



SAN MARINO HIGH SCHOOL TITAN SHIELD

Volume LVIII, Issue 1, Circulation 1600

San Marino, California, 91108

September 25, 2009

Titans Overwhelm La Salle Lancers

By David Gelt
Managing Editor

Last Friday, the San Marino Varsity Football team ran over the La Salle Lancers. Coming into the game, San Marino was 1-0 while La Salle was 2-0. The Titans won the game 35-13 behind Senior Running Back Benny Hung's 232 rushing yards and three touchdowns.

After neither team could move the ball on their first drive, the Titans returned a punt to their own 25-yard line. After three plays in which San Marino did not gain any yards, the Titans lined up for a punt. However, after a dropped snap, Senior Captain Wide Receiver Stevie Yortsos picked up the ball and ran 14 yards down the

field for a first down. On second down, Benny broke away for a 28-yard gain, giving the Titans a first down at the Lancer 33-yard line. After an incomplete pass and an unsuccessful run, Senior Captain Quarterback Joe Forgatch connected with Stevie for a 33-yard touchdown. However, the extra point was no good, giving San Marino a 6-0 lead. After a Lancer three-and-out, the first quarter ended.

After Stevie returned a La Salle punt to the Lancer 45-yard line, the Titans handed Benny the ball three consecutive plays, resulting in a touchdown. After Stevie converted the extra point, San Marino led by a score of 13-0. La Salle then began a nine-play drive, moving the ball about 60

yards before the Titan defense forced a turnover on downs.

When the offense took the field, the Titans marched methodically down the field, going 80 yards for a touchdown in just over two minutes with help from a pass from Joe to Stevie for 35 yards and capped off by Benny carrying the ball 13 yards for the score. After a high snap, Stevie picked up the ball and tossed to Senior Tight End Reed Semcken for a two-point conversion, giving the Titans a 21-0 lead. However, the Lancers then marched down the field and punched in their first score of the night, cutting the San Marino lead to 21-7. As the Titans

(Continued on page 11)



Sophomore Running Back **Kwame Do** carries the ball down the field in last Friday's 35-13 win over the La Salle Lancers.

Justin Quan//TITAN SHIELD

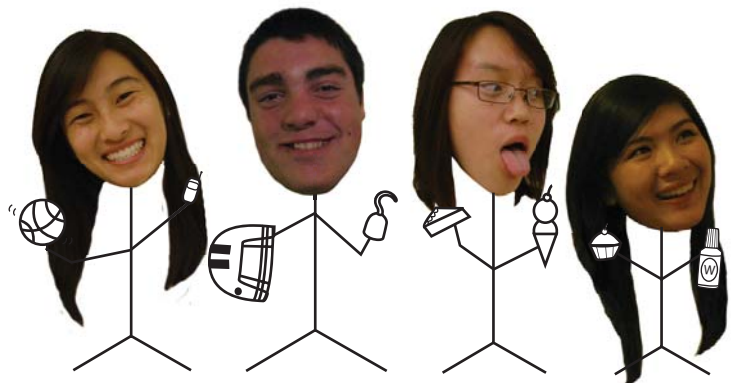
A LETTER FROM THE MANAGING EDITORS

dear students and administration of san marino high school,

finally, the moment you've all been waiting for. titan shield is back, but this time with four managing editors instead of three! together we strive to enlighten you about school events and offer a unique perspective each time.

so if you have any questions or comments, please feel free to write to us. we love letters, emails, text messages, facebook posts, or whatever other device you would like to use. reading them allows us to realize that you really do enjoy these papers and that our hard work is not in vain.

with much love,



andrea chiu, david gelt, samantha lai, & kimberly nguyen



Inside This Issue:

News

Brizuela Aids VAPA Budget Cuts With 'In The Bubble' (pg. 2)
ASB Hosts First Freedom BBQ (pg. 3)

Features

Rotary of the Month: James Shecket (pg. 4)
Freshman Amanda Yee Earns Spot on Varsity Volleyball (pg. 5)

Opinion

Schools Harshly Restrain Students (pg. 8)
Student Loan Bill Preserves Education (pg. 8)

Spectrum

Summer Blockbuster Hits (pg. 9)
Surviving High School for Dummies (pg. 9)

Sports

Boys' Waterpolo Smashes Burbank (pg. 11)
Girls' Volleyball Triumphs Over Taft (pg. 12)

Assembly Promotes Kindness

By Samantha Lai
Managing Editor

In the Neher Auditorium on September 15, a program called Rachel's Challenge presented two assemblies on kindness. During lunch, students who received invitations from ASB participated in an interactive seminar conducted by the presentation's speaker, Todd Lauderdale.

Another presentation took place at 7 p.m. the same day in the Neher Auditorium for students' parents and other members of the community to attend. The session was similar to the one at school, but focused more on techniques adults can use to help young people make better lifestyle decisions.

The assemblies held at school focused on the life of 17-year-old Rachel Joy Scott, the first victim killed in the Columbine High School Massacre on April

20, 1999. Rachel had been eating lunch with her friends at the front doors of the school when two students, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, approached and opened fire. In total, Harris and Klebold killed 12 students and one teacher and took their own lives in the end.

Rachel's father Darrell began Rachel's Challenge to spread the message of kindness described in her journals. The program has traveled to six countries and every state in the US. Mr. Lauderdale emphasized Rachel's message

(Continued on page 3)



Senior **Joe Forgatch** signs the Rachel's Challenge banner, which currently hangs in the foyer of the Neher Auditorium.

Justin Quan//TITAN SHIELD

Football Tramples Lancers

(Continued from page 1)

received the ball with about two minutes remaining in the half, Joe began to lead the team down the field. However, the drive ended after La Salle intercepted one of Joe's passes. The Lancers then moved the ball into field goal range. La Salle lined up to kick a

field goal, but Senior Cornerback Tim Lo ran around the La Salle offensive line and was able to block the kick, sending the team into the locker room with a 21-7 halftime lead.

The Titans kicked off to start the second half, and the Lancers started their drive from their own 20-yard line. After the Lancers

drove to the Titan 7-yard line, the La Salle Quarterback fumbled the snap and Senior Linebacker Ben Harwich recovered the ball at the San Marino three. San Marino then handed the ball to Benny six consecutive times then to Sophomore Running Back Kwame Do three times, and Benny again. However, after an incomplete pass on Joe's first pass of the drive, San Marino handed the ball over on downs. La Salle ran three plays before Stevie intercepted a pass. Joe then launched a pass to Senior Wide Receiver Sam Winston for 32 yards to end the quarter.

In the fourth quarter, the Titans moved the ball down the field and punched in their fourth touchdown of the night. They knocked in the extra point, changing the score to 28-7 in favor of San Marino. However, the Lancers again drove 80 yards for a touchdown, but they could not convert their extra point, making the score 28-13.

On the next San Marino possession, the team marched down the field once again to score for their fifth and final time of the night securing a 35-13 victory.

This victory moves the Titans to 2-0 on the season. Tonight, San Marino will travel to Glendale High School for a 7:00 game against the Hoover Tornadoes.

The Tornadoes are currently 1-1 fresh off a victory against the South Pasadena Tigers.



Senior Running Back **Benny Hung** evades a La Salle defender. Hung finished the game with 232 rushing yards.

Justin Quan//TITAN SHIELD

Southern California Falls to Unranked Huskies

By **Doug Mayberry**
Staff Writer

After an impressive win in Columbus against the Ohio State Buckeyes last weekend, the Trojans' 13-16 loss to the Washington Huskies put a damper on USC's BCS Championship hopes. Saturday's loss secured the fourth straight season in which USC has lost to an unranked team. In the past, USC has lost heartbreakers to UCLA, Stanford, and Oregon State, with the Huskies being the fourth culprit.

The loss this past weekend has already had serious repercussions for USC's BCS title hopes. With the loss, USC dropped from #3 in

the AP poll to #12, and for now out of the running for the national title game.

After the comeback win over #8 ranked Ohio State, USC was ready to travel to Washington to play a team which last season, did not win a single game. But Washington had been working in the off-season, hiring both USC's offensive and defensive coordinators and revamping a once lackadaisical offense.

At the beginning of the game, the Huskies, a three-touchdown underdog, won the toss and chose to differ the ball to the second half. The Trojans came out on their first drive and looked good, scoring on Junior Running Back Joe

McKnight's 7-yard touchdown run.

After an unsuccessful drive by the Huskies, USC took over and promptly scored on a Jordan Congdon 42-yard kick.

From then on, the Huskies took the lead and never looked back, scoring 16 points by the end of the game and outplaying the Trojans.

USC has fallen from their grace, but to some fans, this loss did not come as a surprise. Without their starting Quarterback, Matt Barkley, and star free safety, Taylor Mays, this was not as big of a shock.

Over the past four seasons, USC has been ranked in the top five at the beginning of the

Titans Host Phil Ryan Invitational

By **Kevin Tran**
Staff Writer

Last Wednesday, September 16, the San Marino Cross Country team attended its second invite of the season at Lacy Park for the Phil Ryan Invitational.

Despite having an appearance last Saturday in the Don Bosco Cross Country Invitational, the Titans had their second invite of the season just four days later. This year, SMHS is represented by 14 varsity runners made up of seven boys and seven girls.

Junior Captain Danielle Knott leads the Titan girls in the three-mile trek.

Danielle finished in 12th place out of the 88 participating runners, with an impressive time of 17:24.

Juniors Saskia Raether and Andrea Mejia came in 38th and 39th place, both with a time of 23 minutes.

Thirteen seconds later, Senior Meredith Scannell finished the race in just 23:13, securing the 41st spot.

After four more runners finished, Junior Erinn Lew finished in 45th place with a time of 23 minutes and 28 seconds.

Senior Julie Troung finished off San Marino's varsity girls team in 75th place with a time of 25:58.

Similar to the girls, the Titan

Boys also did very well at the meet. Leading San Marino's varsity team, Junior Michael Gimbell finished in 11th place out of the 92 competitors at the meet with a time of 17:24 on the three-mile race.

After another runner finished, Senior Coco Raether obtained 13th place with the time of 17:41.

Senior Sean Silva completed his three-miles in just 17:59, capturing the 19th spot, while Senior Ryan Tan crossed the finish line in 24th place with a time of 18:16.

Fifteen runners later, Senior Jayson Yuter finished, taking 39th place with the time of 19:34.

Senior Gabriel Wong came in 50th place with 21:56, and Junior David Tyler completed the race in 52nd place with 23:38 to finish off the San Marino's boys varsity division.

Danielle reflected on the invitational by saying, "Everyone was very tired from the practice on Saturday and no one was happy with their score."

The teams had their first Rio Hondo League meet of the season yesterday, however the results were unavailable at press time.

The Kenny Staub Invitational, the next meet for SMHS, is on Saturday, October 3, at Crescenta Valley Park.



Southern California Senior Fullback **Stanley Havili** breaks through a Huskie arm tackle. Despite the effort of Havili, the Trojans fell to the Huskies 16-13.

Courtesy of the Los Angeles Times

season, and have been upset by unranked teams. Coach Pete Carroll explained after the game, "We didn't get any better from last week," he said. "I'm not doing a good enough job of making the points of how we win."

This week's loss is a reoccurring theme for the USC Trojans and Coach Carroll and although the loss hurt this 2009-2010 Trojans, the experienced players have felt this in past seasons. In each of the past three seasons, USC has been upset by a team, but has come back to win the conference and the Rose Bowl. So to the USC Trojans, the rest of the season is still promising.

But, this year is different from past seasons. But as much as USC can hope to win the conference this year, the Cal Bears stand in the way. The Trojans will travel to Berkeley on October 3rd to face the 6th ranked Bears. This match will most likely decide which team will win the conference, and which team will go home with second place.

The now 12th ranked Trojans face the Washington State Cougars next week in the Coliseum. This match-up should be an easy win for the powerful Trojans, as they beat the Cougars last year in a blowout 69-0. Next week should be a rebound week, especially if freshman phenom QB Matt Barkley is starting the game. As a true freshman, he began his legacy with a comeback win over 8th ranked Ohio State University. He already has completed his first

touchdown and was described as "electric." So far in this week of practice, Barkley and Corp have been splitting time with the first squad.

Also missing from the USC lineup in last week's matchup against the Huskies was Free Safety Taylor Mays. Mays is always a force to be reckoned with when he is playing his game. He is incredibly athletic and should be taken as a first-round draft pick in the upcoming 2010 draft. With these two players back in USC's lineup, the Trojans should easily rout the unranked Cougars.

Even with one loss already this season, USC is a dominant force in the College Football circuit, and should never be taken lightly.

Although USC took a step back this last weekend, they have taken many steps forward as a team this year. They handled the Quarterback controversy, and most likely have made the right decision. Barkley was the underdog in the position battle, but has passed both of his first two challenges. The first challenge was to win his first college football game. Then, he did what is hard for any quarterback, let alone a Freshman to do. Barkley and the Trojans walked into the horseshoe in Columbus, Ohio and defeated the Buckeyes on their home turf. Even though they played badly last weekend, the Trojans will bounce back and finish the season strong. And if there have been any trends with the BCS, it is that if you are to lose, it better be early.

Dodgers' Keys to Success in the MLB Playoffs

By Luke Benuska
Sports Editor

As the Dodgers are entering the last weeks of their season, they are almost guaranteed a playoff berth and have a chance to win their Division title. Seeing that they were the hottest team in baseball for the first half of the season, they have had a disappointing second half of the year. As of Wednesday, September 23, they have gone 35-29 in the second half. This is above five hundred baseball, but it is nothing compared to how they started 56-32.

Even though the Dodgers are not as hot as they were going into the All-Star break, here are four reasons that they will make a deep run into the postseason, and ultimately win the World Series.

Reason 1: Joe Torre

After Grady Little's disappointing stint as manager, the Dodgers hired one of the best managers in baseball, Joe Torre. Torre currently ranks fifth in all-time Major League Baseball managerial wins.

He has six American League Pennants, and four World Series titles. He has a .605 career winning percentage, and is predicted by most to be a first ballot hall of famer.

Stats aside, Torre in general is just a winner. Having him calling the shots during those tough postseason games is a huge advantage for Dodgers.

Reason 2: More Experience

Last year, at the trade deadline, the Dodgers acquired slugger Manny Ramirez from the Boston Red Sox. Ramirez for the rest of the season was arguably the MVP of baseball, and was incredibly important to the Dodger's success. Los Angeles ended up catching Arizona in the National League West and winning the Division. They rode the momentum straight through the first round of the playoffs, but after sweeping the cubs, they ran into the Philadelphia Phillies in the NLCS. The team was extremely young and didn't have much playoff experience. When it came down to the clutch situations, the Dodgers did not deliver last year in the NLCS. However, times have changed, youngsters like Chad Billingsley and Clayton Kershaw got playoff starts, while young position players, like Andre Ethier, Matt Kemp, and James Loney got their feet wet. This year the Dodgers will have young players with playoff experience which should ease their nerves.

Reason 3: Pitching Staff

Most baseball critics this year have a problem with the Dodger's pitching rotation going into the playoffs. Their argument is that the Dodger's lack of a true ace will cost them in the playoffs. However, I disagree with their arguments. Even though the Dodgers do not have the true number one ace, they have about three shutdown

number two starters. Randy Wolf is one of the veterans of the staff. He has flown a little under the radar this year by quietly putting up some of the best numbers of any Dodger pitcher. He has a 3.24 earned run average (ERA), with a 1.09 WHIP. He also has a record of 11-6 with 153 strikeouts.

The next great pitcher for the Dodgers is 22 year old lefty Clayton Kershaw. Kershaw is one the most promising pitchers in baseball and has performed well this year. He has a 2.89 ERA and a 1.25 WHIP and has been throwing the ball very well lately. Chad Billingsley is the other young gun for the Dodgers staff. He has struggled in the second half of the

season but still has some of the best stuff in the MLB. The last piece to the rotation could come from one of three solid starters: John Garland, Vincente Padilla, or Hiroki Kuroda. Any of the three could be valid options in a playoff series. All in all the Dodger's pitching could turn out to be a strength.

Reason 4:

Ability to Create Runs

Down by one with no outs and man on, this is a situation commonly faced by the Dodgers. The Dodgers are very good at creating runs which is a big reason that they can face this situation with such success. Many teams

rely way to much on the the home run for run support. However, when it comes down to it, the home run is not very reliable. The Dodgers, as of Wednesday, September 23, are ranked 23rd in the MLB in home runs. However, they are third in the MLB in batting average, and hits. Because they are third in Batting Average and hits, they have runners on base often, which results in their eighth place ranking in runs. Even though they don't hit many home runs, they still score a ton or runs. Because hitting consistently is much more reliable then the home run, I believe that the Dodger's offense will be very productive this postseason.



Dodger's Center Fielder **Matt Kemp** celebrates with his teammates following his second grand slam of the season propelling the team to a victory.
Courtesy of espn.com

Water Polo Dismantles the Burbank Bulldogs

By Justin Le
Sports Editor

The San Marino Boys Water Polo team hosted a game against the Burbank Bulldogs on Tuesday, September 22.

With a cooperative effort from everyone on the team, the Titans held a comfortable lead and dominated over the Bulldogs during the entire length of the game.

The two teams faced off for four quarters, but in the end the Titans came out of the pool unanimously victorious, winning 16-4.

San Marino came out firing in the first quarter, turning up their offense with no sign of slowing down.

Senior Goalie and Utility James Adams came out with strong start, scoring three goals in the first quarter.

The whole team seemed to follow each other footsteps, each scoring one after the other.

Junior Right Flat Hank Wang scored a goal, along with Junior Primary Set Taylor Wong and Sophomore Right Wing Alex Kang.

Junior Left Wing Everett Phillips

also put in his contribution, putting another goal on the scoreboard.

In the second quarter, the Titans continued their run, putting two more goals on the board. Senior Right Wing Kyle Hon shot the ball in for a goal as did Junior Secondary Set Patrick Chen.

By the end of the second quarter, San Marino's scoring spree boosted the Titans to a 10-2 lead over the Bulldogs.

The Titans stuck to their aggressive game play in the third quarter, coming out with a striking offense and a tight defense.

Right off the bat, Taylor scored

near the net off a pass from Everett, bringing the Titans to an 11-2 lead. Junior Utility Taiga Gutteres attacked the net, but was blocked by the Burbank Goalie.

On the other side of the pool, Senior Goalie Henry Fung returned the favor, blocking a Bulldog shot right towards the net.

Down the pool, Senior Left Flat Kerem Taskin tried to lob the ball in for a goal but was slightly off the mark.

Despite a few defensive stops by Burbank, the Titans scored once again. James took hold of the ball near the net and launched it in for a goal, extending the Titans' lead to 12-2.

However, despite the Titans' aggressive offense, San Marino's defense was not shadowed.

After forcing the Bulldogs into a shot clock violation, Fung yet again blocked another ball heading straight for the Titan goal.

The Titans attempted to score once more, off a pass from James to Kerem, but failed to execute.

However, James came back down the pool, athletically keeping the ball away from a defender, and powered the ball into the Bulldog net.

The Bulldogs struck back, scoring on the opposite side, bringing the score to 13-3. However, it seemed that the Bulldogs scored a little too late in the game.

Guetteres returned the damage, driving the ball from 20 feet out right past the goalie and into the net.

The fourth quarter started out

stagnant for both teams. Each team received a handful of turnovers with very few shot attempts. Senior Utility Harrison Shih shot the ball but it was rejected by the Bulldog goalie.

However, soon after, Alex raced down the pool and received an outlet pass from Kyle and scored at point blank.

When asked about their win, Kyle responded, "I think it was our defense and speed because they weren't that fast. So, we got a lot of goals from our counter attacks."

On defense, Henry athletically blocked three consecutive shots by the Bulldogs in the same possession.

Kyle commented, "We take advantage of our Goalies' skills to prevent goals; we got a lot of steals too."

The Titans scored their last point of the game when Harrison shot and scored.

Alex then picked up his rebound which bounced off the top of the net and launched the ball straight in for another goal, expanding the Titan lead to 16-3.

The Bulldogs scored once more, but it was too late. The Titans ended the game with a 16-4 victory over the Bulldogs.

The win moves the Titans to a preseason record of 6-1. The team is scheduled to play Bell Gardens at home on Thursday, September 24 as they look to continue their dominance in preseason play. They begin their Rio Hondo League games at Temple City on Tuesday, October 6.



Junior Secondary Set **Patrick Chen** prepares to shoot against a Bulldog defender, helping the team towards the 16-4 victory.
Kerry Chen/TITAN SHIELD

Lady Titans Trounce Toreadors



Sophomore Middle Blocker **Elizabeth Shelbourne** steps up and slams the ball over the net and a Taft defender.

Vivian Lee//TITAN SHIELD

By **Andrea Chiu**
Managing Editor

After losing to Maranatha High School on September 17 1-3, the San Marino Girls' Varsity Volleyball team swept Taft High School 3-0 at home on Wednesday, September 23.

"I think we played pretty well and we showed that we could come back even when we were down and we won even in the close situations," stated Senior Opposite Blocker Jackie Hackett.

The Lady Titans started the first game off slow, falling behind the Toreadors early in the game. Despite the early stagnant effort, the Lady Titans quickly came back with an 8-point streak bringing the score from 6-9 to 14-9.

For the rest of the first match, San Marino stayed in front of Taft, preventing them from evening out the score. The Titans' aggressive defense allowed very few Toreador points.

With two kills from Senior Captain Catherine Barth and

Jackie, respectively, both assisted from Freshman Setter Amanda Yee, the Lady Titans made it difficult for the Lady Toreadors to regain their position in the first game.

San Marino successfully ended the match, leading 25-19, when the Lady Toreadors hit a serve out of bounds. "Because the other team wasn't as good as other teams, we used that opportunity to move some people around to try some new things," Jackie commented after the game.

During the second game, the Lady Toreadors started off strong. With the aid of the Lady Titan's falter, the Toreadors used San Marino's errors to their advantage, executing on their plays. However, San Marino quickly evened out the score by going on a 7-point streak.

Although Sophomore Middle Blocker Elizabeth Shelbourne tipped the ball bringing the score up 23-21, the Toreadors immediately responded by tipping another ball, shortening the Lady Titan's lead to only one.

The Lady Titans gradually extended their lead 24-23. The game ended 25-23 when Catherine spiked the ball over the net.

The third game remained tight until Taft began to falter unconditionally. Taking advantage of the situation, San Marino increased the lead from 3-2 to 6-3.

The Lady Toreadors quickly come back, however, by trading points with the Titans for the remainder of the game.

Altogether, the San Marino Titans had two 3-point streaks, allowing them to extend their lead to 24-22. Executing on a Lady Toreador falter, the Lady Titan's finished off the Toreadors, walking off the court victorious, 25-22.

Jackie added after the game, "We basically had good communication and kept the ball in play as well as used all their

mistakes to win. [Junior] Victoria [Aerrola] stepped up as Libero and [Sophomore Middle Blocker] Elizabeth [Shelbourne] stepped up and played her first Varsity match as middle."

The Lady Titans currently have a 2-2 record and will play at home against the Alhambra Moors next Monday, September 28 at 3:30 p.m.

Jackie mentioned, "If we want to win, we definitely need to keep on practicing on our passing and communication."



Senior Opposite Blocker **Jackie Hackett** tips the ball over the net out of a Toreador's reach.

Vivian Lee//TITAN SHIELD

Girls' Golf Falls Short to Tigers

By **Chanica Veranunt**
News Editor

The San Marino Girls' Golf Team lost to the South Pasadena Tigers 250-247 on Wednesday, September 23, at the Alhambra Golf Course.

In retrospect, Coach Wyeth Collo believes that this will be a tough season, due to the loss of one of the top players just before the season began. The Lady Titans who participated in the match included Juniors Helen Sohn and Peggy Song; Sophomores Chanica Veranunt and Winnie Wang; and Freshmen Gabriela Arifin, Caroline Van Hiel, Elizabeth Van Hiel, and Gina Wang with scores of 50, 51, 47, 53, 49, 52, 63, and 60, respectively.

Furthermore, the Lady Titans tied for third overall in the third league match of the season at Debell Golf Course on Tuesday, September 22. During the match, Captain Senior Tiffany Chang, Senior Michelle Liu; Juniors Chelsea Lam and Christina Lin; and Sophomores Camille Wang and Carol Young competed to earn the scores of 55, 55, 44, 51, 52, and 48, respectively.

Schools that participated included: Burroughs, Arcadia, Burbank, San Marino, and

Crescenta Valley, with the scores of 217, 224, 241, 248, 248.

Coach Collo is "very excited about the study improvement of Chelsea."

In addition, San Marino participated in the Brookside Golf Tournament on Thursday, September 17, finishing a close fifth overall. Schools that participated included: Arcadia, Burroughs, Crescenta Valley, Burbank, and San Marino with the scores of 219, 228, 238, 241, and 260, respectively. Moreover, on Tuesday September 15, San Marino part-took in the match with La Salle at Eaton Canyon Golf Course.

Additionally, San Marino qualified in the Alhambra Golf Tournament on Thursday, September 10, finishing fifth overall. Schools that participated included: Arcadia, Burroughs, Burbank, Crescenta Valley, and San Marino with the scores of 209, 212, 222, 235, 236, respectively. Mark Keppel got disqualified due to the lack of players.

"Overall, the team is still, working at reaching their potential," reflects Coach Collo.

The Lady Titans will compete in the King High Invitational in Moreno Valley Ranch Golf Course on Monday, September 28.

Lady Titans Conquer Glendale

By **David Gelt**
Managing Editor

Coming into the day boasting an undefeated record of 4-0, the Girls' Varsity Tennis team defeated the Glendale Lady Nitros 15-3 on Wednesday, September 23.

Freshman Number One Singles Dorothy Tang, won her matches 6-0, 6-3, and 6-3, respectively, as Sophomore Number Two Singles Sarah Gealer won her matches 6-2, 6-0, and 6-3, respectively.

Junior Kate Knauss fell 1-6 at the hands of the Lady Nitros Number One Singles, 1-6, as well as their Number Two Singles by the same score.

However, Kate did pull out a victory over the Glendale Number Three Singles by a score of 6-3.

In doubles play, the Lady Titans Number One Doubles pair of Juniors Marsha Cheng and Tammy Le dominated the competition, winning their match against the Lady Nitros Number One Doubles 6-1, the Number Two Doubles 6-2, and the Number Three Doubles 6-0.

The Number Two Doubles Freshman Larissa Phillips and Junior Calyx Chang also won all three of their matches. They defeated the Lady Nitros Number Two Doubles by a score of 6-2 and the Glendale Number Three Doubles 6-1.

When the San Marino Number Two Doubles was scheduled to play the Glendale Number One, Coach Paula Bush decided to replace Calyx with Junior Anya Laibangyang.

In the match, the Lady Titans pulled out a narrow 7-6 victory. The San Marino Number Three Doubles team of Senior Jeanie Peterson and Sophomore Crystal Yang won two of their three matches.

After falling to the Lady Nitros Number One Doubles in a close 6-7 match, Jeanie and Crystal

bounced back and defeated the Glendale Number Three Doubles 6-1 and the Number Two Doubles 6-3, securing the Lady Titans 15-3 win.

San Marino is now 5-0 overall while preparing for league play. They have already defeated foes such as Alhambra, Schurr, Burbank, and Diamond Bar.

The team's next match is on the road Monday, September 28, against San Gabriel and they will host Monrovia on Thursday, October 1 as Rio Hondo League play begins.



Junior **Marsha Cheng** steps back to slap the ball over the net in the Lady Titans' win at Glendale.

Jilly Ko//TITAN SHIELD

SMSF Celebrates 30th Anniversary



"Cottage Industry" performs on September 12 at San Marino Schools Foundation Anniversary Concert at Lacy Park. Michael Bernstein/TITAN SHIELD

By Camille Wang
Assistant Features Editor

The San Marino Schools Foundation (SMSF) celebrated its 30th anniversary at Lacy Park from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, September 12.

The SMSF is a non-profit organization that was established in 1980 by parents and community members to raise money for the San Marino Unified School District (SMUSD).

The foundation formed because at the time, the SMUSD did not qualify for any of the state programs for public education funds. Today it continues to receive \$1,000 less per student compared to other school districts in Southern California.

The annual goal of the SMSF is to raise one million dollars for the school district.

To celebrate their anniversary, the SMSF hosted a free concert, featuring the local rock band "Cottage Industry," a group of San Marino residents and high school alumni, that plays classic rock and roll from the 1960's to present day genres. The band gave an hour-and-a half performance.

"One of our trustees suggested

[the band], and they were willing to donate their time," commented Mr. Johann Diel, an administrator for the foundation.

Attendees included San Marino teachers, students, and parents who RSVP'd through the SMSF website by registering their names. Almost 300 people attended the event.

The guests brought picnic dinners and enjoyed them while watching the band perform. Some visitors who came without knowing about the event ended up staying to watch.

The SMSF hosted this concert to show gratitude toward the San Marino community for its support over the past three decades. The support has helped fund programs at all of the San Marino schools that the budget cuts threatened to end last year.

Foundation President Bob Mauser stated, "The main purpose was really to say thank you to all of the community members."

Mr. Diel concluded, "We're very happy about the results. We think people had a lot of fun [...]. We accomplished what we wanted to accomplish."

Saving the SM 'Bubble'

By Andrea Chiu
Managing Editor

Because of the California budget cuts against education, Junior Adrian Brizuela recorded a song to help raise funds for the San Marino Unified School District.

With the help of his father, Mr. Byron Brizuela, producer of Rise High Records, Adrian wrote the lyrics for his song "In the Bubble." He chose Senior Daniel Pai and Junior Dominic Stone to help perform it with him.

Adrian decided to write the song because, "music is a universal language where people from all over the place can listen to."

Also, he wanted to show San Marino pride and demonstrate what SMHS students believe in.

He hopes that by recording the song, it will inspire other students to contribute to the community, especially if they have the resources.

Alumni Jonathan Fang, Mark Liu, and Catherine Tricker all helped with the filming and editing process of the music video.

"It was a lot of work, but really fun," stated Adrian.

The entire process took a month and a half, but Adrian spent a week writing the song. When creating the lyrics, Adrian wanted verses that portrays the stereotypes of San Marino.

For the first verse, he describes the school, while in the second verse he talks about the social life. In the last verse, Adrian describes San Marino and the community.

Adrian also recorded his song over one of the rhythms from his father's album "Beats From the Streets." This album had pre-recorded beats from different cultures such as Latin, urban, and Dirty South music. These beats were designed for aspiring artists who could record raps over the beats.

Through B.M.I., a song-writers guild, venues such as iTunes promoted "In the Bubble" to consumers outside of the San Gabriel Valley.

Theoretically, the production value of the music video would have cost over \$5,000. However,

Adrian filmed at Seniors Benny Hung and Greg Kellogg's homes and SMHS (with permission), had SM student participation, and used his father's production studio, so there was no money spent on the production of the video.

Hoping to earn over \$3,000 through purchases, Adrian's target audience is the San Marino alumni and community, along with the SMHS students.

Also, singers from other schools such as Temple City, South Pasadena, Arcadia, and Alhambra have contacted Adrian to praise the song and even asked if they could collaborate other songs with him.

"They like the song because we had shout-outs at the end to the local schools around San Marino," added Adrian.

During his senior year, Adrian hopes to record another song. For now, "In the Bubble" will be available through iTunes, Amazon, eMusic and Youtube.

All proceeds will go directly to the San Marino Unified School District.

September/October 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24

TITAN CALENDAR

30	Make-Up Picture Day	6-7	CAHSEE Make-Up	16	SMHS/HMS Band Night
1	Sign-Up Deadline for 11/7 SAT	10	SAT Test	19-23	Red Ribbon Week
3	Comedy Sportz	14	Yosemite Sign-Ups	23	Daytime Float Building Comedy Sportz
5	No School		PSAT		ACT Test
			AFS Information Night	24	

SMUSD Ranks First in State

By David Chan
Assistant News Editor

Based on the results of the California Standards Tests (CST) released on Tuesday, September 15, San Marino Unified School District (SMUSD) is the highest performing school district in California for the sixth, consecutive year.

The school district earned a district Academic Performance Index (API) score of 952, an improvement of 11 points from last year's score of 941.

School District Superintendent Dr. Gary Woods proclaimed that he is "proud of our students' and teachers' efforts to focus on academic achievement, especially during this current economic crisis."

The API score ranges from 200-1000 and reflects a school's performance based on the results of the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) and California High School Exit

Exam (CAHSEE) tests taken by students.

The scores from statewide tests taken at each school are averaged to calculate a district's API.

Moreover, Dr. Woods stated that the district's ranking "is a tribute to the hard work being done on a daily basis at our elementary schools, Huntington Middle School, and SMHS."

Additionally, during the 2008-2009 school year SMHS's individual API score of 921 increased by 14 points, making its current score 935.

SMHS individually now ranks second out of all non-magnet schools in California. The current ranking is also an improvement from SMHS's fourth place position during the 2008 school year.

SMHS Principal Mr. Loren Kleinrock believes that the high school has been able to earn this recognition due to the dedication of both students and teachers and because of the community support that families in San Marino have

provided.

Moreover, including all the magnet schools, SMHS is currently ranked sixth in the state, one place higher than last year's ranking.

Mr. Kleinrock stated that although a school does not earn any awards for being highly ranked, the API score does give the school credibility and recognition among other schools.

Families concerned about the quality of their child's education can consult the API ranking to determine at which school their child would receive a well-rounded education.

Additionally, Mr. Kleinrock explained that by looking at SMHS's API ranking, colleges "understand that it is a more rigorous academic environment here."

Mr. Kleinrock concluded that he feels very good about this year's API results and that "the school should be proud [of this achievement]."

TITAN SHIELD Staff Box

Board of Directors

Managing Editors

Andrea Chiu
David Gelt
Samantha Lai
Kimberly Nguyen

Associate Editors of Copy

Amrapali Gokani
Justin Le

Assistant Editors

News David Chan
Features Camille Wang

Technology
Derek Lee

Advisor

Lou Ann Fuentes

Section Editors

News Amrapali Gokani
Features Jennifer Mauser
Chanica Veranunt

Opinion Alexa Wei
Spectrum Mathew Lim

Sports Luke Benuska
Ads Lauren Bagheri
Justin Le

Photography Jilly Ko
Technology Randy Lee
Justin Quan

Photographers

Michael Bernstein Kerry Chen Bonnie Jin
Vivian Lee Karen Situ Henry Hsu

Staff Writers

Joie Fan Helen Hejran
Doug Mayberry Kevin Tran Thomas Tai

ASB Hosts Fundraisers

By Chanica Veranunt
News Editor

In the first month of the new school year, the 2009-2010 ASB hosted two activities, the B-Man's Teriyaki and Burgers fundraiser on September 10 and a Freedom Barbeque on September 11.

Fundraising Commissioner Senior Caroline Lushbough organizes all of the fundraisers, including the B-Man's event.

On the day of the B-Man's fundraiser, ASB publicized the event by handing out flyers to students. In fact, B-Man's donates 20 percent of the total profit to SMHS.

"The more money we raise, the more activities [we can put

on]," remarked Underclassmen Representative Sophomore Kristin Charlton.

The proceeds will go toward Homecoming, as well as other ASB related activities such as the annual Coronation Dance.

"We made about \$175, and even though that may not seem like a lot of money, that's almost \$1,000 worth of food people ate to support SMHS ASB!" remarked ASB President Senior Stephanie Chow.

Although parents also attended the occasion, the majority of the attendees were students.

"It was a really good turnout and we will have more [fundraisers like this] in the future," Stephanie commented.

Furthermore, ASB hosted its first Freedom Barbeque, which took place during lunchtime at the Architectural Rally Point (ARP).

ASB started planning the activity three weeks prior to the event.

The ASB members decided on this day because they wanted to put on an activity that coincided with the pep rally for the first home football game.

In addition, ASB wanted to give the students "something different to eat" from their everyday lunches.

ASB offered hamburgers, cookies, chips, and drinks to the students for \$5.

"We wanted to welcome everyone back and to pump everyone up to show school spirit for the first game of the year," Kristen stated.

During lunchtime, students watched Varsity Song, Varsity Cheer, JV Cheer, and Drumline perform at the pep rally.

"I think everybody enjoyed [the barbeque]," reflected Stephanie.

Moreover, ASB will host more events in the near future. The Fall Spirit Assembly will take place today, along with another barbeque. At the barbeque, ASB will play music and serve hamburgers to publicize tonight's football game.

Furthermore, ASB will hold its first carwash of the year tomorrow, September 26 from 12 to 4 p.m.



Mr. Todd Lauderdale educates students about "Rachel's Challenge" at the assembly in the Neher Auditorium. Justin Quan//TITAN SHIELD

Students Accept Rachel's Challenge

(Continued from page 1)

of starting a "chain reaction of kindness" to show individuals that they can impact society. The presentation included video clips from news reports and interviews with those associated with Rachel. Following the assembly, students signed a banner labeled "I Accept Rachel's Challenge."

One hundred students chosen by ASB attended the lunch seminar held in the Neher Auditorium. During the session, several students went up on stage and shared their personal experiences. Mr. Lauderdale encouraged the students to spread a positive attitude by reaching out to others.

"A couple kids talked about

how they felt like they were in Rachel's position or her brother's because they lost [loved ones,]" commented Junior Andrea Mejia.

Mr. Lauderdale also emphasized the impact kindness can have, a point that Rachel mentioned in her essay titled, "My Ethics, My Codes of Life."

ASB Activities Commissioner Senior Aakash Kumar stated, "Rachel was able to influence those after she died by her family's willingness to spread the message of kindness and positivity shared in her essay."

As a tribute to Rachel's memory, the program encourages students to fulfill five challenges: look for the best in others, dare to dream, choose positive influences, share kind words, and strengthen relations with loved ones.



Members of the SMHS Varsity Song perform during the Freedom Barbeque on September 11. Justin Quan//TITAN SHIELD

WELCOME TITANS!!!



540 S. LAKE AVENUE PASADENA CA 91101

DAVID WEI
DIRECT: 626/943-7306
CELL: 626/216-5111
DAVIDWEI@PRULA.COM



Go
Titans!!!



-Dr. A

Welcome
back
to school
TITANS!



www.cantaloupyogurt.com

524 South Lake Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91101
tel: 626.796.7645

Congratulations Titan sports!!!



ROTARY STUDENT OF THE MONTH September

By Lauren Bagheri
Ads Editor

The crowd was on its feet cheering and audience members were weeping after the moving performance made by the SMHS Chamber Choir at the Walt Disney Concert Hall.

"It was a great experience to have a full audience's standing ovation at the Concert Hall," said Senior James Shechet. "It was a real accomplishment." However, this is only one of James's multiple achievements.

James is in his second year in the Chamber Choir. Currently the leader of the bass section, he "really enjoys singing."

As an involved member of the choir, James enjoys traveling to different states and countries because "it is fun to be part of a group with friends you would have never met were it not for choir."

In addition to Chamber Choir, James has had three years of experience in Speech and Debate and currently serves as the Interpretation Captain. He is involved in meetings, decision-making, fundraising, and coaching for the team.

In the past, James has placed in various competitions including 13th in the state of California for Humorous Interpretation, second place in the district for Humorous Interpretation, and first place in the district for Duo.

He also qualified for the National

Forensics League, the nation's oldest and largest speech and debate honor society.

James believes speech teaches many important life lessons. "[It] teaches you to be a vocal person, to learn responsibility, and to think quickly under pressure," James commented.

He continued to mention that, as an escape from the outside world, "speech forces you to shut out whatever else is going on in life, and makes you focus on what you have to do."

Outside of school, James enjoys being part of a barbershop quartet called "The 4 Chords." The group has sung at multiple events, including weddings, memorial services, and at Lacy Park's Fourth of July celebration.

Additionally, James has been involved in productions at the community theater for the Sierra Madre playhouse since he was 13-years-old.

As he undergoes the process of college applications, James plans on applying to a variety of colleges and aspires to double major in Theater Arts and Business or

Dear class of 2010, Think back. Think of the earliest memory you've had. Think of yourself back when you were a baby.

Visualize the first minutes of your life. Visualize the first time you opened your eyes. Think about the first time you saw the sun. Think of the first words you ever learned. Picture your first birthday. Visualize when a family member has been there for you. Think of a day when your mom or dad yelled at you for being "bad." Relive a memory when you couldn't stop laughing. Think of a time when you couldn't help but cry. Think of the moments that have defined you: the moments where you experienced great joy. A moment of sadness. A tinge of curiosity. A surge of fear. The triumph of accomplishment. Do you remember a moment when you wanted to be alone? Do you recollect a time when you wanted the company of someone else? Can you remember the first day you heard music? Can you remember the first day you made a friend? Can you remember your first dream? All these memories. All these emotions and dreams make up one unique entity...you. We have all experienced things differently. We have different memories that trigger similar emotions. We have similar memories that trigger different emotions. We have all come from different backgrounds, cultures, and lives. Each of our lives represents a different line. Although we are all pointed at different directions from different starting points and angles, we all intersect at the same point: San Marino High School. What makes this point of intersection so special is that it allows each of us to see into the lives of someone else. We catch glimpses of new and familiar people every day we attend San Marino High School.

Every teacher we've met and every friend we've made are different lines with unique colors and textures. They influence our own line and change our original angle. This point changes the direction of our lives. As we all eventually branch off in different directions in the three dimensional space of life, we will all look back and think about how it has shaped or added to one unique entity...you.

Sincerely,

James Shechet

James Shechet

Pre-law. He mentioned that the last four years of his life, here at SMHS, have been the most memorable so far.

"Memories are made from all the activities you participated in: clubs, sports. Those are the things I will remember most."

ROWING ALL OVER THE WORLD

By Amrapali Gokani
News Editor

Being on the U.S. National team of any sport is a great honor. Yet to be on the National Crew team and compete in the World Championships is a privilege few can fathom while Senior Rebeca Felix has experienced it.

Rebeca began rowing her sophomore year after being inspired by her father, who rowed in college and the Olympics. He took Rebeca to a boathouse to see if she was interested in the sport.

"I loved [watching] it so much that I had to beg him to let me do a summer camp," Rebeca mentioned.

She found the sport inspirational, but understood that it would be demanding both mentally and physically.

Rebeca is part of an eight-woman team located in Long Beach. She competes in three five-kilometer races during the fall.

In the spring, Rebeca competes every other weekend in shorter races between 1500 to 2000 meters long.

According to Rebeca, the best parts of the sport are making new friends and bonding with the team. "The sport is so demanding,

and knowing that you have a teammate who is willing to work until they pass out means a lot. You have to have complete trust in your team. Plus, it's really fun to go fast," Rebeca commented.

Out of all the competitions Rebeca has attended, she participated in the biggest one this past summer, the Junior World Championships for Crew.

In the summer, she made the Junior National Team at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy boathouse in Connecticut. Then she and her team trained for a month at the Princeton Olympic Training Center before traveling to Brive La Gaillarde, France.

"Trying out for the National Team called for extra

training, so during my junior year I literally had no other life besides crew, school, and SATs. But my friends understood and if I had to go back, I wouldn't change anything," Rebeca reflected.

At the World Championships, the United States team took first place over New Zealand, who had the lead for the first 700 meters. "As [New Zealand] lost steam, we took our move and walked through them," Rebeca recalled.

Rowing has become a large part of Rebeca's life. "Crew has done a lot of things for me. I've made friends with incredible people all over the country and the world. I now have a

very high pain tolerance and can function while being absolutely exhausted," Rebeca stated.

Currently Rebeca is focusing on the Long Beach team, but plans to continue rowing in college. She is considering Princeton, Yale, Stanford, and the University of Virginia, each of which has Division One teams for girl's crew.

Rowing has inspired Rebeca to one day take part in the Senior Nationals and the Olympics.

She stated, "I would be lying if I said that it didn't open a lot of doors for colleges, but its so much more than that for me. I do it because I can't live without it."



Setting Herself Up for Success

By Camille Wang
Assistant Features Editor

Participating in a sport with students your own age is a difficult challenge already. However, freshman Amanda Yee plays volleyball competitively with upperclassmen everyday.

Being the only freshman on the Girl's Varsity Volleyball team this year, Amanda considers her position an honor.

"It feels cool and it's also fun to be playing with the older girls. It would've been nice to have some of my friends [on the team], but I made [new] friends," she expressed.

Her qualification for the team results from experience. She has been playing volleyball since third grade when her dad suggested she play a sport.

Previously a hitter,

she now plays as a setter, because she "felt that more teams needed a setter and I wanted to be a more valuable player."

Amanda also plays club volleyball, which she has been

participating in since fourth grade.

She also plays for the San Gabriel Volleyball Club in the age 15 division.

Each year, her club competes in several tournaments.

In fact,

two years ago, her team won the gold medal in the Junior Olympics.

Amanda commented, "It was really nice because the coach had been working us all season and it felt like my hard work had paid off." Amanda enjoys being in club volleyball because she has

"been playing with the same girls for a couple of years and [they have] gotten really close."

Amanda was a member of the Huntington Middle School volleyball team, as well. She made it onto the eighth grade traveling team as both a sixth and seventh grader.

Although balancing high school and volleyball can be difficult, Amanda finds time to do so by "managing [her] time and making priorities."

Her older brother Brandon, graduated this past year and

was also on the SMKS Boy's Varsity Volleyball team when he was a freshman.

"He's a lot like me," Amanda mentioned. "He's really competitive [but] I think I get more help from him than pressure."

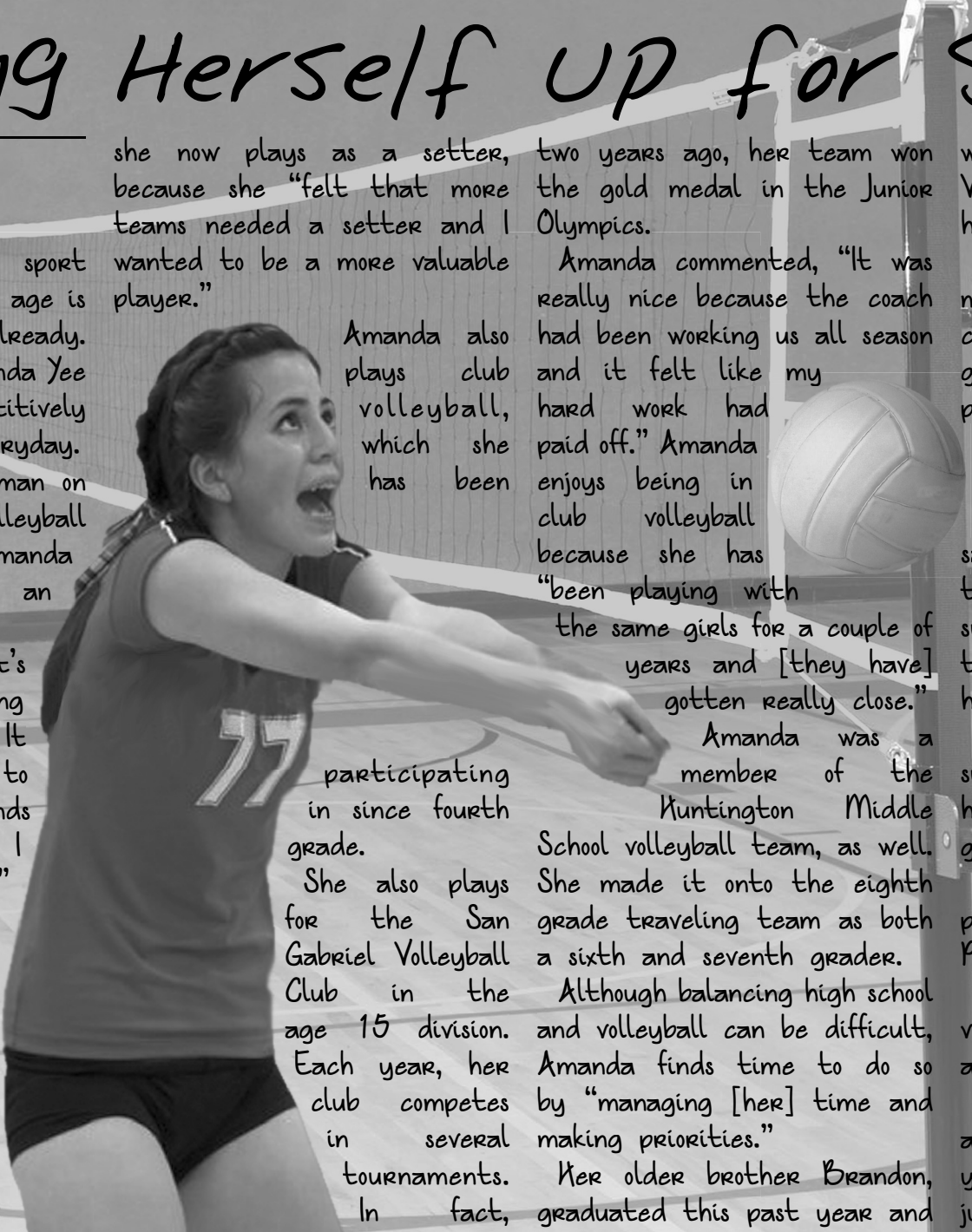
She noted the interesting fact that her brother, her dad, and she all had the same number in high school: ten. And although she is not superstitious, Amanda wears the same headband to all of her games.

Amanda's family is very supportive of her passion and her parents attend all her games.

In college, Amanda hopes to play for Stanford, UCLA, or Pepperdine University.

Although a career in volleyball would be "nice, [she] also wants to have a real job."

"Try anything," Amanda advised in conclusion, "and if you keep practicing, then you just might do well."



Titan Shield Disclaimer: Although we appreciate the support of our advertisers, we do not endorse the products, services, or messages that these advertisements convey.

UNICAL DRIVING & TRAFFIC SCHOOL
www.UnicalDriversEd.com
 -special for Online Driver's Education: only \$29
 Limited time only back to school offer!!
 Special Rates for Teen's 6 Hour Behind the Wheel
 **Traffic Classes Offered Every Saturday 9 am - 4:30 pm

>> Sign Up Now! <<
 (626) 286-4496 or (626) 286-5002
 email: unicaldriving@gmail.com
 410 S. San Gabriel Blvd., #11, San Gabriel, CA 91776
 N. of Valley, Mission, railroad tracks & S. of Broadway, Las Tunas

Do you think
 something should
 appear in the
 newspaper?
 contact Mrs. F in Rm
 24

EZ College Application Center

Having hard time with college applications?
 Don't know where to start?
 Want help with the essays?
 Call the professionals for help your application!

(213) 393-9345
EZCollegeApplication.com



BUY TITAN SHIELD ADS!

Available in room 24

**See Mrs. Fuentes or any
 Journalism staffer
 for details!**

Tiffany Chang
Secretary



Benny Hung
Vice President



Vivian Chow
Service & Academics



Sarah Havner
Senior Class Pres.



Aakash Kumar
Activities



Andrew Ching
Historian & Technology



Elaine Chow
Publicity



Daniel Pai
Treasurer



Ben Harwich
Spirit
Commissioner



Brian Chang
Freshman
Class Pres.



Jordana Shiau
ASB & School
Relations



Melody Wang
Hospitality



Carlee Beckler
School Board
Rep.



Calvin Wong
Special Projects



Stephanie Chow
ASB President



Calyx Chang
Junior Class Pres.



Kristin Charlton
Underclassmen
Rep.



Joy Wang
ICC Pres.



Calvin Wong
Special Projects



Jose Caire
ASB Advisor



Tyler Ho
Sophomore
Class Pres.



Shannon Dang
Spirit Commissioner



**Caroline
Lushbough**
Fundraising
Commissioner



**Ravin
Ratnayake**
Athletics
Commissioner



SM ASB 09-10'
Layout by Jilly Ko

Restraining Students Represses Education

By Alexa Wei
Opinion Editor

Surprisingly, in the United States, there are 19 states which, unlike California, have no regulations concerning the use of restraints and seclusion in schools. Thousands of students are mistreated via violent episodes of restraint every year. In one incident, a teacher in Texas killed a 14-year-old student after wrestling him to the floor and lying on top of him. In order to keep students safe, use of restraints in schools must gain some parameters, in every state.

According to the July 26th issue of *Parade* magazine, most of the students who are restrained or isolated from the rest of the class are mentally disabled. Given that mental disabilities or learning disorders can sometimes manifest themselves into behavioral problems, this treatment is especially unjust. Students who need extra help in the classroom are instead gagged or tied to their seats for disrupting the class, which was the case for a boy in Illinois with hyperactivity. Students

with behavioral problems should not be punished as if they are misbehaving, when in actuality, they may be reacting in a way that is out of their control. Even if the students do disrupt class, use of physical restraints is still a cruel excess on the enforcer's part.

In hospitals and group homes, binding a person is only allowed in situations where the person poses an immediate physical threat to themselves or others. Similarly, schools should only go to this extreme if the student is potentially harmful, not if he or she is being unruly. Not only is this misuse of power potentially hazardous to the student's health, it does not actually fulfill the goal of teaching the child.

It is difficult to absorb information in class if one is tied to the desk or kept in a walled-off area of the classroom. If the child whose troublesome behavior led to being secluded or bound was already struggling to pay attention in class, then punishing them

in this fashion does not help them learn either. The purpose of going to school is to learn, not to sit in a chair quietly for six hours a day. Mistreating students by confining them or tying them up will not help convey the lesson to them; it is simply laziness on the part of a teacher who is unwilling to look deeper for the reasons behind the child's outbursts or who may feel overwhelmed by a disruptive student. Also, a much more practical disciplinary measure would be to send the distracting student to the principal's office and then have the principal phone the child's parents, explaining the situation and hopefully, encouraging the parents to get the help their child needs. This would be a better solution and could be integrated into a legislative bill that sets guidelines for the use of physical restraints in school settings. Seclusion time-out is perhaps more obstructive to the learning process because it removes students from the classroom setting completely, preventing them from receiving an education. Aside from failing to teach children who act out in

class, these physical methods of subduing students can inflict bodily harm. Students should not be hurt anywhere, least of all in school. If a teacher cannot cope with a student who has special needs or is obnoxious, then instead of treating the

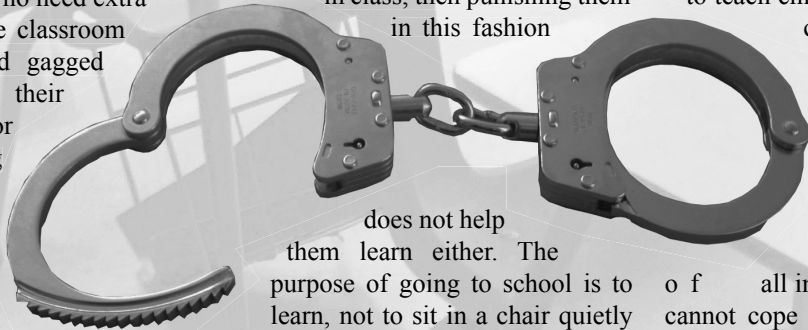
symptom of the problem, the teacher or parents should attempt to get to the root of the problem.



state law requires revising. The lack of professionalism in some facilities is not only shocking, but also prompts the need for regular check-ups. In no situation is it acceptable to hold down a child with such violence or for such a long amount of time that the child dies. Despite this state's policy's shortcomings, there is no federal agency that requires records to be kept on use of seclusion and restraints.

Also, state laws vary in how these techniques can be used, with some states having no guidelines at all. This needs to be remedied with a nationwide law preventing such abuse.

State law should not permit the continuation of the outdated and abusive practices of restraint and seclusion to punish their students and prevent them from being disruptive. Not only are these techniques unfair to children with learning disabilities or behavioral issues, but they can result in injuries or even death. A nationwide standard prohibiting educators from instituting such methods in schools should be created, restricting use of these methods to cases in which the student poses an immediate threat to his or her own or physical well-being. If this problem remains unchecked, then it could spread to other schools or states until this issue becomes an epidemic.



SAFRA Gives Students New Lease on Life

By Samantha Lai
Managing Editor

The House of Representatives recently voted in favor of the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act (SAFRA), which will allow the government to cut subsidies for student loans given to banks and make direct loans instead. According to the *Los Angeles Times*, this measure will give the government full rein of the student-loan system currently installed and remove banks as the "middle man" in the lending process. The bill is still undergoing consideration from the Senate, and if passed, all the colleges and universities operating under the original student-loan program will have to abandon it by July 1, 2010. SAFRA may seem to take drastic measures, but it is a necessary measure that can save billions of dollars and restore integrity in the current system.

Educational institutions currently use two ways to offer loans to students. As stated in an online *Time Magazine* article, the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) uses private finance companies like Sallie Mae who lend the money subsidized by the government to borrowers. The government then covers 97 percent of the loan that remains unpaid. The other system, called a direct-loan program that was established in 1993, functions

as a direct funnel of cash from the government to the borrowers. Thus, the government provides all the money and receives the profits.

President Barack Obama is calling for the elimination of the FFEL program so that the U.S. Education Department will manage the \$92 billion student-loan business. This restructure of the system shifts the profits of Sallie Mae and similar private companies to the Federal Administration and threatens potentially 30 million jobs. However, the government allows the student-loan companies to continue to perform administrative tasks such as answering student inquiries and collecting payments, so the cut in profits will be a smaller sacrifice to pay to improve the system. Transferring complete control to the government could save close

to \$90 billion in the future, according to a *New Yorker* article.

That money could be used to fund grants and community colleges.

Especially during the poor economy, any method that can save

money should be considered.

President Obama stated, "If we simply cut out the middle man, and lent directly, the federal government would save that money, and we could use it for what it is actually meant for: helping students afford and succeed in college."

President Obama's proposal places more focus on the students themselves and treats them as equals rather than as customers. By taking a more direct approach to the student-loan program, the government humanizes the process. Students who take out loans would be able to benefit because the

government will support them even if they cannot repay the loan. Thus, priority is given to achieving a higher education than paying for one.

The government currently plays a hand in 75 percent of the loans made under the old system, as seen in the 2008-2009 academic year. This would

mean that the ethical problems lawmakers believe are occurring in the private companies that provide loans for students are happening under the eye of the federal administration. The private companies are unjustly profiting from students and depriving them of the ability to lead an independent lifestyle after graduation. However, the government's awareness now demonstrates an earnest effort to improve the system, no matter how large the changes and sacrifices must be.

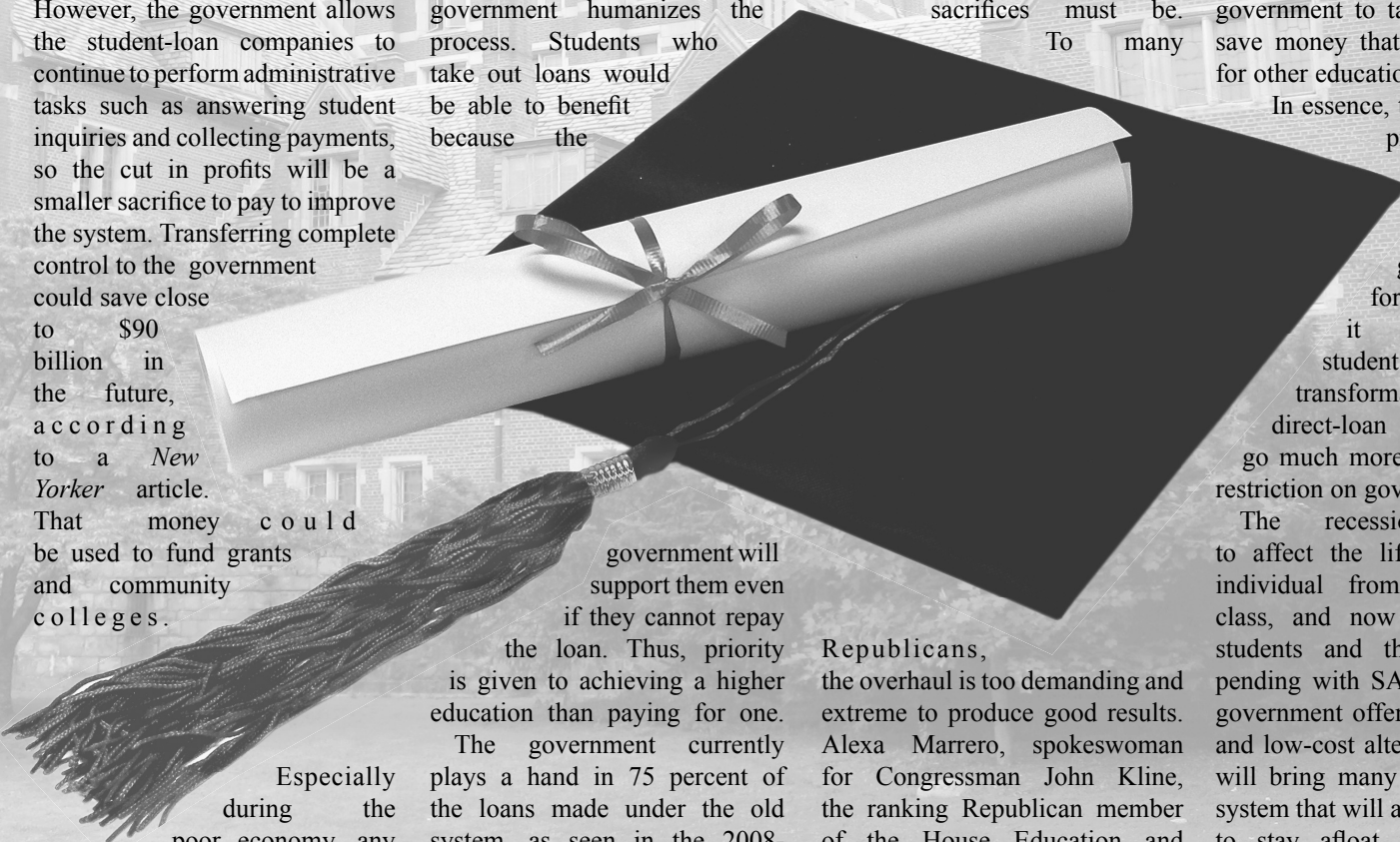
To many

"This bill is a massive expansion of the Federal Government, pure and simple."

However, the government's prominent role in the student loans made in the 2008-2009 academic year resulted from the private companies' inability to manage the subsidies, which the government also provides. This dependency has gone smoothly so far and without the support of the government, these companies would struggle to continue their business. Allowing the government to take over would save money that could be used for other educational institutions.

In essence, the student loan program already relies heavily on the government for the money it provides students, so a major transformation into the direct-loan program will go much more smoothly than restriction on government power.

The recession continues to affect the lifestyle of each individual from every social class, and now the future of students and their parents is pending with SAFRA. With the government offering an efficient and low-cost alternative, the bill will bring many benefits to the system that will allow companies to stay afloat while bringing integrity to the programs.



Republicans, the overhaul is too demanding and extreme to produce good results. Alexa Marrero, spokeswoman for Congressman John Kline, the ranking Republican member of the House Education and Labor Committee, commented,

ATTENTION, STUDENTS!

Freshman: The first year of high school could determine the next three, so develop good habits that you can use on a long-term basis. Join clubs that share your passion; you will not only make new friends but also start early on your community service hours. It is possible to complete and even exceed the required 40 hours for graduation by the end of the year, so stay informed about volunteer events. Show commitment in extracurricular activities and in schoolwork to establish yourself in high school.

Sophomores: While you may have learned a substantial amount from freshman year, there is still time for you to distinguish yourself. Your privileges are generally the same as those when you were a freshman, but now you can take AP classes and try out for club cabinets. Start volunteering in the community so your perspective of high school extends outside. Use this year to balance your academics with your extracurricular activities to help you survive junior year.

Juniors: Expect to make both major and minor sacrifices in your lifestyle as the schoolwork becomes more demanding. The dreaded PSAT and SAT tests will arrive much too soon, so find a way to prepare for them because they make up your college profile. Worry about yourself instead of comparing yourself against others and concentrate on areas you need to improve. Focus on maintaining your GPA and outside of school.

Seniors: The most obvious benefit of senior year may be just be eating lunch off-campus (for those who can drive) because college applications take up so much time. Every detail could determine whether you get accepted to your first choice, so complete all the necessary requirements on time. As daunting and ambiguous as the future may seem, make your last year as memorable as possible with the friends. Try to help underclassmen adjust to the difficult fast-paced lifestyle of high school.

-Samantha Lail// Managing Editor

SUMMER VACATION MOVIES

DISTRICT 9

Giving a very mysterious yet attention-grabbing first impression, Neill Blomkamp's *District 9* came to theaters on August 14, 2009. The movie is set in 1982 Johannesburg, South Africa when a strange alien spaceship stops above Johannesburg. After many attempts to open the spaceship, Multinational United (MNU) finally succeeded and noticed a very

malnourished "prawn-like" alien species. These aliens soon earn the name "prawns" and are taken into an encampment known as *District 9*. The camps are soon infested and turned into slums. The government will not allow the aliens to leave and tries to relocate

them with the help of MNU military contractors.

The story starts with Sharlto Copley (*Alive in Joburg*), playing Wikus van der Merwe, explaining his personal life through interviews with various characters. Later, Wikus finds himself having trouble convincing the aliens to move, causing violence among them. The graphic detail was amazing.

Seeing many of the limbs fly off the screen made many of the audiences members shade their faces. *District 9* is rated R so be prepared for intense

blood and gore.

What I disliked were the unstable camera motions. I can see how the director tries to relive the "real life" situation but it made me dizzy and almost sick. It's as if the camera man is literally running wild without any knowledge of filming.

Overall, the movie proved to be a great hit, living up to its hype. With some setbacks, *District 9* tops most movies this summer.

-Mathew Lim//Spectrum Editor



500 DAYS OF SUMMER

500 Days of Summer is a romantic comedy, starring Joseph Gordon-Levitt (*G.I. Joe: Rise of Cobra*) as Tom and Zoey Deschanel (*Yes Man*) as his love, Summer. The movie follows the pair over the 500 days of their relationship.

Tom and Summer's characters are two completely different personalities. Tom Hanson is an open-hearted romantic, who believes in fate and soul mates. Summer Finn, on the other hand, is a realist, who opposes Tom's views on love. He works as a greeting card writer and when Summer, the beautiful, new office assistant, catches his eye, Tom falls madly in love

with her and believes she is "the one." However, because Summer does not believe in relationships and

compels Tom to question Summer's true intentions, but he hopelessly believes they are good. Fate turns

Summer are sitting on a bench and that Summer's ringed finger holds his hand. The scene then quickly transitions into day 200- a scene in which

Tom seeks the therapeutic help and advice from his younger sister about the breakup. This discrepancy in the film leaves the audience wondering what occurred in between the days, which makes it all more suspenseful.

I would highly recommend this movie because it is not your average boy-meets-girl love story. The film's plot is not cheesy and unlike most romance films, the story is very realistic. This chick-flick is definitely the movie of the summer

-Karen Situ// Staff Writer



labels, there is a major barrier that Tom has to overcome. As the days pass, Tom believes he is beginning to break down Summer's wall of insecurities. Their on-and-off relationship

around and stabs Tom in back when Summer unexpectedly breaks up with him, providing him without any explanations. The film begins with day 448; it is clear that Tom and

INGLORIOUS BASTERDS

Despite its title, *Inglorious Basterds*, is anything but "inglorious."

Directed by Quentin Tarantino and starring Brad Pitt (*The Curious Case Of Benjamin Button*) as Lieutenant Aldo Raine, it is a breath of fresh air in the comedy genre where most directors have focused on the vulgar and the obscene. Lieutenant Aldo Raine, who demands one hundred German scalps from each of the team members, leads a group of Jewish-American who terrorize Nazis. Brad Pitt manages to

affect a plausible hillbilly accent and a rough and tumble personality. This performance focuses on his character's hatred of Nazis and his brutal methods in each raid especially during the forest scene.

The film also incorporates a dash of drama and tragedy with the subplot of Shoshanna, played by Melanie Laurent (*Shoot at Your Foot*), a

young Jewish woman who witnessed the slaughter of her family by Nazis and plots her revenge. Landa is a convoluted, diabolical and egotistic villain dubbed the "Jew Killer" by the French who takes pleasure in his destruction of lives. No Nazi character in any other World War II movie has seemed more sinister than Landa.

Inglorious Basterds is an excellent movie and is highly recommended.

-Thomas Tai//Staff Writer

