



SAN MARINO HIGH SCHOOL TITAN SHIELD

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Senior Captain Number One Doubles **Jeannie Peterson** prepares to serve at an earlier match this past season.
Michael Bernstein//TITAN SHIELD

Girls' Tennis Wins CIF

By David Gelt
Managing Editor

The San Marino High School Girls' Varsity Tennis team won CIF Southern Section Division III Championship, capping off an undefeated season, on Monday, November 23.

After running through their preseason schedule, as well as dominating the Rio Hondo League, the Lady Titans earned the top seed in the playoffs.

Then, San Marino knocked out Warren High School by a score of 16-2, as well as the Malibu High School Lady Sharks, 12-6, and M.L. King High School by a dominating 14-4.

In the semifinals, the Lady Titans defeated the Lakewood High School Lady Lancers, 12-6, to advance to the CIF Championships at Claremont Club against the San Luis Obispo High School Lady Tigers.

The Lady Titans came out on

top of the Championship match up, winning by a score of 12-6.

San Luis Obispo also had a strong season. Coming into the CIF Playoffs as the Pacific-7 League Champions.

In the first round, the Lady Tigers defeated the San Gabriel High School Lady Matadors, the second team from the Almont League by a score of 15-3.

The Lady Tigers then defeated the Long Beach Poly Lady Jackrabbits by a close score of 11-7 in the second round.

The Lady Jackrabbits made the playoffs as the third place finisher in the Moore League and winning a Wild Card match.

San Luis Obispo then played in another close match, winning in the first tiebreaker, 9-9 (81-76), over the Foothill League Champion Valencia High School Lady Vikings.

SMHS Students Visit 'Wonkaland'

By Andrea Chiu
Managing Editor

The SMHS Omegas Service Club held its first Winter Formal on Saturday, December 12, from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. in the foyer of the Administration Building. The former Winter Formal coordinator, the Amicians Service Club, was disbanded at the end of the last school year.

Although Omegas members expected about 400 students to attend the dance, over 500 people bought tickets, surpassing the service club's profit margin by over \$9,000.

In addition, the Omegas made such a large profit by staying under the required budget during the set-up procedure.

At the dance, attendees enjoyed snacks that included chocolate fondues with marshmallows and pretzels, soda, and different assortments of Wonka candy.

Omegas members donated all the refreshments.

SMHS Alumnus Eddie Huang, who also goes by the name DJ Quartz, served as the DJ for the event, and Junior CJ Penido provided the lights.

Omegas Winter Formal Chair Senior Sarah Havner began coordinating the dance since the beginning of the summer.

Inspired by memories from her childhood, Sarah decided the theme should be "Walking in a Wonka Wonderland" because it was "something everybody could relate to," commented Sarah.

"Since it's Winter Formal, I wanted to somehow incorporate a winter theme so I decided to do a play on words," she added.

In addition, Sarah made the invitations resemble the classic "golden tickets" from the two Willy Wonka movies, which even includes the quote, "In your wildest dreams you could not imagine the marvelous surprises that awaits you."

Sarah finalized the plans in October and "delegated jobs to members of the cabinet."

Cabinet workshops began two weeks prior to Thanksgiving and workshops for club members began during the Thanksgiving break. Omegas President Senior

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Seniors **Caroline Lushbough** and **Ben Harwich** pose for a picture after being named "Wonka King and Queen" at last Saturday's Winter Formal hosted by the Omegas.
Justin Quan//Titan Shield

Kaleidoscope Makes Its Debut

By Helen Hejran
Staff Writer

The SMHS Dance Department hosted its annual Kaleidoscope in the Neher Auditorium on December 3 and 4 at 7:30 p.m. and December 5 at 6 p.m.

Tickets sold for \$5 for general audience and reserved seating for \$8. Dance patrons received free admission.

The performance consisted of 18 dances choreographed by Visual and Performing Arts Director Ms. Bonnie Hanson, Student Choreographer Senior Shannon Dang, Assistant Student Choreographer Senior Kelly Mar, Intermediate Advance dancer Senior Kelly Hung, Intermediate Advance dancer Junior Courtney Hollinquest, members of Dance Company, and Dance Company alumni.

Ms. Hanson reflected that "the

main difference [between this year's performance and years before] is that the majority of the choreography is from students and a lot of alumni, [but] usually it is just me."

For Beginning Dance, Ms. Hanson composed "Bust Your Window" from the TV show

"Glee" and "Unstoppable" by Kat De Luna, which her fourth period teacher's assistant Kelly Hung co-choreographed.

Moreover, Ms. Hanson split up Intermediate Dance by having her fifth period teacher's assistant

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SMHS Dance Company performs "Mash Up" to conclude the annual Kaleidoscope.
Courtesy of Taylor Chan



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Choir Commences the Holidays

By Camille Wang
Assistant Features Editor

The SMHS Choral Department presented its annual holiday concert last Friday, December 11, at the San Marino Community Church from 7 to 9:30 p.m. In addition, the San Marino Chamber Choir (SMCC) sang on Sunday, December 13 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the same church.

For the winter concert, tickets cost \$5 for students and \$10 for adults.

To help SMCC's performance on Sunday, Mr. Weston Noble, a famous conductor who has conducted with choirs in every state in the U.S., came to SMHS to help SMCC.

"[Mr. Noble] was a relative of the reverend at the San Marino Community Church, so I asked him if he was willing to work with the choir. I'm really blessed to work with him," informed Choir Director Mr. Howard Cheung.

During the practice, Mr. Noble worked with SMCC on the music they were to perform on Sunday.

"It was actually a lot of fun; he made it comfortable and he really knew what he was doing," commented SMCC Tenor Senior Ryan Tan.

Furthermore, Mr. Weston conducted SMCC's concert on Sunday.

"It really helped us improve because we worked on our techniques a lot," remarked SMCC Soprano Senior Julie Truong.

For the holiday concert, all of the choir members received ten tickets that they could sell to family or friends; however, students were not required to sell.

The money raised from the concerts will go directly to financial aid for students who cannot pay for the Boys' and Girls' Choir trip to Arizona or the Chamber Choir trip to Spain.

"Hopefully [we raised] over \$10,000," Ryan stated prior to the concerts.

Two nights before the Sunday show, the Boys' Choir, Girls' Choir, and SMCC performed various holiday songs at the community church.

SMCC rehearsed every week on Monday and Tuesday during class and after school.

The program also included a solo by Freshman Lianna Gutierrez, a piece by student conductor Ryan, as well as a live auction that included a few nights stay at a summer house and an opportunity to attend live shows



On Friday, the choirs concluded their winter concert with a sign language rendition of "Silent Night."

Bonnie Jin//TITAN SHIELD

performed by selected SMCC members.

During the performance, the choirs performed songs including "I Bought Me a Cat" by Aaron Copland, "Ave Maria" by Franz Biebl, "We Wish You A Merry Christmas" by John Rutter, "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus" by Tommie Conner and Mark Brymer, and "Silent Night" by Franz Gruber and Paul Sjölund.

Towards the end, the choirs sang "Believe" by Glen Ballard, Alan Silvestri, and Mac Huff, which was also the theme of the concert.

"It was an accomplishment to

finally be singing [concert pieces] outside of class," expressed Ryan.

In addition to Friday's performance, SMCC also visited Valley Hunt Club in Pasadena to sing at a luncheon that same Friday.

According to SMCC Tenor Sophomore Brandyn Lee, the Valley Hunt Club paid SMCC to sing and provided them with food.

"[It was a] great performance. Everything came together really well. It was a great way to end 2009," reflected Mr. Cheung.

The next choir performance will be the Pop Concert in May.

Robotics Battles in Tournament

By David Chan
Assistant News Editor

The SMHS Robotics team hosted the F.I.R.S.T. Tech Challenge (FTC) Los Angeles Regional Championship Tournament in the SMHS gym last Saturday, December 12, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Each FTC Championship Tournament consists of two main types of competitions: qualifying and elimination. During the qualifying event, each team is randomly paired with another to form an "alliance." The alliances compete together to earn qualifying points and ranking points which determine what teams they will face during the elimination matches.

For the second round, teams compete with one another to determine the champions of the tournament.

The entire event involved 14 teams from Southern California

competing for a variety of awards from the FTC. Although the SMHS team did not advance past the preliminary rounds of the elimination matches, they ranked 12th at the conclusion of the tournament.

Furthermore, each match consists of two alliances competing against each other by attempting to shoot a ball into an elevated goal in the center of the field. During the last 30 seconds of the match, teams can score double the points off a regular shot by scoring in an off-field goal.

Robotics member Freshman Justin Chow stated that the team "did not do as well as we wanted, but the experience was fulfilling."

The team's next competition will be the F.I.R.S.T. Robotics Competition Regional Tournament from March 4 to 6.

"I definitely have higher hopes [next time]," concluded Robotics member Sophomore Patrick Meng.



The SMHS Robotics Team, Firebird Robotics, prepare for the FTC Tournament on December 12.

Kerry Chen//TITAN SHIELD

CLUB BRIEFS

Altrusia

Members of Altrusia assembled holiday goody bags from Monday, December 7, to Friday, December 11, in Ms. Mary Snyder's Room 205.

Traditionally, Altrusia donates dozens of goody bags to the children at the Maryvale Orphanage during the holidays.

"We want to do something so the kids have something exciting to look forward to," stated Altrusia Co-President Junior Melody Wang.

Approximately 25 members attended to decorate cards and stuff goody bags with presents and candy.

"I am very satisfied with the turnout because it shows that our members care about giving back to the community," reflected Melody.

Altrusia will hold a Valentine's Day event in early February of next year.

—**Chanica Veranunt//**
News Editor

Cosmopolites

SMHS Cosmopolites cultural club hosted its annual St. Teresa Orphanage food drive over the last two weeks that started on Monday, December 7, and ended yesterday.

SMHS French Department Head Madame Kristen Koiles is the coordinator of the drive and always asks Cosmopolites for help with gathering the supplies and loading the truck with food.

Cosmopolites President Senior Jamie Basurto stated, "I really want to collect enough supplies [so] that [the orphanage] can survive until next year and hopefully take in more girls."

SMHS has been participating in this drive since the school's founding in the early fifties.

Every second period classes either donated food supplies or money. The nuns from the orphanage received their supplies yesterday.

—**Amrapali Gokani//**News Editor

Key Club

On Thanksgiving, the SMHS Key Club hosted the Thanksgiving Lunch at Central Park in Pasadena from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

For the event, volunteers made cards for the less fortunate and helped set up the serving area. In addition, they had the opportunity to help serve food for people.

"[Since] a lot of people chose to spend Thanksgiving with their families instead of participating in the event, [only about five members showed up]. I was still happy with the turnout though," stated Key Club Co-President Senior Angel Pan.

Key Club's next event will be for the Rose Parade, where volunteers can decorate floats for the New Year's Parade.

—**Camille Wang//**Assistant Features Editor



During Kaleidoscope, members of Intermediate Advanced Dance perform to "Tik Tok" by Ke\$ha.

Jilly Ko//TITAN SHIELD

Kaleidoscope Premieres in Neher

(Continued from page 1)

Dance Company member Junior Charlotte Morgan choreographed "Fire Burning" by Sean Kingston. For the other half, she taught them "Shape of My Heart" by Sting. The entire class performed "Earth Intruders" by Bjork, which Ms. Hanson co-choreographed with Charlotte.

Additionally, for Intermediate Advanced Dance, Ms. Hanson choreographed "Nitty Gritty" by Kimberly Cole, while Kelly Hung and Courtney collaborated on "Tik Tok" by Ke\$ha.

Dance Company Alumnus Tehillah Fouché choreographed "Tame" by Prima J., and Dance Company Alumus Grace Chu choreographed "Pieces Don't Fit Anymore" by James Morrison.

Furthermore, Dance Company performed "All Nite" by Janet Jackson, "Chasing Pavements" by Adele, "Radar" by Britney Spears, "Ramalama Bang Bang" by Roisin Murphy, "Mash Up" by various

artists, and "When We Grow Up," which was a collaboration of various songs choreographed by Dance Company alumni.

Also, half of Dance Company performed "Slow Dancing in a Burning Room" by John Mayer, which Dance Company member Junior Eisha Perry choreographed. Then, the other half performed "Broken Hearted Girl" by Beyonce, which was pieced together by Charlotte.

Shannon and Kelly Mar collaborated on and performed a duet that incorporated "Footloose" by Kenny Loggins.

In addition, for Ms. Hanson, the highlight of Kaleidoscope was that "Kelly Hung is moving up to Dance Company [due to] her [skills in] leadership and choreographing dances."

Currently the Dance Department is preparing for their semester finals where all levels choreograph a dance or a portion of a dance that will be part of "A Night of Choreography."



Seniors **Calvin Wong** and **Rebeca Felix** dance to the music in the atrium of the Administration building.
Justin Quan// TITAN SHIELD

Omegas Unveil First Formal

(Continued from page 1)

Catherine Barth’s house.

Each member had to attend a mandatory two house workshops in addition to two school workshops on Friday, December 11, from 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and Saturday, December 12, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. to help set up for the dance.

Also, each member had to donate three Wonka bars, which were extra snacks, along with Nerdsrope candy at the door of the dance.

“The workshops fun and everyone had something to do, like work on the giant paintings and make some of the decorations. Everyone in the club got together and had a lot of fun setting up everything for Winter Formal,” reflected Omegas member Sophomore Courtney Johnson.

“This dance was a lot more work and planning [than I expected]. People wanted to work hard because it was Winter Formal. Everyone took it more seriously because it wasn’t a dance in the middle of March.” stated Catherine.

During the dance, Omegas crowned Seniors King Ben

Harwich and Queen Caroline Lushbough the 2009 “Wonka King and Queen.”

Sincetherewerecomplications with the nomination schedule, the princes and princesses were unable to be named.

Catherine concluded, “Overall, I’m happy, satisfied, and ecstatic because everything went well and we even made a large profit. All the little things built up to make a successful dance.”

While it is still uncertain if Omegas will continue to coordinate the annual Winter Formal, club members are confident that this year’s success will allow them to host the dance again in future years.

Courtney added, “I think it would be fun to do it again.”

The next Omegas’ event will be a school wide anual fundraiser consisting of selling Titan Gear during January and February.

The Omegas Cabinet will begin brainstorming for the fundraiser during the Christmas break.

The apparel from the Omega’s fundraiser is expected to arrive sometime in February.

Forensics Finishes Second

By **Chanica Veranunt**
News Editor

The SMHS Speech and Debate team participated in the Fall Varsity Tournament last Saturday, December 12, at Arroyo High School.

During the competition, Gabrielino High School, SMHS, and Arcadia High School placed first, second, and third, respectively.

“The recent developments in the team helped us [place well],” stated Junior Rachel Yang.

Other schools that competed in the event include Alhambra, Arroyo, Mark Keppel, San Gabriel, and Schurr.

Many members contributed to the team’s second place finish, including Freshman Max Ibrahimzade who took first place in Humorous Interpretation - the first novice to do so - and Senior James Shechet who placed third in Dramatic Interpretation.

In addition, Senior Oscar Wang took first in National Extemporaneous Speaking while

Rachel and Junior Andrew Szeto placed third and sixth, respectively. Junior Nabeel Zewail finished first in International Extemporaneous Speaking while Freshman Anjali Kumar received seventh in Dramatic Interpretation.

In Expository Speaking, Senior Justin Siu and Juniors Hillary Tzeng and Vivian Yip placed second, fifth, and seventh, respectively.

Furthermore, Juniors Cindy Hsieh and Michelle Hsu finished in second and fourth, respectively, in Original Oratory while Seniors Charles Lin and Sarah Yu placed sixth and seventh, respectively, in Original Advocacy.

Moreover, Oscar, Rachel, Andrew, and Nabeel placed first, second, fourth, and fifth, respectively, in Impromptu Speaking.

“We did just as well during the Fall Varsity, if not better than last year. Our placing also defended the position of best limited prep for the fourth consectuvie league tounament,” commented Charles.

The week prior to the Fall

Varsity Tournament, the team participated in the George Mason Tournament (GMU) in Fairfax, Virginia, from December 4 to 6.

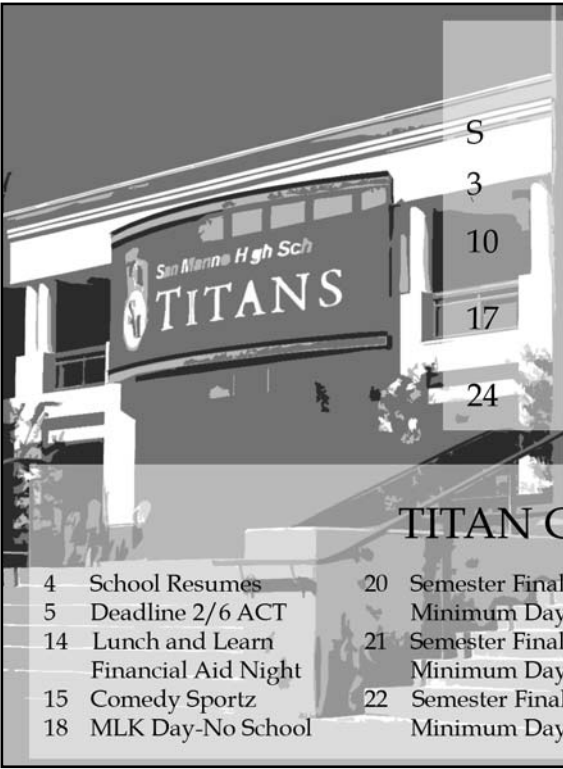
“We did well as a whole [at GMU] since it was national and we had both semifinalists and finalists,” reflected Sophomore Cynthia Park.

During the GMU, Oscar placed second in National Extemporaneous while Rachel qualified for the semi-final round. Also, Rachel was a quarterfinalist in Lincoln-Douglass Debate.

James qualified for semifinals in both Humorous and Dramatic Interpretation. Sophomore Sona Jain was a quarterfinalist in Extemporaneous and octo-finaled in Lincoln-Douglass.

Sophomore Hani Zewail was a quarterfinalist in Extemporaneous as well.

“[We did better during the Fall Varsity Tournament] because there were more people who went so there was a greater chance to earn more points. We also put more time into practicing,” stated Cynthia.



January 2010

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

TITAN CALENDAR

4	School Resumes	20	Semester Finals 1/4 Minimum Day	23	SAT
5	Deadline 2/6 ACT	21	Semester Finals 3/6 Minimum Day	25	Late Start
14	Lunch and Learn Financial Aid Night	22	Semester Finals 2/5 Minimum Day-Semester Ends	27	Yosemite Information Night
15	Comedy Sportz			30	ASB Dance
18	MLK Day-No School				

Math Team ‘Pounds’ Rivals

By **Amrapali Gokani**
News Editor

During the Pepperdine University Math Day Competition, the SMHS Math Team placed first on Saturday, November 14.

The overall score for the team added up to 37, seven points ahead of the second place team, Palos Verdes Peninsula, and 17 points ahead of all other teams.

Math Team Coach and Math Department Chair Dr. Tom Armbruster commented, “It was the biggest margin ever [that we have won a competition].”

Several members of the team contributed to the overall score, including Seniors Bryan Mau, Samuel Pun, and Roger Sheu and Juniors Andrew Szeto and Kevin Yin.

Additionally, Kevin finished first individually in the overall competition for the second year straight.

Roger tied for second and also placed twelfth, while Andrew tied

for fourth and placed eleventh as well.

“The competition went pretty well and was harder than last year. Since Kevin got a perfect score last year, [the officials] didn’t want any perfect scores this year, and [while] they didn’t get any, Kevin still scored almost perfectly,” stated Math Team Captain Senior Alice Zhang.

Other competitions that the team has already participated in include the Bay Math League (BML), made up of four parts; the first which occurred on November 18. The team finished second behind Arcadia High School.

SMHS will host the second round of the BML on Wednesday, January 13.

“We have placed first four times out of our last five years in this competition. Hopefully we get first this year,” Dr. Armbruster explained.

The team is also participating in the Pomona Wisconsin Math Talent Search, which according

to Dr. Armbruster is the most challenging competition because participants have to explain their answers thoroughly instead of simply stating them.

Since the team participates in so many competitions, they decided to make improvements to score better. They recruited a number of sophomores to increase the team size to 25 to allow room for growth over the next years. They are also hoping to have more members qualify for the American Mathematics Competition (AMC) on February 24.

“We hope to win BML again this year and have more members qualify for the AMC,” Alice remarked.

The team will also compete at the Cal State Long Beach Math Day in March.

“My personal goal for this year is to have more qualifiers for the American Mathematics Invitational Examination and continue to have student support,” Dr. Armbruster concluded.

TITAN SHIELD Staff Box									
Board of Directors Managing Editors Andrea Chiu David Gelt Samantha Lai Kimberly Nguyen Associate Editors of Copy Amrapali Gokani Justin Le	Advisor Lou Ann Fuentes Section Editors <table><tr><td>News Amrapali Gokani Chanica Veranunt</td><td>Features Jennifer Mauser</td></tr><tr><td>Opinion Alexa Wei</td><td>Spectrum Mathew Lim</td></tr><tr><td>Sports Luke Benuska Justin Le</td><td>Ads Lauren Bagheri</td></tr><tr><td>Photography Jilly Ko Justin Quan</td><td>Technology Randy Lee</td></tr></table>	News Amrapali Gokani Chanica Veranunt	Features Jennifer Mauser	Opinion Alexa Wei	Spectrum Mathew Lim	Sports Luke Benuska Justin Le	Ads Lauren Bagheri	Photography Jilly Ko Justin Quan	Technology Randy Lee
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ROTARY STUDENT OF THE MONTH

December

By Lauren Bagheri
Ads Editor

As high school becomes increasingly difficult and competitive, it seems easy to lose oneself entirely in school activities and academics. However, for December Rotary Student of the Month Senior Aakash Kumar, this is not the case. Aakash still manages to find time to participate in extracurriculars that he enjoys, such as ASB, Speech and Debate, and Key Club.

Last year, when Aakash decided to run for ASB Activities Commissioner, he was skeptical as to whether or not he would win the election. But when it came time for his speech, he said he “felt confident” because his involvement in Speech helped improve his public speaking skills tremendously.

Now, as the current Activities Commissioner, Aakash enjoys leading the morning announcements every Tuesday and Thursday and feels privileged to oversee all school activities that take place. “ASB is one of the best things you can do as a senior. It allows you have a positive impact on students and their environment,” he mentioned.

Aakash is also very involved in the Speech and Debate program. He has been a part of the team since his freshman year and participates mostly in Policy Debate, which is one of the most intense forms of debate since it can last for up to two hours.

“Policy debate is something you have to be very passionate about, because doing

the research alone takes up much of your time,” Aakash commented.

A self-described “shy” person as a child, Aakash now feels that by participating in Speech, “[he has] advanced socially, academically, and overall as a person.” In his own words, “[s]peech is the best form of communication; only through communication can you fully express your feelings and understand people.”

Aakash has become a very successful debator after earning a seventh place qualifier in the Southern California Debate League and being part of the second ranked team in California.

Aakash also understands the value of hard work outside of school because he works at Subway aside from academic and extracurricular responsibilities. However, in the future, he would like to own his own business.

After high school, Aakash hopes to attend UC Berkeley for its strong Undergraduate Business Administration program and politically active environment. He is also interested in political science and may even pursue a political office, drawing

Dear SMHSTitans,

I want to personally thank all of you for bestowing upon me this prestigious award. I remember as a freshman staring at the graduating seniors depicted in this newspaper, in all their triumphant glory, and three years later, seeing myself in this same position is not only a humbling experience dedicated to the hard work I've put into making the best of my high school experience, but more importantly, it is an honor that should be shared with the countless individuals who have helped me reach this final stage in high school. Now I know with studying for SATs, getting good grades, and working on college applications, high school may seem to be one of the most stressful times of adolescence where it seems like the fate of your future looms in the balance, especially in a school as competitive and rigorous as SMHS. But it's also the best time of your life. High school is the beginning of your independence: where you have the chance to pursue whatever interests your heart desires, and spend your time however you want to, as you make the choices that will eventually lead you down your path in life. You see we all come into high school as unshaped lumps of clay, from which each choice we make, and each influence we meet, we begin to form the distinct shape unique to each of us. We all have different hobbies, backgrounds, and ambitions which guide us and reflect the decisions we make. Whether you want to be a debater, dancer, football player, singer, or anything else high school has to offer; the choice is yours. But whatever you end up pursuing, always give it everything you have, if that means not studying for a test, because you'd rather practice for an upcoming tournament; go for it. Because I can guarantee you all that in ten years you are not going to remember things like your SAT scores or that bad grade you got on your last math test, but the things you will remember are the countless memories you've made, and the experiences you've shared along with your fellow Titans, whether it was just hanging out with your friends, doing the morning announcements, competing in your first ever debate round, or the time you pulled an all-nighter to setup for an awesome Homecoming, these unique experiences will stay with you forever. So in conclusion, I'd like to thank everyone who has helped me along my high school career, my friends for making life more fun, my teachers and counselor for teaching me lessons beyond the textbook, and my parents for sending me to the best high school ever. Titans, don't ever lose sight of what's important to you and enjoy high school to the fullest!



Sincerely,
Aakash Kumar
Aakash Kumar

inspiration from President Barack Obama.

Aakash will always fondly remember his highschool experience, both the good and bad.

“I will always look back lovingly on all of the good times I have had,” Aakash reflected.

SLICING THROUGH THE WATER

By Camille Wang
Assistant Features Editor

Winning a CIF championship is any high school athlete's dream. From time to time, an athlete from SMHS will win the honorable title; Senior Scott Farley has accomplished this feat along with much more.

“I grew up around the pool, and then I decided to start swimming [when I was five-years-old],”

Scott commented.

Scott has been swimming for the club team Rose Bowl Aquatics since he was seven. Currently he practices at the Rose Bowl with his coach Jeff Julian on a very fixed schedule — two practices a day on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; and once a day on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. In addition, Scott has met an Olympic gold medalist, Jason Lezak, because they both practice at the Rose Bowl.

Despite his rigorous schedule, Scott manages to find time for his homework. Besides swimming, Scott's other interests include playing the guitar and the piano.

“I'm pretty used to swimming everyday. I do homework at lunch sometimes, and I just try to fit it in whenever I can,” he remarked.

Scott has been rewarded for all of the time

that he has invested into swimming. He won the Coach's Award two years ago, MVP last year, and he will be captain of the Varsity Boys' Swim later this year.

Scott has also been attending the Junior Nationals and the Senior Nationals for the past three years. He travels around the United States twice a month, competing in places such as Seattle, Atlanta, and Fresno.

Scott's most memorable accomplishment in his swimming experience would be winning the 500-freestyle last year during CIF.

He competed alongside his friends on the team, with whom he shared the trials of being a competitive swimmer.

“I know I had a lot of support,” expressed Scott.

When Scott heads off to



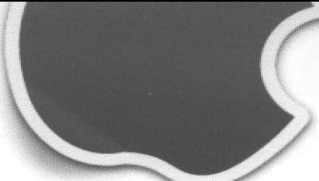
college next year, he plans to continue swimming. Although already accepted into Yale, he plans to attend UC Berkeley and pursue his dream of becoming an environmental economist. Scott considers “all the friends [he's] made, all the experiences, and all the places [he's been]” the best parts about swimming. This sport has affected his life “immeasurably.”

Scott concluded, “I can't imagine life without swimming — it's such a big part of me.”

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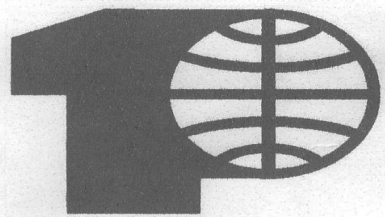

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Alejandro G. Ruiz has a B.A. in Government from Harvard University and is completing his Juris Doctor degree from Loyola Law School. He has worked for various law offices throughout the region, including the Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney.

SAT I / Math Instructor
Mr. Chang

- * Cal State Univ. Long Beach - MS in Applied Mathematics
- * University of Southern California - MS in Computer Science
- * University of Illinois - BS in Computer Science
- * 7 years of experience in teaching AP & SAT Math



Mandatory Vaccinations Premature and Risky

By Thomas Tai
Staff Writer

Governments around the world are taking action against the H1N1 pandemic, which President Barack Obama has declared a national emergency, further underscoring the desperate need for stronger defenses against this viral illness. The state of New York attempted to mandate vaccinations for all healthcare workers. However, the proposal met opposition after healthcare workers’ unions sued the state government, claiming their civil rights were being disregarded. According to the unions, the issue is not the effectiveness or safety of the H1N1 vaccine, but the penalty for failing to be vaccinated. The health department stated that workers

“Vaccines should go to people who are most vulnerable”

who refused to be vaccinated because of religious or cultural grounds would face high fines or lose their jobs. Executive Director of the New York Civil Liberties Union, Donna Lieberman, called the order “capricious

and arbitrary,” in a statement in the *New York Times*. The state health department, however, has declared mandated vaccinations in the idea of public interest. It is foolish to impose mandatory vaccinations this quickly when there are still not enough vaccines for even a quarter of New York’s population.

While the state health department’s desire to prevent H1N1 from spreading further is admirable, officials must also take into consideration the fact that there are already reports of defective H1N1 vaccines circulating among the general population. The Health Department should wait for a foolproof vaccine before considering mandatory vaccinations. In their eagerness to safeguard public health, government officials should be wary of causing easily avoidable deaths if vaccines are not checked for consistency or safety.

However, no government can ignore the pandemic of H1N1 that is infecting populations around the world. Mandatory vaccinations may prove to be the last remaining option if the virus mutates and becomes more resistant to medication. For now, however, the virus remains relatively mild, targeting mostly the old and very young. Priority vaccinations should go to babies, pregnant

women, and senior citizens who are most vulnerable to the flu. Yet, for the moment, there are still not enough vaccines available for even this at-risk group. On its website, the Center for Disease

“The H1N1 vaccine must pass all inspections until it is certain that the vaccine is not defective”

Control (CDC) has announced that the state of New York alone could expect to receive only 23 percent of its expected vaccine supply by the end of October. Spreading out the vaccine among the entire population would dilute the protection of the priority group of seniors and young children. Because of weakened immune systems in seniors and underdeveloped biological defenses in children, these

individuals are the most vulnerable to H1N1. Common sense dictates that vaccines should go to the people who are most at-risk or threatened by the disease. More lives can be saved

by giving vaccines to those who need it most than by wasting valuable supplies on those who do not require or do not want them because of their personal beliefs. Additionally, some religious groups philosophically or religiously oppose vaccinations. Because some vaccines grow on chicken eggs, which have to be disposed of once the vaccine has completed its growth cycle, some say that the growth of vaccines involves the killing of another living being, conflicting with religious beliefs. In addition, some detractors believe vaccinations will make them infertile. Some Hindu leaders in India declare that vaccines will cause infertility. Meanwhile, numerous Christians also believe that vaccinations are in direct

opposition of God’s will. While these beliefs may seem inane to some, governments must never inhibit the rights of those whose beliefs conflict with legislation. One of the most important rights in this nation is freedom of religion. If a government begins to attack these rights, worse acts could follow.

Finally, the institution of mandatory vaccinations should not take effect until adequate supplies of vaccine are available. In the meantime, those who are most vulnerable to the disease should have as much protection given to them as possible for their own good. Finally, the H1N1 vaccine must pass all inspections until it is certain that the vaccine is not defective. Further support can be seen in a Canadian medicine company’s announcement that they have been forced to recall 250,000 defective units of vaccine. Some of those defective vaccines may already have been

distributed, endangering the lives of numerous innocent people. Forcing a portion of the population to receive vaccines that could make them sick defeats the purpose of the vaccine.

The healthcare workers’ concerns should be taken into consideration before any important decision about mandatory vaccination is made by the State of New York, or by the other states, because one vaccine can change the lives of many.

Charters Do Not Warrant Bigger Budgets

By Helen Hejran
Staff Writer

Charter schools, publicly funded schools that run under their own mandate, are currently not performing as well as traditional public schools. However, the Obama administration is diverting \$5 billion to charter schools. Charter schools should not receive more money from the government since they do not offer real, long-term solutions for the public education system in the United States. The government should not rely so heavily on charter schools to change the nation’s academic meritocracy until charter schools prove more effective.

According to a study conducted by the Center for Research on Education Outcomes at Stanford University, about 80 percent of the charter schools across the nation scored the same or lower than public schools. Only 17 percent of the charter schools’ scores on state-mandated achievement tests exceeded scores of traditional public schools. Because the charter schools are not improving upon the traditional public school model, they should not receive additional funding.

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan proposed to use \$5 billion of the \$100 billion in the federal stimulus package for education in order to pressure states to support charter schools. This proposal will force states to allow the creation of new charter schools and close ineffective ones. Duncan stated to *US News* reporters that “States that lack charter school laws, or put artificial caps on the growth of charter schools, will jeopardize their application” for federal grant money. Public

of state funds from traditional public schools. The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) loses about \$7,000 of state money annually for every student that transfers to a charter school. Across California, charter schools cause a loss of about \$1.5 billion in per-pupil income to school districts. Because charter schools use a lottery system, enrolling students from various schools and grades, most of the state funding follows those students to

themselves effective, yet billions of dollars are proposed to be given to them. The money should go to public schools, where it can be used more efficiently.

Though charter schools use the lottery system, families from poorer areas are often not aware of their eligibility. Therefore, students in lower-income areas rarely attend charter schools, never knowing that the option is available. By law, charter schools are not the default school for any household;

In addition, charter schools require parents of students to volunteer. If parents do not have the time or desire to participate at their child’s school, then their child is not allowed to attend the school. Because admissions are handled on a request-only basis, if the parents opt out of volunteering, taking action, or trying to improve their child’s education, their child cannot attend a charter school. Hence, children who struggle in school and could benefit from charter schools the most, are left to languish in traditional public schools.

In California, charter schools receive \$7,034, higher than the national average; whereas their public school counterparts receive \$10,264, less than the national average. Charter schools are taking away money that public schools desperately need. In the face of recent budget cuts, public schools receive less money while charter schools are not only receiving more, but lack restrictions on how to spend these funds.

Currently, the public schools of the San Marino Unified School District (SMUSD) face over a \$5-million deficit next year. Officials need to allocate more money to traditional public schools instead of wasting it on non-performing charter schools.

their new schools. Public schools receive less money but their operating costs do not decrease. One student gaining the opportunity to attend a charter school should not limit another’s resources or negatively affect the rest of the public school students. Charter schools have not proven

entirely upon request. Charter schools claim they enroll financially-challenged students in need of this opportunity but, for the most part, they do not have the high-maintenance, at-risk students faced by public schools.



Internet Sales Tax Bill to Provide Revenue

By Camille Wang
Assistant Features Editor

With the holiday season underway, Internet shoppers will likely take advantage of tax-free purchases from companies that are based out of the company’s state. However, these buyers must pay taxes to the Internet-based companies in their state. But now, the government has introduced a new bill that requires people to pay an online tax no matter which company they buy the goods from, even if the company is based outside of their state. Though seemingly

“Some [businesses] are egregiously flaunting the law by not charging [sales] taxes.”
-Lenny Goldman
bill sponsor

unfair, this new bill is necessary for the United States’ declining economic condition and funding for education, which is directly influenced by the economy. The bill focuses on brick-and-mortar stores that also run their businesses online. Currently,

some retailers, such as Borders.com, do not charge customers the required tax for online purchases. But if the bill becomes a law, these stores would have to charge taxes for online customers’ online purchases. In addition, many budgets are being cut down, including ones for the educational system, because of the current recession in the economy. If online retailers collect taxes just as the brick-and-mortar retailers do, fewer budget cuts wuld have to be made to the educational system. Additionally, the failing economy has affected California sales tax revenue. According to CNet News, sales tax has declined by 6.1 percent, which is the greatest decrease in over 50 years. The new bill could reap millions of dollars in tax revenue for the state, which will help alleviate the economic crisis and help the schools. With a uniform Internet sales tax, revenue can be collected more easily. Currently, since the percentage of tax one must pay differs in every state, paying one’s own state taxes can be difficult. For example, the sales tax for certain counties in California’s is 8.25 percent, and if California residents travel somewhere with a five percent tax, the law requires them to voluntarily pay the additional 3.25 percent difference when they return. However, not

everyone pays the additional tax. California’s Board of Equalization estimated that California lost \$1.34 billion in 2003 due to lack of residents paying the extra money. They attribute \$208 million of this loss to internet shopping. This new system will ensure that the state receives all the money it is owed, benefitting the state’s economy. State tax officials proposed the Streamlined Sales Tax Project (STTP) to solve difficulties concerning sales taxes. According to Fox News, more than 20 states have already signed off on this proposal, agreeing to simplify their tax codes and to unify them. However, many large states, including California, are notably

missing from the list. Proponents of the new Internet tax bill hope that with enough states participating in the STTP, will convince Congress to make sales collections mandatory, which will be much simpler. This agreement will faciliate an easier, more reasonable way to collect taxes. In addition, the bill will increase business at brick-and-mortar stores that do not sell their goods online. This will even out the purchases made online and in stores since customers must pay a tax either way. Passing the bill will benefit the brick-and-mortar stores by bringing back online customers and boosting sales. In an article from CNet News, benefitting America’s economy.

Lenny Goldman, a sponsor of the bill, commented, “Most companies that have a retail presence in California charge state sales taxes though their Internet operations, but some are egregiously flaunting the law by not charging taxes[...] [The bill] makes it clear that such tax evasions will not be tolerated. It’s really basic fairness, and we appreciate that the legislature has recognized that.” This bill will force companies and customers to follow the law, which is what they should have done all along. In essence, this potential law will positively affect the United States’ current financial situation, and could provide for fewer educational cuts in the future. Some people already avoid paying the taxes they should, costing the nation millions in the long run. Passing the bill will ensure that each state receives the money it is owed, essentially



Ignition Interlock Device Keeps Roads Safe

By Alexa Wei
Opinion Editor

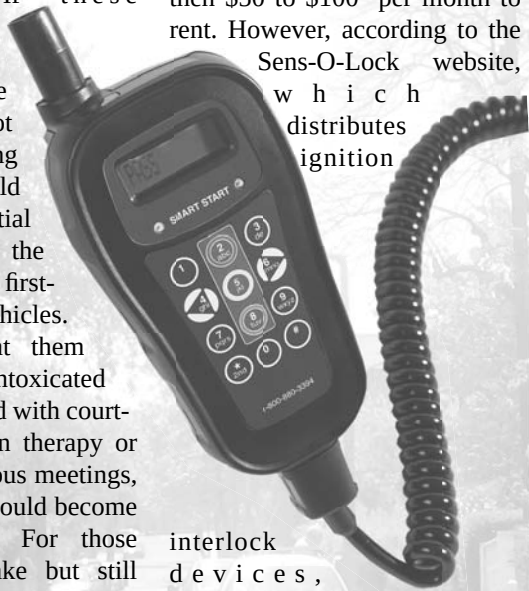
In a nation where an estimated 11,773 people died as a result of drunk driving last year alone, there is an increasing need for new solutions to this problem. One answer is the ignition interlock device, which requires the driver to pass a breathalyzer test before he or she can operate the car. The device, which can be installed into the driver’s own vehicle, is a viable solution which keeps inebriated people off the road while still allowing those convicted of Driving Under the Influence (DUI) to drive themselves to and from work as long as they are sober. Because of this dual need of personal freedom and safety, ignition interlock devices should become a standard part of sentencing drunk drivers, especially first-time offenders. Safety is one of the main reasons why the ignition interlock device is so crucial. Not only does this device prevent innocent people from being harmed, it protects the driver as well by preventing them from driving while inebriated. It could even require the driver to take “running tests,” in which they have to blow into the device while driving to prevent drunk drivers from asking a sober person to

take the test for them. If the driver fails one of the running tests, the car’s lights will begin to flash, alerting the police. However, for reasons of safety, the car will not stop running. According to the Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) website, installing ignition interlocks on convicted offenders’ cars could save thousands of lives. This device is also capable of preventing offenders from driving while under the influence once more. The website mentions a study which shows that these machines are 64 percent effective in “reducing repeat drunk driving

offenses.” Despite this, only 10 percent of convicted drunk drivers per year currently have an ignition interlock on their automobile. In order to discourage drunk drivers from repeating this dangerous and illegal behavior and prevent needless deaths, ignition interlock devices should be placed on all convicted drunk drivers’ vehicles. This may seem extreme, but the device is effective because it does not use punishment to discourage drunk drivers, but technology to make it nearly impossible for drunk drivers to operate a vehicle while inebriated. This simple, yet different, approach could be the missing link in breaking the oftren-repeated behavior of drinking and driving. The current system for punishing drunk drivers is not working. The website for Join Together, the national center on addiction and substance abuse, quotes Susan Ferguson of the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety as saying, ““We’ve seen no progress in 10 years; we’re completely stalled.” If there has not been any success with the current punishments, then a measure that is almost foolproof like the ignition interlock should be given a fair chance. According to Join Together’s website, these devices “would be more effective than criminal penalties like license

suspensions, since many offenders continue to drive anyway.” In fact, the device is usually reserved for repeat offenders. If these people have been convicted more than once, then clearly the usual penalties are not effective in deterring drunk driving. It would save time and potential lives to enforce the ignition interlock on first-time offenders’ vehicles. This would prevent them from driving while intoxicated in the future. Coupled with court-ordered rehabilitation therapy or Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, first-time offenders could become last-time offenders. For those who made a mistake but still need a way to get to work, the ignition interlock device is more accomodating than revoking a license. Instead of preventing drunk drivers from driving by taking their licenses away, the ignition interlock device allows the convicted lawbreaker to drive as long as they are sober. Also, if one law forbidding driving drunk failed to stop them from driving, then a revoked license probably will not either. This way, these criminals can still transport themselves to and from their jobs without endangering themselves or others in the process. One of the possible reasons that this plan has not yet been implemented is expense.

The devices can cost \$50 to \$200 to install, according to IgnitionInterlockDevice.org, and then \$50 to \$100 per month to rent. However, according to the Sens-O-Lock website, which distributes ignition interlock devices, the devices can actually save money because offenders can continue to work and are less likely to repeat DUI behavior. The devices do not cost taxpayers money since the drunk driver pays for their own unit. Instead of fining the driver, force them to use that money to buy an ignition interlock. So, in order to keep drunk drivers off the road, but still allow sober offenders a means of transportation, ignition interlocks should be installed in the vehicles of all first-time DUI offenders. This machine could save lives and improve the criminal justice system in regard to drunk driving by barring the possibility of drinking and driving.



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December 12, 2009

LAYOUT BY JILLY KO





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~Thomas Tusser



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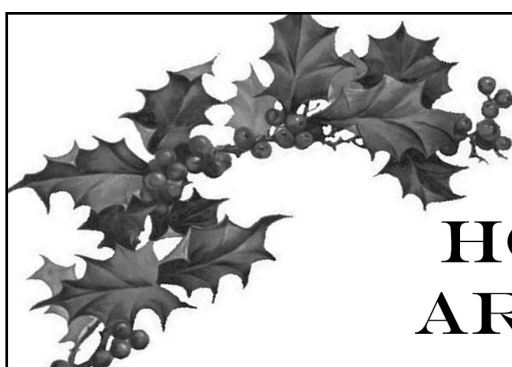
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ONLINE ADVENTURES

Recently, a new social media platform called Tumblr has sent Facebook and Twitter scrambling to hold on to their popularity. Tumblr has been named one of "Obama's Top 5 Tech Tools" according to PC World. Why is a common micro-blogging service causing such a stir? This new blog format, called a "tumblelog" allows the user to capture their thoughts without a 140-character limit. This means users can share things from their lives by simply "tumbling" it, through texts, photos, quotes, links, audio, video, and slideshows, all with little or no commentary.

For users who wished Facebook incorporated colorful and creative layouts like those on Myspace, Tumblr provides hundreds of themes to choose from which you can customize.

Tumblr offers other various interesting and advanced features such as the ability to update itself from other websites. For users active on Twitter, YouTube, Facebook, and Flickr, Tumblr can automatically import your posts to your Tumblr blog.

In addition, users have the ability to post photos and text directly from their cell phones. And, if you really do not feel like typing, just pick up the phone and call Tumblr to record an audio post for your blog.

Despite the user-friendly features, there are several areas that Tumblr can improve on. Unlike Facebook, Tumblr does not allow the user to comment on blogs and profiles, which takes away from the social community. Additionally, there is no function where you can discover or join public groups like on Facebook.

On the positive side, users can stay connected with their friends, relatives, and favorite Tumblrs. Also, Tumblr is up-to-date with the latest news and fashion. I personally enjoy expressing myself through Tumblr with the many photos shared throughout the wall feed. In fact, it helps me get through my stressful days.

With such a wide variety from which to choose, Tumblr offers features that will never leave you bored. Tumblr is the better Twitter!

-Joie Fan// Staff Writer

A TV GUIDE TO ASIAN SHOWS

Think of an American reality show, and all kinds of back-stabbing comes to mind. For anyone who has seen a minute of an Asian variety show, the atmosphere is definitely more lighthearted. Celebrities figure largely in these shows, but rather than mock these guests, Asian variety shows serve to bring out a different side of celebrities. Although you may prefer the outrageous antics seen in American reality shows, Asian variety shows have something to offer despite being in a different language. To discover more, read Spectrum's picks of Asian variety shows.

by Samantha Lai//Managing Editor

In Taiwan, "Guess Guess Guess!" invites a panel of guests (usually actors or singers in need of publicity) to vote on whether a participant's story is true or false. Every episode has a theme, such as "I'm a pretty girl who used to be overweight." Anyone who understands Mandarin will enjoy the random commentary provided by one of the hosts, Jacky Wu, whose presence always keeps the viewer entertained. An audience of all ages, genders, and Chinese ancestry will enjoy watching the participants share their true or false identities.

Watch the show at <http://sugoideas.com/>.



One of the most revealing variety shows in Korea is "We Got Married," which features the 100-day "marriage" of two celebrities. Over the course of their time together, the couple must complete a series of challenges presented by the producers while living in the same house. The show has paired members of well-known idol groups, such as 2AM, and Brown Eyed Girls, as well as comedians and actors. Everyone can find someone on the show to fixate on because the celebrities themselves range from different ages and backgrounds.

Watch the series with English subtitles on www.mysoju.com.

THE WAY OF THE NINJA

With its mysterious yet violent title, director James McTeigue's *Ninja Assassin* follows the gruesome and bloody life of a ninja.

Ninja Assassin opens with a brutal and vicious fight scene set in a yakuza hideout. After actor Sung Kang (*The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift*), portraying a yakuza boss called Hollywood, receives an anonymous envelope filled with black sand, ninjas massacre him and his henchmen. This first scene is already graphic, so for those of you who cannot stand to see even a drop of blood, I highly recommend you not see this movie. For those of you who can withstand the sight of dismembered limbs and guts flying about, then *Ninja Assassin* is for you.

The main story starts with Mika Coretti, a forensics researcher played by Naomi Harris (*28 Days Later*). She gives her boss Ryan Maslow, portrayed by Ben Miles (*V for Vendetta*), information and evidence in order to

prove that ninja assassins are behind the recent murders. Mika builds up her argument by showing the amount of children captured and comes to conclude that a Japanese clan known as the Ozunu had been training the children into ninja assassins. The movie then focuses on Raizo, one of these kidnapped children, who is now grown up. is Raizo, Played by the Korean pop singer, Rain (*Speed Racer*), Raizo was orphaned at young age and raised by the Ozunu clan, enduring excruciating training to become a assassin. Although I found Raizo's constant flashbacks about his past very

interesting, they sometimes get in the way of the actual storyline.

Mika and Raizo's lives soon converge when the Ozunu clan discover Mika's investigation and hunt her down. Raizo saves her from the first ambush of ninjas and

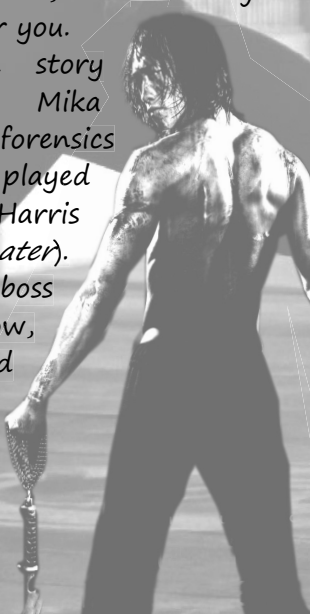
encounters four or five more ninja squadrons along the way before actually reaching the core of the problem.

Apart from the frequent switching between flashbacks and gory fight scenes, *Ninja Assassin* proved to be a great action movie. The hundreds of fight scenes in this movie will definitely entertain you. The effects were realistic and enhanced the movie's modern take of a ninja's life. However, the storyline disappoints in its complicated unfolding. The interruptions in the storyline make it very difficult to connect each character to the plot. In some scenes you even find yourself lost. I also thought that the slicing and dicing of the hundreds of

ninjas in the movie became really repetitive. The blood and gore was definitely overdone and would certainly scare you out of the cinema if you were squeamish.

Yet with just as many setbacks as more are improvements, *Ninja Assassin* proved to be a great and entertaining movie worth watching in the movie theater.

-Mathew Lim//Spectrum Editor



KOREAN FOOD FOR THE SEOUL

Koreans are well-known for their wide variety of delicious foods, ranging from marinated barbeque ribs (Galbi) to spicy tofu soup (Soon tofu). People of all nationalities can enjoy these dishes. Out of all Korean dishes, perhaps the most famous one is Kimchi. Kimchi basically consists of fermented cabbages known as Napa doused in a spicy chili sauce. Koreans around the world consider the dish a staple, and virtually every Korean household or restaurant has it. I personally love eating the dish. In fact, whenever my family eats at a Korean restaurant, I always eat at least two dishes of Kimchi.

A few months ago, I started making Kimchi when I visited a Korean friend's house. Our families have known each other for several years, and we frequently visit them for dinner. They always have a delicious case of fresh, homemade

Kimchi in their refrigerator, and I simply cannot get enough of it. Their Kimchi tasted even better than the Kimchi at many restaurants, and it was the perfect complement to their homemade Bulgogi (Korean barbecued beef slices).

My favorite time of the year to eat Kimchi would be from winter to early-spring. There is no better time to eat Kimchi than a cold, dark day in the rain. The spices of the Kimchi really warm the spirit during those gloomy winter days.

When I had my first taste of Korean food at my friend's house several years ago, I fell in love with more than just Kimchi.

One Korean dish that I could not resist was Soon tofu, a type of Korean spicy-tofu soup that is common in Korean restaurants. I absolutely love the spicy and hot flavor of the soup, and it also makes a delicious accompaniment to Kimchi as well. In fact, Soon tofu may

be one of the best Korean dishes to eat during winter since it is always served boiling hot and leaves you feeling warm and satisfied.

Another delicious Korean dish is Galbi. Usually, Galbi is either barbequed over a fire or cooked in a frying pan. In my opinion, barbequed Galbi surpasses all other Korean barbequed foods in its flavor. I visit a number of Korean restaurants in Korea town quite regularly and the ones that I visit the most are Korean barbeque restaurants. Cooking and eating Korean barbeque is one of the best dining experiences one can have.

What could possibly be more fun than cooking your own meal right before your eyes? It is always an enjoyable experience to watch your food being cooked and then being served hot onto your plate.

Galbi is the most delicious barbequed Korean food there is, and it tastes even better when you know that you cooked it over a barbeque. And, of course, Kimchi goes great along with a hot plate of Galbi.

My Korean friend's family introduced me to many types of Korean food. I remember all the joyful and fun experiences our families had together preparing and barbequing Galbi and other meats over a barbeque. But whenever our families meet together for one of those dinners, I always ask one question, "Where's the Kimchi?"

-David Chan//Assistant News Editor



SANTA'S IMPOSSIBLE MISSIONS

No doubt some of us grow less and less punctual about distributing Christmas gifts before or during the actual holiday. But in the end, no material good can really satisfy what we think our friends and relatives want. In a way, money can buy happiness, but only in the short-term and in the spirit of the holidays, Spectrum presents the objects the following people most yearn for but cannot have.



Dear Santa,
Thank you for giving me the presidency last Christmas. I have always believed in that serving my country is its own reward, but since the inauguration, I've realized that it takes a lot to please Americans. Please make everyone agree on Afghanistan, health-care, homosexuals, climate regulations, abortion, Sarah Palin...

Sincerely, President Barack Hussein Obama

P.S. Michelle wants the newest collection from Narciso Rodriguez and those super-high shoes from Alexander McQueen. Oh, Malia and Sasha would like bigger rooms. The ones they have are too old and smell funny.

Dear Santa,
for Christmas I just want Edward. I think I've been a good girl, and I deserve to be with him, even if he's moody at times. Well, Jacob's not that bad either... can I have him too? Pretty please?
Thank you, Bella Swan.

Dear Santa,
Lately I've been seeing all the hot celebrities toting these rumpled things around town. Ashlee has one, Halle has one, Jessica has one, Nicole has one... Santa, I've worked so hard this year, making clothes that everyone hates, but they don't know it's really hard to use a sewing machine when your nails might get chipped. Anyways, it seems like all my friends have this new thing... Santa, just give me a baby. I don't care whose it is or where it came from. It's so cool.

XXXX, LiLo

- Samantha Lai//Managing Editor

Merry Christmas!!!



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Titans Falter in Double Overtime

By Justin Le
Sports Editor

The SMHS Varsity Basketball team hosted its showdown with the Arroyo Knights on Tuesday, December 15. The two teams put their hearts on the court and duked it out in a heart-pounding double overtime game. Despite the Titans’ efforts, they could not execute in the final minutes and fell to the Knights in double overtime, walking off the court with a record of 2-6.

The beginning of the first quarter was steady for both teams. The Titans started off playing full court press and man defense. Senior Captain Forward Fernando Carrillo scored the game’s first point, draining a floater over an Arroyo defender. Right after the Knights struck back and scored three baskets. After a block by Senior Center Alex Tong, the Titans managed to score again. After a steal from Senior Center Trent Converse, Fernando raced down the court for a left-handed layup. Trent was able to earn two more steals in the first quarter, unfortunately none of which were converted into points. The Knights were able to score once again, ending the first quarter with the Titans down 6-8.

In the second quarter the Titans still failed to capture the lead. After a basket by the Knights, Junior Guard Grover Fan drove down an open lane but was hacked by a Knight. Although Grover only made one of two

free throws, Junior Center Luke Benuska was able to corral a miss on the ensuing possession and put the ball back up for two points. Following a behind the back foul on Luke, Fernando drained a jumper from behind the arc, bringing to score to 12-14. Still, the Titans had trouble keeping up on offense as the Knights score seven more points on ensuing plays. Again, Fernando pulled up from three-point land and swishes, narrowing down the Knights’ lead down to six. On the next possession Fernando drove and kicked the ball out to Grover for a two pointer from the baseline. Arroyo scored again before the end of the half, bringing to score to 19-23.

San Marino turned up the heat in third quarter, starting off with a zone defense. Fernando started off red hot, knocking down a jumper from the right elbow and catch-and-shoot three pointer from the left corner. Junior Guard Sam Louie followed in his footsteps and nailed a three pointer from the right corner. After a block by Grover, the Titan defense became impenetrable locking down the Knights. Fernando was able to put another three points up on the board and Senior Captain Guard Marcus Sy drove the ball down the court for an easy layup, giving the Titans a 13-2 run and a score of 32-27. Following a three pointer by the Knights, Grover drove down an open lane and dished the ball underneath to Trent for an easy layup. Despite the aggressive

run, the Knights were able to eat away at the Titans’ lead through a sequence of free throws and easy shots and come back 35-35.

The fourth quarter started off with a gargantuan block by Luke. The game began to tense up as both teams were tied up. Fernando went up and under but missed, hitting the back iron. On the next play, Fernando drove the ball and kicked it out to Sophomore Forward Kwame Do but the Titans failed to execute. With the Titans down 38-41, they needed a prayer to tie up the game. With ten seconds left in the game, the Titans came out with a stack inbound play.

Under pressure, Fernando came off a low screen and fought off his defender to get behind the arc where he received the ball from Marcus, pulled up with a defender in his face, and drained a clutch three pointer to tie the game 41-41. Fernando, with 23 points, commented, “I was nervous going into the play but I knew I had to shoot it. I wasn’t expecting for it to go in but when it did I was relieved to know that this game wasn’t over quite yet.”

The two teams started off trading baskets in overtime. However, the Titans were able to get a three point lead after Marcus knocked down a long range jumper. With San Marino up 47-44, the Knights were able to get within one point after a jumper. Fernando reeled in a shooting foul and executed on both free throws, bringing the score to 49-46. However,

the Knights had a prayer of their own and threw up a three pointer that touched every part of the rim before going in. The two teams then headed to double overtime.

The Titans went cold in shooting in double overtime and the Knights took the advantage. With only nine seconds left, the Titans were down four. Hoping for another prayer, Fernando threw up a shot from behind the arc but the ball rattled in and out. Despite

their tremendous effort, the Titans narrowly fell to the Knights, bringing their season record to 2-6. Fernando noted after the game, “It was disappointing know that we went through so much to get as far as we did and lose, but in the end, it was a learning experience.”

The Titans are facing the Rosemead Panthers at home on Monday, December 21 at 11:30 a.m.



Senior Captain Forward **Fernando Carrillo** throws up a floater over a Knight defender in their game on Tuesday, December 15. *Justin Quan//TITAN SHIELD*

Girls’ Soccer Dethrones Lady Aztecs

By David Gelt
Managing Editor

On Wednesday, December 16, the Lady Titans’ Varsity Soccer team matched up against the Mark Keppel High School Lady Aztecs.

San Marino scored two goals in the early goings of the game and never looked back, defeating the Lady Aztecs by a final score of 3-0.

In the game, Senior Captain

Midfielder Elizabeth Beardsley scored twice and Junior Midfielder Savannah de Sousa scored once en route to the Lady Titans victory.

In the first half, San Marino managed to contain Mark Keppel. The Lady Titans kept the ball away from their goal, leading to two early strikes. First, Elizabeth snuck through the Lady Aztec defense and put the ball in the back of the net, giving San Marino a 1-0 edge. Only minutes later, Savannah scored on a shot from

the right side, pushing the margin to 2-0 in favor of the Lady Titans. San Marino continued to dominate with solid ball movement for the rest of the first half.

A scary moment for the Lady Titans came just before the first half came to a close when Junior Captain Forward Annie Wenzlau was tripped while dribbling towards the Mark Keppel goal.

Annie fell to the ground grimacing only a day after Freshman Forward Quinta Addis

was injured. After a few minuets, Annie was able to walk off the field with a slight limp. She would return to the game in the second half.

Annie commented after the game, “The girl I was going against just totally missed the ball and went for my ankle. She gave me a dead leg, but that’s soccer: you got to do what you got to do.”

The Lady Titans eventually closed the half with field position around the Mark Keppel goal and a 2-0 lead.

San Marino came out of the halftime break playing solid defense forcing lots of play near the middle of the field. Both teams had a couple chances to strike at the opponent’s goal in the first few minutes of the second half but Junior Goalie Carlee Beckler managed to stop any shot that came near the goal.

On one possession, the Lady Aztecs nearly scored as the ball slid off the outside of the right post, nearly entering San Marino’s goal. The San Marino Lady Titans then took the ball down the field eventually earning a corner kick. Annie kicked the ball in towards the goal looking for her teammates to score.

However, neither teammates Junior Forward Casey McCloskey nor Freshman Forward Alex Schuster were able to head Annie’s pass into the goal.

A few minutes later, San Marino took another corner kick but was

again unable to connect as the Mark Keppel goalie knocked the ball away.

After another near score from the Lady Aztecs, San Marino kicked the ball down the field, eventually finding Elizabeth in the center of the field for a header, which she knocked past the goalie for a goal, her second of the game, changing the score to 3-0 in favor of San Marino.

After Elizabeth’s goal, Mark Keppel could not move the ball up the field and the Lady Titans were unable to score on a few more good attempts. When the final whistle blew, San Marino held a dominant 3-0 lead and earned a win.

After the game, Annie remarked, “We played great. I feel like we finally put together what we have been working on since we started.”

This game put the Lady Titans’ record at 3-4-1 as they prepare for Rio Hondo League play.

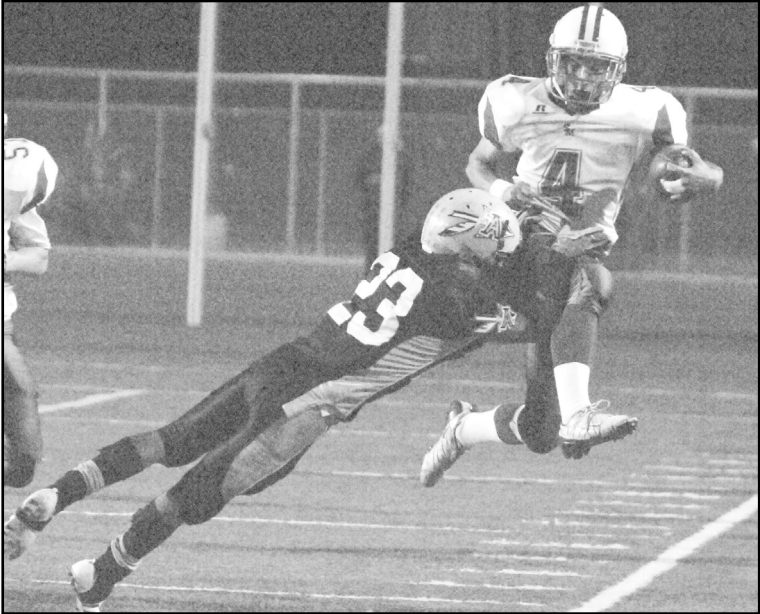
As the team gets ready for league, Annie stated, “This team has the most potential I have been on since [my] freshman year. We just need to play our best and we can win league.”

The team’s next game is after winter break on January 5 when they visit the Rosemead Lady Panthers. They will then visit the La Salle Lady Lancers for their last game of the preseason. Their Rio Hondo League play will begin on January 8 when the Titans host the La Cañada Spartans.



Junior Captain Forward **Annie Wenzlau** dribbles around a defender and down the field during the Lady Titans’ match against Mark Kepple on Wednesday December 16. *Vivian Lee//TITAN SHIELD*

Titans Come Up Short in CIF Quarter Finals



Senior Captain Wide Reciever **Stevie Yortsos** gets knocked out of the air by an Azusa running back after an interception. *Michael Bernstein//Titan Shield*

By **Luke Benuska**
Sports Editor

It is not often that San Marino High School is represented in the quarter-finals round of the CIF football playoffs. But nonetheless the Titans were playing in the quarter-finals on November 27. Fresh off a dismantling of the Rosmead Panthers, San Marino traveled up to Citrus College to play the Azusa Aztecs.

San Marino kicked the ball off to start the game, and the Titan defense took the field. It took just three plays for the Aztecs to reach the redzone on the first drive. But backed up against their own goal line, San Marino forced a fumble and saved a touchdown. However,

the offense never got going and went three and out. After the punt, and a very frustrating conversion on third and long by the Aztecs, Azusa scored the first touchdown of the game.

The Titans got the ball back, and earned their first first down of the game on a run by Senior Fullback Ben Harwich. However, the offense stalled after that and they were forced to punt four plays later. The Aztecs took advantage of the good field position, and did not wait to strike as they scored a touchdown just a couple plays later, but could not hit the PAT.

San Marino found themselves in a hole trailing 13-0 at the start of the second quarter. The offense began to show some life on their

next drive as after a long run by Harwich they found themselves inside the ten yard line. However, the Titans offense stalled again and they did not manage to score any points. The defense responded by shutting down the Aztecs, and getting the ball back for the offense. After a good punt return and a long screen pass to Senior Running Back Benny Hung, San Marino was inside their 20-yard line again. The offense could not get in the endzone, but Freshman Kicker Matt Wofford was able to put three points on the board for the Titans.

After a couple punts by each team, the Aztecs had the ball with time running out in the second quarter. They scored before the half was up, and the Titans found themselves down 20-3, entering half time.

San Marino's championship hopes were on the line and they needed to play a much better half of football to make up for their 17 point deficit.

The Titan offense came out with new life, as Senior Captain Quarterback Joe Forgatch hooked up with Senior Captain Wide Reciever Stevie Yortsos on the first two plays of the half for a total of 60 yards. The Titans were once again in the redzone, but this time Joe connected with Stevie once again for San Marino's first touchdown.

With the team still trailing 10-20, the defense looked to get the ball back. Their hopes were

answered when Junior Linebacker Oliver Cambell stuffed the Aztec running back on fourth down.

The Titans took over with great field position, but were faced with a tough third and long right out of the gate. However, San Marino was unable to take advantage, and turned the ball back over in four downs. The defense once again dug itself in a hole after giving up a 40-yard run. But, the Titans did not back down, and got the ball back off an interception by Stevie. The Titans began their drive, but it ended quickly when an Aztec defender intercepted a pass. The quarter then ended with the Titans still trailing 10-20.

With eight minutes left in the fourth quarter, Joe made it a one

score game, when he scored on a quarterback sneak. The Titan defense then came up big when they recovered a fumble on the Aztec five-yard line. Two plays later Senior Captain Running Back Benny Hung scored a touchdown putting the Titans up 24-20 with six minutes remaining.

Azusa then answered with a score of their own, putting them up three with one minute remaining. The Titans then gave it their all but came up just short on an incomplete pass intended for Stevie as time ran out.

The Titans finished second in the Rio Hondo League with a 9-3 record, and went further in the playoffs then any SM football team in recent history.



Senior Captain Running Back **Benny Hung** finds running room in the Azusa secondary. *Michael Bernstein//Titan Shield*

SM Victorious in CIF Finals

(Continued from page 1)

Pasadena Lady Tigers, winning easily, 12-6, to advance to the CIF Finals against the Lady Titans.

In Singles play, San Marino used six different players to take a 5-4 lead in the match.

Freshman Number One Singles Dorothy Tang won her first two matches against the Lady Tigers Number One and Number Two Players while Sophomore Number Two Singles Sarah Gealer won both of her first two matches and Sophomore Number Three Singles Michelle Gandawidjaja won one match and lost her other one.

Then Senior Substitute Taylor Chan dropped a match, as did Senior Substitute Janney Lin and

Junior Substitute Kate Knauss.

At the end of the Singles matches, San Marino held a slim 5-4 lead.

The Lady Titans Doubles teams dominated their portion of the competition, winning that half of the match by a score of 7-2.

First, San Marino's team of Senior Captain Number One Doubles Player Jeannie Peterson and Freshman Number One Doubles Player Larissa Phillips to win all three of their matches to help the Lady Titans en route to their CIF Championship.

Then, Junior Number Two Doubles Player Tammy Le and Junior Captain Number Two Doubles Player Marsha Cheng also swept their San Luis Obispo

counterparts.

Sophomore Number Three Doubles Player Crystal Yang and Junior Number Three Doubles Player Calyx Chang defeated the Number Three team for the Lady Tigers; however they fell short against both the Number One and Number Two teams for the San Luis Obispo Lady Tigers.

The Lady Titans dominated Doubles play, 7-2, making history as the 2009 CIF Southern Section Division III Champions.

The season could not have ended on a higher note for the Lady Titans. They finished the season with an immaculate 23-0 overall record as well as earning Rio Hondo League Champions once again with an undefeated mark of 10-0.

The San Marino Lady Titan will bid farwell to the graduating seniors Janney, Jeannie, and Taylor. Next season, San Marino will welcome back Larissa, Tammy, Marsha, Crystal, and Calyx from doubles and Dorothy, Sarah, Michelle, and Kate from doubles.

The SMHS student body honored Coach Paula Bush and the Lady Titans at a pep rally before Thanksgiving in the architectual rally point as well as at the Winter Sports Assembly.

During the assembly, ASB welcomed Coach Bush and the team onto the court as they added a temporary championship banner to the gym wall.



Sophomore **Sarah Gealer** prepares to return an opponent's shot during a home match earlier this season. *Jilly Ko//TITAN SHIELD*

Girls' Water Polo Drops Home Opener

By **Kevin Tran**
Staff Writer

The San Marino Girls' Varsity Water Polo team competed against the Crescenta Valley High Falcons in the game hosted here at SMHS last Tuesday.

After getting off to a slow start, the Lady Titans could not catch up to the Falcons offense and ended up losing the game 3-13. The Lady Titans were not able execute the proper plays in the first quarter of the game, as the Falcons took off to a great start and scored four consecutive goals.

At the 1:49 mark of the first quarter, Sophomore Goalie Carla Bezjian managed to stop the Falcons offensive run with a rejection on the five meter penalty shot, bringing hope back for the team.

However, the Lady Titans still could not get an offensive start, ending the first quarter 0-4.

Freshman Utility Jessica Chang scored the first goal for the Lady Titans in the beginning of the second quarter, but the Falcons responded back and managed to score a shot off a fast break. The Falcon goalie then rejected two consecutive attempts from San Marino. The Lady Titans closed the first half trailing the Falcons 1-8.

Coming out of halftime, the

Lady Titans tried to pick up the offense, as they got their second point of the game just 30 seconds into the quarter. Junior Primary Right Wing Cindy Sheih found a way through the Falcons goalie and put another point on the board for SMHS, but the Lady Titans still had a six point deficit.

The Lady Titans had trouble getting defensive stops, as the Falcons cruised towards the goal, adding two more points to the scoreboard. Senior Primary Set Christa Lam regained hope for the team after scoring a goal halfway through the period, inching the ladies to three total points.

Despite the Lady Titans' valiant effort, the Falcons answered all attacks by San Marino and scored another goal off a fast break.

With about one minute left in the game, Senior Utility Captain Tiffany Yeh stole the ball from the Falcons and managed to get a Falcon player ejected for one possession. However, the Falcons answered back and intercepted an ongoing pass from Tiffany as they closed the game 13-3, bringing the Lady Titans to a record of 2-6.

Results for yesterday's game with the California High Grizzlies were unavailable at press time.

The Lady Titans' next game will be on Wednesday, January 6 against the Pasadena Polytechnic Panthers at home at 3:15 p.m.

Boys' Soccer Shuts Out Poly 1-0



Senior Captain Midfielder **John Choi** chases down the ball and prepares to clear it away from the opposing Panther Defenders. *Kerry Chen//TITAN SHIELD*

By Doug Mayberry
Staff Writer

This Tuesday, the Poly Panthers hosted the San Marino Titans to an exciting match. This match was highlighted by an amazing goal by Freshman Forward, Ricardo Patlan.

This game started hot and stayed hot the entire game. Right from the beginning, the Titans started to control the ball.

Two minutes into the game,

the Titans forced the Panthers to kick the ball out of bounds, so the Titans got the chance at a corner kick. The Titans took this opportunity with valor, sending John Choi to inbound it.

The Titans pressed the box, and Ricardo's head managed to find the ball and force the ball into the back of the Panther's net.

Although this goal was the only one scored during the game, the remainder proved to be just as exciting.

By the end of the first half, the score stood at 1-0 in favor of the Titans. The Titans left the playing field and discussed the first half with Varsity Coach Oswaldo Monroy.

The Titans brought a burning desire to win in the second half of play, keeping the ball on the other half of the field almost the entire game. At the 64th minute, Senior Goal Keeper Emerick Varga collided with a Panther, received a red card, and left the game with an injured his right ankle, forcing Senior Goal Keeper Henry Hsu in to defend the penalty kick. The Panther missed wide left and gave the Titans back their momentum.

During the second half of play, the Titans controlled the ball onto the Panther's side of the field and forced many Poly defenders to kick the ball out of bounds or pass backwards to the goalkeeper. Spurred by Senior Captain Stevie Yortsos, the Titans forced the Panthers to play on their heels.

During the 27th minute of the second half, Senior Captain John Choi and a Poly defender both tried to move the ball onto the opponents side of the field by one-touching it back and forth to each other for a full minute. This resulted in the Titans controlling the ball and forcing the Panthers to give the Titans a corner kick. Although Freshman Manuel Vargas kicked the ball wide, the Titans started to run down the clock, and the Panthers began to realize that their defeat was eminent.

As the game continued, the referee's let the game get out of hand and many controversial calls kept the game close. Ricardo also scored another goal, but it was called back for contact.	
Although the Titans pressed the ball well, by the 39th minute of the second half, Poly began to make a final stand. Poly pushed the ball well and attempted three more shots on goal. Although none ended up hitting their target,	
Henry Hsu was a force to be reckoned with while attempting the shots. By stoppage, the score stood at 1-0 in favor of the Titans.	
The Panthers were unable to start anything, and the game ended with the score, 1-0 in favor of the Titans.	
This moves the Titan's record to 5-1-1 and with this win, they will hopefully move into league play with a positive attitude and a determination for success.	

Boys' Soccer Upcoming Schedule

1/5	CATHEDRAL
1/6	LA SALLE
1/8	@LA CAÑADA
1/13	MONROVIA
1/15	BLAIR
1/20	@TEMPLE CITY
1/22	SOUTH PASADENA

Lady Titans Fall in Tournament Opener

By Luke Benuska
Sports Editor

The Lady Titans Varsity Basketball team was fresh off a dismantling of Marshall 44-15, and were hungry for another win as they entered the first game of the Arroyo Tournament.

On Tuesday, December 15, San Marino was matched with Glendora High School Tartans and looked to improve on their 5-4 record.

The game started with a made jump shot by a Lady Tartan guard, but the Lady Titans answered with a layup by Junior Center Ta-wen Yu. Both teams shooting then went cold, but San Marino didn't allow many second chances, and were solid on the boards early.

Glendora then went on a 5-0 run making the score 7-2. The Lady Titans did not allow a basket for the rest of the quarter, but only managed to score one more point, making the score 3-7 at the end of the first quarter.

The cold shooting continued from the Titans in the second quarter, but they also continued to play great defense.

After a basket by Freshman guard Leigh Kunitake and a three-pointer by Junior guard Christine Law, San Marino had cut the score to 8-10.

Before the half was over, Senior Guard Kathy Cheung got a steal, was fouled, and hit both free throws to tie the score. The Lady

Titans then entered halftime tied with the Tartans.

Holding a team to 10 points in a half is quite an accomplishment, and proves that San Marino was playing good defense. But the Lady Titans only scoring ten points also.

Coach David Jenson commented on the scoring issues by stating to the *Pasadena Star News*, "I wasn't expecting a lot of scoring out of us, because we have our leading scorer (Junior Captain Shooting Guard Remi Kohno) out, and the girls are a little tentative still about taking that role."

San Marino continued their stagnant offense during the beginning of the third quarter. Glendora took advantage of the opportunity and scored a three, bringing the score 10-13.

But, after two free throws by Leigh, and a basket by Junior guard Paige Kunitake, the Lady Titans had their first lead of the game 14-13.

The two teams traded baskets for the next couple of minutes. But a 6-0 run by the Tartans opened their lead to 22-16.

After a layup by Glendora, the third quarter ended with the Titans trailing 18-24. The Titans only committed one turnover during the third quarter, however, they struggled with shooting from the field.

As the fourth quarter started San Marino looked as they weren't playing with much emotion and

they paid the price. The Lady Titans only scored once in the fourth, on a layup by Sophmore Forward Adrea Yen. They also allowed 8 points in the fourth, and could not mount a comeback.

The Tartans took advantage of mismatches and backdoor cuts in the fourth. A high point in a negative part of the game, was when Ta-wen rejected a Glendora player of an open layup. The game ended with San Marino losing 32-20.

Paige Kunitake and Kathy

Cheung led the Lady Titans in scoring with four points each. And Kathy was a big energy boost for San Marino on defense. She was very active on defense, and got a couple of steals.

"Kathy's effort on defense, and hustle throughout the game, helped us stay alive," commented Remi.

The defeat brought the Titans to a record of 5-5 but the outlook wasn't totally negative.

"This loss is of course frustrating, but it is still early in

the year. We still have a lot of games to play, and we have not played a league game yet. We progress as a team every week, so I am very confident." commented Senior Captain Andrea Chiu.

The Lady Titans had the second game of the Arroyo Tournament yesterday against Bell Gardens High School, but results were not available at press time.

San Marino has their third game of the tournament tomorrow, and finish the tournament next Monday.



Freshman Point Guard **Leigh Kunitake** drives past a Tartan defender into the lane, and towards the basket in last Tuesday's game. *Henry Hsu//TITAN SHIELD*