



# SAN MARINO HIGH SCHOOL TITAN SHIELD

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## Titans Parade Homecoming Spirit

By Andrea Chiu  
Assistant News Editor

To pump students up for the 2007 homecoming game against La Cañada, the ASB hosted its annual Homecoming week celebration from October 8 to 12. During snack break and lunch, different students from each grade participated in various activities.

To kick off the week, ASB started with a football throw during snack break. From the Breezeway to the Architectural Rally Point (APR), quarterbacks from each grade had to throw a football to three receivers.

During lunch, each ASB class president participated in an obstacle course by spinning around with a tennis racket, running through steps and tossing a ball to their teammate.

On Tuesday, contestants had to drink a cup of unknown

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Members of SAB (Senior Advisory Board) rally Titan spirit in support of the Homecoming theme, "Spank the Spartans" at the annual Homecoming Parade along Huntington Drive last Friday, October 12. Justin Quan//TITAN SHIELD

## Students Revel in Casablanca at Coronation

By Peony Khoo  
Managing Editor

This year's Casablanca-themed Coronation Ball attracted over 600 people, a significant increase from last year's attendance of 509 people, to the Conzonire residence on October 13 from 8 to 11 p.m.

"I thought the turnout was great," remarked ASB Fundraising Commissioner Senior Calvin Chen, who coordinated the event along with Secretary Senior Lauren Chan, Community and Service Commissioner Senior Ann Liang, and Athletics Commissioner Senior Kimi Silverstein.

With a \$3500 budget for the dance, ASB brought in ticket sales of well over \$10,000.

Kimi attributed part of the increased turnout to "an awesome freshman class [that] is really spirited and into everything."

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## "The Odd Couple" Opens at Webb Theater

By Brandon Shiau  
Associate Editor of Copy

The SMHS Drama Department premiered its fall play, The Odd Couple (the female version), yesterday, and performances will continue today.

Following Drama Department Head Ms. Bennett Wright's dual-cast plan, Cast A, which starred in last night's performance, will also perform on Saturday at 2 p.m. and Sunday at 7 p.m. Audiences can watch Cast B today at 7 p.m., tomorrow at 7 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m.

Because Ms. Wright had to

anticipate scheduling conflicts between the performances and Rose Court events, she chose to follow a two-cast system; seniors and some juniors comprise cast A, whereas other juniors and sophomores star in cast B.

Also, she selected the female version of the play because many of the seniors who graduated in 2007 were male, making for a larger proportion of actresses this school year. Senior Ariana Basseri commented, "I think it's great because we're finally getting a chance to have more

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## Football Stifled by La Cañada in 7-7 Homecoming Draw

By Deryck Wong  
Managing Editor

In a defensive struggle for field position, the San Marino Varsity Football team played to a 7-7 Homecoming tie against the La Cañada Spartans last Friday, October 12.

After both teams held each other scoreless in the first half, the Titans rallied back in the fourth quarter after giving up a touchdown in the third.

Head Coach D.R. Moreland commented, "[We] gave one away. We felt that La Cañada was a team that we should have beat[en], but we just didn't execute well and the end result [was] a tie."

Though the game was a low-scoring affair, the San Marino offense actually opened the night on the Spartan one-yard line. On fourth down, Junior Defensive Back Will Myers blocked the La Cañada punt and recovered the ball to set up a first and goal. However, the Titans could not put the ball in the end zone on their first three downs, and the Spartan front four stopped Senior Tailback John Trawick in the backfield yet again to maintain a 0-0 tie after the game's first two possessions.

In regards to that set of downs,



Junior Tailback Scott Dooley jukes a La Cañada defender on his way to a first down in the Titans' tie in their league opener. Justin Quan//TITAN SHIELD

Coach Moreland did not think they should have sent in the field goal unit on fourth down.

"No way, no. On the one yard line, you should be able to just fall forward and pick [the touchdown] up."

After that sequence, the two teams proceeded to trade punts for the rest of the half. In addition, neither San Marino nor La Cañada managed to move the ball into their opponents' respective red zones, leading to a half of scoreless football.

"Both offenses just weren't

playing at the top of their game tonight, so that made for a real defensive game. The defense is going to be on the field a lot if you're going three and out," said Coach Moreland.

The Titans normally rely on their running game to move the ball downfield. However, throughout the first two quarters, John failed to establish a rhythm running the ball as the Spartan defensive line consistently penetrated into the San Marino backfield.

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Senior Ariana Basseri and Juniors Geoff Wenzlau and Jeff Kinsey act out a scene in this year's fall play, "The Odd Couple." Jon Wong//TITAN SHIELD

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## ASB Hosts *Casablanca* Themed Coronation



Sticking to the *Casablanca* theme, ASB set-up "Rick's Cafe," which offered various virgin cocktails and finger foods. *Joanne Kuo//TITANIAN*

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Although ASB began with slow ticket sales on September 24, sales picked up significantly in the last week with over 100 tickets being sold on one day.

ASB even sold tickets to students who still wanted to purchase tickets for an extra day.

At the dance, students enjoyed a larger dance floor and lounge area in the front yard rather than the backyard as was done past years. At the entrance, an old-fashioned car set the mood for the night. *Casablanca*, the movie was also playing to the side of the lounge area.

ASB had "Rick's Café" serve virgin drinks, such as mojitos and

sangrias. Small snacks, such as chicken skewers and chocolate-covered strawberries, were also available on the side.

ASB also acknowledged the Homecoming Court of Senior Queen Emily Barth, Senior Princess Alisa Trager, Junior Princess Elizabeth Haralambos, Sophomore Princess Catherine Barth, and Freshman Princess Charmaine Lee towards the end of the dance whom they had announced at lunch last Friday during the pep rally. ASB announced the Queen at halftime during the Homecoming game.

"I think people enjoyed [Coro] and I've heard people say this is the best dance they've ever been to," Kimi concluded.

## Our Opportunity to Clarify

In our last issue, distributed on Friday, September 28, *Titan Shield* reported on several topics of interest:

### "National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists Graphic"

—Senior Daniel Kiang was

omitted from the graphic.

### "Academic Decathlon Takes Root at SMHS"

—Junior Mary Tsang's last name was misspelled as Tseng.

### "Are You Looking for the New Faces of the SMHS Faculty Network?"

—Mathematics teacher Mr. Joshua Deng was wrongly cited as Mr. Joseph Deng.

### "Staff Box"

—Christian Lai is Assistant Spectrum Editor, not Technology.



## Speech and Debate Place Third Overall

By Emily Chang  
News Editor

The SMHS Speech and Debate team attended the Jack Howe Invitational in Long Beach from October 6 to 7.

"We did amazing[ly]," commented Speech and Debate Coach Mr. Oliver Valcorza.

Compared to other schools such as Fullerton Union, Gabrielino, and Redlands, which brought 200, 150, and 80 students respectively, "bringing only 21 [students] and getting third place overall is absolutely amazing," explained Mr. Valcorza.

For Speech, students participated in one of three main groups of events: Interpretation, Limited Preparation, and Platform.

Each category contained several other events. According to Mr. Valcorza, the varsity team won first in every category. Besides recognition, each varsity member who placed first will receive a \$500 scholarship per semester for the college of their choice.

In the Interpretation category, Juniors Raymond and Steven Troung placed first in Duo Interpretation, while Junior Christi Valone received second in Thematic Interpretation. For Limited Preparation,

Sophomore Oscar Wang won in Extemporaneous Speaking. Juniors Patrick Chang, Margaret Lazzarini, Jody Sheu, and Christi performed in Platform. Jody placed first in Expository; Christi was a semi-finalist in Oratory; Patrick and Margaret placed fourth and fifth in Advocacy, respectively.

Freshman Kevin Wu also won the Speaker Award in Lincoln-Douglas Debate. The Speaker Award is for the top ten speakers in the Debate competition.

Although only in the Novice Division, Sophomore Charles Lin and Freshman Kevin Wu were finalists in Impromptu Speaking.

"I'm really proud of the team," stated Mr. Valcorza. However, he believes the team should not rest on its laurels; he added that Jack Howe should serve as an inspiration to the members as to what they can achieve. "We're only going to get better."

This year, a lot of the varsity members could not compete because of the SATs. "Imagine what we could do with the entire team," pondered Mr. Valcorza.

Coming up, the Speech and Debate team has the Fall Debate at Alhambra and the Glenbrooks Tournament in Chicago. The Debate team is first in league, and Mr. Valcorza expects SMHS "to sustain dominance."



Following the outdoor awards ceremony at The Jack Howe Invitational, the SMHS Speech and Debate Team display their trophies. *Courtesy of Patrick Chang*

## Titans Pump Up Spirit for Homecoming

(Continued from page 1)

substances as fast as they could during a mystery drink contest. At lunch, several teachers, including Dr. Tom Armbruster, Mr. Russell Silver, Mrs. Mary Snyder, and Mrs. Kerry Witzeman, participated

in a teacher's pie eating contest.

On Wednesday, students competed in a hot dog eating contest during break. Although Junior Juen-Jen Lee vomited, he placed first, with Senior Miles Blansett placing second.

Also, during lunch, the ASB

held a fish sword fight. The contestants, armed with dead fish, tried to knock their opponent off their stools.

The Homecoming Court nominees dressed up four football players on Thursday during break. Representatives from each grade then played in a game of dodgeball during lunch on Thursday. Several minutes into the first round, the boundaries were reduced significantly. Senior Ryan Shao dodged a ball by diving and accidentally stuck half a foot out of the boundary. With that, the sophomores won the first round.

On Friday, students arrived in the morning to a newly decorated school.

The ASB stayed overnight to decorate the whole school by hanging posters all over the walls

and blowing up balloons.

"People really liked the Spank the Spartans [signs] we put on the doors," stated Senior Athletics Director Kimi Silverstein.

The ASB handed out "SM" tattoos during break, while at lunch, cheerleaders, Drumline and Color Guard performed for the special homecoming pep rally.

The annual San Marino Homecoming Parade began at 3:15 p.m. after school on Friday. Each class designed and created a different float for the parade.

"A lot of people came out and watched the events, and on Homecoming day, the decorations seemed to pump everyone up. At the game, everyone was just cheering and going wild so I thought that was great," concluded Senior Vice President Leo Zhu.



Mrs. Mary Snyder, Mrs. Kerry Witzeman, Mr. Russell Silver, and Dr. Tom Armbruster attempt to devour an entire pie. *Jon Wong//TITAN SHIELD*

## CLUB BRIEFS

### ASB

ASB showed *Casablanca* for its first movie night of the year on October 4 from 7 to 9 p.m.

"This [event's] turnout was great," stated ASB Treasurer Senior Casey Luu.

In comparison to previous movie nights, Casey believes that this event's attendance was among the greatest.

Approximately 40 students occupied all the available couches and tables.

The movie takes place in the Moroccan city of Casablanca. The film follows the complicated love story of restaurant owner Rick Blaine and Ilsa Lund as they unite against the German Nazis during World War II.

Casey hopes future movie nights will "turn out as successful[ly] as the first."

—Connie Chen//Features Editor

### Key Club

Members of Key Club helped at the Wheelchair Wash held by the group Familia Unida Living with Multiple Sclerosis (FULWMS) on Saturday, October 6 in East Los Angeles to promote awareness of multiple sclerosis.

A disease that affects the central nervous system, multiple sclerosis often results in the impairment of mobility. The mission of FULWMS is to offer support services to those diagnosed with the disease and who need attention.

From 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., Key Club members washed wheelchairs brought in by people with multiple sclerosis. Others helped with crafts at the kid's corner and decorations.

"This was our first year doing it," stated Pamela. "The environment was energetic and supportive."

The next event for Key Club is the AIDS walk this Sunday, October 21.

—Connie Chen//Features Editor

### Red Cross

The SMHS Red Cross Club hosted its first blood drive of the year on Tuesday, October 9, from 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the small gym.

The trained nurses collected a pint of blood from each student. All the collected blood will go to Red Cross organizations and later be shipped to disaster events.

According to Red Cross Club Co-President Senior Jocelyn Lo, the club collected 82 pints of blood from over 100 people. The people who donated blood had to be 17 years of age and weigh at least 110 pounds.

Although the club's goal was to collect 90 pints of blood, Jocelyn is satisfied "because we collected more this year than last year. Even if we didn't reach our goal, we still got a lot."

—Andrea Chiu//Assistant News Editor

## Drama Presents Fall Play



Jesus and Manolo, Juniors **Anthony Cailan** and **Timothy Wang**, relate with Florence, Junior **Delaney Yeager** and her divorce. *Connie Chow//TITAN SHIELD*

(Continued from page 1)

stage shine instead of [the department’s] fabulous men.”

Cast A includes Seniors Ariana (Olive), Andrea Binley (Silvie), Jennifer Chang (Vera), Myra Deperalta (Renee), Cami Thacher (Mickey), and Hayley Van Hiel (Florence); along with Juniors Jeff Kinsey (Jesus) and Geoff Wenzlau (Manolo).

Cast B features Juniors Anthony Cailan (Jesus), Kara Cohen (Olive), Madeline Lindsey (Mickey), Katiana Mashikian (Vera), Tim Wang (Manolo), and Delaney Yeager (Florence); with Sophomores Jamie Basurto (Sylvie) and Sarah Youngblood (Renee).

Ms. Wright designed the set and coordinated the overall effort of the fall play. However, Mrs. Patricia Mashikian headed the publicity effort, and Mrs. Linda Yeager helped with the props.

In addition to running the light cues and other technical details of the play, Ms. Wright’s stagecraft class constructed the set. Students from the other drama classes assisted with concessions, tickets, and ushering.

Tickets cost six dollars at the door. Proceeds from *The Odd Couple* will go towards paying for production costs.

According to Ms. Wright, the play has been “a lot of work” for the cast because the plot contains abundant conversation and requires a lot of memorization.

The play revolves around the relationship of two divorced, past-their-prime friends, Florence and Olive. Olive has been divorced for years; she is familiar with single life, both the good parts and the bad. Florence, however, who recently separated from her husband, moves in with Olive so the two can hopefully help each other through hard times.

Throughout the play, the “odd couple” of ex-wives deal with their differences, a constant source of conflict.

Though Olive and Florence’s personalities clash, the play has a humorous and lighthearted tone, with euphemisms and sexual jokes.

Ms. Wright commented, “I think the casting is unique. While it is the same show each time, the different actors make for unique performances.”

*The Odd Couple* is different in comparison to last year’s play, *Rumors*. According to Hayley, “Last year’s play was a lot more serious. I think this [year’s] is a lot funnier. There’s a lot more excitement and a lot more relevan[ce] to teenagers’ lives.”

# SMHS Congratulates Rose Court Princess

By Kevin Lu  
Staff Writer

On Monday, October 8, SMHS Senior Courtney Rubin, along with six other girls from local high schools, became a Rose Court Princess. This public announcement concluded three weeks of auditions in which over 1,100 girls participated. Judges conducted interviews and rated girls on several traits.

The judges looked for elegance, poise, quality of speech, academic achievement, and community service. Some questions focused on the princesses’ role models and their reasons for trying out.

After the initial interviews, about 250 girls returned to the quarterfinals, 75 girls to semifinals, and 25 girls to finals. This year, San Marino had 20 to 30 girls in the quarterfinals, seven girls in the semifinals, three girls in the finals, and one Rose Court Princess.

“When I went to the

quarterfinals, I thought that I did really well,” Courtney stated, “But after the semifinals, I didn’t get any positive reinforcement.”

Finalists received their letters on Tuesday, but Courtney received her letter one day late. “That was a big surprise,” Courtney said afterwards, “I thought I wouldn’t even be considered.”


Even though the process is very selective, becoming a Rose Court Princess is only the beginning of the girls’ activities. Immediately after selection, the princesses began attending events to publicize the Tournament of Roses. “The first two weeks were pretty busy,” Courtney remarked, “We had training for etiquette, modeling, and media.”

The girls have over 150 events to attend by January 1, 2008, participating in three to four events a day. Their goal is to publicize the Tournament of Roses at locations such as hospitals to get people interested in the event.

Last week, the Rose Court attended a retreat on Balboa Island. “It was a weekend to get to know the other girls and the judges,” Courtney summarized.

Despite the benefits, such as free clothing, make-up, and transportation to and from events, being a member of the Rose Court requires responsibility and time-management. The girls often have to make decisions regarding the rigor of their high school curriculum, as they will miss several days of school. “Balancing my schedule requires help from all of my teachers, who have been flexible and have supported me so far even though I [haven’t] been there all the time,” Courtney stated.

“I am very happy about my accomplishment. I went into this tournament not expecting much,” Courtney stated. “I’ve worked hard for the past four years with my grades and community service. This is the icing on the cake.”



SMHS  
TITANS

OCTOBER 2007

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

TITAN CALENDAR

21	Fall Play	31	Halloween Dress-up Contest
22-26	Red Ribbon Week		Quarter Finals - 3, 6
22	Staff Development Day -	1	Quarter Finals - 2, 5
	NO STUDENTS	2	Quarter Finals - 1, 4
27	ACT		End of Quarter - Minimum Day
30	Colonial Kitchen Fundraiser	3	SAT I & II

## VAPA Applies for Bravo Award

By Emily Chang  
News Editor

For the first time ever, SMHS’s Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) Department has applied for the Bravo Award hosted by the Los Angeles Music Center. The Music Center established the Bravo Award in 1983 to recognize teachers and schools for creativity, innovation, and excellence in arts education.

“I think it’s great to get some recognition,” commented Drama Department Head Ms. Bennett Wright. “We have one of the top [arts] programs without being a magnet school.”

The award honors educators and schools for excellence in all arts disciplines. Three Bravo Awards are presented: one to a school, one to an arts specialist teacher and one to a general classroom teacher.

SMHS is applying for the school award, which requires a

comprehensive arts program to be integrated into the school.

Both the winning teachers and school receive a Bravo sculpture and cash awards. The teachers receive \$4,000 each, and the schools each receive \$10,000. All nominees, finalists, and winners receive prizes including books, tickets to performances, and educational materials.

Nominees must submit a completed application, which is then reviewed by a committee of educators, artists, and arts specialists. The committee chooses the top tier of applicants using a point ranking system. Next, a panel of judges chooses three to four finalists from each category and visits their classrooms to determine the Bravo Award winners.

The Music Center released information about the Bravo Award. Principal Mr. Loren Kleinrock nominated SMHS because “while the facilities were

not great not so long ago, we still had amazing support along with great teachers and students,” explained Dance Department Head and Art teacher Ms. Bonnie Hanson.

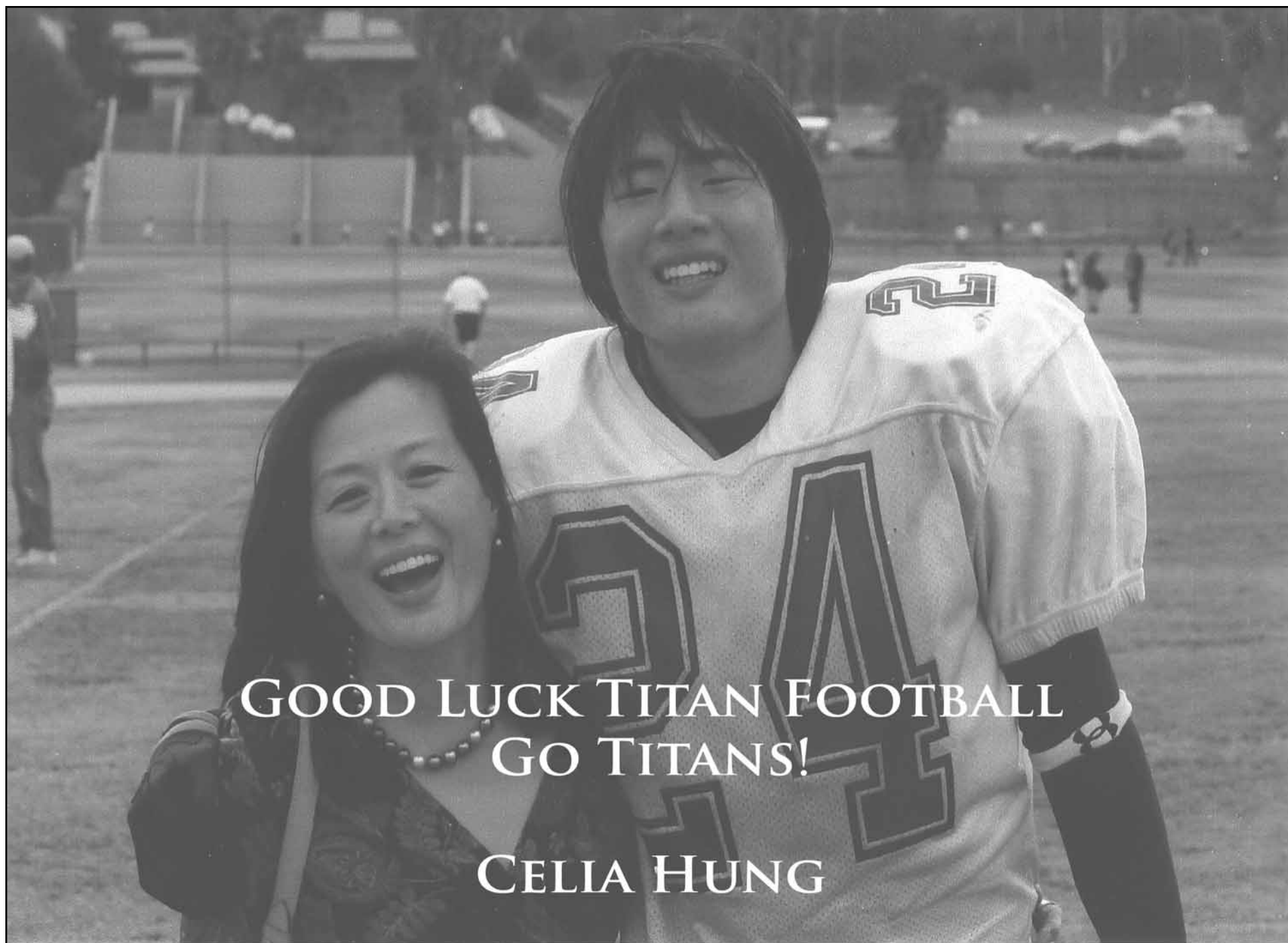
SMHS offers a self-study program in the arts and has eight VAPA teachers. Over 1,100 of the 1,150 students at SMHS participate in at least one of the nine VAPA programs. According to Ms. Hanson, not all the students are enrolled just to fulfill the graduation requirements. A third of the Dance Company members are currently enrolled in a second VAPA program, such as Advanced Drama or Chamber Choir.

At SMHS, the Drama and Music Departments have existed for approximately 50 years, while the Dance Department has been around for 25.

The names of the finalists for the Bravo Award will be announced two weeks before the Bravo gala on February 27, 2008.

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# DRUMMING TO A NEW BEAT

Who knew that a drummer once walked in the halls of SMHS as a special education teacher? In fact, Jessie Conklin, a former member of the SMHS staff, decided to leave her job as a teacher so she could pursue her dream of being in her band, Bodies of Water.

A four-piece blend of folk and gospel with an indie rock attitude, Bodies of Water is composed of Jessie's friends with David Metcalf on guitar; David's wife Meredith Metcalf on keyboard; Kyle Gladden on bass; and of course, Jessie on the drums.

In fact, Bodies of Water would have never started without Jessie's bandmates. As newlyweds, David and Meredith formed Bodies of Water by recording songs in their closet. Eventually, they enlisted their friends, Kyle and Jessie, to complete the lineup.

Drawing from its gospel influences, Bodies of Water features harmonizing choruses and majestic overtones. With the release of their new record *Ears Will Pop & Eyes Will Blink*, Jessie has been working non-stop. "We're really busy" says Jessie, "we practice a lot and we're touring the west coast now; we'll tour the east coast after that."

Following its show at the Eagle Rock Music Festival, Bodies of Water will tour with The Go! Team in Southern California and with Phosphorescent in the east coast. "It's going to be great [to tour with The Go! Team]! They're pretty awesome and the music they play is fun," added Jessie.


Their west coast tour kicked off on October 15 in Seattle, Washington, and they will play at The Glass House in Pomona tomorrow. "We're making T-shirts, too," added Jessie, "and the amazing [SMHS Senior] Grant Wenzlau will be selling merchandise at the shows."

Even though Jessie is no longer a teacher, she has always been interested in helping special needs children, even as a child growing up in Litchfield Park, Arizona. So, at San Marino, Jessie pursued her interest by helping those students at SMHS last year. But after the previous school year, Jessie left to devote more time to her band.

As of now, Jessie is looking forward to her tour because to her, "it's fun to sing into a microphone!" For the time being, Southern California will not be able to see Bodies of Water until November 10, when the band completes its final stop of its month-long tour.

—Daniel Woong  
//Staff Writer


# GO TITANS!!




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# ROTARY STUDENT OF THE MONTH

## October

By Shaina Lu

Associate Editor of Copy

Friday night—the tang of spicy mango salsa wafts out over the football stadium; cheerleaders, standing on their white stools, toss up their pompoms, and the band blares music from the stands as it pumps up the spectators. The crowd roars as the tailback, dodging various other color-clad giants, runs clear across the field, inching toward that seemingly elusive touchdown.

Friday nights mean football games, and football games are October Rotary Student Senior John Trawick's show.

John has always been interested in sports. In elementary school, he played football with his friends as a mere hobby. Since then, "as he got older and more involved," he found "a great interest and tried to develop [his] skill." John participates—and succeeds—in a variety of sports, especially, but not limited to football. To date, he has won Boys State 2007, the Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA), All-Pasadena Star News Honorable Mention, and is now Co-Captain of the SMHS Varsity Football team.

John feels that his greatest lesson is from his athletics: "taking hardship, seeing adversity when it's not expected, and working to better [yourself]" are some of the things he has learned.

John's talents are not only limited to athletics; he also excels academically. With an extremely busy schedule, juggling

athletics with schoolwork, he still manages to find a remarkable balance between the two. In fact, he "feel[s] putting in the work on the field can easily translate to putting the work in the classroom." The key, he says, is "time management." For John, his balancing act with sports and academics gives him an edge because "it makes [him] more focused to get things accomplished on time."

John describes his favorite subject, English, as something that "comes easily to [him]." One of his passions is reading; he takes pleasure from "getting into a good book, because it's a great escape from the chaos from our high school lives." He enjoys the creativity and expressiveness that go hand in hand with English.

"Everyone is just as smart as any other individual," John points out, "but certain people spend [more of] their time doing extra-curricular activities."

John's goal for the near future is to be accepted to UC Berkeley and to make their National Championship Rugby Team. For the distant future, he speculates on a job in sports psychology or sports medicine, although he is not certain. In the end however, John simply wants a job he loves.

"There are no guarantees of what I'm

going to and not going to do, but whatever I do end up doing, I hope I'll be successful in my own eyes and wake up each morning looking to do something great," John concludes.

Dear SMHS:

Thank you for naming me for Rotary Student of the month; I'm very honored to receive this prestigious award. I never thought that I'd be chosen with such a wide variety of very talented students at SMHS to choose from. It's amazing to think how much I've grown and how rewarding the experience has been in only a short time in my life. The faculty and student life has made such an impact on my experience and has helped shape me into the person I am today.

I'd like to thank my teachers and coaches: Mrs. Smith for teaching me about life and to think outside the box, Mrs. Witzeman for making learning such a fun experience, Mr. Ford for showing me how such a great person can be a great role model for his students, Mr. Irie for raising my self-esteem and telling me that as long as I'm a good Titan that's all that matters, Coach Arrington and D.R. Moreland for sharing their love and passion for football, Coach Mooney for sharing the same values and principles on life and for seeming to always have an answer to everything, and to all my other teachers for their support and encouragement.

There are so many great people at SMHS that have given me the opportunity to benefit from and continually guide me towards becoming successful. I'll remember all the football games under the lights, the countless late nights to finish up last minute projects, but nonetheless

I'll always remember the incredible faculty and student body at San Marino High School that has made my experience

here so exceptional. I've been so fortunate to have the support and guidance of everyone involved with SMHS.

Thank you, Go Titans!

Sincerely,

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**- Dr. A**

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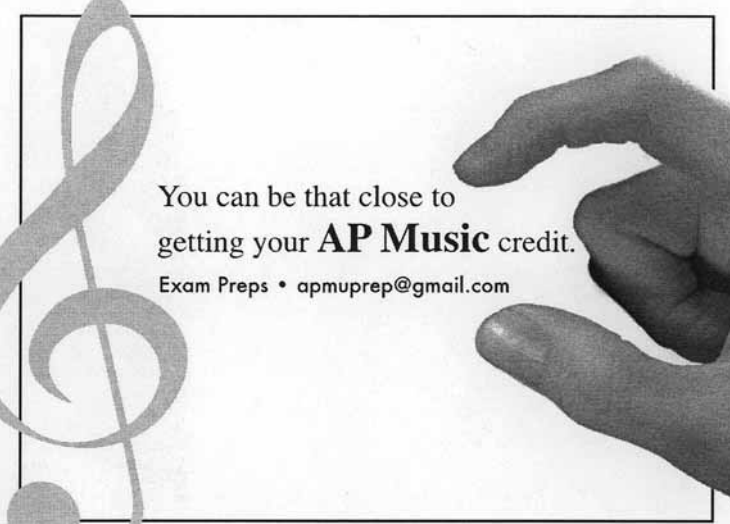
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stomach - The one you  
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**SPANK**  
The Spartans



## A COMMENTARY ON BOTTLED WATER

It is everywhere.

From placidly sitting on the tops of desks to rattling around half-full in the parking lot, the ubiquitous water bottle has integrated itself into our everyday lives. The average American consumes over 24 gallons of bottled water a year — a considerable amount. The bottled water industry is booming: big multinational corporations like Coca Cola (Dasani), Pepsi (Aquafina), Poland Spring, and Nestle are literally ruling the market.

Why do Americans love bottled water? More specifically, why are Americans spending so much money on a “product” that is really free?

Part of the reason is in the marketing. Brands like Evian or FIJI Water advertise pure water from distant France or far away Fiji. Apparently, water from foreign places merits extra moolah. Everest Water bottles have a majestic view of mountains sprawled around their labels. However, the truth is that Everest Water is merely bottled tap water from Texas. Likewise, Glacier Clear Water, which is actually not from a glacier, comes from a tap in Tennessee. In our own school vending machines, we sell Dasani and Aquafina for a hefty buck. We pay a dollar for processed tap water and some plastic casings worth less than 2 cents when we could easily stroll to a water fountain and drink for free.

Many assume that tap water is “dirty” and that bottled water is “purer.” In actuality, tap water is more strictly regulated than bottled water. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) tests municipal tap water daily, checking for cleanliness and bacteria. The water American cities provide for free is cleaner and purer than any water that a company can sell. Additionally, municipal tap water includes fluoride, a key mineral which is often filtered out of bottled water. On the flip side, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) only checks bottled water if it is imported or shipped from state to state. As a result, tests show significantly higher bacterial levels in bottled water.

Environmentally, the bottled water industry is one of the worst polluters out there. Shipping the water all the way from France or Fiji and then trucking it all around the United States provides no end to global warming and pollution. But why focus on the negative environmental aspects of bottled water? Why not, say, bag on soda? Soda is healthier and no better for the environment.

Those are all very valid points. Bottled water is a much better alternative to soda.

But here is the catch: soda does not come out of drinking fountains and faucets for free. And bottled water does.

Let us recap: when you feel thirsty and pop that bill and coin into a vending machine for a nice, cool, refreshing Dasani that is actually just tap water in a swirly plastic case worth two cents, feel damn good that you are killing the polar bears and contributing to global warming. And you just wasted \$1.25.

—By Shaina Lu  
// Associate Editor of Copy

# Downloading War Victimizes LimeWire

By Kevin Lu  
Staff Writer

Music has always been available to the general public. In recent years, music has even found a way into the digital universe in a format known as MP3. Now, music enthusiasts can carry all of their favorite songs in a flat, four-inch long MP3 player. Although convenient, MP3-format has sparked controversies over illegal downloading of copyrighted songs. Multiple peer-to-peer networks have sprung up; LimeWire is one of the most recent ones. According to online security, downloads off LimeWire’s network are both difficult to monitor and very prevalent. However, although illegal downloading sometimes occurs on LimeWire, its existence alone does not promote misuse. On the contrary, LimeWire claims to have taken measures to combat illegal downloading. Thus, peer-to-peer networks like LimeWire should not be held accountable for the actions of people who use them.

Legal controversy over LimeWire’s peer-to-peer system culminated when the music industry sued the firm for copyright infringement on August 4, 2006. It accused LimeWire of not showing “sufficient interest in developing a legal business model.” ([http://www.news.com/2100-1025\\_3-6102509.html](http://www.news.com/2100-1025_3-6102509.html)) However, LimeWire replied

by countersuing major record companies on September 26, 2006. According to Macworld News, the firm claimed that the music industry is stifling legal digital distribution of copyrighted music. In addition, LimeWire pointed out that it had attempted to adopt “a filtering application to prevent illegal downloading and encourage legal content purchasing, [but] the record companies refused to give the developer access to metadata that [allows] the filtering system to work.” It is a good, but unnecessary, idea. The music industry should not expect LimeWire to do any more than give sufficient warning about its functions.

Though some previous cases have resulted in companies paying a settlement to the music industry, other cases have resulted in the file-sharer paying a substantial sum of money to compensate for their actions. According to Cnet, in one such case, Jammie Thomas, 30, had to pay \$220,000 to six major label companies because she shared music over Kazaa, a peer-to-peer network similar to LimeWire.

Many people contend that file-sharing firms promote illegal downloading directly because it allows access to copyrighted material to anybody with an internet connection. LimeWire clearly refutes this point. LimeWire’s official website clearly states, “Copyright owners

interested in blocking their files from being downloaded, uploaded and shared are invited to learn more and register.” In addition, it also warns users about copyright infringement and download responsibility. Thus, LimeWire should not be framed for the actions of people who use the network to share files.

Instead, peer-to-peer networks could be seen as advertising media or trial programs. People could sample a song from LimeWire and delete it as soon as they purchase it somewhere else. In short, LimeWire should offer an opportunity to try music out before user purchase. This way, consumers could spend their

money more efficiently. On this note, LimeWire should create a program that monitors the amount of time a download can stay on one computer. That way, the download is more like a rental; people can be fined for keeping the file for too long.

Although there is room for improvement, LimeWire has never actively supported illegal downloading and should not be accused of doing so. The government should continue punishing individual perpetrators rather than entire companies; the general public will discontinue illegal downloading after enough negative examples have been established.

## Man on the Street



“Downloading with LimeWire is unsafe, slow, and illegal. If you’re going to risk three months in jail, three years probation, 200 hours of community service, and a \$5,400 fine, then just use Torrents instead!”

- Sophomore Graham Allen



“Something like music should be universally enjoyed, whether or not it’s obtained by illegal means. The artists receive enough money from people buying their CDs, and from all the endorsements. LimeWire wouldn’t and shouldn’t make a difference.”

- Junior Simon Zhang

# Security Measures Jeopardize Privacy

By Alexa Wei  
Assistant Ads Editor

Across the world, video surveillance cameras are becoming more common fixtures. These devices, once confined to private businesses and ATM’s, are now the norm in many public places. In the 90’s, some areas tried out the video cameras and most decided against further use. However, more recently, many areas have begun to rethink their choice to dispose of the surveillance systems. Despite this, recording equipment should not be placed in public because it is an ineffective, costly invasion of privacy.

About ten years ago, London installed 10,000 cameras in order to reduce crime. However, rather than plummeting, city crime is still 80% unresolved. [<http://www.thisislondon.co.uk/news/article-23412867-details/Tens+of+thousands+of+CCTV+cameras%2C+yet+80%25+of+crime+unsolved/article.do>] According to the Liberal Democrats on the London Assembly, four out of five boroughs with cameras have a below-average record of solving crimes, no different from areas without cameras. [<http://www.boingboing.net/2007/09/20/londons-panopticon-o.html>] “There is no link between a high number of CCTV cameras and a better crime clear-up rate,” stated Liberal Democrats Spokeswoman Dee Doocey. [<http://liberalengland.blogspot.com/2007/10/more-cctv-cameras-does-not-mean-more.html>]

Additionally, these cameras, which can cost up to \$50,000 each, are definitely not cheap. [<http://www.epic.org/privacy/surveillance/spotlight/0505.html>] In the U.S., the surveillance cameras in public places are mostly government funded. [[http://www.aclunc.org/issues/government\\_surveillance/asset\\_upload\\_file42\\_5887.pdf](http://www.aclunc.org/issues/government_surveillance/asset_upload_file42_5887.pdf)] This money, of course, comes via American tax dollars. In addition,

the \$20,000 worth of cameras that were installed at public housing locations never achieved their intended purpose: assisting in homicide arrests. [[http://www.aclunc.org/news/opinions/security\\_cameras\\_erode\\_liberties\\_without\\_increasing\\_safety.shtml](http://www.aclunc.org/news/opinions/security_cameras_erode_liberties_without_increasing_safety.shtml)]

As incompetent as these cameras are, such funds would be better spent on actual police officers or better lighting. In 2002, Home Office Research Study found

that simple changes such as those can reduce crime rate by 20%. [<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs2/hors251.pdf>, [http://www.aclunc.org/news/opinions/security\\_cameras\\_erode\\_liberties\\_without\\_increasing\\_safety.shtml](http://www.aclunc.org/news/opinions/security_cameras_erode_liberties_without_increasing_safety.shtml)] Currently, the public’s privacy is being violated for no reason.

Past the scope of filming, some cameras even have high-powered microphones to detect “aggressive exchanges” to stop them before they become violent. [[http://p10.hostingprod.com/@spyblog.org.uk/blog/2006/11/cctv\\_with\\_audio\\_snooping\\_to\\_detect\\_aggressive\\_behavior\\_hype.html](http://p10.hostingprod.com/@spyblog.org.uk/blog/2006/11/cctv_with_audio_snooping_to_detect_aggressive_behavior_hype.html)] The equipment picks up aggressive tones based on twelve factors, including decibel level and the speed at which words are spoken. [<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/article650166.ece>] These microphones are a violation of freedom of speech; not all of these verbal exchanges lead to violence.

If what is said and done in public is recorded, who knows how long it will be before citizens are recorded in their homes. And for all their promises to make the world a safer place, surveillance cameras are not exactly earning their keep. Videotaping civilians as they go about their daily activities, even in the name of “safety,” is an extreme invasion of privacy. Safety does not seem quite so desirable when everyone is forced to live like a criminal.





# V-22 Osprey Heralds Disaster for Iraq War

By Katie Wu  
Opinion Editor

For four and a half years, the U.S. has fought in the grueling turmoil of the Iraq War – a war which American forces entered under false pretenses, has cost the government nearly \$460 billion, and claimed over 1.2 million lives. [National Priorities Project, [http://nationalpriorities.org/index.php?option=com\\_wrapper&Itemid=182](http://nationalpriorities.org/index.php?option=com_wrapper&Itemid=182); Opinion Research Business, [http://www.opinion.co.uk/Newsroom\\_details.aspx?NewsId=78](http://www.opinion.co.uk/Newsroom_details.aspx?NewsId=78)] The once-empowering reasons to hold ground now seem insubstantial amongst the population – and with the recent inception of the infamously faulty V-22 Osprey, it appears that the cost of wartime has finally gone too far.

As the world's first tilt-rotor aircraft, the expectations for the Osprey are, to say the least, extremely lofty. While its design is similar to that of a conventional helicopter, it also has the long-range, high-speed cruise performance of a turboprop aircraft and is equipped with a rear-end .30 caliber machine gun. It would seem as though it is the epitome of lethal aircraft – save for the fact that its operational

history is littered with the deaths of 30 passengers. [CRS Report for Congress: V-22 Osprey Tilt-Rotor Aircraft, <http://digital.library.unt.edu/govdocs/crs/permalink/meta-crs-7265:1>]

The Osprey made its debut flight in 1989, and since then, has ploughed a \$20

billion hole in the Pentagon's funding program, and will dip in for another \$35 before

unexplained computer glitches, devastating falls from mere meters off ground level, aerodynamic ambiguities checked off without prior investigation, fragile wires tangling... the minute one issue is confronted, another surfaces and others go unaddressed. And while the plane's weaponry may be impressive, it is still sorely lacking in necessities commonly taken for granted – such as parachutes and ejection seats. In fact, the only mentioned protection for those on board is the ambiguous assurance of crumpling central wing structure

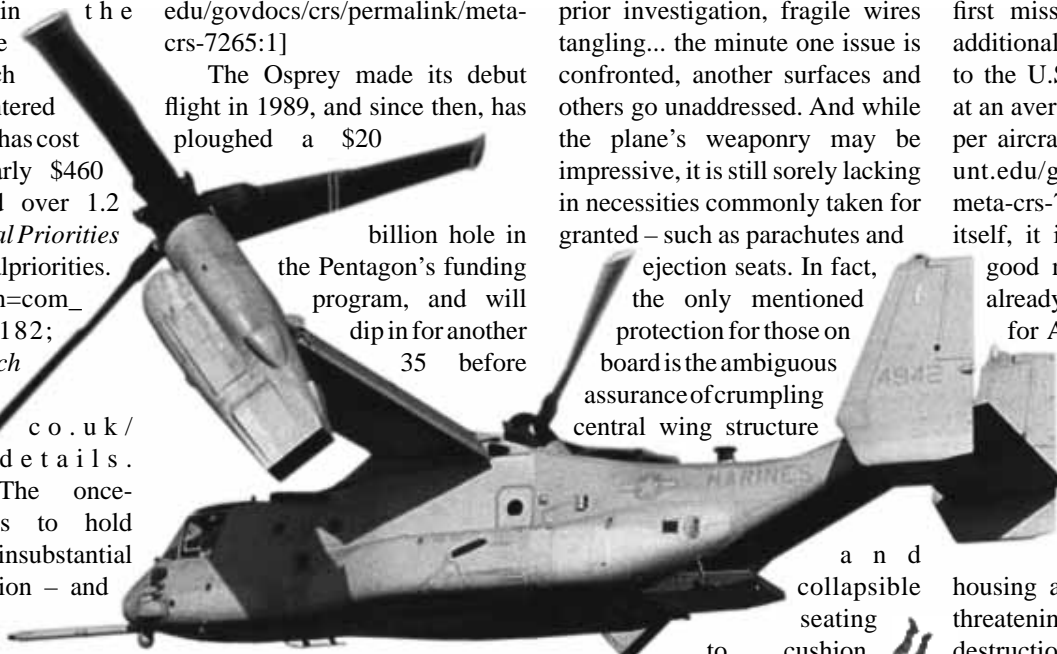
and collapsible seating to cushion the ill-fated Marines. Even the once-hailed feature of an airplane/helicopter hybrid simply glosses over the fact that both its gliding and hovering are mediocre compared to those of the traditional aircraft. Additionally, when repeated attempts at autorotation in the case of engine failure resulted in obvious malfunction, The Pentagon hastily hedged with the excuse that the probability of such an occurrence was negligibly low. [http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1665835-

1,00.html]

The unreliable Osprey has already transported nearly 30 Marines into battle in Iraq. If this first mission is successful, 458 additional V-22s will be supplied to the U.S. Navy and Air Force, at an average cost of \$110 million per aircraft. [http://digital.library.unt.edu/govdocs/crs/permalink/meta-crs-7265:1] As for the war itself, it is not surprising that a good number of people have already forgotten the reason for America's intervention... probably because there was not one to begin with. Supposedly, the main rationale for U.S. invasion stemmed from the assumption that Iraq was both housing and actively developing threatening weapons of mass destruction; however, in January of 2005, it was announced that no true evidence for such weaponry existed. Each year, troops witness uneven limbo of allied involvement from President Bush's "Coalition of the Willing"; from the mere four countries that participated in initial invasion, this number has skyrocketed to 40 – six of which have no military, and 20 of which have withdrawn. Support for the war has dwindled severely since 2003, with statistics

rallying for withdrawal hovering around 75% for the countries most involved. [BBC World Service, [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/bsp/hi/pdfs/23\\_01\\_07\\_us\\_poll.pdf](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/bsp/hi/pdfs/23_01_07_us_poll.pdf)] Even amongst American troops, the unrest is growing: according to a poll conducted in February of 2006, roughly 75% of polled soldiers believed the U.S. should exit within the next year – a feat that has, with the passing of February 2007 well behind us, obviously not occurred. [Zogby International, <http://www.zogby.com/news/ReadNews.dbm?ID=1075/>] As for the Iraqi people, opposition to the war has found its peak at an overwhelming 78% as of March of 2007. [BBC, [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/bsp/hi/pdfs/19\\_03\\_07\\_iraqpollnew.pdf](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/bsp/hi/pdfs/19_03_07_iraqpollnew.pdf)] The Bush administration must begin to consider hard facts: if only 22% of Iraqi citizens remain neutral or in support of the war, perhaps the United States has lost sight of its humanitarian objectives.

If the United States government is desperate enough to employ the flawed machine that is the V-22 Osprey, America has simply become too hungry for the victory that will never come. The facts have become too ludicrous to ignore any longer. Death tolls, obvious dissent, and monetary abuse are mounting; it is time to admit stalemate and retreat, quite literally now or never.



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LILY ISN'T TOO HAPPY ABOUT BEN'S NEW GIRLFRIEND STEPHANIE AND GOES TO A POOL PARTY AND, AS PLANNED, PUSHES BEN INTO THE POOL FOR REVENGE. RIGHT AFTER, THOUGH, SHE ALSO GETS PUSHED INTO THE POOL BY STEPHANIE.

**THAT NIGHT...**

LET'S UPLOAD THIS CLIP TO MYSPACE.

HEE HEE

DID YOU SEE THE POOL PARTY CLIP ON MYSPACE? HILARIOUS!

YEAH! BEN'S ALL DRENCHED, BUT WHO UPLOADED THE CLIP?

I KNOW IT'S YOU!

YUJI!

YOU BETTER DELETE THAT CLIP OR YOU'LL BE IN BIG TROUBLE LATER!

HO-HOLD IT.

WHAT SCRIPT?

**LATER IN THE DAY...**

LILY, I THINK WE'RE IN A BIT OF TROUBLE. BEN & STEPH ARE REALLY MAD!

OK, I'LL MAKE SURE TO DO THAT, BUT YOU NEED TO HELP ME OUT FIRST. I'M MAKING A FILM. CAN YOU BE IN IT?

BE ON FILM? SURE! I'LL COME OVER NOW!

I'M SO EXCITED! SO WHERE IS THE SCRIPT?

AT YUJI'S HOUSE

LET'S DO A SCREEN TEST. CAN YOU COME TO MY HOUSE? I HAVE A STUDIO SET HERE.

DAAMIT! NOW I REMEMBER HE WAS THERE ALL THE TIME!

OH YEAH? ARE WE REALLY IN TROUBLE? BTW, MAKE SURE TO EDIT ME OUT!

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# Tricks For The Treats

Trick or treat! Smell my feet; give me something good to eat! If you don't, I don't care, I'll pull down your underwear! Okay now, since we're no longer five years-old, let us not attempt any pants pulling, or as the kids are calling it these days, "pantsing." Instead, let's mature in our prankster ways and conjure up some superbad tricks!

Okay! So children, listen up! I was thinking that the perfect prank needs blood, broken limbs, screaming, a lot of loud and confusing sounds, a clown mask, knives, a chair, a screwdriver, lemons, persimmons, and a handkerchief. It's brilliant. But, sorry, I can't reveal my secret plan. However, I will now share some of my other reject ideas.

## Baked Delectables

Okay, if you will be staying home and passing out candy to those eager, and somewhat annoying trick-or-treaters, turn those tables and give them a scare! And I don't mean scare them with your face. I mean, bake those kiddos some cookies or what not, and in the middle, surprise them by putting one of those disgusting bugs, like a spider or cricket, in clear plastic (like the ones you find in lollipops) in the middle! Imagine

the delicious, crunchy experience they will enjoy when biting into a chewy, chocolate chip and cockroach cookie.

## Arm on the loose

Okay, here's the plan! Buy one of those really realistic fake arm majigs, and hold it to make it look as one with the rest of your arm. Then, while you are walking around mooching candy from random houses, single out a target and out of nowhere, chuck your "arm" at him/her/

it. For special effects, bring packets of ketchup and have your accomplice tear it open and squirt it EVERYWHERE at the opportune moment. Think about it-how caught off guard would you be if a seemingly dismembered arm came flying at you? I would think VERY caught off guard.

## Dramatic Entrance or Exit

Another prank I just thought of is this: you pretend to die in an ultra dramatic way (not

that lame heart attack stuff, something with intensity-think real swords and ninja nunchucks) with a bunch of witnesses and then have your partners-in-crime scare everyone about how you will haunt them. Then, throughout the night, you literally follow some of them and "haunt" them. Like, ruffle leaves around them, and make creepy sounds and throw in their name from time to time. Maybe, if you really want to outdo yourself, throw some [not particularly hard] candy at them!

Oh! Don't forget to have your friends make up some awesome story about how the hauntee angered you and that you will always be after them. Eh, eh?

So, my darling pranksters, I truly hope I have at least enlightened some of you amateurs. I expect this upcoming Halloween to be filled with the best pranks ever! It's up to you now. Make me proud!

— Alison Chang//Spectrum Editor

# Your Guide to directing top notch Horror films

—Maddy Wojdak//Spectrum Editor

Ah, horror movies. Whether it's a gory torture flick, a terribly wonderful teen-slasher, or one of those special films with Japanese children in the bathroom, these movies make life worth living. But what is that element, that, "je ne sais quoi" about them that entertain us so much? Well, come with me to get into all the glamorous gore!

## First and foremost, The Main Character

The star of any horror-flick MUST be three things: physically appealing,

nice, and stupid.

I know you're looking at that first one and thinking "God, she's so shallow," but consider this: would you rather see a movie with Jessica Alba running around screaming or that creepy nose-picking guy who sits behind you in math?

The niceness is obvious. When watching a scary movie, you're supposed to be rooting for the main character to live, not have her guts ripped out. But anyone else's amiability is fair

game.

The third quality, plain stupidity, is the most important. If we had an intelligent star, she'd never go upstairs to investigate that creak. She would stay where she was with a large knife in her hand, just in case that noise wasn't the cat.

## Now, the fun part- The Villain

Something needs to chase the lead around the house with a screwdriver or whatnot. He/She/It can be anything as long as he/she/it strikes fear into our innocent hearts. Try adding background for sympathy

points, but not too much. We still want the main character to come out alive.

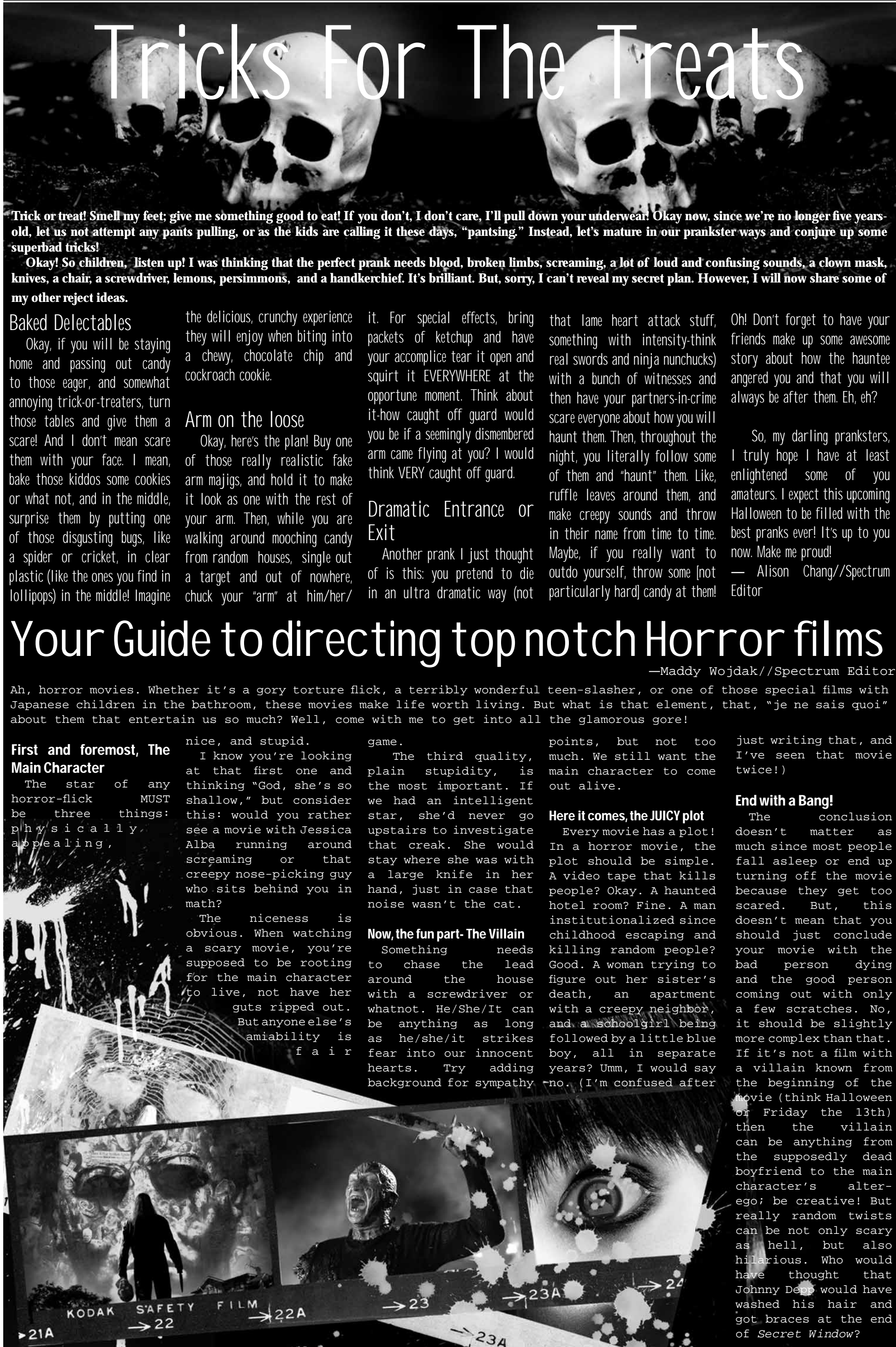
## Here it comes, the JUICY plot

Every movie has a plot! In a horror movie, the plot should be simple. A video tape that kills people? Okay. A haunted hotel room? Fine. A man institutionalized since childhood escaping and killing random people? Good. A woman trying to figure out her sister's death, an apartment with a creepy neighbor, and a schoolgirl being followed by a little blue boy, all in separate years? Umm, I would say no. (I'm confused after

just writing that, and I've seen that movie twice!)

## End with a Bang!

The conclusion doesn't matter as much since most people fall asleep or end up turning off the movie because they get too scared. But, this doesn't mean that you should just conclude your movie with the bad person dying and the good person coming out with only a few scratches. No, it should be slightly more complex than that. If it's not a film with a villain known from the beginning of the movie (think Halloween or Friday the 13th) then the villain can be anything from the supposedly dead boyfriend to the main character's alter-ego; be creative! But really random twists can be not only scary as hell, but also hilarious. Who would have thought that Johnny Depp would have washed his hair and got braces at the end of *Secret Window*?





# MythBusters: Shield Edition

—Katie Wu//Opinion Editor

From the *Amityville Horror* to hooves in your Jello, urban legends are everywhere; most of the time, we hardly notice that they're there. But for the more obscure ones that do tickle our fancy... the question mark still hovers menacingly over our unevenly shaped skulls. And there, I guess, is where I come in. So... HERE R SUM URBEN LEGENDZ 4 U. EVRY1 LAFF.



### Disney Films and ... Lemmings, Apparently

Sorry, guys. Aladdin doesn't actually tell anyone to take their clothes off and the Seven Dwarves do not symbolize the seven stages of cocaine addiction. While Disney may not be sending subliminal messages through their animated features, their wildlife documentaries are another story. In the 1985 nature film *White Wilderness*, filmmakers purchased several dozen lemmings in Canada and coerced them off a cliff into the sea, thereby "proving" the actually false myth that lemmings periodically do this of their own accord. ... Yeah. Way to send a message to the kids, guys.



### The 9/11 Conspiracy

It really is just a big coincidence that  $9 + 1 + 1 = 11$ . And that New York was the 11th state added to the Union. And that one terrorist guy had 11 letters in his name. The attack on the twin towers was not some manifest destiny conspiracy; the so-called evidence is really just a collection of random data – some of which is actually false. The area code to Iran and Iraq is not 119, and American Airlines Flight 77 was not carrying 65 people ( $6 + 5 = 11$ ). As devastating as the tragedy was, no higher entity was playing cruel puppet master on that particular day.



### Buffalo Generative Glands as a Delicacy?

So, this one is unfortunately very, very true. Not only have I seen the so-called "Rocky Mountain Oysters" myself, but I have also witnessed their consumption - not exactly the loveliest sight. These crunchy novelties are carefully peeled, coated in flour, pepper, and salt, deep-fried, then served hot to eager consumers. Other names for the "oysters" include Montana tendergroin, huevos del toro, and swinging sirloin [ugh]. But the sad, sad truth is: you can call 'em whatever you want, but in the end, it doesn't really change anything.



### Jellyfish & "Number One"

We've all heard it: the sagely advice given out to even the youngest of children, assuring them that if any ill-fated body part should ever come in contact with the tentacles of a jellyfish, an immediate cure is urine. But surprisingly, this is completely false - rather than appeasing the pain, enzymes in the urine actually cause dormant stinging cells to fire off and exacerbate the sting. So while it may have worked on that one episode of *Friends*, in the real world, it's really better to avoid the extra agony and humiliation of having a friend...you know...



### Dihydrogen Monoxide

It's one of the deadliest substances known to man - and, dear Lord, it's not only infiltrated our water supply, but in excess, it can kill crops and destroy entire cities... and kills roughly 3500 Americans per year!!!111 WHAT?! SO WHY ISN'T IT BEING STOPPED?! WHY HAVE DRASTIC MEASURES NOT BEEN TAKEN?! WHY ARE PEOPLE STILL DYING?! IS THERE NO CURE?!?!?!? ... Let's take a closer look at that chemical formula, shall we? HOH - so that's 2 Hydrogens + 1 Oxygen. ... Why does that look so darn familiar? ... Isn't that... just... *water*...? Well, Yes, water can be dangerous in the aforementioned ways, but it's also a wonderful compound that sustains life and acts as a universal solvent. Yayyyyy solvent.



### MySpace Bulletins

Anyone and everyone with a MySpace has, at least once, opened a bulletin threatening them with a violent death if they refuse to repost the attached message. But despite their ludicrous wording, these near-illiterate threats still manage to scare enough people into circulating them every few minutes. Forget the power of suggestion; use your head. You don't have to open links entitled "PARTEE GONE RONG," and even when you do, think it through before you start the frantic copying-and-pasting. Most of these "crimes" didn't even happen. The fictional little girl who died at so-and-so's hands isn't going to crawl out of your shower and throttle you with hair if you don't repost. Relax. You'll be fine. ... WAIT OMFG ZAT HAS 11 LETERZ NOOOOOOO APOKALIPZ

## You're Nobody Until You're Talked About

A Stream of Consciousness by Alison Chang//Spectrum Editor

As a non-avid reader of the *Gossip Girl* series, I really had absolutely no idea what was in store for me when I tuned in to that fateful Wednesday night to Channel 5, the new CW, at 9 pm. However, the new show introduced me to a nice combination of *The OC* and *Sex and the City*, leaving me surprisingly pleased. Instantaneously fell in love with Serena and Blair, lovingly dubbed S and B by the mysterious and somewhat annoying Gossip Girl. For some unknown reason, this Gossip Girl chick just really irks me. She somehow knows everything about everyone's life in Manhattan and plus, she says that we will "never know" her real identity. Stalker, much? Oh! And

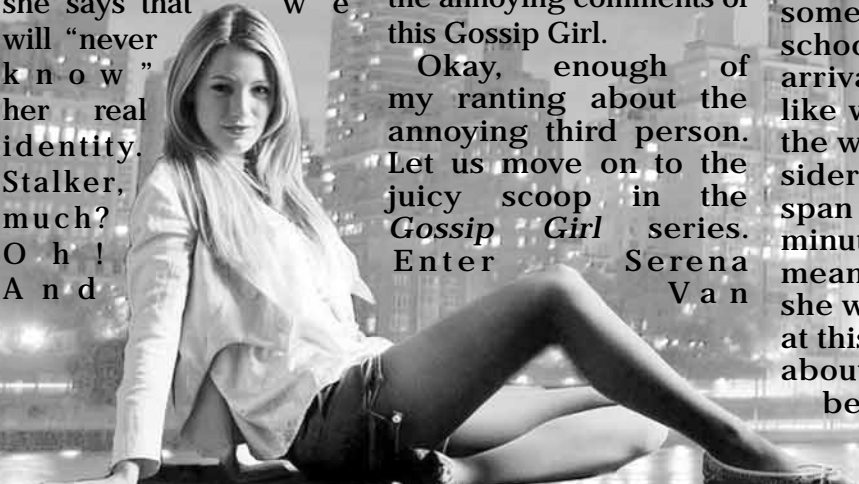
Gossip Girl always uses the lamest lines. Don't get me wrong, the show itself is spankin', but I'm just not a fan of the person after whom the show is named. Literally every other line she says contains the words, "S and B, spotted (insert something dramatic)." I just want her to switch it up a bit, you know, say something that is excitingly new. She also always ends the show with, "XOXO, Gossip Girl." I mean it's obviously Gossip Girl, who else would say all the bogus commentary? Does she really need to say her code name when signing out? I don't think so. But, I guess the drama-rama in the core of the new series ameliorates the annoying comments of this Gossip Girl.

Okay, enough of my ranting about the annoying third person. Let us move on to the juicy scoop in the *Gossip Girl* series. Enter Serena Van

der Woodsen, popular "it" girl. You know, the one that all the other girls want to be. Serena and BFF Blair Waldorf are, in short, the queen bees of pretty much life. However, as I have so far inferred from the show, Serena slept with Blair's beloved boyfriend, Nate Archibald (gasp!). Wow, classic. The best friend and the boyfriend, a secret affair behind the innocent girlfriend's back. I must admit, after finding this out, I thought Serena was the worst! However, as the story line went on, I warmed up to her. The show begins with the homecoming of Serena, after the overwhelming guilt of her and Nate was too much to handle and she peaced out to some random boarding school. Upon her arrival, news spread like wildfire throughout the wealthy, upper East-siders, and within a time span of perhaps thirty minutes, everyone, I mean EVERYONE, knew she was back. Blair, who at this stage has no idea about the little escapade between Serena and Nate, still feels abandoned

and betrayed that her so-called best friend left without so much as a warning. So, now we get to view the awkward way that Serena is going to try to fit back in. FYI, it does not go well. Blair is pretty much a big drama queen about the whole thing. She is still insecure, but I don't blame her. Well, you can imagine from here that it does not go down so well when she actually does find out that her best friend and her boyfriend had a one-night stand. But then again, who would be pleased that their BFF and BF fooled around? As it turns out, Blair is now even more hostile towards Serena and the BFF status Serena hoped to obtain once again is drifting further and further away from her. When Serena was away, Blair became the solo queen bee and now has her own two followers. Serena realizes that she will have to step it up to be accepted back into her darling Blair's life again. So, Serena tries her best to change and reform into a "good person." However, rich, party boy Chuck Bass,

makes that all the more difficult. Chuck, Nate's best buddy, and Blair are seemingly in cahoots to take Serena down. And on the sidelines, we meet Dan Humphrey, a poor, but an-all around nice guy. You might have guessed it by now. Yes, Serena falls for Dan, who in return hates the stereotypical upper East siders, AKA Blair and Chuck. So, will Serena be able to balance all this on her thin, fragile, couture shoulders? Conform with me and tune in to find out!





# Volleyball Falls to South Pasadena , 2-3

By Peony Khoo  
Managing Editor

This past Tuesday, October 16, the Girls' Varsity Volleyball team suffered a tough 2-3 loss to rival South Pasadena at home.

"It was even and went right down to the last point," remarked Head Coach Mr. Scott Cameron.

The Lady Titans gained footing with a six-serve run by Senior Middle Blocker Emily Barth that brought the score to 13-12. Despite a number of missed serves and hits, the Lady Titans maintained the lead to finish with

a 25-20 win in the first game with a South Pasadena hitting error. However, the Tigers came back with a 25-20 win themselves in the second game with help from more serving errors by the Lady Titans.

"We were a little sporadic at the net, and I think that caused us a little frustration," stated Coach Cameron. "[South Pasadena] seemed to have a little more consistency in the outside and middle, so they might've been a little more even in terms of their performance at the net."

South Pasadena continued

to gain momentum, garnering another 25-20 win in the third game.

"We missed 18 serves, and they missed 4... that was probably the biggest difference in the match," commented Coach Cameron.

The Lady Titans finally retaliated in the fourth game, crushing the Tigers 25-15. Several of the Lady Titans' kills of the entire match took place in the fourth game to give the Lady Titans an ever-increasing lead that finally topped off at 25-15 with a double call on the South Pasadena setter.

In the final game of the match, both teams fought closely for the win, ending with a 18-16 game in South Pasadena's favor. In the beginning, the Lady Titans trailed by as much as four points in the 15-point fifth game. However, strong serves by Emily and fewer hitting errors allowed the Lady Titans to even the score at 13-13. The game continued with each team vying for each game point until South Pasadena finally finished off the game 16-18.

"We got in a little bit of a hole in the last game when we were down 3-7, [but] we had the lead at 15-14 and just couldn't hold it," added Coach Cameron. "We hurt ourselves too much serving the ball out at crucial times, and we don't give ourselves a chance to score some points."

Despite the loss, both Emily

2007 Varsity Volleyball	
10/23 @ Blair*	3:30 p.m.
10/25 Monrovia*	3:30 p.m.
10/29 @ Monrovia*	3:15 p.m.
10/29 Temple City*	3:30 p.m.
11/01 South Pasadena*	3:30 p.m.
*Denotes league game	



Senior Nicole Chan elevates to set the ball during Girls' Volleyball match against South Pasadena on October 17. Matt Enger//TITAN SHIELD

and Senior Middle Blocker Alex Ferraco had significant kills, earning 14 and 13, respectively.

"We played about where we've played all year, but we're still not consistent enough," concluded Coach Cameron. "I still think we're the second best team in league [to La Cañada], but we're going to have to prove it."

Tuesday's defeat brought the San Marino's league record to 2-2 and 6-4 overall as of Wednesday, October 17.

Last week, the Lady Titans crushed the Temple City Rams in a 3-0 victory, 25-21, 25-18, and 25-18.

"We played much better [and] didn't make as many mistakes as we made today. We played much smoother against Temple City,"

commented Coach Cameron.

The Monrovia match scheduled on Tuesday last week was rescheduled to the last Monday of league play, October 29.

Yesterday, the Lady Titans also played La Cañada, ranked 7th in Division IIA, but results were not available at press time. "It's obvious La Cañada's a level above everybody [in league]; if we can get a game or two, I'll be happy," stated Coach Cameron.

In addition to preparing for the last few weeks in league, the Lady Titans are also preparing for the Gabrielino Tournament tomorrow, which will be held at three locations—Gabrielino High School, San Gabriel High School, and SMHS—with over 40 teams competing.

## MLB Playoffs: You're Missing Something Special

Nowadays, it seems like everyone thinks baseball is boring, dumb, unimportant, and irrelevant. Perhaps most distressing of all is the fact that everyone at school thinks baseball is unexciting. Though that is true during the long death march that is the 162-game regular season, the MLB Postseason is consistently the most dramatic event in professional sports. Simply put, it brings out a person's full spectrum of emotions, from despair, to hope, to elation. In case you've missed them (which you probably have), here are the five best things so far from this year's playoffs.

— Layout and Copy by Deryck Wong//Managing Editor

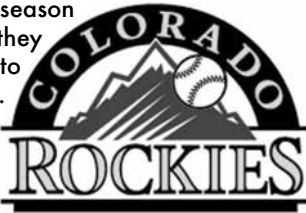
### 1) The Games are Ridiculously Good

Even though I follow the game, I normally don't watch actual baseball games. I drift in and out of the games, watch the highlights sometimes, but that's about it. But the games have just been so close and dramatic this postseason that I've come to enjoy watching baseball again. I literally screamed in excitement at the television after the Rockies came back to win their one-game playoff against the Padres. Beyond that, we've seen some beautiful pitching match-ups, the stomping of the Evil empire, and a team that came out of nowhere to capture the largest bandwagon fan base in the history of forever.



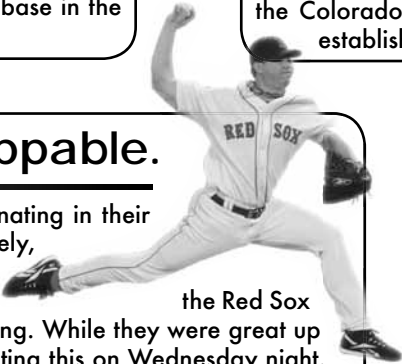
### 2) How 'Bout Them Colorado Rockies?

They won 13 of their last 14 games in the regular season just to get the chance to make the playoffs. Then, they beat the Padres in a one-game playoff that's going to be shown on ESPN Classic for a long time to come. Down 6-8 in the bottom of the 13th inning, the upstart Rockies dismantled the most prolific closer of all time, Trevor Hoffman, to clinch their first postseason berth since 1995. Since then, the team with the no-name pitching that came out of nowhere has swept its way to the World Series and into the hearts and minds of sports fans everywhere. How can you not love the Colorado Rockies? If they keep winning, they might just turn the baseball establishment upside down.



### 3) The Red Sox. They Looked Unstoppable.

The odds-on favorite to win the World Series looked absolutely dominating in their three-game sweep of the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim. Unfortunately, they've run into the buzzsaw that is the Cleveland Indians in the ALCS. Coming off a 3-1 ALDS win over the Yankees, the Indians have made hitters look awful as they flail away at the remarkable Cleveland pitching. While they were great up to this point, the Sox just haven't performed in the ALCS. Since I'm writing this on Wednesday night, The Nation could already be grieving about the death of the Sox by the time you're reading this.



### 4) The Yanks Are Done!

No more news on ESPN about Joe Torre's job security, about the Boss, and about the whole lot of overpaid minions of the evil empire. It's good knowing that it's seven years and counting since the team that everyone loves to hate last won a World Series.



### 5) No more ESPN! Thank You TBS for Some Decent Playoff Coverage!

For the past several years, Fox and ESPN have held a stranglehold over the television coverage of the MLB playoffs. These two networks have used broadcasting duos like Jon Miller and Joe Morgan and Joe Buck and Tim McCarver. For those of you who have no idea what I'm talking about, these men state the obvious and drone on and on for the entire game about how they think they know everything. Their commentary is absolutely atrocious and almost makes the games unwatchable unless they're on mute. TBS's Chip Caray, Tony Gwynn, and Bob Brenly actually offer insightful, meaningful coverage that adds to the quality of the game, instead of making it worse. On top of that, TBS's minimalist use of graphics doesn't detract from the action on the field in the way that Fox's garish effects do. Finally, TBS is committed to show games in their entirety. If the end of one game spills over to the start of another, they've moved the game that's just beginning over to TNT, just to please everyone's viewing preference.





# Boys’ Water Polo Triumphs in Overtime

By Dennis Su  
Managing Editor

The San Marino Water Polo team celebrated its first league win in a 14-11 overtime thriller over the Monrovia Wildcats at home on October 16.

This win leaves the Titans in a tie for third in the Rio Hondo League, along with Temple City (1-3) and Monrovia (1-3).

The score remained close throughout the game, with no team ever leading by more than three goals.

San Marino opened the game down 0-2 to the Wildcats, going scoreless in the first five minutes of play. The Titans’ first goal of the game came on a successful penalty shot by Senior Kevin Lin following a Monrovia five-meter penalty. The Wildcats maintained their lead through the end of the quarter, 2 -5.

San Marino took advantage of a Monrovia ejection later when Alex bounced in a goal through the short-handed Monrovia defense to leave the score 4-6, with the Titans still trailing.

The Titans found another

opportunity in a penalty shot when Junior Hole Set Kevin Hon helped the Titans close within one goal.

After Monrovia committed two quick turnovers in the third, the Titan offense found the hole set wide open for a game-tying seventh goal.

On the next poesssion, Alex scored on a power shot from the left wing to send the crowd cheering by handing the Titans their first lead of the game at 8-7.

That lead was short-lived, however, as Monrovia struck back with a quick goal in response.

The San Marino defense deflected a close-range shot, only to find the ball in the hands of an open Wildcat who tipped the ball in away from an off-guard defense to break an 8-8 tie.

The Titans responded in kind, as Joe put in a goal unchallenged by Monrovia to reestablish a tie game.

With less than 10 seconds in the fourth quarter, James threw deep to Senior Dan Means, and the Titans fought for an opening until they drew a key Wildcat ejection, leaving San Marino with a crucial man-up advantage.

After the Titans burned another timeout, Coach Holcomb substituted James into the field and placed Michael as the goalkeeper.

With the Titans trailing 9-10 and six seconds on the clock, James shuttled the ball to Alex from the left wing, and he tied the game with a buzzer-beater past Monrovia’s 4-1 defense, giving the Titans a chance to win the game.

In the first of two overtime periods, James returned as the goalkeeper. After a Monrovia foul, the Wildcat goalkeeper deflected Kevin Hon’s penalty shot to hold the tie. The two teams continued to deny each other goals until Calvin slammed in a goal to capture the lead at 11-10. After James made a crucial save with less than a minute remaining in the period, Kevin Hon tipped in a goal on an assist from Alex, extending the Titans’ lead to 12-10.

Opening the second overtime period, Monrovia acquired the ball in a messy battle from the tip, and Joe made a hard foul to give the Wildcats a penalty shot, allowing them to draw within one of the Titans.



Senior **Daniel Means** lays off a pass to one of his teammates during a 14-11 overtime victory against Monrovia on October 16. *Jon Wong//TITAN SHIELD*

Joe slammed in his fourth goal of the game at the cheers of the home crowd as the Titans broke away for good. With the final goal by Alex, Monrovia accepted defeat, letting the final seconds run off the clock in San Marino’s first league victory.

Kevin Lin reflected that, in comparison to the Titans’ other league matches, “We definitely did play a lot better [...] but we still need to improve more for future games.”

The Titans began their second round of league play against La Cañada yesterday, but results were not available at press time. San Marino will continue league play against South Pasadena on Tuesday, October 23 at home.

Looking ahead to the South Pasadena game, Coach Holcomb commented, “I’m just hoping they keep working on some of our offense [and] ball handling; I think that’s going to be crucial to controlling the game.”



Senior Captain **Jasmine Quan-Liu** races towards the finish line in the second Rio Hondo league meet on October 11. *Matt Enger//TITAN SHIELD*

## Titans Race in League Meet

By Brandon Shiau  
Associate Editor of Copy

The SMHS Cross Country teams attended the second Rio Hondo League meet at their home course at Lacy Park on Thursday, October 11.

The Varsity Girls achieved third place in the meet. Three of the top six runners wore a Lady Titan jersey; Senior Captain Jasmine Quan-Liu finished second in 19:26, Junior Sarah Tolley came in third at 19:28, and Junior Nikki Miller followed in sixth place with a time of 20:03.

Coach Ernest Ramirez recalled, “We’ve managed to beat South Pasadena [Girls’ Varsity].” He remained confident of the girls’ ability: “Nikki, Jasmine, and Sarah have a good chance to qualify for CIF at this point.”

Though no other team finished with results quite as “good” as those of the Varsity girls, Coach Ramirez maintained a positive overall attitude. “I was very

pleased Thursday with the overall performance,” he concluded.

Standouts for the Titans included: Senior Cristian Raether, who was seventh in his race with a time of 16:42, Sophomore Sean Silva in seventeenth at 17:23, and Junior Raymond Nhan at 22nd in 17:43.

In the previous week, the team prepared with a long-distance run (~8 miles), half-mile and mile sprint sets. Also, easy practices in the days right before the race would guarantee that the runners were not exhausted when it did occur.

Recently, a few of the runners got sick, both due to both pathogen and injury; four runners had to sit out last Thursday.

From a wider perspective, San Marino is doing well considering the size of the team. Compared to league competitors, the team is significantly smaller. Coach Ramirez commented, “I think for what we have, we do quite well. For the size of the team and the

size of our school and the lack of depth, we bring out the most from what we’ve got.”

With more than half of the cross country season over, the runners are anticipating the end of the season. But, Coach Ramirez believes the team is seeing results from its training: “hard work is starting to pay off.”

Coach Ramirez maintains that four Titans, Cristian, Jasmine, Nikki, and Sarah have a good chance at qualifying individually for CIF.

The Cross Country team will be at the Mt. Sac Invitational at Mr. San Antonio College today. While the invitational will not affect the Titans league standing, it will nonetheless be a challenge. The Mt. Sac course is dominated by steep slopes and dirt roads, making it one of the more arduous courses that the Titan runners encounter during their season and will later compete in the Rio Hondo League Finals, concluding the normal season.

## Junior Varsity Stats

Results current as of Wednesday, October 17, 2007

	Boys’ Cross Country	Football	Girls’ Tennis	Girls’ Volleyball	Boys’ Water Polo
Record	N/A	3-2	3-2	3-1	0-4
Last Game	N/A	17-19 Loss at La Cañada on Oct. 11	6-12 Loss at South Pasadena on Oct. 16	2-0 Win vs. South Pasadena on Oct. 16	12-16 Loss vs. Monrovia on Oct. 16
Next Game	3:00 Today at Mt. Sac Invitational	3:30 on Oct. 25 at Temple City	3:15 on Oct. 22 vs. Arcadia	4:30 on Oct. 23 at Blair	4:30 Today vs. Bell Gardens



# Titans Tie Homecoming Game

*(Continued from page 1)*

“I’m sure [the La Cañada defense] wasn’t doing anything fancy, we just weren’t executing our blocks properly,” added Coach Moreland.

The two teams combined for six punts and two interceptions at the end of the first half.

After the halftime festivities for Homecoming, which included fireworks and streamers flying into the packed crowd at Titan Memorial Stadium, the two teams took the field again for another half of defensive-minded football.

With 9:48 left in the third quarter, the Spartans began the first scoring drive of the night.

After five straight rushes, on fourth down and three, La Cañada continued its drive on a non-call from the referees.

Though it appeared as if San Marino had reclaimed the ball off a fumble, the Spartan ball carrier was ruled down by contact, resulting in a fresh set of downs for La Cañada.

Several plays later, the Titans forced another fourth down, this time inside their own territory.

However, Spartan Junior Quarterback Duke McCaffrey managed to find Junior Wide

Receiver Sean Denney to move the ball to the San Marino two-yard line.

Duke then rushed into the end zone to put the Spartans ahead 0-7 with about four minutes left in the quarter.

“One of our defensive backs forgot his assignment, and he went to the wrong place, and left [Sean] wide open [on fourth down].

Then on the touchdown, it was just a simple matter of we thought we had [Duke] tackled.

Our guys stopped trying to tackle him, and he just kind of rolled out and scored,” explained Coach Moreland.

Seven minutes later, the Titan offense began its own scoring drive to tie the game.

On a 5:21 drive, San Marino turned to John for nine of its 10 plays, including a touchdown run on fourth and goal from the La Cañada one-yard line to push the Titans into a 7-7 draw.

“[The team put together a good offensive sequence] because our guys knew they had their backs against the wall.

They finally started to realize that they needed to get something done if they wanted to win the game,” noted Coach Moreland.

While the San Marino offense

received the ball back for one last attempt to break the tie, the Titans could not manage to move the ball into field goal range.

Throughout this drive, the La Cañada safety stayed consistently deep.

On the most promising play of the drive, Junior Quarterback Steven Wright lobbed a ball down the sideline to Senior Wide Receiver Arturo Vargas, who had his man beat by several yards.

However, the ball slipped through Arturo’s hands, forcing the Titans to punt the ball away.

After one more La Cañada possession, the game ended in a 7-7 tie.

The draw moves the Titans to 4-1-1 overall and 0-0-1 in Rio Hondo league play.

“It’s not a loss. [We] didn’t win, but [we] didn’t lose. [We]’ve just got to come back out to practice,” concluded Coach Moreland.

### Titans Continue League Play

Tonight, San Marino travels to John Muir High School to face the 5-0 (1-0) Blair Vikings, a team coming off of a 22-10 victory over the Temple City Rams in their Rio Hondo League opener. Kickoff is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.



Junior Quarterback **Steven Wright** prepares to pass during the Homecoming game against the Spartans on October 12.

Matt Enger//TITAN SHIELD

# Girls’ Tennis Defeated by Tigers, 8-10



Senior #2 Doubles **Lauren Chan** hits the ball towards the opposite corner of the court during Girls’ Tennis’s 8-10 loss on Tuesday.

Jilly Ko//TITAN SHIELD

**By Ryan Chan**  
*Sports Editor*

The San Marino Girls’ Varsity tennis team (7-8) dropped its second straight league match to South Pasadena, 8-10, on Tuesday, October 16.

The Tigers boasted a singles lineup that included two of the top four players in the league, including their #1 Singles Marivick Valdeavilla, who is also ranked 40 in the nation. Not to be outdone, San Marino had three doubles teams that consistently won most of the points for the team.

“We can’t do anything about the singles. They’re ranked players and they’re just tough. But we can do a lot in doubles. We have three really strong doubles team,” Head Coach Paula Bush commented.

Sophomore #1 Singles Jeannie Peterson opened up against Marivick in the centre court. However, Marivick took a quick 0-3 lead in the opening minutes by stumping Jeannie with her slice serves. Jeannie continued to struggle as she was forced to hit awkward shots that set up easy points off the volley for Marivick. The match eventually ended at 1-6.

San Marino’s other two singles did not fare better, struggling to keep with their Tiger opponents. Junior #2 Singles Supriya Kumar could not deal with her opponent’s dominating forehand, eventually falling 0-6. As for Sophomore #3 Singles Stephanie Law, she also committed unforced errors at key points. She lost to her Tiger

opponent, 0-6.

On the doubles’ courts, Senior Alyssa Velasco and Junior Jessica, Ecung started as the Lady Titans #1 Doubles team. Alyssa and Jessica took an early 3-0 lead with consistent lobbing that proved too much for their opponents. They finished their match at 6-0, after forcing their opponent to hit the ball at the net for the final point.

San Marino’s #2 Doubles team, consisting of Senior Lauren Chan and Freshman Marsha Chang, struggled in its first match. Despite effective top spin lobs from Marsha, the two could not finish the points, often allowing their opponents to prepare for a finishing volley. At 2-5, the Lady Tigers broke their serve, ending the match at 2-6.

However, the #3 Doubles team Freshmen Anya Laibangyang and Tammy Le, did better against its South Pasadena counterparts, effectively returned its opponents serves and finishing points off easy volleys. Despite having their serve broken at 0-4, their opponents began to make too many mistakes, including an unforced error that ended the match at 6-2.

In the second round, Jeannie managed to battle back to win 6-2 over her opponent.

Unlike her first match, Jeannie was able to control the tempo and had several chances to come to the net and finish points off with overheads. After jumping to a 3-0 lead, she finished out the match at 6-2 with a backhand volley down the line.

Supriya and Stephanie resumed their troubles in the second round, dropping their matches 0-6 and 1-6, respectively.

However, the doubles team continued its dominance, sweeping the second round. Although at they gave away two straight games at 5-0, Alyssa and Jessica limited their opponents to very few winners as they won 6-2. After their loss in the first round, Lauren and Marsha, like Jeannie, were able to recover and beat their opponents, 6-4.

The team’s aggressive play at the net overwhelmed their opponents, underlined by Marsha’s hard volley down the line to end the match.

After also giving up two quick games, Anya and Tammy regained the momentum and defeated their opponents, 6-4.

Marivick opened up the third set by defeating Stephanie, 2-6. With the total scoreline at 6-6, the Titans needed victories from all three of their doubles teams and at least one from either Jeannie or Supriya in order to win. However, San Marino and South Pasadena traded off points instead as Supriya and Jeannie lost, 3-6 and 0-6, respectively while Lauren and Marsha won 6-2 and Anya and Tammy defeated their South Pasadena’s #1 Doubles team, 6-1.

The game came to a finish as Alyssa and Jessica lost their last match 5-7.

The Girls’ Varsity team played La Cañada yesterday, but results were not available at press time. San Marino will continue its season on Monday, October 22 in a non-league match at Arcadia High School.