >>

THE

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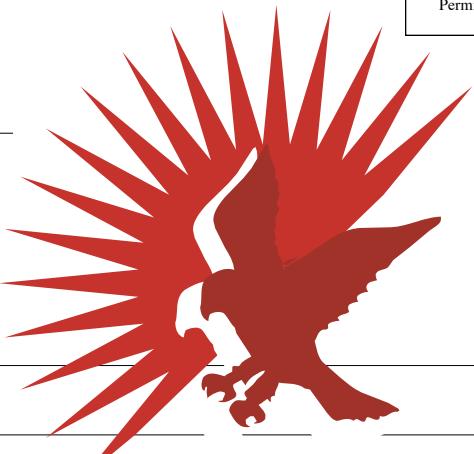
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Are you buried in college applications?



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Wondering what to do or be for Halloween?



Vo. 51 >> Issue 3 >> Friday, October 29, 2010 >> Saratoga High School >> Saratoga, CA >> saratogafalcon.org

SARATOGA 21, LOS GATOS 17

VICTORY AT LAST!



Clockwise from left: Senior running back Greg Johnson shows his excitement over the Falcons' first victory over Los Gatos in 27 years. The team poses for an after-game celebratory photo shoot on the field. Junior running back Troy Doles evades the Wildcat defense at the 40 yard line. Doles had a touchdown and made a clutch interception to secure the win.

FALCON // JORDAN WAITE & DAVID ENG

FALCONS DEFEAT CATS TO END 27-YEAR STREAK

BY Karthik Annaamalai & Abhishek Venkataramana

Within seconds of the game clock expiring, the green turf of the Benny Pierce field was replaced with a sea of red, as students and alumni flooded the field, screaming and chanting in celebration of the Falcons' first regular season victory over Los Gatos since 1982. The Falcons managed to end the 27-year streak in a thrilling 21-17 victory over the Wildcats under the Friday night lights on Oct. 22.

"This is amazing right now," said senior captain and starting linebacker Marcus Hoffman, just moments after the game. "Words can't describe what I'm feeling. It's surreal."

After taking over the head coaching job just three years ago, coach Tim Lugo managed to do what seemed to be the impossible. For him, the game meant more than just another victory for his team.

"I'm excited for the players because they no longer have to listen to everyone asking when it's going to happen," said Lugo. "Everyone doubts our guys every year, but this year they showed the school that they could do it. I'm speechless, but I knew they could win."

The rivalry for this year's match-up between the Falcons and the Wildcats intensified even before the teams even took

>> VICTORY on pg. 20

WHY THIS HISTORIC WIN SHOULD (AND WILL) BOOST SCHOOL SPIRIT

BY Anoop Galivanche & Tim Rollinson

Let's face it: It's been a long 27 years for Saratoga football. As Saratoga students grew increasingly indifferent to the football program due to mediocre results, the program fell into a self-perpetuating slump that seemingly bogged down players, causing failures that only served to further alienate the fans.

The side effect of this downward spiral was most apparent on one night every year: the rivalry game between Saratoga and Los Gatos. Since the regular season of 1982, Saratoga has continually fallen victim to the Wildcats—until last Friday,

that is. The team from Los Gatos walked off the field defeated. One player's eyes filled with tears. He had no idea what hit him.

The rivalry was not always so one-sided. In the '60s, '70s and early '80s, Toga held its own as a football powerhouse. Benny Pierce started his coaching career at Saratoga in 1959 as the JV coach. In 33 seasons as head coach of varsity Pierce never had a losing season. His teams won 21 league or section championships. His 1980 team went undefeated and finished the season ranked in the top 10 nationally. His 1987 team beat three undefeated

>> HISTORY on pg. 20

>> online extra

For full-length articles and photo slideshows from the game last Friday, visit www.saratogafalcon.org

>> did you know?

In 1997, the Falcon football team won CCS but still managed to lose to Los Gatos in the regular season.

REDUCING STRESS

Board to vote on pre-break finals schedule

BY Lillian Chen & Nandini Ruparel

The school board is on its way to deciding whether the school should have finals before or after winter break for the school year of 2011-2012, according to school officials.

"There is a great momentum to [have finals before break]," said assistant principal Brian Safine. The school board decided to distribute a survey last December and discovered much support for the plan, according to the district website.

For many students, having finals and then a break to relax would be beneficial, allowing them to have some time off before second semester starts.

"It would be really nice for students and teachers to be done in December with a real break," said principal Jeff Anderson. "Both students and teachers could start fresh after the December break. This is something we can control that can help with students' stress."

Many students also prefer having finals in December.

"I think it's good that we would get to actually relax during our winter break. We won't have to stress over studying for finals, and we can go on vacation being relaxed," said junior Rachel Le.

Many schools around the Bay Area follow a schedule of having finals before winter break. A high school in San Rafael

>> FINALS on pg. 6

>> upcoming events

Oct. 29 String Orchestra Concert

The orchestra will perform with Lynbrook in the McAfee today at 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 2 General Elections

Seniors, do your part and vote.

Nov. 8 Women's Choral Concert

Come enjoy those angelic voices in the McAfee at 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 11 Veterans' Day

No school... on a Thursday!

inside THE falcon

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29 seniors qualify as National Merit Semifinalists

This year, 56 seniors qualified as commended scholars and 29 students as semifinalists in the National Merit Competition.

The National Merit Competition is based solely on how students do on the PSAT, which is taken in fall of junior year. Semifinalists, who are the top 1 percent of the all entries nationwide, will submit an application for the chance to become finalists. Students who become finalists will receive scholarship money if the student chooses a college that honors the National Merit recognition, according to assistant principal Brian Safine.

"[Becoming a National Merit semifinalist] has opened a lot more options for college. I've started looking at a wider selection of colleges that gives the National Merit scholarship," said semifinalist senior Carina Chu.

Throughout the years, the number of SHS students who qualify as semifinalists has remain constant in the high 20s, with 27 seniors qualifying last year. However, in comparison to the scores of other high schools across the nation, the scores of Saratoga High students are extraordinary, said Safine.

"What's most impressive is how Saratoga High School compares to the rest of the country in this regard," said Safine. "We have 29 [semifinalists], which is about ten times the number of an average high school. That is very, very remarkable."

A recognition breakfast for semifinalists and commended students and their families was held Oct. 20.

— Vivian LeTran

English teacher gives birth to baby boy

Around 6 p.m. on Oct. 8, English teacher Natasha Ritchie gave birth to her first baby at Sutter Maternity Center in Santa Cruz. The boy, Cooper Riley, weighed in at about 7 pounds.



"The baby is growing stronger each day," said Ritchie.

According to Ritchie, the transition from teaching to caring for the baby went relatively smoothly.

"It is hard to let go of my teaching responsibilities for the time being," said Ritchie, "but caring for a newborn is certainly a full-time job, and then some."

Prior to the birth Ritchie and her husband took birth and infant care classes and purchased "baby gear."

Ritchie plans to return to SHS and resume teaching after Thanksgiving Break. Her English classes mean that she will have a large amount of grading to complete upon her return, a task she knows "will be tough."

The biggest obstacle now is trying not to be an anxious parent, according to Ritchie.

"Cooper is so small; it's easy to worry about him," said Ritchie. "However, we are adjusting and feeling more comfortable already."

— Paul Jung

Band washed out by rain at Gilroy competition

The marching band began its season on Oct. 23 with a competition at Gilroy High School. As rain poured, band members struggled with the conditions and scored 77.5 out of 100 and place last among the four schools in their division.

The 2010 marching band show is entitled "Thought Crime," loosely based on George Orwell's novel "1984," depicting a fictional totalitarian state. The show uses a number of props such as scaffolds and ramps that debuted in the band's performance at the Los Gatos football game the night before. The rain, however, meant they could not use these props. Additionally, the rain forced the band to remain on buses and then hastily warm up for the performance.

The competition included Saratoga's long-time competitors James Logan, Homestead and Amador Valley. All three rival schools had previously competed in the Cupertino Tournament of Bands, which Saratoga was unable to attend because of Homecoming.

Although the rain may have dampened the band's uniforms, it did not dampen the spirit of director Seth Jones. Jones said he received excellent feedback that will allow him to push the band further along in coming weeks. With the addition of the props, Jones hopes to make the upcoming competitions much more successful.

"I'm optimistic because nobody has seen the entire production," said Jones. "I think everybody is excited to see our final product."

—Anshu Srivapu and Justine Huang

October 29, 2010

>> picture this



FALCON // DAVID ENG

Seniors Grace Kim, Jason Shiuan, Michelle Wang and Chris Chung and sophomores Evelyn Lee and Sasan Saadat line up to take a picture at the Saratoga-Lynbrook Homecoming game on Oct. 8 after the Homecoming Court was announced. Kim and Lee were Homecoming princesses; Shiuan, Chung and Saadat were princes, and Wang won Homecoming Queen.

>> falconfigures

1997 The first year the government administered the STAR test

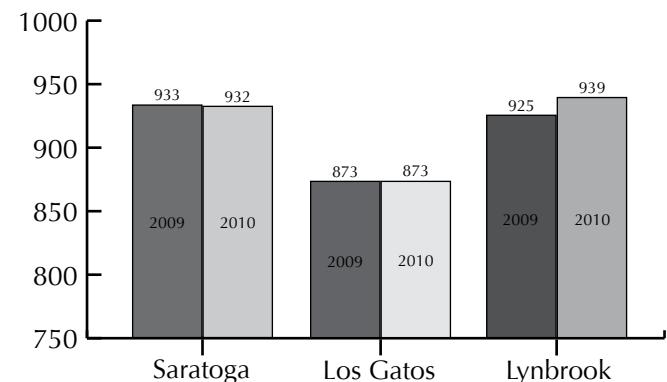
990 The number of Saratoga students included in the API calculation

800 The California Statewide API target, out of 1000 points

1-10 The range of the API Statewide Rank. 10 means the school's API fell in the top 10% (Saratoga got a 10)

— Michael Lee

API Scores for Various High Schools (2009-10)



SOURCE: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/>

Technician unveils green thumb

BY JackieGu

On a Thursday afternoon, school technician Spencer Sands retreats to his garden after a hard day at work and surveys the blooming patch of land behind the art building. He decides to plant a new row of tomatoes, enjoying the feel of raw earth



Sands

between his fingers and unfiltered sunlight on his face. His better-known image as school technology guru contrasts sharply with this one, but trading computer motherboards for squash was easy to do with the newly formed Garden Club.

"Gardening is one of my favorite things to do," he said. "I grew up in a rural area, where weekends were really devoted to yard work, so it's something I miss living in the valley."

This is Sands' third year at the school as a technician, though he is currently in pursuit of an elementary school teaching credential. His day-to-day job consists of helping to maintain all campus technology and fixing any blips that should arise—which they often do, according to Sands.

He and Julie Grenier, the overall technology coordinator, are the two caretakers for the school's networks and technology.

"We do everything from fix-

ing computers to building up the school's network and programming routers," said Grenier. "There's a lot of manual work, too. It's everything you could possibly think to do with technology."

Grenier is more in charge of the programming aspect, while Sands often takes care of the mechanical labor. Similar to the manual process of taking apart a computer to fix it, the maintenance of a flourishing garden requires much care and attention to minute detail.

"The kids water the gardens regularly," Sands said. "We collect the green waste from the cafeteria and use the compost accordingly as well. It's a lot of fun getting out there and

falcon focus

>> Spencer Sands

moving dirt around."

The idea for the Garden Club blossomed last year between Sands and special education teacher Cabot Weaver. Conveniently, senior Carolyn Kobara approached Sands at the same time with a similar idea for the club. Now president of the six-member club, Kobara is in charge of organizing the monthly meetings and maintaining the overall health of the garden.

"We're a pretty small club, but what we do is fun," said Kobara.

Sands had been inspired to start the club by Weaver's life

lab special education classes held outdoors. He decided to integrate one of his personal hobbies into school life while simultaneously broadening the horizon of clubs for students.

"Not enough people know about it right now," Sands said. "We started it pretty recently and the PTSO gave us as grant to get us going. The more kids that are involved, the more people are willing to give us money to fund it."

As of now the garden consists of four beds. With a second grant from the PTSO, the club aspires to enlarge not just its membership but garden dimensions as well.

"We want to plant some more trees, and a winter garden would be great," said Sands. "We had a lot of vegetables over the summer, and we gave them to the office staff that had to work in the summer."

Though gardening is one of Sands' favorite hobbies, he has a diverse palate of other interests as well.

"I play the bass and piano, though I can also play a bit of ukulele and trumpet," said Sands. "I started playing the bass in 7th grade, and it just became something I love."

Despite this, Sands has a clear affinity for the outdoors, making it seem interesting that his actual job requires him to stay under a roof.

"I also love to surf and try to get out at least once a week," Sands said with a smile. "I like technology, don't get me wrong, but what can I say? I'm a man of many hobbies." ◆



Seniors are...

Buried in College Apps

KYUMIN SHIM

Senior's portfolio shows artistic skill

BY Karen Yang

After spending five long weeks in the ceramics room, senior Emi Ichikawa breathes a sigh of relief as she adds the finishing touches to her clay vase. Hexagonal at the base, the functional work of art depicts six flat panels ornately decorated with alternating flat and folded Japanese fans, showcasing not only her Japanese heritage but also her creative ability. Despite her immense accomplishment, Ichikawa knows that this piece is just another addition to her portfolio, which she must complete for her college application.

In addition to writing personal statements, prospective art students are required to prepare a portfolio that displays at least 10 pieces of their best and most recent artwork. From paintings to pottery, Ichikawa has tried to create a portfolio that consists of artworks of all different types of mediums.

"I'm just trying to make as many pieces as I can," said Ichikawa, "a whole variety of different kinds of art."

Ichikawa has decided to apply to only two art schools, Otis College of Art and Design in Los Angeles and California College of the Arts in San Francisco. Her remaining college list is comprised of schools that have a strong art program.

Although Ichikawa has always had a

strong interest in art, she became determined to pursue art in college and started her portfolio only last year.

"As a child, I've always liked art, but I didn't really decide on going to art college until last year when I actually got serious about art," she said.

However, with the pressure of finishing her portfolio added to the already stressful college application process, Ichikawa struggles to invest an equal amount of effort in the essays and in the portfolio. The essays are due in the winter, while the deadline for portfolio submissions is in February.

"It's kind of hard because I feel like I should be focusing more on the normal applications, because they're due sooner, but at the same time, I'm procrastinating on the art ones, because that's all due soon," said Ichikawa. "It's really hard."

To complete both aspects of her college applications on time, Ichikawa has created a schedule that allocates time for both the art and the essay portion. She focuses on adding pieces to her portfolio on the weekends while spending time to write her personal statement on weekends.

"During weekdays, I do school work which is something I don't really want to do, and then I have art, which is something I look forward to," said Ichikawa.

Like Ichikawa, senior Abby Frankola



FALCON // VIVIAN LETRAN

Senior Emi Ichikawa works diligently on a vase for her portfolio in the ceramics room.

must also balance her time to write her essays and to prepare a portfolio for a major in industrial design and art and design. Although she has been focusing on finishing her essays, she still manages to find time every day to sketch and time on the weekends to design projects.

"Putting together a portfolio is difficult," said Frankola. "You constantly have to worry about what a college is looking for and whether each piece is strong both technically and compositionally in addition to being a strong piece of art. It's kind of stressful."

The process of compiling a portfolio is even further lengthened by additional

requirements from individual schools. Some schools require specific types of pieces while others require portfolio reviews in person, said Frankola, who will be flying to Pittsburgh to showcase her portfolio to Carnegie Mellon.

Frankola appreciates that she can display her works in a creative way. Her favorite piece is a paper lamp resembling coral that when illuminated gives the illusion of having a unique texture.

"It adds an extra step and some stress to college admissions," said Frankola. "Doing a portfolio for college is definitely a daunting task, but hopefully it will be worth it." ♦

An insider's guide to college applications

BY David Eng

Who said senior year was easy? As October rolls to a close and dreaded college application due dates draw closer, the life of a senior becomes increasingly hectic. But what is it about the college apps season that causes this frenzy?

Word has it that the college application process is a lengthy, strenuous and time-consuming endeavor. Given the college application's multi-faceted nature, with components ranging from college essays to letters of recommendation, this description is not far from the truth.

How's college apps season 2010?

Last year, the school sent 99 percent of its graduates to college, well above the national average of 70.1 percent. In the past five years, Saratoga High has never graduated a class with fewer than three-quarters of its students en route to a four-year college.

The brunt of this heavy lifting is taken up by the guidance department, a team of four counselors, a registrar (Jeanne Jamieson), a guidance secretary (Sharon Fong) and the College and Career Center coordinator (Bonnie Sheikh).

Judging from the school's track record as a college-prep powerhouse, this "hard work" endured by the guidance depart-

ment and others is not going to waste.

"Writing college essays hasn't been as confusing as it's cut out to be," senior Harshil Sahai said. "I mean, the office does a great job of telling us what to do and when to do it. They give us forms for teacher recs, counselor recs, transcripts, etc."

Do college essays always spell trouble?

A word to the wise from Sahai: Start writing college essays before it is too late. For some seniors, the hardest part about the college essay is just getting started.

"It's definitely hard to motivate myself to get essays finished for applications," said senior David Wang. Even when a student does get the ball rolling on writing essays, each paper still consumes a significant amount of time.

"I haven't finished my essays yet, but I usually just write the first things that come to my mind in maybe two to three hours," said Sahai. "I have to chisel down, add more, rephrase, reorganize. The whole process for me is no less than three to four weeks for a solid essay."

Need recommendation for that letter?

In the college application process, one component certainly sets students apart from one another: the letter of rec.

"It gives a private college a more detailed, a more nuanced look of a student, both who they are a person, who they are academically, what they're involved in," said Safine.

Despite the letter of rec's apparent importance, it hardly seems plausible that a college admissions staff would have the time or the resources to scour the teacher opinions of every applicant. However, Safine says otherwise.

"A lot of private schools have quite large admissions staffs and they 'll actually sit around and review everything in a student's packet. Private colleges really put a lot of weight on teacher opinions, administrator or counselor opinions as they're making a decision," he said.

Many current seniors are aware

that a letter of rec may be the difference between being admitted and being turned down by the school of their choice. For this reason, they advise a very circumspect approach in selecting teachers.

"In my opinion, it's better to choose a teacher who you bonded with better because they can put some substance into the letter, instead of general comments like 'great grades, hard worker,'" said Wang.

Senior Shai Segal offers similar sentiments, asserting that blindly selecting a teacher based solely on academic performance may not be the best way to go. He selected his English 11 and AP Chemistry teachers because he knew them well already.

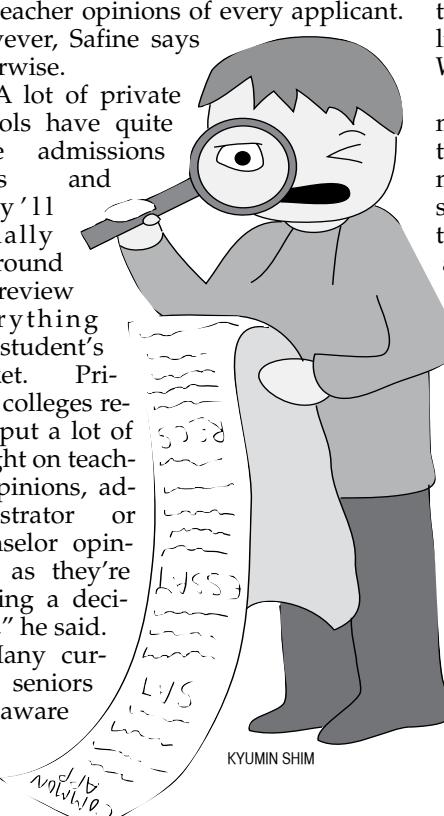
All in all, the letter of rec is a valuable tool in the admissions process.

"Some schools that are popular with our students accept either less than 10 or less than 20 percent of the students who apply. The letters can go a long way in terms of defining a student's status," said Safine.

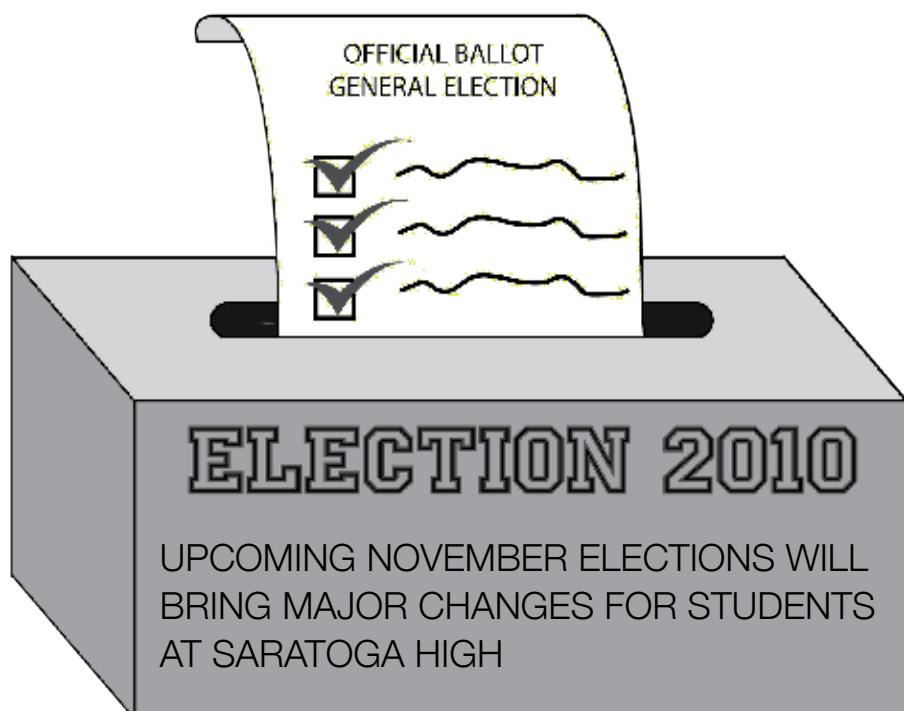
In the end...

No matter how fervently students may try to gain admission into the colleges of their choice, in the end, it comes down to which is the best fit. College applications are just minor hurdles in the expansive canvas of higher education.

"I'd imagine college life is pretty amazing," said Sahai. ♦



KYUMIN SHIM



Working the polls

BY Mac Hyde

On election day, Saratoga voters will find some fresh faces assisting them in the great democratic process.

Seniors in history teacher Kirk Abe's government classes are being offered the chance to staff the polls at voting centers around the area on Nov. 2. Not only is this a great way to get newly minted voters interested in voting, but it is a chance for students to see how democracy actually works, Abe said.

"It gives students an opportunity to see what it's like, firsthand, how the system works," said Abe. "A lot of people don't know how it works; they think it's one thing or another, but they realize that actually it's not as pretty as what people think, but [the voting process] is

essential to democracy."

The students' duties include checking in and assisting voters. In the past, workers often helped people work the voting machines. In exchange for their time, they will earn \$95 for a full day or \$47.50 for a half day, plus extra credit in government class. If the students are bilingual, they will be paid an additional \$5.

Abe cautions, "a full day is longer than just eight hours. They help set up the night before, get there before they open and have to be there past closing. [The day is] closer to 12 hours."

He hopes the students will take away much from this experience and garner "a better understanding of the voting process and to see democracy in action in their community." ♦

School board elections get competitive

BY Deborah Soung

After the Nov. 2 elections, the Saratoga Union School District and the Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District will each welcome three new members to their school board. In each district, four candidates will vie for three open seats.

The SUSD serves Redwood Middle School as well as Argonaut, Foothill and Saratoga elementary schools. The LGSUHSD includes Los Gatos High School and Saratoga High School.

School board members aim to create positive educational environments for students while taking into account the varying ideas of the community by setting the overall direction of the superintendent, who creates goals and operations overseen by the school board, according to Jack Chang, a previous member of the SUSD school board.

The election promises to be competitive since all candidates carry impressive resumes. For example, LGSUHSD candidate Doug Ramezane was the principal of Los Gatos High School for four years and spent 11 years as an administrator there before retiring in recent years. The other candidates running for the LGSUHSD school board are Neil Green, a parent and member of the LGHS New Millennium Foundation, Michele Van Zuiden, an incumbent, a member of the LGHS New Millennium Foundation board and a previous member of the Los Gatos Educational Foundation, and Cynthia Chang, who is currently serving her 12th year on the board.

The candidates running for the SUSD school board are Paige Berardo, Patty Buchanan, Michael Gipe and Ashley Chao. Berardo holds the 2010 Volunteer of the Year award from the

SUSD Association of School District Administrators, and Buchanan was appointed in April as a trustee of the school board.

Recent budget woes have been the major topic of discussion for most candidates, as the economy has challenged school boards to maintain the quality of school programs while spending prudently.

"More than 80 percent of the general budget is used for employee compensation, and the last thing we want to do is lose teaching staff," said Ramezane.

Though budget problems in LGSUHSD are severe, SUSD candidates are not as concerned with this issue.

"We are one of only a few school districts in our state that have been able to maintain a 20 to 1 ratio in spite of the economic challenges of the past couple of years," said Buchanan, who has taught elementary and middle school

>> THE big idea

Spots Available: 3 on each board**SUSD School Board Candidates:** Michael Gipe, Paige Berardo, Ashley Chao and Patty Buchanan**LGSUHSD School Board Candidates:** Cynthia Chang, Doug Ramezane, Neil Green and Michele Van Zuiden

in Saratoga.

If elected, candidates say they will implement innovative ideas. One of Berardo's goals is to expand the horizons of students early on.

"I want to [improve] preparation for the global community," said Berardo, whose three children have attended the English school system, which has "the benefits of a curriculum that encompasses a more global world-view." ♦

>> togatalks

What is one issue you care about this election season?

I am against the legalization of marijuana. I feel it will increase the usage among underage youth.



junior Akash Kar

I think it would benefit the community to vote no on measure Q.



junior Kelsey Owyang

I am for the legalization of marijuana because from Econ class, we learned of its [economic] benefits.



senior Ricky Chiu

Prop 19 gets mixed reviews

BY Evaline Ju

For decades, politicians and activists have debated the legalization of marijuana. Consequently, the details of Prop 19 on this year's November election have sparked controversy. The final decision will affect communities all over the state, including Saratoga. Although small, the city has had its share of dealings with marijuana, as seen in the crackdown of drug use and sales in school last March.

If passed, Prop 19 will reverse the federal Marijuana Tax Act of 1937 that banned the drug, thus allowing anyone over 21 to possess, grow or transport it for personal use. Additionally, the state can regulate and place taxes on the drug.

At SHS, students possess a wide array of views on the possible legalization of pot.

will find access to it anyway.

"Kids who are 13 find ways to get drugs, so [legalizing them] wouldn't make a difference," said Kar. "There'd just be more 21-year-olds with pot."

Junior Nikhil Panchal said for some users, half the attraction is getting the drug. This might decrease as the legalization deny users of the thrill.

However, pot can be very dangerous. Many students agree that legalization

will make for easier access and increased health risks, like addiction or psychological impairment, according to the Los Angeles Times.

"[Legalizing marijuana] will cause problems. People can just go and get high," said sophomore Maya Nag.

Junior Peter Chen said that while making pot legal will help the state's economy, those who decide to use it can easily become addicted.

A poll by Survey USA from Sept. 30 to Oct. 3 shows that support for Prop 19 is increasing slightly, with about 48 percent of voters currently in favor of legalizing recreational marijuana use. About 41 percent are against the proposition, while 11 percent remain undecided. ♦

"There are many other destructive habits in our lives," said sophomore Suzannah Osekowsky, "so why do we [make] this one [illegal]?"

Similarly, freshman Anup Kar said that if people want to obtain drugs, they

VOTE >> Seniors take part in election

continued from pg. 1

of parental influence varies for each individual, but all agree that their parents do not dictate their views and political affiliations.

"My dad is economically conservative but politically liberal," said Frankola. "I think that I was raised to be the same way, but I do disagree with [my parents] on some points."

By comparison, Kim said that her conservative parents don't have much of an effect on her and that she leans more to the left of the political spectrum. But over all, most seem to have chosen the middle path between parents' beliefs and their own.

"I think we take our parents thoughts into consideration, but we put our own twist on it," said senior Vanessa Block.

One politically hot topic this season is Proposition 19, the legalization of marijuana, which some students seem to favor despite their parents' opposition.

"I think that by legalizing pot it will become less of a threat," said Frankola. "Doing pot is kind of a rebellion, and if we legalize it, not only can we regulate it, but it will become less taboo. By not

worrying about [pot] so much we can focus on harder drugs."

But most students are still undecided on many major issues and are unsure who they will vote for in the upcoming elections.

"I'm definitely still on the fence [about the Governor election]," said Frankola. "But I'm sure I'll make a decision soon."

By the Nov. 2 elections, 44 students will be 18, but not all of them are planning on voting, choosing a path of complacency towards politics.

"I don't really know anything about what's going on right now [in politics]," said senior Dylan Teter. "I feel like it would be worse if I just voted without knowing anything than if I just didn't vote at all. It's worse to make an uninformed vote."

Barring a few exceptions, the majority of those eligible to participate in the upcoming election at SHS, though they may not know exactly where they stand yet, will be exercising their rights this November.

"I know that if [young people] take the time to go out and vote we can have a pretty big impact," said Frankola. "I'm really excited to vote for the first time." ♦



Frankola

DRAMA

Fall play sends audience into the past

'OUR TOWN' A SUCCESS DESPITE SMALL CROWDS ON OPENING NIGHT

By Christine Bancroft

The drama department had its last showing of the fall play, Thornton Wilder's 1937 three-act play "Our Town," on Oct. 24. Although the first two performances did not draw big crowds, the 26-member cast and crew still found that the message of life, love and family reached many.

The play is set between 1901 and 1914 and focuses on two families, the Webbs and the Gibbs. Seniors Jae Lee and Mikaela Burton played the two main characters, George Gibbs and Emily Webb, while seniors Dylan Teter, Abby Frankola and Jesse Rogan and juniors Ariella Yendler and Penelope Burgess took on the roles of their family members. Senior Chaz Main narrated the play as the stage manager.

"Our Town" was directed by Steve Dini and produced by drama teacher Kerry Mohnike. It was performed Oct. 16, 17, 23 and 24.

"I think this play sends out a very strong message in modern times," said Burgess. "With so much new technology and distractions, it's easy to ignore the little miracles around us, but this play reminds us that life is short and we need to appreciate it while we can."

The play, the second ever to be performed at Saratoga High, focuses on the relationships between townspeople, family members and neighbors, specifi-

cally the relationship between George and Emily Gibbs.

"Even though it's a different time, the message is universal," said Lee, "and the sooner you come to the realization that you need to love your family and friends, and just take the chance to breathe, the better off you'll be."

The show was difficult to pull off, because of time constraints. The actors and crew had less than two months to prepare the show.

The play was also written with minimal prop usage to exemplify the relationships and emotion portrayed, forcing actors to pantomime much of the actions described in the script.

"We had less than two months to put the show together," said stage manager Natalie Berg, "which meant we had to get a lot done at every rehearsal, particularly since Mr. Dini didn't want to have any weekend rehearsals, but everyone pulled it together and this didn't end up hurting us much at all."

The play was also a unique one for its time. Berg calls it "monumental in the history of American theater" because the character of the stage manager speaks directly to the audience, as well as how the character of Emily Webb travels back in time during the third act.

"The show has some very strong messages about life and love," said Berg. "It was pretty revolutionary to pantomime so many actions and the theatrical ele-



Junior Penny Burgess makes a proposal to family member played by senior Jesse Rogan on opening night, Oct. 16, in the McAfee.

ments utilized. This may not seem remarkable to today's audiences, but this was the first of the play to do anything remotely like it."

The play brings to light the aspects of life that many take for granted: family, love, friendship and community. It begs the audience to take an introspective look at their life and relationships and consider what is truly important.

Cast and crew have received encouraging positive feedback from audienc-

es, along with many who felt that they were very moved by the play, according to Berg.

"I saw this play a few years ago," said Yendler. "I've always really respected and loved the message. We never do stop and think that the dull moments in life might be the important ones. I try to remember to do that sometimes, when I'm impatient or angry, that what might seem mediocre is still so, so important. That's what this play is really about." ♦

SPEECH AND DEBATE

Team shows promise

VETERANS HELP JV DEBATERS DEVELOP AND IMPROVE SKILLS

By Vijay Menon
& Abhishek Venkataramana

After weeks of practice and hard work, the speech and debate team kicked off its regular season with the novice Public Forum tournament at Presentation High on Oct. 10 and the fall league debate tournament at Leland High School on Oct. 17.

Ten teams from Saratoga competed at Leland in varsity and JV

Public Forum and Parliamentary. While no teams went undefeated, the tournament allowed debaters the opportunity to get a sense for this year's competition and find areas to improve on, said the head coach, English teacher Erick Rector.

In spite of not fielding any undefeated squads, the team is still encouraged by the results and hopes to see progress at the next league tournament.

In addition, on Oct. 10, six novice Public Forum teams competed at the Novice Public Forum Tournament at Presentation High School. The tournament presented first-year debaters with the opportunity to apply their new skills in a tournament setting, in preparation for the upcoming tournaments.

"This tournament was more of a learning experience for the novices since this was their very first tournament of the year," said Rector.

The team's next tournament will be the League Congress Tournament at Palo Alto High School on Nov. 1, followed by the League Individual Events Tournament at Milpitas High School on Nov. 13.

"I'm excited for this season," said Rector. "With the experience that we have from our veteran debaters and talent and hard work I see from our novices, I think we can do really well this season." ♦

"I think we definitely have the potential to start closing out some of these league tournaments and winning bids."

>> Coach Erick Rector

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FINALS >> Schedule change

continued from pg. 1

has already been following this schedule for the past four years.

"Personally, [I think] students could decompress and re-energize," said Safine, who supports the proposition. There is a lot of support for the measure although it has not been put in place yet. However, Safine still feels that there is hope for this year.

However, having finals before winter would also mean starting school earlier in August. In the transitional year, it would mean having a shorter summer.

After a shortened summer, however, summer vacations would return to normal lengths.

Under the new school calendar, the school would end on June 7 as opposed to the traditional mid-June end date.

"There are also plentiful examinations and events going on before winter break due to Christmas time," said Anderson. "I've talked to a lot of different principals, and no one had said anything bad but rather that it was great for teachers and students so they could de-stress."

Final board approval for a calendar will come later this year. ♦

GRAND JURY REPORT

Merger idea rejected

by Cecilia Hollenhorst & Michelle Shu

Trying to find ways to help financially struggling school districts, a Santa Clara County Superior Court Civil Grand Jury recently suggested the combination of five of the smallest school districts in the area, including the Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District. But the proposal has not been met with enthusiasm by LGSUHSD board members.

In June, the grand jury proposed this consolidation with the Loma Prieta Joint School District, Los Gatos Union School District, Saratoga Union School District and Lakeside Joint School District in order to save a projected 7 percent, mostly on administrative costs. However, the LGSUHSD believes that the negatives of the consolidation plan outweigh its benefits.

In his written response to the proposal, Roger Mason, president of the LGSUHSD Board of Trustees, said any monetary gains would "come at the expense of the quality of education provided students."

Mason also stressed the importance of a small district and its benefits, stating, "Community input works better in a smaller setting."

>> THE big idea

District Merger Proposal

Who: the Santa Clara County Superior Court Civil Grand Jury

Proposed changes: LGSUHSD would merge with the Loma Prieta, Los Gatos, Saratoga, and Lakeside School Districts

The plan was created due to the varying sizes of districts in Santa Clara County, with a few districts only serving one school. In their proposal, the grand jury designated a range of 15,000 to 30,000 students as "optimum school district size" and created plans for the consolidation of six groups of districts in several areas of the county. Numerous school districts responded negatively.

Although the Santa Clara Unified School District was not included in the proposal, its superintendent, Steve Stavis, was one of the few who spoke in favor of the proposal, calling it "economically viable" but went on to conclude that it was "politically, somewhere between improbable and impossible."

The grand jury does not have the power to force this change on LGSUHSD, and the districts targeted in the report will remain the same size. ♦

MAP SPEAKER SERIES

Media experts encourage students to get tech savvy

by Karthik Sreedhara

"Who in here does not have a Facebook?" asked 2000 SHS alumnus Andrew "Bos" Bosworth, who is now director of engineering at Facebook.

"That's okay, I'm not going to get mad at you," he said to the only person in the audience who had raised her hand.

On Oct. 7, the Media Arts Program held its first speaker event this year in the McAfee Center. Called "Social & Interactive Media: A New Revolution," the event featured Bosworth, along with Patrick J. Ferrell, CEO and founder of Zenergo; Jay Berryhill, vice president of Sales at Sling Media Inc, which created the Slingbox; and Richard Rothschild, director of IT at TiVo. The event was hosted by Scott Budman, a local NBC reporter and founder of the "Tech Now!" television show.

After graduating from Saratoga High, Bosworth graduated from Harvard University with a bachelor's degree in computer science. Bosworth worked briefly at Microsoft and joined Facebook in 2006, where he wrote code for an integral part of Facebook—the "News Feed," a constantly updating list of stories from people that you are following—and began managing the communication products such as the inbox, chat and groups.

The goal of the event was to talk about the backgrounds of these successful technology leaders and give career

advice for anyone interested in media or technology.

"[The event] informed me more about what I would be getting into if I joined the social networking or programming fields," said senior Sebastian Wagner.

Bosworth emphasized the importance of social networking.

"Imagine having a 15-minute window every day which you can't control, during which you get all your information and talk to friends. If you miss that window, you have to wait until tomorrow," said Bosworth.

Bosworth's main piece of career advice was to take advantage of all the technology available to this generation.

"My advice is to get as technically savvy as possible. This opens up opportunities to cater to the audience, a global audience that's not tied to anything or any specific time, and each person can connect to friends at the click of a button," said Bosworth.

According to social studies and MAP teacher Kim Anzalone, 70 people attended the event. Anzalone recommended that students go to future MAP speaker series events for information about breakthrough media innovations.

"I thought the event was really interesting because it was about something that was relevant to us," said Wagner. "Facebook and TiVo and social networking is something that most—if not all—of our generation can relate to." ♦

NEW CLUBS

Do you believe in magic club?

BY Synthia Ling & Anna Shen

Wearing baggy worn-out jeans and a black zipped up sweater, junior Fredrick Lee takes an ostensibly ordinary-looking coin out of his pockets and places them on a girl's hands.

"A coin is generally an item most people carry around daily, and in certain hotspots like Las Vegas there are usually pickpockets and thieves. Now the fastest thieves can simply go up and steal the coin," said Lee.

Swiftly gliding over the quarter, his hands do not appear to grab the quarter, but in an instant, the coin disappears. He exposes his two palms and the coin is nowhere to be seen.

Where did the coin go?

"That's the biggest mystery of all," said Lee.

Lee, who has been practicing magic for about a year, is the president of the new Magic Club.

"I generally help teach the principles of performing," said Lee. "I also teach the psychology of the performer and how to apply it to situations with various audiences."

The club deals with tricks from cards and money to mind tricks where things fly.

They meet every Friday at lunch in World Geography teacher Richard Ellis's classroom, room 702. So far there are about 20 members in the club, some who are experienced and



JUNIOR FREDRICK LEE SHOWS OFF HIS PLAYING CARDS AT A MAGIC CLUB MEETING ON OCT. 7.

some who are new to magic. With practice, they all hope to perform in front of crowds.

"If we raise enough money we can perform at the McAfee and most likely go out in public places and perform," said Lee.

The club allows students to have fun and open up.

"It's a hobby, so it's fun to do and it adds a little spark in life," said Lee. "I think it's pretty interesting, so I give it a shot." ♦

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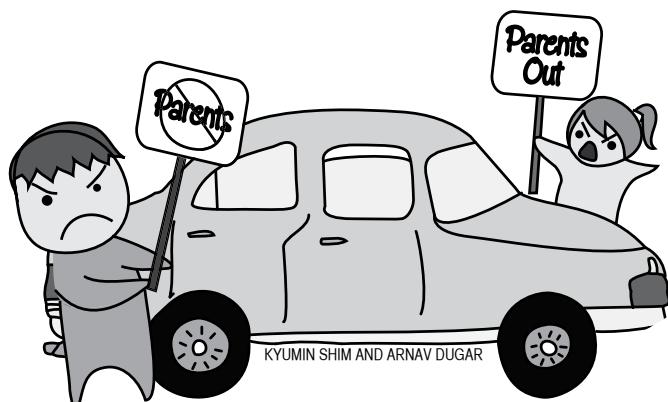
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Poor parent driving hurts student safety

BY Will Edman
& Sabrina Cismas

In elementary and middle school, when all students were young and license-less, their parents would drop them off in the morning in the school parking lot, hand them their lunch and kiss them goodbye. This intimate and time-consuming parting fit perfectly in the environment of these schools, but not anymore.

We are in high school now. Some parents—mostly parents of freshmen or sophomores—cannot break the habit of entering the main section of the parking lot and dropping off their kids conveniently in front of the main entrance. Some even find it necessary to park in a space, so their kids don't have to rush out of the car. These parents follow the same exact routine every morning and are evidently oblivious to the fact that they have a separate drop-off zone just for them.

The school has attempted to solve this problem in many ways, from marking off parent dropoff zones with neon cones to the appointment of a student traffic commission to hold up signs directing parents toward the drop off zone. There are three entrance ramps: two that lead to the parking lot and one on the far side that leads to the drop-off zone. However, some parents unfailingly keep returning to the parking lots, disregarding the pleas of the students and

administrators alike.

There are obvious reasons the parking lot is designated as student-only. Since Herriman Avenue is congested every morning, the possibility of a traffic accident is always possible. The parking lot is designed in such a way that most traffic can run much more smoothly when traffic is running in one direction, as it should be in the morning.

However, parents leaving the parking lot ruin this traffic system and increase the possibility of an accident. A parent who has just dropped his or her child off and is pulling out of a parking spot is dangerous, since driving students do not expect cars leaving parking spots in the morning.

Additionally, parents in the parking lot makes the circulation of cars slow down, resulting in tardiness. While a parent takes a spot and waits for their child to leave the car and enter the school, a student who could have had much more convenient and timely parking will pass by.

Parents need to realize that students resent their presence in the parking lot, not just out of a sense of entitlement, but out of concern for safety. Although the administration has backed students in their plight, their actions seem to continually fall on deaf ears. Consequently, the issue must be brought to your attention: parents, please stay in your drop-off zone and out of the student parking lots. ♦

Time to bury legacy

BY Jennifer Jin

Students are often told that all that are needed to get into a good college are good SAT scores, good grades and good extracurricular activities.

But for some students, all it takes is their parents.

A legacy admission is a type of preference given by educational institutions to certain applicants on the basis of their familial relationship to alumni of that school.

A study led by Princeton claimed that having legacy at a university gives an applicant an advantage equivalent to an extra 160 points on the SAT.

As a result, many students with outstanding academic records may not have as good of a chance of being admitted into their college of choice compared to their peers, with worse academic records, who have legacy at the school.

According to the Wall Street Journal, Henry Park, born to middle-class immigrants, attended Groton School, a boarding school known for its outstanding col record. In fact, 34 of 79 members in his graduating class were accepted into Ivy Leagues. Park ranked 14th in his graduating class and earned a prestigious SAT score of 1560 out of 1600, but was rejected from Harvard, Yale, Brown, Columbia, Stanford, and MIT. However, many of his classmates whose ranks and SAT scores were much lower were accepted by those same schools, due to legacy.

Many top colleges boast about their low acceptance rate or high diversity, but do not mention the acceptance rate of legacy students.

As of 2004, children of graduates made up about 15 percent of incoming classes at most Ivy

League schools. Harvard accepts 40 percent but only 11 percent of all applicants attend.

Many private colleges argue that legacy admissions are needed. However, a study has shown that legacy preferences do not increase universities' revenue.

Caltech raised \$71 million in donations in 2008, while MIT raised \$77 million. One difference is that Caltech does not provide legacy preference, while MIT does. Furthermore, MIT is five times larger, thus having more alumni, according to The Chronicle of Higher Education.

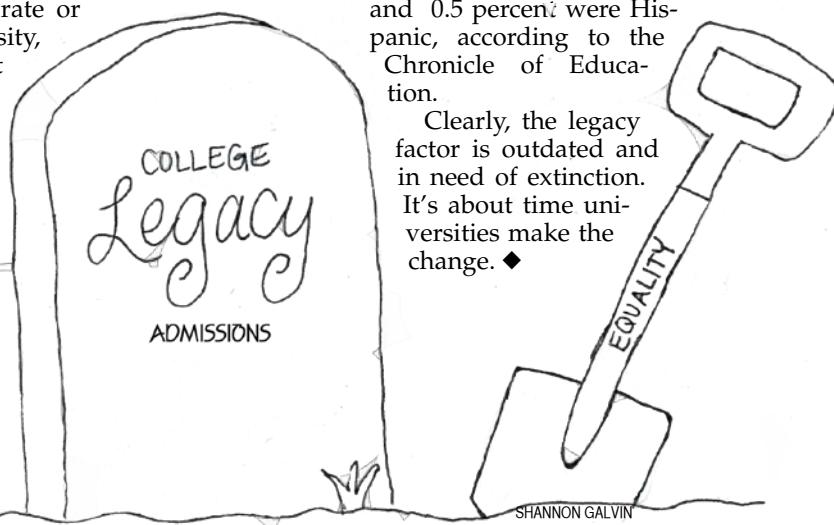
Among the top 100 colleges, the average amount of money donated per alumnus at schools that provided legacy preferences was \$317, compared to \$201 at non-legacy schools; however, the alumnus from colleges with legacy admissions tended to be wealthier.

It is true that when a legacy student is rejected, donations stop—but only for a while. After the parents recover from their anger, and the child moves on, they continue to donate.

Because alumni of top schools tend to be wealthier and Caucasian, legacy admissions are a form of affirmative action for the wealthy.

Minorities make up 12.5 percent of the applicant pool, but only 6.7 percent of the legacy-applicant pool. At Harvard, only 7.6 percent of legacy admits in 2002 were minorities, compared with 17.8 percent of all students. At the University of Virginia, 91 percent of early-decision legacy admits in 2002 were white, 1.6 percent were black and 0.5 percent were Hispanic, according to the Chronicle of Education.

Clearly, the legacy factor is outdated and in need of extinction. It's about time universities make the change. ♦



Saratoga voters should say 'no' on Measure Q

Take a walk through the Saratoga village any day of the week and you'll find an assortment of overpriced restaurants, empty sidewalks, vacant storefronts and the occasional straggler. When compared to the bustling downtown of nearby Los Gatos, the Village is indeed a ghost town.

If Measure Q passes, Saratoga voters will ensure it stays this way.

On the November ballot, Measure Q



STAFF EDITORIAL

aims to restrict commercial buildings to two stories. Backers say that the restriction will help preserve the character of the quiet town, but what good is character if all the businesses leave?

The measure itself is poorly designed. Currently, the town allows structures to be built to heights of 26, 30 and 35 feet, depending on the zoning district.

Measure Q says nothing about the height. It only limits the number of stories of commercial buildings.

If passed, such a restriction would hold for 30 years. Developers seeking to build over two stories would have to hold it to a citywide vote—a costly and frivolous requirement that would drive

away potential businesses.

The truth is, the city cannot afford to drive away such business investments. City sales tax receipts are already down an enormous 17 percent since 2007. Measure Q will only accelerate that decline.

While maintaining the city's character is certainly important, Saratoga already has an extensive review process to ensure new developments adhere to it. Any development already goes through public notice, community planning and public hearings before the planning commission and city council. If Measure Q passes, it will require final decisions to build above the two-story height limit to go through costly citywide votes, bypassing the city's planning commission and city council.

Lastly, voters do not know what they are getting into. There has been no long-term study of Measure Q's possible impact regarding the econom-

ic implications of such a far-reaching proposal.

What will surely be marketed by local spinners as merely a good-hearted attempt to preserve the quaint aura of our town has the potential to instead bring about markedly dramatic change and drive away future potential for growth.

Clearly, the voters of Saratoga are faced with an enormous decision on Nov. 2. In light of these potential consequences, this board strongly recommends a vote in opposition of Measure Q. ♦

The truth is, the city cannot afford to turn away such business investments.

>> THE big idea

Measure Q

Problem: Saratoga businesses are already struggling. The measure would drive away potential growth in the Village in already difficult times.

Proposed fix: A "no" vote will not fix the problems plaguing the Village but will ensure that they don't get worse.

>> Opinion of the Falcon Editorial Board

Opinion Editor
Vijay Menon
Editor-in-Chief
Shannon Galvin

The Saratoga Falcon voted 37-0 in opposition to Measure Q.

'Church' case tests free speech rights

BY Deborah Soung

The day is overcast as the family and friends of a fallen soldier file into his funeral. The funeral of a soldier should be sacred, solemn and respectful, but a group of picketers lies in wait, holding signs branded with slogans such as "THANK GOD FOR DEAD SOLDIERS" and "GOD HATES FAGS," and singing twisted parodies of hymns which express hate instead of love.

This malicious group, the Westboro Baptist Church (WBC) from Topeka, Kans., has conducted over 30,000 similar pickets across the country, all with the shared theme of intense hatred and bigotry. Albert Snyder, the father of a dead Marine whose funeral was picketed, has taken WBC leader Fred Phelps to court on the grounds of "intentional infliction of emotional stress."

To prove intentional infliction of emotional stress, Snyder must provide evidence of outrageous conduct and invasion of privacy.

>> THE big idea

Westboro Hate

The Issue: A group of people from the Westboro Baptist Church petition at military funerals.

Their Beliefs: They believe that America is sinful and therefore feel justified in picketing the funerals of those who defend America.

The Court Decision: The court ruled in favor of the group due to First Amendment Rights.

Freedom of speech was created so ideas could be expressed, not so that citizens could hurt and mock other.

Although the WBC's behavior is obviously out of line, the federal appeals court ruled for the WBC because of the First Amendment.

In the Supreme Court, though justices could rule in Phelps's favor for the same reason, they also have the chance to overturn this case if they decide the WBC's protest is considered outrageous conduct.

The irony of the federal court's ruling is a bitter pill for the victims of the WBC. The WBC teaches its children that America, because of its tolerance toward gays,

divorce and abortion, is a sinful country, and therefore, picketing the funeral of a soldier who defends this country is justified.

And now America's constitution protects them from being prohibited from aggravating the wounds of the grieving acquaintances of dead soldiers.

This cult, which began in 1955, preaches that God hates gays, Jews, soldiers, America and basically anyone who is not a supporter of the church.

The WBC would have you believe that hell is going to be extremely crowded when we all inevitably wind up there.

Its inhumane disrespect exhibited toward the dead and the grieving is utterly astounding.

These people gain happiness from causing others pain under the guise of spreading God's word; they are heartless creatures who have the shamelessness to encourage their children to hold signs emblazoned with "THANK GOD FOR AIDS," "PLANES CRASH, GOD LAUGHS," "THANK GOD FOR 9/11"

and "GOD HATES AMERICA."

The question the Supreme Court must answer is whether or not the WBC has stretched the boundaries of the freedom of speech.

Because laws are based on previous court rulings, if the WBC wins Snyder vs. Phelps, such hurtful protests can be legally held at funerals in the future.

Freedom of speech was created so ideas could be expressed and spur thinking and advancement forward, not so that citizens could hurt and mock others.

For example, in 1975, many students began to protest the Vietnam War.

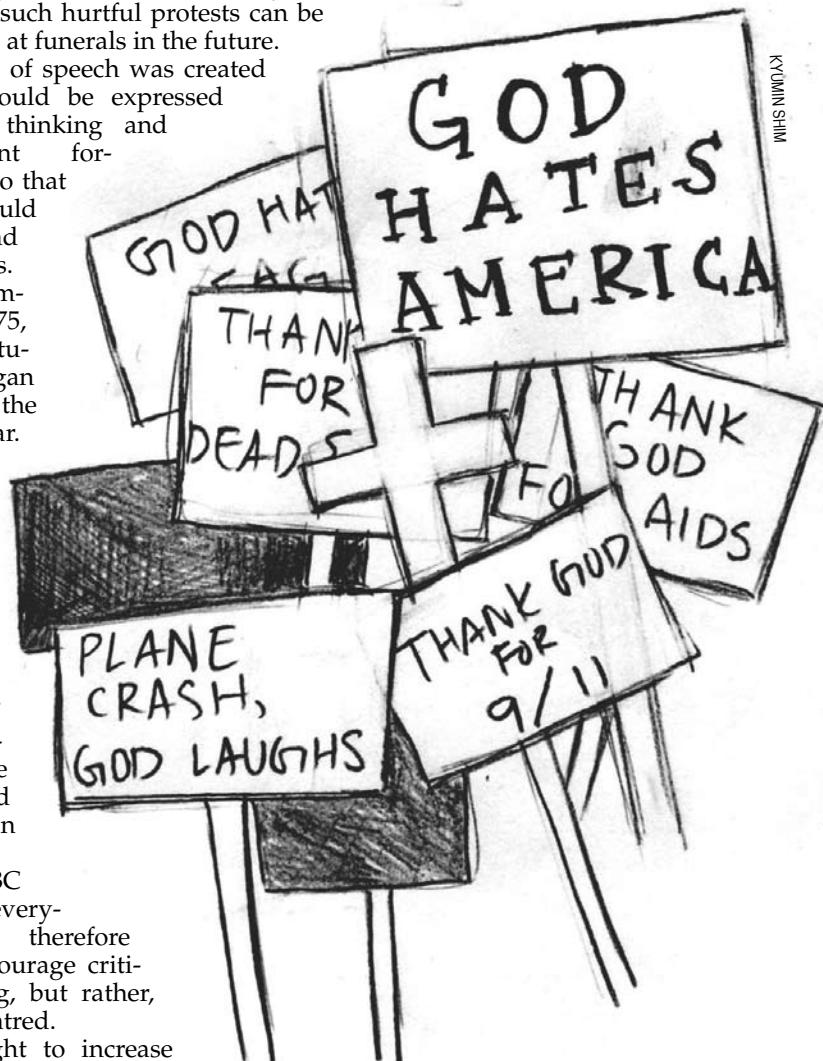
This was justified because their protesting had a point: to put an end to the suffering of both Vietnamese citizens and American soldiers.

The WBC protests everything and therefore do not encourage critical thinking, but rather, mindless hatred.

They fight to increase the suffering of humans, which is everything America

stands against.

Because of this, the WBC does not deserve the protection of the First Amendment. ♦

THE
Saratoga falcon >>

THIRD PERIOD

STAFF POLICY

The Saratoga Falcon is published five times per semester by the Advanced Journalism classes of Saratoga High School, 20300 Herriman Ave., Saratoga, CA 95070. Views expressed in The Saratoga Falcon are those of the writers and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the administration, faculty or school district.

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

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Banning books unfair and ignorant

BY Giulia Curcelli & Aashna Mukerji

What do the "Harry Potter" series, "Gone with the Wind," "The Outsiders" and "Charlotte's Web" all have in common? On the surface, nothing. They are of different genres, intended for different audiences and centered around different themes. At one point or another, however, each of these books was banned or challenged due to controversial content—a practice that is no less abhorrent today than in any other time.

The practice of banning books has been around as long as books themselves and has escalated to new heights over the course of the last three centuries. Banning books remains common in many countries as well as in schools and libraries across America. During Banned Books Week, held annually at the end of September, people are encouraged to read banned literature in recognition of the cons of censorship.

Banned books have deeper meanings

Books are most commonly banned or challenged for sedition, heresy and obscenity. Yet even books with the most benign intentions are wrongly judged. The banning of books by the government also threatens the authors' First Amendment rights, making the banning of books unconstitutional.

"Gone with the Wind," Margaret Mitchell's epic novel about love and the Civil War, raised controversy in the 1930s for its use of scandalous language such as "damn" and "whore." Some have also been opposed to Scarlett O'Hara's multiple marriages and the presence of Belle Watling, a prostitute. The novel has also recently become con-

troversial for its derogatory portrayal of slaves, which is in fact appropriate to the era in which the novel takes place and is necessary for accurate depiction. The dynamics of the characters and the plot would be drastically changed if it were not for certain disputed aspects such as Scarlett's multiple marriages and the character of Belle Watling.

In another occurrence, S. E. Hinton's "The Outsiders" was banned in South Milwaukee, Wisc., due to the characters' excessive use of drugs and alcohol, in addition to the fact that the majority of them come from dysfunctional families. The story, however, promotes close friendships and self-sufficiency and warns against the dangers of violence. Furthermore, it shows the journey of the protagonist's search for belonging. "The Outsiders," in addition to many other books commonly read and taught at schools such as John Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men" and William Golding's "Lord of the Flies" have been ignorantly banned by small minorities without consideration of their actual messages.

Having withstood endless rounds of criticism, "The Catcher in the Rye" by J. D. Salinger is one of the most iconic novels to date. The book explores how a misunderstood, introverted adolescent deals with a lack of acceptance and his attitudes toward isolation. Although crass and vulgar at times, he sets an example for teenagers everywhere in his compassion for his sister as well as in his handle on society.

Fantasy novels, not an exception

Known as some of the most controversial books of the 21st century, the "Harry Potter" series by J. K. Rowling is often accused of promoting

witchcraft and evil and is targeted for its dark imagery. Far from encouraging cruelty and destruction, the theme of magic running through the series is full of love, the fight against oppression and injustice, and the triumph of good over evil—messages that are clearly positive. The series topped the charts of the American Library Association's 100 most challenged books of the decade, followed closely by Stephenie Meyer's "Twilight" series. While Meyer's books received criticism for being sexually explicit and unsuitable for children, they also encourage strong family values and abstinence until marriage.

These books, banned for various reasons by a variety of groups, all enhance a reader's knowledge. And honestly, who can claim to have been harmed by E. B. White's "unnatural depiction" of a talking pig or a spelling spider? ♦

>> banned books

"The Origin of Species" by Charles Darwin

- banned for contradicting religion

"The Lord of the Rings" by J.R.R. Tolkien

- banned for having satanic undertones

"Uncle Tom's Cabin" by Harriet Beecher Stowe

- banned as abolitionist propaganda in the South

The "Junie B. Jones" series by Barbara Park

- banned for improper grammar and use of words like "stupid"

"Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" by Roald Dahl

- banned for being racist and having a poor philosophy of life

Campus security cameras cause no harm

BY DylanJew

The idea of secretly being watched is a popular idea in many horror movies. Someone's out there, watching your every move. But should this invasion of privacy be enough to stop schools from installing cameras to monitor activities during and after school hours?

Contrary to the "Big Brother" dystopia suggested in George Orwell's "1984" the reality is that cameras have made SHS a safer place. Indeed, more cameras should be bought and put around campus. The benefits of security cameras far outweigh any infringements on students' privacy.

Saratoga has about 20 cameras on campus, according to assistant principal Chris Cerbone, but he said the school could use more in certain areas.

By installing cameras, the school could find evidence of misconduct even when authorities aren't around to catch wrongdoers in action. The idea of security cameras alone deters potential criminals. When students or others hear that more cameras are located on campus, they will think twice before doing something they will regret.

Students and staff may not be thrilled at the prospect of having their every action caught on video. There is always the fine line between pri-

When students or others hear that more cameras are located on campus, they will think twice before doing something they will regret.

\$30,000 of stolen items from the school much earlier.

Not only can cameras be used to catch people misbehaving, but they can also be used to ensure people act appropriately at all times. Students do many things at school they would not want to be recorded doing. If they knew they were potentially on camera, students would think twice before making a regrettable action.

Anybody out in public understands that their actions or appearance can be seen by others. Cameras don't change this; they only make it certain. ♦

vacy and safety. Balancing these two issues is always a challenge. However, installing cameras has more benefits than detriments.

Another factor is cost. Purchasing and installing cameras is not cheap, and with looming deficits, the district needs to save as much money as possible. Right now, the school can spend its money better funding educational programs than on more security cameras.

However, after the financial situation is under control, it would be a good investment to purchase more security cameras and catch thieves that can cost SHS even more money than the cameras' initial cost.

With more cameras around campus, police could have gotten enough evidence to arrest the thief responsible for about

\$30,000 of stolen items from the school much earlier.

>> candidcaricatures



KYUMIN SHIM

Tap, tap, tap...

THE GOVERNMENT IS KNOCKING ON THE DOOR TO PRIVACY

BY MichaelLee

Imagine yourself in the safety and privacy of your own home. You're typing an e-mail to your friend in San Francisco about your first couple of weeks at Saratoga High.

Now consider the fact that you could be sending your e-mail to someone other than your friend. Some other person, with the right tools, could be monitoring, or "wiretapping," that supposedly private message.

That might make you think twice about hitting the send button.

This situation is not far from reality. National security and law enforcement officials can require communication services—such as Facebook and Yahoo Mail—to provide unencrypted (readable) messages for the government. These agencies supposedly use these messages to monitor criminals and suspected terrorists.

This would seem justified in the alleged efforts to stop crime, but there is a small problem. In the process of monitoring potentially criminal communication, government officials have the ability to invade the privacy of any person who communicates over the Internet. Anything transmitted over the Internet is fair game. This ranges from a Facebook status update to an e-mail between friends.

Despite the uses in potentially tracking criminal activity and stopping catastrophes like 9/11, wiretapping should be lawfully limited. Wiretapping stops relatively few crimes compared to the excessive numbers of personal messages intercepted. Both lawful and unofficial wiretapping remove the privacy from online communication.

Anything transmitted over the Internet is fair game. This ranges from a Facebook status update to an e-mail between friends.

to prohibit all forms of wiretapping that do not involve serious crimes. These lawful limits would need to be carefully enforced. Only then could citizens use the versatile technology of the Internet without fear of someone intercepting their personal information.

Only then could you be guaranteed to send that e-mail to your friend—and only your friend. ♦

>> THE big idea

Wiretapping

The Issue: National security and law enforcement requires communication services such as Facebook or Yahoo to provide unencrypted messages.

Pros: Potentially tracks and deters criminal activity, monitor criminals and suspected terrorists.

Cons: Stops few crimes, but many personal messages are intercepted by the government, jeopardizing privacy on the Internet.

Six steps up from schoolyard bullying

SUICIDES OF SIX GAY STUDENTS REVEAL NEED FOR ACTION, PUNISHMENT FOR ABUSERS

BY ChristineBancroft

In one month, intolerance and inaction in the United States stole the lives of six promising young men. They were gay, and now they are dead because of ridicule for something they could not control.

Tyler Clementi was 18 years old, a Rutgers University freshman and skilled violinist. 13-year-olds Asher Brown of Houston and Seth Walsh of Tehachapi, Calif., were beginning eighth grade, with Walsh dying the day after Brown shot himself. Justin Aaberg, 15, came out when he was 13. Raymond Chase, 19, of Monticello, New York, was an openly gay sophomore attending Johnson and Wales University in Providence, Rhode Island. Fifteen-year-old freshman Billy Lucas of Greensburg, Ind., was found hanging in the family barn during Suicide Prevention Week after being tormented for a month, although he never said he was gay.

The massive amount of media attention has prompted celebrities such as actor Daniel Radcliffe of the Harry Potter franchise and talk show host Ellen Degeneres to make statements imploring for the end of intolerance and for the persecution of the "bullies." Online groups such as the Trevor Project and the It Gets Better Project, led by columnist Dan Savage, which encourages LGBTQ people to submit encouraging videos to YouTube, also worked to reach out to gay teens considering suicide.

If authorities do not press charges for these offenses, it sets a dangerous precedent that society is tolerant of such bullying. It says that law enforcement will look the other way when a

Victims of gay suicide

Tyler Clementi, age 18
-Piscataway, N.J.

Asher Brown, age 13
-Tehachapi, Calif.

Seth Walsh, age 13
-Tehachapi, Calif.

Justin Aaberg, age 15
-Andover, Minn.

Raymond Chase, age 19
-Monticello, N.Y.

Billy Lucas, age 15
-Greensburg, Ind.

young person feels so trapped that he feels he has no other way out than to take his own life.

Many states have anti-bullying laws but often do not include harassment based on sexual orientation within their language or have ineffectual authorities. Such was the case for Billy Lucas, 15, of Indiana, whose principal, Phil Chapple, implied that his death was his own fault because he liked to "do things that stirred up dust."

These crimes transcend common schoolyard bullying. They are hate crimes that have resulted in death—second or third degree murder, as well as felony invasion of privacy, in the case of Tyler Clementi, whose roommate spied upon him having a same-sex romantic encounter with a webcam and ridiculed him.

Law enforcement, schools and prosecutors need to stop playing to the wishes of religious groups and conservative political powerhouses. This is more than elementary school taunting and should be treated as crimes to prevent more deaths. Complaints must be taken with the utmost importance, because if a suicide occurs, the school has failed in its job to protect its students.

This issue transcends the boundaries of sexual orientation. It is not a partisan issue. It is not a religious issue. It is a human issue. For a country that preaches tolerance and equality and prides itself as a safe haven for all races and religions, it is time for the majority to take into consideration the largest growing minority in the United States before another death occurs: a group of victims, gay or straight, who need to be protected by law enforcement, their school, or legal representatives, before another tragedy occurs. ♦

Little-known Lunch Spots

Hot dog stand serves tasty food

BY Justine Huang

A rarity in today's fast-paced world, hot dog stands are a reminder to kick back, relax and enjoy an American delicacy.

Located on the corner of Kelly-Moore Paints on South De Anza Boulevard, Harold's Hot Dogs is open from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

"They're all fine quality," said Craig Steel, the owner of the stand. "That's why I've been here for 24 years."

Harold's Hot Dogs offers reasonable prices for a wide range of selections—Polish, Louisiana and regular hot dogs can all be purchased, with many toppings to choose from. It costs about \$3 for chips and a hot dog. Drinks are also available.

"I like the place because the spices in the Polish dog make

me produce an uncontrollable amount of saliva," says junior Viraj Parmar. "I foam at the mouth for three minutes."

Only a 5-to 10-minute drive away, Harold's Hot Dogs is an excellent option for students without a lot of time to drive off campus.

"It's a really nice place," said senior Matt Kemble. "There's barely any wait, and the hot dogs taste good."

Though the stand used to be a favorite with many Saratoga students, especially football players, Steel has noticed a decline in customers.

"The kids would come down here and go, 'We won a football game!'" recalls Steel. "For a long



Harold's Hot Dogs' unique eating experience makes for an enjoyable lunch.

time they came here and ate. And they won a lot of games."

Though there has been a lack of Saratoga High patronage for a while, he remembers Saratoga students as being friendly.

"One thing about your school is you've got really nice kids," said Steel. "Some high school kids can be really obnoxious, but you guys are all really courteous." ♦

>> =yougo

Harold's Hot Dogs

What: Hot Dogs
When: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Where: 1510 South De Anza Boulevard

American

My tongue 'hearts' Bai Tong(ue)

BY Anoop Galivanche & Synthia Ling

Saratoga's quiet downtown, colloquially known as the village, is home to many mediocre and overpriced restaurants. It was therefore a pleasant surprise to find that one particularly unassuming restaurant, obscured by a barrage of trees and sandwiched between a nail salon and a jewelry store, has some of the best Thai food in the South Bay.

Indeed, going to Bai Tong can turn a usual lunch period into something magnificent. Users on the popular food review site Yelp concur, as did my acquaintances who accompanied me to the restaurant.

How well a student can endure a Wednesday fifth period is one of the truest testaments to his tenac-

ity.

Lunch comes nearly an hour later than usual, and the sound of rumbling stomachs routinely punctuates the lectures my chemistry teacher gives. On the day I went, my tolerance was more lenient because I had the prospect of Pad Thai to look forward to.

And Bai Tong did not disappoint. Immediately after we walked in, we were met by a hot sweet and sour soup and water. All of us opted for the Pad Thai, which Matt S. on Yelp called "the best in the South Bay."

The Pad Thai was splendid, with the right proportion of protein to noodles. The rice noodles



Bai Tong welcomes customers with festive decorations and delicious Thai food.

were cooked perfectly—with a slight bite that complimented the sauce, which is at once sweet and savory.

If you're looking for good Thai food without going far, Bai Tong is a great option.

Driving time is 5 minutes, and the prices are about \$10-15 per person, without drinks. ♦

Thai.

Los Dos offers authentic and affordable food

BY Rebecca Nguyen

While most people think of Chipotle when thinking about Mexican food, Los Dos Compadres #2 is a great alternative.

Only four minutes away from school, Los Dos Compadres #2 is located at 1652 South De Anza Boulevard and is open every day from 8 a.m. until 9 p.m., except on Sundays when it closes at 8:30 p.m.

With a wide variety of Mexican cuisine, such as enchiladas, burritos and quesadillas, Los Dos Compadres succeeds in delivering delicious food for an affordable price, such as \$5.45 for a reasonably large quesadilla.

"The food tastes really authen-

tic and good," said senior Shahar Perlmutter. "The prices relative to the proportions are pretty cheap too. It's definitely worth it."

Both Chipotle and Los Dos offer a different feel for Mexican cuisine.

"They're both different. Los Dos serves very authentic Mexican food, while Chipotle is commercialized," said Perlmutter. "They're both good though."

With its great food and convenience, Los Dos Compadres is a delicious off-campus lunch spot.

"People should definitely go



Los Dos Compadres #2 has both authentic Mexican food and a convenient location.

there. It's close to school, so you have a lot of time to eat and it makes lunch less rushed," said Perlmutter. "Also, the food is prepared pretty fast." ♦

>> =yougo

Los Dos Compadres #2

What: Mexican food
When: Monday-Saturday 8 a.m. - 9 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Where: 1652 South De Anza Boulevard

Mexican



WITH HALLOWEEN JUST TWO DAYS AWAY,
THE FALCON PROVIDES LAST-MINUTE TIPS
FROM SPOOKY SPOTS TO COSTUME IDEAS

Last-minute costumes for dummies



BY Kim Tsai

Halloween costumes can be a difficult ordeal, especially if you have just decided to go trick-or-treating with your friends. Sometimes, you might not even have time to go shopping for a costume. So here are eight low-hassle costumes for everyone to enjoy.

Puritan-style: Nothing's wrong with recycling a U.S. History simulation costume, right? Just dig out whatever you wore for those, and be a pilgrim. American pride! If you're a freshman or sophomore, you might as well scrounge something up, because you will be needing a Puritan costume junior year!

Harry Potter: "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" is still a good 21 days away, but everyone loves a good Harry Potter costume. Go look around for those 3-D glasses from all the movies and take out the lenses, draw a lightning bolt on your forehead with a black marker and find a tree branch from your backyard to use as a wand. You're all set! Memorize some spells to yell out while you're at it.

Easy A: Want to be an English fanatic? Stick a red letter "A" on your shirt and carry a baby doll. Pick up a copy of "The Scarlet Letter" just in case some people don't get it. If you are a junior, try going to your English teacher to rack up some more extra credit points. With all that time spent

partying on Halloween, you know you're going to need some.

Twilight (Boys): Now, you can either pick Taylor Lautner or Robert Pattinson, but both are pretty low-hassle. If you're going for the "Jacob Black" look, just go trick-or-treating shirtless and draw a six-pack with a marker... or something. If you want to be "Edward Cullen," just throw some sparkly glitter on yourself and be creepily protective over a girl. The adults might not get it, but the pre-teens definitely will!

Dorothy (Girls): Dig out a nice skirt, some red heels and that stuffed dog you haven't touched since you were eight. Toto, I've got a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore!

Blackmail: Dress up in all black and stick a postage stamp somewhere on yourself. Feel free to act mean the whole day.

Mummification: Find those extra rolls of toilet paper in your bathroom and go to town with them! Use some tape to be an even more legitimate mummy. If you lose part of your costume, just find a bathroom and borrow some toilet paper to fix it up!

Burrito: Worst comes to worst, wrap some tin foil on your arm and tell everyone that you are dressed up as a burrito. Your neighbors might think you're a little weird when you go trick-or-treating, but at least you'll be able to get a \$2 burrito at Chipotle. ♦

>> togatalks

What is your favorite Halloween memory?

"Trick-or-treating. I like getting free candy. One time there was a man on a porch that I thought was fake. It was really scary."



senior Kenny Song

"I was my favorite Disney princess Cinderella for three years in a row."



junior Tiffany Klm

"I liked when I was a Teletubby because all of the parents loved me and gave me lots of candy."



sophomore Aneesa Mazumdar

29, 2010



Swank Farms designs a unique "Maniac Maze" every year, shown here in 2009.

It's a-maze-ing!

BY Tim Rollinson

Maize. In Spanish, it translates to corn. Now, take the "i" out of the word maize but keep the corn and what do you have? Swank Farms Corn Maze in Hollister.

Located approximately an hour from Saratoga, this spooky attraction, named the "Maniac Maze," brings visitors of all ages. The maze winds through about 30 acres of corn fields. Participants can expect sudden scares from employees dressed in horrifying costumes popping out of nowhere. The experience of running away from lurking creeps and monsters seems straight out of a horror movie. It is open annually from Oct. 1-31.

Swank Farms created its first corn maze in 2005, and since then thousands of visitors have flocked to this Halloween hideaway. The maze is redesigned every year so even previous visitors will find new adventure. A night in the maze will cost a student \$16, a good

price considering the memories it leaves visitors with.

"I went to the maze a couple years ago," said senior Erin Wong. "And I still get scared when I think about it. One of my friends peed in her pants."

Swank Farms also offers haunted houses and other outdoor Halloween-themed events such as a tamer "Spookley Maze" for kids, but the main attraction is the frightening "Maniac Maze." This destination may seem strange, but the dullness of the average corn field shouldn't discourage teens looking for a fright.

"The corn maze is an experience you will never forget," said Wong. "Just try not to get lost." ♦

>> =yougo

Swank Farms Corn Maze

What: Explore a scary corn maze that seems straight out of a movie

When: Oct. 1-31

Where: 2600 San Felipe Rd
Hollister

Scary spots spook Saratoga students

BY Izzy Albert

Scratch-scratch.

Abstract noises and illusions of scattering animals stop junior Chris Vu in his tracks. On just a typical Saturday night, a frightening aura hovers over the football field as a set of bleachers becomes a home for wild critters.

The usual cheerful, spirited and friendly atmosphere of Saratoga High during the daytime is the environment most students are used to. The few who have experienced the school at night, though, know of the eerie sounds and images that loom throughout the dark campus and football field.

Junior Chris Vu regularly spends his weekend evenings idly walking around the school's track to relieve stress from the week, but one night his stress level actually increased as he was accompanied by an unexpected creature.

"I was minding my own business, walking around the track," said Vu. "All of the sudden I hear a scratching noise coming from the bleachers."

Vu cautiously looked around to find a pair of eyes staring right back at him. With a rational inclination to scream, Vu scared the critter away.

"To this day I still don't know what the creature was or why it

was there," said Vu. "All I know is that I am never going back to the high school at night again."

Within the bubble of the town of Saratoga, the only scary sight residents come across during the daytime might be watching a student react to a bad grade.

However, as soon as dawn turns to dusk, some spots in Saratoga can give you the heebie-jeebies.

Another spooky location, Hicks Road, a street up in the mountains past Pierce Road, has been notorious in Saratoga for years for its supposed albino citizens that come out at night and the several eerie "no trespassing" signs.

Over the summer, senior Kaitna Shankar and several of her friends decided to see the infamous Hicks Road for themselves, completely unaware of what was in store for them. As if driving up the narrow mountain road in the darkness wasn't enough, there were no signs of life.

"To the left, there's a lake with signs that say there are no fish due to radiation," said Shankar. "On the right there are 'no trespassing' signs in front of houses with eerie flickering porch lights or just abandoned houses in general."

Hicks Road is virtually what you make it, said Shankar. If you're reluctant to go and have a tendency to see things in the dark, then the trip to Hicks Road will be quite the experience. ♦



CHRIS VU

KAITNA SHANKAR

Bellgrove Circle a favorite for fun trick-or-treating

BY Vivian LeTran

Giant spiderwebs, jack-o'-lanterns with a variety of different expressions and creepy red lights adorn the driveways of many houses in Bellgrove Circle. One particular house hangs a bed sheet ghost in the window, illuminated by an eerie blue light.

Bellgrove Circle, located past Highway 85 on Saratoga Ave, is known for being a favorite for trick-or-treating in Saratoga.

It boasts a close community, as well as a substantial population of high school trick-or-treaters. With so many familiar faces, it is almost like trick-or-treating with a huge group of friends.

Bellgrove also promises a good haul of candy every year.

"Of course, there's always those people who simply leave out bowls of candy on their doorsteps and put up a sign telling people to 'take one,'" said junior Alyssa Wu, a resident of Bellgrove Circle. "But I remember one year, there was this lady who was giving out handfuls of king-sized candy bars."

Some houses have wonderful Halloween spirit, extensively decorating their houses in creative ways. Houses oftentimes will decorate with a purpose to frighten trick-or-treaters, such as decorations in the doorways that make a lot of noise or human-like figures with

covered faces.

"There's always some houses that have really cool decorations," said Wu. "There's also a lot of the really scary houses. I tend to avoid them since I'm a wimp, but I really appreciate the elaborate decorations."

Not only favorable to kids, Bellgrove is a site parents approve of as well. It's impossible to get lost in as it is a loop and is complete with sidewalks, street lamps and a lot of adult supervision.

"A lot of parents take their kids around Bellgrove since it's really safe," said Wu. "It's a really nice place to trick-or-treat."

Although in recent years, participation has slightly lessened due to the younger kids growing up, the remaining crowd still enjoys dressing up and trick-or-treating every year.

"It's really funny to see your neighbors and friends from school dressing up in such silly costumes that they would normally never wear," said junior Kelsey Owyang, who also lives in Bellgrove. "But it's Halloween, so everyone's [just having a lot] of fun." ♦

>> =yougo

Bellgrove Circle

What: Go trick-or-treating to get lots of candy!

When: Oct. 31

Why: Lots of Halloween spirit and many high school trick-or-treaters



Owyang



Wu



How to be a...

>> togatalks

What stereotype do you fall under?

"I am a band geek probably because so much of my time is spent in band. I love the band people."



senior Joyee Woodrow

"The way I dress, the way I think, everything in my art and music is what makes me a FOB."



senior Ricky Chiu

"I probably fall underneath jock because I play baseball, basketball, and football. Sports are fun and competitive."



sophomore Kyle Dozier

"I enjoy reading math books and academic books. Many of the games I play are academic as well."



senior Amol Aggrawal

Goth

: Eyeliner is your best friend

BY Jackie Gu

Would you like to be seen as an overly emotional sot who wears his heart quite literally on his sleeve? Here are some loose guidelines.

Express a burning hatred of "Twilight," because you think its fans are weak-hearted sissies who can't stand real blood.

At least that's one thing you have in common with the rest of the world. Other things you should claim hatred of include daylight, happiness and innocent baby animals.

Your favorite color should be black, because it is the color of death and your cold, cold heart. Thus, only wear black. Do not wear any other colors, ever.

Another key physical characteristics of gothdom is pale, pasty

skin. To achieve this skin tone naturally, hide in a basement for several months. Do not allow yourself to be exposed to sunlight for more than five minutes at a time. If you want to do an outdoor sport, you shouldn't even be reading this, but you can always try taking a bath in white paint every morning. Your call.

Eyeliner is your new best friend, regardless of gender. The desired effect is to make you look like a raccoon who hasn't slept in over a year and then got punched in both eyes. Stock up on red lipstick as well. Try to make it look like you just soaked your lips in blood. Or that you're a clown with bad aim. One of the two. Now, piercings. Pierce your nose, lip, tongue, brow, or some combination of the four.

Don't limit yourself to facial

piercings, though—any legal area of your body should be pierced to add to your masochistic persona.

Goth music is one of the most significant identifiers that separates the clique from the rest of society. It's also one of the easiest steps to becoming goth: find the most dark, angry, maudlin music you can and store it all in your music player. Refuse to listen to anything remotely happy or uplifting. Wallow in self-pity and make deep connections between the sad lyrics of the music and your own life, even if you're the one intentionally making your life a pathetic mess by becoming goth. Oh, irony.

Common hobbies and interests among the goth community include pyromania, sadism and writing bad poetry.

These are general suggestions

for how to goth, but remember: If you start off chippy and cheerful, you'll be considered a poser if you descend into goth-dom too fast. Don't offend your relatives too badly—if Grandma Jane nearly goes into cardiac arrest after seeing you, you know you've gone too far. ♦



Prep : You foster an addiction for 90210

BY Aashna Mukerji

Walking down the halls of Saratoga High, the classic "prep" image is almost nowhere in sight. Girls don't wear pleated skirts and knee highs matched with cashmere Ralph Lauren sweaters—instead, it's easier to find tank tops and Abercrombie jeans shorts. Swap headbands for side bangs and polo shirts for Juicy jackets, and you arrive at a more laid-back version of the original prep style.

California has a different version of prep that doesn't include pearl necklaces and diamond earrings. To be a modern prep, you should spend hours in front of the mir-

ror, text nonstop and foster an addiction for Gossip Girl and 90210. Along with being known for your memorization of movies like "John Tucker Must Die," "She's the Man" and "The Notebook" and use of annoying chatspeak, try to gain a reputation for being irritatingly perky and clique-obsessed.

With Taylor Swift as an idol, what else would you expect? Your life would revolve around climbing the social ladder and listening to Justin Bieber.

Have hobbies like using lyrics

to act deep and tagging as many people as possible in Facebook statuses.

Burn everything you own if it isn't obscenely expensive or from a respectable brand.

On the other hand, you could argue that Saratoga preps are more down to earth compared to those in other parts of the world.

Preps in the traditional sense don't usually care about grades or anything past high school.

"I've heard that at other schools, the preps can be really stuck up and

self-absorbed, but the ones here are much nicer than someone from out of state would expect," said sophomore Heather Sabel.

Being preppy doesn't always require you to spend ridiculous amounts of money in order to fit in. In school, it's all about the attitude.

The conformist air surrounding a prep is like a signal—watch out, someone much cooler than you is approaching.

You can only hope that they come to their senses and realize that acting preppy is only a mere phase—one that will burn out as soon as Katy Perry drops from the charts. ♦

Student listens to music that relates to Korean culture

BY Aasim Naqvi

Senior Garrick Chan sits down and turns on his television on a Sunday evening. He smiles when he sees that one of his favorite programs "The M-Wave" is on.

He then relaxes while getting the scoop on the latest Korean pop hit singles. When the program ends, he can only wait for next week's program. Until then, he listens to his favorite Chinese singles, which he enjoys almost as much. Chan is Chinese, but he loves Korean music as well.

Chan is one of many students in the school whose lifestyle has

been influenced by culture to the extent that his music and TV choices reflect it. Though he is Chinese, he loves K-Pop.

"Chinese music is part of my culture, but I listen to K-Pop because the lyrics are legit," Chan said.

Within Chinese and Korean music, Chan said he enjoys all genres of music other than jazz and country. Because Chan runs for the school's cross country and track teams, he especially enjoys music that prepares him for meets.

"I listen to all genres as long as the songs pump me up for a race,"

he said. "I can listen to 'rock music even though I'm not a fan."

For Chan, this music just never gets old. Chan was first introduced to Korean music by a friend in his junior year, he said.

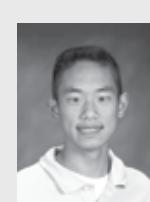
"I started listening to K-Pop when my cousin showed me a link of 'Nobody' by Wondergirls," he said. "I got so hooked that I had [the song] as a ringtone for a few months. I

actually performed a dance to the song in front of Ms. Fan's class for extra credit."

Chan didn't hesitate to share songs from his iPod.

"I like 'No Other' by Super Junior, 'Come back' by Infinite and 'Wedding Dress' by Taeyang," he said.

With this music, Korean and Chinese, Chan runs confidently into the future, knowing that the effect of his culture has been immense. ♦



"Chinese music is part of my culture, but I listen to K-Pop because the lyrics are legit."

>>Senior Garrick Chan

said.

With this music, Korean and Chinese, Chan runs confidently into the future, knowing that the effect of his culture has been immense. ♦

STEREOTYPE

Like most places, the school has its own cliques and social groups. Writers reveal how these different stereotypes listen to music, dress in their own sense of fashion, have their own slang and act in their own way.

Hipster: Listen to obscure music

BY Jackie Gu

Are you sick of your hopelessly mundane lifestyle? Will you go insane if you hear another song on the radio by a whiny country girl with lyrics seemingly written by a prepubescent teenybopper trying her hand at bad love poetry? Follow the advice of this article, and soon you will be free of your life dictated by mainstream constrictions!

With their lives steeped in bohemian culture, iPods stored full of obscure indie bands and hole-ridden clothing from the '60s, hipsters pride themselves on their estrangement from mainstream media. Hipsterdom awaits you!

Check your closet. Do you own clothing from Forever 21, Pac Sun, American Eagle or any other store that can be found in a mall? Do you wear Converse, Vans, or Uggs? If

you answered "yes" to any of these, burn all the aforementioned items. Revel in their ashes. If there are any pictures of you wearing any of these, staunchly deny all evidence. In the era of Photoshop, who puts any weight in photographic evidence anyway?

Shop in run-down thrift shops that look like they've been around since World War I.

Raid your grandmother's closet. The only rules of hipster clothing are 1) anything a prep wouldn't touch and 2) if you're a guy, stock up on tight multi-colored jeans.

You cannot listen to Rihanna, Miley Cyrus, Taylor Swift, Katy Perry or anything else on Top 40 charts. Pretend you haven't even heard of most of the popular artists at any given time. "Justin Bieber?" you might say innocuously, "who's that?" Make sure you delete the songs or artists you feign ignorance

of from your iPod.

It is rumored that a hipster's IQ is directly proportional to the obscurity of the bands he or she listens to.

Start listing every obscure indie artist you've ever heard of, and throw in a few made-up names as well to secure your hipster credibility.

There's a simple formula for making up indie band names on the spot: The + Adjective + Plural Noun. No one will be able to tell you're making them up.

Class spirit is overrated. Don't participate in Homecoming, rallies or student council because you don't want to damage your hard-earned reputation.

Time magazine said on hipsters in a July 2009 issue, "Everything about them is constructed to give off the vibe that they just don't care." ♦



Nerd: Your life should revolve around your GPA

BY Aashna Mukerji

The typical SHS student is thought of as too busy studying to ever have time for a real social life. Grades are all that matter—not friends, parties, or sports—just grades.

Although you only find the stereotypical nerd with bowties, khakis and suspenders on television, here are some tips to achieve a level of nerdity that you can be proud of.

Being obsessed with grades is the perfect place to start. Always be looking for ways to get ahead of the rest of the people in your classes.

"I check Aeries obsessively. At least twice a day, if not more," said sophomore Abigail Lin.

Push yourself as hard as you can. Sleep is important but pales in comparison to the thought of not acing an assignment. If you have nightmares about missing a point on a test, listen to Mozart to soothe your nerves.

Nonetheless, academic pressure can only exert so much of an influence on your reputation.

"I would classify a nerd as someone who isn't particularly social, and who enjoys spending time studying or on a computer more than time spent with other people," said senior Tom Clark.



If you want to let loose and accessorize, put on a sweatshirt promoting a respectable Ivy League college. To have fun, if you need to fill up any extra space in your schedule, join the math or chess club so you can learn in your free time. Knowing Klingon in addition to other obscure languages (Elvish, HTML code, etc.) never hurts.

Study by candlelight in order to reach your full potential—if you're lucky, your eyesight will deteriorate enough for you to need glasses.

If you're dedicated, act pathetic in social situations so someone beats you up and breaks your new glasses. Fix them with tape. If your mother still picks out your clothes, you get bonus points.

Awkwardness usually accompanies nerdiness, coupled with fear of social interaction.

Don't let the fact that you spent more money on orthodontia than you ever will on your car bring you down.

Remember: The popular jock you sit next to in English will probably work for you in 10 years. ♦

"I would classify a nerd as someone who isn't social, and who enjoys spending time studying."

>> Senior Tom Clark

Jock: There's more to sports than wearing that LAX penny

BY Michael Lee

Do you want to get ripped (or at least somewhat in shape)? Have you always dreamed of being the star of the football team? Do you yearn to parade around the school with that red and white uniform? If you replied "yes" to any of these three questions, then the holy haven of high school jockdom awaits you. Soccer, badminton, track, even cheerleading—there's a sport for (almost) everyone!

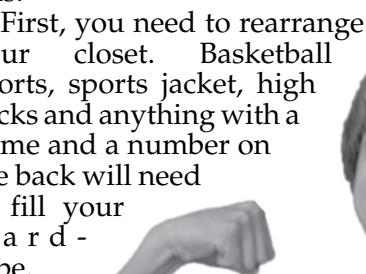
Luckily for most high school students, being a jock is fairly simple.

With one easy payment, you can join any sport team your heart desires.

A wide variety of sports are fresh for the picking. Even better, you don't even have to be the star of the team to claim the title of "jock." When we say anyone, we mean anyone!

There are, however, a couple of prerequisites for becoming one of the big men and women on campus.

First, you need to rearrange your closet. Basketball shorts, sports jacket, high socks and anything with a name and a number on the back will need to fill your wardrobe.



Those tank tops are also great to show off your athleticism and narcissism.

Next, we're going to mix up that iTunes library of yours.

Say goodbye to Mozart, Beethoven and Bach, because classical music is as out as "Like a G6" will be in a few months. You'll need to stock up on good old rock n' roll. Don't let anyone catch you with that peppy pop on your playlist.

And, of course, you have to play the part. Don't just say that you're a jock. Be a jock. Believe you're the star of the football team, whether it be JV or Varsity.

Remember, a "Letz go!" and a solid fist pump can spice up any situation for the jocks.

And don't hesitate to show off those toned badminton muscles. Anyway, why else would people spend endless hours lifting in the gyms other than to look good in that sports uniform? ... Well, if you care, I guess working out can help you compete better, too.

If you can successfully meet all these jock requirements, you too can take your rightful place among the glorified athletes of Saratoga High School. ♦



Toga's 15 Most

**1.**>> Sasan Saadat **Man of 1000 Words**

As the saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words, and sophomore Sasan Saadat has been trying to capture storytelling pictures since he first began photography.

Saadat started his serious interest in photography on his trip to London during his freshman year.

"I picked up a camera and fell in love," Saadat said.

Saadat's true love rests beyond the beautiful scenes and dazzling landscapes. What Saadat really loves is the hidden stories and subtle messages behind the glossy surface.

"Pictures where the model looks flattering or the landscape looks stunning, those are the ones a ton of people like," Saadat said. "But my personal favorites are the ones that are unusual and make people think about why the picture was taken a certain way, and make viewers look deeper to understand the full story behind it." —Dylan Jew

2.>> Tim Park **The Music Man**

Visit sophomore Tim Park in his room on a typical day and you'll probably find him sitting at his keyboard with his computer screen blaring from the side. The speakers blast out his newest music piece, which consists of an organized collection of synthesized instruments.

"I took a violin class before, so I can read basic sheet music. But I don't really know any music theory, so I try to stay off the black keys."

After Park learned to play violin, he picked up the piano and guitar on his own. Since then, he has been making his music with these two instruments and a program called Mixcraft, a computer-based music creation studio. "I don't use an organized way of making music. I just keep retrying it until I find something I like," said Park. —Rohan Rajeev

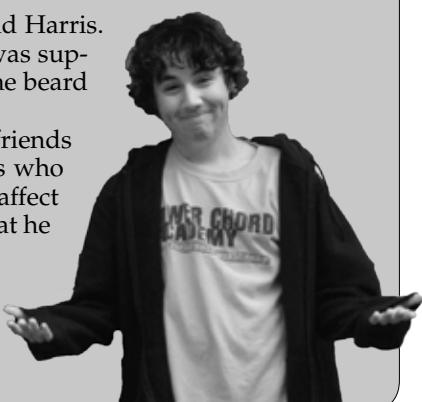
**3.**>> Josh Harris **Costume Extremist**

Junior Joshua Harris has been regarded by others as funny, weird and eccentric for his outgoing attitude and interesting fashion choices which include Snuggies, characters like Jailebirde for the junior quad day, and historical figures for his history classes.

"There were a couple of weird ones," said Harris. "I think it was one day for history when I was supposed to dress up as Resputin, but I wore the beard the entire day."

Harris said that "picking up things that friends do, watching a lot of shows, having friends who have the same outlook on life and such" affect his flamboyant choices in outerwear, and that he dresses up "because life is boring."

"Really, [I've] got to do something to make the day more interesting and lighten up the atmosphere," said Harris. —Deborah Soung

**4.**>> Walter Hsiang **Mr. Club Prez x 4**

Saratoga High students are notorious for their high stress levels—typically resulting from their multiple AP courses and their numerous extracurricular activities. Now imagine adding the responsibility of being the president of not one, but four clubs.



Senior Walter Hsiang is the president of CSF, Tri-M and Perfect Pals as well as the co-president of Live Right.

"I joined each one by one," said Hsiang. "The first two [CSF and Tri-M] I joined freshman year because I wanted to help my community. Then I joined Live Right to raise cancer and hepatitis awareness. Finally I joined Perfect Pals because I wanted to help my disabled and special education friends."

Hsiang said his primary motivation is to give back to his community.

"I really enjoy being part of these clubs," said Hsiang. "When I started out this whole process I had no idea what college applications were; I only wanted to help others." —Sarah Hull

5.>> Crystal Yen **10-S-Q-T**

Despite qualifying as a Junior Olympic hurdler in eighth grade, junior Crystal Yen abandoned the track lanes the summer after her freshman year when she realized she did not truly enjoy the sport. She chose instead to focus on tennis, which she had started only two summers before, after seventh grade.

Since then, Yen has been traveling and playing in national tennis championships around the state and even in farther away places including Louisiana, Texas and Arizona. She also plays No. 2 singles on the school varsity team. This past May she won second place in the 16s and under USTA National Open in Elk Grove. Later in August she won the 18s and under section of the West Coast Championships in Sacramento.

"Both times I wasn't expected to get that far, but I [did surprisingly well]," said Yen.

Not surprisingly, Yen is looking to play college tennis. She feels proud to be a "5-star" recruit, or Top 75 in her grade nationally on tennisrecruiting.net, a website that college coaches and recruiters use. —Evaline Ju

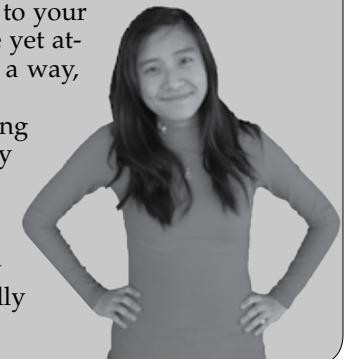
6.>> Vivian Wang **Design Star**

Many students own a sketchbook or two filled with doodles or drawings of animals or manga characters, but not freshman Vivian Wang. Her sketchbook is full of drawings of still lifes and empty rooms filled with furniture, each etched with dark and precise strokes of her pencil.

"I got into interior design because I was inspired by the picture ads from the Ikea catalogs that they mail to your home," said Wang. "I fell in love with the simple yet attractive ways they arrange the furniture, and, in a way, it's just like art."

Though Wang's drawings do not depict living creatures, they still express emotions and creativity through how the artist arranges objects around a two-dimensional room.

"I love drawing interior design simply because it makes me relax and forget about my worries, and simple sketching is what I'm naturally good at," said Wang. —Deborah Soung

**7.**>> Isabel McPherson **Jill-of-all-trades**

Junior Isabel McPherson is no ordinary band student, unless you count being in practically every music group there is on campus as ordinary. She is a member of jazz band, marching band and orchestra. McPherson has played six different instruments over her life, and actively plays four: violin, bass, bass guitar and baritone.

"I feel like if I didn't do all [of the instruments], I would go insane," said McPherson. "I need something to keep me occupied. If I have free time, I feel like I should be doing something."

In addition to leading the euphonium section in marching band and accompanying the jazz band on bass guitar, McPherson also plays the string bass for orchestra and the chordophone, a ukulele-like instrument, whenever she has spare time. Next year, McPherson hope to add the prestigious title of drum major to her musical résumé.

"If I didn't have music in my life, I would not have motivation to not suck," said McPherson. —Mac Hyde



>> online extra

For full-length articles and even more "fascinating" student profiles, visit:

www.saratogafalcon.org

Other profiles available online include Nikki Bedekar (10), Gautam Bhayani (11), Lauren Gardanier (12), Parth Shah (9) and David Wang (12).

Photos taken by Sarah Hull, Vivian LeTran and Parul Singh.

Fascinating People



8. >> Angie Chang My English Coach

No pain, no gain." One person who can relate to this is junior Angie Chang, who spent most of this past July teaching English to Chinese-speaking students in Taiwan.

In the class, she mentored a diverse group of students every week ranging from elementary school to high school students. In training for her job, Chang also had to work the opposite way, teaching Chinese to English-speakers.

"[Teaching Chinese] wasn't as much fun as teaching English because my Chinese wasn't very good yet," she said.

But after the grueling first week, the work became more engaging and Chang was able to enjoy life as an English coach.

"Had I not worked hard [in training], I would not have been able to take so much from the experience," said Chang. "I would definitely go again if I had the chance." —Rohan Rajeev

9. >> Cassandra Tran Icing Queen

Senior Cassandra Tran has always been a bit of a perfectionist, especially when it comes to one of her more imaginative hobbies—the art of cake decorating.

Tran bakes and decorates intricate cakes at home with her mom and has recently begun to take custom orders from family members and friends of the family. She also creates cakes for her friends' birthdays and surprises them with one-of-a-kind desserts.

"I only started cake decorating half a year ago, but I've been baking with my mom for much longer," said Tran. "The cakes can get pretty elaborate. I remember the first one we did was an Ariel mermaid cake."

Tran and her mom are currently taking lessons at Michael's Arts and Crafts store, which offers tutorials in cake decorating, in order to expand their skills. Tran hopes to one day be able to sell her cakes for profit. —Sarah Hull



10. >> Edgar Chen Pi Guy

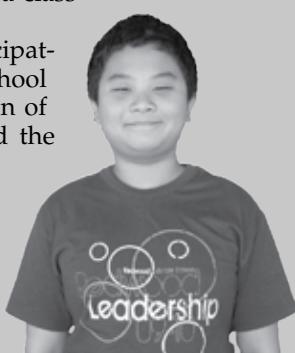
With help from math teacher PJ Yim, freshman Edgar Chen filed an appeal to accelerate to Trigonometry/Precalculus Honors, a class

rarely occupied by 9th graders.

Chen achieved noteworthy success while participating in the Redwood Math Club in late March last school year, when he was seventh in the individual section of the state Mathcounts competition and helped lead the Redwood team to sixth place in the team section.

Later in April he won fifth place in the Middle School Leapfrog section of the Santa Clara Valley Mathematics Association Field Day.

"I don't really know what started my interest in math, but I [sort of] do math for fun," said Chen. —Evaline Ju



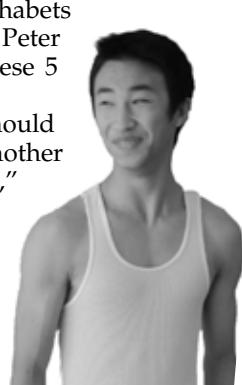
11. >> Peter Hsieh Yo shi Trilinguist

If learning one new language is hard, imagine learning two with completely different alphabets at once. Such is the case for junior Peter Hsieh, who takes both Spanish 4 Honors and Chinese 5 Honors.

Hsieh's parents were split on which language he should take. His father wanted him to take Spanish, and his mother wanted Chinese. "I came up with the logical solution," Hsieh said. "I took both."

Hsieh finds Spanish more challenging than Chinese, but says taking two languages has been worth it.

"It's really fun to learn about the culture and to communicate with a lot of different people from all over the world." —Dylan Jew



* Listed in no particular order, these 15 "fascinating" people were selected and interviewed by members of *The Falcon* staff.

12. >> Henry Shen Tennis Mentality

When tennis players are in a game-deciding situation, the difference between winning and losing often comes down to who has the stronger will. By emphasizing his mental game, sophomore Henry Shen is able to capitalize on these tight situations to win more games.

Shen has been playing competitive tennis since he was 11. After years of tight matches, he still finds it's hard to stay calm during pressure situations.

"If you play badly in tennis, you don't have any teammates to back you up," said Shen. "This makes the mental game extremely important."

Singles tennis players feel the burden of being on the court all alone with no teammates to help.

"The mental game is not getting angry after mistakes and being able to move on after losing a point or key set," Shen said. —Dylan Jew

13. >> Manish Raghavan Fútbol Phenom

For most high school students, San Francisco is about as far as they would travel for a soccer game. For junior Manish Raghavan, a game in SF would serve as a break from the far-flung venues where his team often plays.

Raghavan's team, De Anza Force 93 Blue, has played in tournaments as far away as Dallas and Seattle, where Raghavan and the team fought their way to the quarterfinals. But playing for a prestigious club like his comes at a price. There is a lot of competition within the team.

"We have 40 guys on the roster, but some don't even get chosen for the games. The coach picks 15-18 guys for the game. It gets pretty competitive," Raghavan said.

Raghavan plays first string center defense for his team. The color signifies the class level of the team, blue being the highest.

"Right now, we're ranked close to No. 10 in the state," Raghavan said. "That's pretty good." —Rohan Rajeev



14. >> Cynthia Chen Gamer Girl

Most girls have stockpiles of clothes in flashy arrays of color. Sophomore Cynthia Chen has an ever-expanding collection of video games.

"My three brothers got me into [playing video games] when I was pretty young, and I grew up in a house full of guys, so I guess I just adapted to their interests instead of 'female' interests," said Chen.

Chen's addiction has set her apart from the "stereotypical female," since most girls do not spend as much time playing and collecting games.

Her favorite video game is Final Fantasy X because "it has an amazing plot and there was so much detail put into it."

Chen said, "I own almost every video game, and I've tried most of the online multiplayer games out there." —Deborah Soung



15. >> Michael Cheung Crafty Kid

In his free time, sophomore Michael Cheung enjoys crocheting and making origami figures, cards and assorted paper crafts, defying age-old gender stereotypes.

At age five, he learned origami from his father and has practiced ever since.

"I would normally just do origami because it's more straightforward," he said. "Crocheting can be frustrating."

Cheung discovered paper crafts when he stumbled upon paper-

craftmuseum.com when he was 11. He

started cardmaking because he sub-

scribed to the Paper Crafts Magazine.

He makes figures of Pokemon, ani-

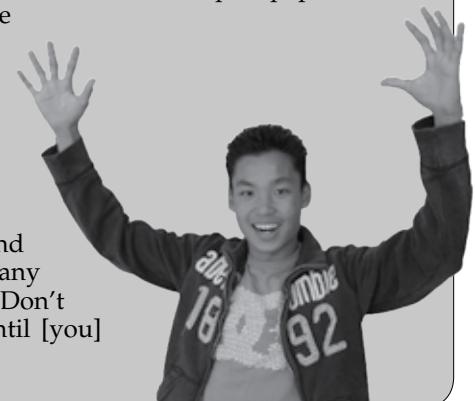
mals, things in nature or anything else

he thinks looks cute. When finished,

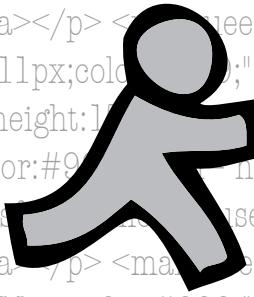
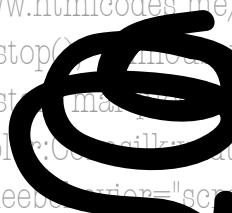
he normally gives his crafts away to

friends as birthday presents.

Mastering the arts of paper crafts and crocheting takes time and effort. To any struggling artists, Cheung advises, "Don't give up. Just keep messing around until [you] get it right." —Evaline Ju



Internet Menace IN THE INTERNET AGE, BULLIES AND ABUSERS FIND TARGETS ONLINE



KYUMIN SHIM

f Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com>

facebook

By: Shivani Chadha

News Feed

Messages Events Friends

>> THE bigidea

Facebook bullying

Fake profiles: Students have reported that their names and pictures have been used to create fake profiles

Rumors: Students have reported that private information exchanged in chats have been posted to the public

Hackers: Outside websites can steal passwords, pictures and personal information if a user clicks on an unfamiliar link

Junior Anjalika Goyal remembers the day her online nightmare began. She was checking her e-mail two months ago and clicked on a link that led her to a suspicious looking website. Goyal attempted to log back in to her Facebook account, but to her horror, her password and e-mail had been changed for the popular site. Goyal was finally able to reset her password and e-mail, but found that all her friends had been deleted.

Goyal discovered that her Facebook account had been hacked by an unknown user, who also created a fake account under her name. The cycle repeated itself every other day, with a change of password, deletion of friends, and random wall posts.

Facebook is the social network that links people worldwide, via chat, messages and wall posts. However, now, a network that has brought everyone together can actually tear people apart. Many believe that Facebook has become a facilitator of gossip, which can ultimately lead to forms of cyber bullying through harsh comments and words.

"They made a fake account with my information and pictures," Goyal said. "So after a month of trying to fix the problem myself, I decided to report the second account to Facebook and let them deal with it."

Since then, Goyal said she has become much more careful, has changed many of her privacy settings and does not click on links she does not recognize.

Another student, who asked that his name not be used, had a similar experience, when a fake Facebook account was created for him and he did not find out till two days later, after the hacker instant messaged people pretending to be him.

"The problem with outlets like Facebook is that people can literally pretend to be someone else without the hassle of hacking accounts," the source said. "Cyberbullying is scary because it is a lot easier to bully someone online than it is in person."

Though creating fake accounts is one form of harassment via Facebook, Facebook users have found other ways to release private information and hurt others' feelings. Because of Facebook's open nature, it has become common for users to copy and paste conversations to one another. Many students have had experiences where private information has hurtfully been revealed through these seemingly innocent chats.

"I think that if you are trying to say something to one person, it should stay between you and that person," sophomore Jaya Narasimhan said. "It's an invasion of privacy when people copy and paste things on Facebook."

Despite Facebook's privacy options for user safety, those who have experienced the dark side of the online world understand that it is still a danger.

"People think there's no cyberbullying in Saratoga," junior Anshu Siripurapu said, "but people talk behind people's backs while behind a screen."♦

KYUMIN SHIM

>> falconfigures

20 percent of students between the ages of 11 and 18 have reported being cyberbullied by a peer in their lifetime

20 percent of students in the same age group have also reported cyberbullying another student themselves

10 percent of students have both cyberbullied another person and been a victim of online harassment

274 of students at Saratoga High will, according to studies, be cyberbullied or bully another before age 18

-Emily Williams

Source: www.cyberbullying.us

Q&A with Dr. Hadas Pade, Psy.D., on cyberbullying and its effects on victims

Q: How does cyberbullying affect the victim?

A: There's never a clear answer, but it can often go one of two ways: the individual internalizing the experience, becoming depressed or anxious, which can lead to drastic changes in behavior and poor choices. Or, the individual will externalize, and become more aggressive and defiant.

Q: How can people help victims?

A: The impact can be greater if there were risk factors before the bullying, such as having a poor family support system or few friends. On the other hand, research suggests that having one of the most powerful factors when it comes to bullying is having a consistent, supportive adult available.

Q: What is the mindset of most cyberbullies?

A: Bullying or putting others down often makes people feel good about themselves. Cyberbullying makes it easier because you can do it from the comfort of your own home. Most students don't realize what they're doing is hurtful, but there are, of course, some that have no real reason.

Q: How should victims of cyberbullying react?

A: Finding someone they can trust to talk about it is probably the most important thing, although that's often hard, embarrassing and painful to do. Together with that individual, preferably an adult at some point they can figure out a plan. Talking about it is a powerful first step.

Q: How should friends and family of victims react?

A: Be supportive, validate the child's feelings and just listen to what they have to deal with, without necessarily trying to fix it immediately, judging or commenting. Just listen and be available.

>> onlineextra

For more statistics behind cyberbullying, the full interview with Dr. Pade and anecdotes from two anonymous victims of cyberbullying, check out the entire story by Emily Williams at

www.saratogafalcon.org

Administration defines rules on cyberbullying

BY Ashwini Velchamy

As technology becomes more prominent in our lives, school administrators face a major problem. The schoolyard bullies of the past are now online, becoming cyberbullies. Because this problem has emerged in the past few years, schools are still looking for the most effective way to deal with it while ensuring the safety and education of all involved.

"It is really sort of uncharted territory," said principal Jeff Anderson.

SHS administrators say that only a small number of incidents of this sort have occurred at the school.

"We have tried to be proactive on these and got to them before they became problems," said Anderson. "We know it's out there, but, fortunately, we haven't seen it too much at Saratoga High."

Anderson feels that the best way to solve the problem of cyberbullying is having the involved parties meet face to face.

"When you get wind of it, even if it turns out to be nothing, you need to address it. The parties need to be brought in to determine the level of seriousness," said Anderson.

Guidance counselor Alinna Satake said it's in the best interest of students to come and talk to an adult about any incidents.

"In the 21st century, people are still trying to figure out what is appropriate and what should go out on the Internet and on public sites," said Satake. "It's not good decision making. I guess someone might feel empowered by it, as well as the anonymity in doing it online versus getting into a fist fight with someone."

Anderson agrees with this idea and stresses how important it is to tell parents or teachers if an issue arises, especially if it is online.

"If you know [cyberbullying] is going on, we really encourage you to come tell us," said Anderson. "Don't

"We really encourage you to come tell us. Don't suffer in silence."

>> Principal Jeff Anderson

suffer in silence."

Assistant principal Chris Cerbone said that victims of cyberbullies should save everything as evidence. He also said the administration will suspend students based on the degree of the cyberbullying. Law enforcement can also get called in because cyberbullying is a crime.

Cerbone believes the prevalence of new technologies, such as the Internet and cell phones, contributes to the increase in cyberbullying among teenagers.

"The age of the Internet and texting makes it easier for people to not face their victims," said Cerbone. "It makes it easy for people to disrespect others."

Cerbone added that the Internet has depersonalized everything.

"I think cyberbullies are cowards," said Cerbone. "They sit behind a closed door and say things they'd never say in front of the person."

Anderson offered some simple advice for preventing oneself from becoming a victim of cyberbullying.

"Don't be a big texter," said Anderson. "Talk to people face to face. Don't do anything on the Internet that you don't want on the cover of the Mercury News." ♦

>> THE bigidea

Admins on cyberbullying

From Principal Jeff Anderson: Go find an adult, and don't "suffer in silence" if you're being cyberbullied.

From A.P. Chris Cerbone: Victims of cyberbullies should save everything as evidence, and law enforcement can be called in because cyberbullying is a crime.

From guidance counselor Alinna Satake: Anonymity empowers Internet users to make poor decisions.

AIM - Instant...

File Edit View Help

>> Toga Talks

Saratoga on cyberbullying

"With anonymity comes the boldness to show the uglier side of human nature. People can attack others without fear of reprisal."



alumnus Steven Sung



"Recently, cyberbullying has been increasing a lot and it needs to stop. People don't realize they're hurting someone because it's over the Internet."

junior Darisha Jhutty



"The Internet makes bullying morally easier to do, because when people bully online, they don't feel the same guilt they would if they said it to someone's face."

junior Mark Van Aken

IM +/ Actions

KYUMIN SHIM

Formspring

<http://www.formspring.me>

formspring



By:

Kyumin Shim
and Ashley Tang
Saratoga, CA

+ Follow

When was the last time you exercised? Please start ASAP.

Nobody likes you. Get a life.

Such questions are examples of cyberbullying that appear on the popular site, Formspring. Formspring is a bulletin-style website where one can create an account and anyone with access to the Internet can ask the user questions. Anonymity is a key factor that makes this website both appealing and harmful. Originally, Formspring was created to provide a means of honest questioning for curious friends and coworkers who wanted to avoid awkward situations. Now, people are abusing the privilege of anonymity to

harass and bully their peers

Many students use this popular website to both ask and receive questions. Because Formspring enables people to ask questions without giving names, bullies have the capability to impersonate others without suffering any consequences.

"[The cyberbullies] pretend to be someone else and then insult another person," said sophomore Sarah Kuo. "They feel protected behind a computer screen."

Formspring's open, easily accessible format is perfect for cyberbullying to spawn. When concerns were raised about bullying, Formspring created a list

of safety tips for its users to try to prevent harassment.

"We count on users to be smart and safe," said Sarahjane Sacchetti, the director of communications at Formspring, in a press release. "This includes checking and maintaining the safety and privacy settings that work best for them, as well as blocking and reporting users who may cross the line."

Sacchetti says that Formspring follows up on all the reports that they receive and they have the ability to block or suspend users. While they will never reveal an anonymous user to another, they are able to give user information to local law enforcement.

Although cyberbullying is rampant on Formspring, the privacy settings give users the choice to block anonymous questions. If the site took away the anonymity option, cyberbullying would decrease; however, the appeal of the website would decline along with it.

"If Formspring wasn't anonymous, it would render the site useless; nobody would use it," said junior Sankash Shankar. "It would be like posting on a Facebook wall."

Cyberbullying can be hurtful, exacerbated by Formspring's anonymity policy. Authorities recommend enforcing privacy settings or deleting the account entirely. ♦

KYUMIN SHIM

FOOTBALL

VICTORY >> Doles' interception seals the deal



FALCON // JORDAN WAITE



FALCON // JORDAN WAITE

From left: Junior runningback Troy Doles evades a Los Gatos defender as he sprints towards the end zone. Students cheer in celebration of Saratoga's 21-17 victory over Los Gatos, the team's first victory over the Cats since 1982.

continued from pg. 1

to the field. On the wall of the Facebook event for the game, students posted harmless "smacktalk" at first, which is expected for a game with such history.

But the innocuous comments soon led to vicious and even racial insults resulting the punishment of several Los Gatos students.

Rough offensive start

The Falcons and Wildcats stepped onto the field with high hopes. Both teams' offenses struggled to score early in the game, but the Wildcats drew first blood with a 35-yard field goal by senior kicker Andy Heimer, who sent the ball sailing straight through the uprights. In their next offensive drive, the Cats steadily pounded the ball into Falcon territory using their power running game, and scored on a 4-yard dive up the middle by senior running back Garret Zeiter, followed by a Heimer extra point.

Despite being down by 10 early in the game, the Falcons refused to give up.

In order to jump start their offense, the Falcons took advantage of their unstopp-

pable passing attack. They capped their drive off with a 32-yard touchdown pass from senior quarterback Kevin Smith to senior receiver Chris Guengerich, tightening the Wildcat lead to 10-7 at end of the first half, after an extra point by senior kicker Peter Auvin.

The perfect call

After the opening kickoff of the second half, the Falcons started with the ball on their own 30-yard line and moved the chains consistently yet again. However, after two rushing attempts for no gain, the Falcons faced a third and long on the Cats' 26-yard line. Using every bit of creativity he had, Lugo called for a triple reverse pass, a play the Falcons only practiced once before. The play worked to perfection. After faking a pass, Smith tossed the ball to Johnson, who tossed it to Guengerich, who tossed the ball back to Smith, who finally threw a 40-yard bomb to junior running back Troy Doles in the end zone, pushing the Falcons into the lead for the first time with a score of 14-10, after an Auvin extra point.

"It was the perfect call at the time,"

said Hoffman. "We practiced it for the first time the day before and everyone was surprised when it worked. It was by far the [best] play we ran."

Wildcat offensive drive

The Cats quickly responded and managed to plow through the Falcon defense, driving run-by-run into the red zone. Late in the third quarter, the Cats regained their first half lead with a 1-yard touchdown run by Zeiter, and an extra point conversion, taking a 17-14 lead over the Falcons.

Falcon comeback

Down by three in the fourth quarter, Smith maintained his composure. Making no mistakes on the drive, Smith completed a 17-yard touchdown pass, his third of the night, to Guengerich with less than 4 minutes remaining.

Play of the year

With a 21-17 lead over Los Gatos, it looked as though Saratoga had finally secured a victory. But the Cats managed to squelch all Falcon hopes by moving into scoring position in the red zone

with just 30 seconds left on the clock. In prime position to win the game for the Cats, Los Gatos senior quarterback Hayden Hibberd lofted a floater into the end zone, hoping the win the game.

The stands stood waiting in anticipation as Hibberd's pass soared straight into the endzone right into the hands of Doles, who while playing cornerback, managed to intercept the ball in the air to secure a Falcon victory. With 26 seconds left on the clock, the Falcons took a knee to run out the clock. Counting down seconds while waiting for time to expire, the fans then stormed the field, capping off one of the most magical nights in Falcon football history. ♦

>> SCOREboard

Oct. 22	Saratoga 21, Los Gatos 17
	Senior Chris Guengerich caught two touchdown passes from senior Kevin Smith, including the game deciding fourth quarter touchdown. Smith passed for 156 yards and three touchdowns. Junior Troy Doles had 183 totals yards of offense.

HISTORY >> The big game

continued from pg. 1

squads in the playoffs, one of them being Los Gatos, to win the CCS crown. At the end of Pierce's tenure, the cross-town rivals were enjoying a rise in prominence and as enrollment dipped at Saratoga High, hopes against the Wildcats dwindled as well.

After Pierce's retirement in 1994, Saratoga began a slow slide into mediocrity. Despite occasional success, the team lost its hold in the upper rungs of local high school football. The team often found itself looking up to Los Gatos from a league below. The years continued to add up. Even when Saratoga seemed to be better such as in 1997 when they won CCS under coach Mike Machado, they still managed to be done in by the Los Gatos curse, losing 13-12 that year.

In 2001 a prodigy was leading a Los Gatos team—Trent Edwards, who now plays for the Jacksonville Jaguars. Los Gatos would still win that game 10-7.

In 2008 Tim Lugo was brought in as the new head coach. One of his first actions as coach was to implement the same Wing-T offense employed during the Benny Pierce golden years. That year, an unsuspecting Los Gatos team was caught off guard by Lugo's highly motivated team. But the curse still held back the Falcons. An untimely fumble by Saratoga led to a 10-7 loss. Last year the Falcons fell 47-0. Despite the loss,

team managed to earn a CCS berth and reach the semi-finals.

Last Friday junior Troy Doles not only held tightly onto the game-winning interception, he also clung to a legacy, a proud history and a hope for the resurgence of a football program that had been dwelling in hardship. The momentous win has allowed the team to come full circle, to an almost forgotten yet slightly familiar place. How the Falcons carry out the rest of the season is still to be determined, but they have a strong forward push going into the last three games, and a major Wildcat off their backs. ♦

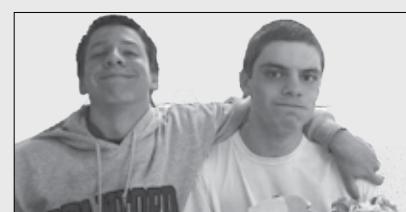
>> the scores

The Big Game: over the years

1981: No Score	1996: 13-12 (L)
1982: No score (W)	1997: 34-16 (L)
1983: No score (L)	1998: 24-0 (L)
1984: 27-0 (L)	1999: 48-8 (L)
1985: 19-7 (L)	2000: 40-10 (L)
1986: No score (L)	2001: 14-7 (L)
1987: 21-6 (L)	2002: 42-13 (L)
1988: No score	2003: 28-6 (L)
1989: 28-2 (L)	2004: 34-11 (L)
1990: None	2005: 61-13 (L)
1991: 14-0 (L)	2006: 49-13 (L)
1992: 27-7 (L)	2007: 49-21 (L)
1993: None (L)	2008: 10-7 (L)
1994: 45-14 (L)	2009: 47-0 (L)
1995: 24-3 (L)	2010: 21-17 (W)

Scores from school yearbook records.

How we broke the curse



>> Kevin Darchuk and Tim Lycurgus

All Things Considered

After seeing Los Gatos lose 42-0 to Palo Alto the previous week, students started predicting that this could be the year we finally won. Fans weren't disappointed as the Falcons beat the Cats 21-17. Here's why:

1. Offensive Line did its job.

The line gave quarterback Kevin Smith time in the pocket, yielding only one sack to a defense that averaged over three sacks a game. With this extra time, Smith could complete several passes for large gains, including touchdown passes of 17, 27 and 32 yards. The offensive line opened gaps for running backs, seniors Greg Johnson and Marcus Hoffman and junior

Troy Doles, who had 183 yards of total offense.

2. Falcon defense came up with big stops at the right time.

The Saratoga defense came up with big plays when they needed them most. The Falcons started out the game by forcing Los Gatos to punt, letting everyone know it could stop the Los Gatos offense and then recorded a crucial stop at the end of the first half to keep the score 10-7 instead of a two possession game and momentum on the side of the Falcons. In the second half, after giving up the lead on a long scoring drive, Saratoga's defense came up with two late stops, including the interception in the end zone with under a minute to play.

3. Support from the stands.

The bleachers were packed and the band and the student section remained in the game all four quarters. The fans made sure that the Falcons had an actual home field advantage by cheering nonstop and supporting the team. ♦

FIELD HOCKEY

Injuries, losses set back CCS goals

BY Synthia Ling
& Ren Norris

Having competed in the playoffs every year since 2000, field hockey has consistently been one of the school's strongest sports teams. This season, however, with key losses early on, and the injury of senior attacker and co-captain Vanessa Block, the team may not even make it to the CCS playoffs.

At an away game on Oct. 14 against Gilroy, the Mustangs came away with a 2-1 victory against the Falcons after managing to score two early goals. Senior forward Whitney Hansen scored the lone Falcon goal late in the second half, hoping to spark a comeback.

During the match, while Saratoga was defending a Gilroy short corner, the ball hit Block's right thumb and broke it in four places. As a result, Block will be out for at least four weeks to recover.

Having played on varsity since freshman year, Block has been an impressive, high-scoring offensive player and an influential leader, said assistant coach Amber Wilson.

"If the team dwells on the fact that [Block] is out and thinks that's a huge blow, then it will be a huge blow," said Wilson. "In the Gilroy game we scored without [Block] in, and that was against an undefeated team. We would love to have [Block] in, but if the team steps up to the challenge we can still do it."

The setback is troublesome for the team, and especially for Block.

"We had great play, but we had just bad luck and couldn't get the ball in the goal."

>> Ass't coach Amber Wilson

ing the team's chances of qualifying for CCS.

Now, Saratoga is in the process of facing all the teams a second time and needs to beat some of the teams they fell to in the first half of the season.

"The season hasn't been going the way we wanted, score-wise," said Wilson. "We had great plays at certain times, but we just had bad luck and couldn't get the ball in the goal. The games were lopsided; we'd dominate but we couldn't score."

The team's first win of the season was against Los Altos on Oct. 21, when the girls pulled off a clutch 2-1 win, with goals by senior center-mid fielder Ren Norris and junior forward Annie Barco. However, the team is still feeling the pressure. To make it to CCS the girls

"It's really upsetting and disappointing that my season is cut short," she said. "I'm definitely going to try to stay in shape so I can maybe return for the last few games, but it is definitely a major letdown."

The injury seems to have come at the worst time possible. Before the loss to Gilroy, the team had a disappointing 2-0 loss on Oct. 12 to Leigh, a new team to the El Camino division.

On Oct. 7, the team managed to tie with Presentation 1-1, when sophomore mid fielder Amanda Schwartz tipped in

a goal early in the game, but Presentation responded with a goal in the second half.

In the first half the season, the team's record was 0-5-2, risking



FALCON // PARUL SINGH

Sophomore Megan Doles shoots during a 2-1 victory against Los Altos on Oct. 21.

need to beat Los Altos, Presentation, Leigh and one other school, all without Block's help.

"Skill-wise we are all there because all of us are really good players," said sophomore forward Megan Doles. "It just comes down to working as a team and getting intense for these important games. It is definitely possible for us to go to CCS."

Norris, along with sophomores Jenny Miller and Hannah Johnson, have all

stepped up in the absence of Block, said Wilson.

Block, who has been recruited to play for several Division 3 colleges in the East Coast, says her injury will be healed by the end of this year and should not affect her future in the sport.

"I'll still be on the side leading and cheering them on," said Block. "We have a lot of strong players, and they are improving as a team, so we still have a shot at CCS." ♦

GIRLS' TENNIS

Girls smash Matadors in key league match

BY Evaline Ju

The dark clouds hung ominously on the afternoon of Oct. 5 when the girls' tennis team set out to play their bitter rival, Monta Vista High. Yet even the depressing skies and a few light sprinkles would not hinder the team from defeating their opponents 5-2.

With half of the league season over as of Oct. 5, the outlook to a CCS championship repeat remains bright. "I cannot remember the last time Saratoga tennis has started a season 12-0," said head coach Tom Uyehara.

The win against Monta Vista can boost the entire team's confidence to win CCS, said junior Sarah Lum, who plays No. 1 doubles with junior Lisa Asai.

Changes in the team's lineup have improved chances of further success. Junior Crystal Yen has been moved up to the No. 2 singles spot, trading places with senior co-captain Catherine Nguyen, who now plays No. 3 singles.

Both Nguyen and Yen are great players, but Yen has had more success lately against the top players in and out of the league, said Uyehara.

Since they emerged as the champions of the 112-team Peachtree tournament in Fresno in early September, the team didn't face any serious challenges until they played Monta Vista.

"I was really happy because in previous seasons it has been really hard for us to secure a victory," said senior co-captain Mary Edman. "[This] being my senior year [made it] extra special."

However, this year even the opponents did not seem as tough as expect-



FALCON // VIVIAN LE TRAN

Junior Crystal Yen volleys the ball back to her opponent in a match against Monta Vista on Oct. 5.

ed, said Yen, who defeated Monta Vista senior Vynnie Kong 6-0, 6-1.

"I wasn't too excited [when we won] because it wasn't as intense [as the last few years]."

The day before the Monta Vista game, No. 2 doubles player sophomore Niharika Bedekar rolled her ankle and No. 3 doubles player freshman Usha Raman hurt her wrist. Despite these setbacks, both managed to play in their matches.

Saratoga had a bye for league matches on Oct. 12, giving the players time to recover. Saratoga played Monta Vista for the second time in a home game on Oct. 26, but due to printing deadlines, the game could not be covered in this issue. ♦

GIRLS' GOLF

Team has a Champion

FRESHMAN STEPS UP WITH GOOD ALL-AROUND GAME AND ENTHUSIASM

BY Apeksha Sharma
& Samika Kumar

For No. 4 player Hallé Champion, playing on the golf team this season has solidified her hopes to excel at the game, plow her way to perfection and develop lasting friendships. With the young team losing their most experienced member, No. 1 player senior Utara Sivaram, next year, this freshman just may become the exemplary golfer for her peers in upcoming years.

Having played golf for two years, Champion would like to hit the ball farther and be better at putting.

Though she admits she has some ways to go, her acquired skills and talents remain admired by her peers.



"This golf season has been terrific knowing that this has only been my first season on the team. I feel [like] I'm with family."

>> Freshman Hallé Champion

"I've seen [Hallé] hit some golf balls," player sophomore Madison King said, "and they go really far and straight. She's really good for a freshman."

King believes Champion's personality adds a unique flavor to the team.

"She is very outgoing," said King. "She has good style with her knee-high socks and plaid pants."

To bring more enthusiasm to matches, Champion has worn colorful knee-high socks and checkered shorts, an original trademark of hers that has instigated team spirit and optimism.

The team's second-to-last tri-match

of the season on Oct. 14 turned out to be a success. Using the sum of the team's top four individual scores, the girls finished with one of their best overall scores—194. Saratoga High beat Lincoln by a margin of 40 but lost to its second opponent, Leland, by 7.

Champion scored a 50 on the par 35 course, mere strokes behind Sivaram and No. 2 player sophomore Samika Kumar.

"I think we were playing pretty [well], but then we got a little nervous and antsy," Champion said. "That contributed to our score."

Of the nine teams that are in the league, Saratoga High ranks near the

middle.

Though the team did not qualify for CCS, it sent several girls to the Coyote Creek Golf Course

on Oct. 27 to try out for CCS individual qualifiers. The results could not be covered due to printing deadlines.

Champion knows the team has had its ups and downs, but she is certain that she will continue to be part of the team next year. After high school, she hopes to compete in golf at the college level. Until then, however, Champion knows she will savor the upcoming years on the Saratoga girls' golf team.

"This golf season has been terrific, knowing that this has only been my first season on the team," Champion said. "I feel [like] I'm with family." ♦

GPA

SAT

IMPROVEMENT



Instructor Fu

Dr. Fu has mentored high school, undergraduate and graduate students in Chemistry research. In addition, she has extensive teaching experience as a TA and has led lab classes at UC Berkeley. She is passionate about enhancing the learning experience for her students and ensuring the development of effective problem-solving skills.

Chemistry

Ph.D Chemistry - UC Berkeley

Instructor Lynn

Instructor Lynn was the winner of the Outstanding Biology Teaching Assistant Award at Cornell University, where she worked as a TA and instructor for Biology at Cornell University for over 8 years. She is a credentialed Biology and AP Biology teacher.

Biology

**MS Education - Cornell University
BS Entomology - Purdue University**

Instructor Richardson

Instructor Richardson received his B.A. in English with Honors at U.C. Berkeley where he was also inducted into the illustrious Phi Beta Kappa honor society (top 1% of national undergraduate students). He focuses on developing the academic skills that help students to not only gain admission into the nation's top universities, but also to excel and distinguish themselves once they arrive.

English

BA English - UC Berkeley

Instructor Vanamu

Dr. Vanamu is an experienced and organized educational professional with 5-years of teaching expertise and an unparalleled ability to explain complicated mathematical and physical concepts in an easily understandable manner. Determined and patient as a tutor, Dr. Vanamu has a unique teaching strategy (dependant on the capability of the student and type of exam targeted) to help students change marginal grades/scores into excellent grades/scores.

Math & Physics

Ph.D Chemical Engineering – University of New Mexico

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS

Giants in the Series? NO WAY!



>> Roy Bisht

Number one fan

Roughly six months ago when the major league baseball season started, I boldly predicted that this year, the Giants were going to the World Series. After hearing that prediction, many of my friends immediately referred to me as a "fool." Fast forward six months through the season and into the depths of the playoffs, only four teams remain. Yes, one of those teams is the Giants, and no, I am no longer considered a fool.

As a Giants fan—I'll be honest—the last six years of baseball have been downright depressing. From losing the division lead on the last game of the season in 2004 ending up just four games back from first place in 2009, Giants baseball has truly been torture.

But what makes the Giants' inclusion in this year's playoffs so great is the taste of victory after those six years of horror. When the Giants clinched their playoff spot on the last game of the season, all of those years of losing and mediocrity were erased with just one win. That one game was worth more than any game played during those six years, a span of 972 games. Immediately after that win, I went straight to the Giants' online store and bought an official "San Francisco Giants 2010 National League West Division Champions" shirt. I have never been so thrilled to buy a shirt.

Until Oct. 7, the Giants had not seen a lick of playoff baseball since former first Giant J.T. Snow was thrown out trying to score the tying run against the Florida Marlins in the last game of the 2003 N.L. Division Series. That's right, 2003. I was merely a fourth-grader at Saratoga Elementary School during the last time that anyone on the Giants had stepped foot on a field in mid-October.

From the end of that 2003 season to the beginning of this one, almost nothing has gone right; what occurred in those six years was a mess of errors, losses, strikeouts and many severe cases of fanatic depression. Honesty, I couldn't blame my friends for disregarding my claim that the Giants were going to the World Series.

But this year was going to be different, and I knew it. I didn't care that the Giants had a 3 percent chance at the beginning of the season to make it to the World Series, based on the fact that the Giants are just one out of 30 teams in the MLB. Nothing could stop a team with Tim Lincecum's long feminine hair, Brian Wilson's pitch-black beard and Aubrey Huff's red rally thong. Throughout the year the Giants maintained a solid pitching staff, strong bullpen and, for the first time since the Barry Bonds era, consistent home runs from players without number 25 on the back of their jersey.

Every win brings the Giants closer to a championship, something that they haven't seen since 1954—when they were the New York Giants and Dwight D. Eisenhower was president.

After such a long era of failure, this year is going to be different. The fans are louder, the team is better, and the Giants are actually in the World Series. Can it get any better than this? Who knows, maybe in a month from now people will refer to the Giants as the reigning World Series Champions. ♦

BOYS' CROSS COUNTRY

Team runs forward, aims to go to state meet

BY Brandon Judoprasetijo
& Vijay Menon

Under the leadership of new head coach Dan Ambrico, the boys' cross country team has smoothly transitioned into the season as familiar faces continue to dominate on the track. Now, the team is focusing on achieving its goal of making it to the state competition at Woodward Park in Fresno.

Having a strong leadership role in the team are senior co-captains Garrick Chan and Kyle Fukui.

Chan is doing everything from running intervals around the campus and local streets to doing strength workouts.

"We're all bonded together and we all motivate each other during the workouts," said Chan. "It's our competitive nature that makes us want to work harder."

Other major figures of the team in-

clude freshman twins Sam and Will Guy, who had impressive results in the recent race at Crystal Springs on Oct. 7. Will and Sam finished 2nd and 4th, respectively, in their divisions.

"We're working really hard to get

"It's our competitive nature that makes us want to work harder."

>> senior Garrick Chan

everyone better, and we've really improved over the season," said Sam. "We're just trying to make that last push to get to state."

Chan says that injuries affecting sophomore David Zarrin and himself are the main problem for the team right now.

Zarrin has battled Plantar Fasciitis, which give him constant foot pains when he runs. Due to Zarrin's injury,

the team lacks a strong "fifth man."

Chan has been hampered by injuries and hopes to overcome these difficulties in the coming weeks.

"Coach and I agree that I have stuff left in the tank," said Chan. "The reason my race was what it was is because of low competition and my sore ankles."

Although Chan has been recovering, he admits that he is "still in pain."

"I've tried to use many methods to cure my ankles, but not all of them seem to work," he said.

The team also raced in the Lynbrook Invitational on Oct. 27, but due to printing deadlines, the Falcon could not report on the results.

They also compete in the VAL Crystal Springs finals on Nov. 2 before racing at CCS Nov. 13, where the team must place as one of the top three teams in order to qualify for the state competition. ♦

GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL



Team captains seniors Sarah Blegen (second from left) and Hanna Nielsen (far right) with their teammates freshman Katelyn Molahan and sophomore Janelle Williams prepare for Monta Vista's serve during a game on Oct. 19. Saratoga lost 3-2.

Two headers are better than one

BY Aashna Mukerji

When most people reach their senior year, they are excited to finally be at the top of high school's hierarchy. Seniors Sarah Blegen and Hanna Nielsen have reached this peak, but they are sharing a top leadership position as co-captains of the 11-17 girls' varsity volleyball team.

"I think it's a really good system because both [Nielsen] and I bring different aspects to the team," said Blegen. She praised her co-captain for taking such a leading role on the court and boosting everyone's confidence.

"Sarah and I have been friends since elementary school, so we work well together and know each other well," added Nielsen.

The captains' role is to make sure that everyone focuses in practice during warm-up and laps and maintains concentration throughout games.

One of the hardest tasks as captain includes helping the girls raise their spirits and making sure everyone comes together as a team.

"If any players are down at any point, you have to pick them up and make sure they're okay. Even if I'm down, [Nielsen] helps me bring it up,"

said Blegen.

"If they make a mistake, we have to tell them to just shake it off," added Nielsen. "It builds confidence on the court, which is really important."



"If they make a mistake, we have to tell them to just shake it off. It builds confidence on the court, which is really important."

>> senior Hanna Nielsen

Leave the coaching to the coaches; the most important part of the captains' leadership is creating a sense of unity among the players.

"Captains can relay messages from coaches to the team in a more personal way," said Nielsen. They are out on the court to encourage their teammates and help them step up.

According to Blegen, the whole team contributes and manages to mesh together quite well. The captains were elected in the beginning of the year and are popular with the rest of the team.

"They're two of the most inspirational players I've ever seen," said sophomore Ramya Swami, who is a front row hitter. "They have so much ability and so much to teach you."

"[Blegen] is our starting outside hitter and the team's kill leader," Coach Brad Frederickson said. "She is also an outstanding defensive player. Although [Nielsen] was a great hitter for us last year, we have her setting through all the rotations to this point because she is outstanding at that position."

Looking to the future, Blegen feels that the team "can definitely improve [their] skills by working hard at practice, but the league's set how it is." Since the season is well on its way to completion, the captains are hoping to lead the team to a solid finish.

Having played volleyball throughout her entire high school experience and spent three years at varsity level, Blegen has mixed feelings about letting go of the sport, since she won't be playing in college.

"It's scary because [volleyball] is something that's been a part of my life for so long, but I'm also excited to move on," Blegen said. She plans to play club volleyball in the future.

Both Blegen and Nielsen enjoy being looked up to as captains. "It's rewarding to know our hard work has paid off," said Nielsen.

"I feel glad that I'm responsible for something that I love so much," Blegen added. ♦

>> photo reel



MURDER MYSTERY SOPHOMORES
HALEY WONG, TYLER TANAKA
AND NADYA SHAHIN INVESTIGATE
A MURDER DURING SOPHMORE
QUAD DAY ON OCT. 6. **CHALK TALK** THE
VARSITY BOYS' WATER POLO TEAM
LISTENS TO COACH CHRISTIAN
BONNER DURING THE SENIOR DAY
GAME AGAINST HARKER ON OCT.
14. **LETZ GO TOGA!** SENIORS CHEER
ON THE TEAM AT THE HOMECOMING
GAME, SPORTING PAINTED CHESTS,
ON OCT. 8. **ROCKIN OUT** FRESHMAN
MICHAEL ESCHEN AND HIS FELLOW
PERCUSSIONISTS PRACTICE ON OCT.
12. **CHILLIN'** SENIORS ADITYA DEV,
CHRIS CHUNG AND JAMES HADID
SIT AT A TABLE AND TALK DURING
TUTORIAL ON OCT. 15.

Sorry, I don't do Disney



>> Jackie Gu

What do Gu think?

A few months ago, I was talking to a friend about pop culture when she brought up the subject of animated movies. "Oh," I said. "I've never seen a Disney movie before."

She acted as if I had committed some great personal offense. After all, her childhood had been composed solely of unicorns, sunshine and Disney movies. I was forced to make a list of movies that started off with a few classics apparently everybody has seen (except me) like "The Lion King" and "Mulan," but it quickly morphed into a terrifying list of every animated movie Walt Disney has ever produced.

She faced this list of 30-some movies with unmerited bravado. Me? Just looking at it made me queasy. How could I survive literally dozens of movies laid so thick with cheesiness that you could cut it with a knife? I didn't have that kind of patience. But I swallowed my pride (at least for the time being) and set off on this daunting task, armed with pounds of junk food and even more apprehension.

Although I had a grand time watching Simba battle through puberty and Pocahontas frolic around the forest (Actually, I haven't seen "Pocahontas"

yet, but I can probably skip it altogether as I've seen "Avatar"), the sheer happiness radiating out of the movies was completely overwhelming.

While watching "Snow White," I couldn't keep myself from interrupting once or twice (or maybe a few dozen more). "Her voice makes my eardrums feel like they're giving birth," I commented. The storyline was plainly illogical, laced with so much saccharine sweetness I didn't think it was possible for anyone over the age of 6 to watch without wanting to vomit in sugary technicolor. Maybe I'm just being cynical, but how can anyone expect me to believe that a little 5-minute walk in the garden is sufficient time to magically fall in love?

I have no problem with fantasy—give me fairies or dwarves or evil stepmothers, and I will stomach the clichés with little complaint. But many of the Disney princesses have only one goal in life: to get married. They're perfectly content to spend the rest of their boring lives in boring castles doing boring things. Hardly a good lesson to be teaching little girls, in my opinion.

Maybe using Disney movies as means of escapism is the reason they're so appealing. They give people a sense of hope and security, luring us back time and time again for reassurance of that "happily ever after" everyone dreams of. Disney movies may not be realistic, or even remotely believable, but they can help people forget their troubles for an hour... or 10, if you're daring like me.

So next time someone wants to find me? Instead of beating myself up over my last test score or wallowing in self-pity, maybe I'll be watching Mulan save her country, secretly enjoying it every step of the way. ♦

Thud! A rooster from above

BY Christine Bancroft

For junior Mac Hyde and his mom, assistant principal Karen Hyde, their mundane Thursday morning routine was interrupted by an unexpected visitor.

On Oct. 14, while stopped at a red light at the intersection of McClellan and South Sterling Road in Cupertino, a 6-pound rooster landed on the top of their Prius.

After investigation, Mac took the bird into his car, much to his mother's dismay. They couldn't turn back, and so the newly discovered rooster, deemed Thud, wound up in the room of science teacher Kelly Nicholson for the whole day.

"It was really unexpected," said Mac. "I mean, most kids don't expect a rooster to fall on their car when they're driving to school. It would have taken me a half an hour to get home, and I'd

be late otherwise, so I just decided to take him to school."

Students in Nicholson's biology and chemistry classes marveled at the rooster that perched atop a science cart, eating strips of a tortilla and drinking water from a Tupperware container.

"He'd knock over the water every time I'd come into the classroom," said Mac. "I don't know if he was afraid of me or excited to see me, but no matter where he was, he managed to make a mess."

At the end of the day, Thud left Nicholson's classroom and spent time in the Hyde house before being picked up by a neighbor, who keeps chickens in their hometown of Woodside.

"He'll be sharing his home with ducks, cats, dogs, a couple geese and some hens," said Mac. "It was interesting, but it wasn't too out of the ordinary. I used to round up my neighbors chickens when I was little. It was just an ordinary day for me." ♦

top ten

HALLOWEEN COSTUMES

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 10 | Sarah Palin. Wouldn't that be extraordinary. |
| 9 | Superman. Try jumping off the roof. I promise, you won't get hurt. |
| 8 | A witch. Or you could just dress up as Christine O'Donnell. |
| 7 | Mr. Mint from Candyland. Warning: It will be difficult to upstage James Hadid. |
| 6 | An average Saratoga resident. This will require a cane and a bald cap. |
| 5 | Lady Gaga. I think steak is on sale at Safeway. |
| 4 | Justin Bieber. Actually, that would be more appropriate for a 10-year-old. |
| 3 | Giants player Brian Wilson. Yeah, you work that black beard, blonde. |
| 2 | A werewolf. Or just Mr. Torrens. |
| 1 | A peregrine falcon, the fastest animal on earth. Watch out, wildcats. |

>> Izzy Albert and Tim Rollinson