



SAN MARINO HIGH SCHOOL TITAN SHIELD

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Boys' Tennis Marches on to CIF Final



Sophomore #2 Singles **Daniel Weingarten** and the Boys' Tennis team sliced its way past Webb, 13-5, to advance to CIF Finals. *Sharon Huang/TITAN SHIELD*

With a 13-5 rout over Webb in CIF Semifinals, the Boys' Varsity Tennis team finds itself with an opportunity to win a CIF title for the first time in seven years.

By Matthew Guichard
Senior Managing Editor

The San Marino Boys' Varsity Tennis team moved one step closer to a CIF title with a resounding 13-5 win over Webb High School in Tuesday's CIF Division II Semifinals. The Titans, who were focused on redemption for last year's dramatic defeat to Sunny Hills at the same stage of the competition, jumped out to a 5-0 advantage against Webb and never looked back.

"This is a very sweet win. Since the unfortunate situation [against Sunny Hills] last year, all we've been thinking about is getting to the Championship," said Head Coach John Kuramoto.

San Marino's path to the Semis featured few challenges, as the Titans cruised to victories over El Modena (17-1), Claremont (13-5), and Valencia (13-5), respectively, in the first three rounds.

Coach Kuramoto commented,

"We were feeling very confident with the team's play and the attitude and work ethic really supported that we were ready to do well in postseason play."

The first round of matches commenced with Senior #1 Singles Evan Jurgensen on Court One facing Webb's #1 Singles, Freshman Neel Kotrappa. Both players held serve until 3-3, as Evan continued to get into his game.

At 3-3, Evan opened the game with a forehand winner off an attempted drop shot by Neel. Evan then broke serve at 30-40, converting his first break point of the match.

Back on serve, Evan held, but not before Neel mounted a comeback from 40-0 down to take the game into deuce. At 5-3, Evan closed out the set 6-3 with his second break, having won the final four games of the match.

On Court Two, the Titans' #1 Singles team of Senior Albert

Chu and Sophomore Nick Chang defeated the #1 Webb Doubles side 6-4, while on Court Three #2 Doubles Seniors Brian Lee and Jon Tran were triumphant by the same score against Webb's #2 Doubles team.

The #3 Doubles tandem of Seniors Andre Law and Eddie Mizuno won 6-2 to complete a first round sweep on the doubles side.

Meanwhile Sophomore #2 Singles Daniel Weingarten eased to a 6-0 win over #2 Webb Singles Raja Gramder on Court 5. However, Sophomore #3 Singles Garry Wu fell 4-6 to Webb's #3 Singles player, Josh Lau.

After the first round though, the Titans' held a commanding 5-1 lead. "We got off to a good start and we finished early," noted Coach Kuramoto.

For the second round of matches, the Titans' coach

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SM Choirs Present Annual Pop Concert at Lacy Park

By Casey Luu
Senior Opinion Editor

At Lacy Park on Friday, May 18, from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., the San Marino Choral Department's Annual Pop Concert drew an audience of approximately 800 people.

The Choir Department performed a total of 17 songs Friday night, including a special "Combined Choir" ending. Many soloists also performed in the concert. According to Choir

Director Mr. Howard Cheung, "[the solos were] auditioned based. In each one of the choirs, we chose either a soloist or a duet or a group of people to perform."

In addition to the solos, many students offered to play the piano and drums for the Choir. Mr. Cheung explained, "The piano players all auditioned, and they all expressed interest that they wanted to play for the choir. After I heard them, I was able to say ok to whoever I wanted." This year's performance also included the

newly created Huntington Middle School Sixth Grade Choir.

Moreover, this was the first time ever that the Choral Department, a total of 200 singers, performed at Lacy Park. Mr. Cheung claimed that he chose the park because he thought that it would "be fun for the parents and the students." He also thought that, this way, "more community members [would] be involved." Junior Bryan Lee even commented, "It was pretty exciting, I liked the strobe lights and other special effects."

To use the park as a stage, Mr. Cheung had to request the city recreation services' and the park manager's approval.

Mr. Cheung commented, "We thought that we had to pay a big fee to perform there, but since we are part of the School District in San Marino, it is free of charge."

Despite that the usage of Lacy Park was free, the whole performance, according to Mr. Cheung, "was an expensive concert to put on." The total expense, which includes the fee for the janitors and for the set

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Dancetra Set to Premiere Next Thursday Evening



The SMHS Dance Company prepares for Dancetra, which will premiere next Thursday, May 31, in the Neher Auditorium. *Kevin Lin/TITAN SHIELD*

By Andrea Chiu
Assistant News Editor

SMHS's "Dancetra 2007" will premiere in the Neher Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 31, and host subsequent shows on Friday, June 1 and Saturday, June 2.

All the dance classes will be performing, in addition to students not in the dance program. Dance Company members choreographed the four dances that in which the people who are not part of the Dance Department, whom meet after Dance Company practice to rehearse the different dance

routines. Those practices last from 5-7 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays.

"This year, Dance Company has been more supportive of each other. Last year it was more segregated and distant. This year, we've bonded more and helped each other out," commented Junior Tiffany Chung.

The Beginning Dance class will be dancing to two songs—"In the Waiting Line" by Zero 7 and "Proper Education (club mix)" by Eric Prydz vs. Floyd.

The Intermediate Dance Class will also perform two dances,

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The San Marino Chamber Choir performs "Y.M.C.A" by the Village People in costume during its annual Pop Concert at Lacy Park. *Connie Chow/TITAN SHIELD*

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Choir Hosts Pop Concert at Lacy Park

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-up, added up to approximately \$7,500. Several volunteer parents donated "an incredible amount of money" to help with the expenses. Many people who attended the concert also supported the choir's performance by paying, even though the admission price for the Pop Concert was free.

The parents also helped the choir with most of the concert's set up by watching over the tickets, cleaning up, setting up the stage, and arranging when the singers would perform on stage. Mr. Cheung explained, "I had a team of volunteer parents, probably about six of them, that were the coordinators for the event [...] I told them my idea and

what I wanted to do and they just made it happen."

Many people who worked in the school district also organized the Pop Concert. Mr. Cheung noted that Mrs. Robbin Nordsten, an English teacher from Huntington Middle School "wrote the script for the performance." Mr. Milan Ubovich, the entertainment director of the San Marino District, helped set-up most of the technical parts of the concert, built all the lights and set-up all the screens. Mr. Mike Hillman, the media arts teacher, displayed live footage of the concert on two projectors.

According to Mr. Howard Cheung, this concert "was probably one of my favorite performances we have ever done



Junior **Andrew Lee**, Senior **Robert Lin**, and Juniors **Kevin Tsai** and **Lorenzo Torres** perform 98 Degrees and the Beegees. *Patrick Chan/TITAN SHIELD*

in San Marino [...] since it was an outside concert. The kids really liked it and that was my main thing."

The Chamber Choir will host its Farewell Concert at the Oneonta Church on Sunday, June 3, at 3 p.m.

ASB Hosts Java House



A total of 12 groups performed at the Architectural Rally Point (ARP) for Java House on Tuesday, May 22 from 6 to 9 p.m. Junior **Daniel Woong** led the last act of the night named "Massive Group" along with Junior Grant Wenzlau. *Connie Chow/TITAN SHIELD*

Music Department Holds Pops Concert

By **Jocelyn Liang**
Assistant Features Editor

The SMHS Music Department will present its annual Pops Concert tonight at 7 p.m. in the Neher Auditorium. The concert, titled "All That Jazz," will feature the SMHS Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble, Orchestra, and Wind Ensemble.

This year's theme includes music from the Swing Era, featuring composers like Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, and Louie Prima.

The SMHS Wind Ensemble will be playing "Benny Goodman: The King of Swing," "Big Band Signatures," and "Salute to ol' Blue Eyes."

Several soloists will perform during the Wind Ensemble's performance, including Senior Joseph Li on the drums and Junior Hubert Wong on clarinet in "Benny Goodman: The King of Swing."

The Concert Band will play Disney pieces including selections from *Mulan* and "A Disney Spectacular."

The Orchestra will play "Duke Ellington" and "A Salute to the Big Bands," an arrangement

featuring "April in Paris," "I'm Getting Sentimental Over You," "Pennsylvania 6-5000," "Serenade in Blue," and "Sing, Sing, Sing."

The Jazz Ensemble will be performing a different interpretation of "Sing, Sing, Sing," "String of Pearls," and "In the Mood." Mr. Ubovich will play the with the group on the Alto Sax for some of the Jazz Ensemble pieces.

In the past, the SMHS Music Department performed different genres of music, including pieces from movies, television and animated series, and musicals.

Last year, the music department played film music from *Band of Brothers*, *Forrest Gump*, *Gladiator*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *Star Wars*, and *Titanic*.

The Pops Concert has been an annual performance that Mr. Ubovich started 15 years ago. He feels that the Pops Concert is something that "everyone will have a nice time [performing]."

The Pops Concert is the last concert held by the Music Department each year, so it will be dedicated to the Graduating Class of 2007.

Amnesty Presents Jamnesty 2007

By **Alison Chang**
Spectrum Editor

Throughout lunch today, the band Leftover will be performing for Jamnesty hosted by Amnesty.

"Jamnesty is an annual event [that tries] to promote interest in Amnesty through music," commented Jamnesty Commissioner Junior Annie Chen.

Amnesty Cabinet considered many groups for Jamnesty while remembering that the music the band plays should be entertaining to the students.

"We are really grateful that Leftover offered to come and perform for free, so [Amnesty] cabinet will prepare lunch and baked goods for each band member to thank them for their generosity," Historian Sophomore Lisa Sy explained.

In past years, Amnesty found bands to play in Jamnesty held in the Architectural Rally Point (ARP) from the internet blog site, Myspace.

A few years ago, they had the band Big City Rock perform. During Jamnesty, Amnesty focused on circulating petitions on supporting "human rights all over the world" and asking the students to sign them during the performance.

However, Amnesty Co-President Senior Amanda Chong stated, "[This year,] we're not

really concentrating on petitions because no one really signs them. We are thinking of having people sign music notes and posting them up on campus."

Although Jamnesty has been quite successful, "interest is diminishing, and [people] do not always care," according to Amanda. "I really want more people to come and actually listen to our band [and understand the point of why they're here]."

In order to promote this event, Amnesty cabinet members attended workshops at lunch and after school in the Associated Student Body room. They made posters to hang around campus to inform students about Jamnesty.

"We are trying to let people know what this club is for. This is our biggest event of the year and we are trying to take advantage of that and make this an annual thing people look forward to every year," stated Lisa.

This year, Jamnesty is focusing on stopping violence against children and women around the world. The conflict in Darfur plays a big role in the focus.

"There are tons of innocent people [getting killed in Darfur] because of genocide, and there are people dying for no reason," informed Amanda. "I want [students] to open their eyes to what is really happening. I really want them to know not everywhere is perfect like it is here."



The Los Angeles band, **Leftover**, will be performing for Jamnesty, hosted by Amnesty, during lunch today. *Courtesy of Annelise Yang*

CLUB BRIEFS

Key Club

On Saturday, May 19, Key Club members volunteered at the Annual San Marino Firefighters Pancake Breakfast at Lacy Park from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.

At the breakfast, members performed various jobs, such as setting up the breakfast tables, counting and selling t-shirts, and overseeing the ticket sales for the pony rides. Besides breakfast, the event also offered activities such as hot-air balloon rides, rides on a fire truck around Lacy Park, and relay races for children involving buckets of water and a firefighter's uniform.

"It was great to see the whole community come together for this breakfast," commented Key Club Co-President Junior Pamela Hung.

In addition to volunteering at the Pancake Breakfast, Key Club has been hosting an event, Project ACE (Afghani Children's Education), on campus. Key Club created Project ACE when Advisor Mrs. Joyce Steece informed the club about her friend, a soldier in Afghanistan, and his efforts to help educate the Afghani children recently freed from the Taliban.

To initiate Project ACE's first event, Key Club asked members to donate clothes to be shipped to the children. The drive lasted from Monday, April 30 to Friday, May 18, and members donated over 200 articles of clothing.

Pamela remarked, "Our club members always provide strong support for our service projects. It's nice to know that the clothes will be able to touch the lives of the Afghani children."

In the upcoming weeks, Key Club plans to host an end-of-the-year banquet at Souplantation on Thursday, June 7.

—**Angeline Luong**//Senior Features Editor

PAWS

PAWS held a carwash in front of the school this past Saturday, May 19, from 12 to 4 p.m. to raise money to donate to the San Diego Zoo.

"It was a big surprise that we made that much. I'm pretty happy with the turn out because it was pretty last minute but quite a few [members] showed up," remarked PAWS Co-President Senior Leslie La.

Fourteen members attended the event, helping raise over \$480. The money will be donated to the Adopt-an-Animal program at the San Diego Zoo for the Maryvale Orphanage in Rosemead. Additional money will go towards organizing a field trip during the summer for the children at Maryvale to visit the animal that was "adopted."

Leslie concluded "I really hope that it will work out."

—**Peony Khoo**//Managing Editor

Dancetra will Premiere in the Neher Auditorium



Dance Company members Juniors **Lavina Ho** and **Tehillah Fouché** and Sophomore **Diana Burge** rehearse their performances for Dancetra.

Kevin Lin/TITAN SHIELD

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including “Dreamgirls” by various artists and “Put The Needle On It” by Dannii Minogue.

Intermediate/Advanced Dance class will be presenting “Satisfaction” by Britney Spears, “Beating Heart Baby” by Head Automatica, “Find a New Way” by Young Love, and “Ain’t Nothing Wrong With That” by Robert Randolph and the Family Band.

“I’m proud of the choreographers,” stated Dance Instructor Ms. Bonnie Hanson. “The choreographers have to be leaders, have creativity, and have a vision.”

The students who arrange the performances also need to like to choreograph, decide on all the costumes, create the entire routine, understand the music they chose, and be able to teach.

“Everyone can listen to these songs on the radio, but it’s not about the music, it’s about the dance,” commented Ms. Hanson.

Seven girls from Dance Company—Seniors Jean Chee, Jennifer Hsu, Melissa Li, Rachel Louie, and Juniors Tiffany Chung, Tehillah Fouché, and Lavina Ho

choreographed various dances.

Dance Company will be performing six songs, including “Henrietta” by The Fratellis, “Because We Can” by Fatboy Slim, “Hide and Seek” by Imogen Heap, “Keep Giving Your Love To Me” by Beyonce, “Flashdance” by Irene Cara, and “Strange and Beautiful” by Aqualung.

“The motivation [for each song] comes through what kind of person we are,” explained Tiffany. “Each person dances in their own way and chooses the song that they are most passionate about. The passion comes from the dancing which creates the choreography.”

Tickets have been on sale since Wednesday, May 16, and will continue until Thursday, May 31, the night that Dancetra premieres. Reserved tickets are selling for \$10, while regular tickets are going for \$5 from any Dance Company member or at the Neher Auditorium box office.

Rehearsals have been going “pretty smoothly” according to Tiffany, who feels that the performers are “ready for Dancetra.”

Mr. Gasca to Switch Districts

By Katie Wu
Opinion Editor

Due to the resignation of Assistant Principal Mr. Steve Gasca, SMUSD has hired a new candidate for the position – Mr. Mike Mooney. His term will be effective beginning July 1 of the upcoming school year.

Despite a persistent “love” for his job here at San Marino, Mr. Gasca has decided to move to the Chino Unified School District for the sole reason that is “closer to home.” There, he will be the new District Administrator and will have the opportunity to specialize in Curriculum and Program Development, as opposed to his current focus on Activities, Attendance, and Discipline. The decision to transfer districts, however, forces Mr. Gasca to leave a position he “enjoys.”

“I love what I do here,” Mr. Gasca relayed. “I’ve [just] had another opportunity to be closer to home that has to do with my passion.”

Various officials underwent

an extensive process to find an assistant principal to replace Mr. Gasca. After publicizing the job opening, applicants sent in paperwork via the Electronic Application Process, EDJOIN.com, an online position advertisement. Following this, a group of staff members performed preliminary screening for in-person recruitment. Ultimately, this team chose only five of the original applicants to come in and present their cases.

On May 4, Principal Mr. Loren Kleinrock, Assistant Principal Mrs. Mary Johnson, and a panel of administrators, counselors, teachers, classified staff, parents, and students conducted the interviews.

Mr. Kleinrock made his recommendation to the Superintendent, who then conducted his own interview. The Superintendent then presented his evaluation to the Board of Education. The School Board made its decision to appoint Mr. Mooney (the current Dean of Activities at Temple City High

School and a former teacher and coach at SMHS) the new assistant principal of Activities and Discipline on Tuesday, May 22.

Because of his close work relations with Mr. Mooney in the past, Mr. Kleinrock believes that he will be an “outstanding” fit for the job. His reasons for his recommendation include the fact that out of all of the applicants, Mr. Mooney has the most history in the required fields.

To accommodate Mr. Mooney, Mr. Gasca plans to help familiarize his successor with his former job procedures and compiling files to facilitate the transition process. The pair have already been working in close proximity because of their associations with the Rio Hondo League.

“All along, he has been a very high-class individual that knows how to do things the right way,” claimed Mr. Kleinrock. “He’s going to be very gifted for our school and for those people who still know him who are still here. Everyone is excited about his return.”

TITAN calendar

June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Events

- 28 Memorial Day - NO SCHOOL
- 29 10 AM Late Start
Service Hours Due for Seniors
- 30 RCC Blood Drive
- 31-2 Dancetra
- 2 SAT I & II
- 3 Chamber Choir Farewell Concert
- 4 Powder Puff Football Game
- 5 Senior Yearbook Signing
- 6 Yearbooks Distributed
- 7 Senior Awards & Reflections
- 8 Luau

Speech and Debate Showcase Talent

By Juliaty Hermanto
Director of the Editorial Board

In light of its recent successes, the Speech and Debate team presented ten award winning speeches at the Annual Speech Showcase held on Friday, May 11.

“The Speech Showcase was a tremendous success,” stated Speech and Debate Coach Mr. JJ Rodriguez. “The speakers were amazing, and we had a good audience turn out.”

The showcase opened with a Duo Interpretation of “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory” performed by nationally qualified Sophomore twins Raymond and Steven Truong. Following the duo, State Qualifier Junior Stanley Liu exhibited an Expository Speech titled “Thank God I’m a Man.” After Stanley, Wake Forest University Finalist Senior Angela Wu performed her Dramatic Interpretation “If You Could Hear What I See.” Angela preceded nationally-qualified Senior

Katarina Mayer’s Oratory Speech called “Can You Hear Me Now.” Junior State Championships Semi-Finalist Alexander Uhl ended the first half of the showcase with his Original Prose and Poetry piece, “That’s So Straight.”

After intermission, nationally qualified Senior Pierre Liu opened the second half of the showcase with his Humorous Interpretation, “The Legend of Spuds Murphy.”

Following Pierre, National Qualifier Junior Christine Blauvelt performed an Expository Speech titled “My RAtical Obsession.” She was followed by Junior Brian Lam’s Humorous Interpretation “Cinderella Wore Combat Boots.” District Finalist Senior Yisha Fan then presented her Oratory titled “Do It Yourself.” Katarina and Pierre wrapped up the show with their nationally qualifying Duo Interpretation, “Romantic Fools.”

Approximately 200 students attended the showcase Friday night, earning the team \$1100.

Furthermore, seven beginning speech and debate members took

finalist positions on May 19 at the Patrick Cullen Memorial (Southern California Urban Debate League Novice Championships). Freshmen Bei-er Cheok and Allen Liu attained first place in Duo Interpretation while Freshman Justin Siu also earned first place in Humorous Interpretation.

Adding to the team’s success, Junior Markus Brazill and Freshman Oscar Wang competed at the 5th Tournament of Champions (TOC) for Extemporaneous Speaking at Northwestern University. The two were invited to the event based on their recent success as extemporaneous speakers. Markus cleared to the semifinals of the tournament, becoming San Marino’s first finalist at this tournament.

Oscar stated, “I’m so happy for Markus’s triumph at TOC. Our success at the State Championships, and more recently, the TOC and Novice Championships, affirm that this team is moving forward strongly. I am so proud to be a part of this team.”

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Thespians Perform in the Spring Play

By Emily Chang
News Editor

The SMHS Thespians presented the play *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie on May 16 and 17 at 7 p.m. and 19 and 20 at 2 p.m. in the Webb Theatre.

Although SMHS did not feature a spring play last year, Drama Department Head Ms. Bennett Wright explained “the kids really wanted to do another play after the musical.”

Instead of a comedic theme, like many recent SMHS plays and musicals, Ms. Wright chose a murder mystery because she thought the students would enjoy it.

The actors performed the play “exactly as it was written, British accents and all.”

“I really liked how this time we broke the mold and didn’t do the

typical slapstick comedy thing,” stated Sophomore Mark Liu, who portrayed Dr. Armstrong. “It shows we can perform plays and shows that aren’t always funny.”

With a different genre comes a change in lighting styles, and Sophomore Philipp Sweeney was in charge of all the lighting and light cues. He described how the lighting had to be “really low key and look dark and scary” because of the dramatic air he had to create. “Sometimes there were problems,” admitted Philipp, “like some light cues were not where they were supposed to be.”

And Then There Were None is set in the 1930’s on an island off the west coast of England. A Mr. U.N. Owen invites ten strangers to be guests in his home. They arrive to find their host missing, and a mysterious voice emanates from a record player accusing each of



Senior Paul Cervenka, Sophomores Geoffrey Wenzlau and Mark Liu, and Seniors Alex Mashikian and Scott Osgood discuss the letters from their mysterious host.

Jon Wong//TITAN SHIELD

the guests of murdering someone in their life. Each character begins to die one by one according to the old nursery rhyme “Ten Little Indians” found above the fireplace in the house.

The play was presented in three acts with a brief intermission between each act.

Ms. Wright considers this a “very difficult play because the language is so difficult. Some of [the] actors even compared it to trying to learn Shakespeare.”

The cast included Seniors Nicholas Adams-Cohen, Paul Cervenka, Yisha Fan, Alexander Mashikian and Scott Osgood, Junior Tyler McKnight, and Sophomores Jeffrey Kinsey, Mark Liu, Christi Valone, and Delaney Yeager. They rehearsed Monday through Friday for six weeks from 3 to 6 p.m.

Christi, who plays Miss Emily

Brent added “rehearsals were long, but they were always fun.”

In both Ms. Wright and various cast members’ opinions, Sunday afternoon’s performance was the best. Ms. Wright was “very pleased” with the turnout because she “didn’t know how the audience would buy into the plot, but everyone seemed to go with it.”

Over 100 people attended each performance, raising a total of \$2,700 through ticket sales.

Concessions were also sold before the play and during intermissions. The production cost around \$2,000 to put on, so the Drama Department earned approximately \$700.

As the school year comes to an end, “I will miss the seniors,” concluded Mark. “It was the seniors’ last play, and it was nice to be with them one last time.”



Senior Yisha Fan (Vera Claythorne) backs Senior Paul Cervenka (Philip Lombard) into a corner during the Spring Play

Jon Wong//TITAN SHIELD

Our Opportunity to Clarify

In our last issue, distributed on Friday, April 27, *Titan Shield* reported on several topics of interest:

“Boys’ Tennis Continues Quest for Division II Title”

—The Boys’ Tennis article was not completely printed.

“Junior Varsity Stats”

—JV Boys swim record was 6-3.

“SM Track Cruises Past La Cañada”

—The track team competed at the Division III CIF meet at Warren instead of the Division IV meet at Cerritos.

“SCAB Welcomes L.A. Breakers to SMHS”

—Our apologies to Mr. Ben Cordiero whose last name was misspelled as Cordero and to Coach Adam Monte whose last name was misspelled as Monty.



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Winter Drumline Sets the Beat

By Shaina Lu
Associate Editor of Copy

Most believe that SMHS Drumline is, well, Joseph Li and a marching line of drums.

They're only 50 percent correct. The first-ever SMHS Winter Drumline, like all other Drumlines, actually consists of two parts: the pit and the battery. The battery, as the majority of the school population knows, includes drums commonly seen in pep rallies, such as tenors, snares and basses. The pit, also known as the front ensemble, is a stationary part of Drumline that encompasses instruments such as marimbas, xylophones, timpanis, vibraphones, and bells.

Drum Captain Senior Joseph Li first started SMHS Winter Drumline

first step, to provide students in the future with the opportunity to participate in such a group." It was the first ever Drumline in the history of SMHS to compete in the winter season. Under the supervision of Drum Instructor Tony Nguyen, the SMHS Drumline met every Thursday at 6 p.m.

Most members of the Marching Band Drumline returned to participate in Winter Drumline. Led by Senior Joseph Li on the tenors, the battery had four snare drummers: Senior Chris Havner, Senior Elizabeth Medina, Junior Benson Khau, Junior Kin Yan Woo; another tenor drummer: Sophomore Benjamin Huang; and four bass

drummers: Senior Monica Torres, Junior Bernard Reyes, Junior Tiffany Wei, and Sophomore Duke Huang. Pit Captain Junior Amy Sun led Senior Aaron Sun, Senior Jenny Zhang, Junior Jeffrey Chen, Sophomore Josephine Wei, and Freshman Edward Truong.

Joseph has actively participated in Drumline and Marching Band since his freshman year, and Amy has played for both SMHS Drumline and Incognito, an independent Drumline.

Despite having quite a few newcomers, the SMHS Drumline quickly bonded during their weekly practices. "The cool thing about Winter Drumline," Amy explained, "was that it wasn't always about music, but a lot of it was learning how to interact and work with people." Some practices were devoted to team bonding and lesson-learning. For example, one activity that Tony cooked up was "staple pushups." Each member of the drumline had to do 38 pushups while also pressing down a staple. But not every drummer was physically capable of completing the task, and the

Drumline learned to rely on their teammates—weaker members could ask stronger ones for help in finishing their pushups.

For a fledgling group, the SMHS Winter Drumline did exceptionally well in its first year of competition. Even though some of the Drumliners had never marched or even played percussion before this season, they all managed to learn their music and, according to Amy, "get their show down." They placed second in their division with only thirty seconds of show time at Mission Hills High School. On the other hand at Santiago High School, they placed first in music. And at the Championship at A.B. Miller High School, the

band room towering over the tiny Marching Band Trophies.

In the end, marimba player Josephine recounted that, although drumline took a lot of time and effort "all the troubles that had seemed so overwhelming and stressful at the time felt only like slight mishaps because we accomplished something."

"We reached our goal. We started; we finished. We made history."



through his "love of music" and his goal "to take the

SMHS Winter Drumline took fourth earning a giant trophy that now sits in the

Singing, Acting, and Shining on Stage

By Connie Chen
Features Editor

Although Kara Cohen is just a sophomore, she has performed in countless plays including this year's musical *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*.

In fact, she has been singing and acting for years.

Kara recognized her talent as a young girl. Her nana played the *Les Miserables* soundtrack, and Kara used to sing it back.

After this simple act, Kara discovered her love for singing and has continued

to take lessons at a private studio ever since. Kara first began performing in the first grade. Kara received the lead role as Annie in the musical *Annie* at Citrus College after her friends suggested that she audition. Though Kara's parents advised her not to get her hopes up, Kara awed the director who selected her to perform the lead role.

During auditions, she had to both dance and sing individually and in groups. Kara ended up as Annie for two productions of *Annie*.

Kara has starred in nine different musicals. She

acted in two renditions of *The Music Man* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. She also participated in last year's musical, *Little Shop of Horrors*.

However, Kara loves the numerous musicals she participates in because she "loves being on stage and acting like someone you are not," Kara commented.

Kara is also involved in musicals outside of school at the Pasadena Jewish Temple & Center (PJTC). She recently finished performing in *Fiddler on the Roof* at PJTC. After rehearsals, which were Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 10:30 p.m., Kara had to focus on finishing her homework to balance school work with theatre, which she found to be somewhat difficult. However, Kara believes performing in

musicals is definitely worth it.

Kara stated, "Every musical and play that I do is unique and exciting in its own way. They all have their special memories and moments."

Not only has Kara participated in several musicals, she has also joined various choirs. She took part in the Huntington Middle School Choir, a religious adult choir, and a teenage choir at her temple. In addition, when Kara was in the eighth grade, she won the competition to sing "God Bless America" at Lacy Park during the annual July 4th celebrations. When she auditioned, she sang the "Star-Spangled Banner." Kara will be preparing and auditioning for musicals around this area this coming summer.

In fact, one of her goals is to audition for a

role in *Oliver* in Glendale.

She plans to dedicate much of her

time to practicing and becoming more involved in theatre while she does not have school. Kara also has long-term goals for the future.

She hopes to professionally enter musical theatre and do voice-overs, which are production techniques where a disembodied voice is broadcasted live or pre-recorded in radio, television, film, or theatre.





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Robert Lin,

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3, Andrea

p.s. I'm full and cool...if you know what I mean



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Capital Punishment Offers Practical Solutions

By Katie Wu
Opinion Editor

Of the many punishments dolled out to convicted criminals, the death penalty is understandably reserved for the worst. Only those who commit first-degree murder, treason, or espionage are, if convicted, sentenced to death by lethal injections or electric chair. Because of such methods, many believe capital punishment to be inhumane—but despite such claims, the death penalty is the only just way to deal with such audacious misdemeanors.

The death penalty is constantly misconstrued as inhumane torture, a concept that causes many to dislike the idea, and instead turn to “kinder” alternatives. However, though some cases do merit the latter, others involving infringement upon human rights require capital punishment.

The alternative to the death penalty, a lifelong sentence in prison, is unfortunately flawed in several aspects. In offering rehabilitation in prison and detention centers, the government hints at potential reformation on behalf of the criminal. However, most cases are beyond psychological repair, and only physically damage the individual by subjecting him or her to the dangers of prison. According to the National Prison Commission, over 650,000 inmates are released

from confinement every year—only to have almost 70% of that number rearrested within three years. [ABC News, June 2006 // <http://abcnews.go.com/GMA/LegalCenter/story?id=2048040&page=1>]. This overburdens courthouses and correctional facilities and further endangers society. Experts have cited causes such as facility budget cuts, overuse of solitary confinement, and overcrowding. In cases such as this, there can be no margin for error. Readmitting convicts back into society only breeds a higher crime rate, public discontent, and more costs for supplementary trialing and conviction.

Currently, institutions across the country are releasing convicted criminals that may or may not be reformed simply to make room for murderers taken off or detained from death-penalty trials. In addition to the danger this fact poses, conditions within such sites are typically poor, especially in the fields of medicine and psychological health. In fact, prisons now house inmates with mental illness rates at three times those of the general population, and constant complaints of lack of proper resources. [Human Rights Watch, March 2007, <http://hrw.org/english/docs/2007/03/26/usdom15569.htm>] Incarceration has proven to be a strong cause for depression, leading to suicides behind bars. One factor in particular

is the physically violent life many inmates must lead. Prisons can only support so many inmates; by keeping such criminals locked up for life, we are merely urging the

who may potentially recidivate earlier crimes, increasing threats to society.

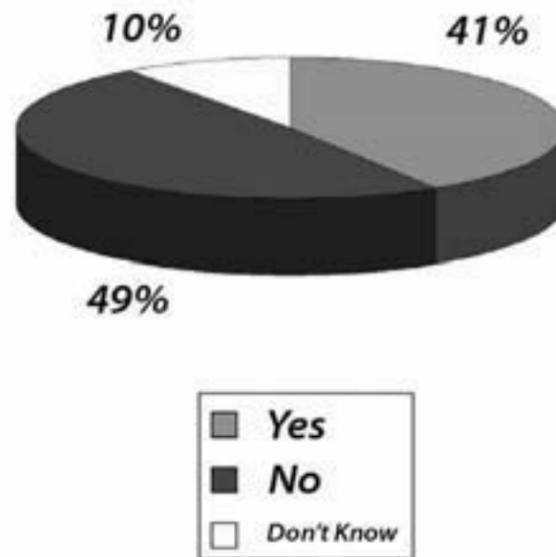
Though some may argue that the dropping crime rates in the

from rebounding on such statistics. By enforcing just measures, the government will effectively scare potential felons out of committing similar acts of violence. Protecting citizens from further harm more than compensates for the loss of life through the death penalty. Ultimately, the deterrent effect serves to benefit human welfare and the stability of society. Though this is not 100% effective, the thought of such a punishment is certainly enough to prevent a fair amount of murder.

“I feel that capital punishment ought to be administered to felons who commit heinous crimes, but not abused to the extent that any murderer will be sentenced,” relayed Junior Diane Chu.

Despite an occasional capacity for wrongful execution, capital punishment continues to be a justifiable form of punishment in only the most severe cases. Additionally, this margin of error has lessened significantly since the introduction of advanced genetic testing and more conclusive forms of empirical evidence. The death penalty seems to be the only reasonable solution that both protects society from further harm from the same offenders and better manages the radical situations mounting in corrective facilities all over the country. In short, the death penalty is sometimes the only just course of action available.

Is the death penalty a justified form of legal punishment?



San Marino High School
May 23, 2007 // 91 students polled

government to be more lax with parole. Rather than eliminating those of most threat to society, we are promoting the release of those

U.S. will soon render capital punishment obsolete, it is only through the death sentence that we can continue to deter criminals

Death Penalty Unnecessarily Taxes America

By Emily Chang
News Editor

Since the beginning of recorded history, capital punishment has been a part of the justice system. Today, the death penalty is used only for capital crimes or offenses, but more and more countries are abolishing the death penalty. Capital punishment should be eliminated because it does not deter crime more than a sentence of life in prison, violates human rights, is prejudiced against the poor and racial minorities, and sometimes leads to the death of those who are wrongfully convicted.

Life in prison without parole is just as, if not more, effective as capital punishment. According to a testimony by Professor Jeffrey Fagan to the New York State Assembly, in New York, a state with no executions, homicide rates have declined by 65.5% over the last decade.

Recent studies have also shown that the death penalty is much more costly than life-without-parole. According to state and federal records obtained by The *Los Angeles Times* in March of 2005, maintaining the California death penalty system costs over \$114 million a year beyond the price of simply keeping the convicts locked up for life. This figure does not count the millions more spent on court costs to prosecute capital cases. The *Los Angeles Times* concluded that it costs \$90,000 more a year

to house one inmate on death row than in general prison population. (<http://pqasb.pqarchiver.com/latimes/access/804551731.html?dids=804551731:804551731&FMT=ABS&FMTS=ABS:FT>) Additionally, death penalty costs must be paid all at once while life-in-prison expenditures span over many decades.

The most expensive system is one that combines the costliest parts of both the death penalty and life in prison: a lengthy and complicated death penalty trial followed by incarceration for life. Surprisingly though, research has shown that that process is exactly what can be expected from the death penalty, according to a testimony by the Executive Director of the Death Penalty Information Center (DPIC) Richard C. Dieter before the Colorado Senate Judiciary Committee. In most cases where the

prosecution pursues that the death penalty, it is never sustained, and even when sentenced, it is rarely carried out (<http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/COcosttestimony.pdf>)

Money spent on capital cases could be spent on other means of protecting society, such as

compensation for victims, better lighting in crime-prone areas, or more police. Some states with the death penalty are releasing inmates early as a cost saving measure. Other states are closing libraries and other vital services. (*Wall Street Journal*, May 2007, http://pqasb.pqarchiver.com/wsj/access/1266233171.html?dids=1266233171:1266233171&FMT=ABS&FMTS=ABS:FT&date=May+7%2C+2007&author=Cynthia+Crossen&publisher=Wall+Street+Journal&edition=Eastern+Edition&startpage=B.1&type=8_90&desc=Use+of+Death+Penalty+Over+Decades+Points+To+Conflicted+Public)

Montana Assistant Attorney General John Connor told the Montana House Judiciary Committee, “It seems to me to be the ultimate incongruity to say we respect life so much that we’re going to dedicate all our money, all our resources, our legal expertise and our entire system to try and take [a] life.” (<http://4and20blackbirds.wordpress.com/tag/john-connor/>).

Not only is death penalty costly, but it violates human rights. Capital punishment began in the gallows, but in the 1980s, lethal injection became popular. However, this method is now under scrutiny as evidence proving that it subjects criminals to a great deal of pain mounts. (<http://hrw.org/english/>

docs/2006/10/13/usdom14388.htm)

In addition, some people are convicted because of race or ineffectual defense attorneys. Ineffective guidelines and restrictions in the capital sentencing process can result in juries falling back on their prejudices. According to an Amnesty International Report those who kill white victims are much more likely to receive the death penalty than those who kill black victims (<http://web.amnesty.org/library/index/engamr510462003>).

DPIC stated that many factors other than the gravity of the crime or the culpability of the offender appear to affect death sentences, including geography, race, gender, and income. *The National Law Journal*, after a study of death penalty representation in the South, concluded that capital trials are “more like a random flip of the coin than a delicate balancing of scales,” because the defense attorney is “too often [...] ill-trained, unprepared [and] grossly underpaid.” States vary enormously in the quality of representation they provide to indigent defendants.

The Capital Jury Project studied more than 1,200 jurors from 14 states. Based on this research, it was concluded that the constitutionally mandated requirements established to guide juror discretion and to eliminate arbitrary sentencing are not working because of premature

decision making, bias in jury selection, failure to understand jury instructions, influence of race, and underestimating the death penalty. (<http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/article.php?did=1328>) Ultimately, many trials result in charges against people for crimes they did not do.

“There are plenty of innocent persons still in prison. There’s no way you can look at this data without believing that,” stated Barry Scheck, co-founder of the New York-based Innocence Project, as told to *USA Today* in a press release on April 23, 2007.

Mr. Dieter stated that the “national trend is leaning away from a broad use of the death penalty, as indicated by a 60% drop in death sentences, a 45% decline in executions, a smaller death row, and a decreasing level of public support.” He also argues that in public opinion polls, there is a clear upward trend in support for life-without-parole sentences as a substitute for the death penalty and that states without the death penalty have reduced their murder rates more than those with it.

The United States should do away with such punishment because it is biased against the less fortunate, violates human rights, and results in the deaths of innocents. The flawed legal system cannot determine with moral certainty the guilt of every defendant convicted of murder, and thus cannot be trusted to properly administer the correct punishments in such situations.

The United States Retains a Costly Hero Complex

By Kimberly Nguyen
Assistant Opinion Editor

Over the past few decades, America has intervened in several conflicts between foreign countries, particularly in the Middle East. However, many people from the Middle East feel as if America is mainly committed to dominating and controlling the Muslim world (<http://muslimsforasafeamerica.org/?p=25>). It is in America's best interest not to constantly engage in conflicts that do not concern the U.S.

Many people believe that the best way to reduce or eliminate the attacks on America is to engage in disputes among warring countries. That way, the U.S. will come out as the "hero" in the situation. However, this is unlikely. Sheldon Richman, senior member at The Future of Freedom Foundation and editor of *The Freeman*: Ideas on Liberty, said, "This will only make America the object of more intense hatred, as aggrieved parties conclude that violence is the only recourse they have against the sole superpower (<http://www.fff.org/comment/ed0998d.asp>)." The U.S. cannot always appease both sides. If America continues to meddle, then its irritating involvement will enrage several countries. For instance, America built barriers to protect vulnerable districts of Baghdad, and Sunni and Shiite politicians both denounced the barrier for splitting Baghdad into

cantons and widening the sectarian gap. In yet another example, Somalia's warring clans were still fighting when the United States left and are still fighting today. In Bosnia and Kosovo, U.S.-led intervention has the potential to create limitless predicaments. Despite plentiful influxes of foreign aid, nation-building in Bosnia has been a failure. In Kosovo, allied intervention has merely brought ethnic cleansing in reverse, Albanians against Serbs. U.S. military action will not solve the long-standing problems of those countries (<http://www.independent.org/newsroom/article.asp?id=1089>). The recent genocide in Darfur, Sudan has raised the question of whether or not America should intervene. However, most Darfur activists do not believe that the use of unilateral U.S. military power is the solution (<http://www.tnr.com/doc.mhtml?i=w060434&s=kaplan040224>). Interfering in other nations' wars has also posed a financial burden on the United States. According to *The Seattle Times*, the Iraq War is costing more than \$100,000 per minute (http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/politics/2002780385_spending03.html).

In addition, the United States continuously attempts to reform embattled countries, but instead of improving foreign relationships, its actions simply frustrate allies. The U.S. will not be able to effectively

impose democracy on nations that have already rejected it. Although that mainly pertains to Arab countries, it is present in other nations as well. President Bush has also attempted to convince President Vladimir Putin to reform Russia. "[Moscow] complains of American meddling in its traditional sphere of influence. Even before Bush's arrival, Putin appeared increasingly irritated at [Bush's] push for democracy along Russia's borders (<http://english.enorth.com.cn/system/2005/05/09/001018912.shtml>)."

Also, the United States should not frequently intervene because of its status. America's reputation as an economically and politically dominant country will only cause more chaos.

Indeed, it is because of America's power and notoriety that it should avoid interfering in foreign conflicts and entangling alliances (<http://www.fff.org/comment/ed0998d.asp>). Publicly amplifying violent disputes only makes the world a more dangerous place. Other nations should be allowed to settle their disagreements peacefully and without additional meddling. The U.S. does not need to act as the world's police.

Some people believe that the presence of American military in warring countries promotes peace and security (<http://www.fff.org/comment/ed0998d.asp>). However, the U.S. does not need to mediate.

Though America means well, the wisest course of action is to not interfere in foreign conflicts.

Instead of creating new enemies through foreign meddling, America should focus on its own problems. The U.S. should lead by example rather than concern itself with problems in remote regions

that have little or nothing to do with American interests. However, the U.S. should still be concerned about other nations when it directly affects Americans. Other than that, the United States should not maintain a global foreign policy and intervene wherever it believes necessary.

The Voice of the People



"I think America should worry about what's happening in its own country before it takes time to meddle in other countries."

- Freshman Shannon Dang



"Our nation should not [interfere with foreign affairs], because we do not have the resources. We don't even have enough to finance ourselves."

- Junior Diane Chu



"We should interfere, because it will probably help us in the future. You never know what's going to happen. We should spread democracy."

- Senior Robert Lin



"I think we have the right to do it. I mean, we have the most money, and the most power. I think if we're helping, then it's okay, but if we're invading, then it's not. It just depends on the circumstances."

- Anonymous



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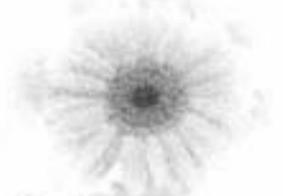
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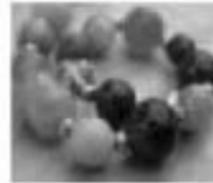
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In the past few years, MySpace has become nothing short of an Internet phenomenon. It's a gathering ground for overeager scene kids, lonely older men, and perky seventh graders with over 3,000 friends. But despite the differences, these groups all have one thing in common: a continual obsession with a little, high-tech device called the camera.

I am sure you have all heard of camera whoring or, in short, falling victim to the temptations of vanity by shamelessly exploiting the art of photography. Although it may be more common with girls, there are certainly boys who do it. Whether it be an angled shot of the face from above or below, or a time-released picture of rolling around on the floor with stuffed animals, this unquestionably addictive habit has become a truly artful form of self-expression revered by all. HAH. Who am I kidding?

Every day, tens of thousands of teenagers lock themselves in their bathrooms with several pounds of makeup and break out their digital cameras, snapping away until they get it just right. Meals are forgotten, and homework is put off. I only wish I was exaggerating.

But, okay. I will admit the whole process is not necessarily bad. After all, who is a better judge of how decent you can look in pictures than yourself? Some people find snapping posed mirror shots very fun. But in spite of this, there are those who bring disgrace to the practice, as they find it necessary to position themselves just so, and wear that specific piece of uncomfortably revealing lingerie.

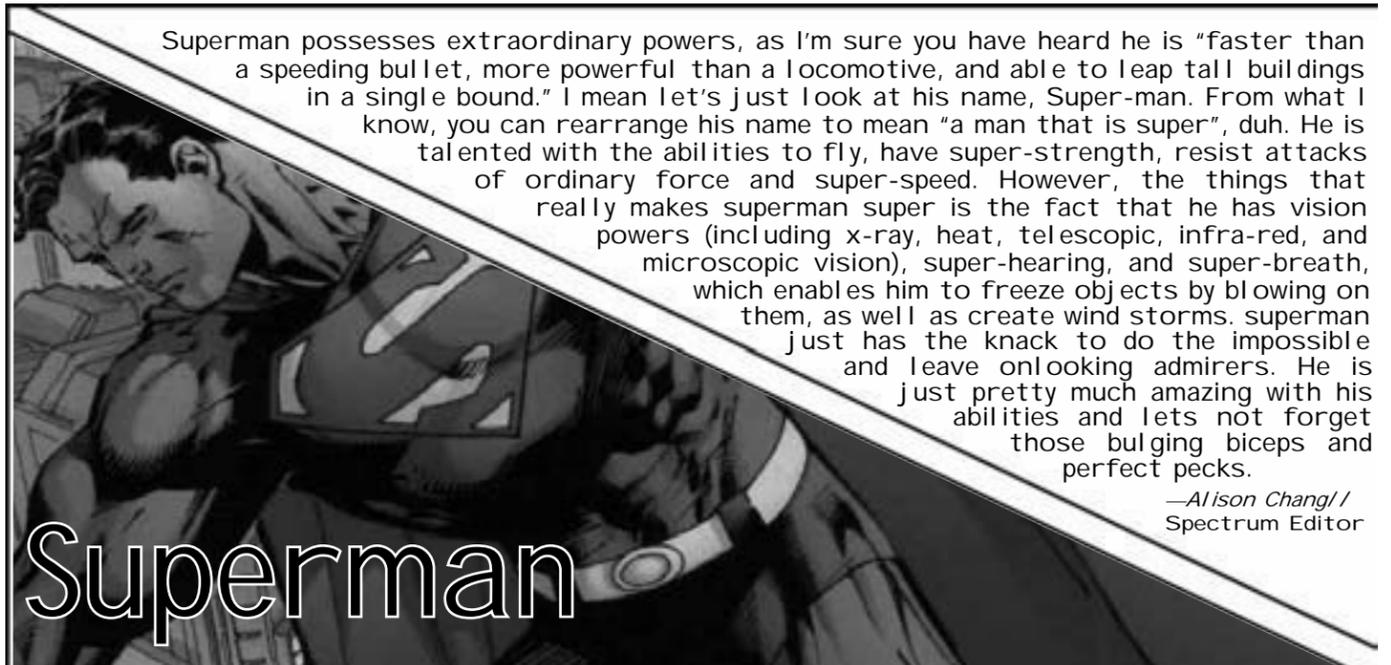
I guess the question we have to ask is if it is really worth humiliating ourselves this much to get a semi-decent photo. Honestly, if you are really willing to invest that much time and energy into doing this for several hours a day, you are denying yourself the pleasure of doing something actually productive. Homework, for example. Curing cancer. Saving the rain forest. Turning off the bathroom light and conserving energy. Not to shock you, but there is more to life than the camera lens and the way it captures that adorable new haircut of yours.

So, the next time you get the urge to post 16 new pictures of yourself on MySpace or Facebook, suppress the feeling and put the camera away. Instead, take a walk outside and enjoy the sunshine while it lasts, you know, before the world implodes and humanity meets its bitter, well-earned end. But I suppose once that happens, camera whoring will not really matter, will it?

—Katie Wu//Opinion Editor

The super hall of fame

An old lady stands helplessly in the middle of a crosswalk with cars zooming by her. Suddenly, a flash of blue, a flutter of a red cape, and that famous red emblem announce the arrival of Superman! Within a matter of minutes, the elderly woman is freed from her urban prison. The world is put right again! Or not. Superheroes usually exist in this world to save mankind from its own destruction. By contrast, villains encourage the deterioration of society. A number content themselves with petty bank robberies, but most hope to someday rule the world. But in nearly every story about good and evil, the villains always seems to be the losers. Here, I have compiled a list of the greatest superheroes and the most worthless villains.



Superman possesses extraordinary powers, as I'm sure you have heard he is "faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive, and able to leap tall buildings in a single bound." I mean let's just look at his name, Super-man. From what I know, you can rearrange his name to mean "a man that is super", duh. He is talented with the abilities to fly, have super-strength, resist attacks of ordinary force and super-speed. However, the things that really makes superman super is the fact that he has vision powers (including x-ray, heat, telescopic, infra-red, and microscopic vision), super-hearing, and super-breath, which enables him to freeze objects by blowing on them, as well as create wind storms. superman just has the knack to do the impossible and leave onlooking admirers. He is just pretty much amazing with his abilities and lets not forget those bulging biceps and perfect pecks.

—Alison Chang//
Spectrum Editor

Superman

Batman has to be one of the most impressive of all superheroes because he is not gifted with any superpowers. He was born just like you and me, but after witnessing his parents' death when he was a child, he began to train himself to be at the top of physical and intellectual perfection. So, when taking on the bad guys, he doesn't utilize some special flying-Kung-Fu-in-the-air-I-can-disappear type of thing. He just needs to stand his ground and fight like a man, using his physical strength, detective skills, intellect, and technology. Not to mention he has some pretty sweet gadgets like the batmobile and utility belt to help him conquer all. And remember, he is doing this all while wearing a tight bat-themed suit. that's hot.

—Alison Chang//Spectrum Editor

Batman

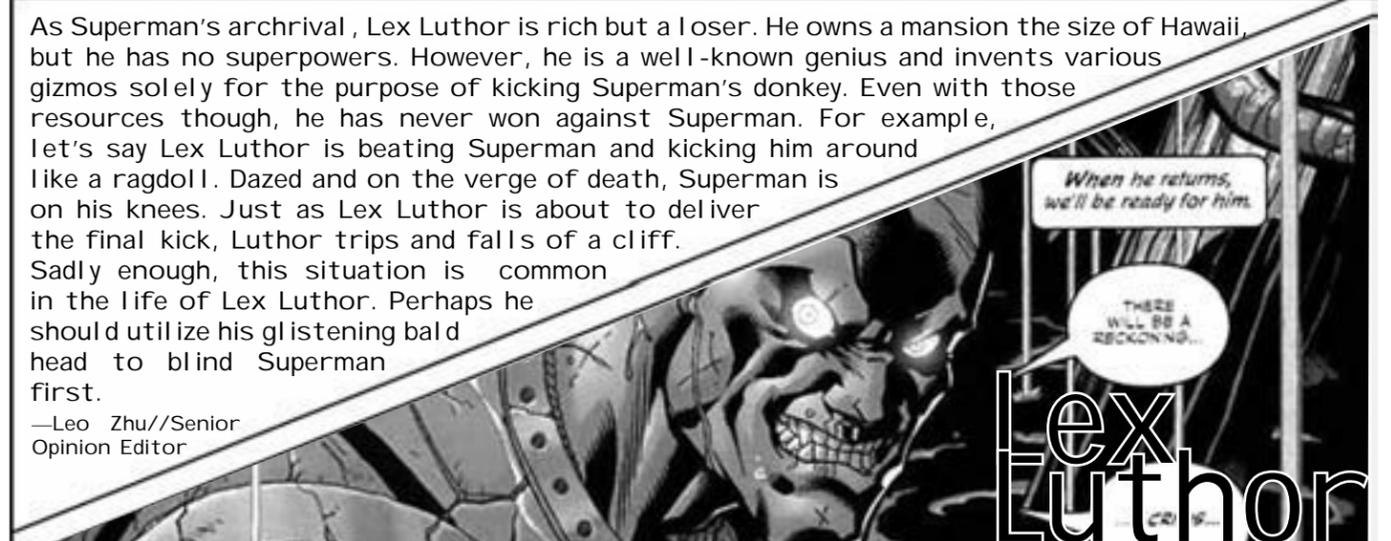


Best recognized for his wide grin and painted face, the Joker is Batman's arch-nemesis. He underwent his transformation into the Joker after he fell in a vat of chemical waste, as so many villains and heroes tend to do. However, the only thing that changed besides his skin and hair color was his state of mind; he developed a type of ultra-sensory perception referred to as "super-sanity". However, many people mislabel the super-sanity as insanity. The Joker is known for telling disturbing "jokes" and killing in particularly brutal ways, laughing idiotically while his victims suffer and die. The only person who ever considered him sane was his therapist and later girlfriend, Harleen Quinzel aka Harley Quinn.

—Maddy Wojdak//Spectrum Editor

As Superman's archrival, Lex Luthor is rich but a loser. He owns a mansion the size of Hawaii, but he has no superpowers. However, he is a well-known genius and invents various gizmos solely for the purpose of kicking Superman's donkey. Even with those resources though, he has never won against Superman. For example, let's say Lex Luthor is beating Superman and kicking him around like a ragdoll. Dazed and on the verge of death, Superman is on his knees. Just as Lex Luthor is about to deliver the final kick, Luthor trips and falls off a cliff. Sadly enough, this situation is common in the life of Lex Luthor. Perhaps he should utilize his glistening bald head to blind Superman first.

—Leo Zhu//Senior
Opinion Editor



Pirates of the Caribbean

Crossword

—Samantha Lai//Assistant Spectrum Editor

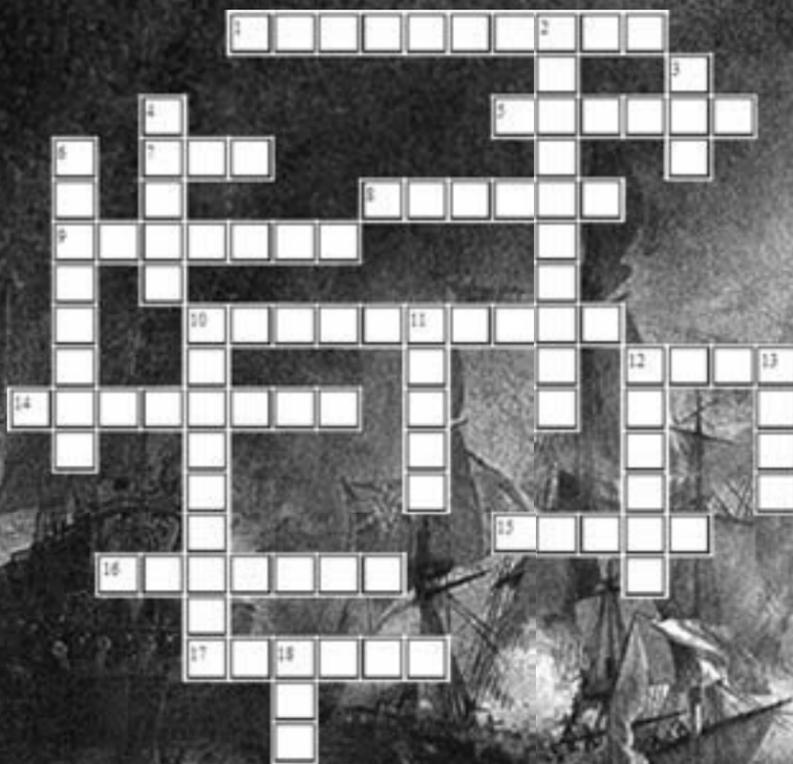
Aye, Matey! We here created a crossword puzzle so ye can refresh ye's memory on The Curse of the Black Pearl (CBP) and Dead Man's Chest (DMC) before the Pirates of the Caribbean 3: At World's End comes hither in theatres. So, git ready for this epic adventure and think hard for if ye miss a single one, it's off to walk the plank...Savvy? (see page 13 for answers)

Across

- The pirate code is actually more a set of _____ (CBP)
- Name of the sea monster that Davy Jones summons. (DMC)
- Item that Ragetti keeps losing. (CBP & DMC)
- Jack escapes from this in the very beginning. (DMC)
- Means "turtle" in Spanish. (CBP)
- Will Turner's previous profession. (CBP)
- How Barbossa feels when Jack shoots him. (CBP)
- Name of the pirate who likes to eat apples. (CBP)
- Type of gold that cursed the crew of the Black Pearl. (CBP)
- Language the two fishermen spoke before the Kraken devoured them. (DMC)
- What Elizabeth says to Pintel and Ragetti when they corner her. (CBP)

Down

- Name of the person who wishes to marry Elizabeth. (CBP)
- What Jack wants Will to find in order to save Elizabeth. (DMC)
- What lies inside the Dead Man's Chest. (DMC)
- "The Flying _____" (DMC)
- Nickname given to Will Turner's father.
- Main catchphrase that Captain Jack uses.
- Elizabeth Swann despises wearing this. (CBP)
- Jack places the heart in a jar of _____. (DMC)
- What Elizabeth describes as "a vile drink that turns even the most respectable men into complete scoundrels." (CBP)



Gotta Catch Em All



I, the front spokesperson for Geekdom, have yet another piece of entertainment for you darling readers of this adorable little paper. It's cute. Yet also violent. And very, very addicting.

It sucks hours and hours of your life away until you know nothing but a small three-by-four pixelated screen.

It's *Pokémon*!

I was first introduced to this phenomenon back in third grade, when my cousins provided me with a light-up Pikachu keychain. This act led to my watching the WB series, *Pokémon*, along with several movies featuring the darling critters, and a now-useless stack of Pokémon cards. And yes, I memorized all 150.

But at this time and age, why would I reinvest my time in this money-blowing, time-wasting, grade-killing...pasttime?

It's really simple. All the blame goes to whoever provided me with a Nintendo DS and Pokémon Sapphire. The moment I touched that apparatus, I immediately latched on like a thirsty bloodsucking leech that hasn't had a victim for days, and five hours went by just like that. My math homework was left undone; articles left unwritten; *Hamlet* left unread.

So I began in Littleroot Town, home of my character, whom I named Perfect, after myself. I then acquired my very first Pokémon, a Torchik. I named it Kevin, after the cruel person that put a DS and Pokémon into my possession.

And it went like that. I'd catch a Pokémon and name it after a friend, and, in time, I would become attached to it.

My Pokémon were my second family. I was profoundly affected when any of them were poisoned, paralyzed, burned, frozen, or otherwise harmed by any of those violent creatures in the wild. I carried a ridiculous amount of digital junk in my digital baggie to keep them safe—Hyperpotions, Mail, Paralyz Heal, the works...

Basically, I spent a way too much time on Pokémon. At lunch, instead of talking to people, I'd commune with Plusle and Kirlia. At home, instead of doing homework or studying, I'd teach Gyarados a new move. STAR Testing...well, let's just say that I finished my tests quickly.

And now? My brain has rotted, my fingers are sore, and some of my friends want to strangle me for ignoring them at lunch.

Somebody save me!!! (While I go play some more Pokémon.)

—Shaina Lu//Associate Editor of Copy



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Pet of the Month



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Breed: Grey Hound Mix
A
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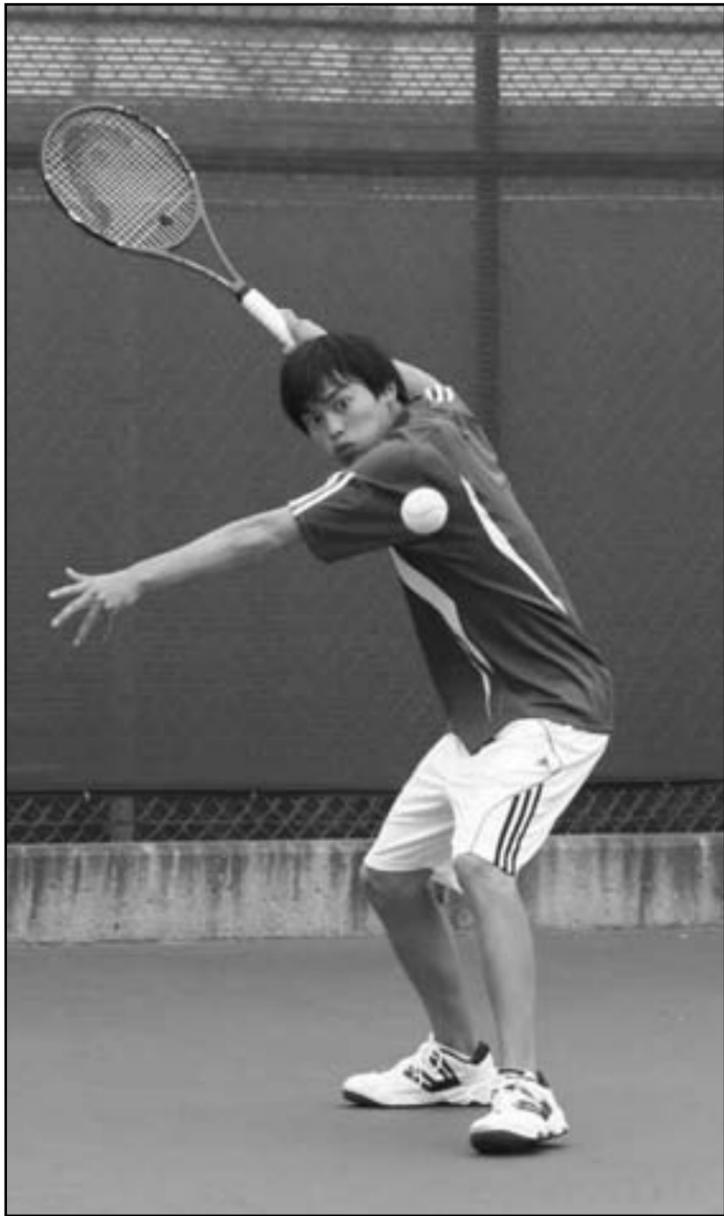
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Answers to Pirates Crossword:

Across	Down
1) Guidelines	2) Norrington
5) Kraken	3) Key
7) Eye	4) Heart
8) Coffin	6) Dutchman
9) Tortuga	10) Bootstrap
10) Blacksmith	11) Savvy
12) Cold	12) Corset
14) Barbossa	13) Dirt
15) Aztec	18) Rum
16) Turkish	
17) Parley	

Boys' Tennis Routs Webb High, 13-5



Senior #2 Doubles **Brian Lee** concentrates on firing his forehand in the 13-5 victory over Webb High School on May 22. *Sharon Huang/TITAN SHIELD*

(Continued from page 1)

substituted Garry for Sophomore Simon Zhang who proceeded to win his match 6-1 over Webb's #2 Singles.

Evan continued his strong play with a 6-0 victory in his second and final match.

In his second set, Daniel Weingarten squared off against the #1 Webb Singles player, Neel. Reminiscent of Evan's earlier match, Daniel exchanged games until 3-3, when Daniel broke through on Neel's serve, firing a forehand passing shot for a winner.

While Daniel failed to hold serve in the following game, he quickly broke back and served out the match for a 6-4 win.

On the Doubles side, Albert and Nick won 7-5, along with Andre and Eddie, 7-6 (6), guaranteeing San Marino's victory with ten match-wins, despite Brian and Jon falling to Webb's #1 Doubles. Having clinched the match after the completion of the first two rounds of play at 10-2, the Titans substituted their starting players for the final matches.

Sophomore Daniel Csicic, who replaced Evan, won his match 6-1. Seniors Alex Yee and Eugene Zhou stepped in for Albert and Nick, but lost 6-7 (6) in a tiebreak.

Nonetheless, the remaining sets were academic, as the Titans had already locked up a spot in the

CIF Final. The match concluded 13-5.

"We knew that [Webb] had a good record, and they didn't get to the semis for no reason. They've beaten some good teams, so we didn't take them for granted," assessed Coach Kuramoto.

The Titans now turn to next Wednesday's Championship match against #2 Ranked Diamond Bar, a team San Marino

beat 11-7 on April 24. San Marino will maintain a normal practice schedule leading up to the season's final match at 11 a.m. at the Claremont Club.

Coach Kuramoto remarked, "We feel confident about playing [Diamond Bar] again, and we know how they play. We expect to be a better team than when we played them last. I like our chances."

Tennis Scorecard vs. Webb CIF Division II Semifinals

Singles	#1 Webb	#2 Webb	#3 Webb
#1 Evan Jurgensen	6-3	6-1 <small>*Daniel Csicic</small>	6-0
#2 Daniel Weingarten	6-4	6-0	6-1
#3 Garry Wu	1-6 <small>*Simon Zhang</small>	6-1 <small>*Simon Zhang</small>	4-6

Doubles	#1 Webb	#2 Webb	#3 Webb
#1 Albert Chu & Nick Chang	6-4	6-7 (6) <small>*Alex Yee & Eugene Zhou</small>	7-5
#2 Brian Lee & Jon Tran	6-7 (6)	6-4	6-1 <small>*Richie Lee & Robert Lin</small>
#3 Andre Law & Eddie Mizuno	3-6 <small>*Webber Wang & Harrison Wong</small>	7-6 (5)	6-2

*Substitution

Swim Brings Hope for Future in CIF

By **Ryan Chan**
Sports Editor

Three members of the Varsity Swim team traveled to Long Beach on Tuesday, May 15 to compete in the CIF Masters Meet.

"I think if we had a bigger team, we could've done well in the team events," Sophomore Tim Lin stated.

In CIF Masters, Junior Kevin Tovar and Sophomores James Gillete and Tim Lin represented San Marino in their respective events. Kevin took fourteenth place in the Boys 100-yard Backstroke with a time of 53.67, while Tim came in sixteenth place. Tim also competed in the Boys 500-yard Freestyle, finishing in twenty-fourth place with a time of 4:48:10. James was the only Titan to finish in the top ten of his event, placing eighth with a time of 1:43:47 in the 200-yard IM.

Prior to the CIF Masters Meet, San Marino participated in the CIF Preliminaries on Thursday, May 10. Eleven Titans qualified for the Prelims, including five that would move on to CIF Finals.

On the girls' side, Freshman Berkli Oscarson finished fifteenth in the 100-Yard Breastroke and became the only Lady Titan to advance towards Finals.

Of the eight events that

featured a Titan in the Prelims, San Marino was able to qualify in six categories. Sophomore Jonathan Mashei-Lano placed ninth and fifteenth in the 100-yard backstroke and the 200-yard IM, respectively. James also advanced in two individual events, including a fifth place finish in the 100-yard freestyle and fourteenth in the 200-yard freestyle.

Tim added a twelfth place finish in the 500-yard freestyle and sixth in the 100-yard backstroke. Kevin finished behind Tim in eighth place.

Entering CIF Finals, the Titans had at least one participant in seven events. James continued his dominance in the 200-yard IM as he grabbed fourth place while once again attaining fourteenth place in the 100-yard freestyle.

Additionally, Kevin and Tim placed fourth and fifth in the 100-yard backstroke. Also, in the 500-yard backstroke, Tim achieved thirteenth place. However, neither Jonathan nor Berkli could qualify for any of their events.

Tim is optimistic about repeating this year's success in league and CIF, stating, "If we get more fast swimmers, we will be able to do well again."

NBA Playoffs Lacks Usual Gleam

In this Issue, Managing Editor Deryck Wong shares his perspective on the dwindling amount of excitement within this year's NBA Playoffs. The new generation of NBA and its superstars are failing to meet the tradition of excellence for millions of viewers.

Simply put, the NBA playoffs have been and will continue to be excruciatingly painful to watch. Sure, everyone got hyped when Baron Davis and his up-tempo Golden State squad upset Dirk and the Mavs, but other than that, these playoffs have just been completely and utterly unremarkable.

If you're a fan of say, the Utah Jazz, you have reason to cheer because they're back in the Western Conference Finals after nine years. If you're a fan of entertaining basketball; however, you might as well turn off the television in disgust.

Scoring is down across the board, teams are slowing down the tempo of the game, and LeBron's the only legitimate superstar left in the playoffs. All these factors have contributed to an overall decline in a sport that once featured compelling drama and storylines whenever May rolled around.

Going back the last 20 years or so, it's not hard to come up with great playoff series, like the Bad Boy Pistons going against a young MJ and his upstart Bulls in the late 80's.

Compare that to what's going on in the league right now, and TNT is just plain lying whenever they run their "We Know Drama" commercial.

Unfortunately, the Suns-Spurs

series in the Western Conference Semifinals was probably the most entertaining ball we'll see all spring. The sad part is that David Stern and the NBA really brought this on themselves. While the league could have used some common sense because Stoudemire and Diaw didn't even get into the fracas at all, it instead chose to strictly follow its asinine rule and ruin any hope at all of allowing entertaining basketball to be played.

Most likely, the viewing public will be blessed to watch the slow-it-down, grind-it-out, kill-the-fun roller coaster of a series that is San Antonio versus Detroit in the finals. While this may be perfectly fine for all the defensive stalwarts out there, practically everyone else would like the teams to score at least 80 points in a game. You know, it'd be nice, just once in a while, to see teams score *eighty* points. That's all I ask of Detroit and San Antonio.



LeBron James drives into the lane during Game 1 of the Eastern Conference Finals. Like a true superstar, LeBron scored 10 points. *Jesse D. Garrabrant/NBAE*

Boys' Volleyball Eliminated in CIF Opener

By Peony Khoo
Managing Editor

The Boys' Varsity Volleyball team suffered a 0-3 loss against La Salle in the first round of Division IV CIF Playoffs on May 12.

"We didn't play great. We just made a lot of silly mistakes," remarked Head Coach Scott Mooney.

The Lancers earned a strong lead, winning the first game quickly, 15-25.

"We made a lot of errors and gave up easy points," stated Coach Mooney.

In the second game, the Titans led the way with a kill and ace by Junior Co-Captain Outside Hitter Brandon Brown, leading 12-7 at one point.

However, La Salle came back with numerous kills and blocks, making the score even at 17-17. The two teams stayed neck-and-neck for a while until La Salle pulled ahead in the end, with a couple kills to finish off the game, 22-25.

Junior Setter Christian Yang started the Titans off strong in the third game with an ace. Both Senior Co-Captain Outside Hitter Shane Chen and Brandon contributed a kill each.

When a San Marino player shanked a ball on the first pass, Senior Libero Elton Keung managed to save the ball by jumping on the wall with

Sophomore Opposite Hitter Ethan Fung passing the ball over from out of bounds on the third contact. The two teams remained close until La Salle once again earned a lead with numerous kills and several errors by the Titans.

"We were excited for a little while [because of Elton's save] and then we kind of went back in the tank," stated Coach Mooney.

However, the Titans closed the seven-point gap, bringing the score to 20-22, when Junior Middle Blocker Peter Chiang contributed a block. La Salle maintained its slight lead and finished off the game 22-25 with a kill.

"They didn't play their best game and we didn't play our best game, but they kept the ball in a lot more than we did. I think both teams played a little down," commented Coach Mooney.

The Titans also lost to La Salle in four games earlier in the season, just before league play began.

"They were a different team than when we played them the first time. We were expecting them to tip a lot and they didn't," added Coach Mooney.

Despite a disappointing end to the season, the Titans defeated the South Pasadena Tigers in their last match in league on May 1, 3-1. Although the Tigers defeated San Marino in the first round of league, the Titans came back with an important victory at South Pas in the second round. In the third

game, South Pasadena Senior Starting Setter Kevin Kuramoto was injured and could not continue to play.

"I'm sure it would have been a lot closer, but we still would've pulled it out," stated Coach Mooney.

Brandon made 15 kills while Shane earned 12; both had two aces. In addition, Elton contributed 23 digs while Junior Middle Blocker Thomas Chou had 5 blocks.

"We had the momentum on our side," added Coach Mooney.

With the victory against South Pasadena, the Titans ended second in league with only two losses—South Pasadena and Gabrielino. The Titans also won the Silver Division in a two-day tournament at Crescenta Valley High School at the end of April.

"I think we could've done better in CIF, but overall, it was a satisfying season," concluded Coach Mooney.

The team will lose five graduating seniors next season, in addition to Coach Mooney, who will be taking a year off from both teaching and coaching at San Marino High School to teach in Vietnam.

Former coach Mr. Scott Cameron will once again assume the position of head volleyball coach in the upcoming school year for both the Girls' and Boys' varsity teams.



Sophomore Opposite Hitter **Ethan Fung** prepares to catch the Lancers off-guard with a tip during the Titans' 0-3 loss on May 12. *Emma Quan/TITAN SHIELD*

Softball Falls to Monrovia

By Raymond Nhan
Assistant Sports Editor

The San Marino Varsity Softball team concluded its season on Thursday, May 10, with a 1-13 loss against the Monrovia Wildcats.

The Lady Titans ended 3-9 in league and 10-12 overall. Despite a strong non-league record of 7-3, San Marino's league record was not enough to qualify them for CIF Playoffs. Head Coach Mitch Dimkich claimed "[San Marino] should have been in CIF," however, losing close games hurt the team in its quest for postseason

competition.

San Marino got off to a strong start against the Wildcats when Junior Starting Pitcher Corrine Meyerson retired the side without allowing a run.

In the bottom half of the inning, Senior Captain Rachael Torres led off with a single up the middle. Although Junior Emily Barth hit into a force play, she was able to advance to second after the Wildcat second baseman committed a throwing error. Then, Freshman Catherine Barth brought Emily home with a RBI single. Unfortunately for the Lady Titans, this would be their

only run of the game. San Marino failed to take advantage of scoring opportunities by leaving many players on base.

From the second inning on, Monrovia's offense proceeded to score in every inning. The Wildcats' pitching remained strong through the game by striking out ten San Marino batters and allowing only one walk.

Top performers for the Titans in their game against Monrovia included Rachael and Freshman Devin May, who each had a single and strong games defensively. Corrine also compiled five strikeouts in a complete game.

Before competing against Monrovia, the Titans defeated the La Cañada Spartans 1-0 and fell to the Marymount Sailors and the South Pasadena Tigers, 1-10 and 1-11, respectively.

In the team's victory against La Cañada, Emily Barth hit a solo home run in the sixth inning, giving the Lady Titans their final league win. Coach Dimkich saw this victory as a big win because it kept San Marino in fourth place in the Rio Hondo League.

Coach Dimkich reflected that he was proud of the team's strong bond and friendship.

He also mentioned the team's positive attitude, excellent character, sportsmanship, and resilience.

Coach Dimkich concluded, "The kids hung together really well and I was proud of them for that."



Junior Starting Pitcher **Corrine Meyerson** winds up a throw to a Monrovia Wildcat during the Lady Titans' 1-13 loss on May 10. *Jon Wong/TITAN SHIELD*

Golf Ends Year in Tenth at CIF Finals

By Allison Zia
Sports Editor

The Boys' Varsity Golf team placed tenth in CIF Finals on May 7 at the Montebello Golf Course.

San Marino qualified for CIF play after placing second in the Rio Hondo League. Although San Marino trailed behind the La Cañada Spartans, the Titans surpassed the South Pasadena Tigers.

Senior Captain Curtis Fu claimed, "There were teams from other divisions that [our division] didn't want [to play] because they were too good. Ours consisted of most of the strongest schools. So, our playoffs were actually one of the most difficult. Overall, we did well, but we couldn't match up to the winning teams."

Junior Nelson Wong further added, "We did better than expected because our team wasn't that strong this year. Yet, we did destroy South Pasadena by about 25 strokes."

Titans who participated in the match included: Curtis, Seniors Max Chen, Bryan King, Juniors Michael McKeown, Kevin Tsai, and Nelson. They completed the course in 76, 80, 84, 73, 86, and 81 strokes, respectively.

Furthermore, San Marino participated in CIF Individuals

on May 2 at Marshall Canyon Golf Course.

Although the Titans placed sixth, seventh, and eighth overall in CIF Individuals, no player from San Marino qualified.

Curtis, Max, Bryan, Michael, Kevin, and Nelson all contributed, finishing with scores of 78, 83, 84, 73, 89, and 95, respectively.

"La Cañada swept by placing in the top four. That didn't really give us a good chance," Curtis declared when reflecting on the match.

To conclude the season, Curtis stated, "In the past, we did have better records and we played better. But with new and old players leaving, we [have] improved since the beginning. We turned out to be solid at the end."

Looking ahead to next season, the Titans will lose three seniors: Curtis, Max, and Bryan.

Nelson claimed, "We really need them. They played well this year. There's no one who can take their spots next year [because their roles] are kind of a big impact."

Several incoming freshmen and current Junior Varsity players will have a chance to help the team next year.

According to Curtis "They are going to have a tough start. No one has played varsity matches. But, if they work hard [next year], I'm sure they're going to end the season well."

Boys' Baseball Knocked Out of CIF Play

By Deryck Wong
Managing Editor

In its first appearance in CIF playoffs in nine years, the San Marino Varsity Baseball team came up on the losing end of a 2-3 pitcher's duel against the Cantwell-Sacred Heart Cardinals. Despite a five-hit effort from Junior Starting Pitcher Nick Wilson, a two-run home run by Senior Catcher Joshua Alatraste in the bottom of the fourth inning ultimately decided the game.

"One pitch, that's what it came down to. We had handled that guy all day, and whether it was a mistake or not, I don't know. [The pitch] was a little bit up and the guy didn't try to pull it, he just hit it where it was pitched, and amen," noted Head Coach Mickey McNamee.

While the Cardinals sent out their ace, Junior Starting Pitcher Louis Maclas, the Titans managed to score two runs on him early in the game.

Sophomore Shortstop Steven Wright opened the hitting when he reached first base on a hit into left-centerfield. Senior Captain Second Baseman Matt Forgatch then proceeded to walk to put Steven into scoring position. After Senior First Baseman Alex Varga struck out, Nick helped out his own cause by hitting a two-out, two-RBI single to right field to give San Marino a 2-0 lead. Though Junior Designated Hitter David Ramirez continued the rally by fouling several pitches, eventually singling into centerfield, Sophomore Third Baseman Dylan Bensinger struck out to end the inning.

Despite the fact that the Titans had staked Nick to a two-run lead, Sacred Heart promptly cut the deficit in half in the bottom of the first inning. Nick opened the frame by hitting the Cardinals' leadoff hitter, who advanced to third base following a passed ball and a bunt by Senior Second Baseman Christopher Trujillo. Christopher then scored on a bouncing groundout to short. After allowing one run through, Nick induced a pop-up to shallow right-centerfield to end the inning.

Following the three runs, both pitchers proceeded to pitch shutout ball for the next two innings until the bottom of the fourth. Louis opened the inning by reaching base on a single that bounced over Dylan's head along the third-base line. Joshua then put Sacred Heart ahead for good with his two-run shot to deep centerfield.

"This is what CIF playoffs is all about. It comes down to one play, one run, one hit, and one error. One is the key number, because there is no tomorrow. You don't get to play tomorrow. It's over. There's no opportunity for a lapse. You've got to be 100 percent, 100 percent of the time in the playoffs in order to advance," explained Coach McNamee.

The Cardinals kept the hits coming with a double, but could not bring the runner home and finished the inning leading 2-3.

In the top half of the fifth inning, Louis retired the San Marino hitters in order, and did so again after a leadoff single by Steven in the top of the sixth inning. Even though the Titans scored on Louis early, "We weren't patient enough at the plate today and we swung at too many bad pitches. Going into the game, since this was the first CIF experience for almost every one of these guys, they just got anxious. They were so pumped up and ready to play that they were just overanxious at the plate today. We weren't willing to be



Senior Centerfielder **Kirk Pastre** waits for the pitch during the Titans' final regular-season game versus Monrovia on May 10.

Kevin Lin/TITAN SHIELD

patient and get a good pitch to hit," mentioned Coach McNamee.

Meanwhile, in the bottom half of these innings, San Marino "played extremely well [defensively]," said Coach McNamee.

In the bottom of the fifth with a runner threatening at second base, Nick forced a pop-up to left field to get out of the inning unscathed.

With regards to the Titans' defensive performance, "[Nick] made the other team put the ball in play and [Sacred Heart] didn't get many good swings. We played terrific defense. The left side of our infield, Dylan and Steven, they did a great job today. There were a lot of balls hit off the bat that were just little slow rollers. They fielded the ball and made good throws," remarked Coach McNamee.

Even with the shutout defense, San Marino entered the seventh inning down 2-3, with three outs to extend its season. Louis struck out the first two Titan hitters, but Senior Right fielder Royce Stuteville worked the count full and drew a two-out walk to put the tying run on-base. Coach

McNamee then substituted in Senior Patrick McGowan as a Pinch Runner. As Patrick attempted to steal second base to get into scoring position, Joshua threw him out to end the game and San Marino's season. With the 2-3 loss, the Titans finished their campaign at 15-7 overall.

Overall, Coach McNamee felt proud of his seniors' performance. "The Seniors have done a marvelous job for us the last three years. Most of them have been on [Varsity] for three years. They have brought San Marino baseball back to respectability. They should reflect on their season positively, even though they wanted more and they expected more."

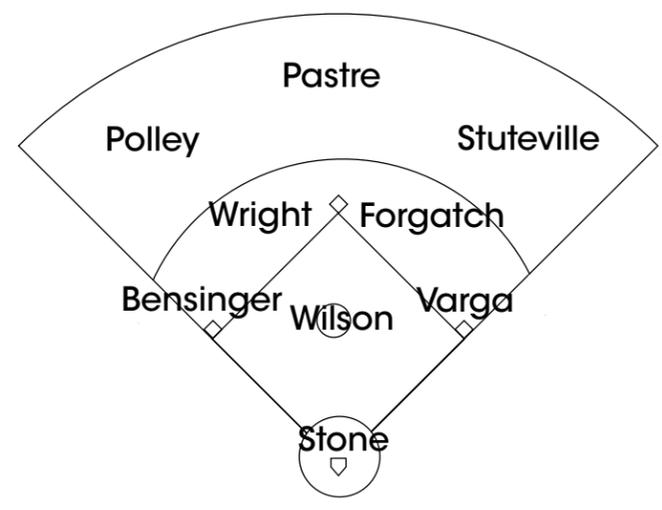
Looking towards next year, the varsity team will be losing many seniors. Despite this, the team will be looking to make another CIF run with the help of returning young varsity members, such as Steven and Dylan.

"Playoff losses are personally not easy to stomach because I've been in too many of them," stated Coach McNamee. However, the Titans are looking forward to a better season next year.

Titan Baseball v. Cantwell-Sacred Heart

Runs									2
Hits									4
Errors									0

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Titans	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Cardinals	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	3



Track Ends Season in CIF Prelims

By Raymond Nhan
Assistant Sports Editor

Fifteen San Marino Track and Field athletes competed at the CIF Division III Preliminaries at Warren High School on Saturday, May 12.

Unfortunately, no participants from San Marino qualified for CIF Finals, which took place at Cerritos College last Saturday, May 19.

Though San Marino was not represented at CIF Finals, several runners had strong performances in the preliminary meet.

Top performers for the Titans at CIF Prelims included Senior Captain Alex Ruiz and the Boys' 4x400-meter relay team. Alex ran a personal best with a time of 4:35 in the 1600-meter race and the Boys' 4x400-meter relay team recorded its best time of the season at 3:32.

Though San Marino competed

at the Division III level, the news came as a surprise for them. For most of the season, the Titans attended meets with schools from Division IV and believed that they would be competing against the same schools in CIF. However, they found out they would be competing in Division III shortly after the Rio Hondo League Finals.

Head Coach Ernest Ramirez believed that it was "an emotional letdown" for the Titans when they learned they had to compete in Division III.

Before competing at CIF, the Titans had six varsity Rio Hondo League Champions. Among the girls, Freshman Illeana Borunda won the Long Jump with a leap of 16' 9.5". Though Illeana was league champion at the long jump, she did not compete at CIF Prelims for the event.

Other victors include Junior Kimi Silverstein who won the

100-meter hurdles with a time of 17.06 seconds; Junior Katie Grech came out victorious in the 400-meter dash in 61.56; and Junior Captain Jasmine Quan-Liu took the victory in the 3200-meter run with a time of 12:15. Coach Ramirez also commented on Katie's potential to improve for next season.

For the Boys' Team, Alex won the mile in 4:39, and Junior Michael Hsieh took first place in the 300-meter intermediate hurdles with a time of 42.18. Michael also came in second in the 110-meter high hurdles during league finals, qualifying him for CIF Prelims.

After two "close" league finals losses, Alex was finally able to qualify for CIF and win a league championship.

According to Coach Ramirez, Alex's victory was "well deserved and well earned."

San Marino also had several

other athletes qualify for CIF Prelims. Even though she did not win her event, Sophomore Sarah Tolley qualified for Prelims in the 3200-meter run finishing second behind Jasmine with a time of 12:27. Though she placed second, she did not run at CIF Prelims.

Other qualifiers for CIF include the Boys' 4x100-meter relay team and both the Boys' and Girls' 4x400-meter relay teams. The Boys' 4x100-meter relay team that competed at CIF consisted of Seniors Alex Hafers, Kirk Pastre, Pat McGowan, and Michael. The Boys' other relay team, the 4x400, consisted of Juniors Kevin Lu and Cristian Raether, and Sophomores Ben Kwan and Josh Neale. Though Michael competed as part of the 4x400-meter relay team during league finals, he was not able to compete in the relay during CIF Prelims because of an injury sustained during the 300-m intermediate hurdles. In turn, Ben,

who was named the alternate of the team, received an opportunity to compete.

In the Girls' 4x400-meter relay, Senior Captain Leslie La, Katie and Sophomores Kelley McCloskey and Nikki Miller represented San Marino.

While discussing the Boys' 4x400-meter relay team this season, Coach Ramirez explained that the team "steadily improved throughout the year."

Coach Ramirez also believed that "success motivated them" to improve.

During the past season, the Titans 4x400-meter relay team was undefeated in dual-meets. As the season went on, San Marino began showing its potential and the Titans came to believe they could be league champions.

In the end, Coach Ramirez was very proud of the team's accomplishments this past season.