



SAN MARINO HIGH SCHOOL TITAN SHIELD

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November 20, 2009

San Marino Titans Clinch Playoff Berth

The SM Varsity Football team will play Rosemead High School tonight at 7 p.m. for the first CIF home playoff game since 1997.



Senior Captain Wide Receiver **Stevie Yortsos** dodges two Temple City defenders as he tries to run through the defense during Friday's game. *Justin Quan//TITAN SHIELD*

By David Gelt
Managing Editor

As the Titans took the field on Friday, November 13, a bid to the CIF Southern Section playoffs was on the line. San Marino and Temple City squared off for 48 minutes, with the Titans coming out on top, 19-14. As if the win was not good enough, San Marino also won a coin toss to give the Titans the Rio Hondo League's second playoff spot. The win improved San Marino's record to 8-2 and 3-2 in league play and dropped the Rams to 5-4-1. Temple City later lost to La Cañada at South Pasadena High School in an overtime tie breaker

to drop themselves from playoff contention.

The night began with San Marino's seniors being acknowledged for their time in the football program. Then, the Rams won the coin toss and elected to differ to the second half and the game began. On the opening kick, Senior Wide Receiver Sam Winston returned the ball 8 yards and the Titans set up shop on their own 12-yard line. However, San Marino could not get much going, and were forced to punt. With the Titan defense on the field, the Rams gained big yards on the first play. However, the defense made three consecutive stops to force Temple City into a long

field goal, which missed wide left. The Titans then drove down the field with a long drive, eventually drawing first blood in the game when Senior Captain Quarterback Joe Forgatch completed a 19-yard touchdown pass to Senior Captain Wide Receiver Stevie Yortsos in the back of the end zone. Stevie then split the uprights on the extra point to give San Marino a 7-0 lead with just under two minutes to go in the first quarter. On the Rams first play from scrimmage, Temple City connected on a deep pass, but Stevie made a touchdown-saving tackle with no Titan defenders behind him.

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Students Revel In Coronation

By Andrea Chiu
Managing Editor

The SMHS ASB hosted its annual Coronation Ball at Senior Catherine and Sophomore Andrew Barth's residence on Halloween, October 31, from 8 to 11 p.m.

ASB incorporated this year's theme, "Bruce Wayne Cordially Invites You to a Night in Gotham City," by hosting the dance at a "house that looked like Bruce Wayne's mansion" and putting up Joker-vandalized Fun House mirrors amidst the foggy entrance, according to ASB Senior Class President Sarah Havner.

"We wanted to keep it classy and elegant yet make it fit for Halloween," she added.

Planning for Coronation began during the ASB summer retreat in August, when the team in charge of Coronation, consisting of Sarah, Activities Commissioner Senior Aakash

Kumar, and Underclassmen Representative Sophomore Kristin Charlton, brainstormed the location of the dance.

They visited four different homes, took pictures of the landscape and house, and described the layout to the rest of the ASB. After ASB voted, they decided that the Barth's residence was the best choice.

ASB initially started selling tickets on Monday, October 19 for \$25 stag and \$50 a couple for the first week of sales. The following week, prices went up to \$30 stag and \$60 a couple.

With 450 students attending, ASB made a profit of over \$3,000.

"Our goal was just to break even. We didn't want students to pay more just so we could have a profit and we also didn't want to host a cheap-looking dance," remarked Special Projects Commissioner Senior Calvin

(Continued on page 2)



Seniors **Andrew Ching, Stephanie Su, Estelle Chae, Stephanie Lai,** and **Aaron Liou** enjoy the scene at Coronation. *Michael Bernstein//TITAN SHIELD*

Spirit Week Arrives At SMHS

By Helen Hejran
Staff Writer

The SMHS ASB hosted its annual Spirit Week at school from November 2 to 6 to encourage the student body to become energetic for Homecoming.

ASB President Senior

Stephanie Chow stated that Spirit Week is held "to pump up school spirit and show support to our fall sports teams, especially football."

Every day of Homecoming week, students wore various outfits to express Titan pride.

On Monday, November 2, students paired up with their

friends to dress like twins for Match'In Monday. In addition, November 3 was Tube Socks Tuesday, followed by Wacky Tacky Wednesday on November 4. On Thursday, which was Class Color Day, freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors wore red, green, white, and blue, respectively. On Friday, November 6, the entire student body dressed in blue and white.

"[Spirit Week] is one of the few times during the year where students can go all out and have fun. It energizes the student body for the football game," added ASB Underclassmen Representative Sophomore Kristin Charlton.

In addition, ASB held contests throughout the week during snack break and lunchtime in the Architectural Rally Point (ARP).

For each contest, students from



During the Dodgeball lunch activity, Freshman **Buddy McCloskey** throws the ball towards his opponent. *Courtesy of Louis Lau*

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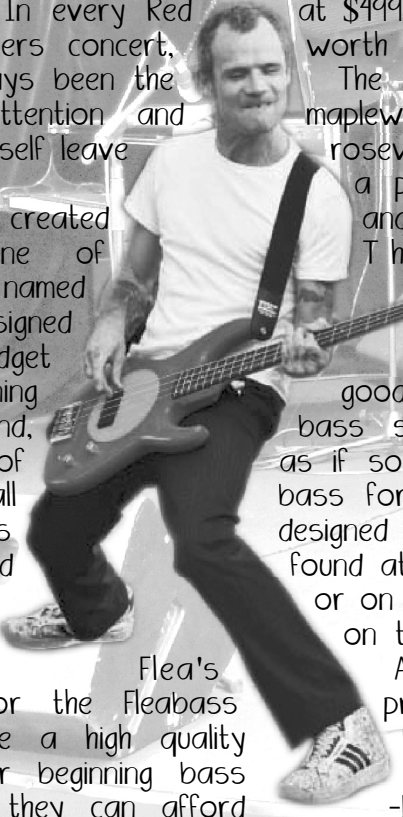
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UNLEASH YOUR INNER ROCKSTAR!

When you think of a guitarist in a band, you usually imagine a guitarist known more for crazy stunts than technique. Luckily for you, Spectrum introduces two members from the Red Hot Chili Peppers and their guitars.

Better known for its songs "Dani-California" and "Snow (Hey Oh)," Red Hot Chili Peppers has been composing its unique alternative rock music since the late 1980's. The members include bassist Michael "Flea" Balzary, guitarist John Frusciante, vocalist Anthony Kiedis, and drummer Chad Smith. In every Red Hot Chili Peppers concert, Flea has always been the center of attention and never lets himself leave the spotlight. Recently, Flea created his own line of bass guitars named Fleabass. Designed with the budget of a beginning bassist in mind, this line of guitars has all of the features of a higher end guitar at the reasonable price of \$499. Flea's main goal for the Fleabass is to provide a high quality instrument for beginning bass players that they can afford to buy.



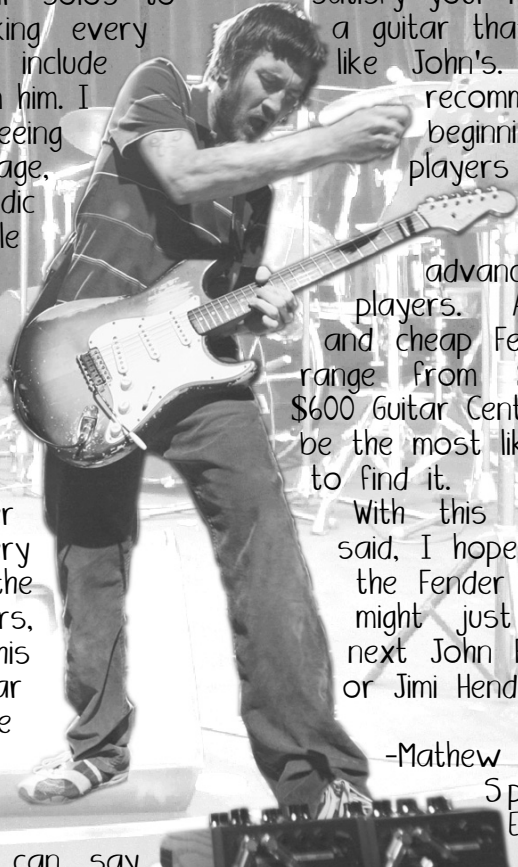
After trying out this guitar, I would say that the guitar feels very comfortable and easy to play. In addition, the bass has the perfect feel and tone for slap or funk bass, and I could easily see Flea playing this on stage. Although it seems a bit pricey at \$499, this bass is completely worth the price. The bass features a maplewood neck with a rosewood fingerboard giving a perfect balance of grip and comfort when playing. The single "soap-bar" pickup is high quality and is relatively good for the price. The bass simply feels and plays as if someone who has played bass for his or her entire life designed it. The guitar can be found at the local Guitar Center or on various guitar websites on the Internet. All in all, considering the price, this is excellent for all bassists.

-David Chan//Assistant News Editor

Inspired by legendary guitarist Jimi Hendrix, John Frusciante has his own unique style of playing the guitar. Known for improvising with fellow band member Flea on stage, John and Flea both make a dynamic duo when it comes to music. John Frusciante himself takes guitar solos to a new level, making every live performance include something new from him. I personally enjoy seeing him improvise on stage, showing his melodic and emotional style of playing. Within his guitar collection, one that is well known is the 1962 Sunburst Fender Stratocaster. Using the Sunburst Fender Stratocaster in every album since joining the Red Hot Chili Peppers, John has made this his signature guitar on and off the stage. I have tried a number of Fenders like John's and can say

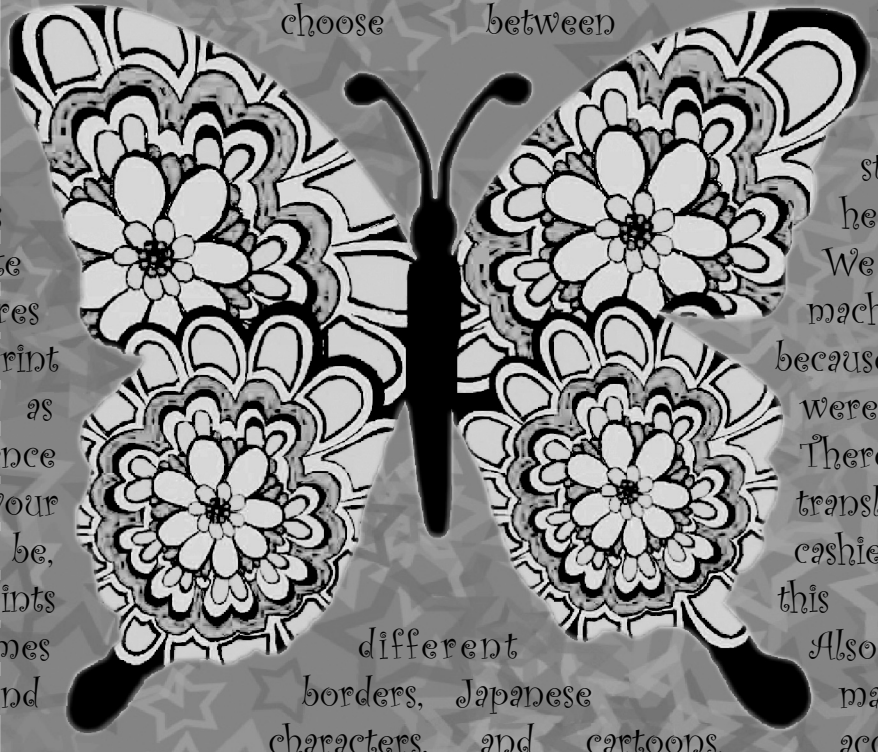
that most models made in the 1960's decade will have a similar playing style and feel to it. The three single coil pickups bring that warm tone to the guitar. Also complete with a maple neck and tremolo bridge, the Fender Stratocaster will surely satisfy your needs for a guitar that sounds like John's. I highly recommend it to beginning guitar players and advanced guitar players. A basic and cheap Fender can range from \$300 to \$600. Guitar Center would be the most likely place to find it. With this all being said, I hope you try the Fender out, you might just be the next John Frusciante or Jimi Hendrix.

-Mathew Lim//Spectrum Editor



CUE IS SOOOO NOT CUTE

For those of you unfamiliar with Cue Studios, it is a Japanese store with photobooths that allows you to decorate your pictures before they print out. As fun as the experience with your friends may be, Cue disappoints when it comes to quality and expenses. Cue machines only operate in Japanese, and each one has different settings and backgrounds. Some settings may include shiny, cute, or pretty, which only adjust the contrast, brightness and glossiness of the pictures. The backgrounds may include a supermarket, a beach, or a

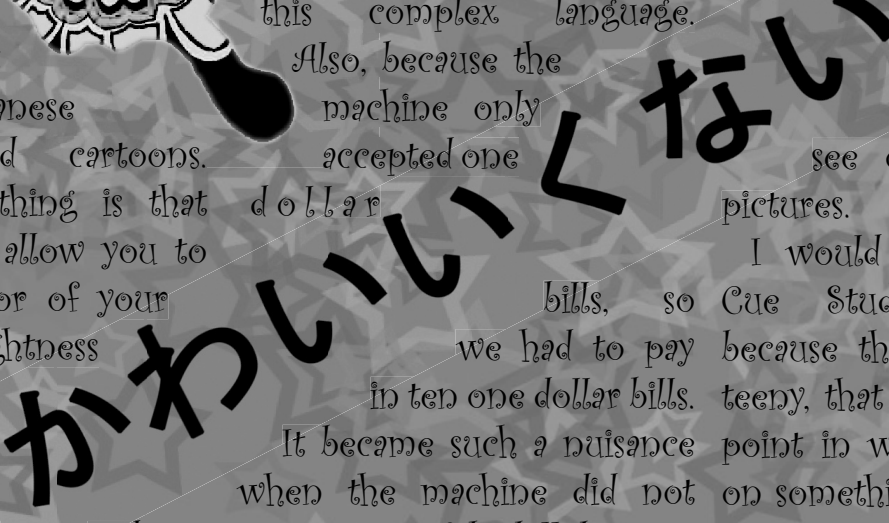


cloud scene. Furthermore, when decorating, you can choose between different borders, Japanese characters, and cartoons. Another neat thing is that some machines allow you to change the color of your hair or brightness of your face. There are many options at your disposal, and you can customize each picture in an unlimited number of ways.

The first time I went to Cue was with two friends. We were extremely excited to go to this epic photo-taking studio because we had heard so much about it. We went into the first machine and were baffled because all the instructions were written in Japanese. There were no English translations but the friendly cashier helped us translate this complex language. Also, because the machine only accepted one dollar bills, so we had to pay in ten one dollar bills. It became such a nuisance when the machine did not accept most of the bills because they were too crumpled. We literally had to try again

and again for about five minutes. After taking seven different poses in various settings and backgrounds, we disappointed again because we could only pick five of these pictures to decorate and print out. After this difficult decision, we proceeded to enhance these pictures. The beautifications were very random: why would anyone want a random cat or tree in his or her pictures? The picture printed out tiny and we could barely see our faces in the pictures. I would not recommend Cue Studios to anyone because the pictures are so teeny, that there is really no point in wasting ten dollars on something you can barely see.

-Karen Situ//Staff Writer





The PC is an excellent computer for anybody. If you want an easy-to-use system that's affordable and customizable, then I recommend you purchase the PC. Having the power to all aspects, this computer allows you to constantly stay updated with the latest technology. When you buy a PC, you can simply choose to add a new hard drive, a new screen, a new graphics card, and a new keyboard. Don't waste your money buying one of those newer Macs; just upgrade your PC. Never again will you have to fall back on the latest gadgets. You're just simply stuck with the same functions that Mac is capable of. A Mac can never again work faster. PC totally dominates the field when it comes to

advanced customization. In fact, you could get a really high quality, top of the line PC, which you can choose to later modify, for the price of a regular Mac. Buying a quality Mac would cost a

fortune. Why would you waste your money on a computer that just recently



included a right click into their production line? It's in your best interest to buy a PC. A PC is fully fitted to how you want your computer modified and is obviously more affordable.

What makes the PC so great is that supports all sorts of computer games. Sadly, Macs do not. Yes, they may be starting to make games that Macs can support, but that doesn't mean that you can play all the games. With a PC, you can play any game you want without having to feel totally disappointed.

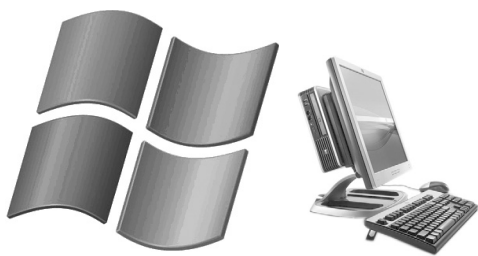
In addition, the recently released Windows 7 will provide the PC with a much better operating system. With new jump

lists and an improved Window's taskbar, your favorite pictures, songs, websites, and documents will be much more easily accessible. It also allows you to have your own personal theme to redecorate your desktop.

Furthermore, the tremendous amount of PC users overpowers the number of Mac users. This already shows how much more PC dominates the inferior Mac.

Overall, if you want a affordable and fast computer, you should pick the PC. You can customize it completely to your own liking. Don't fall for those overpriced Macs. Just go with a PC and save yourself the trouble.

-Mathew Lim//Spectrum Editor



PC VS. MAC

With growing demands for better computers, it is hard to choose between a PC or a Mac. To help make your life easier, Spectrum has decided to compare the pros and cons of a PC and Mac.



For many years, the raging disagreement between a Mac and a PC has affected many consumers' initial decision in purchasing a computer. After experiencing both the PC and the Mac, I have decided that Macs are more straightforward and easier to use. Don't believe me? Just go to the Apple website; it states, "It's gorgeous. Inside and out."

Beginning with their look, Macs' overall sleek exterior shows off its creators' modern design abilities. With a glossy high-resolution display, the screen of every Mac begs to be looked at. The keyboard may have black, white, or silver keys with just enough spacing between the different letters for a comfortable

typing experience. Unlike a PC's hard-to-push keypad, the Mac's keypad does not require any effort to type—a light touch will simply do the trick.

Worried about storage space? Stop! From iMacs to even the thin MacBook Air, these computers are designed to pack more features into less space. Its space efficiency is incredible compared to PCs', whose hard-drive usually requires a backup in order to complete its owners' storage, causing trouble for the user. Macs have prevented this from happening by creating a magnetic power connection



that pulls out easily and can do no harm. Also, for those eco-friendly people, a Mac would be a perfect buy because every Mac is made from recyclable materials including anodized aluminum, strong polycarbonate, and glass.

With their designers thinking ahead, Macs are protected from the thousands of viruses that PCs tend to face. When using a Mac, there will be no more "security alerts" or "sweeps" and owners can use their laptops with no security interruptions. Furthermore, wireless Internet is a click away in a Mac user's world. Instead of going through different boxes to turn on

the wireless in a PC, a Mac automatically displays the networks—from both Macs and PCs—and with a few clicks, wireless Internet will be turned on.

Mac users are never alone when it comes to FAQs. Apple is rated number one in customer satisfaction. When visiting any retail store, experts, called "Mac Geniuses," will be willing to answer any questions and help customers find a perfect Mac. You know, I could go on for days about why Macs are better than PCs. However, time is of the essence so as I end this article on my MacBook Pro, I'd just like to say, "Hello, I'm a Mac and now I hope you are one too."

-Andrea Chiu//Managing Editor

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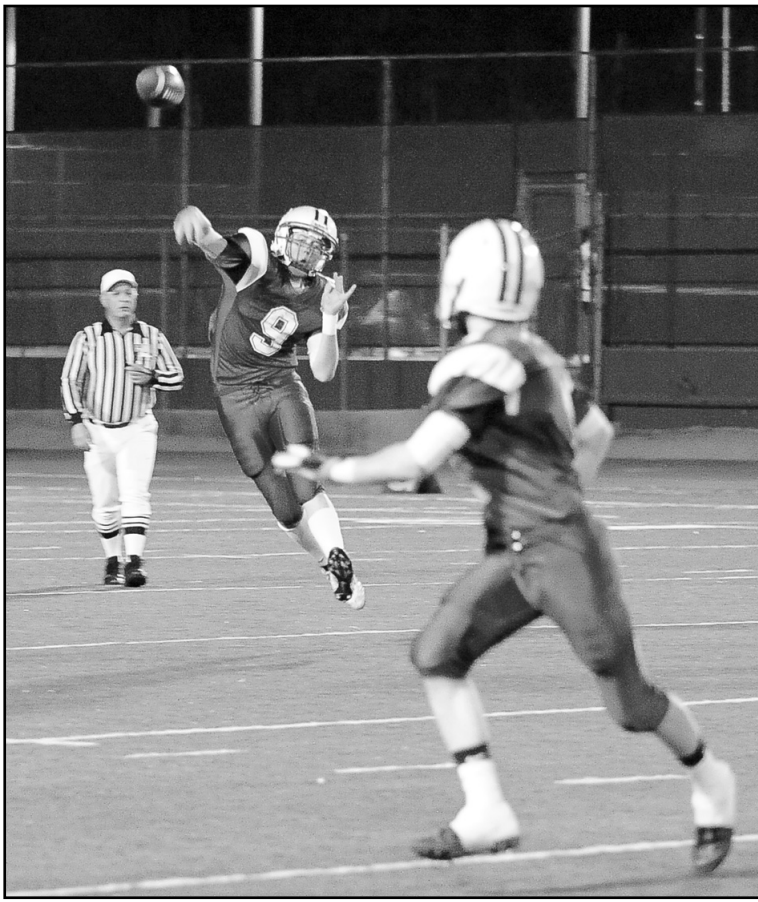
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San Marino Rams Temple City



Senior Quarterback **Joe Forgatch** tosses the ball down field to Senior Wide Receiver **Sam Winston** on an out pattern.

Justin Quan//TITAN SHIELD

(Continued from page 1)

However, the Rams scored on a pass before the first quarter came to a close.

After Temple City booted the extra, it seemed the quarter would end tied up. However Sam returned the ensuing kick off to

the Temple City 36-yard line and Joe hit Stevie for a touchdown on the first play. Still, the extra point bounced off the right post, leaving the score at 13-7 as the first quarter concluded.

The second quarter began with both teams trading possession with their first drives. However,

Temple City was able to score and convert their extra point to give themselves a 14-13 lead. That would be the last score the Titans would surrender for the rest of the game. Both teams traded possession for the rest of the half and San Marino went into the locker room down one, 14-13.

In the third quarter, the Rams received the kick off and began their drive from their own 28-yard line. After Junior Outside Linebacker Morgan Myers shut down a Temple City quarterback run, Senior Defensive End Ben Harwich sacked the Rams' quarterback. Temple City was unable to convert a first down on third and long and was forced to punt.

The San Marino Titans began their next drive out of "Wildcat" formation with Stevie under center. On third down, Stevie hit Junior Wide Receiver Seve Woods for a large gain to put the Titans in Temple City territory. However, San Marino was unsuccessful in moving the ball any further and eventually gave the Temple City Rams the ball with a turnover on downs.

But the Titan defense showed up again, forcing the Rams to punt after three plays and Morgan almost blocked the punt. San Marino then had a "three-and-out" of their own and Temple City received the ball with a chance to extend their lead.

They were able to move the ball at the beginning of the drive but the Titans eventually put a stop to the Rams' offense and took the ball on a turnover on downs. However, San Marino could not do anything with the ball, and were forced to punt. The third quarter then came to a close with San Marino still trailing 13-14.

In the fourth quarter, the Titans forced the Rams into another quick punting situation. Temple City punted the ball, and San Marino took over at their own 48-yard line.

The Titans proceeded to run a reverse to Stevie, which resulted in a 35-yard gain. Joe then hit Sam on a broken play and Sam took the ball into the end zone, however the referees ruled that he stepped out of bounds.

Three plays later, Joe hit Stevie in the corner of the end zone for the third San Marino touchdown. The Titans elected to attempt a two-point conversion to give themselves a seven point lead, however, Joe and Stevie could not connect. With the score, San Marino led the game 19-14 with 7:30 left on the clock.

On the ensuing Ram possession, Temple City moved the ball down the field going about 70 yards in 3 minutes. However the San Marino defense took care of business again, forcing the Rams to fumble. The Titans then ran out the final

4:30 to beat the Temple City Rams for the first time in over 10 years by a score of 19-14.


This victory created a three way tie for second place in the Rio Hondo League between San Marino, Temple City, and La Cañada.

Earlier in the week, the Athletic Directors and Principals of all three schools held a meeting where they conducted a three-way coin flip. The winner received the Rio Hondo League's second seed and the other two would have to play an overtime situation at South Pasadena High School to determine who would represent the Rio Hondo League.

The San Marino players and coaches huddled up on the sidelines as Titan Stadium Announcer Mr. Mitch Lehman read the result. Mr. Lehman announced San Marino had won the toss and Titan Stadium, both the team and the fans, erupted in celebration.

With the win, San Marino locked up the second spot in the Rio Hondo League and a home game in the first round of the CIF Southern Section Playoffs.

The Titans will play the Rosemead Panthers at home at 7 p.m. in the first round of the CIF Southern Section Playoffs. If San Marino wins, they will play the winner of the Azusa-Covina game on November 27.

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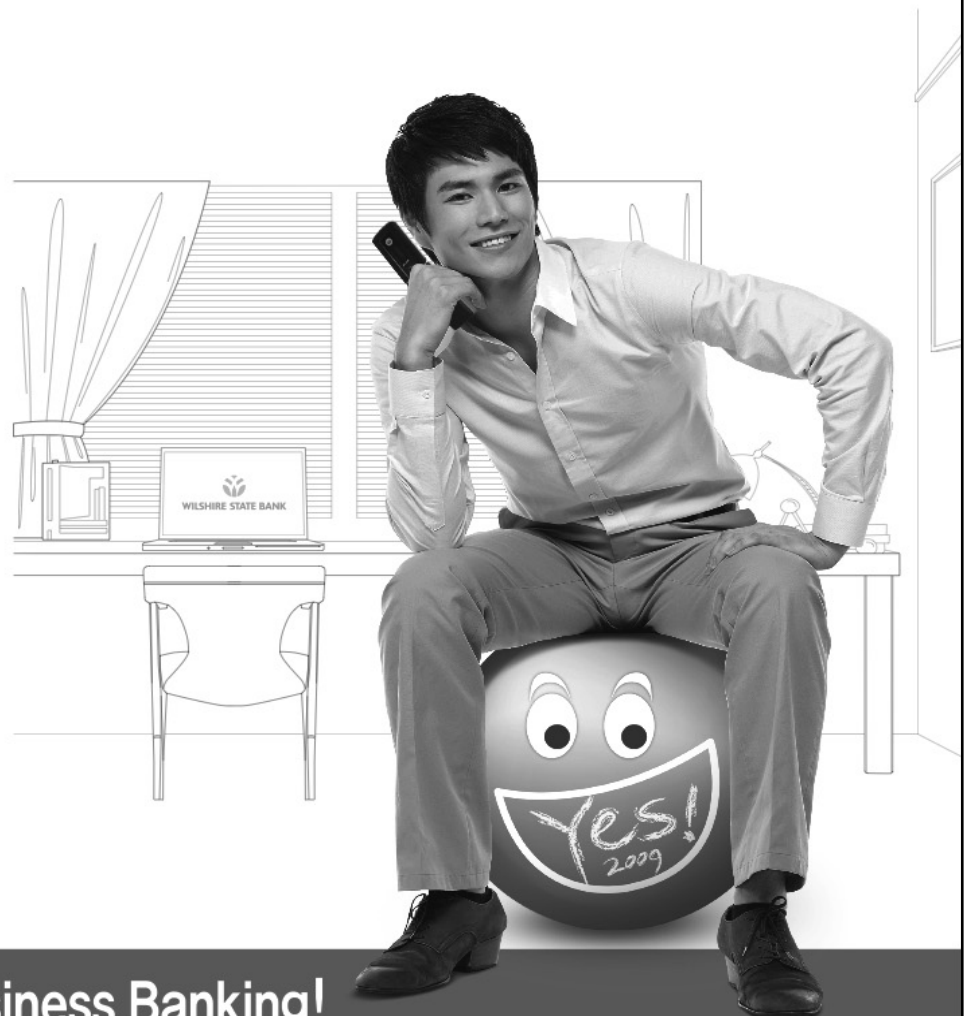
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Girls' Tennis Wipes Out Wolves



Freshman Number One Doubles Player **Larissa Phillips** races up court to slap the ball over the net.
Michael Bernstein/TITAN SHIELD

By David Gelf
Managing Editor

The San Marino Girls' Varsity Tennis team hosted the Lady Wolves of Martin Luther King High School on Tuesday, November 17 in the quarter finals of the Division 3 Playoffs. The Lady Titans won the match by a score of 14-4 to move on to the semifinals.

In the first round of singles play, Freshman Number One Singles Player Dorothy Tang beat the

Lady Wolves' Number One by a score of 6-0.

Sophomore Number Two Singles Player Sarah Gealer also won her match over her Martin Luther King counterpart by a score of 6-0.

Sophomore Number Three Singles Player Michelle Gandawidjaja won her match 6-4, giving the Lady Titans a 3-0 lead.

In the second round of singles, both Dorothy and Sarah beat the Lady Wolves Number Three Singles and Number One Singles,

respectively, by scores of 6-0. Michelle defeated the Martin Luther King Number Two Singles 6-4.

In the third round, Senior Substitute Janney Lin played instead of Michelle against the Lady Wolves Number One Singles, but fell 0-6.

Both Dorothy and Sarah completed their flawless day with 6-0 wins. At the end of the singles portion, San Marino led by a score of 8-1.

In the doubles portion, the Lady Titans continued to dominate. Senior Captain Number One Doubles Player Jeannie Peterson and Freshman Number One Doubles Player Larissa Phillips dominated their first match, defeating the Lady Wolves Number One Doubles team 6-1. Juniors Number Two Doubles Player Marsha Cheng and Number Two Doubles Player Tammy Le defeated the Number Three team from Martin Luther King by a score of 6-1.

Junior Number Three Doubles Player Calyx Chang and partner Sophomore Number Two Doubles Player Crystal Yang defeated the Lady Wolves Number Two Doubles team by a score of 6-3.

Jeannie and Larissa then took on the Number Two team from Martin Luther King 6-2 while Calyx and Crystal defeated their counterparts by a score of 6-3. However, the duo of Marsha and Tammy fell to the Lady Wolves

Number One Doubles pair by a score of 3-6.

Going into the last round of the match, the Titans had locked up a victory as they were up 13-2 with only three points remaining. Coach Paula Bush then subbed in Junior Substitute Kate Knauss for Jeannie, Senior Substitute Taylor Chan for Marsha, and Sophomore Substitute Kimberly Wong for Calyx. Kate and Larissa lost to the Number Three team from Martin Luther King, 4-6.

Taylor and Tammy dominated their match, defeating the Number Two pair for the Lady Wolves by a score of 6-2. Kimberly and Crystal

could not pull off a victory, falling to the Martin Luther King Number One team 0-6. At the end of the day, the Lady Titans moved on to the semifinals, defeating Martin Luther King 14-4.

Yesterday, the Girls' Tennis team traveled to Lakewood High School for their semifinals match. The results were unavailable at press time. If the Lady Titans won their match yesterday, they will play in the CIF Championship match on Monday at 10 a.m. at the Claremont Club. Their opponent is currently unknown but could be San Luis Obispo, South Pasadena, or Pacifica.



Senior Captain Number One Doubles Player **Jeannie Peterson** lunges for a low ball.
Michael Bernstein/TITAN SHIELD

Titan Volleyball Falters to Fullerton

By Justin Le
Sports Editor

The San Marino Girls' Volleyball team traveled to Fullerton for their first round CIF playoff game last Wednesday, November 11. Although the Lady Indians were a better team on paper, the Lady Titans were determined to play their best. Senior Captain Outside Hitter Catherine Barth commented, "We didn't know anything about them or how they played, but we knew we could beat them if we wear on top of our game." However, the Lady Indians outplayed San Marino, winning the match in four games. The Lady Titans walked off the court with a season record of 13-12.

Coming into the first game both teams played with equal force, exchanging points each possession. San Marino picked up the pace as Junior Outside Hitter Kelsey Buckner killed the ball twice to bring the Titans to a 3-1. The Lady Indians hit an out but came back off an ace and two other scores.

The Lady Titans kept up their steady pace and scored off two blocks, a tip and a handful of Lady Indian errors. However, the Lady Titans could not keep up their defense, allowing the Indians to put points on the board.

Slowly, Fullerton began to peel away the Lady Titan lead and

took the lead off a kill straight down the middle. From there the Indians began firing away and slowly extended their lead. San Marino was able to keep up rallies but could not execute. The Lady Indians won the first game 17-25 after San Marino hit the ball out.

The Lady Indians came out in the second game with spirit. Fullerton scored the first five points leading the Titans 0-5. Senior Opposite Hitter Jackie Hackett and Kelsey put the points on the board off a spike and a kill respectively.

However, the Lady Titans slowed down and the Lady Indians took control of the game. Despite a few kills by Junior Middle Blocker Alexandra Shelburne and Sophomore Middle Blocker Kathleen Sloan, the Titans could not grab the offensive advantage. Relentlessly scoring, the Lady Indians captured the second game, winning 14-25.

Not discouraged by early scores by the Indians, the Titans refused to give in. San Marino retaliated, scoring without remorse. Freshman Setter Amanda Yee tipped the ball over an Indian defender to contribute to the lead. Soon after, the Lady Titans earned an ace to extend their lead.

After a handful of errors, Kathleen killed the ball to boost the Lady Titan lead along with their moral. After another several errors by the Lady Indians, Alexandra, Kelsey and Catherine

killed the ball to bring the score to 23-17.

After Catherine's kill, the Lady Indians failed to get the ball over the net on the following possession, allowing the Lady Titans to win the third game. Catherine noted, "We started to lighten up a bit and not overthink things. Sometimes we start to worry too much but we went into it saying just play volleyball and that's exactly what we did." With the third game in the Lady Titan's pockets a victory seemed more than possible.

Despite the Lady Titans' strong effort in the third game, the fourth game ended in the Indians' favor once again. The Indians put points on the board early off four kills, leading the Titans 0-4. Kelsey answered back with a kill of her own.

San Marino attempted to catch up after scoring after on a scramble. However, after several errors, the Lady Titans could not hold on to Fullerton. Fullerton struck with two kills and scored on three errors by the Lady Titans. Failing to execute on big plays, San Marino found it difficult to equal the Lady Indians.

The Titans managed to score a point for every three Indian points but that was not enough. Kathleen and Alexandra were able to put two points on the board of the Lady Titans, cutting the Indian lead.

Kelsey's energy helped early in

the match, but she too committed a couple of blunders. Although the Lady Indians also had a number of errors themselves, San Marino struggled to get the ball over the net more often than the Lady Indians did, allowing Fullerton to claim the win.

The Lady Indians won the game and the match took them to the second round. The Lady Titans ended their season with a league

record of 6-4 and an overall record of 13-12. Jackie advised after the game to future varsity players, "Stay confident and never give up even if you're down. Make sure to communicate a lot." Catherine also advised, "Encouragement and work ethic are really important; it's important to work hard from day one. Mostly, have fun and play the sport with your all your heart."

Rio Hondo League Results

10/22	TEMPLE CITY	3-0 W
10/27	@SOUTH PASADENA	3-1 W
10/29	LA CANADA	0-3 L
11/03	@BLAIR	3-0 W
11/05	@MONROVIA	1-3 L

Varsity Cross Country Qualifies for CIF Finals

By Kevin Tran
Staff Writer

The Boys' Varsity Cross Country runners qualified together as a team for the California Interscholastic Federation Finals (CIF) after coming in eighth place in the CIF Preliminaries that took place last Saturday at Mount San Antonio College (Mt. SAC).

The Titans had qualified for the Prelims after obtaining third place in the final league meet of the season, which was held at Crescenta Valley Park. They emerged victorious from this meet after taking the third place position away from Temple City Rams by nine points. In the Prelims, the Titans had to finish as a team in eighth place or under out of the other 16 competing teams in the division in order to progress to the finals, and they did just that. Senior Coco Raether was the first runner from SMHS to finish the three miles, taking the 20th place. Coco finished the race in just 16:57, proving to be a record time for three-mile races this year.

After four runners finished, Junior Michael Gimbel came in at 24th place, capturing a time of 17:04. Despite coming off an injured ankle a few days prior to the race, Sophomore Peaky Yuter was the next Titan runner to come in, receiving a time of 17:28 in the 34th place spot. Being the 57th runner to complete the race, Sophomore Robbie Moreton

attained a time of 18:06. Senior Jayson Yuter was the fifth runner to finish for San Marino at 81st place with a time of 19:07. Feeling a little "out of the blues" at the time of the race, Senior Ryan Tan still managed to acquire the 93rd place with a time of 19:46. Sophomore Charlie Martin was the last runner to conclude the Titan's string of runners with a time of 22:15 in the 107th spot.

Running the Mt. SAC course proved to be a challenge for all the runners. The famous geographical features of Mt. SAC's course are what make it the ideal place for cross country meets.

The three popular but infamous hills of Mt. SAC, the "Switchbacks," the "Poop Out Hill," and the "Reservoir Hill," are every runner's nightmare. Peaky reflected that the course of Mt. SAC was "constantly going uphill and downhill," but that the race was also still rewarding because, "it was fun getting the opportunity to race some of the fastest runners from around California."

Michael also stated, "The knowledge that we were on Mt. SAC and the view of the course from the top was really intimidating." However, the Titans were able to cope with the harsh terrain and managed to qualify for the Finals.

Despite the boys' team advancing to the CIF Finals, the Girls' Varsity team ended their season in the Crescenta Valley Park League Meet. Junior captain Danielle

Knott was still recovering from an upper respiratory infection that she caught just a week prior to the race, an annoyance that sidelined her from practice for nearly a week. Danielle completed the race in 21:49 at 17th place, just seven places shy of qualifying for the CIF Finals as an individual.

The next three runners to finish from the Lady Titan's Varsity team completed the race consecutively. Sophomore Caitlin Hittner received the 20th place with 22:28, followed by Senior Julie Troung at 21st place with 22:42, and then followed by Freshman Lindsay Snaer who came in at 22nd place with a time

of 22:59.

Although the girls could not qualify for the finals, Danielle remained quite confident for the Girls' Varsity team next year and mentioned "We have a really good shot of getting into the CIF Finals next year." The Girls' team, however, would be losing their number three runner, Julie, who will be graduating from SMHS this June.

Win or lose in the CIF Finals, the Boys' Varsity team had brought back the accomplishment of making it to the playoffs as a team, a goal of which has been unsurpassed on the SMHS campus for the past few years.

Michael commented on the team's progression compared to that of last year that, "We've made a huge improvement since last year. The whole team really surpassed my expectations for the year."

The last time that SMHS had a Varsity team qualify for the CIF finals was about four years ago in 2005. Not only did the runners this year make it to CIF, but they also qualified to run in the CIF Finals.

The Titans will return to Mt. SAC for the Finals tomorrow in hopes of coming home with another CIF banner to add to the gym's walls.



Senior **Coco Raether** races past the competition in last weeks CIF preliminaries. Coco finished twentieth, assisting the team in its qualification for the CIF finals.
Courtesy of Joshua Liu

Titan Football Beats Vikings

By Doug Mayberry
Staff Writer

The Titans hosted the Blair Vikings for SMHS's Homecoming game on November, 6.

The Titans were in desperate need for a win, fighting to "win out" to hope for a CIF berth with only the Blair Vikings and the Temple City Rams standing in the way.

The first play seemed to sum up the whole game when the Vikings blitzed the entire line-backing core, but Senior Joe Forgatch read the blitz and dumped the pass off to Junior Tight End Luke Benuska for 21 yards, resulting in a first down and great field position for the Titans.

The next play, Senior Captain Wide Receiver Stevie Yortsos filled in as running back for Senior Captain Running Back

Benny Hung, who was unable to play due to illness. Stevie took his first carry of the night for a 49-yard run, and a touchdown for the Titans.

On the next drive, the Titans started on their own 41 yard line, and began their march towards their opponent's end zone with an 8 yard run by Stevie. This marked the beginning of another scoring possession by the Titans. It was capped off with an 18-yard run by Stevie.

These two drives were the only successful drives by either team and the first quarter of play ended with the Titans in control, 14-0.

The Titans controlled the momentum into the second quarter and began the second quarter of play by hauling a Blair drive on their own 42. Following the stop, Blair punted the ball and Stevie promptly returned the kick 37

yards to the Viking's 41-yard line. Joe Forgatch then conducted the Titans downfield, resulting in a 14-yard reception by Senior Tight End Reed Semcken into the back of the Viking's end-zone.

By the end of the half, Junior Outside Linebacker Morgan Myers had intercepted a ball from Blair's quarterback, as had Stevie. The Titans scored two more touchdowns by halftime, one via a fumble recovery by Senior Captain Trent Converse and one via a Stevie 30-yard touchdown reception.

At halftime, the score stood at 35-0.

The Titan defense dominated the first half, holding the Vikings to less than 100 total yards as a team.

The Titans were commanding the game and kept the enthusiasm throughout the remainder of the game. The second half started on a positive note when Stevie kicked the ball and Blair only returned it to the 25. From there, it only got worse for the Vikings.

After a short three and out, the Titans blocked a Blair kick and Junior Outside Linebacker Oliver Campbell returned it for a 34-yard touchdown.

After a long touchdown run by Morgan and a blocked punt for a safety by Senior Emmanuel Sells, the Titans concluded their dominance. The game ended with a score of 51-0.

This game did not offer much competition for the Titans. But, it did give them a boost in confidence for their game against Temple City, and their playoff run.

The Race For The Heisman Heats Up

By Luke Benuska
Sports Editor

The Heisman Memorial Trophy is one of the most prestigious awards in all of sports. And around this time, the media is buzzing about who this year's front runners are for the award. However, this year is unlike any other. Normally there are between one to three players who clearly are the favorites.

Last year, quarterbacks Sam Bradford, Tim Tebow, Colt McCoy, and Graham Harrell were the main candidates for the award. However, Harrell and his Texas Tech team were blown out by Oklahoma and it's star Quarterback Bradford. The voters for the Heisman look for the league's most talented football player. However, if a player's team is not good, then the chances of winning the award are not as strong. So, when Oklahoma knocked off Tech, Bradford boosted above the other candidates, and later won the award.

Last year Heisman race was very interesting. There were four clear cut favorites that completely separated themselves from the rest of the nation and competed with each other down the stretch for the award. However, this year is different. Even though last year's three Heisman finalists were all returning to school this year, no

one player has really established himself as the favorite. However, I believe these three have the best chance.

1. Mark Ingram, RB University of Alabama: If the award was given out today, Ingram would probably win. He is the most important offensive piece for the number two team in the country. Ingram on the season has 1,297 rushing yards, which is tops in the SEC and fifth overall in the NCAA. I believe that Ingram is in the driver's seat for the award. If Alabama wins, and Ingram performs like he has all year, he should win the Heisman trophy.

2. Toby Gerhart, RB Stanford University: Gerhart has taken the NCAA by storm this season. He entered the season without much hype for him or his Stanford team. However, he has carried the Stanford offense with his 1,395 rushing yards and 19 touchdowns. In fact, he is third in the nation in rushing yards and second in touchdowns. But my concern is that Stanford will not receive enough media attention in the closing weeks for Gerhart to get enough votes.

3. Tim Tebow, QB University of Florida: Tebow is not having the best year of his career. He had a scary head injury early in the season, and his stats are not up to par. However, Tebow is the best player on the number one team in the country, and is very popular. So do not count him out.



Junior Linebacker **Luke MacGregor** and Senior Linebacker **Trent Converse** rally to tackle the wrapped up Blair running back.
Justin Quan//TITAN SHIELD



LAYOUT BY JILLY KO

A NIGHT IN GOTHAM CITY

October 31, 2009





SMHS students enjoy dancing at "A Night in Gotham City," hosted at the Barth Residence on Halloween night. Michael Bernstein// TITAN SHIELD

Barth Residence Hosts Coronation

(Continued from page 1)

Wong. ASB hired "The Event Group" to help with DJing, catering, and backdrop decoration rentals to ensure that the night would go smoothly. This group had discounts all set so ASB did not have to go to different businesses to get discounts for everything they need for the dance.

The Event Group placed chairs, tables, and heaters around the seating area.

This year, ASB had special rules for the dance floor. All girls had to either wear flats or go barefoot because Catherine's mother, Mrs. Avery Barth, wanted to keep the floor surface unscratched.

The Coronation team also hired two actors from "Birthday Party Characters" who portrayed Batman and the Joker from the **Dark Knight** during the court announcements. Sarah discovered the company on Google.

The Joker "kidnapped" Catherine before the announcement of the Homecoming Court and would not release her until Batman came to the scene.

ASB thought this would be a nice surprise for the students

and decided they wanted these impersonators.

Meanwhile, ASB President Senior Stephanie Chow announced the Homecoming Court, which consisted of Seniors Queen Catherine Barth, King Benny Hung, Princess Kelly Mar, and Prince Robbie Corral. Juniors were Princess April Choi and Prince Todd Liou. The Sophomores were Princess Adrea Yen and Kwame Do, while the Freshmen were Princess Cassidy Mace and Prince Jonathan Su.

Upon hearing the court announcement, Cassidy's sister, Senior Kylie Mace, felt "really proud of Cassidy being crowned princess." Kylie added, "it reminds me of my freshman year when I was crowned princess, and I think it is pretty cool that we can share this experience."

After Batman arrived, the actors took pictures with everyone.

"I think Coronation was phenomenal. I was very pleased with my team [ASB] and our incredible ability to work together to pull off such an amazing night," concluded Sarah.

'Crucible' Arrives in Webb

By Chanica Veranunt
News Editor

The SMHS Drama Department presented its annual fall play, "The Crucible," on Wednesday, at 3:30 p.m. and yesterday at 7 p.m. in the Webb Theater.

There will be another showing tonight and tomorrow, at 7 p.m. and on Sunday, at 5 p.m. The cost of admission was \$5 for pre-sale tickets, sold by Drama students, and \$7 at the door.

"The Crucible" takes place in the village of Salem, Massachusetts, during the infamous witch trials of the early 1600's.

In the beginning of the play, Abigail Williams and Betty Paris, portrayed by Senior Sara Youngblood and Junior Anastasia Merinova, respectively, act bewitched in order to receive attention, but chaos ensues when village members begin to accuse each other of witchcraft.

"We haven't done a serious play in a long time, and all the sophomores read *The Crucible* as part of their English class. It's a

classic piece," commented Drama Department Chair Ms. Blake Williams.

Prior to the production, Ms. Williams needed to receive permission from a professional company that is allowing the Drama Department to perform the show.

Once the Drama Department received permission, it held auditions on September 8 and 9 in the Webb Theater.

In addition, rehearsal schedules depended on the students' roles. Lead roles rehearsed more often than the smaller roles, but a few weeks prior to the play, each cast member attended rehearsals three to five times a week.

"This play is different than previous plays performed [at SMHS] because it goes into darker and emotionally deeper places, and I think the audience will see this," commented Sophomore Alison Silva, who plays one of the girls who falsely accuses others of witchcraft.

This year, La Cañada High School and Temple City High

School are also performing "The Crucible" as their fall play, but Ms. Williams guarantees that the SMHS production will offer a different performance.

Unlike the other high schools, Ms. Williams decided to use a single set to represent all the scenes throughout the play to avoid the trouble of changing locations.

In addition, the entire cast rehearsed for ten weeks so that the actors "really know the emotional characters they play."

"I believe [the audience] will leave the Webb with a whole new look on drama and theater. We have some really talented people at SMHS and this play gives them a chance to show some of the amazing skills they have. I really hope students will go and watch this play to see the amazing work of theater," concluded Alison.

In addition, Advanced Drama students are going to write and direct original scripts for upcoming plays. Also, they have their next Comedy Sportz match in February.

November/December 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19

TITAN CALENDAR

18-22 Fall Play	5	CAHSEE Make-up 12 Grade SAT	12	CAHSEE Make-Up 12 Grade ACT
25 Minimum Day	7	Progress Reports Due		Winter Formal
26-30 No School- Thanksgiving	7-18	Saint Teresa Food Drive	15	Deadline 1/23 SAT
3-5 Kaleidoscope	9	PTSA Holiday Luncheon	17	Band Holiday Concert
4 Sports Assembly	10-11	Choir Concert		21-1 Winter Break

SM Welcomes Dodger Coach

By Doug Mayberry
Staff Writer

Los Angeles Dodgers' unofficial hitting coach Mr. Manny Mota visited the Titan Baseball program to educate the players on both baseball skills and helping the underprivileged on Monday, November 2.

Mr. Mota is currently assisting the Dodger's coaching staff regain Los Angeles's previous World Championship status.

Former Major-Leaguer and pitcher for the Dodger organization, Mr. Jim Gott, introduced Mr. Mota to the Titan Baseball Program.

Mr. Gott also introduced Mr. Mota to Titan Baseball's Varsity Head Coach Mr. Mack Paciorek and together, they discussed the instruction of the Titan Baseball Program. This meeting convinced Mr. Mota to come to SMHS and help improve the Titan Baseball Program.

As a coach and a friend to his

community, Mr. Mota decided to help teach the underprivileged youth in communities about moral and physical strength.

Furthermore, Mr. Mota has created a foundation for underprivileged youth.

The Manny Mota International Foundation website states that the existence of the foundation is "to provide educational, health and recreational opportunities for the underprivileged, especially disadvantaged youth." The foundation believes that through the Manny Mota Baseball Clinics program, they can "build healthy bodies and minds and teach self-discipline through sports." In addition, it hopes "to provide communities with the tools necessary for improvement and self-reliance."

The foundation is about helping individuals, which Mr. Mota did for both the underprivileged and the Titan Baseball program.

Mr. Mota arrived at McNamee Field to instruct the baseball

program, and spent time with every player, discussing the strengths and weaknesses of each person's swing.

Varsity Pitcher Senior Chris Warren stated, "Mr. Mota helped me stay through the ball. I was kind of opening up at the end and he helped me keep my elbows in."

During the course of his stay, Mr. Mota helped nearly 20 Titan players with their swings and attitude toward a future in baseball.

Mr. Mota also encouraged the players to do their schoolwork.

He explained, "Education is very important. Staying in high school, finishing high school, going to college, getting a degree, and being professional in some area. Treating everybody with respect is the key to a good life."

In addition, Mr. Mota hopes to return in the future and see how his instruction helped the athletes grow as both players and individuals.

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Marching Band Receives Third Place

By David Chan
Assistant News Editor

The SMHS Marching Band and Colorguard received third place during the Golden State Field Classic field show competition at Los Altos High School last Saturday.

The band competed against two other schools in its division: Bell Gardens High School and Covina High School. The two other schools received first and second place, respectively.

During the competition, SMHS received an overall score of 64.7, while the first and second place bands received overall scores of 72.3 and 67.4, respectively.

Drum Major Senior Ravin Ratnayake commented that although “the Color Guards could have improved” for the Los Altos competition, the entire band “had to work really hard to achieve

what [they] have now.”

Since the theme for its performance was “The Lion King,” the band played a medley consisting of “I Just Can’t Wait to be King,” “Hakuna Matata,” “The Circle of Life,” and “Can You Feel the Love Tonight?” for both competitions.

“The band improved a great deal over these few weeks, and even though they did not place first [during the Los Altos High School competition], I’m very proud with their overall performance,” commented Ravin.

In all field show competitions, a various number of judges evaluate each band by using a rubric.

The three main categories each band is judged on include music, general effect, and visual qualities of the show.

In the music category, which consists of 400 points, each band is evaluated on its musicianship,

technique, and musical repertoire.

Also, the judges look for perfection in each band’s overall performance, scoring this section out of 350 points.

The visual effect portion of the judging assesses the band’s coordination and performance technique. Also, the visual portion of the judging totals 200 points.

In addition, the Marching Band and Colorguard attended their first competition of the school year at Wilson High School on Saturday, October 24.

During the first competition, the band placed fourth in their division. Furthermore, the schools they competed against included Bell Gardens High School, Ramona High School, Covina High School, whom received first, second, and third place, respectively.

Ravin reflected that the “[first] competition was not up to their desired level.”

Additionally, the band received an overall score of 53.4 after a one-point penalty during the Wilson High School competition, while the first, second and third place schools received scores of 70.05, 69.5, and 60.4, respectively.

Marching Band Director Mr. Ben Ubovich remarked that although the band still needs to work on their execution and marching during competitions, they “really improved since [the Wilson High School competition].”

The marching band’s next and final competition of the year, will take place tomorrow, November 21, at Moorpark High School in Simi Valley.



SMHS teachers **Mr. Richard Enright** and **Mr. Oliver Valcorza** resigned from their positions in late October. Courtesy of Titanian and Terry Fouche

Teachers Resign Mid-Semester

By Amrapali Gokani
News Editor

Two SMHS teachers resigned at the end of first quarter of this school year. World History teacher and Football Coach Mr. Rich Enright and Speech and Debate Coach Mr. Oliver Valcorza resigned on Friday, October 30.

However, Mr. Enright will continue to coach football for the rest of the season.

While the administration cannot comment openly about the reason either teacher resigned, they already have replacements in place for the remainder of the year.

Mrs. Gail Denham took Mr. Enright’s teaching position for the rest of the year. Last year, she taught sixth grade English and social studies at Huntington Middle School.

Since there were budget cuts recently, she lost her job, but her seniority resulted in her

re hiring.

In addition, Mrs. Denham may continue teaching next year.

Taking the place of Mr. Valcorza, Mr. Rob Miller will serve as a long-term substitute until a trained Forensics coach takes over. However, the district expects him to stay until the end of the semester.

Mr. Miller has previously worked as a substitute teacher throughout the school district.

At the moment, the District is looking for someone to take the Speech and Debate coach position and has placed a position open on edjoin.com, a website used by school districts looking to fill open faculty and staff positions.

According to Principal Loren Kleinrock, the high school has taken an unfortunate blow with the departure of Mr. Enright and Mr. Valcorza.

The district is currently handling the situation and hopes to have permanent teachers installed for next year.



Seniors **Melanie Young**, **Adela Wee**, **Ravin Ratnayake**, and **Molly Folsom** accept third place at the Golden State Field Classic. Jilly Ko//TITAN SHIELD

Festival Honors Chinese Culture

By Samantha Lai
Managing Editor

Celebrating 30 years of service to the community, the Chinese Club of San Marino held the annual Mid-Autumn Festival at the San Gabriel Hilton on October 7.

San Marino Chief of Police Department Officer John Schaefer and Mrs. LuLu Yuan served as hosts for the event. The program began with an opening ceremony at 7 p.m. and dinner at 7:30 p.m.

While guests enjoyed dinner, students from Valentine Elementary School performed a Chinese dance. Next, Choral Teacher Mr. Richard Seymour led the Carver Elementary Choir in singing “When You Wish Upon A Star” and a traditional Chinese song.

San Marino Tribune editor Mr. Mitch Lehman then presided over the live auction that consisted of four items that attendees bid on.

Following the live auction, Orchestra Director Mr. Rob Folsom conducted the Huntington

Middle School Orchestra to play three pieces.

Afterwards, Chinese Club President Dr. Hiko Lin spoke on the accomplishments of the organization since 1979. Mr. Lin also introduced the current SMUSD Board members in addition to the President Elect, Mr. Brown Ho, and the new Board members.

Also, six members of the SMHS Chamber Choir reproduced the buzzing of a bee in “Bumblebee.” Two Chinese School students, Morgan Jen and Justin Lin, performed a classical Chinese dance titled “Flying Goddess” using ribbons to represent a goddess. The California Institute for Chinese Performing Arts concluded the performances with “Monkey King.”

By featuring a variety of performances by elementary school and high school students, the festival sought to commemorate the Chinese Club’s past and future contributions to the community.

NAHS Curates Annual Jack-O-Lantern Exhibit

By Camille Wang
Assistant Features Editor

The SMHS National Art Honors Society (NAHS) organized the Jack-O-Lantern Carving Exhibit on Wednesday, October 28.

During lunchtime, faculty members and students visited Room 501 to see the pumpkin designs.

Even though the Pumpkin

Exhibit has occurred annually for well over a decade, this is the first year in which NAHS helped Art Teacher Ms. Deborah Hart coordinate the exhibit.

In addition, teachers required students in every visual art class to participate. Other students who are not enrolled in an art class could have also submitted a pumpkin; however, art students created around 95 of the pumpkins.



Carved jack-o-lanterns line **Ms. Deborah Hart’s** Room 501 on October 28 as part of the annual pumpkin exhibit. Samantha Lai//TITAN SHIELD

“Everyone in my class learns how to carve a pumpkin, and everybody’s part of a very cool show,” expressed Ms. Hart.

For the exhibit, Ms. Hart arranged everything for “optimal viewing” by organizing unique carvings. To emphasize the lit jack-o-lanterns, Ms. Hart kept the room pitch black.

Participants could choose any design they wanted. The exhibit featured pumpkins with designs ranging from Spongebob Squarepants to ghosts.

“The whole thing about the show is the input of all the jack-o-lanterns. That’s the fun of it,” commented Ms. Hart.

Furthermore, NAHS took part in the exhibit by decorating the foyer outside the art room to contribute to the overall Halloween spirit of the event.

NAHS President Sophomore Caroline Kenney remarked, “I thought it was a great turnout; a lot of people participated and people seemed to like it a lot. The purpose was just for fun and to be festive for Halloween!”

Key Club Shows Spirit

By Joie Fan
Staff Writer

The SMHS Key Club participated in the international Key Club Week from Monday, November 9, to Friday, November 13.

Key Club Week brings Key Clubs together from around the world to show their club pride.

Although the official Key Club Week was from November 2 to 6, the SMHS Key Club decided to hold the events the following week because the actual Key Club Week interfered with SMHS's Spirit Week.

On Monday, members gathered in the Architectural Rally Point (ARP) at 6:30 a.m. to decorate the campus with chalk to signify

the beginning of Key Club Week. Members also put up posters that were made the previous week around school to notify the Student Body about Key Club Week.

Furthermore, members of Key Club met in English Teacher Mrs. Joyce Steece's Room 20 during lunch on Tuesday to create Thanksgiving cards for the patients in the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles.

"Our members were really creative when it came to decorating," remarked Key Club Sophomore Representative Leanne Gan.

"I'm very glad a lot of Key Clubbers went out to help out with Key Club Week," commented Key Club Co-President Senior William Pau.

On Thursday and Friday, members wore their shirts during school and attended an information meeting for all those attending the fall rally the next day.

William remarked, "A lot of the students were all pretty enthusiastic."

On Saturday, November 14, Key Clubs from around California, Hawaii, and Nevada gathered at Six Flags Magic Mountain for the fall rally held inside the park to fundraise for the Pediatric Prevention Program (PPP).

During the rally, Key Club chapters from different divisions participated in various activities to raise money for PPP. One of the activities involved a contest where each division competed for the best original cheer. Each school belongs to a division; San Marino is in Division 10 North.

"It was definitely a cool experience because it was my first time going there. It was awesome to see Key Clubs from [other states] come together to help one cause," stated Key Club Publicity and Division 10 North District Secretary Junior Tanya Zhang.

In the future, Key Club will host a fundraiser on Tuesday, December 8 at the Souplantation located in Alhambra, near Costco. In addition, Key Club members will be providing food for the homeless in Central Park, in Pasadena in celebration of Thanksgiving.



On Friday, November 6, Senior Trent Converse participates in the "Bash a Viking Piñata" game.
Michael Bernstein/TITAN SHIELD

ASB Encourages Titan Pride

(Continued from page 1)

each grade faced off in various games. On Monday, students participated in a watermelon-eating contest and a game of musical chairs. Selected girls competed in the arm-wrestling contest during snack break while the guys took part in a water sumo wrestling match at lunch on Tuesday. The following Wednesday included a chocolate pour and a round of dodge ball. On Thursday, ASB held a bread, cheese, black licorice, jalapeños, and milk eating contest. To conclude the week on Friday, the Student Body participated in a game of "Bash a Viking Piñata" during snack break and a pep rally followed at lunch on Friday.

ASB hosted the pep rally at the ARP. Drumline, Marching Band, JV Cheer, Varsity Cheer, and Varsity Song performed for the entire Student Body.

Then, the Homecoming Parade began at 3:15 p.m. with the SMHS Marching Band and color guard performing along on Huntington Drive. Following the band were the class floats. In addition, the Homecoming Queen and King, and princesses and princes from each grade, JV and Varsity cheerleaders, and Varsity Song partook in the parade.

Ben stated that "[The parade] went extremely well, just like every year."

On Friday, December 4, ASB will hold a Sports Assembly to "pump up" the Student Body for the upcoming winter sports.



Members of Key Club prepare for their traditional "How Do You Feel?" cheer at their meeting on Friday, November 13.
Michael Bernstein/TITAN SHIELD

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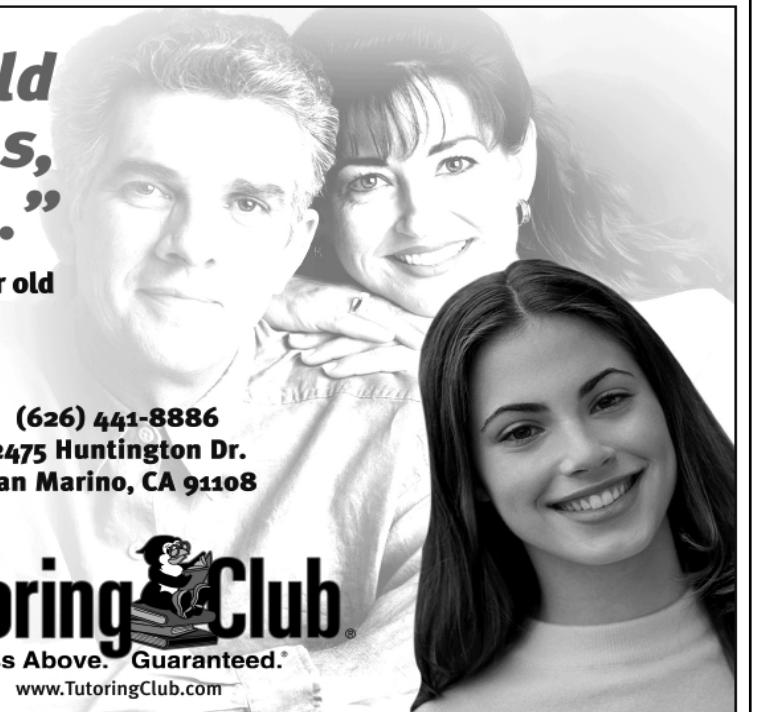
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ROTARY STUDENT OF THE MONTH November

By Lauren Bagheri
Ads Editor

Any student involved in extracurriculars often finds it difficult to take time out of his or her busy high school schedule to participate in various activities. However, Senior Estelle Chae devotes the majority of her time to extracurriculars.

In addition to participating in school sports, music programs, and clubs, Estelle enjoys taking part in organizations outside of school.

Estelle is a co-founder of a non-profit organization called Simply Savant. Simply Savant hosts government approved projects such as the "Build a Library" project, which raised over \$18,000 and donated approximately 8,000 books for less fortunate children.

Simply Savant also recently hosted "Camp Savant," which was an educational program designed to help teach the children of the Boys and Girls Club of Pasadena volleyball. Estelle even received a Presidential Service Award from President Barack Obama for the Simply Savant organization.

Music is also an important aspect in Estelle's life; "It has been one of my passions since I was little."

Additionally, Estelle is a part of the Pasadena Young Musicians Orchestra (PYMO) in which she is the principal

second violin. Furthermore, Estelle performs with a small group called Trio Azul. This group includes a violinist, pianist, and cellist who play together in shows such as the VAPA assembly.

Along with playing the violin, Estelle also plays the piano.

She also traveled to Italy this past summer to play piano at the Amalfi Coast Music festival.

Despite such a busy schedule outside of school, Estelle has still found time to participate in activities here at SMHS.

She has been a member of the Orchestra as a violinist since she was a freshman. Estelle has also played volleyball during all four of her high school years and has been on the Varsity Girls' team as a junior and a senior. She is also the publicity chair for the Math Team. "Math is a very important skill for life," Estelle stated.

And although her time at SMHS will soon draw to a close, Estelle is busy preparing herself for the future. She has applied early to Yale, where she hopes

Dear Titans,
Thank you so much for giving me the honor of receiving this award. It was only with your support and encouragement that I have been able to reach my aspirations, to transform them into concrete reality. Thinking back, I thought I'd never get to this stage; off-campus privileges and "senioritis" seemed to loom in the distance, thousands and thousands of miles away from my place as a freshman. But the past three years—possibly the best years of my life—whizzed by, and now lo and behold, here we are, as seniors.

These three years would not have been so pleasurable and inspirational without you all. To all my friends, thanks so much for putting up with me! You guys are my source of undying support and laughter. I love you guys! And of course, a huge thank you to all my teachers and counselors who have shared their knowledge with me, who have taught me to go beyond, to push my limits. Thank you for guiding me in my scholastic journey, for teaching me not just academic but practical life lessons as well. Thank you for making me into a more responsible and thoughtful person. Thank you for all the times my head began to pound from too much thinking and concentration—I sincerely appreciate it.

Thank you for shaping me into the person I am today. Thank you.

Some words of wisdom from a high school senior's experience:

Don't hold back. Pursue your dreams. Use everything you have—all your effort, concentration, will—and if you do all that and more, it will happen.

Thanks for everything you guys. Congrats, class of 2010, we're nearly done!

Sincerely,

Estelle Chae

to double major in Music and either English or Law. Although she will "miss her high school experiences," Estelle is excited for what the future holds for her.

A SPEEDSTER ON ICE AND WHEELS

By Camille Wang
Assistant Features Editor

Winning any national championship is a great achievement. However, Freshman Sarah Chen has won not just one, but multiple championships in two sports—speed skating and competitive cycling.

Inspired by the 2002 Olympics, Sarah began speed skating at the age of seven at the Pasadena Ice Skating Center and took up cycling four years later.

"I love competing and racing, and I like to go fast," she expressed.

After years of learning the basics, Sarah now competes every month during her particular sport's season. Cycling is cross training for speed skating, meaning that in the summer she cycles, and during the winter she skates. Sarah also has speed skating competitions coming up in November,

December, January, and March.

To prepare for competitions, she trains at the Pasadena Ice Skating Center and at the Long Beach Glacial Gardens. For cycling, she practices at the Home Depot Center



in Carson. She alternates practicing each sport for two hours every day. However, she hopes to continue exercising her talents even after high school.

When Sarah enters college, she plans to play ice hockey for her school. After graduation, she wants to "try for the Olympics" for speed skating. In fact, she is already moving

towards her goal. Currently, Sarah holds 15 national records for speed skating and one North American record. She has been the fastest female speeder skater in her age division in the United States and Canada for the past three years. In fact, Sarah has earned not only two national championships for cycling, but also four national championships and three North American

paid off," Sarah reflected, "I worked really hard, and I just want to have no regrets when I go to competition."

Because she is frequently competing, Sarah has had the opportunity to meet some famous people. She met Apolo Ohno, a five-time medalist for the Winter Olympics in speed skating, and Sarah's cycling coach is Connie Paraskevin, a five-time Olympian in speed skating and cycling.

Despite such demanding commitments, Sarah does not have trouble managing her time.

"School has always come really easily to me, and I've never had any problem balancing my schedule," Sarah remarked.

Also, Sarah appreciates her teachers and peers. She feels extremely lucky to have the support of many high level coaches and teachers as well as good friends.

In addition, skating and cycling has made a huge impact on her life.

"It has made me more athletic and value my time more. My extracurriculars have also made my work ethics more efficient because I have to balance sports and homework," she concluded.



Skating Across International Ice

By Jennifer Mauser
Features Editor

Dancing across a stage is difficult enough, but gliding across ice on shoes fitted with sharp blades is a new challenge all its own. However, for Senior Taryn Jurgensen, figure skating is what she lives for.

"I'd have to say that my biggest accomplishment would have to be winning the Thailand National Championship last April. This was a figure skating competition in which the top skaters from Thailand compete for the national championship title," Taryn commented.

Inspired by her older brother who started figure skating first, Taryn began taking lessons at the age of five.

"My brother has taught me the importance of dedication, passion,

and perseverance. From him, I have learned that hard work and

singular focus can help me achieve any dream."

Taryn mentioned.

Currently, she trains at the Pasadena Ice Skating Center six days a week for two to three hours per day.

Taryn learns technique, jumps, spins, foot work, and other elements to classical music.

"My favorite part about skating is the artistic aspect where I can just skate to the music and perform to the audience," she stated.

Taryn competes in as many as six competitions every year and has won numerous awards. In fact, she has earned first place in the artistic category for many of her competitions and frequently places in the top five for technique.

Taryn competes mostly in other countries such as South Korea, Belarus, and Thailand.

While traveling the world, she is glad to have her parents' support when she is participating in competitions all over the globe.

Despite her intense commitment, time on the ice comes second to school. Although Taryn has made many sacrifices for figure skating, she feels that school is her first priority.

However, Taryn still manages to find time for other extracurricular activities. During

her freshman year, she was a member of the SMHS Dance Company and was on the school's Varsity Golf team as a sophomore. But with college looming on the horizon, Taryn now focuses her thoughts on the future.

She hopes to attend either USC, Cornell, Northeastern, New York University, Boston University, or Stanford and study to become a sports medicine doctor. After college, Taryn wants to remain involved with skating and perhaps start coaching younger figure skaters.

"Hopefully I might even be in the Olympics in four years!" she mentioned, "I would like to do ice dancing which is skating with a partner."

Until then, Taryn is now preparing for her next competition in Japan. She looks forward to the rest of her senior year, which she will spend carefully balancing her time among friends, school, and figure skating.



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