



WHO CARES ABOUT
~~SAN MARINO HIGH SCHOOL?~~

TITAN SHIELD

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ASB Historian Senior **Andrew Ching** prepares for Red Ribbon Week by tying ribbons on trees around campus.
Andrea Chiu//TITAN SHIELD

ASB Hosts Red Ribbon Week

By **Helen Hojan**
Staff Writer

SMHS ASB hosted four events throughout October including Red Ribbon Week from October 1 to 23, Movie Night on October 30, the October 16 California Pizza Kitchen (CPK) fundraiser, and the November World Fundraiser on October 17.

Red Ribbon Week is held to give an understanding on living an alcohol and drug-free life to the student body.

"[Red Ribbon Week] for creating awareness concerning problems related to the use of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs and to support the decision to live a healthy, drug-free lifestyle," commented ASB President Senior Stephanie Chow.

Red Ribbon Week is a national event that began in California in the mid-1980s. Former President Ronald Reagan and Former First

Lady Nancy Reagan nationally recognized Red Ribbon Week in 1991. Currently, over 80 million people participate in Red Ribbon Week every year. Red Ribbon Week is arranged by the National Family Partnership (NFP) in tribute to Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, a U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agent, who died in the fight against drugs.

"[Red Ribbon Week] affects us in a positive way because it brings about the idea of no drugs," reflected ASB Athletics Director Senior Ravin Rayavare.

Throughout the week, the school wore red ribbons along Huntington Drive. In addition, students received the opportunity to sign a pledge that states how they will live drug-free life. On Thursday students

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Future of Adobe House at Risk

By **Amrapali Gokani**
News Editor

San Marino Unified School District (SMUSD) is debating about moving or demolishing the Michael White Adobe House. The decision will be made on October 27.

The San Marino School Board held a series of public hearings about the future of the Adobe house. The house is currently located in SMHS next to the swimming pool. Over the past years, the house served as a storage area for SMHS cheerleaders and as the home for the San Marino Historical Society before they moved.

According to old school board agendas, SMUSD has been looking for a place for the Adobe

since 1991.

With breaking foundation and termites, the house is no longer safe for occupation. The insurance company of SMUSD has offered \$175,000 to bring the issue of the house to a swift outcome.

Currently, four different possibilities have been discussed. These include the Adobe being left as it is, moving it to Lacy Park, refurbishing the building up to standards, and disassembling the building and to construct it at a later time.

School Board President Annie Caldwell told the *San Marino Tribune*, "We would certainly any legitimate option that would serve as an outcome a move to Lacy Park." However, the price it would cost to move the Adobe to

Lacy Park has not been favorable to the school board nor the district budget. The 1.4-mile move would cost at least \$1.6 million. In addition, the upgrades the house needs in plumbing, electrical, flooring, and roofing would cost somewhere from \$500 to \$70,000 over the Adobe's Lacy Park.

"Our experts are telling us they do not have evidence of a successful move of an adobe. We're trying to find a way to protect and preserve as much of the original adobe as possible, but it's very difficult," commented SMHS Superintendent Dr. Gary Woods to the *Los Angeles Times*. SMUSD placed the Adobe

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The Michael White Adobe house, whose future is undecided, stands on SMHS property behind the swimming pool and next to the baseball field.
Vivian Lee//TITAN SHIELD

Tennis Triumphs Wildcats

By **David Gell**
Managing Editor

On Tuesday, October 20, the San Marino Lady Titans' Varsity Tennis team handled the Monrovia Lady Wildcats in a 18-0 rout. In the first round of singles, Junior Number One Singles Player Michelle Chee won her match 6-0 over the Monrovia Number One Singles, sophomore Number Two Singles Player Michelle Gandawidjaja won 6-1 over her Lady Wildcats counterpart, and Freshman Number Three Singles Player Larissa Phillips won 6-0 over the Number Three Singles Player from Monrovia, giving the Lady Titans a 3-0 lead.

In the second round of singles play, Michelle Chee won her match 6-0 against the Lady Wildcats Number Two Player while Michelle Gandawidjaja and Larissa both extended their

dominance into 6-0 victories over the Number Three Singles Player from Monrovia. Michelle Gandawidjaja won her third match with another 6-0 victory over the Number One Singles Player for the Lady Wildcats, and Larissa won by a 6-0 score for the third

In the third singles round, Coach Paula Bush substituted Senior Taylor Chan for Michelle Chee in the Number One Singles spot, where Taylor won 6-2

over the Number Three Singles Player from Monrovia. Michelle Gandawidjaja won her third match with another 6-0 victory over the Number One Singles Player for the Lady Wildcats, and Larissa won by a 6-0 score for the third

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Junior **Kate Knauss** uses a forehand to slap the ball over the net in Tuesday's game against Monrovia.
Jilly Ko//TITAN SHIELD



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Current Homework Load Limits Students

By Jenny Huang, Guest Writer
Alexa Wei, Opinion Editor

Many students complain about the huge load of homework they receive every day. High school teachers should give out less homework in order to improve their students' quality of life.

Students nowadays are under too much pressure. If they want to succeed in school, they must study for the constant quizzes, tests, projects, and homework, not to mention the worry and stress caused by this work overload.

Despite this, teachers expect

“Going to sleep late and then waking up early to come to school at 8 a.m. is unhealthy for teenagers.”

students to have the time to finish all that. It is difficult for students to complete all of their necessary schoolwork and still have time for the recommended eight hours of sleep. Going to sleep late and then waking up early to come to school at 8 a.m. is unhealthy for

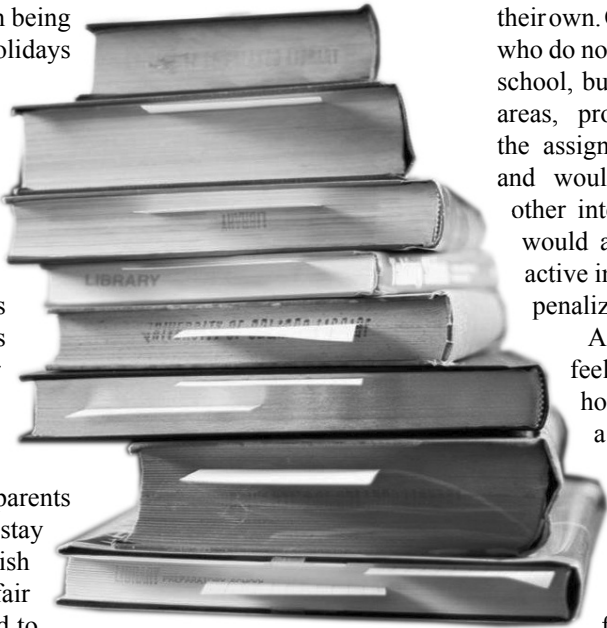
teenagers, whose bodies are still growing. In fact, the San Gabriel School Board recently approved a new homework policy due to strong concerns expressed in a survey conducted by the Board Advisory Committee. The policy stated that long-term projects cannot be assigned right before a vacation and also be due immediately after the vacation. This prevents students from being overworked during the holidays when they are supposed to be taking a break from school. Having a ton of schoolwork to complete over a holiday defeats the purpose of taking the holiday from school. For this reason, other schools should follow San Gabriel's example and lessen their own homework loads.

Having an enormous amount of homework is also an inconvenience to the parents of students. Some parents stay up until their children finish their homework. This is unfair to the adults, who also need to sleep. Too many late nights could lead to decreased productivity in the workplace and poor health.

In addition to completing homework, many students also engage in extracurricular activities.

Aside from giving students a chance to participate in something

they enjoy or providing an outlet for self-expression, extracurriculars are part of the college application process. High school prepares students for college, but spending excessive time on homework could hurt a student's chance of getting into a college of their choice. If colleges search for well-rounded students, who have other



interests or hobbies, then it is not in a college-bound student's best interest to forgo these activities in favor of completing a homework assignment.

Despite the obvious benefits of less homework, some educators claim that it would make students irresponsible. A 2006 article in

USA Today says there is “ample evidence to suggest that lack of homework leaves U.S. students less prepared to compete in the global economy.”

However, students with ambition and a real willingness to learn will always do well, regardless of how much schoolwork they are forced to do. Students who make school a priority study and work hard on their own. On the contrary, students who do not particularly care about school, but perform well in other areas, probably would not do the assigned homework anyway and would continue to pursue other interests. Less homework would allow them to be more active in their interests without penalizing them.

Also, if a student feels overwhelmed by homework, they may copy a classmate's answers, not learning anything in the process and undermining the purpose of doing homework in the first place. It is more important for a student to understand the material being taught rather than spending time finishing homework for homework's sake and failing to understand the concepts being taught. The student's focus have turned homework into something to be finished for credit, not

comprehension. Placing more value on teaching material in class instead of rushing through it would lessen the need for homework and remedy this problem.

“Having a ton of schoolwork to complete over a holiday defeats the purpose of a holiday.”

Teachers should do their best to help students grasp the concepts of the material being taught rather than assign enormous amounts of homework and expect students to learn the material practically on their own. Instead, teachers should assign less homework and compensate by spending more class time reviewing concepts. Having less homework would mean that students would have more time to sleep or participate in other activities. Also, more sleep could improve students' health. Thus, less homework provides a practical and viable solution for overworked students and their parents.

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ONLINE ADVENTURES

The website “My Life is Average” (MLIA) is like the popular FML’s quirkier, optimistic, and awkward cousin. If MLIA was going to be in a movie, it’d be played by Zooey Deschanel. That is the sort of peculiar cuteness it is home to. It is also apparently where all the hardcore Harry Potter fans went, so it’s like a reunion for me. Let me explain; MLIA is where people can post random, often pop-culture-referencing, stories that show how their life is not average at all. These include wearing snuggles to gym class or saying that you intend to marry a man who pastes a gold star on the crayon drawing in your dorm. All of the posts end with “MLIA” and then can be rated by other people on the site. A post will receive either a rating of “Average” or “Meh,” with “Average” being the best. But there’s no real criteria for what makes a post “average” or “meh” and what makes a post qualify for MLIA can be hard to pin down. If you want to know whether your story belongs on MLIA, it’s best to read some of the others to get a better idea. Here’s a sample:

“Today, there was a new teacher. He needed nametags, and on mine, I put “Aslan, King of Narnia”. He bowed to me. I think its gonna be a good year. MLIA.”

This next one has a Harry Potter reference similar to many others:

“Today, I was in line at the grocery store, telling my friend about how the bad weather was making me depressed and hopeless. The old man in front of us must have overheard because he bought me a bar of chocolate and said “for the Dementors.” That’s the nicest thing anyone has ever done for me. MLIA.”

Another great thing about MLIA is that it is remarkably innocent. Most posts would be rated either PG-13 or lower if they were being judged by the movie ratings system. Profanity and sexuality are surprisingly absent, making this the site that Internet perversion forgot. This is one of the reasons why MLIA restores my hope in my fellow man and actually makes me want to leave my house and talk to strangers. I realize that there are a bunch of people out there like me and I want to befriend all of them. They should be pretty easy to find because a lot of them will be wearing shirts with ninjas, superheroes, or dinosaurs on them. MLIA.

-Alexa Wei// Opinion Editor

HAVE A HEALTHY HALLOWEEN!

BY MATHEW LIM// SPECTRUM EDITOR

ALTHOUGH THIS IS UNLIKELY, SOMETIMES CANDY CAN GET BORING ON HALLOWEEN. BUT, FEAR NOT, SPECTRUM IS HERE TO HELP YOU SUBSTITUTE THOSE VILE SWEETS WITH A HEALTHY ALTERNATIVES.

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES SUITABLE AS HALLOWEEN TREATS. FOR EXAMPLE, DRIED MANGOES AND PINEAPPLES ARE A SWEET AND DELICIOUS ALTERNATIVES TO TEETH-ROTTING CANDY. HEALTHY AND FRUITY FOODS NEVER HURT ANYONE. CUTTING THEM INTO CUBES AND SERVING THEM TO HUNGRY TRICK-OR-TREATERS IS THE PERFECT WAY TO DISH OUT THESE DELICIOUS SNACKS. AND BECAUSE IT’S DARK, THEY WON’T EVEN BE ABLE TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SHRIVELED FRUIT AND CHOCOLATEY GOODNESS.

ANOTHER GREAT IDEA IS PASSING OUT SUGAR-FREE ITEMS. ONE EXAMPLE WOULD BE SUGAR-FREE COOKIES, A HEALTHIER WAY TO SPREAD THAT HALLOWEEN CHEER AMONG YOUR FRIENDS. OBVIOUSLY, SUGAR-FREE COOKIES ARE BETTER TASTING THAN THOSE FACTORY-PROCESSED SUGAR COOKIES. THESE TREATS ARE SIMPLE AND FUN TO MAKE, AND THEY WILL SURELY PLEASE MOST TRICK-OR-TREATERS. IF NOT, THEN SURELY SUGAR-FREE GUM SHOULD SATISFY THE SWEET CRAVINGS OF ALL CHILDREN. WHO WOULD NOT WANT A DELICIOUS UNSWEETENED GUMMY SENSATION? I PERSONALLY BUY HUGE PACKAGES OF GUM AND COOKIES FROM NEARBY STORES. BEST OF ALL, YOU CAN BUY THESE IN BULK BECAUSE THEY WILL NEVER EXPIRE AND GIVE OUT THE SAME COOKIES AND GUM YEAR AFTER YEAR. THESE TREATS WILL DEFINITELY CATCH THE ATTENTION OF ALL CHILDREN.

IF ALL ELSE FAILS, THERE IS ONE LAST RESORT EVERYONE CAN LOOK TO: SALT, THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF WHAT YOU THINK KIDS WOULD GET ON HALLOWEEN. PRETZELS, BEEF JERKY, AND TORTILLA CHIPS CAN SERVE AS A MIDNIGHT SNACK TO HUNGRY CHILDREN. WHAT BETTER WAY TO SPEND A COLD DARK NIGHT THAN WITH A PINCH OF SALT? WITH SALT IN YOUR ARSENAL, YOU WILL BE THE MOST FAVORED HOUSE ON THE BLOCK. IF YOU ARE STILL YEARNING FOR BETTER WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR HALLOWEEN, THEN WHY NOT EXERCISE? DOING PUSH-UPS ARE A GREAT WAY TO PUMP IRON INTO THOSE ARMS. MAKE A HABIT TO DO FIFTY PUSH-UPS FOR EVERY HOUSE YOU GO TO. BY THE END OF THE DAY YOU SHOULD FEEL EXHAUSTED BUT STILL ACCOMPLISHED.

WITH HEALTH CONSCIOUS PARENTS THESE DAYS, IT IS ESSENTIAL TO FIND BETTER ALTERNATIVES TO SWEETS AND CANDIES. IF WE CHANGE THESE SUGARY TREATS TO HEALTHIER ALTERNATIVES, WE CAN ALTER THE FUTURE OF HALLOWEEN FOREVER.



The ATTACK of The ZOMBIE BEARS

Our story begins with a wealthy stockbroker by the name of Jack Sawai. He was looking for a cheap place to build his new house. Along the way, he met a mysterious and shady real estate agent known as The Dealer who introduces him to The Wasteland, which was infamous for being a cursed radioactive pet burial site. Not knowing that the land was tainted, Jack quickly purchased the land without any hesitation.

It wasn’t long before disaster struck. The first morning after Jack moved in, he looked out the window, horrified at the sight that befell him. Headstones had spontaneously sprouted from the ground, carved with engravements of horrific-looking bears. Jack spent the whole morning contemplating the incident, when suddenly the sky turned gray and sinister, and thunder began to rumble in the distance. As Jack turned around to get his phone, the lights shut off, leaving a stunned Jack in darkness. Jack stood transfixed while his house became silent. Abruptly, moaning sounds began to arise. The sounds became louder, sending a chill down Jack’s spine.

He needed to find something, a weapon, to defend himself. The closest thing he could find to a weapon was a bamboo stick. Being a self-pronounced master of Tai-Chi and various disciplines, Jack felt confidence surge through his body. Leaving the room, Jack prepared himself for the worst.

While Jack walked out of the room, crunching and screeching noises filled the air. He pivoted his head toward the corner of the wall to see his kitchen. What Jack saw were three zombie bears ravenously devouring all the food in his refrigerator. Jack could hear the sounds of dishes breaking and cereal crunching in between their claws. Anger burned in his heart as he witnessed the squandering of all his hard-earned cash at the hands of these monsters. Infuriated at the destruction of his dishware, Jack charged towards the bears. The bears, noticing the sudden movement, growled aggressively as Jack neared. Right when Jack was within range, the three bears opened their mouths, produced rotting fish, and hurled

rendered all the zombie bears unconscious with a shattering roundhouse kick.

Jack quickly tied up the bears and waited patiently. The bears, however, didn’t seem willing to speak, so he encouraged them with a whack to the head. With their inability to speak English, Jack gave them a piece of paper and asked them to draw. Instead of answering Jack’s questions, they drew a picture depicting countless tortured spirits and a strange ring.

Frustrated, Jack took the ring off one of the bears and smashed it into pieces. Without warning, they began to rise into the air, they were as if suspended by some divine force. Right before they disappeared into the skies, they spoke in fluent English, “This is a sacred burial ground. Leave immediately. If you don’t you will die a horrible death from cancer.”

After the zombie bears disappeared, Jack quickly packed up his bags and moved out to live the rest of his life, happily ever after.

-Kerry Chen// Photographer





THE SOUND OF GLEE

Dancing and singing teens on FOX?! Has *High School Musical* finally become a television series? Have my dreams come true?? DO I GET TO SEE ZAC EFRON EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT!? Unfortunately, not... but nonetheless, I was anything but disappointed after the hour. From that moment on, *Glee* entered my life, almost literally. Although I admit that I enjoy watching the now clichéd theme of rich people leading scandalous lives and the new craze of vampire shows, I wanted something new, and *Glee* was the breath of fresh air I needed.

The series follows an optimistic high school teacher, Mr.

Will Schuester, played by Matt Morrison, as he tries to transform Glee Club, which consists of 12 social outcasts and underdogs, from drab to fab. Basically, Mr. Schuester is attempting to save a sinking ship. However, the members of Glee Club are very gifted. Some of the most stunning stars of Glee Club include Kurt, a soprano who is also quite the fashionista;

Mercedes, a larger-than-life diva; and Artie, a geeky guitarist. But

according to the self-proclaimed star Rachel Berry, played by Lea Michele, being part of something special makes you special, right? Hence, Mr. Schuester is faced with the task of inspiring the talented, but unfocused performers to enter, and hopefully win, the biggest competition of them all: Nationals. Ooh! Not to mention, one cannot help but adore Glee Club's

brightest entertainer, Rachel. She is convinced that her MySpace page and performances will ultimately lead her to fame. In fact, each morning at precisely 6 a.m., Rachel enjoys a protein shake of banana and flaxseed oil, and then proceeds to run on the elliptical machine while focusing all her energy on one goal: becoming a star.

Although the story line may seem rather ordinary, the subplots and extremely entertaining performance numbers are key aspects of *Glee*. The characters' unique but endearing personalities create an uplifting aura that makes the show's title *Glee* appropriate for the plot. Also, as nine o'clock draws near on Wednesdays, I always look forward to Glee Club's new rendition of a song. Each performance has been completely amazing, and before you know it, you'll have a whole playlist dedicated

to Glee Cast songs! In fact, a personal favorite of mine is the mash up of *All My Life/Confessions Part II*. Not only do I watch *Glee* religiously, I pride myself in having all the recent *Glee* renditions (downloaded legally, of course!).

Glee is a definite must-see television show and the moment you encounter Sue Sylvester's logic, you'll be sucked in. So conform with me next Wednesday and watch *Glee*! And if I could, I would sign my name here and stick a gold star after it because metaphors are important. So the gold stars are a metaphor for me being a star.

-Kimberly Nguyen//
Managing Editor

BEWARE OF THE SAT

Halloween may be just around the corner, but for many students across the nation, it came early this year on Saturday, October 10. On this day (among many others), students of all grades took the SAT Reasoning and Subject Tests, and for anyone who has lived through the experience, the whole process can be a nightmare. From the flu to minor emergencies, problems ran amuck in these students' horror stories of the SAT.

Michelle Hsu, junior: When I was taking the SAT, the girl who sat in front of me had to go use the bathroom before [the

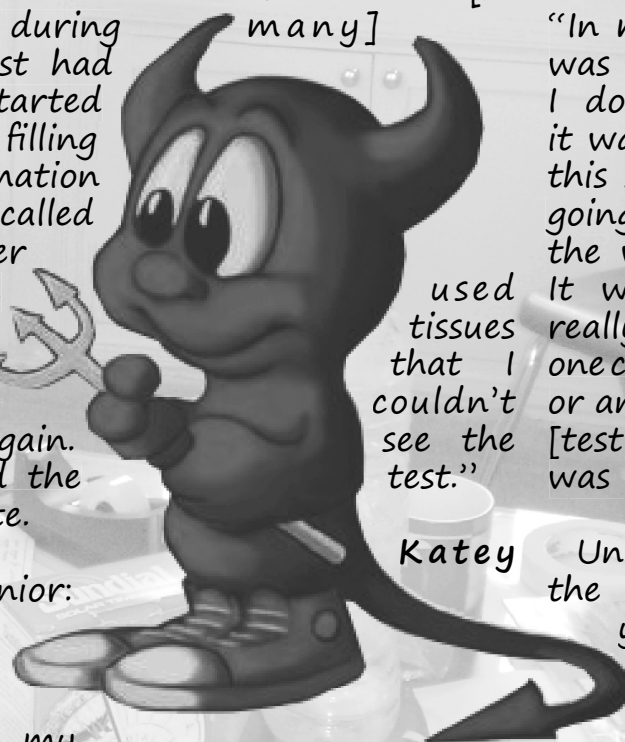
test] started, so then the teacher was like 'Okay, go!' She was about to walk out the door when she [said] she didn't know where the bathroom was. We spent another five minutes trying to explain

came back really quickly, and we [asked her] if she found the bathroom, but she said she'd go during break. The test had actually started and we were filling out the information [when] she called the teacher over and whispered in his ear so she could go find the bathroom again. So we started the SAT pretty late.

Charles Lin, senior:

"I was sick on SAT day and when I went into my room, everyone looked at me as if they already knew I was sick. Then during the test I basically coughed every five to seven seconds on the girl in front of me. I think she sort of flinched the first few times. While reading

the passages, I felt like I was [going to] faint, and my desk was covered with [so many]



used tissues that I couldn't see the test."

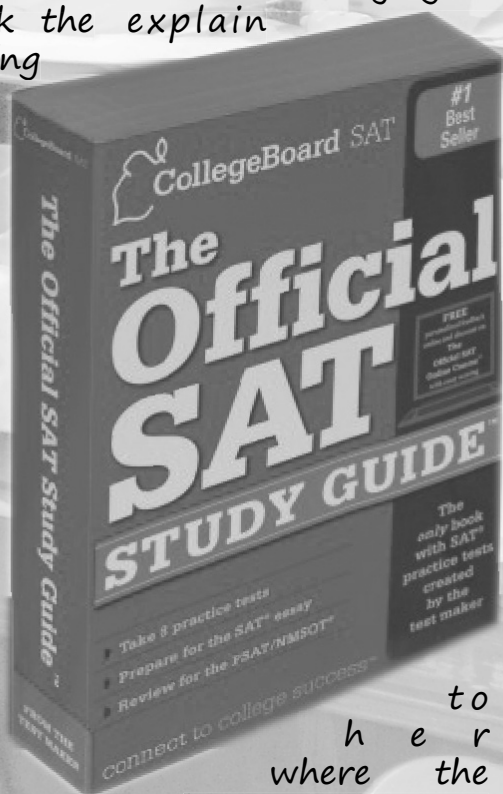
Katey

I should have studied. I was really upset."

Julie Truong, senior: "In my classroom, it was really cold, and I don't know what it was but there was this sound that kept going like 'eerrrrrrrr' the whole test time. It went on [for a] really long time. No one could concentrate or anything. Another [test day], the room was really stuffy."

Unlike Halloween, the SAT can affect you in the long-term when it comes to applying to colleges. From these students' accounts, it seems like a very frustrating experience no matter how much you study, so be prepared for anything.

-Samantha Lai//
Managing Editor





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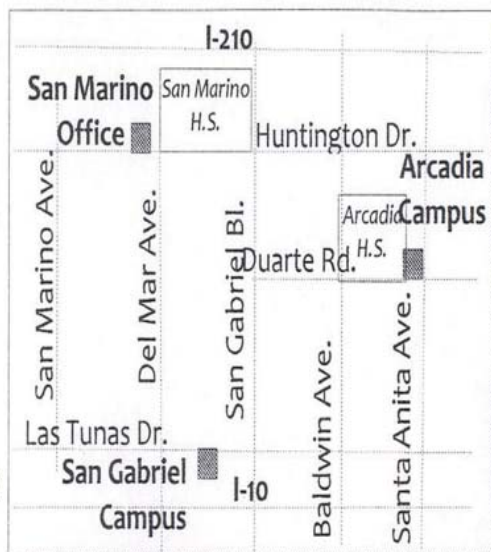
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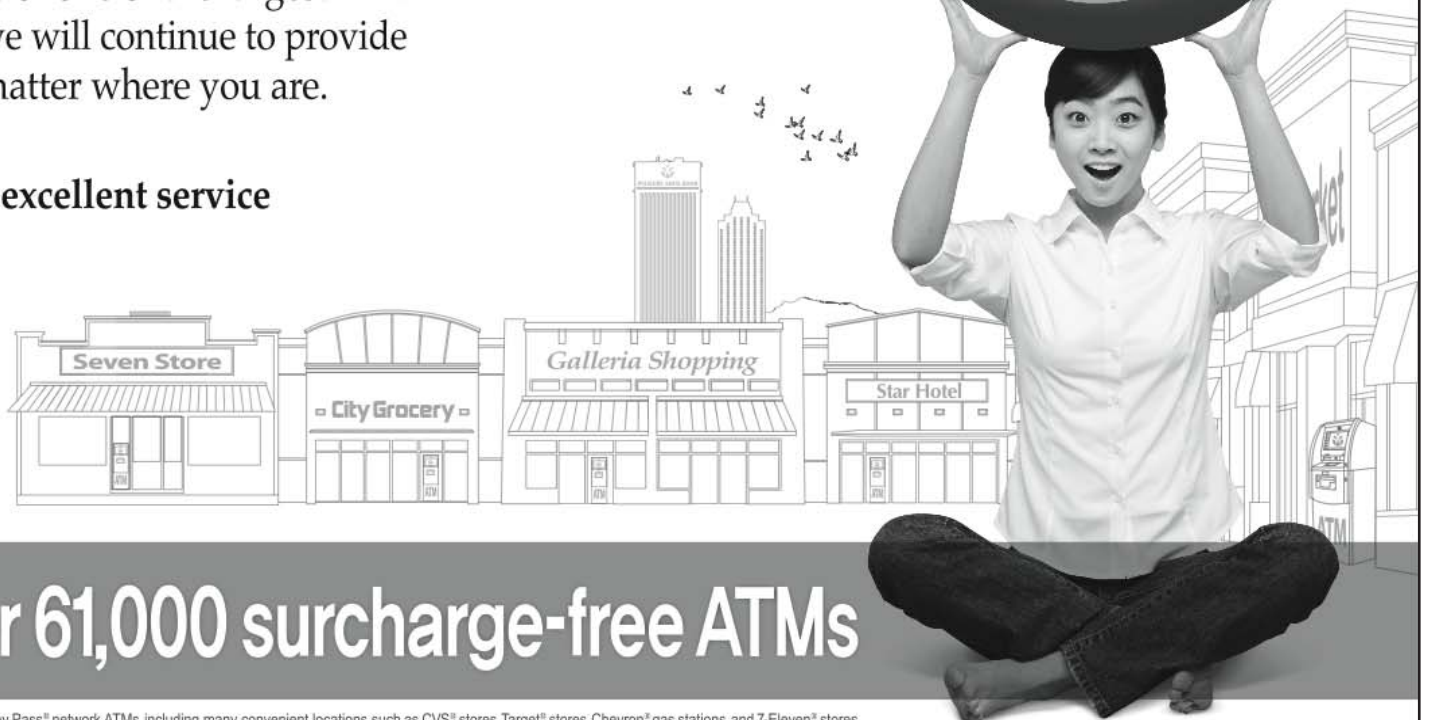
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Girls' Titan Tennis Walks On Monrovia Wildcats

(Continued from page 1)

time of the day, beating the Lady Wildcats Number Two Singles Player.

In doubles play, Senior Captain Number One Doubles Player Jeannie Peterson combined with Junior Number One Doubles Player Anya Laibangyang for a 6-0

victory in the first round against their Monrovia counterparts.

Senior Number Two Doubles Player Janney Lin and Junior Number Two Doubles Player Kate Knauss won 6-1 over the Number Two Doubles Team for the Lady Wildcats.

Also, Junior Number Three Doubles Player Calyx Chang and

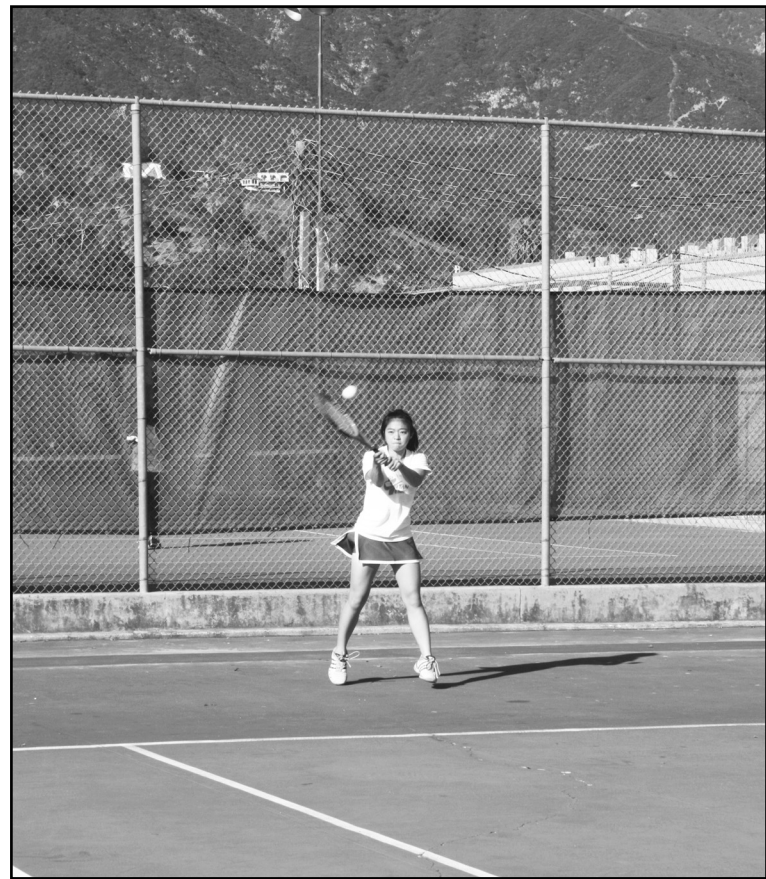
partner Sophomore Number Three Doubles Player Crystal Yang won 6-1 against the Monrovia Number Three Doubles Team.

In the second round, Jeannie and Anya won 6-1 over the Lady Wildcats Number Two Doubles Team, while Janney and Kate defeated the Lady Wildcats Number Three Doubles Team 6-1, and Calyx and Crystal won 6-1, defeating the Monrovia Number One Doubles Team, putting the Lady Titans up a commanding 15-0.

As the final round took place, Jeannie and Anya continued their dominance in a 6-0 victory, this time against the Number Three Team for the Lady Wildcats. Janney and Kate fought their way to a 6-4 win, defeating the Number One Doubles Team for Monrovia and Calyx and Crystal won 6-0 against the Number Two Doubles Team of the Lady Wildcats.

At the end of the day, San Marino ended the match with an 18-0 victory, continuing their Rio Hondo League dominance and inching themselves closer to a top seed in the CIF Playoffs.

Yesterday, the Lady Titans traveled to Temple City for their second match of the season against the Lady Rams. San Marino's next match is at home next week on Tuesday, October 27, where they will host the rival South Pasadena Lady Tigers.



Junior **Calyx Chang** strokes the ball over the net in a previous match against the Wildcats.

Jilly Ko//TITAN SHIELD

Girls' Volleyball Loses to Cats in Five Games

By **Joie Fan**
Staff Writer

The San Marino Girls' Varsity Volleyball traveled to Monrovia High School on Tuesday, October 20, to face the Lady Wildcats in an intense match. The Titans were unable to emerge victorious, falling 2-3 to the Wildcats. The Titans and Wildcats met head-on in five games, the Titans with a loss in the first, third, and with the fifth game ending in a controversial manner.

In the first game, San Marino stayed well matched with Monrovia with the score tied at 4-4, until the Lady Wildcats gained four more points due to San Marino's unforced errors moving the score to 4-8.

However, Junior Outside Hitter Kelsey Buckner ended the Lady Wildcat's run with a kill. Both teams fought hard in rallies, but Monrovia found a way to keep the lead with the score 8-13.

A kill from Middle Blocker Elizabeth Shelburne ended the Lady Wildcats' streak, but the intensity of both teams continued. An intense rally including a spike by Senior Outside Hitter Catherine Barth and block by Sophomore Middle Blocker Kathleen Sloan pushed the score to 12-18. As the game neared the end, Senior Libero Noviana Thio managed to cover the blocks; however the Lady Wildcats still maintained their lead 14-21.

With San Marino down 15-22, good defense up at the net by Catherine and Elizabeth allowed the Titans to score a point.

Elizabeth serves up two points, but the Lady Wildcats still manage to side out and score twice pulling them up to 18-24. The game ends with a serving ace by Lady Wildcats ending the game with a score of 18-25.

During the second set, Freshman Setter Amanda Yee started out the game with a serving run of two including an ace serve.

Both teams traded points for several plays with San Marino taking the lead 7-4. The Titans then pulled ahead on a 4-0 run. However, Lady Wildcats refused to back down. Strong defense up at the net did not allow the Lady Wildcats to push further with the Titans up 20-13. The Lady Wildcats still put up a good effort with kills pulling them up to 23-17. However, with an out-of-bounds spike by Monrovia, Titans earn back the serve and finish up the game 25-18.

The Lady Wildcats started the third game with a quick four unanswered points. Although the Titans played a strong back-row defense, Monrovia's roll-shots and tips managed to stay out of our grasp pushing the score to 1-7.

Although Senior Opposite Hitter Jackie Hackett ended their run with a kill, Lady Wildcats still continue to push points. Throughout the rest of the game, Monrovia still maintained their strong lead and finally closed up the game 11-25 with a kill.

The Titans began the fourth game with a 5-0 lead including two aces by Amanda. As the teams traded points, the Titans

still maintained their lead throughout the game despite the Lady Wildcat's attempts to faze San Marino. As the fourth game neared its end, a kill by Elizabeth concluded an intense rally and brought the Titans up 24-19. The set ended 25-20 with a block by Junior Middle Blocker Alexandra Shelburne.

In the final 15 point match against the Lady Wildcats, a block by Kathleen won Titans the first point. However, Monrovia regained possession of the ball and added three points.

A block by Jackie halted the Lady Wildcats' progress and an ace by Junior Libero Casey McCloskey brought the score to a tie at 3-3. As the teams continued

SM Cross Country Hosts League Meet

By **Kevin Tran**
Staff Writer

Last week on Thursday, October 15, the Titan's Cross Country team participated in a Rio Hondo League Meet, the second league meet of the season, held at Lacy Park.

Despite a handful of injuries on the teams, the Titan Varsity Girls' runners still managed to finish in at fourth place in the girl's division. In this second league meet, each runner must run a total of three miles around Lacy Park.

The Varsity Girls' team had a few substitutions due to injuries. Junior Erin Lew was sidelined from this race due to a hip injury, while Junior Saskia Raether could not participate due to tendonitis.

Replacing the two juniors from the race were Freshman Marina Flores and Freshman Lindsay Snaer.

Being freshman on the Varsity team did not prevent the two girls from doing well, as Lindsay Snaer grabbed 27th place with a time of 23:14 and teammate Marina Flores came in right afterwards, taking 28th place with a time of 23:29.

Leading the San Marino's Varsity Girls runners was Junior Captain Danielle Knott, who came in at fifth place with a time of 20:05. Finishing the race with a time of 22:22, Sophomore

Caitlin Hittner secured the 21st spot.

Danielle commented on the team that "Our team did very well considering that we had a few injuries and absences."

The Titans boys varsity team was also faced with a few absences and injuries. However, that did not keep them from finishing in at third place overall in the boy's division.

Leading the boy's varsity team in the three-mile race was Junior Michael Gimbel who finished in at 17:06 in tenth place.

Seven runners later, Senior Constantin Raether reeled in the 17th place spot with a time of 17:51. Coming in after his fellow teammate at 19th place was Senior Sean Silva, who obtained a time of 18:06.

Fellow teammate Sophomore Robert Moreton came in right after Sean in 20th place with a time of 18:10 capping off the major performances by the Titan Boys' Varsity Cross Country team.

Although this meet did not qualify any of the runners for CIF, Michael reflected after the meet, "We improved greatly from the first meet of the season. We hope that we can keep this strong effort up for the rest of the meets."

The Titan's next meet, The Cougar 2 Mile, takes place next week on October 30th at the Azusa Pacific University.



Sophomore Middle Blocker **Kathleen Sloan** rises above the net to block a Wildcat spike over the net during Tuesday's game against Monrovia.

Michael BernStein//TITAN SHIELD

Wildcats End Titan Winning Streak

By Doug Mayberry
Staff Writer

This past Friday, October 16, the San Marino Titans hosted the Monrovia Wildcats for a league showdown between two Rio Hondo powerhouses. The Titans were considered underdogs in this situation, with the number one Wildcats trying to extend their winning streak against the Titans to seven consecutive wins.

The Titans started off on a good note, with Senior Captain Wide

Receiver Stevie Yortsos returning the ball to the Titans' own 18-yard line. From there, the Titan offense began to roll, conducted by Senior Captain Quarterback Joe Forgatch. The drive started off with a 13-yard reception to Senior Tight End Reed Semcken and from there, the Titans began their eternal march downfield toward their opponents end zone. Senior Fullback Ben Harwich rushed for six yards on the drive, but after three plays, the Titan machine sputtered and a false start was called against their

protagonists.

This brought up a long third down and 11. However, the Titans failed to execute and were forced to punt.

After the punt, the Monrovia Wildcats brought their prolific offense to the field and after 10 plays and 64 yards, a Wildcat scored on a 3-yard touchdown run. Headed by Junior Quarterback Nick Bueno, the Wildcats offense showed their all-but-outstanding ability.

With a rejuvenated offense,

the Titans began their drive at the Wildcats 40-yard line and started the barrage of plays. The drive was eventually capped off with a reception by Senior Wide Receiver Tim Lo. Although Stevie missed the PAT, the Titans kept the game close, ending the first quarter of play with the score standing at 6-7 in the Wildcats' favor.

But the game was far from over. Although the first two Titan drives of the second quarter resulted in punts, each drive was a well-fought battle.

The beginning of the second half stood at a standstill when the third quarter ended with the score 6-14.

The fourth quarter came down to much of the same, both teams stagnant in score until the last five minutes of the game. Rather than back down into defeat, Joe scrambled out of the pocket and ran into the end zone, closing the gap to 12-14 in favor of the Wildcats. Down two points and looking for the tie, San Marino tried for a two-point conversion after the touchdown.

Joe started out of the shotgun, with a three wide receiver set. Joe already knew his intended receiver. Stevie stood out left and ran a short out. Joe coiled his arm back and launched the ball. Unfortunately, a Monrovia defensive back read the play and dove out to deflect the pass. Joe's pass fell short, silencing the crowd. San Marino lost the game 12-14 to their league opponent.

After the game, Joe noted on the execution of the Titans saying, "I think we can walk away from the game proud because we played with a perfect effort which is all you can ask for. We just need to work on our execution."

The Titans now grasp a 5-1 record as they continue league play hoping to improve this record during tonight's game against the South Pasadena Tigers.



Senior Running Back **Benny Hung** runs down field and stiff arms a Wildcat defender in last Friday's 12-14 loss against Monrovia.

Justin Quan//TITAN SHIELD

Los Angeles Basketball Preview

Lakers

By David Gelt
Managing Editor

After a short offseason, Guard Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers are poised and ready to repeat as NBA Champions.

After finishing the regular season with the best record in the Western Conference and a game behind the Cleveland Cavaliers for the best record in the NBA, the Lakers ran through the first two rounds of the Western Conference playoffs to face the Denver Nuggets in the Western Conference Finals.

In the Conference Finals, the Lakers and Nuggets squared off. The Lakers earned their ticket to the NBA Finals winning the series 4-2. The Lakers then won the NBA Finals in dominating fashion, crushing the Orlando Magic in five games to earn their 15th NBA Championship.

In the offseason, the Lakers watched Small Forward Trevor Ariza depart for Houston but added Small Forward Ron Artest.

To start out this season, Head Coach Phil Jackson will start Guard Derek Fisher, Kobe, Artest, Forward Pau Gasol, and young Center Andrew Bynum. In last season's playoffs, Fisher played good defense and hit a game winning three-point shot

against the Magic. Although hurt for much of last season, Bynum showed signs of dominance when he was healthy.

Artest signed with the Lakers this offseason after a year in Houston. Artest has played solid defense his entire career, winning the Defensive Player of the Year award multiple times and is a threat to score at any time. Kobe will come into the season hungry for a fifth championship.

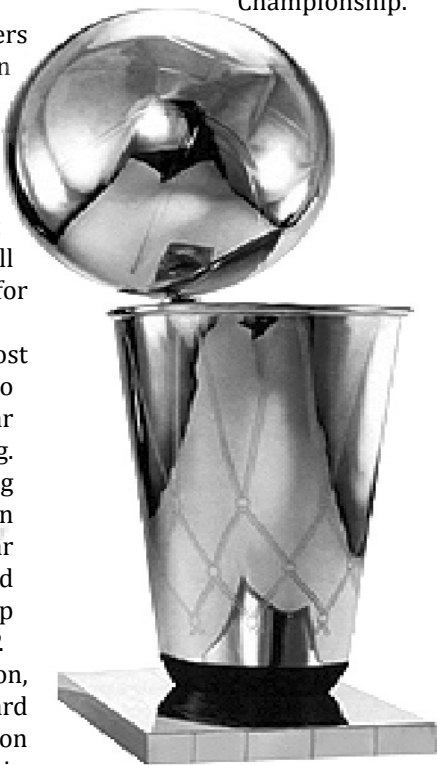
After winning his first Most Valuable Player award two years ago, Kobe made it clear that he wanted another ring. This season, despite watching Cleveland Forward LeBron James take home regular season MVP honors, Kobe led his team to the Championship where he won the Finals MVP.

On the bench this season, Los Angeles will have Forward Lamar Odom, Guard Shannon Brown, Guard Sasha Vujacic, Guard Jordan Farmar, Forward Josh Powell, Forward Luke Walton, and Center D.J. Mbenga all playing major minutes this season.

Los Angeles seems ready to run through the regular season again. The Lakers is staring at the one seed in this year's Western Conference Playoffs.

No other team this year seems to have the talent in their lineup or the depth on

the bench to challenge the Lakers. Look for Los Angeles to win the franchise's 16th NBA Championship.



Clippers

By Luke Benuska
Sports Editor

Every single year when basketball season rolls around, all eyes are on the Lakers. But, this year there will be two teams to watch for in Los Angeles.

Common perception is that the Clipper can never win as a

franchise, but things are looking different this year. Many people have not watched them over the last couple years and nobody has seen what is brewing.

The Clippers have made several great draft picks in the last couple years, and the young talent is really contributing to the team. The selection of Forward Al Thornton from Florida State in 2007 is beginning to seem very promising. Thornton is a very large physical talent that has brought good energy to the team. An extremely athletic forward, he serves as a mismatch against many teams.

However, Thornton needs to work on his shot selection because he tends to take shots that are simply out of his range. In the 2008 Draft Los Angeles selected Guard Eric Gordon from Indiana. Gordon was one of the biggest impacts on the team in his rookie season last year. He has established himself as one of the leagues better scorers, with an average of 16.1 points per game.

However, the Clippers did not have a very promising season, despite the solid play of both Gordon and Thornton. But on the bright side, that landed them the first overall selection in this summer's NBA draft.

The obvious selection was college superstar Forward Blake Griffin. The Clippers did not pass up on this opportunity and selected

him without hesitation. Combine these three young players and you have a very solid lineup for years to come.

But, the Clippers also have some veteran talent that will help them make a playoff run. Led by veteran Guard Baron Davis, and Center Marcus Camby, the Clippers have experienced players that know how to play the game the right way.

Last year the team also showed bright spots in big games. One of which is when the Clippers destroyed the Boston Celtics last year at their own Staples Center.

The Clippers have also faced many other high caliber teams and have beaten them.

On the other hand, they have also played down to some of the worse teams and lost to many of them. If they wish to have a good season, they need to play their game to the best of their ability regardless of the opponent.

This season the Clippers could make a huge step forward, and I believe they will. They have several star talents across the NBA, but they need to buy into this season and play aggressively in all their games. The Clippers are always said to be "cursed" by many analysts but this year, they will show everyone that they can win games. I predict that Los Angeles will shock the NBA along with its watchers and make the Western Conference playoffs.

Broncos’ Success Headlines Early NFL Surprises

By **Luke Benuska**
Sports Editor

The National Football League (NFL) is the biggest league for the most popular sport in the United States. Millions of Americans turn on their televisions to watch NFL games on Sundays, and through the first six weeks of the season there have been several players, teams, and coaches that have surprised everyone.

There is always a feel good story that the media and the American public are all over. The Denver Broncos are definitely this year’s feel good story. They collapsed at the end of last year when they found a way to blow a three game division lead with three weeks remaining in the season. After this notorious collapse, soon-to-be hall of fame Coach Mike Shanahan was fired. The Broncos then went on to hire Josh McDaniels, a young assistant coach from the New England Patriots. McDaniels and the Broncos then fell into a terrible situation when franchise Quarterback Jay Cutler was mentioned in trade rumors. McDaniels quarterback from New England, Matt Cassell, was on the trade block, and McDaniels was considering trying to get him. This angered Cutler greatly, and he demanded a trade. They traded him to the Chicago Bears for draft picks and Quarterback Kyle Orton just weeks later.

But, Cutler was not the only player that was frustrated this offseason. Star Wide Receiver Brandon Marshall, who has a very bad history and many character

issues, began to act horribly at practice. He seriously wanted an extension to his contract but he was not getting it. So in response to that, Marshall also demanded a trade. To make matters worse, video clips began to appear of Marshall dropping balls in practice on purpose, and him punting balls out of frustration. The Broncos did not respond by pursuing the contract extension, but rather by dealing out a suspension for the rest of the pre-season. This seemed to humble Marshall because the public has not heard anything bad with that story since.

The season started and no one was even giving the Broncos a chance. They got rid of one of the NFL’s premier quarterbacks, and they had a very weak defense in the prior season. In Week One, the Broncos played the Cincinnati Bengals, and after a touchdown late in the fourth quarter it looked like McDaniels and the Broncos were going to start the season with a loss. But with seconds left, Orton threw a pass intended for Brandon Marshall down field. Cincinnati Corner Back Leon Hall batted the ball away from Marshall, but it landed in the hands of Denver receiver Brandon Stokley. Stokley took the ball 87 yards for the game-winning touchdown.

They did not look back from there winning their next three games. Denver was sitting at 4-0, but they had the Patriots in Week Five. This was a huge game for both the team and for McDaniels as a coach. This game would show whether the Broncos were a fluke, or if they were the real deal. And

it was a chance for McDaniels to stick it to his old boss and team. The Broncos came and never even blinked; they played the Patriots tough the whole game and won it in overtime on a Matt Prater field goal. The following week they beat rival San Diego Chargers in San Diego. They have won their first six games and are looking like a great team.

One of the biggest surprises that goes along with Denver is the performance of their defense. They are first in the NFL in points allowed and ninth in yards allowed per game. leading analysts attribute this recent success to the shift of the defensive scheme, and the performances of a few players.

Shifting to the 3-4 defensive

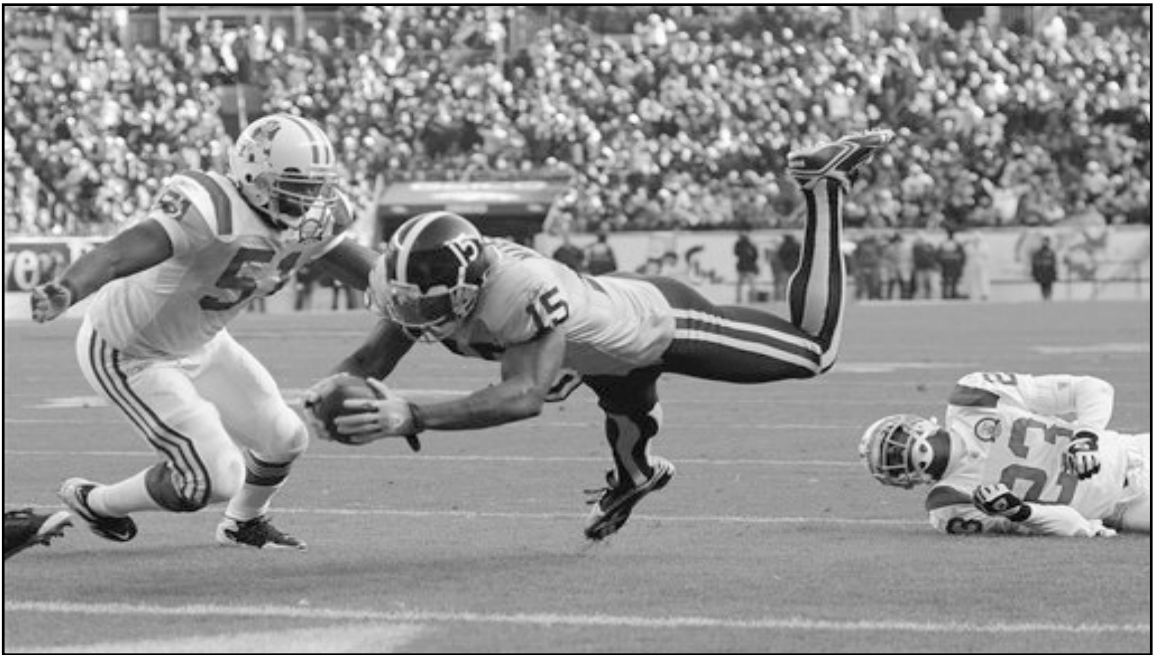
scheme emphasizes the speed of their defense. Defensive End Elvis Dumerville has been a monster for the Broncos this year. He is very undersized for a defensive lineman but has dominated bigger lineman all year with his speed. Veteran shutdown cornerback Champ Bailey also contributes greatly to the defense. Bailey has been in the league for years and has shut down many receivers in his career.

With Dumerville and Bailey leading the defense, Orton leading the offense, and McDaniels overseeing it all, I believe the Broncos will continue their success. They make an inspirational story, but the question that one must ask now is will there be a fairy tale ending? Only time will tell.

Other Notable Suprises:
Cedric Benson: Benson at the start of this week was third in the NFL in rushing yards. Benson has put up these Pro Bowl numbers behind a suspect offensive line.

Jim Caldwell: Caldwell is replacing Tony Dungy as the Colts head coach, and there was much speculation about how well he would do. The Colts answered by letting their 6-0 record speak for itself.

New Orleans Saints: The Saints finished last in the NFC South last year. They are currently first in the division with a 5-0 record. Led by Quarterback Drew Brees, and a new and improved defense, this team looks very good.



Broncos Wide Receiver **Brandon Marshall** dives into the endzone to score the game tying touchdown in the fourth quarter against the New England Patriots, eventually leading to a Denver victory. *Courtesy of espn.com*

Water Polo Falls to Tigers Golf Plays in Prelims

By **Justin Le**
Sports Editor

The San Marino Boys’ Water Polo team hosted their game against the South Pasadena Tigers on Thursday, October 15.

Under slightly chilly weather conditions, the Titans were unable to effectively execute plays or put a stop to the Tigers’ offense. In the end, San Marino could not pull out a victory, falling short to the Tigers 4-12.

At the start of the game, San Marino seemed evenly matched with the Tigers. Senior Goalie James Adams reached out to block a Tiger throw from the right side of the pool. Swimming down to other end of the pool, Sophomore Left Wing Everett Phillips received a

pass and launches it straight into the South Pasadena net. Without hesitation, a Tiger answered back, throwing the ball past Adams and into the net.

Almost immediately, the Tigers scored again off a missed ball off the top of the net. Junior Primary Set Taylor Wong and Junior Utility Tiaga Gutterres tried to get even but Taylor’s shot was off and Tiaga’s was blocked.

However, the Tigers managed to rack on another point at the end of the quarter, throwing a ball under James’ right arm and into the goal.

The Titans failed to hold off the Tiger offense in the second. Right off the bat, the Tigers earned two steals and two points off of fast transitions, bringing the score to

1-5. South Pas seemed to bring the heat, attempting to score every possession. The Tigers had four more shot attempts; James blew two and the other two flew over the net.

The Titans could not hold off the Tigers offense twice more, allowing them to extend the score to 1-7. Senior Left Flat Kerem Taskin temporarily halted the Tiger offense when he deflected a shot from a Tiger attacker.

However, the Tigers earned another handful of steals and scored on fast breaks. Kerem tried to answer back once more but his shot was too short. Despite two more blocks from James however, South Pasadena was able to score again, tipping in the ball off the side of the net to bring the score to 1-9. The Titans picked up their offensive pace in the fourth quarter, putting three more points on the board. Everett managed to score again launching the ball over the Tiger goalie’s head. Despite two more misses from the Titans, they scored once more, as Tiaga shoots from the far left and scores.

Nonetheless, the Tigers retaliated and score again. With a last effort, the Titans managed to score once more as they were defeated 4-12.

The San Marino Titan Water Polo team will face off against the Monrovia Wildcats next Tuesday, October 27. They are looking to defeat Monrovia in hopes of gaining confidence for the rest of the season.

By **Chanica Veranunt**
News Editor

The San Marino Girls’ Golf Team partook in the Hansen Dam Pre-Lims Tournament on Wednesday, October 21.

In addition, San Marino lost to the Westridge Tigers 295-272 on Monday, October 19, at the Alhambra Golf Course.

“We started the season with the best round. Although it was a loss to Arcadia, it was a starting point that I thought it would lead to a fantastic season,” commented Coach Wyeth Collo.

The Lady Titans who participated in the match included Junior Charlene Hsu; Sophomore Chanica Veranunt; and Freshmen Emilie Hsu, Caroline Van Hiel, Elizabeth Van Hiel, and Gina Wang with scores of 62, 50, 68, 56, 59, and 58, respectively.

Coach Collo believed how in nearly every match, the Lady Titans had a chance to win.

Furthermore, the Lady Titans placed fifth overall in the Rio Hodno League match at the Santa Anita Golf Course on Thursday, October 15.

During the match, Captain Senior Tiffany Chang, Juniors Chelsea Lam, and Christina Lin, Sophomores Camille Wang and Carol Young; and Freshman Gaby Arifin competed to earn the scores of 53, 59, 48, 48, 46, and 58, respectively.

Schools that participated included: Arcadia, Burroughs, Burbank, Crescenta Valley, San Marino, and Mark Keppel with the scores of 213, 229, 242, 249,

and 252, respectively. Mark Keppel also took part in the event, but was disqualified due to their lack of players.

In addition, San Marino participated in a match against Arcadia High School at the Santa Anita Golf Course on Monday, October 12 and in the Arcadia Golf Tournament on Thursday, October 15, where they finished a close fifth overall. Schools that participated in the tournament included: Arcadia, Burroughs, Crescenta Valley, Burbank, and San Marino with the scores of 213, 229, 242, 249, and 252, respectively.

Mark Keppel was again disqualified due to the lack of players.

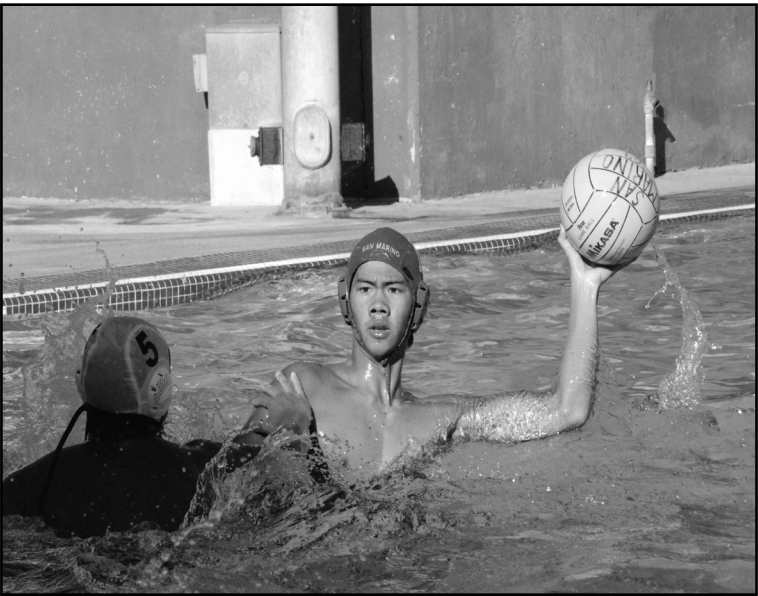
Additionally, the San Marino Titans partook in the El Cariso Golf Tournament on Thursday, October 8, finishing fourth overall.

The Lady Titans also participated in the Burbank Golf Tournament on Thursday, October 8. Schools that participated include: Arcadia, Burroughs, Burbank, Crescenta Valley, San Marino, and Mark Keppel with the scores of 180, 190, 209, and 223, respectively.

Mark Keppel was disqualified due to the lack of players.

“We are a young team and the future looks very good for next year,” reflects Coach Collo after the match.

The Lady Titans who now qualify for the finals include Camille, Tiffany, and Christina, all of whom will play at the Rio Hondo League finals next week on Tuesday, October 27.



In last week’s lost against South Pasadena, Sophomore Right Wing **Alex Kang** advances the ball up the pool. *Kerry Chen/TITAN SHIELD*

Happy Halloween!!



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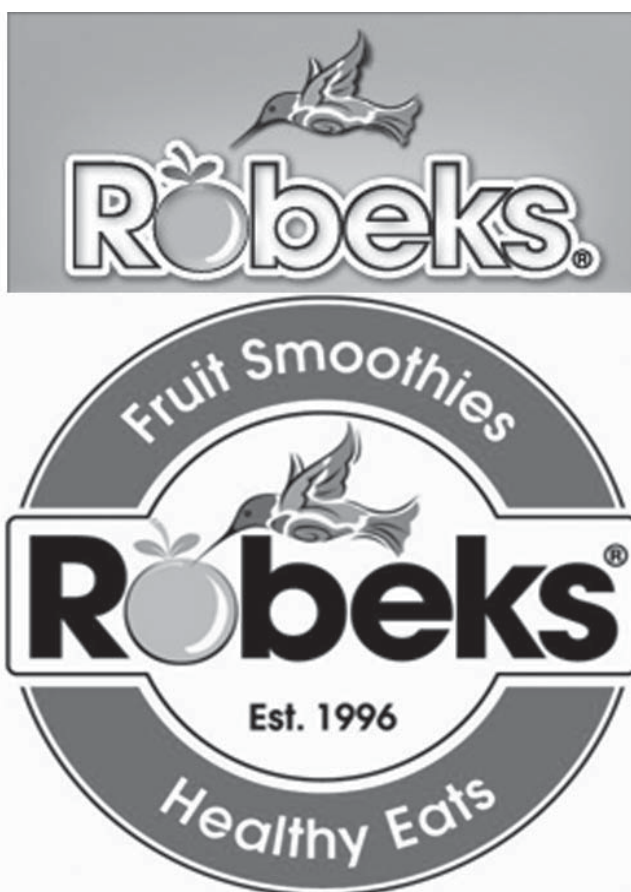
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ASB Historian **Senior Andrew Ching** prepares for Red Ribbon Week by tying ribbons on trees around campus. *Andrea Chiu//TITAN SHIELD*

ASB Hosts Red Ribbon Week

By Helen Hejran
Staff Writer

SMHS ASB hosted four events throughout October including Red Ribbon Week from October 19 to 23, Movie Night on October 20, the October 19 California Pizza Kitchen (CPK) fundraiser, and the Noodle World Fundraiser on October 6.

Red Ribbon Week is held to give an understanding on living an alcohol and drug-free life to the student body.

“[Red Ribbon Week for creating] awareness concerning the problems related to the use of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs and to support the decision to live a healthy, drug-free lifestyle,” commented ASB President Senior Stephanie Chow.

Red Ribbon Week is a national event that began in California in the mid-1980s. Former President Ronald Reagan and Former First

Lady Nancy Reagan nationally recognized Red Ribbon Week in 1988. Currently, over 80 million people participate in Red Ribbon Week every year. Red Ribbon Week is arranged by the National Family Partnership (NFP) in tribute to Enrique “Kiki” Camarena, a U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agent, who died in the fight against drugs.

“[Red Ribbon Week] affects us in a positive way because it brings about the idea of no drugs,” reflected ASB Athletics Director Senior Ravin Ratnayake.

Throughout the week, there were red ribbons along Huntington Drive. In addition, students received the opportunity to sign a pledge that states how they will live drug-free life. On Thursday, students

(Continued on page 5)

Future of Adobe House at Risk

By Amrapali Gokani
News Editor

San Marino Unified School District (SMUSD) is debating about moving or demolishing the Michael White Adobe House. The decision will be made on October 27.

The San Marino School Board held a series of public hearings on the future of the Adobe house. The house is currently located in SMHS next to the swimming pool. Over the past years, the house served as a storage area for SMHS cheerleaders and as the home for the San Marino Historical Society before they moved.

According to old school board agendas, SMUSD has been looking for a place for the Adobe

since 1991.

With breaking foundation and termites, the house is no longer safe for occupation. The insurance company of SMUSD has offered \$175,000 to bring the issue of the house to a swift outcome.

Currently, four different possibilities have been discussed. These include the Adobe being left as it is, moving it to Lacy Park, refurbishing the building up to standards, and disassembling the building and to reconstruct it at a later time.

School Board President Jeannie Caldwell told the *San Marino Tribune*, “We would entertain any legitimate option that would have as an outcome a move to Lacy Park.” However, the price it would cost to move the Adobe to

Lacy Park has not been favorable to the school board nor the district budget. The 1.4-mile move would cost at least \$1.6 million. In addition, the upgrades the house needs in plumbing, electrical, flooring, and roofing would cost anywhere from \$500 to \$70,000 once the Adobe reaches Lacy Park.

“Our experts are telling us they do not have evidence of a successful move of an adobe. We’re trying to find a way to protect and preserve as much of the original adobe as possible, but it’s very difficult,” commented SMUSD Superintendent Dr. Gary Woods to the *Los Angeles Times*.

SMUSD placed the Adobe

(Continued on page 4)



The Michael White Adobe house, whose future is undecided, stands on SMHS property behind the swimming pool and next to the baseball field. *Vivian Lee//Titan Shield*

Tennis Triumphs Wildcats

By David Gelt
Managing Editor

On Tuesday, October 20, the San Marino Lady Titans’ Varsity Tennis team handled the Monrovia Lady Wildcats in a 18-0 rout. In the first round of singles, Junior Number One Singles Player Michelle Chee won her match 7-6 over the Monrovia Number One Singles, Sophomore Number Two Singles Player Michelle Gandawidjaja won 6-1 over her Lady Wildcats counterpart, and Freshman Number Three Singles Player Larissa Phillips won 6-0 over the Number Three Singles Player from Monrovia, giving the Lady Titans a 3-0 lead.

Then, in the second round of singles play, Michelle Chee won her match 6-3 against the Lady Wildcats Number Two Player while Michelle Gandawidjaja and Larissa both extended their

dominance into 6-0 victories over the Number Three Singles Player and Number One Player, respectively.

In the third singles round, Coach Paula Bush substituted Senior Taylor Chan for Michelle Chee in the Number One Singles spot, where Taylor won 6-2

over the Number Three Singles Player from Monrovia. Michelle Gandawidjaja won her third match with another 6-0 victory over the Number One Singles Player for the Lady Wildcats, and Larissa won by a 6-0 score for the third

(Continued on page 14)



Junior Kate Knauss uses a forehand to slap the ball over the net in Tuesday’s game against Monrovia. *Jilly Ko//TITAN SHIELD*



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SMUSD to Lose a Piece of History



Eugene Dryden of the San Marino Historical Society observes the inside of the Michael White Adobe House. *Courtesy of Los Angeles Times*

(Continued from page 1)

House on the market at \$1 provided that the buyer will pick up all the other costs for any decision made.

Dr. Woods stated, “It all comes down to money. We don’t have [the] resources to put into a structure we cannot use. A price tag of over \$1,000,000 is significant money for a small district.”

SMUSD suffered heavy losses last year due to cuts made by the State government. Since the district already has a small budget, the cuts did not aid in providing financial assistance that would be needed for any decision made about the house.

The priority of the house has been low on the school district’s agenda since the 1990s. Yet, as the house continued to deteriorate, student health and safety became an issue.

Even though the price tag for the Adobe has gone over \$1,000,000, many community members do not believe that a 164-year-old building should be removed because it is considered a historical landmark for the city.

“I think it is ironic that a district

that prides itself on its excellence has ignored the Michael White Adobe, a significant historical landmark. I now know that the building belongs to the district which has allowed it to fall into neglect,” San Marino Historical Society member Judy Carter commented to the *Los Angeles Times*.

Carter also mentioned that if any house in San Marino begins to have problems, the city would force the owner to obey the necessary standards of the city-building codes. The city did not use the same method in dealing with the Adobe house.

The Michael White Adobe house has been on the campus since a century before the high school opened and was originally the private residence of Michael White, a European sailor who moved to California.

Members of the community believe that it should be used as a teaching tool and be recognized as one of the 39 still-standing, original adobe houses in Los Angeles County.

Mrs. Caldwell concluded, “Everybody wants it saved, but no one wants [to pay] to save it.”

AFS Offers Study Abroad

By David Chan
Assistant News Editor

The College and Career Center hosted an American Field Service (now officially known as AFS) informational meeting on Wednesday, October 14 at 7 p.m. for students and parents interested in the AFS student exchange program.

The AFS is a worldwide, non-profit organization founded over 60 years ago during the time of World War II. The purpose of the organization is to create and foster intercultural relations between people around the world.

Moreover, the organization offers high school students the opportunity to live with a family in a foreign country and learn their native culture and language.

The meeting consisted of two PowerPoint presentations by AFS field recruiter Ms. Jen Reinhardt and Senior Victoria Drake. Both described their experiences with AFS and gave advice to prospective foreign exchange students.

Additionally, anyone interested in visting another country received a flyer and application packet.

The AFS offers exchange programs that span from one summer to an entire year. The summer programs being offered to high school students include trips to China, France, Italy, Japan, and more. The summer programs begin during June and July.

However, the presenters at the meeting did not suggest going on a semester or year-long program because it could interfere with the acquisition of high school class-credits for graduation.

In each summer program, students stay with their host family for about five weeks.

Students take an orientation class for a week before meeting with their host family in order to become familiar with the country’s language and culture.

After the students leave their host family, AFS spends a week asking them questions about their experience.

The AFS information night coordinator and liaison Mrs. Julie

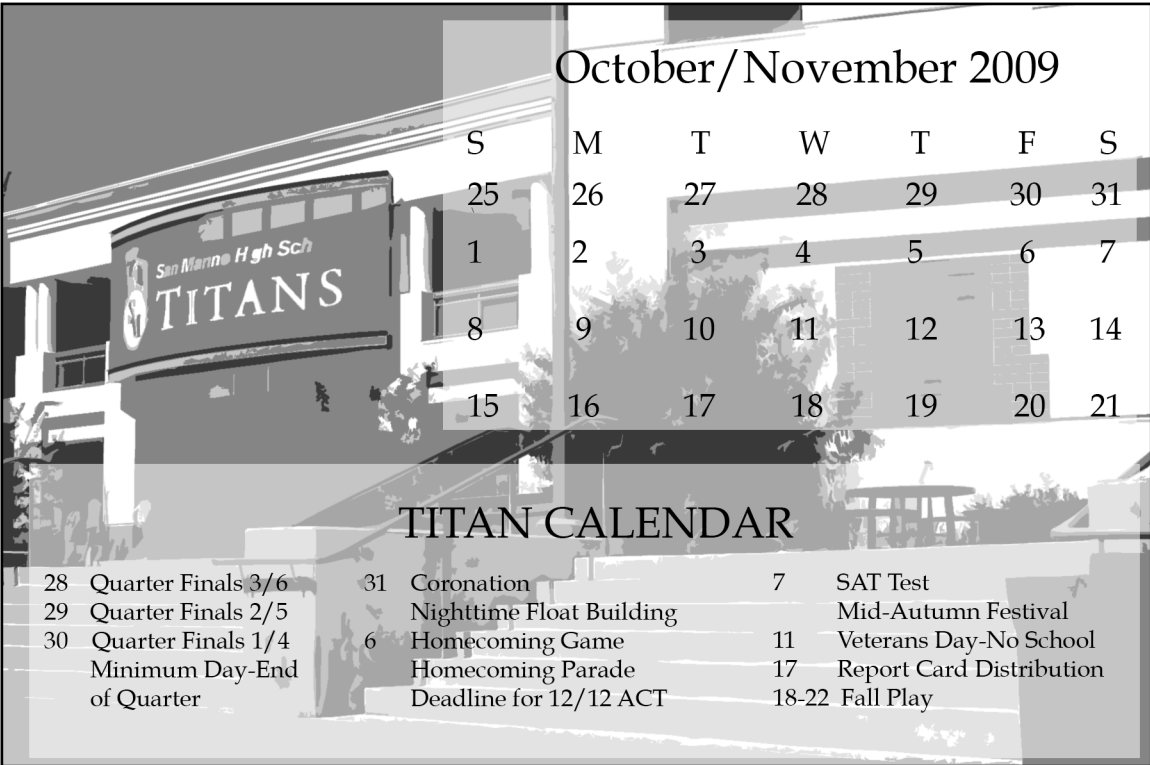
Wofford remarked that she would recommend “students interested in learning a new language or perfecting their language skills, who are open to new ideas, and who aren’t afraid to [open up] and broaden their horizons” to the AFS programs.

In addition, students interested in the exchange program must be in good physical health, range in age from 15 to 18, and have a grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.8.

The summer programs’ tuitions range between \$6,000 to \$9,000, while the year-long and semester programs are \$8,000 to \$12,000.

Sophomore Jordon Dang commented, “AFS looks like a good program, and I would love to go to a new country and experience new things.”

Students who are interested in the AFS program but were not able to attend the information meeting can visit usa.afs.org for more information. Also, students can pick up a brochure and information packet from the Counseling Office.



October/November 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21

TITAN CALENDAR

28 Quarter Finals 3/6	31 Coronation	7 SAT Test
29 Quarter Finals 2/5	Nighttime Float Building	Mid-Autumn Festival
30 Quarter Finals 1/4	Homecoming Game	11 Veterans Day-No School
Minimum Day-End of Quarter	Homecoming Parade	17 Report Card Distribution
	Deadline for 12/12 ACT	18-22 Fall Play

Club Attends AIDS Walk

By Camille Wang
Assistant Features Editor

The SMHS Key Club volunteered at three events in the past two months, the AIDS Walk on Sunday, October 18, the Ability First Gourmet on Sunday, October 4, and the Harvest Moon Festival on Sunday, September 27.

At the AIDS Walk, volunteers stayed from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., walking a total of 6.2 miles each.

“I felt it was a great turnout, we had a lot of people go. It was great to see thousands of other people from other schools attend as well,” Co-President Senior Angel Pan commented.

In a private residence in South Pasadena from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Ability First Gourmet took place.

Ability First is an organization focused on helping children and adults with physical and developmental disabilities, and the event honored patrons.

Key Club volunteers helped

set up for the event by decorating booths and unloading trucks of food.

“We wanted to help with the Ability First Organization because we never really helped them before. We saw their festival online and asked them if we could help,” remarked Angel.

Key Club members also volunteered at the Harvest Moon Festival in Arcadia Park from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The city of Arcadia and the television channel, LA18, asks Key Club to participate in the event every year, due to the large number of attendants and the requirement of many volunteers to run the event.

Sixty members of Key Club volunteered at the festival this year, which has been consistent with the numbers from previous years.

“I think [the moon festival] was really good because this year we had to cut some of the people because we had too many [that

wanted to attend],” commented Co-President Senior William Pau.

Volunteers helped out with booths and inflatable obstacle courses. They made sure that the children did not overcrowd the area and remained safe.

Admittance to the festival was free, but any food from the booths cost some money. However, volunteers received free food.

“I thought this [event] was pretty successful; usually it’s one of our most famous events [among club members]. I could tell that the volunteers helped out not just for community service hours, but because they wanted to help [...] for the joy of volunteering,” Angel stated, “The best part was seeing all the work we did. After we finished, the whole place looked amazing. The fact that we did all this felt like a great accomplishment.”

In addition, Key Club will hold their next event, the ALS Run, to raise awareness for Gehrig Disease tomorrow.

TITAN SHIELD Staff Box

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On Tuesday, October 6, Freshmen **Derek Kwan and Ryan Lee** eat at Noodle World to help fundraise for Homcoming. *Karen Situ/TITAN SHIELD*

ASB Plans Various Events

(Continued from page 1)

be available to sign at the Architectural Rally Point (ARP). Furthermore, ASB will hand out red lollipops at the ARP during Red Ribbon Week.

“Other than Red Ribbon Week, students do not realize how drugs and alcohol is a serious problem. [ASB] thinks Red Ribbon Week will positively support a healthy, drug-free lifestyle,” commented Stephanie.

Moreover, ASB showed the Dark Knight during the movie night. ASB chose this movie because they wanted to promote Coronation since this year’s theme is “A Night in Gotham City.”

ASB held the movie outside the ASB room, and supplied sofas and various snacks such as smores and hot cocoa for the students.

“[The movie night] turned out better than we expected,” stated ASB Sophomore Class President Tyler Ho.

Additionally, ASB hosted a fundraiser at the California Pizza Kitchen (CPK) on Los Robles and Union.

Throughout the day, students could attend CPK to support

SMHS. With every flyer presented, 20 percent of the proceeds went to SMHS.

Fundraising Commissioner Senior Caroline Lushbough received a flyer about benefits for schools from CPK so she contacted the cooperation for the CPK fundraiser.

Earlier this month, ASB hosted another fundraiser at Noodle World to raise money for SMHS. SMHS received 25 percent of the money made throughout that day roughly about \$700 - which concentrates on fundraising for homcoming.

Both Stephanie and Underclassman Representative Sophomore Kristin Charlton expressed how the turnout of the Noodle World fundraiser was better than they expected.

“The food was really good, and not only did we have fun, but we also supported the school,” reflected Kristin.

Today, October 23, ASB will hold a pep rally during lunch at the ARP “to pump up” the student body for the football game against South Pasadena High School that will take place at South Pasadena at 7 p.m.

Smoke Rousts Campus

By **Amrapali Gokani**
News Editor

Excessive smoke appeared on the north side of Neher Auditorium in the electrical room at 12:24 p.m. last Tuesday.

The smoke occurred when the backup power supply in the electrical room started a spark. The San Marino Fire Department, responded immediately and arrived at the school by 12:35 p.m. As they arrived, the faculty evacuated the students onto the softball field located on the upper west end of campus.

After an investigation by the fire department, students returned to the central campus.

When the fifth period bell rang, all students except those who had class in the art wing, auditorium, theater, and 600 wing went to their normal classes. Those who could not return to their classrooms met in the quad, except math teacher Mr. Robert Cornelison’s class, which met in the library.

Students and staff were safe at all times and the fire department and District maintenance and operation team handled the matter “efficiently,” according to a district news release.

Dance Department Chair Ms. Bonnie Hanson explained, “My initial reaction was [that] someone pulled the fire alarm, and [I] was not too sure on how to respond. I did move the girls out to the hallway in the opposite direction of the fire unknowingly.”

Students also had many reactions that ranged from humor that students were in “slight chaos” to those amazed that SMHS may have caught on fire.

“I was at home when I started getting text messages, so I rushed back to school, and when I saw the smoke, I got scared,” Senior Paulene Castro commented.

The smoke did not reach the auditorium, so all the damage was within the electrical room. The room was totally black with smoke so it will need to be repainted. In

addition, the damages included destroyed a couple of racks with coat hangers have been destroyed, and the hangers have been thrown away; the A-frames that advertise productions have been damaged, and the extra lighting equipment will need to be cleaned.

“My biggest worry was [that a] fire would spread to the auditorium. Also, when the custodian and I located [the cause of the smoke in the electrical room], we could not actually see it because there was so much smoke,” Drama Department Head Ms. Blake Williams stated.

The district’s insurance company met with the district on Wednesday to discuss the damage.

Assistant Principal of Guidance and Instruction Mrs. Mary Johnson concluded, “Given the fact that we did not have good information prior to the ringing of the lunch bell, the faculty acted responsibly and evacuated the students, and the students responded very well.”



San Marino firefighters exit the 600 wing after being called to the school for a small electrical fire in the electrical room by the auditorium. *Courtesy of Titan News Team*

Red Cross Gives Back to the Community

By **Chanica Veranunt**
News Editor

The San Marino High School Red Cross Club (RCC) hosted its first blood drive of the year on Wednesday, October 7. In addition, RCC members attended the AIDS walk on Sunday, October 18.

RCC participated in the annual AIDS walk in West Hollywood

and Beverly Hills from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The purpose of the event was to promote awareness about AIDS and “to show that SMHS RCC actually does care about how serious AIDS is,” reflected RCC Historian Sophomore Michelle Pai.

A total of two adults, seven cabinet members, and eight club

members attended the event.

In the past, members volunteered by handing out snacks and supporting the walkers, but this year RCC decided to actually allowed the members to participate in the walk.

“The walk has always been enjoyable since there are many other high school students like us, who were pumped up and ready to walk and make a difference!” exclaimed RCC Vice President Junior Hillary Shar.

In addition, RCC hosted its blood drive in the Multipurpose Room from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. After the blood donation, RCC gave each donor free food, a free shirt, and a coupon that can be redeemed at a local restaurant.

“Since after you give blood, you might feel woozy so we decided to give them something extra as a little ‘thank you’ reward,” commented Michelle.

If a student wanted to donate blood, the individual needed to

be at least 17 or obtain a parental consent form if he or she was 16 at the time of donation.

In September 2009, the National Blood Bank Association introduced new weight and height requirements to prevent the amount of fainting students.

The policy applies to all high school students and donors who are under the age of 19 since young donors are more likely to have negative results than older donors.

Even if students donated successfully in the past, the new policy did not allow them to donate blood if they did not meet the new criteria for height and weight.

“[I am satisfied with the turnout] because with the new restrictions, we thought more people would not be able to donate blood,” commented Hillary.

For students who could donate, they could chose one of the two different types of blood donations.

One uses the Alyx Machine, which utilizes a smaller needle, while the other technique uses a regular sized needle.

If the individual chooses to use the Alyx machine, her or she would save six lives compared to the three lives a regular donor would save.

Throughout the day, 59 students wanted to donate blood, but only 48 were able to reach the requirements. In total, 67 people donated blood, which may save up to 201 lives. The remainder of the donors were adults.

“This year [there were] fewer people who donated because of the new policy, but in all, it was a pretty good turnout,” commented RCC Publicity Junior Charlene Hsu.

Furthermore, members of RCC will attend the LA Memory Walk on Sunday, November 1, the Lupus Walk on Saturday, November 14, and the Down Syndrome Walk on Sunday, November 15.



Senior **Justin Hillman** donates blood in the Multipurpose Room on Wednesday, October 7. *Bonnie Jin/TITAN SHIELD*



ROTARY STUDENT OF THE MONTH

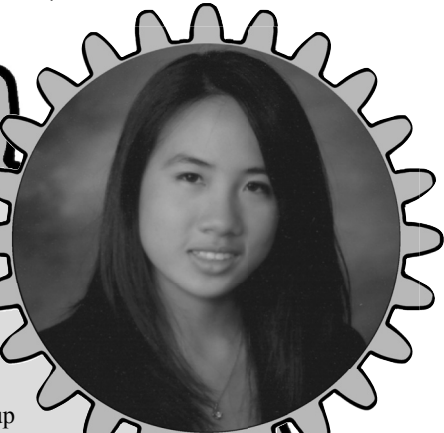
October

By Bonnie Jin
Staff Writer

For many students at SMHS, taking part in one extracurricular activity can contribute to their success in high school. However, Senior Joyce Li participates in multiple school-organized groups. In addition to being co-president of CSF, Joyce is also a captain of Academic Decathlon and an assistant section leader in marching band. However, Joyce finds balancing her activities and schoolwork to be “really stressful.” After joining Academic Decathlon as a sophomore, Joyce has been a captain of the team for the past two years. “Decathlon has helped me plan better, excel, be a leader, and make people feel comfortable. It has also helped with my study skills.” However, Joyce mentioned, “Decathlon is really stressful because we study ten subjects which doesn’t allow me to fit many other activities into my schedule.” However, this makes Joyce no less successful for she has won a gold medal in Super Quiz, a silver medal in science, and a bronze medal for art and music in Academic Decathlon. Even though Decathlon has its challenges, Joyce enjoys the “Decathlon study sessions [because] Decathlon is like family.” The team has formed a strong bond, after meeting three times a week. At meetings, Joyce and her group members are able to “talk a lot and eat a lot of food” while preparing for the competitions. Overall, Joyce’s

experience in Academic Decathlon is considered one of her best memories at SMHS although it is not the extent of her activities. “Music has played a huge role in my life because my mom is a piano teacher, my dad plays the violin, and my brother plays the piano, cello, and drums,” Joyce stated. She developed a talent for playing the piano and flute at an early age due to her family’s background in music. Taking part in the Southwestern Youth Music Festival competitions, Joyce has won two awards during the past two years. She took second place in her sophomore summer and first her junior summer. As an SMHS assistant flute section leader, Joyce considers marching band a great experience. She enjoys “singing on the bus” as they ride to the band competitions, as well as “cheering on teammates at the football games since they work so hard.” Bonding with her fellow band members has made her four-year-experience in marching band unforgettable. Although Joyce’s time in high school will soon be coming to an end, she

Hey Titans!
I can’t even begin to express what a great honor it is to get chosen for this award. During my four years at SMHS, I have seen so many inspirational role models write this very letter, so to have my words and picture here truly means a lot to me. Thank you so much, SMHS. I remember being an anxious freshman, looking up to the gigantic seniors that loomed over us. Now, we are the seniors. Four years have passed so quickly. First off, I’d like to thank everyone who has made my four years here a BLAST! Whether you were a close friend with whom I shared many moments or someone who just gave me a “hi” every now and then, you’ve all made an impact on me, and for that I thank you all. To my friends, thanks so much for inspiring me, laughing at my nerdy jokes and random spasms of happiness. To my fellow band geeks, thanks for a great time playing “ride the pony,” eating at band dinners, and cheering at football games. To my fellow alpaca friends, thanks for reading my crazy emails, and studying late at insane times. I can’t wait to compete with you guys one last year. AZUGGA! :D Thanks for making me feel at home with you guys. Last but not least, THANK YOU SMHS TEACHERS AND STAFF for guiding me and letting me find my own path even when I stumble. All of you have inspired me to learn, not for grades, but for the love of knowledge. Thank you for helping me realize that book smarts will only take me so far and for teaching me skills and habits that will carry me not only through college, but also through life. Thank you so much. The most important lesson that I’ve learned is to pursue what you love, and if you are to do something, do it with passion. Looking at a task like a new adventure is much more fun. Everyday is a new journey. I hope you guys all have just a great time at SMHS as I have. Thanks again!



Sincerely,

Joyce Li

is ready to move on to college and major in business or psychology at Cornell, UC Berkeley, or Stanford. “I will be sad to leave [San Marino], but I am also excited for new experiences,” she stated.

Dancing To Her Own Rhythm

By Jennifer Mauser
Features Editor

Swaying to the rhythm of popular songs at a school dance is often many peoples’ extent of dance experience. However, for Junior Charlotte Morgan, dance is her life as she is a member of the elite SMHS Dance Company and, formerly, three competitive teams. Charlotte joined the beginning dance class as a freshman simply because she “always liked dancing to music.” She quickly fell in love with the art and “was always dancing and practicing outside of class.” That following summer, she decided to audition for Dance Company by partaking in

the intense six-week summer course. “During the summer program, I didn’t know a lot of what the other girls were doing. So I just had to watch everyone else and just jump and hope that I didn’t land facedown. It was definitely an experience,” Charlotte reflected. Upon finding out that she had made the rare and difficult advancement from the beginning class to Company, Charlotte commented, “I was really surprised. I had to go back like three times to make sure I was really on the list. It was hard to imagine that I had actually made it. This has definitely been my biggest accomplishment.” During her first year in Dance Company, she realized how different it was from the beginning class. “So I had to adjust and I also needed to catch up with everyone else. They were a lot better than me at performance so I had some improving to do,” Charlotte stated.

At this time, she was also a member of three competition teams: a jazz duo, a lyrical trio, and a hip hop company of eight people. Throughout the nine competitions that year, her hip hop company earned multiple gold medals while the jazz and lyrical groups won silver and bronze. “There are loads of other styles out there, and it was really cool to experience that,” Charlotte mentioned. This year, she is participating in the statewide Spotlight dance competition. For this program, she had to choreograph a solo that portrayed both technique and stylized dance and perform it in front of judges and college scouts. If she advances in the competition, more colleges will be there to watch her dance. She may even win scholarship money. Charlotte commented, “I think it is a really good experience, even if I don’t win, to just get my name out there so colleges know who I am and how I dance. That’s what is hard about dancing. Because there is so much competition, you really have to put yourself out there and fight for what you want.”

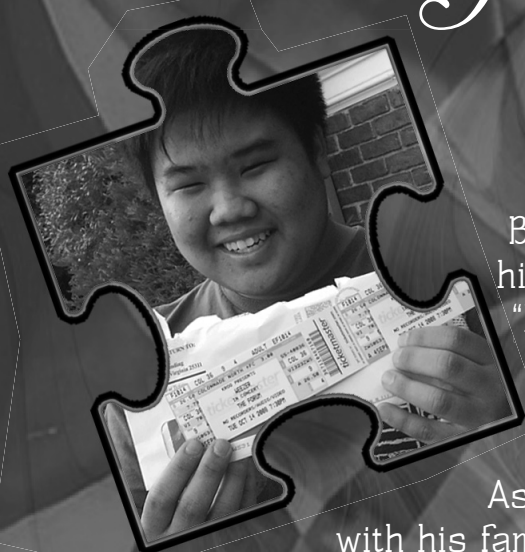
Despite how much time she spends dancing in front of people, Charlotte rarely becomes nervous. She stated, “When I’m performing on stage, everything just goes away and there really isn’t time to be nervous. The music just makes me move.” This year, Charlotte is excited to have the chance to choreograph for the school’s intermediate class as the teacher’s assistant. She also had the opportunity to create a dance for half of Dance Company to perform in Kaleidoscope. Charlotte is planning to apply to schools such as Julliard where she can major in dance before continuing on to dance with professional companies. In conclusion, Charlotte mentioned, “On my dance cubby cover there is a quote that reads ‘Why do I dance? Why do I breathe?’ That pretty much describes who I am.”





In Loving Memory of Christopher Ng

SMHS Class of 2009
April 9, 1991 - September 26, 2009



Born on April 9, 1991, Christopher Ng spent his early childhood in West Covina with his parents and older brother, Karlin. His christening marked a departure from the "K" pattern that ran among his family members; for example, his older cousins on his mother's side are named Karl, Karen and Kara. However, at the last minute, Chris's father David found "Kris" too feminine, and so his newborn son became Christopher.

As a child growing up in West Covina, Chris developed many close-knit friendships with his family, neighbors, and friends. The house next to his belongs to the Ferguson family, whose sons Eric and Mark Ferguson became best friends with Chris and treated him like family. Three houses away lives Jakob Hernandez, whom Chris had known since infancy. Around the time Chris's mother, Elsa, was pregnant with Chris, Jakob's mother was also pregnant with him, so the two of them spent time together as babies. Chris attended elementary and middle school in West Covina until he moved to San Marino after seventh grade to live with his aunt's family. At the time, Chris's mother had trouble taking care of Chris because of her work schedule, so she decided to send him to school in San Marino where he could receive a better education. Initially, Chris did not want to leave the comforts of the home and the people whom he had grown up with, so he found it difficult to adapt to a new life at Huntington Middle School and San Marino in general. He soon made friends on his own after some struggles, but he would return home on weekends to spend time with his family and old childhood friends. Once he settled into high school, Chris was able to enjoy himself more with his friends from SMHS, especially during his junior and senior years.



Beginning from his unique naming, Chris became known for keeping an odd mix of hobbies and interests throughout his childhood and teenage years. At one time, he was so obsessed with plants that he wanted to become a farmer. At home, the backyard housed chickens that Chris and his family had raised from chicks and kept for eggs. He collected kaleidoscopes and in his free time, he enjoyed solving puzzles and folding origami, filling his room with his creations.

Eventually, Chris's main interest became food after watching his mother cook. Although she discouraged him from cooking, Chris ignored her requests and learned to make basic foods. The first food that Chris made was a simple fried egg, and the way he cooked it was so that the yolk remained partially cooked but still runny. He adored all kinds of meat in addition to abalone, crab, and lobster. The first cake that Chris baked was for Kara's birthday, and from then he baked all kinds of pastries for every special event.

In spite of his passion for food, Chris had originally considered attending an art school. Concerned, Chris's mother had spoken to him when Chris was 14 about his plans for the future, and he assured her that not only would he graduate from high school, he would attend college, although he had yet to decide what to pursue. Once Chris showed his deep interest in art, he took afterschool art classes along with various art and ROP programs at SMHS. One day, Chris asked his mother if culinary school was a possible choice for him, but his mother disapproved. Chris was in love with food, though, so he cooked and watched Food Network whenever possible. When Chris baked two cakes for his mother and aunt to celebrate Mother's Day, his mother finally acknowledged how gifted her son was and began to support him.

In a sense, food consumed him as much as he consumed it, so he rejoiced at being accepted into the California School of Culinary Arts. His excitement was enough to make him sign up for a morning class at six a.m., which meant Chris would rise at four to arrive on time. Throughout high school, Chris had woken up early enough to get to school on time but culinary school was an entirely new commitment. He began going to culinary school in July and would bring home all the delicious food he made in class, more than his family could finish. Yet Chris did not just love food; he loved sharing it and talking about it with family, friends, and even his classmates. This generosity came from his heart, and he gave what he had, cupcakes or a kind word. Chris's playful sense of humor lit up the atmosphere, but he also recognized the darker moments in life. Although often others judged him by his appearance, Chris refused. He touched the hearts of those he knew because he could empathize with and understand another person's happiness and pain. Even for those who knew Chris briefly, he made his affable personality and generosity apparent to everyone. He gave and loved unconditionally because he believed strongly in helping others without expectation of reward. All the love and memories Chris had with everyone in his life will endure forever in their hearts.



SINGING LIKE A SUPERSTAR

By Camille Wang
Assistant Features Editor

Many people find themselves in awe of gifted vocalists who can sing beautifully. Freshman Lianna Gutierrez is one of these talented singers with a powerful voice at a very young age. Lianna began singing at the age of three and has been taking singing lessons for the past eight years. Currently, she takes private vocal lessons at LA Master Choral in preparation for shows and competitions. She competes about once every two weeks, usually on the weekends, and has even won several Filipino community singing competitions. Back at Huntington Middle School (HMS), she received first place in their seventh grade talent show. In addition to singing, Lianna enjoys acting and dancing. Last year she played a nun in the HMS

musical, "The Sound of Music." "I sang more than I talked," she remarked on her performance. "It was a fun and good experience; I wasn't really into theatre until middle school." Although many people are afraid to sing in front of large crowds, Lianna is no longer nervous onstage. She considers "performing in front of people" the best part about singing. "In the beginning I was [nervous], but now it's already in my system so I know what it feels like. I feel really free because I'm not really outgoing," she admitted. Lianna's idol is Beyoncé because she is "really talented, well-rounded, and down-to-earth." She even met the famous singer.

"It was the most amazing moment of my life," Lianna reflected. Daily singing rehearsals can be difficult and may interfere with homework, but Lianna still manages "to balance it out." She usually practices singing three hours each day, but on weekends, she commits herself entirely to singing, dancing, and acting. "I wouldn't really be doing anything [if it were not for singing]; I'd probably be better at singing than anything else," she mentioned. Although Lianna qualified for Chamber Choir this year, she had to drop it because she "couldn't go to all the summer classes and it took up a lot of time because of all of the trips and practices that occur

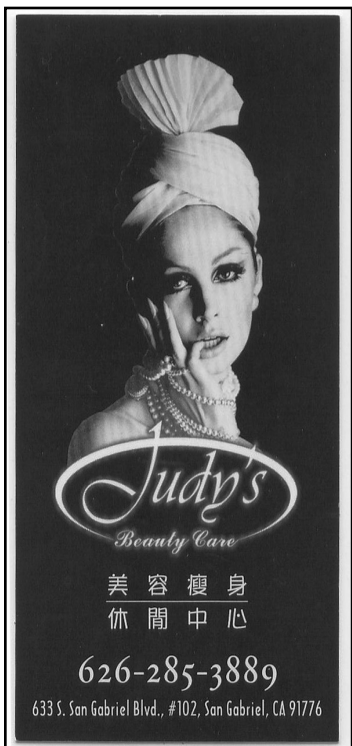
outside of school." Instead, she is enrolled in Girl's Choir. When asked if she would like to pursue a career in singing, she responded without hesitation, "Yeah, definitely." After she graduates from high school, Lianna plans to continue singing in college. "I'm really a USC fan at heart, and they have a good music program. But if I don't get in, I'll probably attend Juilliard or NYU," she mentioned. Lianna concluded, "[Singing is] fun and it's the only thing I'm good at. It's like God gave me a voice and nothing else. When I'm on stage, I feel like I transform into me." Lianna is looking forward to this year's choir shows and cannot wait for her voice to be heard.



Lianna rocks a recent showcase



Lianna Gutierrez



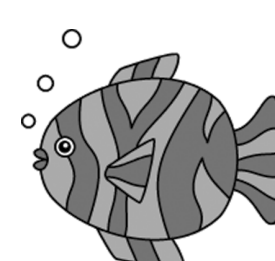
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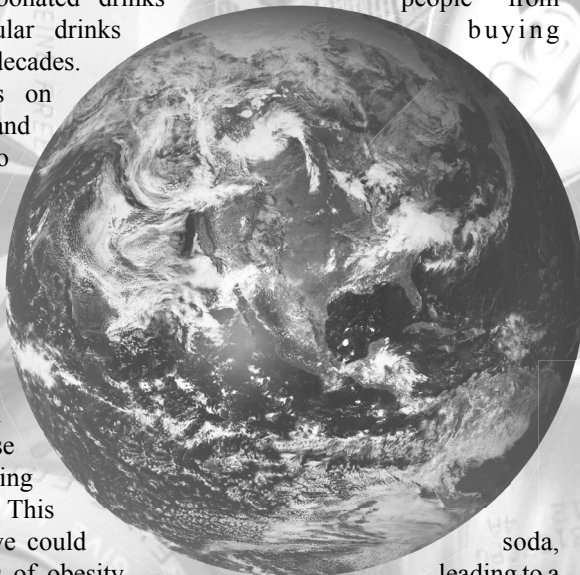
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Soda Tax Provides Environmental Benefits

By Thomas Tai
Staff Writer

Coke, Pepsi, Sprite, Fanta and many other carbonated drinks have been popular drinks in America for decades. Now, lawmakers on Capitol Hill and in Sacramento are considering imposing a federal tax on sugary drinks and other beverages to raise money for healthcare reform and to decrease the overwhelming budget deficit. This proposed initiative could help reduce rates of obesity, while raising money and helping the environment.

During these times of economic hardship, many people do not have money to spend on luxuries, such as soda, providing an excellent deterrent against the purchase of these unhealthy drinks. However, a study conducted by Kaoshiung University regarding Taiwan's tax on cigarettes shows that even a tax of ten Taiwanese dollars (app. 33 cents USD) reduced consumption by over 22 percent. This is clear evidence that even a small tax will significantly affect people's eating and drinking habits. If a tax could affect the



consumption of an addictive substance, then it could certainly affect the amount of soda people drink. So, a tax would discourage people from buying soda, leading to a decrease in sugar consumption and obesity levels. This would result in a reduced number of patients with heart disease and diabetes, lessening the strain on government health programs such as Medicare. This is crucial because studies by the Congressional Budget Office, a nonpartisan government agency, have shown that spending on Medicare alone is five percent of the Gross Domestic Product of the United States. By 2035, this figure is estimated to rise to ten percent. Unless the increase in Medicare spending is stopped, the massive borrowing the government will use to finance Medicare will cause massive tax increases. Americans

must become healthier in order to prevent this from happening. Reducing consumption of sugary drinks will do this. In addition, many states are currently short on funding, especially California which is running a budget deficit of over \$26 billion according to the Office of the State Controller. With the amount of red ink the state is drowning in, any feasible source of income would be extremely welcome. Studies by the Department of Commerce illustrate that California's economy is the largest in the nation and would be the seventh-largest in the world were it an independent country. Because of the budget deficit, important programs have lost funding and many are unemployed. It would be disastrous for the state legislature to allow this marvel of economic to fall because of the lobbying of the American Beverage Association which states its belief that the soda tax "just won't work" when it comes to reducing obesity. Even more importantly, economists have calculated that a one-dollar tax on carbonated drinks would produce over \$10 billion dollars over the



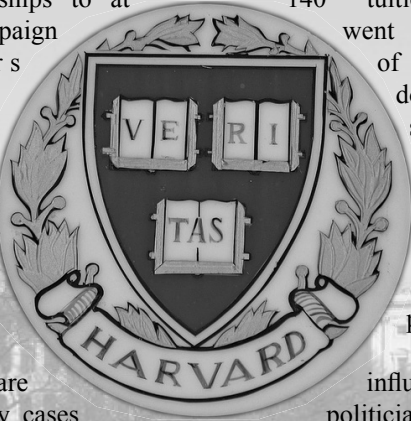
next ten years, enough money to cover almost half of the budget deficit of California. A federal tax could generate even more income for the government to spend. Hopefully, Congress and the government will spend the income from a soda tax wisely. Finally, the tax will give money back to the people it taxes. Currently, the state of California has a program that pays people who bring their used cans, bottles, and other various recyclables to recycling centers. Depending on the state, while a single can or bottle will only fetch a few cents, the accumulation of said cans and bottles along with the tax will motivate many more consumer to recycle, which they may not have bothered to do before. A tax on soda would motivate frequent and occasional soda-drinkers to get their money back by turning in their recyclables to recycling centers. This recycling also helps reduce negative effects on the environment by reducing the amount of fossil fuels burned

during the process of making aluminum cans. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, it takes 229 British Thermal Units, or BTUs, of energy to make one aluminum soda can from newly mined ore, while making a can from recycled aluminum requires only eight BTUs of energy. The fewer fossil fuels that are burned, the less effect they have on the environment and the atmosphere, reducing global warming in the process. Clearly, people must lay a good foundation of environmental protection for the next generation and their descendants. In conclusion, a soda tax is a viable economic solution for state and federal governments. The proposed tax would also promote healthier eating and recycling habits among the public. The concept of placing a tax on sugary, carbonated drinks should not be abandoned. Despite the desperate economic straits this country is currently suffering from, its leaders should not squander this opportunity to create a new policy of financial rationality, improved health, and biological benevolence.

Politicians' Bias Affects Scholarship Recipients

By Helen Hejran
Staff Writer

Many students work hard to earn scholarships, but they may be toiling in vain. Republican Representative Angelo Saviano awarded scholarships to at least seven campaign contributors this past year. Democrat Senator Rickie Hendon gave a two-year scholarship to the daughter of his political action committee treasurer. These are just two of many cases where politicians abuse their power to award scholarships. Across the nation, politicians hand scholarships out to families that support them while more deserving students are overlooked. Universities should make admissions and scholarship decision. Giving politicians the power to choose scholarship recipients is unnecessary and corrupt. Every year, the 177 lawmakers who comprise the General Assembly are allocated the equivalent of two four-year scholarships to give to whomever they choose as long as the recipients live in their district. Politicians are given the chance to reward any student in



their district a scholarship even if the student lacks the grades to merit such a distinction. The *Chicago Tribune* conducted an analysis of the General Assembly scholarships awarded between 2003 and 2008, and at least 140 tuition waivers went to relatives of campaign donors, 12 to students who work for lawmakers, and 87 other politically-connected people. With the influence of politicians, students are unfairly put onto an easier path to get accepted by universities and receive a scholarship. Admission officers feel pressured to admit an applicant who is not eligible for the university, but has the support of a lawmaker, for fear that they will endure repercussions. The *Chicago Tribune's* investigation showed how hundreds of applicants to the University of Illinois got placed onto a special administration path because of their ties to power brokers. If politicians lose the opportunity to give scholarships to students, admission officers will be able to choose the best students without fearing for their careers. Politicians make laws; that does

not give them the experience or knowledge necessary for choosing which students should receive scholarships. Hand-picking students to receive scholarships should be left to the professionals, especially those in the field of education. It is already difficult enough for students to receive scholarships, but when politicians arbitrarily give out scholarships the student has a harder time for no reason. In a survey by *US News*, 90 percent of colleges claimed they did not provide enough grants to every student who could receive financial aid. Scholarships are being awarded to under-qualified, wealthy students when poorer ones who have worked hard do not receive the scholarships they need. Cristina Quinn, a private commissions counselor in Rhode Island, stated how "this has been an awful year for students who need money." An escalating number of students with low grades but high-income families are receiving an increasing amount of merit awards. At the same time, less low- and middle-income families are receiving financial aid and fewer scholarships. She tells *US News*, "If these were A students, I would understand," but some were B- students with

families who have six to seven figure trust funds. State-funded scholarships are no longer fulfilling their original purpose: making college education more accessible. Because most of these programs are based on merit rather than need, funding goes to students who are already privileged. Also, changes in the requirements intended to reduce the number of recipients during tough economy and tight budget years affect the poorest students, the ones the scholarships were originally planned for. For example, the Indiana Twenty-first Century Scholars Program offers a full tuition waiver to all applicants. The program was geared towards students who qualified for free or reduced lunches in the eighth grade, the time when students sign a contract stating they plan to meet criteria that makes them eligible for college scholarships upon high school graduation. Georgia's HOPE scholarship

was the first scholarship to guarantee a full-aid scholarship to a four-year public university or an equivalent amount for a private university to all qualified applicants from households with an annual income of less than \$66,000. HOPE reached many middle-class students who were ineligible for financial aid, but as the economy grew, the income limit was removed and upper-class students also became eligible for the program. State-funded scholarships exist to give the financially weak a chance to not to go to college, despite of financial hardships. Today, when the government is short of money, it makes it harder for the poorest students to be able to receive the scholarships when the already privileged continue to receive them. This is worsened by politicians' bias towards politically-connected students. Allowing politicians to determine who receives scholarships is unfair to many students because lawmakers will usually pick the students whose families are well-connected or donate to their campaigns. A politician's right to distribute scholarships has no genuine purpose and should be taken away for the benefit of students who actually deserve the scholarships.

