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# THE saratogafalcon



Saratoga High School >> Saratoga, CA  
An Independent School Publication

saratogafalcon.org

Thursday >> May 30, 2013

Vol. 53, No. 12

**GRADUATION 2013**

## Honors removed from programs

BY Sanj **Nalwa** & Helen **Wong**

In the past, the names of students on graduation day have been listed in order of academic standing in the program. This year, that's going to change.

On graduation day, the class of 2013 will not be stratified by GPA rank in the graduation pamphlet.

"The change we've planned this year is designed to further set aside graduation as a day where we celebrate the entire class of 2013," vice principal Brian Safine said. "We're always looking for ways to unite the senior class."

Safine said he wants to celebrate everyone on graduation day, not just those with high academic honors.

"There still is a day where we will honor students and recognize their academic and extracurricular accomplishments. That will take place on Senior Award Day," Safine said. "On that night, we will continue to recognize students for all the wonderful things they've done here both academically and non-academically."

Senior Aneeza Muzumdar also agreed that the change was for the better.

"I think the old tradition probably stressed people out, and considering graduation is supposed to be a momentous occasion, it shouldn't be marred by this type of public academic stratification," Mazumdar said.

Senior Ankita Chadha agreed that getting rid of the practice was a good idea.

"Although it was nice recognition for those who worked hard and kept up their grades through the years, at the same time it was unnecessary pressure and separation," Chadha said. "I know for a fact that tons of parents are upset or even embarrassed if their child isn't at the highest caliber."

Chadha also said that grades should be nothing to boast about during this time of year.

"Graduation is about celebrating how we are all graduating together—not that some are graduating with honors and others aren't," Chadha said. ♦

>> **thebigidea**

**Graduation Day**

**What has changed**  
*Stratified rankings based on honors, high honors, and very high honors will no longer be in the graduation programs.*

**Reason behind the change**  
*To make graduation a celebration of the whole class; celebrating achievements will occur on Senior Awards Night.*

**Student speakers**  
*Elyse Berlinberg, Laura Hannibal, Feargus MacFhionnlaioich and Sasan Saadat.*



Senior Kelly Liu gets hit with a blast of yellow powder at the Color Run on May 24.

FALCON // DAVID SPARKMAN

BY Jade **Bisht**

Students gathered in front of the tennis courts on May 24 to take part in the Color Run after school. While various juniors and seniors squirted bottles filled with colored powder from stations scattered around the event's trail, partakers ran 5K around the course of the school.

FPS Ragers blasted music from in front of the main entrance to the school, bringing a fun and lively atmosphere to the event. The cost to get covered in every color imaginable was \$10

with ASB, \$12 without and \$15 if not a student of the school. All money raised will be funded toward The Trevor Project, which prevents suicide among LGBTQ youths.

A Melts My Heart food truck parked in front of the gym's entrance provided food, along with Kona Ice shaved ice that was available to the runners. Runners who arrived in white ended as the epitome of a rainbow.

"The leadership really went out of their way to do this for us," junior My-Lan Le said. "It was just a really fun and unforgettable experience." ♦

**STATE AWARD**

## School recognized as top 100 Californian school

BY Sabrina **Chen** & Maya **Ravichandran**

The school was recognized recently for its achievements by both the California Distinguished School Program and by the magazine US News and World Report.

The California Distinguished School Program is run by the State Department of Education. According to the depart-

ment, the award honors some of California's most exemplary and inspiring public schools. There are hundreds of schools statewide that will be recognized for their achievements.

This is not the first time that the school has been recognized. According to principal Paul Robinson, the school won the award in the 2009-10 school

>> **SCHOOL AWARD** on pg. 6

**LIFESTYLES**

## Students to travel the globe during summer vacation

BY Nikhil **Goel**

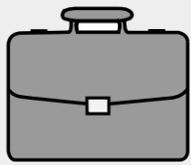
From backpacking to taking classes in foreign countries, some students are planning to do much more than sleep or watch TV all day.

Seniors Tyler Bakke, Feargus MacFhionnlaioich, Jason Seo, Arush Shankar and Matt Yee have decided to take a month-long backpacking trip around Europe. Wanting to have a memorable

experience in their final summer of high school, these five seniors are in for an adventure.

"We all thought traveling around Europe would be really fun," MacFhionnlaioich said. "We wanted to see Europe, but we didn't want to be restricted by expensive air travel or heavy luggage so backpacking seemed like the best op-

>> **SUMMER PLANS** on pg. 10



news  
>> briefs

### Falcon dance team returns after 5 years

Ever since the dance team's departure from the school in 2008, students with a passion for dance have been searching for a place to express their talents.

Finally, sophomore Joy Tang's hard work has paid off. As the founder and captain of the new dance club, Tang's vision has now become a reality.

"All of my friends at my dance class were like 'I got into my school's dance team!' and I'm just like 'Ah! We don't have one,'" Tang said. "It was a bit disappointing, and I just thought that it would be great if we had one too."

After gauging the level of interest in a dance team by posting a sign-up sheet, assistant principal Kerry Mohnike interviewed two potential coaches for the team. Dinishia Nichols qualified and will be leading the dance team during the next school year.

Junior Maggie Sun made no hesitations to join the new team, preparing to audition after learning of its existence.

"I've always wanted a dance team at our school ever since freshmen year," said Sun. "When I heard that they were holding tryouts, I automatically just went for it."

Tryouts were held two weeks ago, over the span of four days. Aspiring members auditioned in front of the coaches, demonstrating their skills. According to sophomore Allison Chan, students were required to show different techniques across the floor and were individually evaluated on their leaps and turns.

"It was scary because the instructor would just stare at you [performing] without saying a word," Chan said.

Starting in August, the dance team plans to participate in year-round competitions as well as perform at rallies and basketball games. The team will undoubtedly bring a new form of talent to the school's attention.

"I think we're off to a great start," said Tang. "Right now there's a good amount of people [who have joined], and I hope over the year there will be more interest." ♦

—Sherrilyn Ling and Candice Zheng

### Students attend Senior Prom 'At Last'

Students gathered at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco for Senior Prom on May 18. The theme this year was "At Last," as seniors had patiently waited years for this event — some also patiently waited for a bus.

One bus arrived at the school without sufficient fuel to make it to San Francisco. Eventually, another bus arrived and took the seniors to the Palace Hotel. As a result, the whole bus was about 30 minutes late to the event.

Once at the Palace Hotel, seniors enjoyed the variety of food. The macaroni and cheese, the dessert and the vegetarian ravioli were popular among the seniors in attendance.

"There were mixed reviews about the food, but I thought it was great," senior Nadya Shahin said. "The vegetarian dish was really good."

The photo booth was another hit at prom. Many seniors thought that this element of Senior Prom was a successful addition.

"We had a photobooth that everyone seemed to have a lot of fun with, and that was definitely a high [point]," Shahin said.

Senior Kristen Zung added that the senior class officers "nailed it" with the served courses and photo booth.

Another highlight of the night was the DJ, who impressed students as well as teachers.

"The DJ was, in the words of Mr. Rector, 'leaps and bounds' better than the Junior Prom DJ," said senior class representative Jason Seo. "And compared to DJ's from other dances, he was good."

However, some complained that Prom was a little long and seemed to drag on.

"I think the night went swimmingly, everyone was having a good time at one point or another," said Seo. "It did seem to drag on a little longer than I felt it should, but it was still fun." ♦

—Jonathan Young

### >> upcoming events

**May 31** Finals begin

**June 3** Senior awards night

**June 6** Graduation

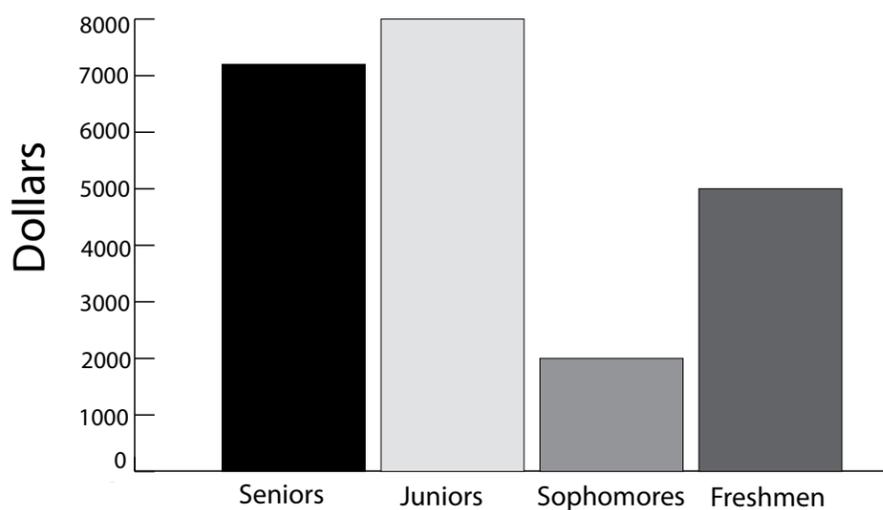
### >> picturethis



**FALCON DANCE TEAM** >> Sophomore Joy Tang, eighth grader Ellen Wu and freshman Jenna Chen learn their dance routine on May 23. Next year, the team plans to participate in year-round competitions.

### >> falconfigures

#### Financial State of Classes by Grade



Source: Class Presidents

—Megana Iyer and Simi Srivastava

#### FINANCE

## Classes evaluate state of funds

BY Carol Suh  
& Catherine Tang

As the year comes to an end, each class is looking at its standing regarding its financial state.

The freshman class has had a successful year, fundraising more than \$5,000.

They have done a variety of activities to build their funds, including a Parent Night, movie night and the holiday boutique.

"Next year, we plan on continuing our fundraising philosophy to have a few very large fundraisers that bring in a lot of funds," freshman class treasurer Spencer Yen said.

Yen is proud that they have raised a substantial amount of money. He is not worried about the next years because the money they raised this year will give them a boost.

As the freshmen were working hard to build their class fund, the sophomores raised about \$2,000.

"The sophomore class financial state is not great this year, but we will raise more next year," sophomore class

treasurer Adrienne Kim said.

The sophomore class had small fundraisers this year. However, the majority of the sophomore fund came from Parent Night at the beginning of the year. Kim said the sophomore class plans to fundraise more junior year.

While the sophomore class is having some financial issues, the juniors have raised about \$8,000 in its fund.

According to class president Anup Kar, the junior class made extra money at prom because more people than expected attended. The junior class will also have a lei fundraiser for graduating seniors.

"The financial outlook is cruising for our class; we are going to have the best and cheapest prom," Kar said.

With all the money the junior class has raised, the junior class is confident with where it stands financially.

As the juniors wrap up the year with good fundraising, the senior class raised \$7,200 this year.

"With a lot of fundraising, we were able to plan a great prom, and decrease the prices

of bids," senior class president Evelyn Lee said.

The senior class planned a fundraiser for each month, which included bake sales and an SAT book sale. They also organized a mixer and a raffle at a football game.

"Fundraisers aren't as easy to plan as they might seem, and the fact that we were able to put out at least one fundraiser each month is something I'm so proud of," Lee said.

With all these fundraisers, the senior class was able to lower prom bids by \$24, which amounts to a total of \$7,200 saved for students. The seniors sold three hundred bids.

Looking back on the past four years, Lee said that the senior class struggled financially as underclassmen, but that only brought the class to where it is today. With about \$10,000 left in their fund, seniors plan to save it for future class reunions.

"We have definitely come a long way since freshman year and I'm so relieved we can graduate knowing we have left our account with stable funds," Lee said. ♦

CSF BANQUET

# Juniors awarded for academics, leadership

BY AmyLin

The annual California Scholarship Federation Junior Award Ceremony, which took place May 22, honored 13 juniors who were chosen by their teachers for their outstanding work in science, English, history, math or leadership. Teachers nominated many students in late March and presented awards during teacher collaboration early Wednesday morning.

The California Scholarship Federation, or CSF, is an organization that gives awards, which could potentially lead to scholarships, to students who

have demonstrated outstanding character while achieving academic excellence.

"I was happily surprised, because I had never thought that any aspect of my schoolwork or behavior was worth recognizing," said junior Gloria Breck, who received the Mount Holyoke College Book Award, an award given to a student who consistently shows a mastery of the English language in his or her writing.

Junior Casey Takahashi, who earned the Brown Book Award, agrees that the banquet was an amazing experience. It allowed her to

realize that her endeavors in class were taken greatly into consideration.

"I was really excited that Ms. Herzman noticed me because I really tried to make an effort in her class," Takashi said. "I liked hearing what she thought of me."

The teachers, however, take more than than the students' letter grades into accounts, said AP Computer Science teacher Debra Troxell.

"Many kids would be eligible for the same award, so when we choose, we take the whole person into account," Troxell said. "It's hard for teachers to pick just one."

Troxell nominated junior Akshay Madhani for the Xerox Award for Innovation and Information Technology for a multitude of reasons, not only focusing on his active interest in computer programming, but also his personality as a whole.

"[I picked Madhani] because of his involvement in the Application Development Club, of which he's going to president next year, his personal drive last year in AP Computer Science, and his curiosity for software."

Madhani added that though he was unsure that what the banquet was about until he arrived at the ceremony.

"I feel great to be recognized by the teachers that I love to work with," Madhani said.

Although teachers were the



Courtesy of NICK CHOW

From left to right, back row: juniors Samuel Liu, Edgar Chen, Robert Eng, Nick Chow, Austin Du, Nikhil Goel and Akshay Madhani. Front row: juniors Casey Takahashi, Priyanka Krishnamurthi, Cristina Curcelli, Gloria Breck, Amelia Troyer and Mandy Lee.

ones who nominated their students, they were not the only ones with good things to say. Many of the recipients also had good reports of their teachers.

"[Debra Troxell] was able to make the class about good programming techniques rather than just blind programming," Madhani explained. "She helped me overcome the frustrations of not being able to fix your errors and become a calmer, more efficient programmer."

Breck agrees with Madhani saying that her teachers have a big positive influence on her maturation as a student and a person.

"My English teacher, [Amy Keys], is incredibly encouraging, and stomached every crazy thing that I put down on paper," Breck said. "It's not only English that she teaches; the lessons we learn in her class pour into every aspect of our lives."

The ceremony, which included breakfast, did more than present awards and give titles. Not only did the recipients get recognition, but they also became more confident for future events.

"I was filled with new confidence, and that will surely pour into all that I do," Breck said. "I have no fear to aspire." ♦

## >> THE bigidea

### CSF Junior Awards Ceremony

**Bausch and Lomb Honorary Science Award:** Edgar Chen (nominated by Kirk Davis)

**Brown Book Award:** Casey Takahashi (nominated by Suzanne Herzman)

**California Mathematics Council Certification:** Priyanka Krishnamurthi (nominated by Audrey War-muth)

**Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony Award in Social Sciences:** Nick Chow (nominated by Margarita Morelle and Jerry Sheehy)

**George Eastman Leadership Award:** Nikhil Goel (nominated by Kerry Mohnike)

**Harvard Book Award:** Cristina Curcelli (nominated by Suzanne Herzman)

**MIT Leadership Award:** Mandy Lee (nominated by Kirk Davis)

**Mount Holyoke College Book Award:** Gloria Breck (nominated by Amy Keys)

**NCTE Achievement Award in Writing:** Samuel Liu (nominated by Suzanne Herzman)

**Rensselaer Medal Winner:** Robert Eng (nominated by Kirk Davis)

**Wellesley Book Award:** Amelia Troyer (nominated by Natasha Ritchie)

**Williams College Book Award:** Austin Du (nominated by Amy Keys)

**Xerox Award for Innovation and Information Technology:** Akshay Madhani (nominated by Debra Troxell)

## FALCON FOCUS: SHAYAN MORAVEJI

# Sophomore achieves success in taekwondo

BY BruceLou

At age 5, sophomore Shayan Moraveji was introduced to the world of taekwondo by his father, who wanted him to participate in some type of physical activity. Since then, he's never wanted to do anything as much as taekwondo.

Over the years, Moraveji, now 16, trained, honed and perfected his skills. He will represent team USA in the World Championships in Spain this October. More than 20 countries, including Russia, the United Kingdom and New Zealand will participate in the World Championships.

Moraveji has been training for 10 years for such an opportunity.

"My father thought taekwondo would help my determination and respect."

Originally, Moraveji was part of the World Taekwondo Federation (WTF). However, after he got his black belt at the age of 9, he became dissatisfied with WTF.

"After I got my black belt, I felt my my teacher was using me — I wasn't learning anything, I wasn't improving," Moraveji said. "So I switched to the International Taekwondo Federation (ITF), which has more traditional taekwondo."

After switching to ITF, Moraveji con-

tinued to train and made it his goal to one day represent the United States in the World Championships.

That dream came true for him last spring break, when he went to the National Championships in Connecticut. There, over a gruelling four days of competition, more than 100 competitors fought for a place on team USA. Moraveji earned a coveted position on the team in the junior males' (14-18) division.

Moraveji is undergoing special training to prepare for the World Championship.



sophomore Shayan Moraveji

"Every Thursday night, I train with my coach," Moraveji said.

Even in the sport of taekwondo, there are many different types. Moraveji said that he specializes in jumping and

breaking.

"Basically [jumping and breaking] is a board at a certain height — for me it's 8 feet 4 inches — and I have to jump, hit [the board], and break it," Moraveji said.

Moraveji said he feels confident in his abilities because of all the training he has done.

"I'm pretty sure that if I am determined and focused I can come home with a gold medal. It's a good feeling to know you are prepared," Moraveji said.

If Moraveji wins the World Championships, he may represent the USA in the Olympics. ♦

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INNOVATIONS

# Students develop phone applications

BY Rohan **Hardikar**, Rachel **Hull** & Maya **Ravichandran**

Junior Akshay Madhani released his newest mobile application, My Help Alert, to the public on May 18. With a single click of a button, this free application allows people to notify their families and friends in case of any emergency.

The app sends a text message of one's location to all of the chosen contacts and lets users make a quick call to the emergency contacts. In case the user needs to attract the attention of other people, the app will even create a loud siren to capture the interest of people around them.

Madhani decided to create this safety app in response to the December New Delhi rape case.

"A lot of my family lives in Delhi, and I visit them every year," Madhani said. "The rape case really made me think about how we ensure our safety and protect ourselves in situations in which we are vulnerable."

Madhani hopes that this app will be a step in the right direction to preventing such instances.

"In the future, I hope this app will be used as a platform to ensure safety," Madhani said.

The public safety application is currently available on iTunes and Google Play.

Madhani has already taken the beginning steps to advertising with www.myhelpalert.com and on Twitter at @myhelpalert and on its personal Facebook page.

"I hope that those who care for their loved ones urge them to download this

fantastic free phone application so that we all can feel a bit more secure when we leave our house," Madhani said.

## Falcon App

Recently, the Application Developers Club released the Saratoga Falcon app for iPhones. In the app, people can view all of the stories that have been uploaded to the Saratoga Falcon website.

The stories on the app range from news to opinion to sports, separated by section.

Club president senior Sujay Khandekar said that the club first started thinking of developing the app this semester. Senior Eugene Che had previously created the app for Androids, and the club wanted to expand it to encompass more smartphones.

Freshman Spencer Yen took the reins in the actual creation of the iPhone app. It took Yen two to three months to develop it, which, according to Khandekar, was impressive.

"[Yen's] learning curve is extremely incredible," Khandekar said. "He learned to master it, and he figured it out."

The idea for the app first stemmed from a respect for the school newspaper.

"We wanted something that would look cool and help the school as well," Khandekar said. "[The newspaper staff does] a great job here; why not digitize all [its] articles?"

Khandekar looks forward to the app becoming more popular.

"It's an unbelievable app, and [people] can have a lot of fun with it," Khandekar said. ♦

## >> THE bigidea

### Phone Applications

#### My Help Alert

*Created by junior Akshay Madhani, this app notifies family and friends in case of emergency with the click of a button.*

#### Saratoga Falcon App

*The Application Developers Club released an app that provides users with Falcon stories ranging from news to opinion to sports.*

MUSIC

# MESH hosts second annual performance



FALCON // JADE BISHT

Junior Gloria Liou and her students play "Pink Panther" at the MESH Concert on May 13.

BY Candice **Zheng**

The Music Education with Saratoga High (MESH) Program held its second annual "One Note at a Time" concert on May 13, with exciting ensemble performances from SHS, Redwood Middle School and elementary school students.

MESH is a music mentoring program that organizes SHS music students to teach music to elementary and middle school kids. The program regularly assists the Redwood and Argonaut Orchestra and Band during their rehearsals. Now headed by senior Michelle Won, the program was initiated by alumnus Walter Hsiang in 2010.

"Not only does this program build musicianship skills for the students and high school mentors, it also helps develop leadership and mentoring skills and overall enthusiasm for music and ensemble playing," Won said. "Our hope is to positively impact the musical community and continue to support the great music students in Saratoga."

Junior violinist Gloria Liou decided to get involved this school year to share her passion for the violin. After passing an unique audition process where she had to teach the adjudicators the basics of her instrument, Liou qualified to be a part of the program.

"I actually teach privately, but I also wanted to do something for the community," said Liou. "I like working with kids so MESH seemed like a great way for me to share something so dear to me."

MESH's annual concert presents the opportunity for its members' and young students' hard work and progress throughout the year. This year, 20 high school students and 50 elementary and middle school kids participated in the event. Performances included "Pink Panther," "Hedwig's Theme" from "Harry Potter," "Stuff We Did" from the movie "Up," along with some jazz pieces. Junior Vivian Li, a cellist and student mentor, performed the cello piece "El Gato Monde" with a group of three students from Redwood.

"I thought it was quite nerve-wracking. I think I was more nervous than the kids," Li said. "Since it was a piece that I rehearsed by myself with the kids, I really wanted them to play well and have fun performing on a big stage."

Won also performed during the concert, leading a group of four in "In the Hall of the Mountain King" by Edvard Grieg.

"The students had a lot of fun rehearsing with each other," said Won. "I loved teaching my group of kids, and I learned a lot as well from the experience."

All proceeds from the concert went to Music Team San Francisco, an organization that provides music education for underprivileged students at El Dorado Elementary School in San Francisco. This year, the program raised \$765.

"Not only was the concert a great way for students to show their talents but it also went to a great cause," said Won. "It's definitely one of my favorite moments of MESH." ♦

## Congratulations Class of 2013!

### C2 celebrates admission into the following top 50 colleges:

Boston College	7
Brandeis University	3
Brown University	2
California Institute of Technology	4
Carnegie Mellon University	8
Case Western Reserve University	2
College of William and Mary	10
Columbia University	2
Cornell University	18
Dartmouth College	4
Duke University	9
Emory University	13
Georgetown University	7
Georgia Institute of Technology	22
Harvard University	3
Johns Hopkins University	7
Lehigh University	4
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	8
Northwestern University	6
University of Notre Dame	3
New York University	20
Oxford University	1
Pennsylvania State University	3
Princeton University	7
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	1
Rice University	3
Stanford University	8
University of California - Berkeley	23
University of California - Davis	5
University of California - Irvine	3
University of California - Los Angeles	16
University of California - San Diego	10
University of California - Santa Barbara	2
University of Chicago	9
University of Illinois - Urbana - Champaign	21
University of Michigan - Ann Arbor	9
University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill	9
University of Pennsylvania	10
University of Rochester	4
University of Southern California	13
University of Texas - Austin	2
University of Virginia	14
University of Washington	10
Vanderbilt University	4
Wake Forest University	5
Washington University in St. Louis	2
Yale University	9

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GREEN COMMISSION

# School considers solar panels

BY Deepti Kannan & Meganalayer

Following in the footsteps of many other high schools in the area, the school is now seriously considering installing solar panels in the front parking lot. The Green Commission met with the district board on April 9 to discuss this possibility after hours of research and planning.

Commenting on the meeting, superintendent Bob Mistele said, "I can't emphasize enough how important and timely it was to have students come and do such a fine job of presenting their vantage point, and I think we were all very impressed with the information they provided."

Several issues arose after the idea was presented, like the financial concerns of the district. However, Mistele said that the main concern of many board members was how the solar panels would change the look of the campus.

"I think it was feedback that board members had gotten from community members who have been by other high schools like Homestead, and seeing what [solar panels] aesthetically would do to the view and the vision of the school," Mistele said.

In order to tackle the problem, sophomore Supriya Khandekar said the commission is planning to make an image to preview the final product.

"We are trying to persuade everyone, [that the] look the solar panels create will be very sleek and modern; it won't be bulky," Khandekar said. "Especially with a good design where we could work with an architect, it would not take away anything from the school."

However, Mistele said that the issue of aesthetics has not been resolved at the board level yet.

In addition, senior head commissioner Sasan Saadat said the financial burden that the costly project places has also been cause for concern.

"It is a very pricey endeavor to survey the parking lot, get district approval, hire all the labor and equipment and go through the construction of installing multicrystalline photovoltaic cells," Saadat said.

Despite the board's concerns, commissioners contend that short-term costs are necessary for long-term benefits.

"There's the obvious environmental benefit of getting energy from a renewable, clean source, as opposed to non-renewable coal and gas which are detrimental to our air and oceans," Saadat said. "There are also huge financial benefits, such as the fact that after 15 years, you make back all the money you spend on installation through energy cost reductions."

Although many board members and Saratoga citizens are still worried about these issues, senior head commissioner Shireen Kaul said that the commission is still continuing to push for the idea.

"I think right now, we're just trying to make sure that they remember that it's on our mind," Kaul said.

According to Mistele, the board is open to green ideas, but cannot take any further action on solar panels until financial and aesthetic issues have been ironed out. The next step, he explained, would be to research the logistics in more detail, before a decision can be made.

Meanwhile, Mistele hopes the board will stay in touch with the commission.

"I think that the student voice is also important in this topic," Mistele said. "I want to continue that dialogue with [the Green Commission] and see where we're going to be in the fall." ♦

CURRICULUM

# Calculus classes continue with post AP education

BY Nelson Wang

While many AP classes have stopped or slowed the teaching of new materials after AP testing, both Calculus AB and Calculus BC are teaching new units to students in order to help supplement their education.

Neither of the new units are part of the standard calculus curriculum, but both will have a quiz or a test at the end of the unit.

As a result, the units can still have a large impact on the students' grades, meaning there isn't time for relaxation.

The Calculus BC course's extra unit is a unit that goes deeper into differential equations and how to solve them using Excel spreadsheets. In addition, the unit will replace the final project of the class and will count for 20 percent of the final grade.

In comparison, the Calculus AB course's extra unit will focus on finance, dealing with debt, loans and credit cards.

"It's a good thing [to have another unit]. Honestly, what else are we going to do for three weeks ... I might as well make my time educational," said junior Eric Taw, who is taking Calculus AB.

However, having new information being taught after AP testing rankles some students.

"I think [the new unit]'s pointless. I was looking forward to the calculus final project all year, and this was definitely a disappointment," said junior Justin Liu, a Calculus BC student.

On the other hand, Calculus BC student junior Susanna Lee believes it is fair to have a new unit but feels it should be graded differently.

"It's fair that she's giving us a new unit ... However, I don't really think we should get tested on this," Lee said. "Using an Excel spreadsheet takes practice; some students may have an upper hand because they've used excel for computations before. A test wouldn't fairly judge a student's understanding of differential equations."

Calculus BC teacher Audrey Warmuth, who was pushing away the cart of computers that Calculus BC students used for the unit, said that students should be "life-long" learners.

"Well, school's not over," she said. "You don't stop learning just because the test is over. Hopefully people are learning because they find the material interesting, not just for some test." ♦



It's a good thing. Honestly, what else are we going to do for three weeks..."



junior Eric Taw

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SCHOOL AWARD >>

Saratoga listed top 100

continued from pg. 1

year as well. Robinson stated that the award was given for the 2012-13 school year because the school showed commendable practices.

"The schools that get recognition for this [award] have to meet state goals, and we have. We have performed very, very well," Robinson said.

Robinson said all aspects or sub-groups of the school have to show improvement, whether the sub-groups are split up into ethnicity or economic need. Since the school improved in all the required aspects, it was able to apply for the award.

Robinson said one of the reasons the school was recognized was the improvement of the P.E. programs, especially the addition of CrossFit programs.

Additionally, Robinson said that this is the first time that both high schools in the Los Gatos-Saratoga School district will be recognized for the award and will be awarded together at the ceremony.

Though the school has been

recognized, there will be no financial aid awarded to the school. Robinson said that because the state is not strong financially, monetary rewards are not common.

In addition to the award from the state department of education, US News and World Report ranked the school as No. 22 in the state and No. 147 in the nation.

To apply to be ranked, Robinson said the school sends information on the number of students

graduated, the number of students going to four-year schools and other criteria. The magazine then inputs all of the data into a formula and comes out with the school's college-readiness level. This data is then compared with other schools in the nation and organized into lists.

Robinson said the school does not actively try to increase its ranking.

"We just keep doing the things that we are doing, and our students rise to the occasion. It's nice to get recognition for this," Robinson said. ♦

**"We just keep doing the things that we are doing, and our students rise to the occasion. It's nice to get recognition for this."**

>> Principal Paul Robinson

LEADERSHIP

New 2013-2014 student officers to take ASB reins

BY SanjNalwa

The ASB for the 2013-2014 school year was recently decided through student elections.

The new ASB, consisting of students who will all be seniors next year, has Nikhil Goel as president, Anup Kar as vice president, Robert Eng as treasurer, Maggie Sun as secretary, Manini Desai as board representative, Stephanie Tsang and Stephanie Chu as head commissioners and Grace Ma as clubs commissioner.

This year, several students wanted to run for student body office, but weren't able to because they didn't attend all required ASB meetings. Several former officers had trouble running for office again because they missed too many ASB meetings.

"We had some confusion with ASB/class officer elections this year, so I think finding a new and effective way to track attendance and qualifications to run will be a challenge," Sun said.

Sun said that as ASB secretary she will have to track attendance, take notes and ensure that the meetings run

smoothly.

Desai said that as school representative, she will be in charge of serving as a liaison between the school board and the campus.

"I think the hardest part of my job will be being completely aware of the different aspects of our school and being able to convey to the school board a full sense of what our student body is like and wants in the future," Desai said.

Desai said that she ran for the board representative position because she enjoys participating in school life.

She also didn't feel like students were being heard by the board as much as they should be.

"Though I personally like the schedule the way it is, many of the people I talked to around school overwhelmingly agreed that they wanted a full block schedule and I was surprised when it did not pass," Desai said. "It made me wonder if the students weren't necessarily all being heard and I would like to help improve that."

Junior and soon to be ASB

president Nikhil Goel said he has very high hopes for next year's group of student leaders and what they will accomplish.

"We're looking to make major changes with the ASB's transparency so that students will know exactly what we are planning without confusion," Goel said. "I'm looking forward to working with the leaders of our school, all of whom share a passion for creating the best environment here at SHS." ♦



Goel



Kar

>> **bigidea**

**New Student Leaders for 2013-2014**

**President**  
Nikhil Goel

**Vice President**  
Anup Kar

**Treasurer**  
Robert Eng

**Board Representative**  
Manini Desai

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Stephanie Chu

**Clubs Commissioner**  
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# Adding to the American landfill

## POPULAR BRAND NAME BUSINESSES WASTE GOOD MERCHANDISE

BY GraceMa

We live in a society full of abundance. The United States' resources are in such great excess that dumpsters are flowing with fresh produce, and bonfires are no longer made of wood: They are made of thousand-dollar handbags.

Not the image that comes to mind when people mention "abundance" in the U.S.? That's because corporations and grocery stores alike do not wish to be seen as contributors to the landfills in the U.S.

Their greed for profits causes the companies to commit atrocious acts of waste, with a complete disregard for reasonable alternatives.

The National Institute of Health estimates that 40 percent of all food produced in the U.S. is thrown out. People most commonly blame their fellow citizens for this profligacy, but what many don't realize is that grocery stores partake in this practice as well.

Stores regularly throw out blemished produce that don't sell and baked goods leftover from the morning in surprisingly large quantities.

Journalist Jeremy Seifert, in an article for Grist.org, wrote that he manages to feed his family of five partially off of unexpired food pulled from the dumpster

outside of his local Trader Joe's. Seifert said his family is not a low income family; they just manage to save hundreds of dollars based on fresh food pulled out of the garbage.

Tossing these perfectly fine foods away is wasteful and unnecessary; there are other places these foods can go besides the trash can.

Slightly bruised fruits that picky consumers refuse to purchase could be sold to canning companies, since small bruising does not affect the overall quality of the fruit.

As for the baked goods, stores could follow in Panera Bread's footsteps: donating unsold bread to local charities.

Let's consider hunger in the United States. According to Worldhunger.org, one in seven households in the U.S. in 2011 was "food insecure," meaning that the family is either "hungry, or at risk of hunger."

If the U.S. reduced its food waste by even 15 percent, the country could feed around 25 million more people annually.

Brand names such as Chanel and Abercrombie & Fitch also throw away their unpurchased merchandise.

Chanel burns its products in favor of the alternative: creating a chain of outlet stores (only one official outlet store ex-

>> candidcaricatures



ists, located in New York City). Doing so prevents Chanel's products from being sold underpriced and avoids issues with counterfeit merchandise.

Abercrombie & Fitch destroys its clothing for an even more outrageous reason. According to CEO Michael Jeffries, the clothing store doesn't donate its leftover clothing to charities because it would ruin Abercrombie's "cool kid" image if homeless children were found wearing the brand.

These brands exemplify a different type of waste: selfish waste. These companies have grown so large that they can afford to destroy their own merchandise.

The fact is that the United States' waste production has gone out of control, and supermarkets and brand-name stores aren't helping at all. Instead of focusing on raking in the profits, companies should consider more resource-saving alternatives. ♦

if (true) {  
printf("You have been hacked");  
}

THE VIRUS LAY DORMANT IN TEN THOUSANDS OF COMPUTERS UNTIL IT REACHED ITS TARGET: IRAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM. THE TRUE POTENCY OF CYBER ATTACKS WAS UNVEILED TO THE PUBLIC WHEN THE STUXNET VIRUS CRIPPLED THE CENTRIFUGE AN ENRICHMENT FACILITY IN IRAN IN 2010. THIS ATTACK IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LAUNCHED BY THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL, AN INDICATION THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS TURNED

# Cyber security guidelines aid companies

BY MattFoley & NelsonWang

The virus lay dormant in ten thousands of computers until it reached its target: Iran's nuclear program.

The true potency of cyber attacks was unveiled to the public when the Stuxnet virus crippled the centrifuge at a nuclear enrichment facility in Iran in 2010. This attack is believed to have been launched by the United States and Israel, an indication that the U.S. government has turned its focus to cyber warfare.

Obama has issued an executive order directing federal agencies to develop guidelines for companies to follow, a step to ensure protection to U.S. companies from cyber attacks. The order also calls for cooperation between the private sector and federal agencies, allowing the government to investigate cyber attacks on the private sector.

This order from Obama would help U.S. companies protect themselves from the ever-growing threat presented in the form of hackers that are all around the world.

Many of these hackers come from or are hired by countries who are at diplomatic odds with the United States, including China, Iran and possibly North Korea.

Recent reports have revealed that the North Korean government has likely set up a department to carry out cyber attacks for the country. Little was known about these fabled hackers until March of this year, when South Korean net-

works were attacked.

The attack was originally believed to have originated from China, but after further investigation, it was found that a group of North Korean hackers were actually behind the events, though little came of the revelation.

The attacks, however, resulted in down time for more than 30,000 computers linked to South Korean broadcasting networks. Obama's new policies would prevent something like this from occurring in the United States.

Having voluntary guidelines for companies to follow, as well as laws requiring certain preventative measures to be put in place, would help protect companies from falling victim to cyber threats, even if the hackers carrying out these attacks are not associated with a foreign country's government.

Many companies have already been the target of cyber threats, including the New York Times. In this instance, Chinese hackers looked for information regarding reporting on human rights activists in China.

Creating guidelines for companies to follow and passing laws to mandate certain defense mechanisms would help protect the personal information of employees, as well as users of the compa-

ny's product. The laws would also punish companies who do not do enough to protect the information of their clients, which should always be a company's primary concern.

While the forceful acquisition of personal information is a concern to the government, Obama's order was primarily made to curb the stealing of intellectual property belonging to U.S. companies.

According to the U.S. International Trade Commission, piracy and counterfeiting of U.S. software and a wide range of other intellectual property in China, cost U.S. businesses an estimated \$48 billion and 2.1 million jobs in 2009.

With the implementation of Obama's proposed changes, the number of jobs lost would be cut greatly, and research and development would once again become an important focus for many U.S. companies

that were scared to pump money into their R&D departments for fear of losing their hard-earned findings to foreign hackers.

One concern that arises with the creation of this executive order is the government's intrusion on a company's privacy. This should not be a worry, as the official order drafted by Obama stated that the only time the government

would ask a private company for information was after a crime had occurred and investigations were taking place.

This would be greatly beneficial to companies, since there would be some hope of finding the people who carried out the attacks on the company. Also, any intellectual property that was lost during the attack before it could be made useful by the hackers could possibly be retrieved.

"In most cases, companies don't realize they've been burned until years later when a foreign competitor puts out their very same product — only they're making it 30 percent cheaper," Scott Aken, a former FBI agent who specialized in computer intrusion, said to the press.

Obama's executive order helps prevent this exact scenario from occurring, and in turn saves private companies not only millions of dollars, but also many headaches which could have been caused by stress over the situation.

Although flags have been raised regarding the information that could be made available to federal agencies, Obama's executive order greatly benefits companies looking to secure their data and intellectual property, as well as companies that may have already fallen victim to cyber attacks.

This order would also indirectly boost the economy, since companies would be more willing to pump money into research and development positions.

In this case, they would know full well that their intellectual property is well-guarded. ♦

### >> thebigidea

#### Cyber Security

**The problem**  
Countries have now turned to cyber warfare to attack enemies.

**The solution**  
An executive order from President Obama to help companies protect themselves. The order calls for private companies to allow the government to investigate cyber attacks.

## NEW EDITORS

## STAFF POLICY

The *Saratoga Falcon* is published 12 times per year 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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# Post AP curriculum beneficial to overall course understanding

With the recent completion of AP testing, a huge burden has been lifted off the school's shoulders. Students everywhere have felt the diminishing of the merciless flow of work before AP testing. But to the astonishment of some students, AP classes are still learning new material after the test. However, this material, while not officially part of the AP course curriculum, is a huge asset in further enriching students' knowledge.

Margarita Morelle and Kim Anzalone's AP US History classes have always embarked on a History in Film unit following the AP test. They watch movies such as "Saving Private Ryan," "Platoon" and "Argo." With each movie, there is a small assessment on the plot and connection to history, an obstacle that often frustrates students.

However, these movies, supplementary reading assignments and assessments are an integral part in further understanding the course material in the AP class.

The formal goal of an AP course is to provide students with a college-caliber course and to challenge students. These supplemental assignments allow students to expand their perspectives on actual historical events they studied in the year through a differ-

ent method, rather than by reading textbooks.

For example, "Saving Private Ryan" revolves around the Allies' D-Day invasion of Normandy during WWII, an aspect that surprisingly is covered very briefly in the AP course. By showing these movies that illustrate many of the components central to such a pivotal historical event, the APUSH classes are providing students with an alternative, yet engaging way to expand their knowledge on historical events.

Furthermore, watching these films and reading supplementary packets is a much more preferable method to learn history compared to taking painstaking notes from the textbook. Now granted, there still are tests on the new material, but these tests do not approach the rigor of previous tests in the school year.

AP Calculus BC, taught by Audrey Warmuth, has also shifted gears to a supplemental unit focusing on mathematical modeling with differential equations. In previous years, the class completed final projects after AP testing, but Warmuth decided to make a change this year.

The modeling unit, composed of numerous in-class computer modeling activities and a culminating as-

essment, is a welcome addition to the curriculum.

The entirety of the AP Calculus curriculum revolves around three central topics: derivatives, integrals and series and sequences. However, the normal calculus curriculum does not emphasize practical application of techniques learned. Instead, the course centers around endless practice of deriving and integrating.

It's important to remember that the reason students are formally educated is to adequately prepare them for future careers and endeavors. The techniques learned in the core AP Calculus curriculum, while useful for assessments, are not necessarily applicable in the real world.

On the other hand, mathematical modeling using differential equations is a practical skill that numerous fields use regularly. It can be used by pathologists to predict the spread of epidemics, as well as by ecological scientists to model ecosystem population interactions. There are a multitude of applications of mathematical modeling within everyday life, which is why it is a useful addition to the post-AP Calculus BC curriculum.

AP classes, in addition to preparing students for college-level coursework, are meant to inspire further learning and exploration in a subject. Both supplemental units in APUSH and AP Calculus BC are beneficial for expanding exposure to certain less-covered topics, as well as providing a less-stressful method for students to obtain new perspective and knowledge. ♦

## >> Opinion of the Falcon Editorial Board

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## Opinion Editor/Reporter

Nick Chow



The *Saratoga Falcon* staff voted 20 to 17 for post AP curriculum.

## >> togatalks

### Are post-AP curriculums beneficial for students?

Yes. I believe that they creatively extend students' knowledge further than what the College Board dictates."



junior Robert Eng

"They are beneficial because they allow students to continue their education and keep them exposed to the same topics."



senior Albert Fang

# Extinct species should not be revived

BY Helen Wong  
& Carolyn Sun

Woolly mammoths and sabre-toothed tigers, dodos and Chinese river dolphins, thylacines and passenger pigeons — these animals no longer walk the face of the Earth, but what if they could once again?

In 2003, French and Spanish scientists brought an extinct animal called a bucardo, a cousin of the mountain goat, back to life by implanting eggs injected with bucardo DNA into a surrogate mother. The bucardo stayed alive for 10 short minutes.

With modern technological advances, though, scientists can now plausibly revive extinct species for good. At this point in time, however, they definitely should not.

Some species have gone extinct because their habitats no longer exist. For instance, even though woolly mammoths could theoretically walk across Arctic grassland again, does the Earth even have enough Arctic grassland anymore?

About 10,000 years have passed since the mammoth's extinction, and that grassland is now unproductive tundra that cannot support the same ecosystem

as it did before. Even if scientists managed to revive enough woolly mammoths, they would most likely become extinct again.

Also, if mammoths were revived, then their presence could possibly disrupt whatever ecosystem has formed in their absence.

Reviving an animal is essentially introducing a genetically engineered organism into a changed environment, and the consequences are unpredictable.

De-extinction itself is unpredictable. Once the extinct animal is brought back, what then? Does it go into a zoo to be pointed at by small children? Does it go to a lab to be poked and prodded and injected? Does it go back into the wild to repopulate its species?

Ethically speaking, scientists bringing back extinct species would seemingly lessen the severity of an animal going extinct. People would care less about endangered animals; no one would have to worry about driving a species into extinction because scientists could just revive it.

There are so many operational and ethical problems with de-extinction at the moment that trying to make it happen would be unwise. Scientists

reaching the point where they could theoretically bring a mammoth back is a spectacular feat, but people are letting the excitement go to their heads.

Reviving one bucardo took 57 implantations, and out of those 57 attempts, only one succeeded. Bringing back extinct species requires resources, time and money that could be spent protecting currently endangered animals.

Instead of attempting to revive extinct species, scientists should focus on preventing even more animals from dying out. ♦

## >> THE bigidea

### De-Extinction

#### The concept

Bringing back extinct animals.

#### How to do it

Eggs fertilized with the DNA of the extinct animal is implanted in a related animal.

#### The problems

Ethically, legally and physically speaking, there are too many risks. De-extinction itself is too unpredictable.

# Rose Market meets halfway with service

BY Ingrid Hong

Something I would like to accomplish as a foodie is being able to say that I have eaten in all the restaurants, cafes or stores pertaining to food in downtown Saratoga.

To get a little closer to completing this goal, I decided to try out the Rose Int'l Market right across from the Wells Fargo Bank, well-known for being a quaint eatery and marketplace for Middle Eastern food. The market is filled with rare goods that you would never find at ordinary grocery stores, like the hot food section filled with Persian delicacies that caught my attention.

Right when I walked in, I was surrounded by the scent of aromatic spices and fragrant hot foods. I noticed that it was not laid out like a typical restaurant or market. There were tables and chairs all around, and then against the wall was an assortment of various Middle Eastern foods. It was fun browsing through foods I had never seen before.

Customer service is a large factor when I decide if I like a restaurant or not. Sadly, I was faced with average to below average service. When I came up to order, the man behind the counter was

impatient and unhelpful in helping me choose a dish. I felt rushed and unwelcome but hoped the food would make up for the poor service.

And it somewhat did. I ordered the koobideh (ground beef kebab with ground onions and parsley), which came with a generous portion of rice and a grilled tomato. I sprinkled a little sumac on top and brought it out to their shaded patio to eat.

To be honest, the food looked better than it tasted, but considering the convenience of ordering it in a market, I was still impressed. My entire meal was about \$15, which I thought was reasonable

for the amount of food I ordered.

There is plenty of indoor seating, although the interior is more of a market than a restaurant, so I decided to eat outside. There is heavy foot traffic on the street by the patio so grab a drink, some food and enjoy the people watching.

If you are a fan of cozy, little stores with unique and exotic foods, I would highly recommend visiting the Rose Market. It's a definite a hole-in-the-wall eatery; however, if you are like me, who came for the dining experience, I would say skip it. ♦

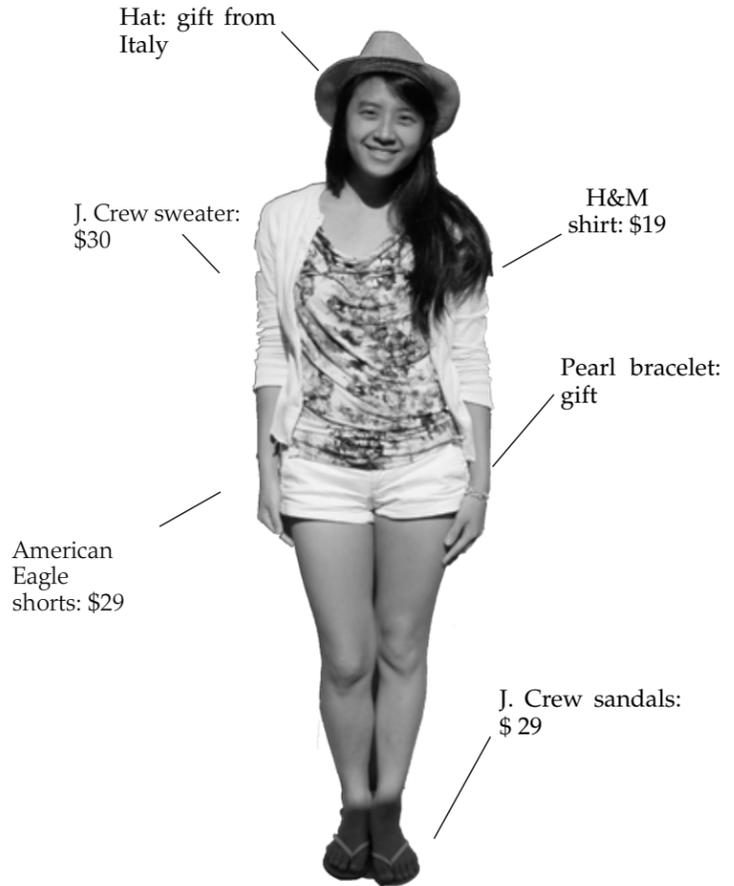
Rose Market



(OUT OF FIVE)

**Where:** 14445 Big Basin Way, Saratoga  
**Type of Food:** Middle Eastern  
**Price range:** \$ (out of three)  
**Reporter's Favorite:** Koobideh

## STYLE FILES



Vivian Wang, 11

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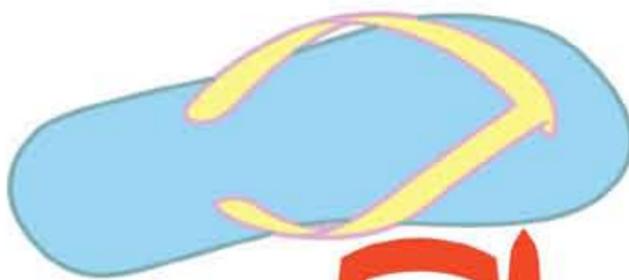
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GRAPHIC BY CAROLYN SUN

# It's Finally



## SUMMER PLANS >> Students' summer schedules

continued from pg. 1

tion."

Starting out at the house of MacFhionnlaioich's father in Dublin, Ireland, the five seniors will take a ferry to England, a train to London and then a flight to Madrid. According to MacFhionnlaioich, the rest of the trip is unplanned.

"We will probably create a rough itinerary in the coming months, but we'll still give ourselves the option to make spontaneous decisions while we are there," MacFhionnlaioich said.

A one-month nomadic experience in Europe has its dangers; therefore, the guys are taking necessary precautions. They are going to be bringing thin silk sleeping bags, thin hemp sweaters and silk underwear among other things to reduce unnecessary weight in their backpacks.

"We will all need travelers credit cards with PIN numbers and pickpocket proof wallets," MacFhionnlaioich said. "We are relying on the technology of our smart phones to translate languages and to help us communicate."

Other students are taking a much different approach to their summers. Junior Vivian Wang, who has been playing piano since kindergarten, will attend NYU's two-week Piano Intensive program, which will allow Wang to have one-on-one instructional sessions with piano professors and to perform in front of public audiences.

"I decided to go to NYU's Piano Intensive to get familiar with the staff on the piano faculty," Wang said. "By doing this, I hope to secure a future professor to study with for the piano performance major I plan to pursue in college."

Wang also auditioned for a master class with American classical pianist and host of National Public Radio's "From the Top" Christopher O'Riley. Wang secured a spot in the master class at the Santa Clara Convention Center, where O'Riley will give Wang a lesson on her piano playing while in front of a live audience.

"I hope to gain more confidence and knowledgeable insight in my playing," Wang said. "To have these elements with me for success in the live college audi-

tions I'll be doing throughout senior year would be helpful."

Another upperclassman, junior Elise Mun, hopes to obtain important cosmopolitan experience while taking steps to prepare for college. Mun will be attending classes at Oxford University in England for a month. Mun, who found out about the program through a pamphlet in the mail, wanted to try out the program because of academic and cultural curiosities.

"I hope to fully immerse myself in the lifestyle there while also getting the most out of my classes," Mun said. "It's pretty exciting to be spending a month at an internationally renowned school."

During the one-month program, Mun will be focusing on International Law as her major and musicology as her minor. The program is not solely academics, however.

"It's a mix of both classes and a camp, since we also get to participate in events like cricket and other more British things," Mun said.

Mun, who loves to travel, also felt the need to relieve some of the stress of her

junior year.

"Junior year is so tense and stressful and honestly, after all the chaos this year, I think everyone needs a summer off," Mun said. "Hopefully, I'll be able to lose myself a little bit and let go."

Underclassmen are also planning exciting summers much less related to academia and much more related to cultural exploration.

Sophomore Robin Osekowsky will be going to the Sacred Valley in Peru for 16 days to volunteer and gain insights into a new culture.

"I have always wanted to go to Peru, and I thought this would be a good way to visit and also do something good for the world," Osekowsky said.

Osekowsky will be building adobe houses in a village in the mountains near Machu Picchu as well as biking, hiking, kayaking and visiting the ruins.

"I want to experience a new culture and get to know people who live differently than I do," Osekowsky said. "I hope that it will be a great adventure and that I will make friends and practice Spanish along the way." ♦

## Possible summer destinations to go on a budget

By Jay Mulye

With summer vacation quickly approaching, many students are planning a summer full of adventures with their friends.

But here's the main question: How much are they willing to spend for a great time?

What many people may not know is that there are many different places nearby that can easily fit a student's budget.

### Mission Peak:

Located in Fremont, Mission Peak is a great trail for hiking. Be sure to avoid hiking during the daytime, since the high temperatures can be intolerable. The perfect time to embark on your hike is at 6:30 p.m., when the sun is down, and the air is cool. The hike takes around an hour and a half, so you will reach the peak around 8 p.m. and see the sunset over the East Bay.

Hiking with friends at Mission Peak is a great way to get a workout, and the burn from the exercise is barely noticeable if you are engaged in a great conversation with your friends. But once you take a breather in the middle of the hike, you will realize how tight your gluteus maximus is from the lactic acid buildup.

The beautiful and peaceful view of the

sunset and the bay at the top of Mission Peak is well worth the strenuous hike up the range of hills.

Not only do you get a great exercise from hiking steep hills and a great view, but your wallet will never need to leave your pocket.

### Seacliff State Beach:

Only a half hour south, just below Santa Cruz, the Seacliff State Beach is a perfect spot to enjoy the summer sun without the stress of a huge crowd. Avoid the early mornings or evenings because the chilly sea breeze causes uncontrollable shivering.

Be sure to bring a boogie board or surf board because the waves are perfect for surfing.

Seacliff State beach is one of the only beaches around Santa Cruz that has a BBQ grill on-site so you can prepare lunch without leaving the beach.

There are picnic tables available as well so you can sit down comfortably and eat your lunch.

There is also a RV campsite right by the beach with a beautiful view of the ocean and famous cement ship on the dock.

Be sure to reserve a camping spot in advance if you plan to camp at the beach.

### San Francisco:

If you are planning on spending the day in San Francisco, a great place to start is at Ghirardelli Square.

For many chocolate lovers, the Ghirardelli store is like a chocolate fantasy. It has the best hot fudge sundaes in the Bay Area, leaving many consumers in a trance, so it is worth the drive up to San Francisco.

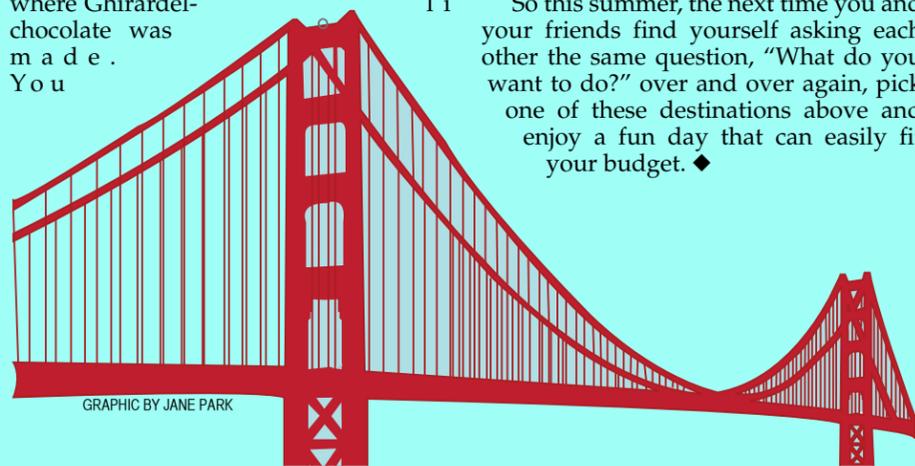
Not only is this place a chocolate paradise, but it is also packed with history. The Ghirardelli store in San Francisco has been there for over 150 years and it was the original factory where Ghirardelli chocolate was made. You

can even see the antique equipment in the store being used to make the rich Ghirardelli chocolate.

When you are hungry for lunch, head to Union Square to pick up a nice lunch and eat it outside in the bright sun. Don't forget to wear layers since the San Francisco weather is likely to be windy and cold.

After lunch, you can bring your roller skates over to the Golden Gate Park and go skating together with your friends. The park is covered with vibrant colored flowers and grass, which brings out the warm summer feeling.

So this summer, the next time you and your friends find yourself asking each other the same question, "What do you want to do?" over and over again, pick one of these destinations above and enjoy a fun day that can easily fit your budget. ♦



GRAPHIC BY JANE PARK

), 2013



# Summer

STUDENTS AND TEACHERS PLAN THEIR SUMMER VACATIONS

## Cochrum went north for summer 2012

BY Michelle Leung

Last summer, science teacher Lisa Cochrum visited polar bears in Spitsbergen, Norway, up in the Arctic Circle.

Cochrum saw many different polar bears and even an entire family of them from the decks of a boat specially designed to sail in the Arctic.

One particular night, Cochrum woke up to watch polar bears with her fellow passengers. She said that waking up in the middle of the night gave her the chance to see sights she might not have in the day time.

"A polar bear killed a seal, ripped the flipper off and brought the flipper over to our boat, just like a dog," Cochrum said.

As every other passenger pushed for a spot at the railing of the boat, Cochrum couldn't get a good view until she saw a hole in the side of the boat.

"I stuck my head out the hole, and the polar bear was 20 feet away," Cochrum said.

When the polar bear began to stand up and reach dangerously close to the boat, she couldn't decide between staying close to the polar bear and retreating to safety.

"I backed up because the kids back at school would have missed me," Cochrum said. "And I saw the guide had his hands over my ankle, ready to pull [me to safety] if I went through."

The guide was an expert on bears, and her polar bear was apparently "just curious," so Cochrum leaned back out the hole to see that the polar bear was still reaching up.

"We had a moment," Cochrum said.

Seeing Cochrum's encounter with the polar bears, other passengers attempted to experience the same proximity. The next day, the passengers gathered to see another polar bear.

"I went back to the hole, and this woman who saw me the other day decided she wanted to see the polar bears up close too," Cochrum said.

The woman opened a porthole even closer to the polar bear. It proved a bad idea when the polar bear stood up again.

"Everyone yelled, 'Shut it!'" Cochrum said. "But I was good; I didn't open a porthole. I was a little bit naughty because I laid on the deck and stuck my head out."

Another memorable moment during her Arctic trip was when

one polar bear went up to another polar bear. According to Cochrum, the polar bear "asked" to share the seal the other was eating. Since the two polar bears were of equal strength, they split the meat.

Soon after, yet another polar bear "asked" to share. To Cochrum, the most amusing part of the experience was watching the polar bears participate in their "jaw war," a term she dubbed the argument over the seal meat.

According to Cochrum, the trip to the Arctic Circle to see polar bears was one of her favorite three trips of all time.

This summer, she will be embarking on another trip to the north, this time to Alaska with administrative assistant Janet Verson.

"We are going to hike on a glacier, kayak in between glaciers [and] hike on trails all over," Cochrum said.

She plans to include elements of her favorite subjects in her agenda.

"Because I teach earth science, I get to go to the site [near Adak, Alaska] of one of the biggest [9.5] earthquakes and tsunamis. I'm really jazzed about that," Cochrum said. "Then for biology, we are going to fish hatcheries. We get to go behind the scenes at Katmi Island."

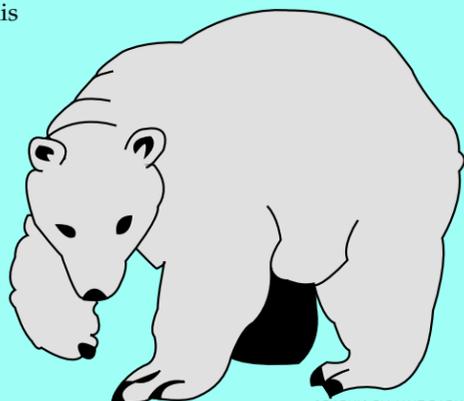
And finally, she will see the brown-furred cousins of her favorite Arctic polar bears.

"When I actually get to a place like China or see the polar bears in

the world, suddenly all the materials I studied interconnect," Cochrum said. "When I come back, not only do I have a much deeper connection, but I also get these great stories to work into the curriculum. Kids will remember that dumb story about the panda peeing on me, and it acts as a hook for the curriculum." ♦

**Kids will remember that dumb story about the panda peeing on me, and it acts as a hook for the curriculum.**

>> Science teacher Lisa Cochrum



GRAPHIC BY JANE PARK



All photos courtesy of LISA COCHRUM

From top to bottom right: 1. During her trip to the Arctic, Cochrum poses next to a fake polar bear in Norway. 2. Cochrum takes a selfie with an unaware polar bear. 3. Cochrum matches a pose with the polar bear above her. 4. A polar bear looks at Cochrum as she takes a picture of it on the ice.

# 'Arrested Development' reaches for infinity and beyond with new season

BY Jade Bisht

Bestowed upon this undeserving world in October of 2011 was the heart-clenching, breathtaking, jaw-dropping news of the impossible — a new season of "Arrested Development." This glorious news had announced that the new season would be released in early 2013 and then was later specified to this past May 26. The painstakingly slow wait was worth it, and it is impossible to not fall out of my chair with the privilege of seeing a fresh batch of clever and hilarious episodes.

The opening of "Arrested Development," over a series of awkward family portraits, states that the show is "the story of a wealthy family, who lost everything — and the one son who had to put it all back together." Michael Bluth, played by Jason Bateman, is the son who is forced to sew back the loose threads of a family that has fallen apart and is living in a model home.

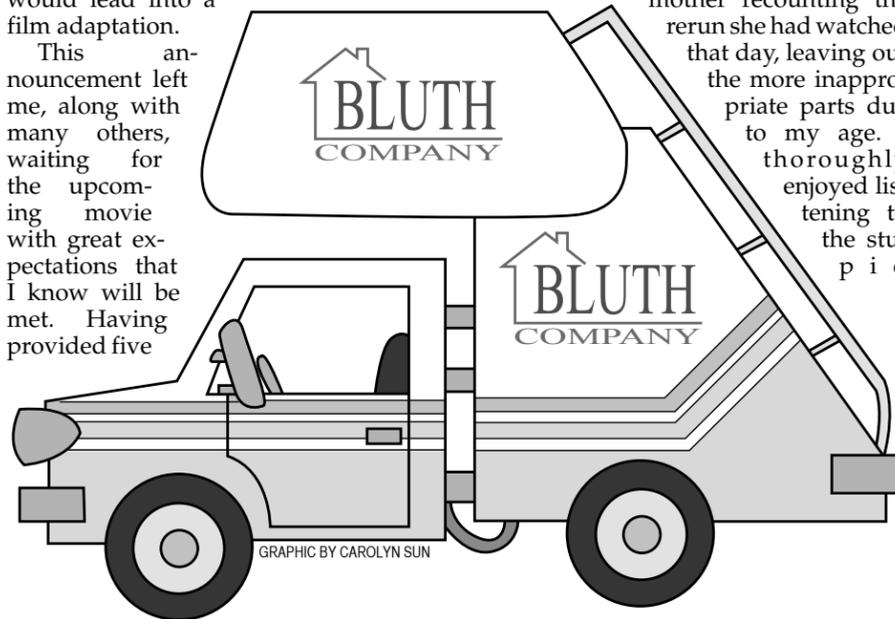
Though "Arrested Development" may seem like a bland show with its strange characters at first glance, the unique situations thrown at them, and the way these characters approach them bring an enjoyably unexpected twist to every episode. Ranging from a banana stand catching on fire to a boat sinking during spring break, there is not one hilarious episode in which something ex-

pected occurs.

The show had previously taken a four season run from 2003, ending in 2006 after lacking a stable audience. Though gathering excellent reviews from numerous critics, creator Mitch Hurwitz declined continuing the series on Fox.

However, during a panel at The New Yorker Festival in 2011, Hurwitz announced his plans to produce a fourth season of "Arrested Development" that would lead into a film adaptation.

This announcement left me, along with many others, waiting for the upcoming movie with great expectations that I know will be met. Having provided five



GRAPHIC BY CAROLYN SUN

solid seasons with a fantastic cast, dysfunctional family gatherings, plot twists and numerous inappropriate jokes, the movie will most likely top it all while (I hope) tying all knots left loose since 2006.

A prime component of the show that has attracted such a large audience over the years is that it appeals to every age. I clearly remember being picked up from school

in fifth grade and my mother recounting the rerun she had watched that day, leaving out the more inappropriate parts due to my age. I thoroughly enjoyed listening to the stupid

things they had done in the episode that I would watch later that day.

My favorite character had always been Buster because nothing could be expected from such a bipolar and socially awkward character. My brother always recited the stupid things Gob Bluth would say, even getting excited when "Final Countdown" would come on the radio, the song Gob would perform magic tricks to — every single time. The diverse characters in the show provide a wide range of possible favorites, whether it be an airheaded shopaholic, a high school boy crushing on his own cousin or an ex-therapist with the dream of becoming an actor.

The show has been brought back to life through more and more people discovering its greatness. Whether it be buying DVDs or watching on Netflix, the show currently has a widespread audience growing across the globe. It's more exciting than ever due to the willingness of all the actors to return to their roots and provide a whole new season lead-in to movie.

Now that the season is out, all we have to wait for is the full movie to be released later this upcoming summer. As excitement broils across the nation, popcorn will be popping and hearts will be stopping in impatience for one of the most highly anticipated movies of the year. ♦

## Stupid television shows surprisingly entertaining

BY Devin Zhao

Before the fabulous inventions of mobile applications and video games, TV was often my only form of entertainment.

While I did have my favorite shows, I mostly found myself flipping through dozens of TV shows that often had no point or value.

However, after stopping to watch some of these shows, I found them entertaining. For example, take the TV show "Splash." When a friend showed me an episode, I did not know what to say or how to react.

At first, when British diving star Tom Daley made an appearance on the show, I assumed the show would involve some expert diving. However, five minutes into the show, my opinion had turned for the worse.

As it turned out, Daley was only a mentor for celebrities who dive off platforms in order to be judged. I found the show to be too light-hearted, without a critical judge like "American Idol's" Simon or "Masterchef's" Gordon Ramsay. The audience cheered for every idol, regardless whether the dive was a complete flop or a rousing success.

However, "Splash" proved to be more than just a belly flop. The determination of the contestants to stay on the show despite various handicaps, such as an abnormal amount of body mass, inspired me to try harder in school.

Another example is "Total Blackout," featuring contestants who have to perform certain tasks, such as gathering eels while going through an obstacle course, in total darkness.

At a first glance, "Total Blackout" seemed to be a spinoff of "Fear Factor" with contestants completing tasks such as walking on broken glass and dipping themselves in ice-filled water.

Unexpectedly, as I watched more episodes of "Total Blackout," I found that the show fell into an entirely different genre than "Fear Factor."

By filming the contestants as they slide and stumble throughout the challenge area, I thought that there was some humor value put into the show. Another different quality of "Total Blackout" was that for the first time in awhile, I found a show where there

was no panel of judges evaluating the actions of each and every contestant. Speed was the main factor in deciding who would win the \$5,000 reward instead of quality.

Before watching these shows, I immediately classified them as stupid and unadmirable in any way. Now, I have redeemed these "stupid" shows in my mind and would like to give other shows of their kind, such as "Loiter Squad," a try.

So next time you're tired of endless homework, turn on the TV and watch a few minutes of a mindless television show. Who knows, you may end up liking it! ♦

### >> THE bigidea

#### Stupid TV Shows

##### Splash

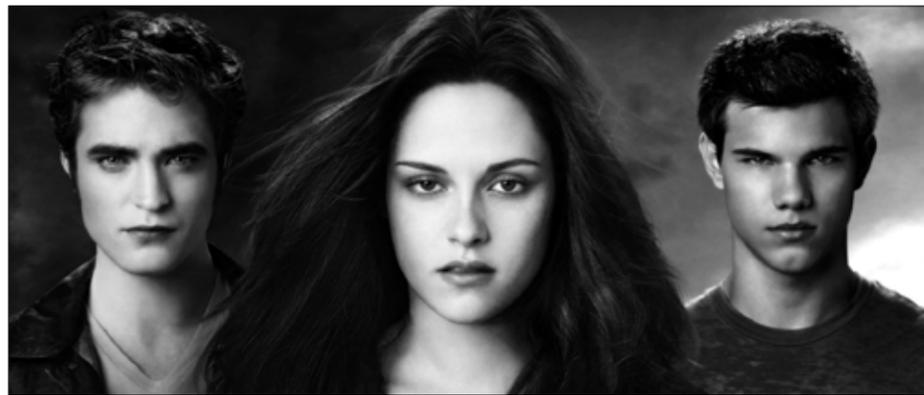
Celebrities must attempt master the art of diving for a live audience.

##### Total Blackout

Contestants complete challenges in total darkness.

##### Loiter Squad

An American sketch comedy series featuring hip hop group "Odd Future."



SOURCE: COLLIDER.COM

Students resoundingly agree that the Twilight movies are the epitome of bad film-making.

## Movies students loathe

BY Michelle Leung

Some movies inspire tears. Some win Oscars. And according to freshman Amy Zhang, some movies just drag on until they are "torturing [your] brain."

The main problems students find with poorly made films are the characters and the plot.

Freshman Hannah Leney believes that 2013 movie "Spring Breakers," about four college girls on their spring break vacation, is the worst movie of all time.

"There is no plot," Leney said. "There is no story line; I was extremely bored, and it was too long."

Leney also believes the casting of the actors influenced the success of the movie. According to Leney, actress Selena Gomez, who played one of the four college girls involved in illegal activities, was "way too innocent for her part."

Other students often find that the worst movies are those that are based on books or television shows. According to sophomore Minda Lee, inadequate decisions on the director's part ruined the highly anticipated 2010 film, "The Last Airbender." According to Lee, many of the main characters' appearances did not match how they were described in the original story.

"The director said he changed the pronunciation of some names to sound more Asian, but the actors pronounced them

all wrong," Lee said. "The Fire Nation was supposed to be Japanese, but in the movie, they were Indian."

Specific holes in the plot also ruined what could have been a great movie, disappointing fans with high expectations.

"The dialogue and storyline [were] all unrealistic," Lee said. "They left out a lot of really important and funny scenes, like the Earth Nation king."

When Rick Riordan's best seller "The Lightning Thief" was made into a movie in 2010, many fans of the novel were extremely disappointed. According to freshman Kelly Xiao, "The Lightning Thief" movie should never have been made.

"The director tried to change the story and make it his own," Xiao said. "He messed up really badly, and the result was terrible."

Despite the plethora of terrible movies, many students agree that "The Twilight Saga" is and always will be the worst film series of all time.

"There are no storylines, and the actors can't act," sophomore Riddhi Sangam said. "They could have chosen much better actors, and they could have made it more realistic."

Zhang agreed that the disastrous plots made "The Twilight Saga" her least favorite series of movies.

"I hope they never make movies as bad as 'The Twilight Saga' again," Zhang said. ♦

# 'Gatsby': stellar cast but major missteps

The hype started long ago: Everyone's expectations were high for Baz Luhrmann's adaptation of "The Great Gatsby," F. Scott Fitzgerald's beloved American classic. The star-studded cast, featuring Leonardo DiCaprio as Jay Gatsby, Tobey Maguire as Nick Carraway and Carey Mulligan as Daisy Buchanan, looked promising and the score intriguing to say the least, with Luhrmann and Jay-Z as producers.

Regardless of the fact that the movie premiered right in the middle of the AP testing fog, we made plans to arrive a full hour early to the movie "The Great Gatsby" to ensure good seats.

We were able to arrive early enough to get a perfect view in the dead center of the theatre (We were first in line, no big deal.) As we settled in with our X-Large ICEE and the opening credits began, we were optimistic that the movie would meet all of our expectations.

But we're going to be honest: We weren't crazy about the movie. It was OK, but much too forced in the way it highlighted the major symbols of the novel.

"The Great Gatsby" exaggerated arguably the biggest symbol in the novel:

the green light on the edge of the Buchanan's dock that Gatsby reached for, representing undying hope and persistence. This symbol was featured in the beginning and end of the movie and shown multiple times in between, just in case the viewer somehow managed to forget about it.

Of course, having read the novel in English a month ago might have made us a little more sensitive to the symbol than, say, a viewer who had never read the book before, but still, there's no need to shove a symbol at the audience to the point that it becomes tiring. The subtlety that makes the novel beautiful was lost on screen.

On the plus side, the cast was a success: DiCaprio, Maguire and Mulligan all embraced their roles and took us to the 1920s. Perhaps DiCaprio's performance was the strongest as he kept the subtle mystique and strong faith that characterizes Gatsby.

The movie also succeeded in highlighting the lavishness of the parties during the time period. They went all out in portraying the raging parties with the fancy waiters, scandalous dancers and of course, copious drinking.

By clearly contrasting these all out

parties with the poverty of the Valley of Ashes, the movie showed the extravagance of Gatsby's way of life.

The scene where Daisy Buchanan sees Gatsby's house for the first time is a classic. DiCaprio and Mulligan represented all the carelessness and frivolity that their characters embody, particularly when Gatsby begins throwing his beautiful silk shirts around his mansion, reducing Daisy to tears.

And oh goodness, the soundtrack. This was probably the best part of the movie.

The music was perfect for the events of the movie, playing off of the characters' emotions to draw the viewer into the plotline and aid them in relating to the characters and their struggles.

Though some critics and viewers alike were skeptical of the ultra-modern take of the s o u n d -

track, the tracks had a touch of '20s influence. This was most prominent in Emeli Sandé's "Crazy in Love" and the intros on Fergie, Q-Tip and GoonRock's "A Little Party Never Killed Nobody," Bryan Ferry's "Love Is the Drug" and Coco O.'s "Where the Wind Blows."

Though some songs such as Jay-Z and Kanye West's "No Church In the Wild" didn't so much as give a nod to the '20s, the way the tracks were used to reflect the mood of the scenes prevented the songs from feeling out of place.

With regards to the symbols, the movie could absolutely be improved. It's not necessary to make the green light so obvious; it just undermines its importance.

Still, the movie was not without a good side. It's just that the bad qualities needed to be taken down a notch, just like the green light. ♦

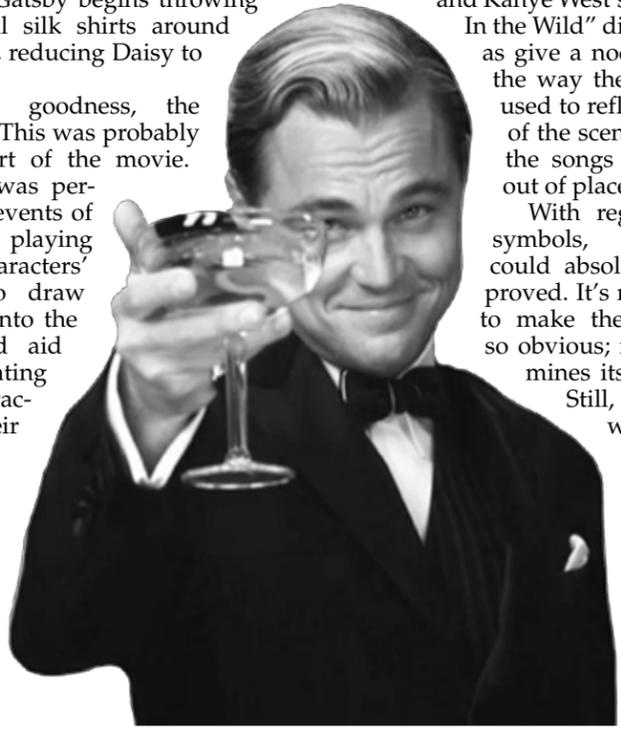


CRISTINA CURCELLI



SARAH FINLEY

Fincelli



# 'The Office' concludes with a perfect finale

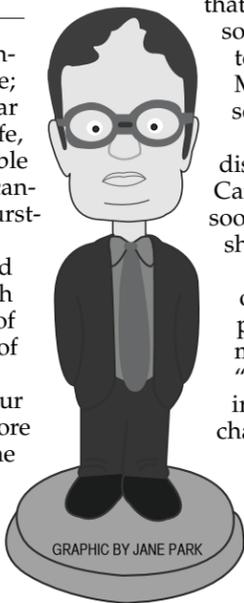
BY Jade Bisht

Imagine the most pain-inducing scenario possible; something that would scar you for the rest of your life, scare you into an unthinkable state of mind in which you cannot live a sane life without bursting into tears.

Multiply that by ten, and you will have gone through the unforgettable torture of watching the season finale of "The Office."

Aired on May 16, the hour long episode pulled more laughter and tears out of me since "Toy Story 3."

After discovering "The Office" at the end of 7th grade, I proceeded to spend a good portion of



that summer watching every season until I was caught up, ready to watch Steve Carell's character, Michael Scott, act in his last season with the show.

The tragedy of my fantastic discovery was when I found out Carell had planned to leave as soon as I had gotten hooked on the show.

Michael Scott is the epitome of the world's worst boss. In the pilot episode, Scott shows off a mug he owns proudly stating "WORLD'S BEST BOSS." The irony being that Scott had purchased the mug for himself.

Michael Scott deserves all of Glenn Coco's candy canes. His poorly executed jokes are contagious to the point that they've severely affected the way my friends look at

me. After watching "Prison Mike" pronounce "thanks" as "tanks," I now send a picture of multiple tanks to friends in lieu of typing out the very overused "thanks," which they find very annoying.

It's generally ensured that if Michael Scott is going to say anything to anyone, it will be accompanied by an unintentional insult and, if you're lucky, a "that's what she said" joke. Though hilarious to watch, everyone knows that a boss as shallow as Michael Scott would experience mutiny after the first day.

Jim and Pam, the lovebirds of the office since season four, start off as best friends and as end up married parents of two. After too many bumps in the road for my heart to handle, the finale resolves every issue in the sweetest way possible.

The past two seasons have definitely been too weird to consider enjoyable.

While still incorporating some of the show's usual sort of humor, it was generally weak and lacked an obvious component — Michael Scott. Losing such a well rounded character cost the show their biggest source of humor.

The unexpected highlight (beautiful spoiler alert) of the show's finale was the best thing that could've happened — Michael Scott appeared for the first time in two seasons and delivered a perfect, "that's what she said."

"The Office" has officially come to a close after numerous heartfelt episodes. It's never going to end for me, though. I'll never forget Dwight's wide knowledge of bears, beets and "Battlestar Galactica," and Jim's impressive creativity when it comes to pranking.

The Office will forever be a part of my heart — and I will never be thankful enough for all the seasons available on Netflix. ♦

# Pixar perfects the art of prequels and sequels

BY Jade Bisht & Lauren Louie

As if there isn't enough perfection in the world — sit down for this one — Pixar has graced us with the promise of more sequels, leading to a joyous celebration for all those who love the fantastic animated movies.

Pixar has recently announced a prequel for "Monsters Inc." called "Monsters University." This follows monsters Mike and Sully back in time to their college days. The movie revolves around how the dynamic duo of Mike and Sully came to be. "Monsters University" will be released this year on June 21.

Also just announced, Pixar will be making a sequel, "Finding Dory," to the popular "Finding Nemo." The movie will follow the loveable, scatterbrained Dory as she reunites with her family, taking place a year after the original.

This sequel will be released in 2015 — a year that will not only be washed away by a fantastic sequel but flooded

with tears of joy.

With the news of a sequel for any movie comes a general reaction: "It will never be as great as the first! Don't ruin it!"

Pixar is the perfect exception to this rule, though. Its products have that certain magic that is attached to Disney movies. It never stretches too far with mind-boggling plots. It keeps in control how far one should go from the original without sticking too closely to it.

Its sequels, for the most part, are always flawless in their quality and style and have a perfect measure of simplistic creativity that takes the movie straight to the heart and tears (Let's forget "Cars 2" ever existed at the moment).

Pixar and Disney, the childhood dream team, take the high expectations of their general audience into consideration and are always able to figure out what kind of components are necessary to make the perfect sequel.

"Toy Story 3" was by far the best of the trilogy series with its charm that each

new character brought to the screen. Incorporating so many new characters that had no appearance in the previous films could have turned out horribly, but Pixar was able to introduce them effortlessly.

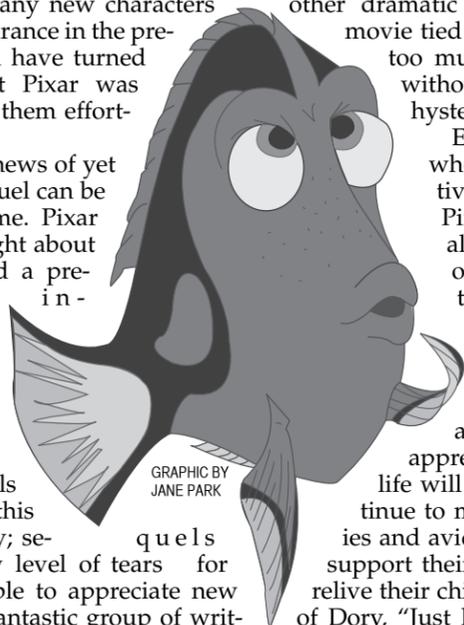
However, the news of yet another Pixar sequel can be repetitive for some. Pixar has already brought about two sequels and a prequel since 2010, including Monsters University, but has released only one original movie.

But sequels aren't just sequels when it comes to this glorious company; sequels are a whole new level of tears for those who are able to appreciate new material from a fantastic group of writers and animators.

Being told that there could be another dramatic and heart-wrenching movie tied to "Finding Nemo" is too much for one to handle without erupting into utter hysteria.

Even if there are those who aren't as hyperactive when it comes to Pixar sequels, there will always be those that recognize their creators' true talent for crafting award-winning movies (Again, please forget "Cars 2.")

Whether picky and judgmental people appreciate Pixar sequels, life will go on. Pixar will continue to make spectacular movies and avid fans will continue to support their masterpieces as they relive their childhoods. In the words of Dory, "Just keep swimming," and get the tissues ready. ♦





# BSE

STUDENTS DISCUSS THE  
ADDICTIONS THEY JUST  
CANNOT SEEM TO GIVE UP

## Grade fixation consumes lives of two boys

BY Deepti Kannan  
& Sherrilyn Ling

While the members of his Boy Scout troop enjoyed the fresh air during their latest kayak outing at Elk Horn Slough in Monterey, freshman Shrey Desai was absent from the festivities. Instead, Desai was studying in his room in order to appease his overwhelming desire to get good grades.

"I remember on one incident, there was a Boy Scout meeting that had some really fun activities planned for that day," Desai said, "but I prioritized [studying for] a Spanish test over the meeting just because I wanted to get my grade up from an A to an A plus."

High school has meant academic pressure for Desai, and his commitment to Boys Scouts has diminished as a result.

For Desai and many other academic-oriented students like junior Akshay Madhani, getting good grades has become more than just a goal or requirement; it is an obsession.

"For me, in freshman year, grades were like video games," Madhani said. "Getting grades can be like doing well on a video game; it can get addicting."

During Desai's transition into high school, his parents and other students warned him that his grades would be a large determining factor for colleges, which is why his obsession with grades originally formed.

However, for Madhani, receiving good grades was more of a self-esteem booster that served to enhance his learning.

"I didn't have the best grades in middle school, so when I got good grades in high school, it kind of made me feel good, so I wanted to do it again and again," Madhani said.

Madhani added that his desire for self-improvement caused him to set high standards for himself.

"There was no substitute for perfection in my mind," Madhani said. "There was 100, and that's it. If my work was less than a masterpiece, I was questioning [myself]."

Due to their perfectionist mentalities, both Desai and Madhani resort to obsessive routines.

"I check Aeries every 10 to 15 minutes to see if there's been a fluctuation in percentage levels, and if there is, I get extremely worried and tense," Desai said.

Madhani recalled that in his freshman year, his obsession with grades motivated him to work harder. Often times, Madhani used to spend five to six hours in a row doing homework for his personal enjoyment.

However, this year, Madhani said he has distanced himself from his addiction to grades in order to adjust to the pressures of junior year.

"By sophomore year, I got over the pain from my grades in middle school, which helped me slowly forget about grades. Today, I don't

look at a 98 [percent] and say 'What did I do wrong?' I'd be realistic about it," Madhani said. "Also, as a real workload built up compared to the light one in freshman year, I stopped obsessing because I didn't have that option."

However, in hindsight, Madhani said he may have over exaggerated his need

for good grades in freshman year.

"Back then, I knew that I was working hard, but I thought it was a good thing," Madhani said. "But in retrospect, even though I really had fun with it, I really didn't have to work that hard to get the grades that I got."

Despite perhaps overworking himself, Madhani feels that his addiction was a healthy one.

"It's ridiculous [to get mad over a 98 percent], but it's not unhealthy as long as you don't do stupid things like [lose] sleep because you're studying, [take] extra stress or [feel] like you can't breathe," Madhani said. "In my case, the obsession was more of a fun thing; it was more of an esteem thing, so I was able to learn as well as enjoy myself."

Desai added that his desire for good grades has always been a motivational factor, even if it goes overboard at times.

"If I see something bad, I always strive to do better, and I'm never content," Desai said. "Sometimes, it does take over my life and becomes unhealthy, but I think my obsession over grades has made me a better student, get better grades and make me a better person, overall." ♦

**I check Aeries every 10 to 15 minutes to see if there's been a fluctuation in percentage levels.**

>> Freshman Shrey Desai

## An artist's only problem: The pursuit of perfection

Although some people have small faults such as gum-snapping or knuckle-cracking, as an artist, I have a different addiction: I obsess over minuscule details, trying in vain to perfect my paintings and drawings.

I suppose being a perfectionist can be useful when school assignments require precision. Most of the time, though, I find myself wasting valuable time that I could spend starting and finishing another painting.

During spring break, I took advantage of the free time to brush up on my digital painting, something I'd been neglecting in favor of speeding through all four seasons of "White Collar," since watching too much TV is another one of my obsessions.

After some deliberation, I chose to draw a portrait of the character Neal Caffrey (have I mentioned that I'm addicted to "White Collar"?), expecting the painting to be a straightforward photo study.

Unfortunately and predictably, I real-

ized my digital art skills were extremely rusty. After several hours of trying to draw the character accurately, I found myself spending even longer trying to make my painting perfect.



CAROLYN  
SUN

Here comes the Sun

I would darken the subject's eyes a shade or two, make the background just slightly lighter, trim the canvas by mere pixels and then, indecisive, control+z all my changes.

My process of trying to perfect my painting dragged on throughout the entire day. I even found myself procrastinating by browsing various social networking sites, further delaying the painting's completion.

Digital painting programs, such as Photoshop and Paint Tool SAI, allow me to delete changes that would be permanent on a traditional canvas, so I had an unlimited number of chances to attempt to perfect my drawing. While this aspect is normally an advantage of digital art, in my case, it caused me to paint several different backgrounds and then, frus-

trated, revert to the original.

My mom, who must have been slightly exasperated after having seen me working on it for several hours, declared that I was finished with the painting and told me to move on, probably so I would not spend even more time holed up in my room.

Unfortunately, the perfectionist within me refused to follow the advice. After almost another hour of working on the painting, I decided that I was done, closed the paint program and put away my graphic tablet with an air of finality.

In hindsight, I realize that I could have spent much less time on that one painting.



Courtesy of CAROLYN SUN

Sun created this painting of Neal Caffrey from "White Collar."

To break my bad habit, in the future, I'll attempt to paint in one to two hours. That way, I'll have plenty of time to both draw and watch TV. On that note, anyone want to re-watch "White Collar" with me? ♦

# SSIONS

## Junior immune to the smartphone craze

I have lived my life without the presence of any “smart” mobile device. Pity me and console me or, as most people do, laugh at my chunky black antique of a phone as you wave your sleek iPhone 5 in my face.

Just a few weeks ago, when I had lost my phone and went to the attendance office to pick it up, the lady at the front desk gave me a very bemused look as she handed it back to me as if she were giving me a rotary dial from the the 1960’s.

The first time I remember being left behind from the smartphone train was in seventh grade, when a spoiled classmate of mine obtained the original iPhone right after it was released.

Now everywhere I look, almost everyone on campus is in possession of some kind of fancy mobile device,

whether it be an iPhone, Android or Samsung Galaxy.

I’ve also noticed that along with this seemingly unstoppable trend comes an unstoppable reliance, or, if I may be so bold, addiction, to these phones.



CANDICE ZHENG

Respect mah zhengstah

I, for one, have never been addicted. This is probably due to the fact that all of the phones I have ever had were nothing more than pieces of cheap plastic.

In freshman year — my friends can testify — I had to make use of a 6-year-old flip phone whose screen dangled off a few wires.

All but few of my friends have tragically fallen into the smartphone trap.

Therefore I can testify to first hand accounts of their not-so-slow descents into the world of addiction. I have witnessed arguments arise over

Candy Crush, whole lunch periods consumed by continuous messaging and tutoring sessions transformed into Snapchatting sprees.

When a conversation about this topic emerged one day at our lunch table, I inquired to one of my friends about why she was so fixated on her phone. With a glassy stare, she replied, “I feel naked without it.”

The rise of the smartphone has also accounted for some bizarre behaviors that I will never understand.

The one that sticks out the most for me would be the teenage obsession over the Instagramming of food.

Every time I go out to a decently nice restaurant with a group of friends, they never fail to make me cringe. While they crowd around the dishes like a horde of food paparazzi, all I can do is turn my face in embarrassment.

I admit, devoid of all those little apps and social interfaces that come

with such devices, I sometimes (always) feel a little jealous and left out.

But around this time of the year, as AP tests and finals are rolling around, I feel glad to have my big ol’ block of a phone.

At least I am rid of the extra distractions and can focus on studying — or so I had hoped. The prospect of studying vanished after I discovered that Candy Crush could be played on the Internet.

Although outwardly I may complain about my lack of a fancy smartphone, inwardly I am actually thankful.

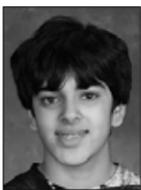
On the other hand, if my parents did finally allow me to trade in my ancient relic and jump on the bandwagon, I honestly don’t think I could resist.

After all, how could I refuse the chance to play mobile Candy Crush? My life would be made. ♦

### >> togatalks

#### What are you obsessed with?

“I would say I’m obsessed with listening to classical music because it has a soothing quality.”



sophomore Anish Srinivasan

“I am obsessed with coffee. I have a least two cups a day, four when I’m wealthy.”



senior Keshav Tirumurti

“I’m obsessed with painting because it makes me feel something different every time.”



senior Kristen Zung

## Sophomore hooked on soda

BY Rachel Hull

After a long day at school, sophomore Shreya Kanchan often returns home craving something refreshing. With a parched mouth, she opens her refrigerator door until her eyes rest on a can of Sprite.

Kanchan does not often like to admit it, but she is obsessed with soda.

“I always had parties — say, Divali parties or birthday parties — so I started drinking [soda] at a young age,” Kanchan said. “But I drank it a lot more in middle school.”

At a party one time, Kanchan tried drinking Coke with milk, a combination she had read about on the Internet.

“It wasn’t as bad as you’d think it would be,” Kanchan said. “It’s not my favorite thing. But it tasted like a float when the ice cream melts away.”

Kanchan decided it was time for a change in drinking habits when she heard about an experiment in which a hard-boiled white egg is placed in a glass of Coke. The egg turned brown a day later, and the shell fell off a year later.

The changes in the egg illustrated the effects on one’s teeth and convinced Kanchan that her obsession had to end.

“I cut down a bit, because before I used to get Izzes all the time,” Kanchan said. “But now I don’t.”

Whereas she used to drink soda almost every day, Kanchan now limits herself to drinking it once a week or once every other week. Sophomore Meeta Marathe, one of Kanchan’s friends, aided her in making this change.



Kanchan

“I told her that it was super unhealthy,” Marathe said, “so we started having these one month periods where she wouldn’t drink soda at all. Then sometimes we would go to the lunch line, and she would buy milk [or] water instead of soda.”

Since she has started to cut down on soda, Kanchan has not seen any major health improvements. She is still glad of the change, however, realizing that whenever she feels like soda, it is usually because she is thirsty.

Kanchan’s friends were relieved to see these changes in her lifestyle.

“She doesn’t drink soda as much anymore,” Marathe said, “but it used to concern me.”

Despite her efforts to stop this “addiction,” Kanchan still finds herself reaching for a soda can every once in a while, remembering how the carbonation tickles her tastebuds. This sensation is the reason that Kanchan is obsessed with soda, not other drinks.

“I like that bubbly, tingly feeling,” Kanchan explained. “It’s like a party in your mouth.” ♦

## Students weigh pros, cons of nail biting compulsion

BY Michelle Leung

Whenever freshman Yena Jeong reads a good book, she finds her hands “inching towards her face,” reverting to a bad habit she has never been able to fully conquer: nail-biting. Although the resulting pain in her nails may only last a few days, according to Jeong, the bad habit is still annoying.

Jeong has been biting her nails since second grade. She is unsure of how nail biting started, but it eventually became compulsive.

Jeong does not consciously indulge in her habit.

“Sometimes I forget about [biting my nails] for a few months, but when I’m reading a book, I’ll just start biting them again,” Jeong said.

However, Jeong does not bite her nails frequently enough to make her habit more than an irritation.

“My nail biting isn’t daily, but sometimes it’s annoying,” Jeong said. “Over the break, since I read a lot of books, I bit my nails a lot, and it hurt the next day. It only hurts for a few days, and then it’s fine.”

Sophomore Vincent Huang also began biting his nails at an early age.

“I’ve pretty much been biting my

nails on and off for as long as I can remember,” Huang said.

Huang usually bites his nails because of stress.

“Usually I stop during the summer, but it just comes back during the school year,” Huang said. “I guess stress from school is a big factor for why I do it.”

Thinking is also a trigger for Huang.

“If I’m ever in deep thought, I just find myself biting my nails,” Huang said. “I don’t bite my nails too often. It’s compulsive but not really a problem.”

Most people do not consider nail biting a serious condition. It may be unsanitary, but nail biting is not life-threatening.

Jeong once tried to cure her nail biting habit with nail polish. She hoped that painting her nails would deter her from her bad habit.

“If I paint my nails, I don’t bite them,” Jeong said. “That worked for a while.”

Most students do not suffer enough from this bad habit to try curing it. Freshman Stephen Law believes there are even benefits to nail biting.

“I don’t ever need to cut my nails,” Law said. ♦

## POWER RANKINGS

CONTRIBUTIONS BY JAY MULYE, SANJ NALWA AND NIKIL RAMANATHAN

Graphic by Carolyn Sun

### HOW DOES YOUR TEAM RANK IN THE FALCON THIS YEAR?

Based on the writers' opinions, this power rankings chart is meant to provoke conversation and debate



<p><b>1. Boys' Baseball (6)</b>                  Campus Presence: <b>4</b>                  Time Demand: <b>3</b>                  Improvement: <b>3</b>                  Winning %: <b>16</b>                  League Titles: <b>2</b>                  CCS: <b>1</b>                  Star Factor: <b>S. Berman</b>                  Total: <b>29</b></p> <p>Under strong leadership from seniors Stevie Berman and Kyle Dozier, the team had one of its best seasons, finishing 1st place in their league.</p>	<p><b>2. Boys' Basketball (4)</b>                  Campus Presence: <b>4</b>                  Time Demand: <b>4</b>                  Improvement: <b>3</b>                  Winning %: <b>15</b>                  League Titles: <b>0</b>                  CCS: <b>2</b>                  Star Factor: <b>S. Berman</b>                  Total: <b>28</b></p> <p>Despite the fact that the team moved up a league, they were able to place second in their league, and reach the CCS quarterfinals.</p>	<p><b>3. Football (19)</b>                  Campus Presence: <b>5</b>                  Time Demand: <b>5</b>                  Improvement: <b>3</b>                  Winning %: <b>11</b>                  League Titles: <b>0</b>                  CCS: <b>1</b>                  Star Factor: <b>K. Dozier</b>                  Total: <b>25</b></p> <p>With a new, high flying offense, the team made CCS for the first time in four years and finished the regular season with a win over powerhouse Milpitas.</p>	<p><b>4. Softball (24)</b>                  Campus Presence: <b>2</b>                  Time Demand: <b>2</b>                  Improvement: <b>3</b>                  Winning %: <b>15</b>                  League Titles: <b>1</b>                  CCS: <b>2</b>                  Star Factor: <b>M. Lee</b>                  Total: <b>25</b></p> <p>The girls had a great season in the El Camino league led by strong play from many. They won their league and made it to the CCS quarterfinals.</p>	<p><b>5. Girls' Tennis (1)</b>                  Campus Presence: <b>3</b>                  Time Demand: <b>2</b>                  Improvement: <b>1</b>                  Winning %: <b>16</b>                  League Titles: <b>0</b>                  CCS: <b>2</b>                  Star Factor: <b>K. Narayan</b>                  Total: <b>24</b></p> <p>The loss of the No. 1 singles player Crystal Yen and the No. 1 doubles team Lisa Asai and Sarah Lum caused the team to achieve less success than they have in past years.</p>
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Sport (last year's ranking)	Campus Presence (1-5)	Time Demand (1-5)	Improvement (1-3)	Winning% (1-15 lower league, 1-20 upper)	League Title (1 for lower league, 2 for upper)	CCS (0-5)	Star Factor	Total	Evaluation
6. G. Basketball (3)	4	4	2	12	0	2	H. Johnson	24	Despite moving up a league this year, the team still played well and made the CCS quarterfinals.
7. B. Water Polo (8)	5	4	2	13	0	0	S. Cho	24	Although the team did not make CCS, their campus presence boosted their power ranking.
8. Field Hockey (9)	4	4	3	11	0	2	M. Doles	24	Great play from various seniors helped lead the team to the CCS quarterfinals.
9. G. Water Polo (11)	3	4	2	13	1	0	N. De Roos	24	The team improved from last year to dominate their league this season.
10. G. Golf (17)	1	1	3	17	1	1	S. Kumar	24	The team grew and improved as players this year which helped them win their first league title.
11. B. Tennis (5)	2	2	2	14	0	3	N. Bedekar	23	Consistent play from freshmen who stepped up helped lead the team to the CCS semifinals.
12. B. Golf (15)	1	2	2	15	1	2	R. Parden	23	Despite a 12-0 record and league title, their lack of campus presence weighed down their ranking.
13. G. Lacrosse (22)	3	3	2	14	0	1	J. Werner	23	Strong leadership from upperclassmen led the team to its first ever CCS berth.
14. Badminton (16)	3	1	1	13	0	3	D. Chao	21	The team demonstrated great improvement this year and is expected to be even better next year.
15. B. Soccer (2)	3	3	1	11	0	1	S. Guy	19	With the loss of many star seniors, new players had to step up and fill leadership roles.
16. B. Swimming (7)	3	3	2	8	0	3	C. Borch	19	With powerful seniors and strong additions, the team did well despite numerous injuries throughout the season.
17. G. Cross Country (13)	2	3	2	8	0	3	M. Nag	18	Although the team did not win many meets, they kept a positive attitude this year.
18. B. Cross Country (14)	2	3	2	8	0	3	S. Sum	18	Great running from sophomore phenomenon Steven Sum helped the team in many meets.
19. Wrestling (26)	1	5	3	5	0	1	G. Grant	15	Junior Graham Grant was a CCS champion and both he and Henry Wei made it to the state meet.
20. B. Volleyball (10)	1	3	1	9	0	0	E. Martin	14	Strong play from underclassmen helped the team nearly make CCS despite many injuries.
21. G. Swimming (20)	3	4	2	3	0	1	S. Chen	13	Lack of depth kept the girls from winning any meets this season.
22. G. Soccer (18)	2	3	2	5	0	0	T. Moran	12	Many freshmen had to step up on varsity due to the loss of many star senior players.
23. G. Volleyball (20)	2	3	1	6	0	0	K. Mollahan	12	With strong leadership, the team's hard work continued throughout the season.
24. B. Lacrosse (12)	3	3	1	3	0	0	P. Parker	10	Lack of depth kept the team from achieving the success it had in past years.
25. B. Track (25)	2	4	2	1	0	1	S. Sum	9	While the team had some strong individual performers, it failed to win meets.
26. G. Track (23)	2	2	1	4	0	0	H. Johnson	9	The loss of star seniors caused problems for the team which struggled to win at meets.

BADMINTON

# Team places third in league, sends 3 to CCS

BY Lauren Louie & Grace Ma

As the season ended, the team finished third in the Santa Clara Valley Athletics League. The team sent senior team co-captains Derek Chao and Lauren Chu and junior Bryan Chow to CCS from May 21-23.

Chao placed second in boy's singles, after Jan Banquiles from Burlingame High School. In mixed doubles, Chow and Chu placed third, behind Ian Lee and Stephanie Lam from Monta Vista High School, and Norman Kuang and Jo Jo Zhou from Piedmont High School.

"We placed a lot higher than we thought we would," Chow said. "I think we both played very well."

The team also sent numerous play-

ers to the league finals at Palo Alto High School on May 16-18, where Chao placed first in boys singles and Chow and Chu placed second in mixed doubles.

"I thought it was a great experience to play in a [league] tournament because I've never played in one before. I feel that I did the best I could despite the losses," junior Candice Zheng said, who played girl's doubles with junior Vanessa Wang.

The team ended content with their progress and results.

"As a team, I think we did okay, considering how many seniors we lost from last year," said Chu. "I'm just really proud to have played in SCVALS and CCS this year as a senior. It was really fun the past two weeks playing with [Bryan] and I'm really proud that we actually placed in CCS." ♦



Boys' singles No.1 senior Derek Chao plays in finals against Burlingame at CCS.

TRACK AND FIELD

# Several athletes advance to first round of CCS

BY Jade Bisht & Jane Park

After the team placed seventh in SCVALS on May 10, senior Hannah Johnson of shot put and discus and junior Eric Ringsrud of high jump made it as far as semifinals for CCS before not qualifying further.

Sophomores Puck DeRoos of high jump and triple jump and Steven Sum of long distance advanced through semifinals to finals on May 18.

Although Johnson just missed making it to finals, she finished her high school track career with a personal

best and school record of 116'08 in discus.

With a new personal best in high jump, DeRoos made it to finals with a mark of 5'2 in the semifinals. She will be traveling to LA to compete in seven different events in a two day meet.

"The sky is the limit with her," Coach Archie Ljepava said. "She has had personal bests every week and has impressed me and our coaching staff with her athleticism."

Placing fourth in the boys 3200m run, Sum also made it to finals. If he places within the top three on May 24th, Sum will advance to the state

meet.

He is currently one of the top runners in the state. Ljepava believes he has a good chance of breaking the school record in the 3200m event.

Ending the season with personal records and a positive outlook on the upcoming years, Ljepava is thrilled about the team's overall performance.

"The season definitely ended on a high note," Ljepava said. "Numerous athletes got their personal bests and everyone was happy with how they competed."

Expecting both new and returning athletes next season, Ljepava is con-

fident for another successful season next year.

"We were just behind the best in placements," Ljepava said. "Although some of our strongest athletes are graduating, we have a good group coming in to Saratoga and a great group standing."

Ljepava is anticipating a good turnout with scores in the coming years with his "total group of track athletes bought into working so hard." The team, although not completely successful in records, achieved higher than expected with their dedication to improving as athletes. ♦

SOFTBALL

# Team triumphs in first round of CCS, defeated in second

BY Bruce Lou & Arman Vaziri

Capping an amazing spring season, the softball team defeated Valley Christian 6-3 in the first round before finally being stopped by Los Altos in a 6-0 defeat.

The team went 13-1 in its regular season, losing only one game against Milpitas.

Nevertheless, the team was eventually crowned league champions.

Team members have varying opinions on why the team lost to Los Altos.

"It was a tough game, we could've beaten [Los Altos] but it just wasn't the right day, wasn't the right time," sophomore pitcher Analisa Ruff said.

According to team members, the team's new coach, Joe Medeiros, has been a great asset to the team this year because of his dedication to not only the individual players but also the whole team.

"[The new coaches] were always very dedicated and were always on time and that motivated us to do better," Ruff said.

Most of the girls on the team play club softball, which helped the team prepare for this season.

Another reason for the team's suc-

cess this season has been their cooperation and ability to work as a team.

"The team worked more as a family this year, it was really a team where everyone got along pretty well and there wasn't a lot of grade-level separation, everyone blended really well," senior outfielder Alyson Nilan-Axline said.

Another reason for the team's success this year has been the plethora of talent on the team, stretching across all different grade levels.

"Everyone except two people played club softball," Nilan-Axline said. "That really helped."

The team is proud of how far they advanced in CCS.

However, players including Ruff and Nilan-Axline believe that they still could've advanced further as a team.

"I think that the team has done really well this year," junior shortstop Mandy Lee said. "I think that it is really impressive how we have been able to turn the program around in one year."

The softball team will be losing senior outfielders Brianna Bowker and Nilan-Axline next year to graduation.

However, the team aims to replicate its success next year despite the loss of its seniors.

"I think this year was very good, and next year's going to be even better," Ruff said. ♦

"I think it is impressive how we have been able to turn the program around in one year."



junior Mandy Lee




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## SWIMMING

## Total of 21 members perform at CCS

BY AmyLin

A total of 21 swimmers from both the boys' and the girls' teams attended CCS at the Santa Clara International Swim Center on May 10 and 11, with swimmers in seven events and all three relays. Although 11 athletes swam for individual events, only junior Cameron Borch and freshman Bradley Newton finaled, both in the 500-yard freestyle.

"This year, Bradley and I were right next to each other, so it was good competition," said Borch, who swam the 200-yard freestyle as well. "We would push each other because we were right next to each other in the races."

Borch and Newton finished in 11th place and 14th place, respectively, and dropped more than five seconds off of their personal best.

Although no other swimmers went to finals, they had

a good time at CCS nonetheless. Many of the athletes were pleased with the way the season turned out.

Swimming gave them a time to bond and encourage each other, according to senior Stephanie Chen.

"Everyone was fast, and it was really competitive," said freshman Harrison Yang, who swam the 100-yard breaststroke. "It's really exciting to watch other people swim."

Team morale was also at a high point for this meet. Many of the swimmers watched and cheered for their teammates during their races.

"Last year, we didn't have many swimmers because only a few people qualified, but this year we had a lot more swimmers who went because of the relays," said sophomore Randy Tsai, who swam in the 200-yard individual medley and the 100-yard backstroke. "That made me feel more like we went as a

team because there were more people cheering us on."

Because of the lack of people on the team, having enough people make the cut for CCS has been an issue in the past.

This year, however, many more swimmers were able to attend the meet.

"There were a lot more people this year," said Chen, who swam the 200- and 500-yard freestyles. "All the seats in the stadium were filled, and that meant that there were a lot more swimmers making CCS."

In addition to the number of people who swam, swimmers also worked hard to get to where they were. Practices included both endurance and sprint training, which helped swimmers reach the mentality they needed to do well.

"We, as a team, worked much harder and were able to push and come together as a team better," said junior Sasha Samoilov, who swam the 200-



Courtesy of BRAD NEWTON

Freshman Brad Newton dives into the pool in the 200m freestyle relay.

yard individual medley and the 50-yard freestyle.

Most of the swimmers expressed interest in being on the school team next year, and many will continue to swim on

their own throughout the year.

"It was fun since it was a small team," said Chen, who will be swimming at the University of Rochester next year. "We were all really close." ♦

## GIRLS' LACROSSE

## Falcons fall out of SCVALS after first game

BY JadeBisht

The girls' lacrosse team qualified for SCVALS but lost its first game away on May 8 against Palo Alto 14-3. After finishing in season rankings by tying with Gunn for third place, the team powered through the semi-finals by giving a last good run.

The team has never advanced as far as they did this season. Because the team had a few free days to prepare for play-offs before their game, Coach Eric Wong took advantage of the extra days in order

to keep the team healthy and extensively prepare compared to the shorter time period between regular season games.

"We definitely played hard for the most part despite losing," Wong said. "Despite losing and letting some opportunities slip away from us, everyone was fighting and playing hard."

Palo Alto had a league record of 14-0. While it was their toughest competition to date, the girls showed up and played well, Wong said.

Numerous skilled seniors are leaving now that the season is over. Senior attack

Nessa Kim supplied two goals, and seniors Corinne Moran and Neha Vellanki stood strong on defense.

Due to many valuable players leaving, Wong must depend on incoming players and current younger varsity players.

"We'll be returning four girls who will be three-year varsity players next fall: [juniors] Jennie Werner, Ingrid Hong, Lena Jewler and Melissa Szenda," Wong said. "We'll also have additional all-league players returning and a group of girls coming up from the JV ranks to replace the eight graduating seniors."

Wong records the team's games and later has the team recap their previous games by devoting lunches about once a week to watch the videos.

By reviewing moments of games, the players are able to improve on their techniques.

"We met less and less throughout the season because we learned enough from each lunch session," sophomore attack Christina Crolla said. "They really benefited our playing though because we were able to notice the smaller mistakes we were making." ♦

## BOYS' TENNIS

## Team makes semifinals

BY MinuPalaniappan  
& SudeepRaj

During the CCS semifinals on May 8, the tennis team played Junipero Serra High School at the Los Gatos Racquet Club. The team lost 12-6 after defeating Monta Vista in quarterfinals.

"[Junipero Serra], a private school, is able to go and recruit players," sophomore singles No. 1 Neel Bedekar said. "However, we were definitely the farthest reaching public school."

Despite their defeat, most players, like Bedekar, focus on their win over rival Monta Vista, and what it means for the team.

"[Monta Vista] was the second seed and we were the seventh seed so they were supposed to win," Bedekar said.

The doubles team won seven matches out of nine, and singles won four out of six.

The final three matches were not played since Saratoga had already clinched the match.

The team is primarily composed of

juniors and sophomores, and next year will only lose seniors Henry Shen and Deepak Ravikumar.

"It's great that we were able to do this well with a young team, and means that we can do well next year," Bedekar said. "We are also getting two players next year from the middle school."

The team finished with a season record of 9-3, with two regular season losses to Monta Vista.

According to senior Henry Shen, the team has a bright future since the roster is mainly composed of sophomores and freshmen who play important roles on the team.

"Our underclassmen definitely played positions that mattered throughout the season," said Shen.

In addition, Shen believes the team has the capability to go far in the coming seasons.

"I can tell that the next years for SHS tennis will be very bright," Shen said. ♦

## &gt;&gt; scoreboard

May 8

Saratoga 11, Monta Vista 4

The Falcons, led by No.1 singles player Neel Bedekar, defeated their traditional rivals and powerhouse school Monta Vista in a stunning 11-4 victory.

May 8

Junipero Serra 12, Saratoga 6

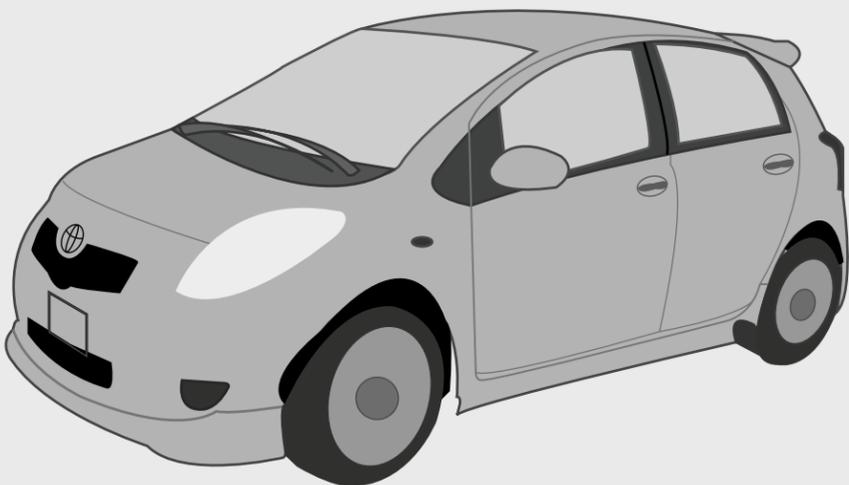
The Falcons' CCS run was ended in the semifinals by Junipero Serra High School, at the Los Gatos Racquet Club. One match was won by singles and four matches were won by doubles.

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BOYS' GOLF

# Team wins El Camino Division, advances to CCS

BY Arman Vaziri

After winning the El Camino division championships with a 12-0 season and then coming second to Palo Alto in the Santa Clara Valley Athletic League finals, the boys' golf team qualified for the first round of CCS on May 8 at Rancho Canada golf course.

Led by senior Robert Parden and junior Christian Galvin, the six players had a score of 401, not including the worst score, and missed going to the second round of CCS by a mere four shots.

Four other teams with the best scores

advanced on the day the team played.

Despite making it to CCS, Galvin believes that the team had the talent to go farther in the tournament and find success.

"[We did] better than the past years, but we still didn't make it further [into CCS], [even though] we should have," said Galvin.

However, despite not advancing further into CCS as a team, No. 3 player sophomore Robby Gragnola believes that the team should still be proud of how far they went compared to previous years.

"Even though we didn't make it fur-

ther in CCS, I think we did well as a team, and I hope we will do better next year," Gragnola said.

Despite not advancing with the team, Parden, with a score of 74, still managed to advance further in CCS as an individual and made it to the finals. Galvin missed making it further in CCS individuals but came very close with the 10th best score, though only

the top nine advanced.

The experience gained in competing against other schools is what Gragnola believes is the most important lesson to take out of the team's CCS experience.



sophomore Robby Gragnola

"We didn't advance this year, but the newer members of the team learned a lot about the competition and it will help us next year."

"We didn't advance this year, but the newer members of the team learned a lot about the competition, and it will help us next year," Gragnola said. ♦

BOYS' BASEBALL

# Banner season concludes in first round loss at CCS

BY Derek Sun

The Falcon baseball team's season came to a heartbreaking end after losing to St. Ignatius 11-3 in the opening round of CCS on May 16. The Falcons finished the season with a 22-9 record.

The Falcons were known as a resilient team all year long, and that never changed. Even down by 11 runs, the Falcons continued to show heart by scoring three runs, but the St. Ignatius Wildcats proved to be a tough first round opponent.

Led by potential first round draft pick Matt Krook, the Wildcats held the Falcons to only five hits. Krook's fastball consistently sat in the 91-92 mph range

## >> bigidea

**How did the boys do?**

*They won the De Anza League, one of the toughest public-school leagues in California with a 22-9 record.*

**How does the team feel?**

*The team was disappointed to end the season on a loss. The players developed great team chemistry and this squad will be remembered as one of the best teams Saratoga has ever had.*

and was by far the hardest throwing pitcher the Falcons saw all year.

In the first inning, the Falcons were ready to score, but senior captain Stevie Berman was thrown out at the plate on a close play.

During the third inning, the Wildcats loaded the bases with no outs. Senior pitcher Kyle Dozier

almost escaped the jam before Jack Stinn of St. Ignatius hit a grand slam. A few in-

nings later, Krook blasted a long three-run home run. The Falcons clawed back with three runs, bringing the game to 7-3, but it wasn't enough. The Wildcats scored four more runs, the game ending 11-3.

"That loss hurt a lot. After the game, it felt surreal, almost like a dream. It feels weird to know that that was my last high school baseball game," Berman said.

Although the season ended in a loss, the season overall was a success. The Falcons won their first De Anza League Championship for the first time since the De Anza and El Camino Leagues split up.

The Falcons also had seven all-league performers, with Berman winning MVP of the league. Berman hit .478 on the year and had 10 home runs. He led the team in every single offensive category except for triples and was a strong de-

fensive presence behind the plate the whole year.

"I'm proud of what I was individually able to do but wish that we could have won a CCS title," Berman said.

The Falcons will lose five starters in infielders Stephen Ruff, Jared Spang, Trevor Hanks, outfielder Kyle Dozier, pitcher Oliver Parr and Berman. Next year, even with the loss of their key seniors, the team hopes to be a force in the De Anza League, led by two four-year varsity starters in juniors first team all league outfielder Davis Berryhill and infielder Thomas Alexander. These two will be joined by juniors outfielder Tyler Plesse and catcher Derek Sun, both three-year varsity players.

"I think the younger guys will step up really well. I have no doubt in my mind that the program will compete whoever is there," Berman said. ♦



Matthew Basile  
Photography & Design



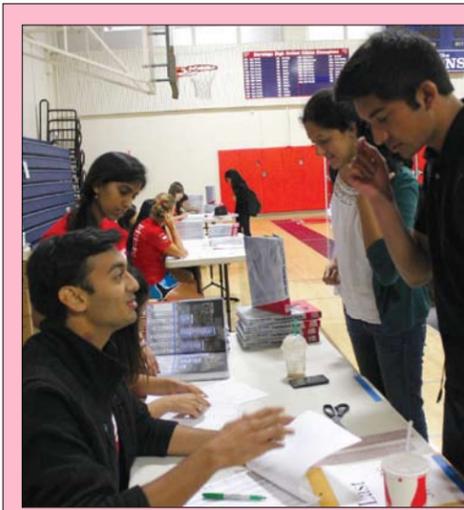
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# polaroids



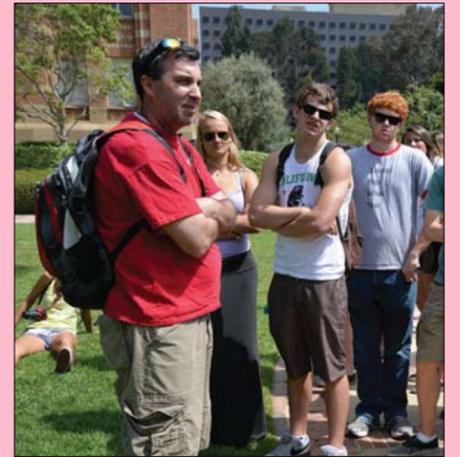
**Shreyas Doshi (12) and Sanjna Verma (12) distributed yearbooks to Nandita Sampath (12) and Rohil Taggarsi (12) on May 24.**



**On May 17, the senior class gave a deafening cheer at the end of its memorable final rally at Saratoga High.**



**Cathy Han (12) played a music piece with a middle school student in a flute ensemble at the MESH Concert on May 13.**



**History teacher Matt Torrens took his MAP class on a campus tour of UCLA during its trip to Los Angeles from May 17 to May 19.**

## One does not simply be Vincent Van Gogh

Being an artist is a lot harder than it looks. You can't just walk around in cornea-burning fashion statements or just leave paint handprints wherever you go, or just draw like an artist. No. It doesn't work that way. It's actually quite difficult to be a true artist.

My history concerning artistry goes back a long way, back to when I was given paints in kindergarten. I loved it. Then, later on, I began to look into the lives of great artists like Van Gogh and Monet and Picasso. I realized that there was more to being an artist than just painting or drawing.

Being an artist is a lifestyle. First off, your abode must be like a place of creative inspiration. This means your room must be absolute chaos, all day, every day. For me, this wasn't that hard. My room already resembled a black hole before I realized the stipulations attached to being an artist. Now, it looks like the remains of a bulldozed clothing warehouse. I just tell my parents that it's OK because I'm an artist.

They tell me to go do my math homework and SAT prep. I oblige, but at least they don't tell me to clean my room.

Aside from living like an artist, you have to dress like one too. But you can't only dress like you walked off an abstract art runway, blinding bystanders with your fashion statements as you walk. Being an artist works only if you meet all the requirements, and wearing works of art is only one stipulation.

So, on the topic of clothing: You must not dress in the products of the sacred American company known as Abercrombie & Fitch, for to do so would be to cramp your artist style. It's too mainstream. We don't want that, do we?

Personally, I enjoy finding unique clothing, like the Asian fashions found in the street markets of China. Very high class, very artistic and also very cheap. Expedience is a virtue, I've been told. Next, you must be able to cook like an artist. A certain amount of courage is required, but I'm sure that your

determination to become a true artist trumps your gag reflex.

A tip from personal experience: Begin by throwing a minimum of 25 ingredients into a pot and boiling them. Remember, you have to eat what you've made.

Once you have figured out how to cook and eat like an artist, you must be able to troll like an artist.

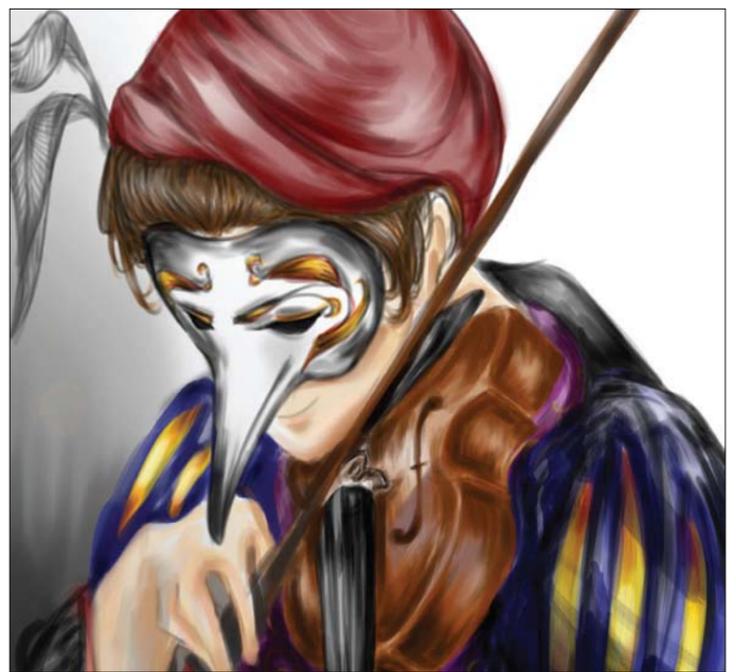
For example, I walked around for a couple hours in downtown Los Gatos wearing a spectacularly ugly T-shirt. A little girl came up to me and asked me in a snide tone, "Where did you get that?"

I told her, "This is an experiment for Psychology, in which I must observe the reactions of strangers in response to the visual stimulus of my shirt."

She walked away faster than I thought was necessary.

Finally, the most important, sacred tenet of following the cult of the true artist is being able to creep like an artist.

You only get good at art if you practice, and the best way to practice is to draw from real life. No, I don't mean drawing apples or fruit baskets. That's tame. Unexciting. You know



**"The Violinist," a digital piece, was made with Photoshop and is the final result of Helen Wong's weeks of backbreaking artistic dedication.**

what's really exciting? People.

I usually end up at Starbucks on school breaks, sketching random strangers who I find interesting. I get looks ranging from flattered to uncomfortable to downright irritated.

Once, someone came up to me and politely asked me to leave the area. I did.

If they ever really start to glare at me, I just grin, give them a thumbs up and say, "It's OK. I'm an artist." ♦

## buzzworthy >> Super Quiz

BY NIKIL RAMANATHAN

With AP testing finished and the stress of junior year beginning to decrease, students in teacher Kathy Nakamatsu's AP Chemistry have embarked on a whole new challenge.

To provide a fun activity after the AP Chemistry Exam, every year Nakamatsu provides her students with a trivia game called Super Quiz. The game consists of eight teams per class, each team containing three or four people. The teams compete with the other teams within their class to avoid elimination and keep moving along in the competition.

If eliminated, a team may be able to rejoin the competition. If they score the highest score in the round, they have the option of which team to knock out of the competition.

Each round of Super Quiz consists

of 30 questions; 10 worth one point, 10 worth two points, and 10 worth three points. The team with the lowest score at the end of the round gets eliminated. Questions are pulled from pop culture, world geography and history, to name just a few.

Currently, the students are in the quarterfinals of the competition, which will resume Tuesday, May 28 when Nakamatsu returns from her trip to France.

Students like junior Austin Du think that Super Quiz is a great way to take off the stress of the year while still keeping the brain active.

"It gives us chem kids a good way to relax in class while at the same time letting us stay sharp," Du said. ♦



### topten

#### WAYS TO END A SCHOOL YEAR

- 10** **Roller backpacks:** Freshmen, it's time to throw them away.
- 9** **Defeat your competitors in Nakamatsu's Super Quiz.** Sass'em if you lose, sass'em if you win.
- 8** **Prepare for college.** Is my 4.3 thousand GPA high enough?
- 7** **Start a school-wide revolution.** Plebs unite, THE GRADES OF WRATH ARE GROWING HEAVY FOR THE VINTAGE.
- 6** **Do homework due next year.** Ha. Good one.
- 5** **College Apps.** Start them as sophomores.
- 4** **Go to the beach.** Show off that beach bod. Destroy everyone else's self-esteem.
- 3** **Start your summer reading.** Great Literature: "Fifty Shades of Twilight."
- 2** **Start a religion.** Civil disobedience — I refuse to submit to your unjust tests. Because civil disobedience is a religion.
- 1** **Drink Water.** Band camp is going to be hot!

>>> Nelson Wang