

THE CURRENT

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MALIBU HIGH SCHOOL

October 2010

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Music Reigns at School Benefit Concert



School House Rock. Pat Benatar and Neil Girardo performed at Save our Schools concert in September. Through the fundraising efforts of S.O.S., Malibu High was able to retain several teaching positions that had been threatened by lay-offs. For the full story see page

CAMPUS LIFE

Oh the Places You'll Go
Operation Smile heads to China
and hands out some smiles.



FEATURES

What's the Scoop?
Staff writer Hannah Horton
reviews the best and worst of
frozen yogurt.



OPINION

The Great Debate
Caroline Kaufman and Lexie
Kelly debate about the Obama
Administration.



Local Organization Continues to Fight to Make PCH Safer

By Caroline Kaufman
EDITOR IN CHIEF

After the tragic death of **Emily Rose Shane**, a local organization, a Safer Pacific Coast Highway, dedicated itself to making Pacific Coast Highway a safer highway for those driving, biking and walking on it.

ASPCH has been very active in the community, most recently at the Chili-Cook-Off and city council meetings. ASPCH's efforts have been recognized and publicized by the Los

Angeles Times, the Malibu Times and the Surfside News.

The group has spearheaded the implementation of divider cones in new sections of Pacific Coast Highway and has also worked with local police forces to have more officers on duty on Pacific Coast Highway. Several more decoy cop cars have been added to the road also. ASPCH has a Facebook page and over 350 email subscribers.

Despite the efforts of the organization, however, several fatal accidents took

place on Pacific Coast Highway this summer.

According to the Los Angeles Times, five fatal accidents have occurred on Pacific Coast Highway within the last year.

The family of Emily Shane is currently in the process of suing the county and the state for negligence, according to the Malibu Times. The possibility of renaming a section of the road near where Shane was fatally hit was recently brought up a council meeting. It was decided that the section of the road would not be officially renamed,

but that a sign reading "Emily Shane Way" would appear next to the sign reading Heathercliff Road.

The possibility of implementing several other safety measures on Pacific Coast Highway was also discussed at this city council meeting. Some citizens suggested that cameras and guardrails be installed on the road.

ASPCH recently affected several students who attended a city council meeting.

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October 8
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October 15
Homecoming

October 21
SMMUSD
Board Meeting

October 22
End of First
Six Week
Grading
Period

October 27
Seventh
Grade Retreat

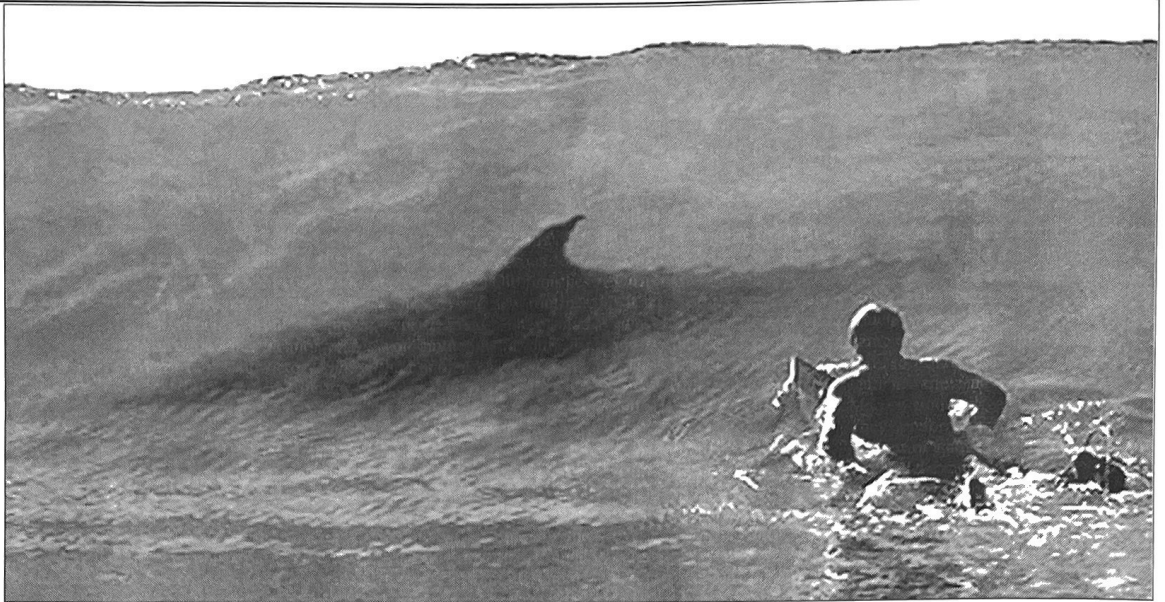
October 29
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Middle
School Dance

October 31
Halloween

November 1
Letters of Rec
due for
Regular
Decision

November 11
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Day' No
School

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Exam



WE'RE GOING TO NEED A BIGGER BOAT: A shark swims near a surfer. A picture much like this was taken of a surfer and shark off Sunset Beach this summer.

Sharks Lurk off Malibu's Shores

By Cameron Hart
FEATURES EDITOR

Everyone who swims in the ocean has to come to terms with the fact that they are sharing the water with sharks. Many people in Malibu have been more aware of this issue, lately, due to several sightings of White Sharks off of Sunset Beach within the last month.

Sharks are always in the water, however, it is eerie to see actual footage taken from a helicopter of White Sharks swimming just a few hundred yards off shore. The helicopters took photographs and videos of these sharks ranging from about seven to 18 feet long. One

photograph depicts a White Shark swimming within just a few feet of a surfer, however it is not known whether or not the surfer was aware of the situation.

On September 10th, a paddle boarder out at Latigo Point claims to have seen a White Shark feeding on Sea Lion. The shark was only five to six feet in length and showed no interest in the stand up paddle boarder.

One of the last known shark incidents involving a person in Malibu occurred in 2007 during a paddling race. One of the competitors, Vic Calandra, was approached from behind by a White Shark and circled

several times near Surfrider Beach. Calandra used his paddle to keep the shark away. The shark eventually lost interest and he finished the race.

Despite the news of sharks in the area, swimmers and surfers continue to go in the ocean. Senior Brandon Tran, who is both a surfer and a lifeguard, is no stranger to the water.

"I do think about sharks sometimes, but I have been in the water enough times that I can put it in the back of my head," said Tran.

Sharks tend to have a bad reputation because of movies such as "Jaws" and "Mega Shark vs. Giant Octopus." These movies are in the genre of horror, and it is because of these movies that so many people have a great fear of sharks.

"I don't usually think about sharks because I never watched any of those scary Hollywood shark

movies, so I don't have those subconscious images in the back of my mind while I'm out surfing," said senior Renee Henn.

These horror movies are not factual and swimming in the ocean, is, for the most part, safe. In fact, a

person has a significantly higher chance of being killed by a deer than they do a shark.

Even with the odds in your favor, it is good to know some tips on avoiding shark encounters in the first place. Scientists believe that sharks are curious creatures by nature. Therefore, a person should not draw attention to themselves by splashing around or behaving erratically; it can be a lure for sharks.

Sharks are known to be able to smell blood from a mile away, so if a person is cut in the water, it is a good idea to head towards shore. Many people have claimed to experience a strange feeling, moments before they have been attacked. If

something doesn't feel right, it might be a good idea to exit the water.

Now if a person actually spots a shark, the first thing to do is yell. If other people are not aware of the shark, they cannot help someone in need or save themselves. Once the shark is spotted, it is best to calmly swim back to shore while at the same time keeping an eye on the location of the shark.

Controversy Over "Dangerousness" of PCH Continues to Emerge

Continued from Local Organization on page 1

Senior Renee Henn was very affected by the testimony of ASPCH.

"The city council meeting really struck me," said Henn. "It made me want to do something to help."

Henn put ASPCH sticker on her school binder in an attempt to remind other students to drive safely while on Pacific Coast Highway.

Henn is unsure if Pacific Coast Highway can ever become a "safe" road.

"We could take more precautions," said Henn. "But there just doesn't seem like there is a solution."

Several students and citizens of Malibu have also put ASPCH stickers on their cars, binders and other items.

"I would support [ASPCH]," said senior Max Gorelick. "I would buy a sticker right now."

ASPCH has not been the only group asking for a safer highway. At a Malibu Safety Commission meeting in early September, a group of bicyclists cam-

paigned for safer biking conditions on the highway, according to the Reeves Law Group.

The large number of bicyclists on Pacific Coast Highway has often been listed as one of the reasons why the highway is dangerous. Many believe that there are other factors that contribute to the general "dangerousness" of Pacific Coast Highway.

"[Pacific Coast Highway] is less safe than most roads," said Gorelick. "There are very few dividers and people go pretty fast.

Yeah, [PCH] is not a safe road."



Malibu Library to be Under Large Scale Renovation

By Gabriella Grahek
STAFF WRITER

What used to be the old, dusty public library for Malibu is being renewed after almost 40 years. It was originally established in 1970 and since then has not been updated. City council member Pamela Ulich, the Library Fundraising Task Force and input from the public fueled the renovation.

By September 2011, Malibu will have a new library with many additions.

Ulich, who was a frequent user of Malibu's Public Library with her children to listen to the children's story-time, went to the Agoura Public Library to hear their favorite storyteller who had been transferred.

"When we went to the Agoura Library we were in shock about how beautiful it was," said Ulich.

Ulich went on to describe how the Agoura library included a separate area for children, a clean family bathroom, a small computer area for children, and a gazebo where the children's story-time was told.

Many people do not have

fond memories of the old library. It is remembered as being old and dusty.

"I always felt that [the old library] was a little bit smelly and old and dark," said Mindy Peterson, the mother of a Malibu High student.

Peterson also remembers how unsatisfactory the bathrooms were at the old library and is excited for the new family bathroom they will be adding.

There are many reasons why the library was not renovated until now. Since 1991, the \$1 million of Malibu tax payer money that goes into the library fund in Los Angeles County was returned to the city in very small amounts.

The city of Malibu had

been paying rent for a basement space underneath the

library, an extra 10,000 square feet. It turns out not a single library book was stored in this space, but it was only

being used as storage for the City Courthouse right next door.

So all the missing taxpayer money had been used to pay the rent for the basement instead of updating Malibu's library.

In 2005, some city members discovered how little money the city was receiving for the library and decided something needed to be done to improve the city's library. They worked hard to take

back \$5.2 million.

The total cost for the Library Renewal Project is \$5.7 million, leaving a remainder of \$500,000 that will be used specifically to put solar panels in. The Library Fundraising

Task Force raised the money and the new building will include many features. Some of these additions include: a new children's area, group study room, seating, teen computers, kitchen, copy center, Story-Time Nook, and Friends of the Library Book Store, and the solar panels which will create a "front porch" overlooking Legacy Park.

"I think it will be nice to have a new and improved library rather than an old and dusty library like it used to be," said freshman Lauren Louks.

It has been a long time with a lot of hard work to get this project in action, but it has finally happened and by September 2011, the City of Malibu will have a brand new library.

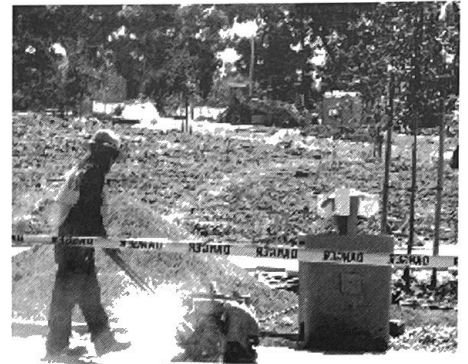
As Ulich said, "I hope the kids love it and use it."

"I always felt that [the old library] was a little bit smelly and dark"

-Parent Mindy Peterson

"I think it will be nice to have a new and improved library"

-Freshman Lauren Louks



Gabriella Grahek

RENOVATION BEGINS: Construction begins at Malibu Library and the surrounding area



Gabriella Grahek

S.O.S. Returns Teachers to Malibu

By Emma Blackwood
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

The Save Our Schools (S.O.S.) program returned our counselor, Ah Chi Young, to the Malibu High campus this year.

Young was pink-slipped with the lowest seniority last year and had little hope of returning to Malibu. When she realized she had little chance of returning for 2010-2011 school year Young looked for other positions. Another job opportunity arose and Young decided to take the position. However, things did not go as expected.

"I was there for three weeks and it didn't work out," said Young.

Out of the five counselors at Malibu High School, three were asked to return. With the S.O.S. program, one more was asked to come back as well. Katie DeHope, the middle school counselor, was pink-slipped as well and had more seniority than Young but she had already taken another job and was unable to return. Young was aware of the S.O.S.

program but because of her seniority level thought it would not affect her position.

"It's a relief that Mrs. Chi was reinstated, what would upperclassmen do without a college counselor? She really does a great job to help organize thoughts and requirements for college," said senior Tatiana Cosentino.

The Save Our Schools program was developed as a sixty-day fundraiser to try and regain at least a portion of the pink-slipped teachers.

SMMUSD was forced to cut \$7.9 million from the yearly budget for this school year (2010-2011), which was almost 10% of the district's operating funds.

65 teacher and staff positions were removed this school year causing class sizes to dramatically increase and counselor to student ratios much higher. This program will, in some ways, be a quick fix to a problem that will most likely last for multiple years.

On August 18th the goal of reaching \$1.5 million was reached saving 19.75

positions, class ratios and counselor ratio therefore lowered significantly. Elementary libraries are fully open and elementary music was completely restored. 9.5 elementary teachers, two secondary teachers, 2.5 music teachers, and four library coordinators were asked to return for this school year. The Education Board also passed additional positions to be restored with Federal Education Jobs Fund dollars. This program significantly affected the SMMUSD schools and restored the jobs of many pink-slipped teachers.

"It's great that she, along with my favorite teacher [Jordan] Ervin were saved it's a great thing for them and good for us to have a college counselor for our needs and such," said junior Jacob Oronoz.

This fundraiser was supported by numerous different groups all throughout the SMMUSD area. ZJ Boarding House held an event on July 30th featuring free wine and food, live music, raffle drawings, and live auction items. 100% of the raffle and auction prize money and 15% of the

retail sales went to the S.O.S. program.

The Aero Theater held a showing of "Nanny McPhee Returns" on August 8th also as a benefit. There was also a Pat Benatar with Neil Giraldo concert 'Between a Heart and a Rock Place' on September 10th and 11th at the Canyon Club in Agoura Hills with 50% of profits donated. The Santa Monica High School ASB also held a campaign

all of these events, many stores in the Santa Monica-Malibu area donated 8% of sales to the S.O.S. program.

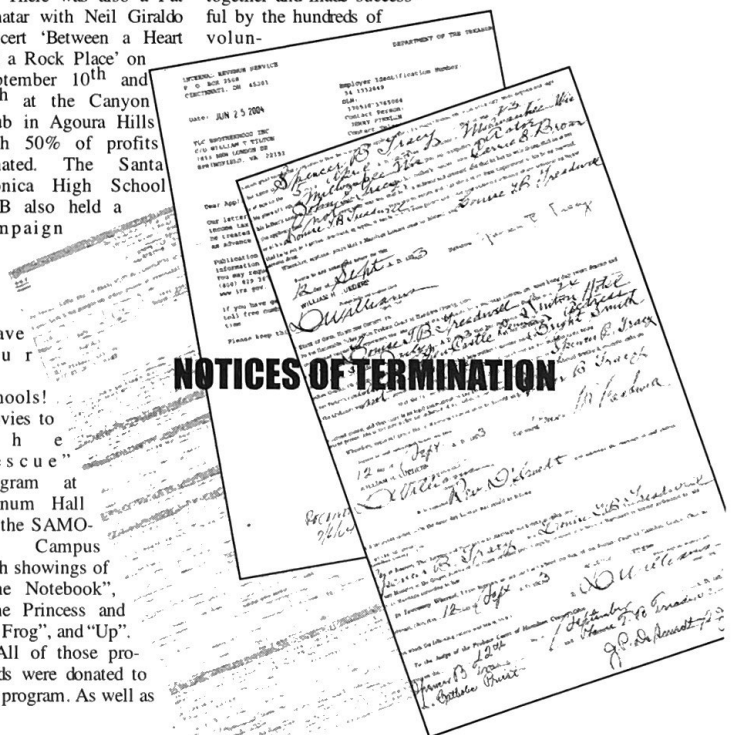
This program was held together and made successful by the hundreds of volun-

teers, dozens of business, and thousands of contributors who made this all possible.

"Save Our

Schools! Movies to the Rescue" program at Barnum Hall on the SAMOHI Campus with showings of "The Notebook", "The Princess and the Frog", and "Up".

All of those proceeds were donated to the program. As well as



You Say You Want a Food Revolution

By **Becky O'Marra**
STAFF WRITER

The Boys and Girls Club of Malibu is now offering healthy meals to all of its members. The Boys and Girls Club has had a snack shack for a numerous amount of years, but they have recently upgraded it to provide healthier options for its members. According to the company, Revolution Foods provides organic, delicious food that contains no MSG and no trans fat. All of their products are made and delivered to the club daily.

These meals include special vegetarian and gluten free options as well. A meal is priced at four dollars and includes a bottle of water and snack as well as the main course.

It has been well received by students.

"It tasted healthy and yummy," said sixth grader **Abby Droeger**. "I would recommend it to a friend."

There were several reasons why the Boys and Girls Club decided to col-

laborate with Revolution Foods.

"We wanted to provide healthier options to our teens here at the club," said Boys and Girls Club staff member **Siugen Constanza**.

Some students and club staff members felt that the food served in the school cafeteria was not satisfactory.

"The cafeteria food doesn't taste good," said sophomore **Hanna Tschudin**. "I would buy Revolution Food everyday."

Principal **Mark Kelly** disagrees with Tschudin.

"I don't know if people have been in the cafeteria recently but we now have a salad bar, wraps, and sandwiches. There has been a lot of improvement," said Kelly.

"Sometimes the people that complain haven't actually been in the cafeteria so we encourage them to do so. I've actually been eating in the cafeteria myself."

Constanza and other staff members believe that the community is supporting the club's collaboration

with Revolution Foods.

"Parents love what we are doing with Revolution Foods," said Boys and Girls Club staff member **Mayra Herrera**.

However, Malibu High School administration has deemed that Revolution Foods will take too much money away from the cafeteria and has subsequently banned the club from selling food during school hours.

The Boys and Girls Club is still selling Revolution Food. The selling hours are Monday through Thursday from three to four-thirty.

Revolution Food is sold at a lot of different schools in SMMUSD. The Boys and Girls Club is trying to get Revolution Food sold at Malibu.

However, it is a part of The Boys and Girls Clubs lease agreement that they cannot sell food during the hours of school operation. However, the school is trying to bring new food and different options into our school. The Middle School and High School ASB took part in a food tasting. They tried out a series of foods

that could possibly be sold at the cafeteria.

At this time, Revolution Food cannot be legally sold at the Boys and Girls Club. Staff members from the Boys and Girls Club believe that one day they will be able to sell Revolution Food during school hours.



New Fundraiser Hits Malibu High

By **Lexie Kelly**
BEYOND MALIBU EDITOR

The Magazine Drive, a yearly Malibu High School fund raising event, is beginning. The drive, which began in order to raise money for events such as dances, Homecoming, pep rallies, and more, has come back in order to raise more money than before.

"We are working with a new company this year" said ASB advisor **Andy Meyer**.

"This time, we are not just selling magazines, but cookie dough as well."

Yes, in addition to the regular magazines, a student will be asked to help sell a cookie dough for more profits.

"Last year was our worst performing year, so we decided to work with a new company"

-**Sophomore Eden Concoff**

"We decided to work with a new company," said sophomore **Eden Concoff**, the ASB organizer of the Magazine and Cookie

Dough Drive. Dismal sales last year were most likely a

response to the economic recession that hit the country in the summer of 2009.

"It was difficult to sell orders" to people who were trying to cut every little unnecessary thing from their budget," said 7th grader **Emma Kelly**.

The drive, which initially consisted over a period of

several months, is now compacted into being run from September 29th to October 12th, 2010. Complications from previous years have caused ASB to reconsider how effective the drive could be.

Such issues, such as the unclear 'turn-in dates' (days in which magazine and cookie dough purchases would be submitted) were subjected to debate.

"There is only one turn in date this time" said **Concoff**.

The goal for the drive is that every student would submit at least one magazine or cookie dough order. All proceeds would go

directly to ASB.

In addition to adding cookie dough, magazine orders can now be found online for students whose relatives live out-of-state.

The prizes, which are often praised, will also be different from the previous years. One order will allow a student to be part of a raffle to win an iPad.

Four orders is a BMX air walk stunt. The goal for the drive is that a student sell at least 2 orders, in which they will be awarded with all the prizes listed above and have a chance to win a helicopter ride for themselves and two of their friends.

Finally, the drive is offering a special category for a Malibu High student who sells 35 orders or more, a "Super Seller Awards".

In the "SSA" awards, a student will be allowed to choose between a prize, or its cash equivalent. For example, one of the prizes for selling 125 orders is a Gavin Fixed Gear Bike.

If a student refuses the bike, they have the option of receiving \$400 dollars in cash.

"[The Magazine and Cookie Drive] is really fun and cool and I love it. I really want the ninja duck," said **Sean Kelly**.



Justice Is Not Served

By Natalie Bark
STAFFWRITER

The faint crackle of her sister's voice, coming closer, then farther as the phone swung on its cord. Still midnight air and—"Susan, are you there?"

Minutes earlier, Susan Cash drove into Savannah, Georgia and used a payphone when a man materialized out of the midnight shadows and asked for directions.

She told him she "didn't have a clue" and turned away.

He started to walk away, then stopped, snapped his fingers as if just remembering, came back and put his gun to her head. He pulled her out of the booth, and led her to a nearby abandoned row house.

She was discovered and brought, drifting in and out of consciousness, to a hospital.

In the weeks that followed, she worked with the police to find the man, but there were no leads and the case went cold. Nine months later, the case was closed. For the next twenty years, Susan Cash drifted in and out of therapy, haunted by the details of that night.

A series of events in 2004 led Cash to begin investigating her own case, and why it had been closed. She learned that when she was brought into the hospital, as well as treating her gunshot wound, they had also collected what is known as a rape kit.

Anyone who comes to the authorities claiming to have been raped within the previous few days is sent to a hospital. An examination of the individual's body is done, photos are taken of any injuries, clothing worn at the time of the alleged attack is taken, and the body is scoured for trace evidence. Trace evidence is

collected and frozen onto slides for later analysis. Everything collected from the examination is sealed into a special holding bag and handed over to the police.

In a perfect world, the police would then give the kit to lab technicians to analyze. The results of this analysis often become important evidence to identify the rapist, convict him or her, or exonerate someone wrongly convicted.

Assembling a rape kit is often a distressing experience in and of itself for women. After just experiencing possibly the most traumatic event of their lives, they are subjected to a 4-6 hour examination, in which their bodies are literally treated as the crime scene. But thousands of women each year subject themselves to this, for the sole purpose of obtaining justice.

In a shocking display of

dysfunction, hundreds of thousands of these kits are sitting unopened in police storage vaults. They are not being analyzed, they are not being used to identify rapists, they are not being used to convict the guilty. How could they, when they have not even been opened since the very first time they were sealed at the hospital?

Susan Cash never got justice. She never felt the satisfaction of knowing that her attacker would never hurt another woman. She was robbed of this by a broken system in which rape kits are low priority, and thus, justice for the victims of rape is also low priority.

The reasons why the kits go unopened, sometimes for decades, boils down to a combination of disorganization and money. Rape kits are very expensive to process and there is a critical shortage of qualified

technicians to analyze their contents. Hence backlogs of thousands build up in cities across the U.S.

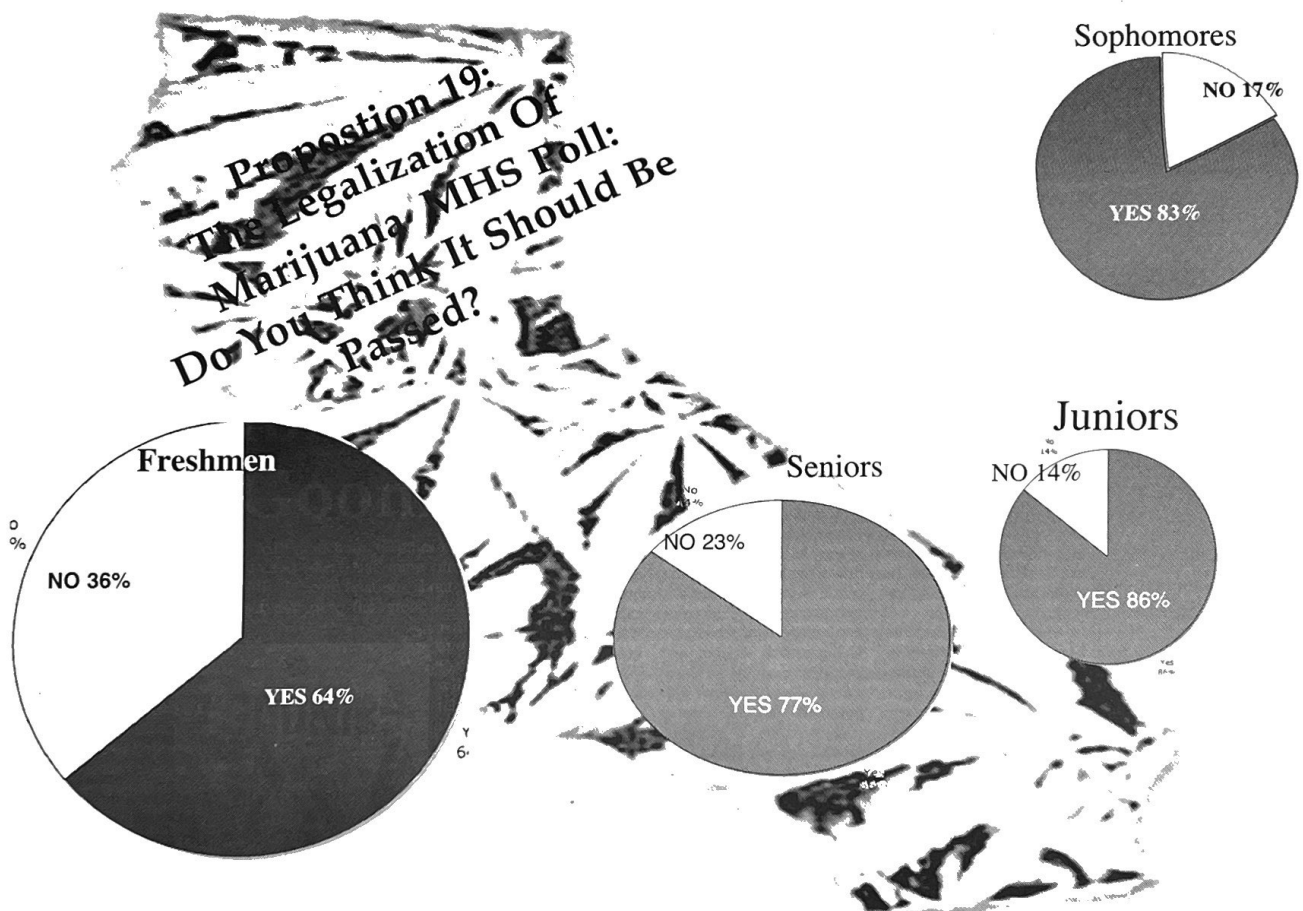
Other times, the kits are simply lost. Imagine the outrage had critical evidence in a murder case been lost. But in a rape case? Evidence is ignored, unopened, or destroyed, and none but a few make any motion to change this.

Los Angeles County has one of the worst rape kit backlogs in the country. At least 1,474 individuals were reportedly raped in Los Angeles County in 2007. That is an average of 4 a day. A staggering number, especially when taking into account the fact that rape is one of the most under-reported crimes. In February 2009, an investigative team found 12,669 untested, unopened rape kits in the police storage rooms of L.A. County.

An example of action being taken to eliminate backlogs is in New York City. In the early 1990's, New York's arrest rate in rape cases was 40% which is almost double the national average already. With a new system set up by Giuliani, they were able to increase that number to 70%. In New York's system, every rape kit is tested within sixty days.

The case of New York proves that it can be done that with the right management, combined with the advanced technology available, there is no need for huge vaults filled to the brim with wasted evidence.

As New York Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney said, "We can prevent the rapes of women. We have the science, we just need the will."



By Kevin Hayeland
STAFFWRITER

Proposition 19, also classified as the Regulation, Control, and Tax Cannabis Act of 2010, is a possible law on the California ballot which will be voted on November 2, 2010. If passed, Prop 19 will legalize marijuana. It

would also allow local government to make and collect marijuana related fees and taxes.

The government would still be able to penalize criminals for the act of selling cannabis to citizens under 21 as well as driving while under the influence.

If passed, persons over the age of 21 will be able to possess up to one ounce of marijuana, use it for personal

reasons in a residence, and will be able to grow in a private residence up to 25 feet.

The proposition has sparked mass amounts controversy.

Some of the pros of passing the bill will be decreasing over 50% of the drug cartel's money, \$1.4 billion a year in tax revenue and would with over-populated jails.

"This initiative is moral, sensible and the right thing to do. Regulating cannabis is a common-sense solution that puts our priorities in order and reflects our values," said Rabbi Jeffrey Kahn.

Some of the negative effects are that new smokers will move on to other drugs, more criminal activity, and more accidents with DUI, according to several

anti-prop 19 sentiments.

Many of those in favor and not in favor have been debating over the issue for ages.

Some supporters describe a poll that was done in California on the percentage of high-schoolers that have used marijuana with the result of 38%. The same study was done on alcohol and the result was 39%.

An anonymous poll was taken with each grade level in Malibu High.

The majority of the selected ninety-one students in each grade agree that the legalization of cannabis should be allowed. To get passed there only has to be a majority vote. What do you think?

The Current

Malibu High School's
Official Student Newspaper

NSPA



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2005, 2004

Outstanding Investigative Reporting:
American Scholastic Press Association,
2005 Outstanding Photography:
American Scholastic Press Association,
2004

Best Staff Editorial, First Place:
L.A. Times Student Journalism Awards, 2004

Best News Story, Second Place:
L.A. Times Student Journalism Awards, 2003

Best Sports Photo, Second Place:
L.A. Times Student Journalism Awards, 2005

Outstanding Sports Reporting:
Quill and Scroll Society 2005

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Controversy Emerges Over Proposed NYC Mosque

By Carolyn Pushaw
OPINION EDITOR

Two blocks. That is all it takes for controversy to erupt, a controversy rooted in such a deep, fundamental misunderstanding that the level of public outcry raised over it almost approaches absurdity.

This heated debate arises from the proposed Islamic Cultural Center in New York City slated to be built two blocks away from the site of Ground Zero. While some support the religious center, citing every American's constitutional right to religious freedom and the sanctity of private property ownership, others call it "a slap in the face" to victims and survivors of the September 11th attacks.

To those who take such a narrow-minded view of Islam and its practitioners, I merely say this: did the moderate, American Muslims who proposed this center orchestrate the terrorist attack on their own soil, in the heart of their very own city? Of course not. Many Americans, biased as they are by the tragedy of 9/11 and the horrific actions of Al Qaeda, Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Taliban, immediately categorize all Muslims as extremists, when, in fact, only a small minority can be classified as such.

It is impossible to condemn such a large sector of the populace (approximately 1.4 billion Muslims in the world, seven million in America alone) for the actions of terrorists, as many Americans seem hell-bent on doing. Indeed, if one judged such a large religious group by the actions of a violent minority, most major religions would be under attack for similar reasons.

For example, the Ku Klux Klan is officially defined as a Christian terrorist organization because of multiple hate crimes its members committed against non-Protestant religious denominations such as Catholics and Jews, who they believed should be driven out of

America in order to support the propagation of the "master race" of WASPs (white Anglo-Saxon Protestants). From the late 1800s onward, its goals were to preserve their own religious and racial supremacy above religious and ethnic minorities.

Likewise, the 2002 Soweto bombings in South Africa, which severely damaged a mosque and a Buddhist temple, were perpetrated by terrorists connected to the racist, extremist Christian Identity movement, a loose group of radical Christian organizations that advocate white supremacy and religious intolerance. Going farther back in history, the torture and executions committed by Catholics during the Spanish Inquisition and the bloody sacking of Constantinople and other predominantly Muslim or Jewish cities during the Crusades stand as examples of violent religious extremism. These radical Christians committed atrocities that are in no way in keeping with the beliefs of the generally peaceful Christian population.

Thus, the shock, grief, and pain experienced by the American people as a whole on September 11th should not be transferred from the truly evil perpetrators to moderate American Muslims who are no less upstanding and patriotic members of society than another citizen.

One such individual, Imam Faisal Rauf, is in charge of the Park51 project, which has garnered support from leaders of all religious backgrounds interested in breaking down the imagined barriers many Americans have erected against Islam. He has stated that his goal in building the center is to foster interfaith dialogue and bring the community together, while providing social services and setting an example for other such centers to follow. The proposed cultural center will not be a breeding ground for al Qaeda and Taliban operatives; rather, its eco-friendly facilities will include a gym, pool,

basketball court, culinary school, art studios and exhibitions, auditorium, library, and September 11th Memorial, in addition to a prayer center.

Moreover, the outcry raised over the establishment of the mosque has provided valuable opportunities for radical terrorist sects, precisely the people who should be held responsible for the attacks many Americans blame on moderate Muslims.

"By preventing this mosque from being built, America is doing us a big favor," said a Taliban operative in an interview with Newsweek. "It's providing us with more recruits, donations, and popular support. The more mosques you stop, the more jihadis we will get."

Others take the stance that, while the cultural center has the right to be built, for sensitivity's sake it should be moved from its controversial location. Despite the merits of this compromise, if the proponents of the Park51 project back down on this issue, then a dangerous precedent will be set regarding the free exercise of religious rights for Muslims in America. One act of "voluntary" suppression of religious freedom could lead to further abuses of liberty in the future.

Much as the proposed public burning of the Quran enraged Muslims around the world, banning the Center would endanger the well-being of our troops overseas and America's mission in the Middle East. In addition, it would be a flagrant violation of our constitutional rights as Americans, as well as sending the message to all moderate Muslims that many Americans are intolerant of their beliefs simply because of the actions of extremists they are in no way connected to. As members of a nation that has always been a melting pot, a mixture of every culture, ethnicity, and religion, we cannot justify preventing the construction of this mosque and the alienation of the Muslim people that would follow it.

By Davis Thacker
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Last year I began my tenure as co-editor in chief of *The Current* with a letter to you, the reader, that lacked the confidence and assertiveness of a leader but instead revealed my insecurities about my abilities as a leader. I assure you that I have matured a lot over the past year and have gained a sufficient deal of confidence in the process as well. I just wanted to make that perfectly clear before I dive into the nostalgia that covers this letter like white on rice.

It is hard for me to believe that four years ago I came into journalism simply because of a scheduling conflict that would not allow me to take ASB. I remember the faces and personalities that have come and gone throughout those fateful years, and the only constants that remain from my freshman journalism class are myself, my wonderful co-editor in chief Caroline, the room in which we work, and of course, *The Current*.

If you had told that wide-eyed ninth-grader that he would end up devoting unimaginable amounts of

time to a class he planned on only taking for a year, he probably would have called you a liar. Little did he know, *The Current* would provide some of the most memorable experiences and some of the best friendships (yes, Caroline, we are friends) of his young high school life. It would provide him with many, many hours of screaming, laughing, and crying during layout, incredible amounts of food from Lily's, Point Pizza, Pavillions, and Hows, and many moments that I hope to never forget.

As I look forward to my last year of serving *The Current*, there are many things to be excited about. First, we have a new advisor in Rachel Stowell, and we as a class are very grateful to have her. Second, we have a lot of new faces on staff this year who seem to be genuinely interested in the paper. Because of both Ms. Stowell and the younger writers on staff, I feel much more confident about *The Current's* success after I say goodbye. However, I still have one more year to leave my everlasting mark on this paper, and trust me, you will not be disappointed.

May the force be with you,
Davis Jackson Thacker

letters from the editors

By Caroline Kaufman
EDITOR IN CHIEF

It is only a few weeks into school and my sparkly pencils have lost their sparkle and the idea of homework has become more than a far off threat. In less than 170 days, high school will become a memory rather than a routine. And of all my memories of Malibu High, there will be one I will miss the most.

No activity has been as rewarding or as challenging as my time on the best student run newspaper in the world, *The Current* (this superlative is written with absolutely no bias).

I have been involved with this school's journalism program since seventh grade. I can honestly say I have NOT enjoyed every moment of my time on the paper. I have enjoyed the vast majority of moments, however. I will never forget what it feels like to see my words and opinions printed on pages that are read by more than my teachers.

The long nights at lay-

out, the discussions about Coffee House and the last minute stresses of every newspaper upload will never be forgotten. Those I have met while on the newspaper staff have been some of the most intelligent, intriguing and intellectually stimulating people I have ever met. They have had a great influence on my love of the paper and on my life. My dedication to the freedom of the press as laid out by the First Amendment in our country's Bill of Rights has defined and molded my experience on the paper. I hope that it has also shaped your impression of Malibu High's award winning newspaper.

I hope that over the course of six years, my words have been read by more than just my grandmother (hi grandma!).

I will never forget *The Current* and hope that the paper and those on the staff will be able to enjoy and love the paper as much as I have for the past six years. Good night and good luck.
Caroline Kaufman

The Feminine Touch

By Sammy Leffe
STAFF WRITER

Let's clear the air, girls are powerful. They render all males into stammering fools with a smile or wink. As I am autistic, the warmth of personality and sweet smell makes me enchanted. A giggle or boisterous laugh can cause



a bloom of affection. I have yet to meet a girl on campus I couldn't love.

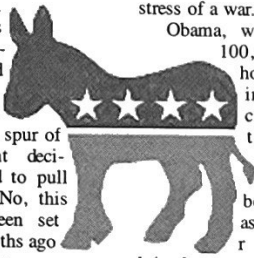
Oh sweet baffling estrogen, ambrosia is your name. Perhaps because of my autism, body

language confuses me. I understand smiles, cadence of the voice, and the way the air is charged. A girl creates a charge to the air, electric in its presence with a hum left behind. Of all nature's beauty nothing frustrates and causes spiraling obsession like a girl. Thank God for their confusing presence in my life.

The Great Debate # 1: Troop Withdrawal from Iraq

By Lexie Kelly
BEYOND MALIBU EDITOR

On Tuesday, August 31st, 2010, President Barack Obama formally ended the U.S. combat role in Iraq. But no one is talking about it. Many of you may not have even heard about the recent end to a war longer than World War I and World War II combined. Why? Was this an unexpected announcement? Had Obama, in a spur of the moment decision, decided to pull the troops? No, this plan had been set forth 18 months ago for one reason.



Because it is not a victory. Many people are calling this a ploy for the upcoming 2012 presidential elections. Others are simply reasoning that the overwhelming debt the United States has amassed since the 'Operation Iraqi Freedom' commenced needed to be brought to a close. It is neither. Obama, in a speech on Tuesday night, explained the reason behind the end of U.S. combat

involvement in Iraq. "It is time to turn the page," said Obama. "Ending this war is not only in Iraq's interest — it is in our own." Indeed, with the recent study conducted by CNN, 1 in 7 Americans are now living below poverty level. With the economy in dire straits and unemployment rising, the Obama administration cannot handle the stress of a war.

Obama, while pulling 100,000 troops home, is leaving 50,000 troops in Iraq. The troops will be stationed as an anti-terrorism brigade, according to the Associated Press.

And that is not even considering the number of troops that will be now sent to Afghanistan in the upcoming years.

"It's not going to be a victory lap," Obama said at Fort Bliss, a post that has lost 51 soldiers in the Iraq war. "It's not going to be self-congratulatory. There's still a lot of work that we've got to do to make sure that Iraq is an effective partner with us."

Should Obama have pulled the troops? Is he right? It is hard to say now. For starters, there was never a reason to enter Iraq. From weapons of mass destruction to 'Operation Iraqi Freedom', America never had a concrete reason to be in Iraq. Osama bin Laden was last spotted on the border of Pakistan-Afghanistan. No nuclear weapons were ever discovered.

Saddam Hussein's regime was toppled, and Iraqis now live in greater freedom. The aim was, as Bush put it in his own Oval Office address in 2003, "to defend the world from grave danger."

4,400 men and women are dead. 32,000 are wounded. A trillion dollars, an amount I used to think was simply a made up statistic, has been spent.

I am not saying I do not support the troops. Countless members of my family have served. I am not saying that I do not appreciate how America has brought a form of democracy and freedom to Iraq. I am saying that I wish fathers, mothers, daughters, sons, aunts, uncles, and cousins did not have to die for it.

And I wish we could honor them with more than a short term solution.

By Caroline Kaufman
EDITOR IN CHIEF

It has been almost ten years since 9/11 and the subsequent declaration of the War on Terror. When President Bush deployed combat troops in October 2001, many speculated about the incentives behind his decision. Some argued he did it because he hated Muslims, others believed he entered American troops into combat because he wanted to ensure America's supply of oil, and some argued he entered into war to destroy tyranny and promote freedom around the world.

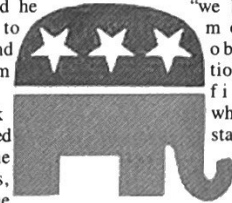
President Barack Obama has not pulled troops out of the Middle East. He has, however, changed the name of the combat being fought in the Middle East: he is no longer calling it war. This cowardly word change satisfies pacifists and angers those who know what is really going on.

Although Obama's "withdrawal" from combat in the Middle East will reduce troops, it will not change that American troops will remain stationed there and will continue to fight for their lives and for their country.

I thoroughly believe in Bush's decision to enter into combat relations in the Middle East. We rid the

world of an evil dictator who killed his own people, Saddam Hussein. After we entered into Iraq and overthrew that dictatorship the people tore down statues of Hussein and regarded American soldiers as heroes. At that point in time most Americans supported the war. A few years later, however, the support is waning.

Bill Kristol, editor of the conservative magazine "The Weekly Standard," stated our situation in the Middle East perfectly when he said "we have a moral obligation to finish what we started."



Although American soldiers have significantly reduced the number of al Qaeda, many still exist.

Any Iraqi person, organization or group that supported Americans will be slaughtered if we leave the Middle East. History tells us what will happen if we truly pull out our troops and limit our firepower in the Middle East. After World War I we left Germany too soon and Hitler emerged. After we left Vietnam, the country fell and was taken over by violent communists.

We have a responsibility to keep fighting. The

Middle East is entirely capable of maintaining a peaceful democracy. We can help that area reach democracy and peace. It will not be easy and we may have to be involved for a much longer time than expected, but it is possible.

Obama's current plan keeps troops stationed in the Middle East. However, he gives them no power. Soldiers must be shot at before they fire. We are letting our soldiers be sitting ducks, waiting to be fired at. Furthermore, the soldiers are in combat, but are being paid as though they are not. The military gives greater benefits to soldiers who are in a "war." But because Obama has taken away the title of "war" from our conflict in the Middle East soldiers are being paid fewer, given less benefits and their families will receive fewer benefits if their loved ones die in combat.

The United States' history has been often violent and never perfect. However, never before have we not supported our soldiers. Obama's plan brings some troops home, but not all. The troops that remain are risking their lives for what I believe is a good cause. These soldiers receive very little reward, however. Remember your nation's soldiers and those that need protection in the Middle East: oppose Obama's horrendous war plans.

GUEST COLUMNS AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Current welcomes your letters and guest columns. Letters must be signed, though names may be withheld by request. Guest columns will not be published anonymously. The Current reserves the right to edit for length and inappropriate content. Obscene or libelous letters or those that may be construed as personal attacks will not be printed. The Current reserves the right to refuse guest columns.

Submissions can be e-mailed to MHSCurrent@yahoo.com or placed in our mailbox in the main office.



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Voices

Compiled by
Natalie Kaufman

Do you think the mosque should be built in New York City?

Freshman
Jane Sidley

"I think they should have it because it's a question of religious freedom. They should have somewhere to pray."

Sophomore
Sarah Larson

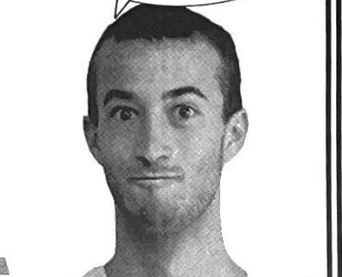
"I'm personally fine with it because the Muslim people aren't terrorists, and practicing the Muslim religion is not supporting terrorism at all."

Junior
Theo Guillemot

"Definitely. I get where people are coming from, but it's just generalizing to say that all Muslims are terrorists, which is uncool on our part."

Senior
Oliver Rene

"I think ultimately it's up to whoever owns the piece of land, although obviously its going to stir up feelings."



Operation Smile Reaches Out To China

Natalie Kaufman
STAFFWRITER

This summer teacher **Bridget Leonard** and student **Sasha Horn** participated in an Operation Smile trip to Qujing, China. The mission trip lasted ten days in Qujing, a huge city with a population of over five million. Horn and Leonard educated many people on nutrition, dental hygiene, oral hydration and helped with burn victims as well as children with cleft lips and cleft palates.

Not only did the team give educational instructions, but they also played with the children prior to surgeries to help make them less nervous as well as visited orphanages and played with the children there. The trip to China was a very memorable experience, but when Horn was asked if she had a specifically memorable interaction she was quick to answer. Horn was surprised at the lack of previous education on hygiene and nutrition that the people of Qujing had.

"A patient's grandmother, when asked 'Does anyone have any questions?' I've never been educated. Thank you for showing pictures of the

nutrition. I understand now," said Horn.

To experience this wonderful trip and the life-changing stories that accompany it, one has to go through quite a bit before being able to be on the final team. A student would have to go to the ISLC (International Student Leadership Conference) summer camp, hosted by Operation Smile, and has to be involved in the Operation Smile club for at least one year prior to the trip. Then there are applications to be on the trip and if one is selected one must go through three days of intense lecture by dentists, doctors, and past missionaries. Although it is a tough application process, once one is selected to be on the mission, they only have to pay a team fee that averages five hundred dollars, with plane tickets and hotels paid for.

"An adult...she had been set on fire by her brother-in-law, her face and neck had been severely burned, then she woke up so happy because she was able to open her mouth bigger than a quarter which she hadn't been able to do for seven years. She and her husband were crying with happiness," said Horn.

Along with Horn, Bridget Leonard also went on the mission to China. Leonard has also been to a Thailand mission for

Operation Smile. She loves going on the missions and was particularly excited this year to go with Horn.

"It's actually so truly inspiring being there, hands on much more so than videos. Interacting with the children and parents is truly life changing," said Leonard.

An attribute that Leonard gives to Operation Smile is that the effect of the money donated is very obvious and immediate.

Unlike some other organizations, one knows exactly what the money is going to and in a forty-five minute surgery; people's lives are changed forever. Malibu High's Operation Smile club has also been impacted by this trip to China. With such a direct connection to the missions it would be normal for this trip to raise expectations for the club's agenda this year.

"I think it does especially because both our presidents have gone on missions because they've seen firsthand what the money has done for these kids and how life-changing it is. Seeing it on the videos is one thing but experiencing it and making personal connections with children and their parents makes it a lot more powerful. Their enthusiasm because of the mission they've been on translates to the entire group of kids and makes it a lot more exciting," said senior **Liz Humphreys**.

Senior Co-President of Operation Smile, Tenaya Drapkin, agrees that having students come back from a mission does affect the club. Drapkin went to Vietnam last year on an Operation Smile mission, so she speaks from experience.

"I think that coming back from a mission kind of reminds you of the effect that you can have so it inspires us to increase involvement for the upcoming year," said Drapkin.



MHS student Sasha Horn helps children at a Qujing hospital- courtesy of Bridget Leonard



Pictured: Bridget Leonard with a child who has recently undergone a cleft-lip operation

The Pink Slip Epidemic

Josh Corrigan
STAFFWRITER

Last year, April 2010, a series of pink slips were handed out to many of the Malibu High School teachers. This inevitably panicked a lot of the teachers and students. Nervous educators were on their toes for the preceding months. Each and every one of them asked themselves the same question, "who would go?" Students were worried about the loss of their favorite teachers.

Pink slips are both a literal and figurative way of terminating an employer. Literal, because the teachers

who were notified about their possible terminations were informed via pink slip. Figuratively, Pink Slip refers to the age-old

"American practice of including a discharge notice in an employee's pay envelope to notify the worker of his or her termination of employment or layoff," said **Frank Prial**, columnist for the *New York Times*.

Luckily, five of the teachers that were handed pink slips were able to return. Teachers that were chosen for layoffs were chosen based on their seniority and credentials. The longer a teacher has taught within SMMUSD the more secure

his or her job.

"The reason we had to lay teachers off is because the economy is in terrible shape, which creates a lower amount of State funds for schools," said principal **Mark Kelly**.

The state legislature has a faulty funding structure that needs fixing. SMMUSD has lost 7 million dollars from the budget and had to lay off 64 teachers and councillors, 7 of which were from Malibu. If no pink slipped teachers had returned, Malibu would have lost its only college counselor, and Malibu would have inexperienced teachers teaching the music classes.

Luckily for Malibu High School's parents and supporters managed to raise a million and a half dollars for the teachers and councilors' jobs. The program which saved these jobs, SOS, or Save our Schools, raised money using benefit concerts. The returning teachers and councilors were asked both why and how they came back, and what they would have done if they had lost their jobs. In fact the new orchestra teacher, **Maia Zander** said she had the least seniority in the entire district.

The reason the teachers came back is a different story.

Teacher **Jordan Ervin** said,

"It was really out of my hands, it was out of Dr. Kelly's hands and it really came down to the district and the funding of the state of California."

"I don't think anybody could quit. I was sad, I almost ended up crying some times just because I didn't want to leave the students," said Math Teacher **Henry Wadsworth**.

The music department would have suffered with the loss of teachers **Maia Zander** and **Amy Loch**. They both said if they left the school would have new teachers that may not have the experience or knowledge of the orchestra or choir. Still, more budget

cuts may still be coming and the economy has yet to come out of the recession.

"I think we can expect the possibility of more cuts each year until one of two things happen, until the state legislature fixes its funding structure or until the economy improves," said Kelly.

The New Kids On the Block

Mark Kelly



Honors Pre Cal/Calc A

Q: What inspired you to teach again?

A: I didn't have enough teachers to teach all the math classes, so I had to get creative with how to staff the classes. The other thing was to find the period to kind of make it work for kid's schedules.

Q: Do you prefer teaching or being a principal and why?

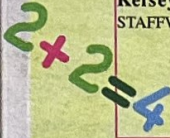
A: Oh, I like doing both jobs! I like the variety of work that I get to do being principal. With teaching I get to watch students learn, which is fun for me.

Q: What do the students in your class think of their principal being their teacher? Do you think they behave better?

A: Well, I think I am fortunate that the group of students I have are pretty well behaved. I want them to think of me as their teacher.



By
Hailey Hoffman
Hannah Horton
Kelsey Borenzweig
STAFFWRITERS



Anthony Murphey



Visual Arts

Q: What brought you to Malibu High?

A: At my last job I was laid off because of budget cuts for California and luckily I found this job. I have always wanted to work at Malibu.

Q: What do you like about the students here?

A: They have a lot of energy, which I really like!

Q: When did you first realize that you wanted to be an art teacher?

A: When I was in 7th grade I had an art teacher who looked like Santa Claus. He treated all the kids like his own, he was very respectful, everyone loved him, and then I realized that I wanted to be an art teacher.

Q: How would you compare your high school students to your middle school students?

A: In high school students get a lot more refined in their drawing skills and just their motor skills in general.

Samantha Schmidt



9th /11th Grade English CP

Q: What inspired you to become an English teacher?

A: I guess it starts back from high school; I had an amazing high school English teacher. I have always loved art, literature, and anything of that mind. I guess having an inspirational person made me interested and most importantly I love working with teenagers.

or just themselves. I also think everyone is really kind to one another.

Cons: There is a little bit lack of diversity and uniqueness, even in the way people dress. However, it's been improving throughout the year.

Q: Did you teach before you came to Malibu High?

A: I used to be the program director at the Malibu Boys & Girls Club Teen Center. I ran programs up there, so I actually know probably about 50% of my students.

Q: What are your pros and cons about Malibu High?

A: Pros: I feel like everyone is very joyful and has an eagerness to learn, whether it's about the subject matter



Get the Current Scoop

What is the best part of a meal? Dessert! And a certain dessert that has grown to be very popular is frozen yogurt. Now, almost all the students at Malibu High probably know about our "Malibu Yo" but there are many others and many other ways to serve it.

Malibu Yogurt

Location: Malibu "yo" could be considered the local hangout. It is right next to Ralph's and CVS, and of course Starbucks. It is a good location because nearly everybody knows where and what it is. Also, it is a great place for star sightings as I personally have seen Tom Hanks, Adam Sandler, Ray Romano, and Steve Carell at this fabulous location.



Flavor selection: At Malibu Yogurt, there are a few flavors that change day to day.

Some of my favorites are cake batter, red velvet, cookies and cream, and chocolate mint. Also, they have five flavors that are always available, which are Malibu berry, Acai Berry, Chocolate, Vanilla, and Peanut butter.

Toppings: They have a fairly wide selection of fruits and candy. There is also hot fudge and melted marshmallow.

Service: Never before have I left Malibu Yogurt and been upset by the people serving. They always are very kind and seem happy to serve you.

Overall rating: 8/10

Menchie's

Location: Menchie's is a chain that has multiple locations, but the one that is in the best location for people our age is probably the one at the Calabasas Commons. The Commons is great because you can see a movie at the theater, grab a burger at Johnny Rockets (or any of the other restaurants there) then go get yogurt at Menchie's!

Flavor selection: Menchie's is a serve it yourself yogurt joint where you grab a large cup and fill it up however you want and the price is based on weight. The flavor selection is outstanding, a perfect mix of safe flavors and the more crazy ones such as root beer float. Also, there is no limit as to how much or how many different flavors you want in your mix.



Toppings: Menchie's offers fruit toppings and melted marshmallow, hot fudge, and caramel. But they also have an incredible candy section. Any toppings you can think of, and it's there.

"It is original, and has more variety than other places," said two customers named Candy and Kelly in agreement.

Service: Since you serve yourself, you do not encounter the workers as much. I have never been upset by their behavior, nor have I ever noticed that they are especially nice or helpful.

Overall rating: 9/10

Pinkberry

Location: Again, Pinkberry is a chain with many locations. But I believe the best location is on the 3rd street promenade. The location is perfect! It is literally right next to H&M and right across the street is the new indoor mall. Also, 3rd street is covered with interesting shops, restaurants, and movie theaters.

Flavor Selection: At Pinkberry the yogurt is more tart or bitter than what you might expect from a desert, but it is very good.

"I like it because it is different and has a unique flavor," said a woman named Britney. There are six different flavors available which are chocolate, original, pomegranate, mango, coconut, and the "feature flavor".

Toppings: Pinkberry offers the basic toppings as well as some unusual ones such as cucumber or cinnamon toast crunch though the topping selection is not abundant in size you can have as many toppings as you want on your yogurt.

Service: When I walked up to the counter for my review, the first thing I heard was "Hi! I'm David, I'll be helping you today! What would you like?" how often do you get that at a yogurt shop? The service at Pinkberry always makes you smile.

Overall rating: 7/10

EXTRA: Pinkberry is special because it is very health oriented. All of the yogurt is made from hormone free nonfat milk and 90% of the toppings are free from saturated fat. Also, Pinkberry sells some hip kitchen supplies such as funky salt and pepper shakers wine openers, dog or cat bowls, etc.

Compiled by staffwriter Hannah Horton

MHS Operation Smile Wins Club of the Year

By Will Rosenthal
STAFFWRITER

Out of every Operation Smile group in the nation, Malibu High School's

Operation Smile has been awarded the best our of all of them. There are many of these clubs across the country, so for Malibu's club to win, is very impressive. The heart and soul of the Operation

Smile group is teacher Sarah Prunier, and she could not be more ecstatic about these results. The group has raised a tremendous amount of money just last year for the cause.

"Over the whole year I think we probably raised around \$22,000," said teacher and group leader Sarah Prunier.

Raising that type of money takes a lot of time and hard work. The group did numerous fundraisers to raise the money.

"We have a dollar drive at school

where the jars are in each classroom, and mainly due to the 7th graders, who raised between 4-5 thousand, we probably make about 6 thousand there," said Sarah Prunier.

The group also puts these jars in local grocery stores and someone in the club goes in and picks it up around every month and replaces it with a new one. Also the club has a sit-down dinner with an auction and that is the main source of their money.

This award is well deserved because of the hard work and dedication of all the members of Operation Smile. Some of the members though, stood out and really went above and beyond.

"Rose Massett, Dakota Semler, Tenaya Drapkin, and Sasha Horn," said Prunier were the most involved.

These people were the most involved traveling

around the world and raising a lot of money. Sarah Prunier has traveled to some very interesting places around the world including Peru, China,

"I am continually impressed with the club because of the commitment of the students that are in it, and we continue to be one of the biggest supporters at the high-school level."

- Teacher Brigitte Leonard

Kenya, Cambodia and India. One club member, Malibu High graduate Rose Massett traveled to India with Ms. Prunier on a mission to help all the kids there. The club will be looking for new students to

replace the excellent work of Malibu High graduates Dakota Semler and Rose Massett.

Operation Smile has been a club at Malibu High for 12 years and has come a long way with the help of all the members over the years and teacher and club adviser Sarah Prunier.

"We have been a club for 12 years, and I have been the adviser for 9 years," said Prunier.

"Over the whole year I think we probably raised around \$22,000,"

-Teacher Sarah Prunier

The club started out as a normal small club at Malibu High School and around the country, but in the

last 10 years it has become very popular. There are a lot of different reasons why kids join the club and want to help kids around the world.

"Kids really love the idea of going on a mission to help, so they join hoping that they will have the chance," said Prunier.

The Operation Smile club is one of the most productive clubs we have at Malibu High School and all of the members hard work along with Ms. Prunier's dedication and willing to help other has made this club one of the best in the school and the best Operation Smile group in the country.

"I am continually impressed with the club because of the commitment of the students that are in it, and we continue to be one of the biggest supporters at the highschool level," said faculty member Bridette Leonard.

How to Survive College Tours

101

By Caroline Kaufman
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Welcome to your class about college tours. Within this article I will try to teach you all I know about the joyous experience that is searching for the college of your dreams.

This past summer I visited the East Coast and took tours of six colleges, looked at six different towns or cities, talked to 15 students and listened to six admissions counselors. So here we go.

Tip Number 1: Take Notes

Take notes. At this point I cannot remember which school had the best-looking tour guides and students. When April rolls around and I receive my acceptance and rejection letters, I will not be able to include "attractiveness of the student body" on my pro and con lists, this could seriously hinder my ability to choose the college that is the best fit for me.

You should write down everything you can from what the weather is supposed to be like in the fall to the school's mascot. What animal is represent-

ing you may become a huge factor in your college decision process. I mean who really wants to be represented by a worm or some other yucky animal.

Tip Number 2: Explore

Visit and explore the town and city around the college you are visiting. You might find the best food in the history of the world or the cutest bookstore ever.

My tour of Middlebury College was satisfactory enough, but when I looked at the town and realized it was so small there was not even a Starbucks, I knew this college was not the fit for me. If I had not looked around the "town" I might have spent four years at Middlebury wishing I were within 50 miles of civilization.

Thank god my parents wanted to look around the area.

Tip Number 3: Parents

Ignore your parents, no matter what they get up to. Parents are embarrassing and stressful all the

time, but they become especially stressful when your future is on the line (or appears to be on the line).

On one college tour my parents became involved in an escapade that involved a wheelchair, my mother screaming and several band-aids.

After that especially embarrassing college tour, I avoided my parents and found the rest of the tours I went on to be much more pleasant and without and bleeding or lacerations.

If I ever encounter anyone from that tour again, I will be forced to hang my head in shame. Embarrassment does not fade easily; distance yourself from your parents on all college tours.

Tip Number 4: Calm Down

If you are taking a tour at the college of your dreams (i.e. since you were two you have wanted to go to Harvard and now you are taking a tour of Harvard), do not try to bribe the tour guide; it will not improve your chances of getting in.

Do not follow the tour guide around for longer than fifteen minutes after they tour; they might call the police or the school's administration on you.

Furthermore, do not crowd the tour guide.

On my tour of Harvard, the tour guide was extremely claustrophobic and a couple of way too enthusiastic young women almost gave him an anxiety attack.

Tip Number 5: Breathe

Do not feel pressured to decide immediately which school is the school for you. Some people just "feel" it when they find the school of their dreams. Some of us have to spend days making pro and con lists and others have to pick a random college out of a hat.

Do what feels right to you. Remember that you have to go to the college for four years, not your parents, your siblings, or your friends.

Tip Number 6: Question Everything

Ask questions. I heard some pretty ridiculous questions while on college tours. Some as strange as "are the toilet

seats on campus heated?"

Even if you feel like you know everything about the college ask a question. The student will give you firsthand information better than any website, video or brochure can.

Tip Number 7: Make Friends

Do not let the other students taking the tour intimidate you. It is true that you are their competition and they are your competition, but staring them down is not going to improve your chances of getting into the school of your dreams.

If you get a chance, it might even be nice to strike up a conversation. There is a possibility you could have a class or even share a dorm room with someone on your tour.

So make all the connections you possibly can while you are on your college tours.

Tip Number 8: Malibu

At every single college tour I attended the

tour guide asked everyone where he or she was from.

Prepare yourself for this. First the tour guide will say something like "So is anyone here from California?" You will silently raise your hand. Then the tour guide will go on to say "Who is from northern California?" You will remain silent listening to where people live. Then the tour guide will continue with "so the rest of you, where are you from in southern California?"

You will wait, tense, listening to where other people live, dreading your turn. When your turn comes you will say, "Malibu," and then the judgement will begin. You will get "the look." The oh you are from Malibu so you must be super wealthy and irritating look.

You have two options: give the "oh you are not from Malibu and therefore I am awesome and you are not" look or you can smile and try to be nice to other people anyway. I chose the second option every time. Except for once at Middlebury.

There were so many death glares exchanged my face hurt for days. Just smile, be nice and try to enjoy the wonderful college application process.

Caroline's Tour Across New England

Dartmouth- Located in Hanover, New Hampshire

Boston College- Located in Boston, Massachusetts

Amherst- Located in Amherst, Massachusetts

Boston University- Located in Boston Massachusetts

Harvard- Located in Cambridge, Massachusetts

UVM- Located in Burlington, Vermont

Middlebury- Located in Middlebury, Vermont



Reviews ★ Reviews ★ Reviews ★ Reviews ★ Reviews ★ Reviews

Ten Must-See Summer Movies

By Kelsey Borenzweig
STAFFWRITER

During the school year, most teenagers are occupied by school work or after school activities.

However, during the summer, teenagers have a tendency to get bored and have nothing to do, so they must find ways to make use of the time on their hands. One way is to hang out at the movie theaters with friends.

Most people see movies based on the reviews they hear about the movie from their friends, and hearing the opinions about the movies that friends were seeing over the summer.

Based on this, I had an entirely different inference about what would make the top 10 in the box office than what actually did.

The last movie to make the top 10 box office movies was "The Other Guys", a comedy starring Will Ferrell, who plays an accountant named Allen. He prefers to be indoors on his computer rather than fighting crime in the outside world. When the leading cops of the department die, Allen and his partner step up to the plate. Their quest fails though, when they realize that they have no experience out on the streets fighting crime. "The Other Guys" made a mere 110 million dollars.

In ninth place this sum-

mer was "The Sorcerer's Apprentice", followed by "Grown Ups", "The Karate Kid", "Sex and the City 2", "Inception", "Shrek Forever After", "The Twilight Saga: Eclipse", and in second place, "Toy Story 3".

In first place, making the most money for a cinema during the summer of 2010, was "Iron Man 2" which earned a whopping 380 million dollars. Robert Downey Jr., starred in "Iron Man 2", playing the role of Tony Stark, a billionaire who feels pressured into sharing his technology to the military. However, he is not completely willing to give up his secrets, so he and his alliances keep his technology a secret to save

themselves.

The number two movie "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" is the story of Balthazar Blake played by Nicolas Cage, a sorcerer trying to defend Manhattan (during modern times) from Maxim Horvath (played by Alfred Molina). Blake recruits seemingly normal Dave Stutler (played by Jay Baruchel) to help him. Stutler must learn to be the Sorcerer's Apprentice and helps Blake save the city and get the girl.

All of the movies that made the top ten in the box office for the summer deserve the ranking that they received. Some of the positions that several movies got ranked for surprised me, such as

"Inception". I envisioned this film to classify a higher ranking than fifth place.

I foresaw a few of these films accomplishing a more prestigious ranking, and some of them producing a more modest ranking. In my opinion, the overall rankings were practical because the top ten movies were all popular, and the scale that the box office used was based off income earned for each, individual movie.

The actors in these movies ranged from fair to exceptional. In the cinema "The Twilight Saga: Eclipse", Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart both acted poorly in the majority of the scenes. However, they did at times act in a

moderate manner. On the contrary, in "Iron Man 2", Robert Downey Jr. portrayed the perfect image of his role, and movie generally possessed satisfactory acting.

Overall, the top ten movies of the summer were all well-made and deserved to be ranked as one of the summer's top ten movies.

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Top Ten Grossing Summer Movies

1. Iron Man 2
2. Toy Story 3
3. The Twilight Saga: Eclipse
4. Shrek Forever After
5. Inception
6. Sex and the City 2
7. The Karate Kid
8. Grown Ups
9. The Sorcerer's Apprentice
10. The Other Guys

Top Ten Summer Movie Flops

1. Piranhas: 3D
2. Takers
3. Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore
4. Letters to Juliet
5. Killers
6. Dinner for Schmucks
7. MacGruber
8. Jonah Hex
9. Marmaduke
10. The Switch

A Blast From the Past: "The Goonies"

By Caroline Kaufman
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

If someone screamed across campus "Hey, you guys...yut yay!" would you know to respond with glee and gratitude? If your friends told you to do the "Truffle Shuffle," could you do it? If you can respond yes both these questions, then you have no need to read further. If, however, you have to respond with a "no" to either of these questions, I am going to give you some advice that is going to change your life.

You, my friend, need to see "The Goonies." This column "Blast from the Past" is going to inform you, the reader, of movies you may need to be reminded of or forced to see. "The Goonies" is the first movie mentioned in the column because, not only is it a timeless, feel-good movie classic, it will make you wish you were born in the fashion cursed age: the

eighties.

The movie was based on a story by Steven Spielberg, written by Christopher Columbus (who worked on the first two "Harry Potter" movies) and directed by Richard Donner (who directed the original "Superman" movies with Christopher Reeve). If you do not know what the magical world of Harry Potter is or who Christopher Reeve is, I cannot help you: you must seek professional help as soon as possible. However, for the rest of you the bare basics of "the Goonies" are as follows.

The movie begins in a small, damp town in Oregon a day before the poorer side of town is to be demolished. On their last day together best friends Mikey (Sean Astin), Mouth (Corey Feldman), Data (Ke Huy Quan), Chunk (Jeff Cohen), Brand (Josh Brolin), Andy (Keri Green), and Stef (Martha Plimpton) have a fantastic adventure. After following

Mikey's obsession with finding the long lost treasure of "One Eyed Willy," the group finds themselves at odds with a fugitive family: the Fratellis (yes the British band is named after the family in this movie).

To hide from the crazy and homicidal Fratellis, the group, excluding Chunk (he accidentally was locked in a freezer with a dead body), go dozens of feet underground. While in the depths beneath the town and avoiding murderers, the group, logically, decides to hunt for buried treasure. About an hour later and several memorable lines

such as "Goonies never say die!" and some interesting conversations about lavatories, the group...nope I will not spoil it for you. I will not tell you if the group is able to save the town, or if any characters find true love. Most importantly, I will not tell you if the group finds buried treasure.

The sheer genius of "the Goonies" is impossible to explain in the written word. There is no way to describe how the poorly done special effects make you feel like you are eight years old again. And I simply cannot begin to try to explain why

Chunk's speech about his childhood sins is hilarious.

Compared to the special effects, make-up and cliché plots of our time, "the Goonies" seems like its from an entirely different Hollywood. There is something intriguing and unforgettable about "the Goonies."

There is certainly a reason why a town in Oregon celebrates the anniversary of the movie every year. And after seeing it, you will understand why, 25 years after its release, people still love it.

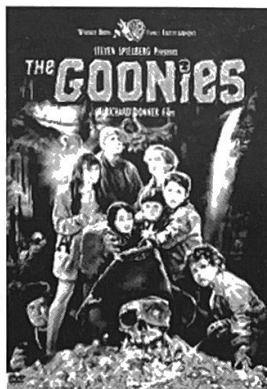
Also, if you have not noticed, there are several very famous actors in this movie. This movie began Josh Brolin's career as well as Corey Feldman. Brolin is still very active in the film industry today. Feldman became a teen idol in the 1980s. This movie is a part of history.

More importantly, if you want to understand current popular you must watch this movie. "The Goonies"

is mentioned in countless movies and television shows. It is referenced in "Pulp Fiction," "Stepmom," and "Mean Girls." It is also referenced in several television shows including: "Gilmore Girls," "The O.C.," and "How I Met Your Mother."

If, after you follow my advice and watch "the Goonies," you feel an insatiable desire to see more great movies of the 1980s, I recommend Insomniac Cinemas. This group puts great movies of the past back on the big screen in theatres in Agoura Hills and Westwood.

All my Goonies out there, stay strong, keep looking for treasure and never forget to do the Truffle Shuffle at least twice a week.



Fall Previews and Reviews

By: Kat Rowan
STAFFWRITER

Vampire Diaries

"Vampire Diaries" is the first of many shows to kick off their new season. The legendary Katharine, who made her appearance at the season finale, declaring war on Damon and Stefan. In the season opener she kills Caroline, ultimately turning her into a vampire.

This season opener was a heart thumping episode full of answers and even more questions. If there ever was an example of how to start a season with drama and intrigue, "Vampire Diaries" accomplished just that.

Vampires. Witches. And now werewolves? In the season finale Tyler and his father were mysteriously affected by the clock-watch-device. Tyler seems to be having trouble controlling his anger and his uncle's eyes have been changing color mysteriously. Maybe I have seen too many supernatural shows but this seems like signs of a werewolf.

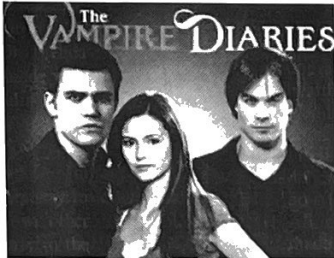
Gossip Girl

The season finale of "Gossip Girls" left loyal views wondering if loveable adorable Chuck had died. In the last scenes of the season finale, Chuck's partial wedding proposal ended in disaster and left him wandering through the streets alone at night.

Also, in the season finale of "Gossip Girl," Georgina shocked Dan by suddenly arriving very pregnant claiming he is the father. Although little Milo, Dan's maybe baby, is quite

adorable, Dan is not his father. Turns out was just another one of Georgina's games.

Blaire, who rejected Chuck and exiled Jenny in the season finale is trying to move on from her horrible past year. It seems that Blaire and Serena will be both going to Columbia



together which.

One Tree Hill

"One Tree Hill's" season finale ended with a bang, pun intended. In the last scenes of the season Hailey and Nathan were thrilled about having their second child and Brooke and Julian were happily engaged. Then in the last seconds Quinn and Clay were shot by a crazy stalker.

This was an exciting season finale that made me want to see the season premiere. Then finally the season begins and nothing really happens. It was in the second episode that the season really started. Quinn and Clay were stuck in a limbo state until Clay told Quinn that it was not her time to die but it was his. Of course, Quinn did not expect Clay's selfless logical and instead forced Clay to promise he would be with her. Clay surprisingly kept his promise and arose from his near death state, unrealistically. Although this story-line was romantic, its unlogical and almost ridiculous plots make the viewer a little crazy. This however has been "One Tree Hill's"

trademark since season one.

House

Cuddy and House are finally together. Will this be the happily ever after that everyone has wanted for House and Cuddy? I have a hard time believing this after the season finale where House hallucinated half the episode. I do want House and Cuddy to end up together; I think House's self destructive nature will eventually ruin this relationship. Okay, that's enough of my boner over analyzing. One thing we do know about season eight is that it will be filled with astounding guest stars. Amber Tamblyn, who starred in "The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants" and "Joan of Arcadia," is going to appear on House for several episodes as a med student. I have been a fan of Tamblyn since "Joan of Arcadia" and am very excited to see how Huge Laure and Amber Tamblyn work together. This new twist to House might add a level of suspense and action that the show has lacked.

Glee

This one of a kind show, that has earned over nineteen Emmy nominations, is not slowing down its well known up-beat spirit. Celebrities such as Britany Spears and Susan Boyle will be guest starring on this up coming season. I am a total glee and proud of it. I was not-so-patiently waiting for the new season to begin. Luckily, my wait is over; Glee's season opener was on sptember 21st.

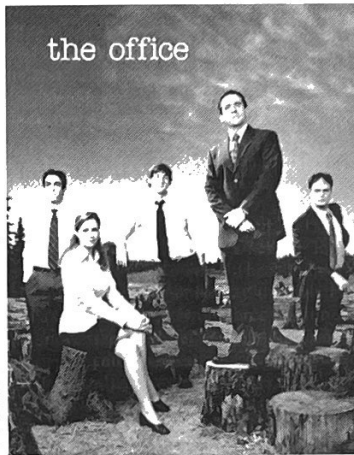
There is a new character on Glee named Coach Beiste, pronounced Beast, and she has made some trouble for the characters. Finn was kidded out of football, which result in his audition for the cheer-

leaders. Recently, Finn was given his football jersey back, causing some tense between Finna and Rachel. Nevertheless, Rachel and Finn are an adorable couple and really happy together.

season six. The episode will center around Bobby, another lovable character.

The Office

The last season of "The Office" with Michael Scott,



how can it be? Although I do admit the show

has lost part of its charm over the past couple of years, the show will not be the same without Michael. We could not have Michel's final season without bringing back his true love. It has been

confirmed that Holly will be coming back this season. But as of now Holly will only be in eight episodes of the season. With Holly back, the show may gain some of its good off-beat humor that has been long missed.

Bones

A year has passed with Bones and Booth at opposite ends of the world. Will the show be the same? I am not alone in wondering

BONES



what will happen between Bones and Booth. I have missed gorgeous Booth and gladly await the new season. I was greatly upset, as I expect most viewers will be, when I learned that Boner will not be returning alone. It seems that there will be a new girl in Booth's life. In the second

episode of the season Booth's girlfriend, Paige, was introduced into the show. The happy couple does seem to be in love and although Bones would never admit it, she is struggling to understand her feelings for Booth. I thrilled to announce that in season six of "Bones" Dr. Brennan will be forced to confront her true with Booth. Also, Dr. Brenna will have an episode centered around herself, which will be shot through her eyes and ears.

Modern Family

There is no other way to describe this show other than hilarious. Early in the second season of "Modern Family," the writers shake things up with an earthquake. I expect this episode to be absolutely entertaining. If you want to laugh and generally enjoy yourself, then tune in weekly to the crazy and utterly lovable "Modern Family." Along with the awards and overall popularity that has been floating around this show, there is also controversy about the lack of PDA

between Cameron and Mitchell. Throughout the first exceedingly successful season of modern family, the gay couple did not kiss once. While many viewers were quite upset about this and

some even created a Facebook campaign, it seems their worries were unneeded. The producers of "Modern Family" released a statement explaining that they have always planned to make a whole episode dedicated to the subject and were even a little offended about the uproar.

Call of Duty: Black Ops Raises Great Expectations

By: Julia Blanchette
STAFFWRITER

Black Ops is latest installment of warfare videogames made by Santa Monica-based Treyarch. The game is priced at \$59.99 if you pre-order it now, it will be worth every penny.

This COD game sets the complete standard for a generally outstanding video

game and gives COD fans what they want with beautiful graphics, and a improved sense of plot and storyline.

There is also a large variety of weapons you get to play with in the game. The weapons include with many kinds of rifles and machine guns with laser pointers and grenade launchers. The difference in this COD addition is that you can throw an old school tomahawk

against your rival in the multiplayer.

Black Ops comes with many different modes of game play filled with challenges designed for the multiplayer experience. Wager matches are now introduced as four new game modes included where players can compete against each other in "free for all" levels to get in the top three against your opponents and you get "in the

money" said Treyarch game designers.

One game mode that stands out is called "One in The Chamber" where each player gets one bullet in a pistol and only that, creating a sense of unforgiving tension and adrenalin.

When you earn COD points from winning the top three in the different gaming modes you can use them to unlock even more weapons and explosives and

buy a very impressive crossbow.

As the player, you are thrown into an explosive scene of bombs and ammunition set in the Cold War completing missions of warfare for your government acting as part of a secret military unit.

There is some rumor from Treyarch that there will be camouflage Vietnam jungle warfare in store for a on the edge experience for the

player. Treyarch's Call of Duty: Black Ops will be released to the country November 9th, 2010.

Diary of a Fantasy Football Addict

By **Davis Thacker**
EDITOR IN CHIEF

It is an addiction that has ravaged the sports fans of America. It takes us away from the reality of sports, it makes us focus on numbers more than how the game is played, and it makes us have hormone-filled moodswings. The addiction I speak of is fantasy football.

Created in the late eighties, fantasy football has become one of the most popularized aspects of sports in the nation, and the number of followers has only grown throughout the years.

For those of you who have not experienced the genius that is fantasy football, this is how it works. A person joins a league with his friends, coworkers, or even random people and creates his own team that he will manage

for the rest of the NFL season. What follows this is a draft (or in some leagues a auction) of every single offensive player in the NFL. To understand the strategies that go into fantasy football drafts, one must know the ins and outs of the scoring. Every 10 rushing or receiving yards is worth one point, a rushing or receiving touchdown is worth six points, every 25 passing yards is worth one point, every passing touchdown is worth four points, and interceptions and fumbles are worth negative two points. So when drafting, the elite runningbacks such as the Chris Johnsons and the Adrian Petersons of the world, are drafted first, followed by the elite wide-receivers (think Andre Johnson) and quarterbacks are usually pretty scattered in the first couple of rounds. By the fifth and sixth rounds, tight ends and defensive units begin to come off of the board. Following the draft, a team usually consists of nine starters (a quarterback, two runningbacks, two wide-receivers, a flex player, a tight-end, a defense, and a kicker) and numerous bench players.

Ok, for those of who were not deterred by the seemingly endless descriptions of fantasy football, you most likely have friends who suffer from fantasy football addictions or you yourself suffer from the cold calculating disease.

Let me address those of you with friends who suffer from the addiction. I have

personally suffered from an obsession with fantasy football, and my friends have suffered dearly. I often find myself researching stats and trying to figure out who will be this week's break-out player rather than hanging out with my friends. It has come to the point that I ignore them completely, and when I am with them, I am distant and immersed in an entirely different world. My friends have recently abandoned hope on me completely after their attempts at intervention failed miserably. They have now come to the realization that I will most likely never get over my addiction, but have come to accept that harsh reality.

"I mean it's pretty sad," said senior **Ren Martinez**. "But everything in Davis' life is sad."

While I do not agree with any part of the statement above, one can see the effect

that my addiction has had on my various friendships. For those of you with friends who seem to be slipping away into the world of fantasy football addiction, I have one suggestion for you. If you can't beat them, join them. And in the case of fantasy football, you will not beat it. So I suggest that you register for fantasy football with the friend mentioned about if you truly care about sustaining said friendship.

Now here's my advice for those of you afflicted with the addiction to fantasy football, do not change a thing. Sure you could spend more time doing homework, working out, sleeping, reading, or other productive actions. But fantasy football is a perfectly fine addiction, don be afraid to let yourself go. Immerse yourself in the wonders of fantasy football, look at Matthew Barry, fantasy football columnist for ESPN. He seems perfectly happy, and one day you could be like him.

So for those of you who feel ashamed of your addiction to fantasy football, tell the naysayers and the critics no and believe in the truest passion on earth, fantasy football.

As the fantasy football season gets into full swing, remember that it is never too late to get addicted, and it is never too late to experience the joy that is only attainable through the following and mass addiction of fantasy football.



By **Davis Thacker**
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The Malibu High School Cross Country team is looking to succeed this year after losing only one player (Gianna Fote) from last year's team. The team believes that they will have success this year behind a good amount of experienced runners, new coaching, and a lot of young talent.

At the helm of this year's cross country program is new head coach **Dino Quintanilla**. Taking over for last year's coach **Corine Berkeley**, Quintanilla has made practice and training all about the basics. By stressing proper hydration, safety, and the development of leg strength in both legs, Quintanilla believes that the team will be more prepared for the variety of races that they may face. Safety has been of particular concern for Quintanilla, as it is often difficult to find safe routes in the high-way dominated area around Malibu High School.

"It's hard to find safe

Cross Country Runs Wild

routes to run in Malibu because a good portion of it is PCH and beaches," Quintanilla said.

The cross-country "My goals for this season are to improve everyone's health and fitness and to make running fun."

-Head Coach **Dino Quintanilla**.

Freshmen runner **Erik Rosenberg** has been one of the better young runners this season, as he finished in the top quarter at the Seaside Invitational in his division, which consisted of 300 runners around his age. However, while the team is excited about the amount of young talent that has arrived this year, players and coaches agree that there is still some bonding and meshing to be had for the team as a whole.

"We are still growing and maturing as a team," Quintanilla said.

While there are many new faces to the squad this year, there are two faces that have been at the forefront of Malibu High School cross country for the past couple of seasons. Seniors **Zach Hamilton** and **Sara Mohr** lead the boys and girls

parts of the team this year, as each of them look to perform well in their last season of running for the Sharks.

Both Hamilton and Mohr have found early success in their races. Hamilton finished in the top half of his division in the Seaside Invitational and won first place at the league meet at Carpenteria on Wednesday

September 29th. In the same race, Mohr was third overall in her division.

One challenge that the team has faced has been that of numbers, specifically on the girls side of the team. While the boys have a good amount of runners to work with, the girls squad only has three runners.

However, Quintanilla is happy with making do with what he has, and as he looks forward to completing his first year as head coach, he only has one or two major goals in mind.

"My goals for the season are to improve everyone's health and fitness and to make running fun," Quintanilla said.

Behind the leadership of their two top seniors as well as the talent of their younger runners, the Malibu High School cross-country team has high hopes for this season as well as those in the future.

Girls Volleyball Team Looks To Win League

By **Grace Van Dien**
STAFFWRITER

Things are looking good for the 2010 Malibu High School girls volleyball team.

"I think that our team will do better this year because I feel like we have all the tools this year," said **Sienna Masiello**, who is entering her second year as captain.

The varsity girls are extremely determined to win as many games as they can. The Sharks are defi-

nately prepared this year, learning as much as they can and eliminating bad habits that could keep them from winning.

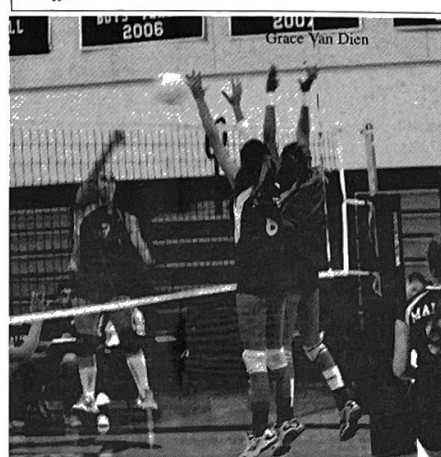
"We focus a lot on passing," said Masiello.

One thing that makes the Sharks confident about challenging rivals Grace Brethren for the Frontier League Title is the amount of talent and experience on time. The team had multiple players from last year's frosh-soph and junior varsity teams, as well as had many returning players from last year's varsity



Grace Van Dien

BLOCK PARTY: Malibu High School Varsity volleyball players attempt to block a shot during a game against Nordoff.



Grace Van Dien

squad.

However, the team is also very young, as Masiello is the only senior on the varsity lineup. With so many new and young faces mixing with an older and more experienced group of players, Head Coach **Carlos Gray** believes that there is still some chemistry to be developed on the team.

"[This year's team] is very interesting in the dynamic that we have girls from all different teams, which is the first time that I've had that happen," Gray said. "There is still some meshing that has to happen."

The team, which started fast with a 3-1 record, is now moving into the league portion of their schedule. The main obstacles facing the Sharks in their quest for a League Championship are Grace

Brethren and Carpenteria, with Grace Brethren the better of the two rivals. The Sharks lost to Grace Brethren a couple of weeks ago in tournament play, but the girls played them tough, and hope to have a better result next time they face off.

As the Sharks look forward to accomplishing the goals they set at the beginning of the season, Masiello believes in both her abilities as a leader and the ability of the team as a whole.

"I pull them (the team) out of rough times and help them be pumped up and keep the energy going," said Masiello. "Our team is always ready for another challenge."

Cheerleading Entering Second Season After Last Year's Rebirth

By Amber Collins-Parnell
STAFFWRITER

A year after the Malibu High School cheerleading revival, the cheerleading team is prepared for a new school year with hopes of victory. The cheerleaders are looking forward to more away games and even may start to compete in SHARP, which is an international competition center for cheerleaders. This year the team has become even more exclusive and has more drive to succeed.

The determination that the team has is much stronger, and has encouraged them to

attempt things that they wouldn't have considered before this year. The team spent a long summer in Santa Barbara getting prepared for the rigorous football season. Old coaches were seen and new routines were learned. They also won numerous awards for their sportsmanship, spirit, and their participation throughout the camp.

Considering all the hard work put in and the overall attitude the cheerleaders have created over the past year, it is likely that cheerleading will remain in the years to come. It is a tradition at most high schools and the team seems to bring more spirit to all the games.

Davis Thacker



"I think we need to keep cheer around because we have come so far in a year and I would love to see what it will be in 10 or 20" said sophomore **Eden Concoff**.

It has recently been debated about whether cheerleading is considered a sport.

The squad has continually said, "Athletes lift weights and cheerleaders lift athletes."

Without the cheerleaders spirit the football games would not be the same. The training that the team did over summer at camp took hard-work. They had to memorize cheers as well as fast-pace dances, improve their jumps, and get into shape for the season.

"Anyone can come to practices and see the girls running, doing push-ups, doing sit-ups, getting black eyes, hit in the nose, we have had bloody lips, so it's just as much as a sport as any other sport" said the team's coach **Melissa Andino**. The athletic ability that it takes is unimaginable compared to what it is believed to be.

On top of camp the squad was busy making crash

signs and posters for the football games.

There are two posters for every game and they are a lot bigger than last years.

Over the summer the cheerleaders also attended the Madden Launch Party which is a football game between celebrities and football players to launch the new NFL Madden Football game.

They performed a routine in-front of a huge crowd and watched the game. Some of the high school cheerleaders couldn't attend the game so they substituted with middle school cheer members.

Apart from all the hard-work, there is an upside to cheer. It gives you a chance to commit to something important, and you can bond with all your team mates.

"It's crazy rewarding, and all the girls on the squad are definitely my second family", said senior **Emily Thiessen**.

With an entire year ahead of them, the cheerleading team is very confident in its ability to cheer on the Sharks and entertain the crowds that attend the games.

Davis Thacker



LETS GO SHARKS: The Malibu High School cheer team enters its second year of existence, doing dances (left), cheer routines (top), and making posters (bottom) for the football team.



New Faces, Same Goals For Girls Tennis

By Davis Thacker
EDITOR IN CHIEF

After a second place finish in their league and a loss in the second round of CIF last year, the Malibu High School girls' tennis team is looking to once again do well in both league and CIF. However, this year the girls expect to improve on last year's success.

One obstacle that the team will have to overcome is the loss of their best singles player last year, **Savannah Mosser**. Mosser, who went undefeated in league last year, is now playing at Emerson College and leaves the Sharks with a very young singles lineup.

"It's very hard to lose a player like Savannah," said Head Coach **Bruce Young**. "But I expect many of the team's younger girls to step up this year."

While the Sharks lost a singles player and a doubles team, they received a number of good players from their incoming freshman class. Leading this group of freshmen is **Lauren Louks**, who is slotted at the second singles spot this year. In addition to Louks, freshman **Raven Odian** has made an immediate impact in doubles.

However, it has not just been freshmen performing well for the Sharks, as this year's sophomore class has many impact players on the team. Sophomore singles players **Britta Mosser**, **Annie Thacker**, as well as doubles player **Talullah Daly** are some of the Shark's most influential players this season. The Sharks believe that these younger players will be a large part of this year's teams success.

"I am very encouraged by the talent of the freshmen and sophomore classes," said Young.

Mosser, who came in second in league individuals last year, takes over the number one singles spot that her sister held last year. While her main goal of the season is to help the Sharks win a league title, Mosser also has an individual goal that she hopes is accomplished by the end of the season.

I want to win league individuals," said Mosser.

Standing in the way of the Sharks' pursuit for a League Championship are rivals La Reina High School (last year's champions) and Oaks Christian High School, who gets back top singles player **Torey Sanford** after being injured for the majority of last year's season.

While a good majority of

the team is made up of talented underclassmen, the girls also have a good wealth of experience in senior doubles players **Rachael Kraft** (the team's captain) and **Winslett Wilson**. Both Kraft and Wilson will highlight a doubles lineup this year that Coach Young and Assistant Coach Gary Hughes deeper than last years lineup.

"There's a great deal of talent coming in the freshman year so I'm very excited to see how we'll do this season and in future seasons," said Kraft.

While the Malibu High School girls tennis team has a lot of new faces to it this year, members throughout the team believe that they can go above and beyond their accomplishments last year.

"We lost a lot of seniors that contributed so much to the team so it will be weird not having them on the team," said Mosser, "but I think we will have a stronger team this year because we have a lot of great players coming in and returning to the team."

With more experience and a lot of new talent, players and coaches alike have one common goal for the season, to win the Frontier League Championship.

Sports Briefs: What You Missed This Summer

By Davis Thacker
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Did you have a Rip Van Winkle-like coma over the summer? Did you not watch any ESPN over the summer? Or were you in another country where the predominate sport is soccer? In any case, here is what you missed in the wonderful world of sports during the summer of 2010.

The biggest storyline of the summer of 2010 was without a doubt the free agency frenzy that swept the National Basketball Association. So let's see, **Amare Stoudemire** left the Suns for the Knicks (a move both sides will soon forget), **Carlos Boozer** left the Jazz for the Bulls, and many players such as **Paul Pierce** and **Dirk Nowitzki** simply stayed where they were. However, the real frenzy was primarily focused on **Lebron James**, **Dwayne Wade**, and **Chris Bosh**, especially **James**.

Following the Cavaliers' exit from the playoffs at the hand of the Boston Celtics, Cleveland fans immediately began worrying about whether their hometown boy would leave them for places such as New York, New Jersey, Chicago, Miami, or Los Angeles.

After a media frenzy, capped off by a ridiculous one hour Sportscenter special in which **James** officially broke the hearts of thousands of fans, the two-time MVP announced he would be joining buddies **Wade** and **Bosh** in Miami. What followed was a rush of many role players such as **Mike Miller** and **Eddie House** to South Beach to join "The Super Friends."

In other sports, the NFL occurred another summer of a team agonizing over whether quarterback **Brett Favre** would retire or return for another (or three... or six) seasons. To the surprise of no one, Favre returned to the Minnesota Vikings for another shot at a Super Bowl Title. In other NFL news, **Kurt Warner** retired (to the dismay of yours-truly), **Anquan Boldin** was traded to the Ravens, **Brandon Marshall** was traded to the Dolphins, the Jets signed **LaDanian Tomlinson** and **Jason Taylor** and traded for **Antonio Cromartie** and **Santonio Holmes**, and **Terrell Owens** is on the Bengals.

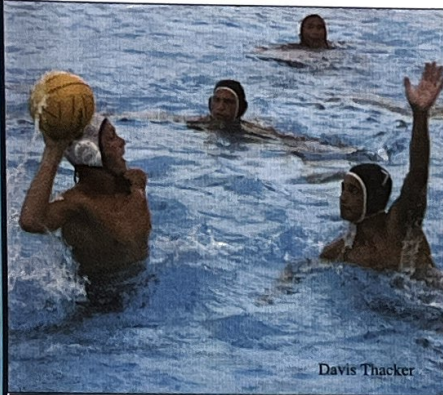
Oh yeah, and for all of you baseball fans out there, I'm very sorry but I do not have the energy or the drive to follow your favorite sport. But I think I do know enough to make a

World Series prediction: Yankees beat the Phillies for the second straight year, and yes I know that I'm very original and inventive in my predictions.

Now back again to something I know, football. But in this section of the article, I will make my 10 predictions for the 2010 season. 1) The Cowboys will rebound from their mediocre start and will make it to the playoffs. 2) The 49ers... will not. 3) Sam Bradford will barely beat of **Jahvid Best** for Rookie of the Year. 4) **Peyton Manning** will win MVP... again. 5) The Falcons will present a legitimate challenge for the Saints in winning the NFC South, but I'm giving the edge to the champs. 6) The Jets will win the AFC East. 7) 'Da Bears are a legit contender. 8) The Steelers will win the AFC North. 9) The Bills will pick **Jake Locker** with the first pick in next year's draft. 10) The Colts are going to win the Super Bowl.

Enjoy the season and please make sure to make fun of me to when my predictions fail.

Water Polo Has Great Expectations



Davis Thacker

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT: The Boys Water Polo Team practices their offense during an October practice.

By Riley Smoller
STAFFWRITER

The Malibu High School water polo team ended the summer very well with a nice 9th place out of 36 at the Conejo Classic with a record of 2 wins, 1 loss, and 2 ties. The team was ranked 3rd in division six going into CIF this year. Although the team lost three seniors this year they are still doing very well. Some of the incoming seniors this year are **Erik Philbrick**, **Kris Kaliakin**, **Ryan Brown**, and **James Burnett**, all

returning varsity players. Because of this, there is very high expectations for this years varsity team.

"Ryan Brown, Erik Philbrick, Kris Kaliakin, and Michael Mitze are the guys on the team I can count on to put some points up on the score board," said Head Coach **Mike Mulligan**.

Having four players in the pool at once who are excellent goal scorers, is a huge advantage over half the guys in the pool can put the ball in the back of the goal. The team seems very confident going CIF. This year there are a lot of

good juniors who also play for the varsity team, **Mitze**, **Drew Dvorsky**, and **Theo Gullemot**.

Mitze is the varsity starting set this season, so look out for him at the home games.

Mulligan believes that after the 2008 varsity team that made it to the CIF finals this team is just as strong. The Sharks have gotten much stronger this summer after their brutal two week long "hell week," the boys are worked harder in those two weeks than any other practice during the year. Along with developing more muscle

and better lap times the Sharks have also come up with new plays and new game strategies.

Thus far, the water polo team has demonstrated the amount of talent and determination that Mulligan believes his team possesses. Recently coming off of a big win against rivals Oaks Christian, who is ranked second in CIF, the Sharks will look to take their recently gained momentum into the later stage of the season.

Football Team Struggles With Injuries

By Hayley Bosworth
STAFFWRITER

After a disappointing 2009 season, the 2010 Malibu High School football team has high hopes for a much-improved 2010 season. With new Offensive Coach **Mike D'Andrea**, the Sharks are determined to make this year a year Malibu High will never forget.

"We promised each other that we would push ourselves to the limit. We want a banner in the gym saying League Champs," said Varsity quarterback **Chris Konkol-Morczkowski**.

Quarterbacks Konkol and **Brennan Cassone** agree that their one weakness is how they start the game.

"We need to be able to come out strong and fired up. We can't wait till half-time to pick up our game," says Konkol, referring to their game on September 18th against St. Monica. After waiting too long to fire up, they lost the game after a thrilling finish with a score of 13-21.

Coach D'Andrea thinks

that another weakness is the team's numbers.

"We have a small school and therefore, a small team, but we have great athleticism. Our players are really talented and really hard-working," said D'Andrea. Something that really shines about

Malibu football this year is the leadership that seniors have demonstrated throughout the team.

"They've really taken control of the team and brought them together," said D'Andrea.

"Having such a small team and really knowing all the guys you're playing with is what really brings our team together," said senior **David Sandborg**.

Another way the team's bonded is through their motto. Head coach

Regence Humphrey reminds his players before every game to "Hold the Rope". This means to help each other and step up to the plate. Whatever circumstance are handed to them they take

responsibility and encourage each other. During a game against Pasadena Poly High School on September 11, Konkol was injured and "holding the rope" was Cassone.

Cassone, played Quarterback in the games against St. Monica (September 18th), Bellarmine Jefferson (September 25th), Flintridge Prep (October 1st).

"I'm not as nervous as I was before. I'm actually pretty excited," Cassone said.

Another injury that's occurred during the season is the ankle injury of **Matthew Mason**.

After being taken to the Playa Del Ray Hospital on September 18th via Ambulance he was put into surgery to mend his torn

ligaments and have bolts and plates put into his leg.

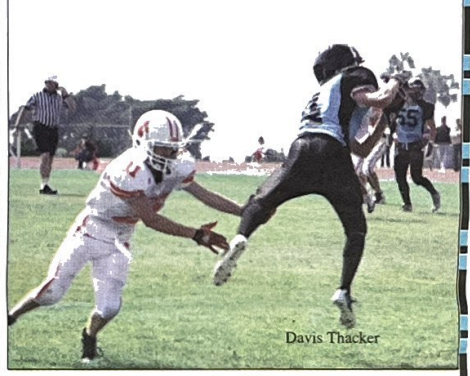
Cassone, a returning Varsity player since Freshman year, is one of the younger members on the team.

"I really like being one of the younger players. Playing with the older guys really helps me improve and being on JV makes it a lot harder to get that guidance from them," Cassone said.

Coach D'Andrea points out **Laker Dohan**, **Konkol**, **David Sandborg**, and **Mason** as said leaders and role-models.

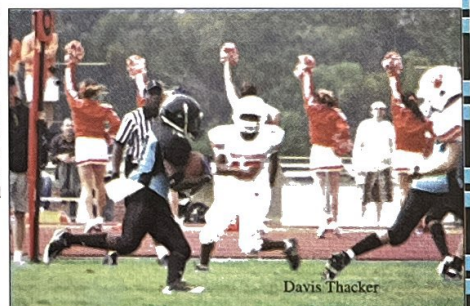
Most agree that the greatest part of Malibu's football program this year is the motivation, drive, hope, and trust that this team has in themselves and their teammates.

With one more game until their league games begin, the Sharks look forward to hopefully getting more healthy and more in sync on offense.



Davis Thacker

SHARK ATTACK: Quarterback **Chris Konkol** (left), receiver **Brennan Cassone** (above) and running-back **Saadq Hassan** lead the Sharks this season on offense.



Davis Thacker

TRADING CARDS

What are you looking forward to most this season?

Design by Davis Thacker Compiled by Hailey Hoffman

WATER

"To play my best and make it to the CIF Championship."

'14

FOOTBALL

"I want to win league and score a lot of touchdowns."

'13

WATER

"To make it to the CIF finals and hopefully make it to number 1 in our division."

'12

WATER

"To leave this season feeling satisfied that I did what I wanted to do."

'11