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Volume XIV, Issue 3  
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October 2012  
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# Natalie McGiffert is Olympic bound

By Maya Eliahou

ONLINE CORRESPONDANT

Former Malibu High School student **Natalie McGiffert** moved to Chicago for her sophomore school year to train for the 2016 Olympics. McGiffert, 15, has been competing in rhythmic gymnastics since grade school.

Chicago is the official training center for the Senior National Team group in rhythmic gymnastics. McGiffert moved to Northbrook, Illinois this summer with her father, David, while her mother, Shannon, and brother Evan, remained in Topanga for Evan's senior year at MHS.

McGiffert had her first gymnastics experience at age seven when she attended several free gymnastics classes her mother had won in a raffle. A coach at the gym noticed her natural talent and suggested that she train in rhythmic gymnastics.

"Rhythmic gymnastics is completely different from artistic gymnastics. In rhythmic there are no beams or bars. Rhythmic is more about dance and flexibility incorporated into routines with a rope, hoop, ball, clubs, ribbon, or floor routine," said Natalie McGiffert.

While McGiffert's sights are set on the 2016 Summer Olympics in Brazil, she may get to compete even sooner, if she qualifies for the 2013 World Cup Championship in Kiev. She is currently ranked as one of America's top ten rhythmic gymnasts in the junior league.

McGiffert was named the Region One Champion this May at El Camino College. It was at this competition she won the Athlete of the Year award for the fifth time. McGiffert attributes her success to the Platinum Gymnastics Academy that she attended during her training in Los Angeles. Despite this local win, she often competed far from home.

"Her meets were mostly in San Diego, a couple on the East Coast, and she has even gone to other countries," said senior and brother **Evan McGiffert**.

Last year, her team traveled to the Czech Republic where she won the bronze medal at the Chodov Cup.

The family's decision for McGiffert and her father to move to Chicago was not a difficult one. In Topanga, everyone's schedules kept them so busy they often did not have time to connect. Split between two states, they would need to be in touch regularly.

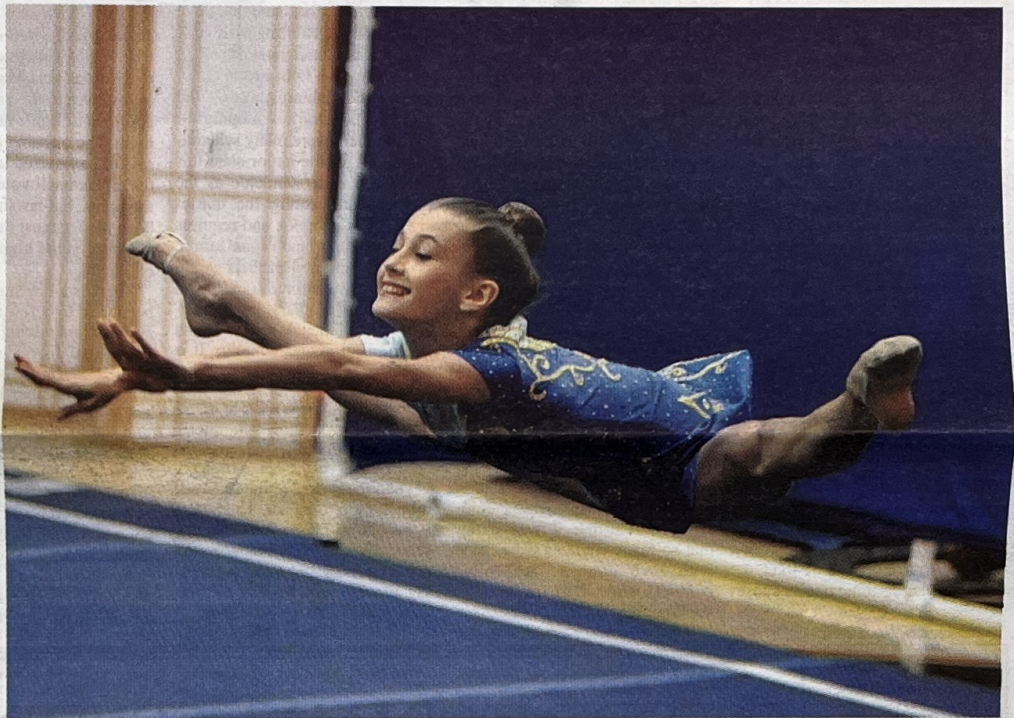
"We had a family meeting and decided that we would keep in better contact," Evan said.

After a meet in Chicago over the summer, McGiffert and her father extended their hotel stay to look for an apartment. Although she had most of her clothing with her, Natalie's father drove a U-Haul from California to Chicago to transport the rest of her belongings. McGiffert stayed with a fellow gymnast

until the apartment was set up. The entire operation took less than a month.

"Competing has always been kind of normal for Natalie," said Evan McGiffert.

She and her father would drive to Simi Valley every day after



**RISING STAR:** Natalie is currently in Chicago training for the 2016 Olympics.

school, and return home at 10 p.m. Currently, she trains with her six teammates for more than 23 hours a week.

"My long term goals are to go as far as my love for gymnastics will take me," said Natalie McGiffert.

As a member of the National Group Rhythmic Gymnastics Team, McGiffert will probably

compete in Europe or Russia next year for the 2013 World Cup Championships. She will participate in three meets, and has already started training for the upcoming North Shore Rhythmic, which takes place in Deerfield, Illinois.

While she is missed by her Malibu High friends, McGiffert is fill-

ing her childhood dream and inspiring other young gymnasts. To support her efforts, MHS students can contribute to Natalie McGiffert's Rhythmic Gymnastic Fund online. Scholarships do not exist for rhythmic gymnasts, and all donations will help cover her competition costs.

## Point Pizza to close this December

By Jens Cole

STAFF WRITER

The locally owned, small business sandwich and pizza shop, Point Pizza, has announced its closure. The current closing date is December 31st, 2012.

The owner of the Pavilions shopping center, Zan Marquis, doubled the rent on the location of Point Pizza. The manager of Point Pizza, Eric Ramirez, stated that they agreed to pay the rent, but Marquis was failed to respond to repeated requests over email and text, regarding the rent.

As of Wednesday, October 10th, Point Pizza is closing and will be replaced by locally popular pizza shop, known as D'Amores. This

news has started a local uproar among the populace of Malibu.

When asked their feelings, ideas, and attitudes towards the closure of one of the most popular food places for the student demographic, students of Malibu High School responded with a sense of outrage and shock.

"It's a shame that big chain restaurants like Subway come in with mediocre product and take away customers from small local business owners who desperately need our support," said junior Cooper Bell.

"Closing Point Pizza is yet another way to reveal the fact that Malibu is the least kid-friendly place in America," said junior Hayley Haag.

"The reason it's closing is the owners of the Point Dume place won't renew their lease because they don't like the type of people that go there and they want to put in some 'high class' expensive place that local kids won't want to go to," said Junior David Ockmanek.

Point Pizza is not only a popular pizza shop, but also a significant place for Malibu High School students. Somewhere many students believe is a fun and safe place to go not only for its food but also to hang out with one another.

The resistance and opposition against the situation has been communicated through social media. As of Tuesday, October 9th, a Facebook group known as "Save

Point Pizza" was established to spread the news about the closure and to even communicate a rally that occurred at 4 p.m. on Friday, October 12th, at the Point Dume Village. This rally let the owner of the Point Dume Village understand the importance of this shop.

It is not only about the preservation of an "old Malibu" locally owned business, but about the people of Malibu, more specifically the student demographic. Point Pizza is popularly viewed as an enjoyable and safe place to eat and spend time with friends and family, hopefully its closing can be prevented.



# Master schedule fiasco Friday night lights

By **Gabriella Grahek**  
BUSINESS MANAGER

Last spring the counselors, principal, and administration began the arduous process of creating the master schedule for the upcoming school year. While they attempted to produce a fair schedule and consider the needs of all students, many juniors were unsatisfied with the ending result. With many academically rigorous AP (advanced placement) classes placed during fourth, fifth, and sixth periods, numerous students and some teachers have become irritated with the problematic later day classes as early-outs, a decreased attention span, and less class time affect the potential productivity of the class.

The process for creating the master schedule begins in the spring of second semester each year. As most students know, the counselors pass out a descriptive brochure of the classes offered at Malibu High School and the class registration form in mid-spring. Students then have a few weeks to discuss and decide which classes they wish to enroll in for the upcoming year. After a few weeks, the counselors return to the classrooms and briefly discuss and confirm each student's requested classes. The counselors then collaborate with the administration for one to two weeks working to design a master schedule that would accommodate as many of the student's preferred schedules as possible.

While the counselors attempt to accommodate the master schedule to fulfill the majority of the student's desires, satisfying everyone is virtually impossible.

"It can be complicated because there are a lot of singletons," said counselor Katie Dahm.

"Singletons" are usually elective classes but may also include some of the higher standard academic classes that are generally offered only one period. When there are a lot of students that register for such classes, the process of creating a schedule that supplies the majority of students with their preferred classes becomes increasingly complex.

While creating the schedule, the counselors and administration consider all students' requested classes and do not prioritize by grade. Prioritization is only contemplated when choosing between which classes to include and exclude on the schedule. The core classes, English, History, Math and Science, are always prioritized first. While it is understandable that the administration does not prioritize between grades, some students feel that certain grades are considered most important in regard to the college application process and therefore should be prioritized.

Many juniors were faced with scheduling dilemmas this year as they were misplaced in multiple classes and had few alternative options when consulting the master schedule. Also, many junior AP classes were placed during fourth, fifth and sixth periods on the schedule instead of first, second, and third. The result is shorter classes, increased absences due to sports early-outs, and a general decrease in attention. It is often emphasized that junior year is the most significant academic year of high school and subsequently many junior students felt that it was unfair that so many students were faced with such dramatic scheduling conflicts while most freshmen or sophomores had no issues.

"I have two out of three of my

AP classes during fifth and sixth period which has posed a huge problem because of my sports early-outs. I think that it is really important that sophomores, and especially juniors, have the first priority for scheduling," said an anonymous source.

This anonymous source is no longer able to take a language, a class she was hoping to continue through the AP level 5.

Not only were students largely affected by the scheduling for this year, but some teachers were disappointed that their AP classes would take place later in the day.

"I don't think any AP classes should be sixth period because they are knowledge intensive," said an AP teacher.

While it is unfortunate that there are so many scheduling issues this year, teachers understand that the issue is not the fault of the counselors and administration, but rather an issue of low funding.

While there were many scheduling issues for the junior class this year, it is understandable as the process for creating the master schedule is complex and requires much planning and organization. Some students and teachers would prefer prioritization of grades and classes above others, but the administration intends to be fair and consider all grades equally. It is unfortunate that so many students were unhappy with their final schedule, but the process to create the master schedule is arduous, long, very complicated, and the core of the issues are ultimately beyond the power of the local administration to adjust. Thus there is no one to blame for the many scheduling conflicts this year and one may only hope the scheduling process will be less complicated next year.

A recent lawsuit has just been settled between a former student and the Los Angeles Unified School District. Johnny Rider, 15 at the time, obtained a five-way cervical spine fracture during a required football drill done without proper pads and helmets. The student ended up winning the lawsuit and walked away with 2.4 million dollars.

"[The money is to] compensate him for pain and suffering, the lifelong effects of the injury, loss of future earnings and past and future medical care" says LA Times writer Martha Groves.

This brings attention to the current lawsuit that Malibu is facing in response to the city councils approval of lights on the football field. The ongoing debate was said to be finished last June when the city council voted in favor of the lights, but lawsuits have since been filed against the placement of lights on the high school football field.

"There is a law suit that has been filed by a few neighbors and they are talking with the city and school district about some of their concerns. As of today, I don't know if they have tried to get an injunction from a judge and if they did try, whether they would get one. That would be the only thing that could stop the installation of the lights as far as I know," said City Councilmember and Malibu High School mother Laura Z. Rosenthal

The 70-foot lights are still planned to making an appearance during the current 2012 football

season but not until the homecoming game. The Associated Student Body of Malibu High School is planning events for the homecoming football game, October 26th, around the placement of these new lights.

The support put forth by the students currently attending the high school has been very strong and evident throughout the four-year process of getting the lights back.

"The lights will really bring the school together and add a sense of a school spirit. In addition to being a good place to hang out with friends, it will provide newfound support for all MHS teams involved. As for the community, it will provide a great environment and event for family and friends alike to come together, enjoy one another, and root on the Sharks. Friday night lights just have a way of bringing the whole community together," said varsity football player and junior Nick Anthony.

For many football payers as well as other athletes, playing under the lights is a dream and privilege. Junior and varsity football player Anthony Kodomichalos thinks that,

"It's important that we have lights because almost all high schools have lights and it's just the atmosphere that the lights bring," said junior and varsity football player Anthony Kodomichalos.

While there is no visible progress that has been shown, the football field lights are expected to make an appearance this year.

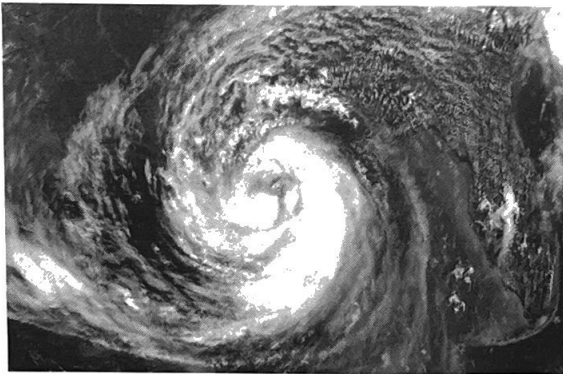
Compiled by Nate Gruendemann GRAPHICS EDITOR Sam Semler, and Emma Kelley STAFF WRITERS	PRESIDENT OBAMA	GOVERNOR ROMNEY
Jobs and Economy	President Obama passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which cut taxes for 95% of working families and small businesses. He extended the payroll tax cut, saving middle-class workers. Saved hundreds of thousands of jobs in education and law enforcement. The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act is aimed to avoid future economic crises.	In general, the Governor opposes government intervention in the economy. He aims to lower taxes, and raise eligibility age for Medicare. Romney plans to increase trade with foreign countries, as well as increase energy production, human capital, and labor flexibility.
Taxes	Raised income tax on top 2% of earners. The President claims that if reelected, he could cut our national debt by \$4 trillion dollars over the next ten years through spending cuts, an updated tax code, and increased revenues for high-income families.	Cut marginal tax rates for individuals by 20%. Romney would increase tax cuts for the wealthy and raise the taxes of the middle class to cover the cost of the said tax cuts. Romney's plan is to lower taxes for all brackets of class, and pay for the tax cuts by closing corporate "loopholes".
Education	Obama began the Race to the Top program, which rewards high-performing schools to raise school standards. Encouraged immigrants to become US citizens by participating in the DREAM Act, which encouraged college educations and military service.	Romney supports the idea of the federal government's involvement in public education. Romney would keep the "No Child Left Behind" act passed by Bush in 2001. Romney would pay bonuses to teachers with students with high grade point averages.
Health Care	The Affordable Care Act will prevent insurance companies from denying coverage to people with pre-existing conditions and canceling coverage when a customer gets sick. More than 47 million Medicare beneficiaries have access to free health services – including prescription drugs, mammograms, and health screenings.	Romney has failed to unveil his plan for future health care. Romney as president would immediately dismantle the health care plan set up by President Obama (Obamacare).
Equal Rights	President Obama repealed "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," an official United States policy that barred openly gay, lesbian, or bisexual persons from serving in the military.	Romney believes that abortion should not be interfered with by politics and should be the woman's decision. Romney is against Gay marriage.

# Isaac hits on the anniversary of Katrina: the aftermath

Anna Leah Eisner  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Almost exactly seven years to the date after Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Isaac passed

through New Orleans on the week of August 29th. This tragic coincidence has caused people to reflect upon how America's response to natural disasters has



**THE EYE OF THE STORM:** Despite the comparatively lesser damage of Isaac, the storm was still great.

50 levee failures were reported by the time the storm had passed through New Orleans. This incredibly high number of failures should not be acceptable by American standards. We had the

However, the failure of the levee led to speculation on the possibility that the levees still are not as secure as they ought to be. The effects of Hurricane Isaac provoke the argument that the levees should be held to higher standards, despite improvements since Katrina.

Another difference between Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Isaac is the level of preparation that happened in the days leading up to them. After Hurricane Katrina, many people questioned why action was not taken sooner. Previous mayor Ray Nagin of New Orleans did not give out the emergency evacuation order until the day before Katrina hit the city. This caused the death toll to be much higher than was possible.

"The problem with Isaac was that it stopped right over us so the duration of the storm led to more problems. Power ended up going out in the dorms and we were in mandatory lockdown for 42 hours. They didn't expect this," said Baum.

It was a surprising turn of events for the city of New Orleans, but people were more cautious when Hurricane Isaac hit and consequently were able to reduce the potential damage.

In addition to the preparation, the aftermath was dealt with differently than it was after Hurricane Katrina. Former President George W. Bush was criticized on several grounds regarding the care of New Orleans after Katrina. The first being that transcripts reveal

the levees to be breached. The second criticism being that the relief efforts were not effective in truly helping to clean up the city of New Orleans. These efforts were less efficient because the declaration of state of emergency had not incorporated several coastal parishes in Louisiana, including New Orleans. The ineffective relief efforts contributed to the lingering effects of Katrina that are still notable in New Orleans today.

The cleanup of New Orleans after Hurricane Isaac, however, has produced more positive feedback. Funding for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has been sufficient, and relief efforts are anticipated to be swift this year. Although no hurricane can be prevented, there are certain steps to be taken to minimize the damage. Hurricane Katrina was a devastating disaster in this nation's history that will not be forgotten. Hurricane Isaac is



**THE DEVASTATION OF KATRINA:** In 2005 Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans causing colossal damage.

ability and time to create a safe city so the levee failures were preventable. Much of the criticism surrounding the disaster of Katrina involves the Corps of Engineers failing to build adequate levees to hold out against a hurricane as strong as Katrina. Additional criticism is aimed at the government for not holding the company to the proper standards. This criticism is somewhat founded because the Corps of Engineers had put sand in place of clay and some of levees were generally poorly maintained.

During Hurricane Isaac, only one levee was breached. Since Katrina, America has spent 14.6 billion dollars on new flood defenses in preparation for tropical storms and hurricanes like Isaac.

Before Hurricane Isaac hit this year, current New Orleans mayor Mitch Landrieu said, "Do not let the storm lull you into complacency. That would be a terrible mistake." This hurricane, officials attempted not to repeat their mistakes from Katrina.

At Tulane University, former Malibu High School student Alex Baum speaks about her experiences with Hurricane Isaac.

that he knew there was a chance of levees breaking, and yet he had made earlier statements saying that people were not antici-

just one of tests America will face of not only how we deal with disaster, but our unity.

changed since Hurricane Katrina. Hurricane Isaac made its landfall on August 28th, 2012 as a Category 1 hurricane. It caused almost 1.5 billion dollars in damage, as well as at least 9 fatalities.

Hurricane Katrina was a Category 3 hurricane when it touched in Louisiana on August 29th, 2005. It caused 81 billion dollars in damage, and over 1,830 fatalities.

The question now is: Why was one so much less impactful than the other? Of course, the more obvious reason is that the storms were of different strengths. However, this alone should not have accounted for the huge difference in effect of the two hurricanes.

During Hurricane Katrina, over

## We're gonna need a bigger boat

By Georgia Johnson  
STAFF WRITER

Malibu High's broadcast television program is back for its third season. Shark TV is currently in production on its fourth episode of the year that is shown during second period every two weeks in lieu of announcements.

Shark TV was the brainchild of members of the Advanced Film Studies class in the winter of 2009. Davis Thacker, Chase Hall, Evan Schoenbrun and CJ Keossian, 2010 graduating seniors, all created Shark TV in order to try and bring school spirit to MHS.

"We think we did a lot for school spirit," said Hall. Shark TV produced 11 episodes that school year including the April Fools Episode where Ms. Ford, Dr. Kelly, Mr. Wenker and Mr. Corrigan all sat in to replace the anchors for one episode.

Yet the following year, the seniors who took over only managed two episodes. The legendary Ms. Stowell realized that without a class devoted to Shark TV, the broadcast might die. This year a

Film and Television Production class was created for the production of Shark TV.

This year the Shark TV class started off strong, getting their first episode out in three weeks and have subsequently produced an episode a month. Senior Sabrina Parra is producing the episodes with the help of a class of 36 juniors and seniors. "Although it is difficult to put to-

gether such a complex program, I think the students in the class work really well together and we

ingly favorable. "I think it's really great that people are actually committing to the idea of



**THE CHAMPIONS:** Anchors Vinny Van Patten, Harris Wilson, and Mia Nunez bring plenty of charisma to the screen.

feel very productive," said Parra. The response from students, staff, and parents has been overwhelm-

a cool tradition and I think our senior class should keep it going and hopefully the next group of

seniors will continue Shark TV," said senior and Shark TV anchor Mia Nunez.

It seems as though Shark TV has finally moved past the trial stage and is starting to find its unique style and produce episodes more frequently with a heightened quality.

"I am proud to work on Shark TV because it takes a lot of creative people and a lot of effort and time. After all that we make something that is fun for the audience," said Parra.

Shark TV features three hilarious anchors, seniors Harris Willson, Vinny Van Patten, and Nunez. Senior Sabrina Parra is the producer and director. Shark TV is primarily written by junior Josh Corrigan, senior Scott Wesson, and senior Ellie O'Neil. After all the jokes are told and the skits are finished, the show is perfected by senior editor Chris Sol.

So what is in store for the next episode? Parra assures us that the show will feature more skits and jokes, and keep classrooms laughing while staying informed about what is going on at Malibu High School.



# The Current



First Place with Special Merit:  
American Scholastic Press Association  
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 Sport Photo, Second Place:  
L.A. Times Student Journalism Awards 2003

Outstanding Sports Reporting:  
Quill and Scroll Society, 2005

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Special thanks to the MHS PTSA, the Shark Fund, Pierre Coursey, Joe DiMercurio.

**Kelsey Borenzweig**  
ONLINE EDITOR

First Lady Michelle Obama's speech at the Democratic National Convention in North Carolina was powerful and inspirational. Not only did Obama capture the essence of the American spirit through her captivating personal stories, but she also idealized the campaign for the rights of females.

The heart-warming anecdotes told by Obama were effective in rallying the utmost support of her audience, whom continue to hold onto the promise of the American dream, and a hope of a better life. In her speech, she mentioned the bankruptcy of schools that threatens the jobs of educators, as well as inspiring tales of military families. Through Obama's focus on ordinary Americans, who have adopted a Puritan-type work ethic in order to make the ideal American dream a reality, her speech seemed to keep this hopeful spirit alive.

Significantly, Obama also demonstrated how the American spirit affected her own family, as well as Barack Obama's. Her family's inspirational story

exemplifies that the power of determination can overcome the circumstances in which one is raised. The fundamental American dream entails that hard work will earn one an individual success, apart from the conditions of one's upbringing, such as initial wealth. While Obama gave insight to the fact that both her and Barack's families were not wealthy, their families provided them with something more valuable than money: the unconditional support necessary to succeed.

The seemingly ordinary life of Obama reinforces the notion that her family is similar to any average American family. For instance, the hard-working nature of her father connects to almost every American's lifestyle in that he worked hard to provide a superb education, which he was deprived of, for his children. The difficulties that her family faced in affording higher education is a struggle many Americans deal with. This challenge is overcome through the willingness of parents to make sacrifices that will provide their children with an opportunity to realize the American dream.

Obama combined aspects of her family's hardships with that of the average American family to rally support. She made it clear that she understands the sufferings of many families. This idea was exemplified in her statement that "even if you don't start out with much, if you work hard and do what you're supposed to do, then you should be able to build a decent life for yourself and an even better life for your kids and grandkids." This statement combined the ideas of the American dream and American spirit, which effectively guided her speech. Not only did this concept guide her speech, but it also influenced the formation and ideology of America from its very start. Obama's focus on "dignity and decency- how hard you work matters more than how much you make... that helping others means more than just getting ahead yourself" exemplified the struggles that Americans face in pursuing the American dream.

While many have twisted this concept in ways that have selfish repercussions, the profound ideology behind it is that helping others and working hard results in success.

However, the American dream was not the sole entity that Obama focused on. Rather, her emphasis on the role of women in society was one that stirred a fervent response from her female supporters. Obama truly possesses a unique ability to electrify her female audience, as was clearly demonstrated on September 4 at the Democratic National Convention. While her emphasis on women's rights combined aspects of political thought and personal decisions, Obama concluded that "Women are more than capable of making our own choices about our bodies and our health care." This statement has far-reaching consequences. Not only are women capable of making choices that impact our bodies and health care, but Obama represents a powerful voice for women.

Michelle Obama is a genuine role model for all girls in America, as she provides a voice for all woman and signifies the success that can result from hardwork: the American Dream.

## Presidential Debate: Boring Shocker!

**Josh Corrigan**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Recently, the first presidential debate took place and the results were surprising. President Obama, despite one's view on his policies, is undoubtedly a great public speaker and debater. On the other hand, Republican nominee Mitt Romney has the reputation of putting his foot in his mouth every time he speaks. So based on this precedent, it would seem as if Obama would be able to win this debate easily and continue to rise in the polls. Regardless of these expectations, Romney ended up winning the debate with ease. It is hard to say that Romney out debated Obama, because he did not necessarily speak with any greater skill. The problem appeared on the other side.

Obama seemed as if he did not want to be there. Maybe he was just anxious to get back to his wife for their twentieth anniversary or had more important presidential matters to attend to, but never the less, Obama had a very poor debate. Throughout the entire debate, Obama never challenged Romney on his ideas or called him out on factual mistakes. In fact, the only time there was any direct confrontation between the two was when Romney did not quite grasp the concept of outsourcing. Other than that, the debate consisted of impassionate statements of different facts. The debate was so boring that I literally fell asleep half way through watching it. Romney gave Obama plenty of chances to back him into a corner. Romney did the classic political move in his saying what the people wanted to hear while completely contradicting himself. Obama just looked as bored

as most of the audience probably did, and he chose not to do anything about it.

The long-term effect of this debate will most likely be minimal, but will be recorded as a massive defeat for the Obama campaign. In the events running up to the debate, Obama was running an impeccable campaign without really having to try. Until the debate, Romney managed to offend millions of Americans with his out of touch remarks and actions. For example, on the topic of welfare, Romney tanned his face a darker shade to appeal to the minorities he was speaking for. Furthermore, Mitt Romney's Republican convention was overshadowed by Clint Eastwood talking to a chair. The only thing Obama



THE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE, October 3, 2012: A night of unexpected victory for Romney

needed to do to maintain this momentum was to have a successful democratic convention, which he did, and not say anything stupid. Therefore, Obama, despite having positive momentum, managed to lose some of it after loosing what should have been a routine victory in this debate. However, a few days after the

debate the unemployment rate dropped down to 7.8%, so Obama can take a huge sigh of relief. Therefore, assuming the unemployment rate continues to remain low, and the economy does not take another turn for the worst, it will take a few more miracles for Mitt Romney to become president.

## 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 refuse guest columns or edit them for length and inappropriate content. Obscene or libelous letters or those that may be construed as personal attacks will not be printed.

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# Bullying Needs to Stop Now!

Olivia Cerio  
STAFFWRITER

On September 6, 2012, fourteen-year old student **Katie Simpson** committed suicide. She left a video suicide note stating that she had been consistently bullied, which was the reason for her fatal decision.

It is common knowledge that since the beginning of the public school system, there has been an unspoken but obvious hierarchy, which leads to students bullying and belittling their peers. What's alarming is the fact that bullying occurs so frequently, but when you ask anyone about the subject they always respond in the same general way: "Bullying is bad". This raises the question how, if it's considered "universally" bad, is it still happening?

According to The American Justice Department, "In 85% of bullying cases no intervention or effort is made by a teacher or administration member of the school to stop the bullying." People are aware bullying exists in their environment but they don't know what to do or how to help.

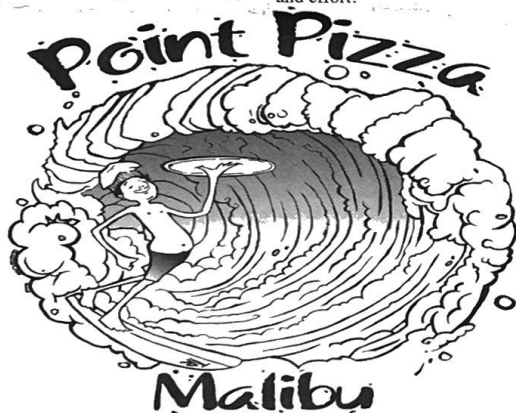
At Malibu High School, bully-

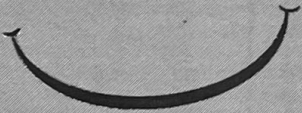
ing is less common in high school than it is in middle school. This is a general truth according to the National Center for Education Statistics. Perhaps maturity is a factor. Perhaps some people are ignorant about the fact that their words can deeply affect others.

"Bullying is disgusting behavior. Anyone who has to hurt others for their benefit needs serious psychological help," said freshman, **Emma Kelly**.

"The worst part is I have no idea how we can prevent bullying in schools. For as long as we've had standardized education, kids have found ways to make each other miserable," said Kelly.

Malibu High School should be doing more to prevent bullying. The Boys and Girls Club has many members from both middle and high school. An after school program or event discussing bullying would provide the students with a positive reminder of how they should treat each other. This program would help to reduce bullying and it would benefit the students. They would feel more safe going to school and the programs would be worth the time and effort.



  
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# Pussyriot: The band that's making a statement!

Ryan McGowan  
STAFFWRITER

It can safely be said that one can divide America's population into two Groups: people who like punk rock, and people who really loathe communists. In that case, fifteen women from Russia have become a symbol of a cause everyone can get behind.

Pussy Riot is a collective of feminist punk musicians hailing from Moscow Russia. They are reported to have about twelve members, with fifteen other individuals who tape, edit, and post their signature performances online. Several women in brightly colored tights and balaclavas characterize a typical Pussy

Riot performances and shows are generally held spontaneously in public places without governmental consent. In fact, the Pussy Riot targets the Russian government, attacking them through the group's song lyrics.

Despite having been formed in late 2011, Pussy Riot only drew international attention in mid 2012. This came when five members staged a performance of their song "Punk Prayer - Mother of God, Chase Putin Away!" in the Cathedral of Christ the Savior, a famous cathedral in Moscow, on February 21st, 2012. Barely a minute into the perfor-

mance, church security escorted the band out. On March 2nd, **Nadezhda Tolokonnikova** and **Maria Alyokhina** were arrested under charges of hooliganism, and a third member, **Yekaterina Samutsevich**, was arrested two weeks later.

Pussy Riot grew in notoriety over the summer, with dozens of noted musicians, artists, and foundations supporting Pussy Riot and demanding its release. Supporters range in diversity from **Yoko Ono** to **Green Day** to **Peter Gabriel**. **Kathleen**



**MAKE SOME NOISE:** Pussy Riot members shockingly perform in a famous Cathedral in Moscow.

**Hanna**, lead singer of legendary girl punk band **Bikini Kill**, often credited as the founder of the Riot Grrl movement of the 1990s, has been particularly vocal about Pussy Riot. "My band [Bikini Kill] suffered jeers, violence and hate campaigns against us, but we never even thought about going to prison for our beliefs." Pussy Riot is not without criticism, however.

"Just because their ideas are controversial doesn't mean they deserve incarceration," said **O'Neil**.

Opinions on Pussy Riot certainly vary internationally in respect to human rights, feminism, freedom of speech and wrongful imprisonment, but what about their music? Pussy Riot has made it pretty clear they're less



**LOCKED UP:** Members of the Pussy Riot band, appear to be confident despite their unfortunate situation.

of a musical act than a political statement, but has anyone even spared a second to actually listen to the lyrics in the music instead of reading translations on the Inter-

net? Many people have pointed out the popularity of Pussy Riot in America draws strongly on feelings of Anti-socialist vendettas left intact from the Cold War.

"The controversy feels like a show of injustice, and like another way to garner American spirit." said senior **Ellie O'Neil**.

Offering a personal opinion as a fan of punk rock of all shapes, styles, genders, and languages, I have to admit, this stuff is pretty rad. The Russian is a nice touch.



By Annie Thacker  
STAFF WRITER

### Gossip Girl

On October 8th, Gossip Girl premiered their first episode of their final season. This season promises to be very dramatic, as the last season left off with Blair choosing between Chuck and Dan, and a lonely drugged Serena leaving town with a strange man. Additionally, in this season we will be introduced to two new characters, and we will see Nate on the hunt for the real Gossip Girl.

"Gossip Girl is everything you need in life," said senior Riley Spencer. Tune in to the CW every Monday night at 9 pm to find out what Riley's talking about.

### The Vampire Diaries

Our obsession with vampires will continue into season four of The Vampire Diaries. The last season left off with the question of whether or not Elena would become a vampire, which has been answered in the premiere episode. As for the rest of the season, we should expect the continual love triangle between Stefan, Elena and Damon. Between the incredibly sexy cast and the constant dose of drama, The Vampire Diaries is sure to whet your appetite.

### Glee

Glee is a whole new show this season, after eight of the characters graduated from high school. In the season premiere, which aired on September 13, we switched back and forth between McKinley High, where new characters happen to very closely resemble the old, and New York Academy of the Dramatic Arts, where Rachel is attending. The show is drama packed, as Coach Sue has a new baby, and Kate Hudson plays Rachel's new, not-so-glee-ful teacher. Glee will air on FOX every Thursday at 9 pm.

### Ben and Kate

This new comedy is about a brother and sister who start living together as adults. Ben and Kate are complete opposites, and while Kate tries to help put Ben's life back together, Ben tries to get Kate to live a little. Critics say that the endearing relationship between the characters works and is also very humorous. The first episode aired on September 25 and will continue to play Tuesday nights on FOX.

## Fall TV Previews

### The Mindy Project

The Mindy Project, which aired September 25, stars Mindy Kaling, who most of us know as Kelly from The Office. It is a new sitcom about a unique doctor and her life challenges. According to TV critics, this is the funniest of the new comedies this fall. See for yourself on Tuesday nights on FOX.



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**MHS Students 20% Off!**

Malibu Community Labor Exchange invites you to their fall fundraiser, the showing of the movie, "The Fence," written and produced by Malibu resident, Roy Kennedy. The event will be held in Elson Auditorium on the Pepperdine campus on November 4th. A \$100 reception prior to the film will honor the work of center director, Oscar Mondragon. The movie will be shown at 6:00 and will be followed by a panel discussion.

We urge you to attend and support our efforts through a generous donation. If you cannot attend, please write a check and send it to Malibu Community Labor Exchange at P.O. Box 2272, Malibu, CA 90265.

The board is indebted to Craig DeWitt and his family for their generous donation of the movie and for their support of our efforts.



**THE FENCE (LA BARRA)**  
A Film By Roy Kennedy

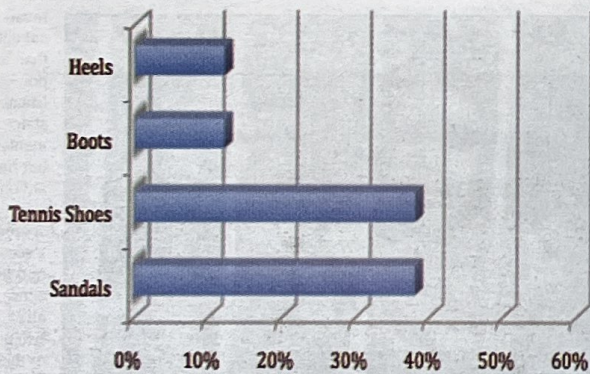
12 designs  
14 construction companies  
100 engineers  
7,000 construction workers  
120,000 tons of metal  
OVC \$2.3 billion dollars  
Was it all worth it?

## What's Kickin' It?

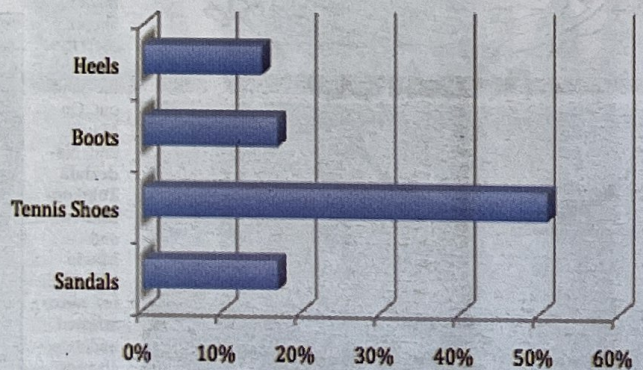
By Nicholas Paige  
STAFF WRITER

The results of a poll of 75 students which asked what type of shoes they wear the most, conducted in 1996, are compared to the results of the same poll, conducted in 2012, below.

% of Students in 1996



% of Students in 2012





# Drink good coffee, read good books

Nikita Weber  
STAFFWRITER

**B**ank of Books has come to Malibu! The newest addition to the Point Dume Plaza has taken Malibu by storm. This independently owned bookstore has a huge collection of books and even has a coffee shop inside. The store is open Monday through Saturday from 9:30am to 7:00pm, and on Sundays from 10:00am to 5:00pm.

The company began in 1998 when they opened their first bookstore in Ventura, CA. The landlord contacted the owner of the store in an attempt to get another bookstore on this side of Malibu.

The company also has two additional warehouses with over two million books in them, holding a huge variety of books and art pieces.



**DELICIOUS ORGANIC COFFEE:** Cafecito Organico makes fresh organic coffee for you to enjoy while reading a good book.

might need for their classes.

Once a month every Friday the bookstore holds a Coffee House

“It’s a safe place for people to come at night in a safe environment,” said manager **Ann Lambert**.

There is also a great program where you can give the bookstore your old or unwanted used books for a discount on the other used books in the store.

Bank of Books collaborated with Cafecito Organico to combine the space with a bookstore and a cafe.

“There is a great vibe because there is always a wonderful smell of coffee all the time and gives a cozy feel,” said Lambert.

The cafe serves coffee, scones, tea, and other assortments.

“Our main goal is to bring the community together and educate what high grain organic coffee tastes like,” said coffe shop owner **Mitch**

**Hale**.

With a great atmosphere, huge collection of books, and coffee, The Bank of Books and Cafecito Organico is the place to be.

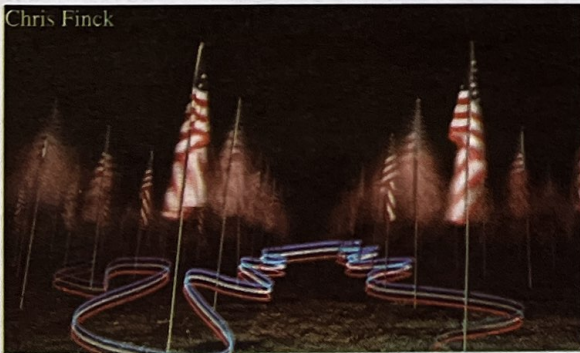


**YOU AND YOUR BOOKS ARE WELCOME:** Feel free to bring in any unused books. Bank of Books offers a store discount when you recycle your old books.

While the bookstore carries many famous authors they are also huge supporters of local artists and writers. The store always ensures that they carry the books that students

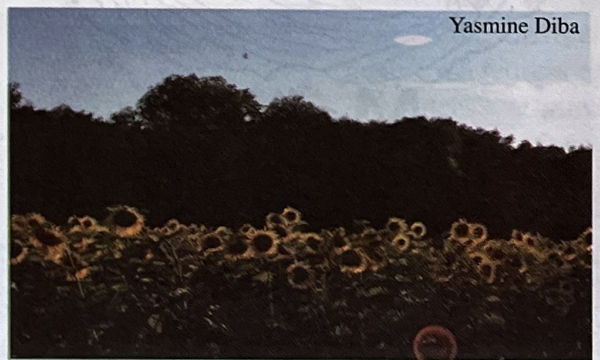
for the Malibu locals. Coming up this October 17th is Poetry Night. Here Malibu locals will be sharing poetry and prose from 7:00-8:30pm. The admission is free.

Chris Finck



Sarah Shoemaker

# S T U D E N T W O R K





Yasmine Diba



Kiyana Eshai

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Gigi Hadid



# 10 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT MALIBU...

By Lauren Louks  
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT CO-EDITOR

1. Sunlife has a secret menu.
2. At the top of Circle X, a hiking trail in Malibu, you can see five different counties.
3. Nicki Minaj has a house in Malibu.
4. The Malibu High Girls Tennis Team is ranked #5 in all divisions of CIF in the southern California section and #1 in division 3.
5. If you live in Malibu, you can sell your fruit or vegetables at the Malibu Sunday farmer's market.
6. It takes approximately 17 minutes to drive over Kanan.
7. Zuma Beach is a public beach because the original family could not pay their taxes and gave up the beach as a replacement.
8. Malibu High School is starting construction for two more tennis courts in approximately two months.
9. Up many canyons of Malibu such as Corral and Coastline, the mountains are part of unincorporated Los Angeles, not Malibu. They receive the benefits of Malibu, such as schools, fire department, and sheriffs, but have to report to the city of Los Angeles in order to receive building permits.
10. The ocean from Paradise Cove to Big Dume is now a marine protected area and cannot be fished.

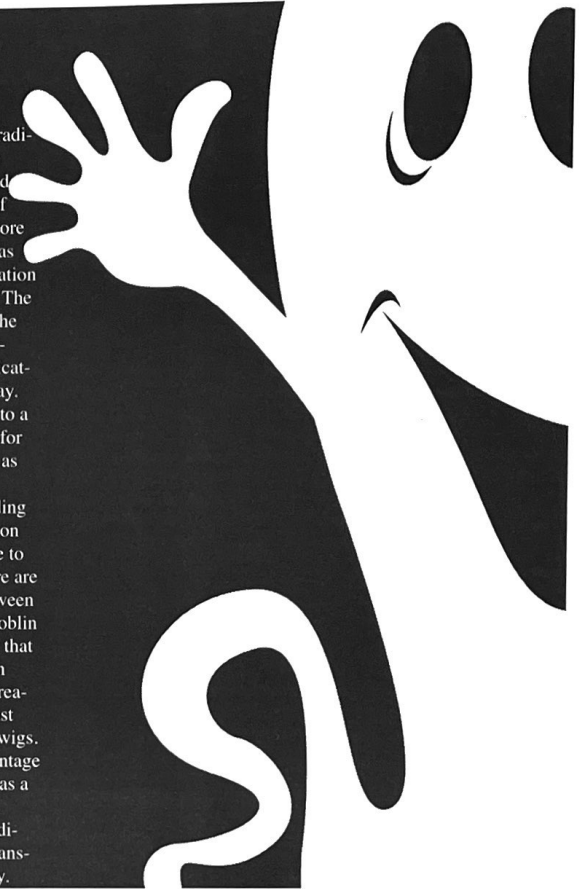
## MALIBOO

By Madison Webster  
OPINION EDITOR

**H**alloween is a holiday based on traditions. It has existed for centuries and is believed to have originated with the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, when people made bonfires and wore costumes to fend off wandering ghosts. It was considered a pagan holiday due to its association with "ghosts" intermingling with the living. The influence of Christianity and the actions of the Pope during the first millennium A.D. transformed Halloween without completely eradicating the beliefs the Celts based around this day. Over the years, Halloween has developed into a family oriented holiday, and an opportunity for children to dress up in costumes and collect as much candy as possible by trick or treating.

It's that time of year again. The weeks leading up to Halloween have arrived and the question on everyone's mind is what to be, and where to get a costume? In the Los Angeles area, there are many great places to find that perfect Halloween attire, whether you want to be a gruesome goblin or a cheerful pumpkin. If you're looking for that unique find, check out Ursula's Costumes on Wilshire Blvd in Santa Monica or Hidden Treasures in Topanga Canyon. Ursula's has a vast selection of costumes, masks, makeup, and wigs. Hidden Treasures is an ideal place to find vintage costumes and accessories. Either location has a great selection to create your perfect get up.

So go out and embrace this century old tradition! You're never too old to dress up and transform yourself into a different being for a day.



## "End of Watch" review

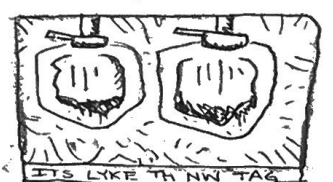
By Julian Paige  
STAFF WRITER

**W**ritten and directed by David Ayer, "End of Watch" puts you in the center of the chase. "End of Watch" is like nothing you have ever seen before. The film illustrates the difficult work of two police officers, who attempt to keep the streets safe. During a traffic stop, two LA cops bust and confiscate a small amount of cash, as well as some guns from a cartel. The drug cartel puts a hit on the two cops, played by Jake Gyllenhaal and Michael Peña. By risking their lives everyday, you will discover how the cops and their families will pay for their actions. This new action thriller, with Gyllenhaal and Peña, appeals to the audience with the perfect amount of drama, action, and a little bit of humor. The chemistry and characterization between Jake Gyllenhaal and Michael Peña was exceptional, despite the simple plot. The last scene blew audiences away. Audiences looking for action as well as a little bit of romance should not miss this thrilling movie.

## Borderlands 2 review

By Jack Klane  
STAFF WRITER

**B**orderlands 2 is a video game that hit the shelves on September 18<sup>th</sup> 2012 for the PC as well as for the Xbox and PlayStation consoles. The plot of the game consists a group of "vault hunters" who are seeking treasure on a planet known as Pandora. They are tricked by a man named Handsome Jack and are nearly killed. The game starts off by familiarizing you with the controls. Then it throws you straight into the action where you must kill a bunch of six-armed snow monkeys to retrieve the eye of your cruel robot master named Clap-Trap. The game play itself is very fluid; you can be shooting an enemy one moment and slicing up another the next. In the start of the game you get to choose a class. For example, the assassin class really affects how you play the game based on your selection. The game is also co-op so you can play with all of your friends. However, the loot that the enemies drop in the co-op is not different for every player and it always leads to a fight, especially for those who like to play games with random people. Compared to the first Borderlands game, the storyline is much broader and has more character development. However, the game contains flaws such as game-bugs. Overall it's a very good game in comparison to the first Borderlands game.



BY EVAN JULIAN MCGIFFERT



# Mr. Block outlines new ideas for school

By Elena Clairfield  
ARTS & ENT. EDITOR

**D**r. Kelly left Malibu High School to serve as the new Director of Student Services in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District after eight years of being principal. In his last year at Malibu, the school was ranked the 52nd best high school in California and 265th in the country, revealing Kelly's amazing accomplishments regarding students' standardized testing scores and their preparedness for college.

The school's new principal, **Jerry Block**, came from a seven-year term as assistant principal at Oak Park High School. Before that, he was the chair of the modern language program and the Coordinator for Testing and Staff Development at Calabasas High School, along with the PTSA Support

Provider at Las Virgenes Unified School District.

"They [Malibu students] have just made me feel so incredibly welcomed," said Principal Block.

"I would like to see growth in technology, more elective offerings, and more opportunities for students." -Principal Block

He also noticed the difference in size between Malibu High School and the other schools that he was at, Oak Park High School and Calabasas High School.

"It's a much smaller school than both of the other schools," said Block.

He explained both the pros and cons to having a small school.

"The good is that there really is a lot more of a connection between the staff and faculty and the students. The difficult thing is we don't have as much variety in terms of electives and course offerings," said Block.

Block's goals for the upcoming year don't include drastic

change.

"I want to get to know everybody and to work with the teachers and the community," said Block.

However, he explained about the WASC process happening this year. WASC stands for the Western Association of Schools

and Colleges and serves as one of the six regional accrediting associations in the United States. Essentially, the purposes of the WASC process are to ensure that a school is a trustworthy institution of learning and to assist with any improvement of programs or operations necessary in order to fully support student education. There

are three steps of this process: the self-study, in which the staff and representatives of the students and the community reflect on the school's strengths and weakness-

es; the visit, conducted by a visiting committee of three to eight people who provide an outside perspective of the quality of the curricular and instructional program available for students; and the follow up, where the Accrediting Commission for Schools decides on a status of accreditation for each school after examining all the data presented.

"The big project this year is for the entire school, including the administration, students, teachers, and community members, to participate in that self-review," said Block.

He assured that students would be taking part in the review to aid in evaluating what the school excels at and what it needs to improve on.

Looking forward, Block wants to use what comes out of the six-

year WASC review in forming goals for the school over the next few years.

"There are a lot of stakeholders in Malibu, not just the administration," said Block.

He aims to account for what the students, teachers, parents, and community members want to see happen to the school.

"I would like to see growth in technology, more elective offerings, and more opportunities for students," said Block.

This could include making Mandarin a language offering, which he executed at Oak Park High School.

"I think Mandarin is such an important language in the 21st century, but the issue that might arise is because there is such a small student population, there may not be enough interest to run three languages," said Block.

Nonetheless, he is still open to that idea and others. Malibu High School's students, teachers, and parents, along with the rest of the community, are excited to welcome Mr. Block as the new principal and are hopeful for the years to come.



**NEW PRINCIPAL:** Malibu High School acquires a great, new principal in Mr. Jerry Block.

## Religion's role in public schools

By Amber Collins-Parnell  
ARTS & ENT. EDITOR

**I**n the system of public education, a student is confronted with religion in their schooling in various forms, however the extent to which this is truly acceptable is a question that society commonly faces. On one end of the spectrum, there are those who advocate the promotion of religion in public schools, which consequently tend to be their own. On the opposing side, there are those that strongly feel that public schools should be religious free zones. Even so, neither of these views fit the principles of the religious clauses of the First Amendment.

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances," states the United States Constitution.

The alternative that does coincide with the First Amendment is in brief: public schools may not indoctrinate religion, but should still protect religious liberty rights and treat them with fairness and respect. In theory this statement fully covers the dilemma, however most situations are seemingly borderline in retrospect.

According to recent reports, cheerleaders in a public school located in Texas dealt with this very situation for their use of Bible verses on football game banners. Many claim that these signs are unconstitutional and inappropriate while others reveal opposition towards this government censorship. A hearing for the case is set for October 4, 2012, however it

seems as though legal precedent is out of favor for the cheerleaders.

Looking back at the nineteenth century, conflicts over religion in education were hardly new. Catholics and Protestants frequently argued about which readings or prayers were appropriate for use in a classroom. Catholics also felt that the King James Version of the Bible was infringing because Protestants favored it. Fighting broke out in the 1840s and simi-

ous states granted privileges to specific religions. Following the Everson decision, the Supreme Court strictly applied these religious clauses in cases such as *McCullum v. Board of Education* and *Zorach v. Clauson*.

In the 1960s, religious conservatives faced a series of major defeats starting with *Engel v. Vitale*, which removed school-sponsored prayer. These, as well as various other cases, ultimately led up to the *Santa Fe Independent School*

ample, is it truly possible to teach the Bible as literature without representing a bias idea regarding one's beliefs? Are students obligated to perform in a Christmas-themed music performance? Or in even further difficult terms, if a student brings their own faith into school activities, is the school legally responsible for the student's expression?

These issues are complicated to an additional degree by other constitutional guarantees such as freedom of speech and association. Religious groups tend to cite these guarantees especially in effort to obtain school sponsorship and resources for religious clubs. In concerns with clubs, various issues have arisen regarding one's sexuality. In some student religious groups, students want the right to exclude others that have a difference in beliefs.

On another note, the Pledge is recited on average, tens of millions of times a day, largely by students in schools across America. In 1954, the Pledge was revised to refer to the nation as "under God," a phrase has been recited by generations of students. This change was made during the McCarthy era as a result of a communism scare. In 2000, Michael Newdow

filed a lawsuit that challenged this revision, on the behalf of his daughter who was currently a public school student in California. Newdow strongly felt that the amendment of this phrase violated the Establishment Clause. After reaching the Supreme Court in 2004, justices did not immediately decide whether the revision was acceptable or not. Rather, the court ruled that because Newdow did not have legal custody of his daughter, he lacked the standing to bring this lawsuit. Following

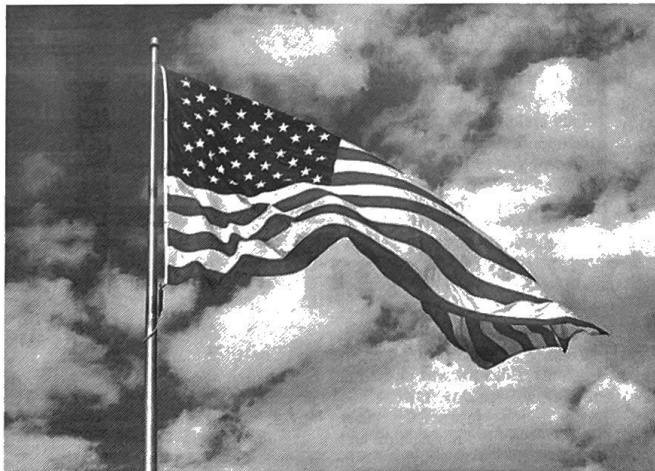
this decision, four of the justices expressed the view that the Constitution permitted the recitation of this phrase in public schools. Since then, this issue is being lit-

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances" -*United States Constitution*.

gated in lower courts and has not yet reached the Supreme Court the second time around.

At Malibu High School, the student population takes the Pledge less than seriously. Many teachers at the school allow students to choose to state the Pledge or remain seated. Most students stand with their right hand over their heart however do not state the words.

Overall it is evident that over the past decades, religion has had a lessening effect on students worldwide. In comparison to medieval times, religion in public education is seemingly nothing. However, it is up to society to decide whether this is the right choice for students in the public schooling system. Essentially, it is the students that are affected the most and the choice should be theirs.



**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE CONTROVERSY:** Is it unconstitutional to have the phrase "under God" in America's Pledge of Allegiance?

lar issues erupted in the 1850s. These conflicts ultimately overlapped into the twentieth century regarding the teaching of Charles Darwin's theory of evolution in biology classes.

The Supreme Court then decided to step in after determining that the First Amendment's Establishment and Free Exercise Clause should be applied to the states. Prior to the *Everson v. Board of Education* case in 1947, these limits were only imposed at a federal level therefore numer-

District v. Doe case, where the Supreme Court ruled that prayers initiated or led by students over a loudspeaker during football games were unconstitutional. Nine years later, cheerleaders in Georgia had nearly identical signs to those in Texas and were forced to halt the making of their banners.

It is in such decisions, overseen by the Supreme Court, which stress the prohibition of indoctrination of children in religion. As previously noted though, this is not easily determined. For ex-



# New Spanish teachers to Malibu High

By Lara Kiefer  
STAFF WRITER

With the start of the new school year at Malibu High School, students and faculty welcomed two new Spanish teachers, Mrs. McKenzie and Ms. Auer.

As MHS is a small community, students will have to get used to these unfamiliar teachers. With new leaders, come new expectations for the students. So far, the teachers have been pleased with their students' efforts and skills.

McKenzie only has two periods of Spanish, Spanish 1 and Spanish 2. McKenzie instructs the younger students, and is in charge of setting up a good foundation for them. Seventeen years ago, McKenzie taught at an inner city middle school in Cincinnati, Ohio for three years. After that she taught at another middle school in Lake Forest, California for another three years. She also has taught adults English as their second language. In her return to teaching, she is both a mother and a teacher at MHS. Two of McKenzie's children currently attend MHS: freshmen, Andrew McKenzie, and senior Graham McKenzie.

McKenzie is pleased after her 17-year break to reenter into the teaching profession.

"It was fun and exciting to return to teaching after so long, but

I was also nervous! I'm happy to say that I am glad to be back!" said McKenzie.

Auer teaches Spanish 4 and Spanish 5. So far, she really likes it at MHS and is very happy to be here. She also very fond of her students. Auer transferred from Santa Monica High School, comparatively larger than Malibu.



OUR FINEST HOUR: The language department welcomes Ms. Auer.

"It's very different [from SAMO] because the school is so small and the language department is small, which I'm not really used to," said Auer.

Auer has also taught at Hawthorne High School. Auer hopes to add some much needed stability to the Spanish program at MHS.

Students have responded positively to the methods of both new teachers.

"She is more energetic and passionate than most of my other teachers," said junior Jessica Lukvec.

This fresh start for the language department will give new life and change to the Spanish department at MHS. With the help of veteran teacher Mr. Miller, Auer and McKenzie are sure to become fully comfortable in the MHS community.

By Davis Faherty  
STAFF WRITER

After last year's Homecoming dance was a success, the tradition carries on as ASB plans another dance for this year. The theme for the dance will be 'Malibu Olympics 2012'.

"The dance is called 'The After Party', inspired by the actual after party for the athletes in the Olympics," said Junior and ASB member Emma London.

The Sharks will be playing against Fillmore, under the highly anticipated stadium lights. It has been confirmed the lights are back at Malibu, and will be here to light up the MHS football field on October 26th. The rumors circulating the hallways of MHS

about the lights have caused excitement within the student body, as the Sharks hope to restore a

students as well as the community of Malibu.

The pre-game tailgate party is also highly anticipated.

"The cheerleaders are excited for homecoming this year. We practice every week and make sure to support our football players at games. The freshmen on the team are steadily improving and are also excited for homecoming," says junior and co-captain of the Varsity Cheer Team Jade Collins-Parnell.

So far, the expectations for Homecoming are high, and the student body seems excited. Be sure to make it to the game Friday October 26th to support the team. Go Sharks!



LONDON 2012: The Homecoming Dance is based off "The After Party" for the athletes in the Olympics.

sense of spirit and tradition to Malibu. ASB hopes that the lights will draw a large crowd from the

# Mr. Murphy says goodbye

By Zena Kesselman  
STAFF WRITER

The halls of Malibu High have been emptied of one of the school's most beloved teachers, Tony Murphy, in a bittersweet transfer to Santa Monica High School. As a result of the school being asked to make cuts, it was decided by the administration that the easiest scenario for all involved would be Murphy's departure to Santa Monica. If Murphy, who already teaches at SMC and had previously worked at Samo, had not left, the last teacher hired would have had to go. As logical as the decision seems, Murphy's enthusiasm and warmth are certainly missed. As Counselor Liz Cowgill articulated, "He taught kids more than science." We wish Murphy dog the best.

Thanks for allowing me to say a few words about my feelings about your wonderful school, Malibu High School.

First of all, I'd like to thank the Malibu parents for trusting me for the last 17 years with your precious children. My challenging method of teaching has caused some of you to be sad about my transfer to SAMOHI and others of you to say, "Thank God, Mur-

phy is gone!"

I have been and still am tremendously impressed by the remarkable character of the Malibu students, the dedication of the Malibu teachers and staff, and the welcoming spirit of the Malibu community. Your students thirst for learning and their abilities to rise to the academic challenges I presented, gives me great confidence in their future pursuit in higher education and in life. Memories of why Malibu High is such a special place.....

Dale Eicks, one of the best science teachers I've ever taught with, expressing the parent-teacher relationship of what happens during "Back-to-School Night" as a "Love Fest". Truer words have never been spoken. The Malibu parents' resonating commitment to ensure that every student gets the best possible educational experience is one memory I will always cherish.

One day I was having lunch with my colleague Nancy Schellkopf, science lab technician Mona Omais, and student friend Maddie Clarfield, four people who absolutely love and adore each other. And I realized that at the table laughing and eating together were a devout Muslim, who has

had Nancy and me over for dinner with her beautiful family; A Jewish student, who thought enough of me to invite me to one of the most special moments of her life, her Ba'Mitzvah; A Mormon Sunday school teacher, who constantly picked my mind about science concepts that she could relate to God; And myself, the son of a Southern Baptist minister. Where else could this possibly occur? What an awesome place to work!!

It has truly been my honor and

"I miss you all and wish you all the best that life has to offer." - Tony Murphy

pleasure to have had the opportunity to get to know and share some GREAT memories with you all. You have made an impact on my life and I will never forget you.

I miss you all and wish you all the best that life has to offer.

Sincerely,  
Your Teacher,  
Tony Murphy

# Bye bye Bouvard

By Catalina Wrye  
FEATURES EDITOR

The French department has been in turmoil since the temporary leave of Rebecca Owens.

The son of Owens and middle school art teacher Thomas Hacker, Benjamin, was diagnosed with stage four cancer. Because of the extensive treatments needed to cure Ben's cancer, Owens was forced to take a leave of absence. Her priority is to Ben and ensuring his treatments are 100% effective. The new principal, Mr. Block, was forced to find a long-term substitute for the French classes in a very short amount of time. Madame Bouvard was chosen

as this temporary substitute. Born in France, Bouvard seemed to be more than qualified to success-

fully take over the department. Unfortunately, her time did not

last long at MHS. According to students, Bouvard was unwilling to follow what Ms. Owens had instructed causing friction and confusion in the classroom. They also felt she failed to communicate with Owens in her time spent at MHS. Without Owens lesson plans, Bouvard taught the class her own way with her own materials.

Despite students' attempts to lead her in the more familiar direction of the class, she refused the help and punished them for the com-

parison. After meetings with the administration and multiple complaints she was ultimately fired after two weeks.

"She ran the class in a dictating manner. I felt as though she didn't care about us as students or about what we had to say," said senior and French Four student, Emma Isackson.

"She was opposed to any questions we had during class and forbade us to say Ms. Owens name because it was now 'her' class" said Isackson.

A substitute was found quickly and now the French department seems to have peace and stability. Mme. Bolton directly follows the lesson plan established by Owens. She efficiently teaches the material as Owens intended. The French students believe when Ms. Owens returns to school, Bolton's methods will allow a smooth transition.

"Mmee Bolton is nice and respectful towards the class as well as follows the familiar curriculum. This helps me do better in the class," said junior Hayley Gorak.

Bolton was happy to step in on short notice and has enjoyed her time teaching the French classes.

"I love to speak French and I am always excited to teach the French language and culture. I live in France and the Mediterranean half of the year so I am constantly immersed in French speaking culture. I've previously taught French at Malibu before and am happy to be back!" says Bolton.

Malibu High School has a reputation for hosting long-term substitutes. When needed, these substitutes are blessings, but can potentially disrupt the rhythm and limit the learning capabilities of students.



FRANCAIS: Bolton says bonjour!



# Cross Country Up And Running

By Kate Keifer  
STAFFWRITER

The Malibu High Cross-Country team is running hard this season. With the motivation from all of the teammates they run hard and push themselves every day.

Karen Costello is the team's new coach, assisted by Blue Benadum. Both of the coaches started working with the team in August in the beginning of the season. Costello has been a coach for 23 years, and works in sports psychology at UCLA. Benadum, the director of the Malibu Marathon, teaches the team different techniques to help everybody on the team improve.

"His personality and knowledge on the latest training techniques add greatly to the strength of our program," adds Costello about her assistant coach.

Both coaches are loved by the team, and appreciated for what they have to offer to the team.

"Our new coaches are both very knowledgeable about running, are eager to see us improve, and are

very nice and fun to be around." Coach Costello and Coach Benadum both seem happy to coach such a great and successful team.

"I love this team. They are hard

"My motivation to run every day comes from the encouragement from teammates. Without their positive attitudes toward such a difficult sport, coming to practice would be a challenge for me. They

have made running fun for me and that is what gets me to run every day," said sophomore Caroline Pietrzyk when asked her where her motivation came from.

Some of the athletes' favorite parts about being on the team include going to In N' Out after meets, running on the beach,

and "being able to bond with my teammates and have fun while running," added Pietrzyk.

Freshman Caitlin Myers loves running on the beach during practice and on her spare time because "you can lose yourself."

Myers loves going to meets at different schools to run on their

In N' Out and devour their food. "On our team we have probably the fastest runner in the division, Caroline Pietrzyk," said Myers.

She also claims that everyone on the team has to run varsity, so it keeps the competition level up. Myers explains how running helps other aspects of your life, such as academics. Running keeps her relaxed and ready for school.

"The best part about coaching the team is the amazing area we get to train in," said Costello, which includes the beach, and the Zuma trails.

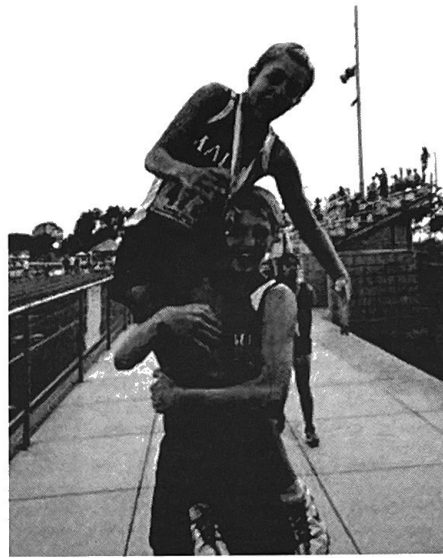
Both coaches seem to help the team immensely, with their knowledge and motivation.

It looks like the team will do well this year with all their energy and willingness to put a lot of work into their stride to improve. The team seems happy to be running this year, and they are expecting another great year.

Good luck to you this season Sharks! See you



**GORDON KEEPS COOL DURING RACE:** Senior James Gordon runs hard, trying to keep cool in the heat.



**THE CHAMPION RISES:** Junior Dyer Petijohn lifts Sophomore Caroline Pietrzyk on his shoulders after Pietrzyk medals in race.

working, dedicated, very coachable and just a fun group of athletes to be around," said Costello. The team is very encouraging to all of their teammates.

different landscapes, and of course, going to In N' Out with the team afterwards. Myers said the boys on the team sprint into

at In N' Out!

## Girls tennis slams competition

By Jens Cole  
STAFFWRITER

The Malibu High School girl's tennis team, reigning league champions, are looking forward to a strong and successful season in a tough division three.

The girls are hopeful that their new coach Doug Olen will help them improve from last year. The team has the ability "to push each

other to do our best and our coaches help will make us successful," said junior Raven Odian. With a strong lineup, the team aims to be undefeated in the tri-valley league. Yet, one opponent that Malibu needs to beat is a league rival, Oaks Christian. The rivalry between Oaks and Malibu is not just on the tennis courts, it occurs with most Malibu sports in general. The reason for the tension

among Oaks teams and Malibu teams is simply characterized as private school vs. public school, David vs. Goliath. They have "bad tempers on their part and their team and there is a lot of talking smack talking and name calling," said senior Tallulah Daly. Although the sportsmanship is not there with Oaks, Malibu lets their play do the smack talking; in the first match against Oaks, Malibu absolutely destroyed their competition, winning 14 to 4. They swept, winning 9 games out of 9 games in the singles competition, with the duo of Odian and Rachel Purewal sweeping the competition with ease in the double competition.

"Oaks is a good school in every sport and they don't like us in general," said Daly, yet she believes the feelings are mutual. "We're the only team that beats them consistently, I don't think we've lost to Oaks. They think they're better than us, so it's very disappointing for them".

A power house of seniors consisting of Daly, Britta Mosser, Emma Sittig and Isabel Anderson, want to lead this team to a CIF title (the last won CIF title was in 2002). Even with many impressive goals this year, the girls' team last year still had a respectable season; in which the team won league, reached the semi-finals of CIF and had a teammate, Mosser, win CIF in the individual play. Odian later describes how much of an impact and leader-

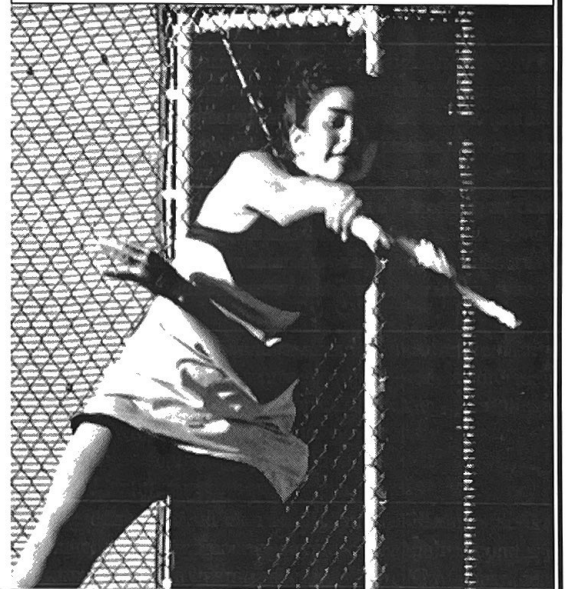
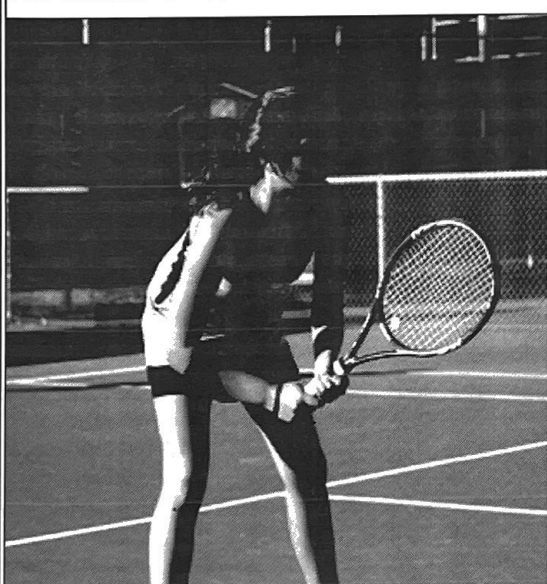
ship role Mosser has on the team, "Britta is one of our leaders and she is an amazing player and I think we all look up to her as a tennis player". Only losing two seniors from the last season, this year's team consists of the same players: Purewal, Odian, Lauren Louks, Elena Clarfield, along

saying that, "our team will win because doubles continue to improve and our singles players are the best in our division and we have eight returning starters". After a summer of hard work, solid improvement, and preparation the team is ready to start the year positively and end stronger last season.

with the seniors listed previously. Odian is confident in her team

**POW!** Junior Rachel Purwal smashes a serve. (Photo Credit to Rhonda Mosser)

**WAITING TO STRIKE:** Junior Raven Odian waits patiently at the net, preparing to volley a shot back to her opponents. (Photo Credit to Steve Galluzzo)





## Girls Volleyball: moving on up

By Lauren Louks  
ART & ENT. EDITOR

The girls varsity volleyball team begins their new season strong.

Although they lost nine graduating seniors from last year, the varsity team gained many new players.

Varsity players include seniors and captains, **Logan Beitler**, **Gigi Hadid**, **Lara Kiefer**, and **Allison Hahn**, as well as juniors **Devyn Masterson**, **Danica Downing**, **Claire Murphy**, **Agaly de Jesus**, **Jessica Lukvec**, **Dasha Iarikova**, and sophomores **Chelsea Bostwick** and **Kate Kiefer**. The juniors and sophomores are all new players and they add to the talent and depth of the team.

"This season I am looking forward to playing some really high-level volleyball against teams that will bring out our highest potential," said captain Hadid.

The team did very well last year and moved up to division two. Being a division two volleyball team brings much competition. Oaks Christian and Grace Brethren are the biggest competitors against Malibu.

Although Malibu lost in a very close match against both teams, the team hopes to play even better and defeat their rivals.

The team also played in the Cardinal classic tournament and

placed second in the tournament. The team hopes to continue to do well and improve, raising their level of play.

"As a team, I hope that we can continue to improve our team chemistry. By working together and understanding each other, we have improved greatly," said Hadid.

The team hopes to improve together as a team, improving fun communication and sharing fun experiences together.

"Our team hopes to improve from last year by having a team bond, not only on the court, but off the court as well. Also, we want to communicate and talk as much as possible when playing," says captain Beitler.

Due to the fact there are only four returning seniors, the new players must understand each other and work together this season.

"After losing nine seniors, the varsity team is a lot different this year. Fortunately we have a lot of truly talented girls in the program who are dedicated and enthusiastic," said captain Kiefer.

Nevertheless, the new players are all extremely dedicated to the practices and games, always trying their hardest.

With eight new players, and four returning players, the team hopes to succeed this season.

After a few strong performances,

the team looks like they could be able to turn their season around, and make a statement in their new league.



**SENDING A MESSAGE:**  
Senior Logan Beitler sends the ball back over the net.

## Boys Water Polo cruises to victory

By Rachel Purewal  
STAFFWRITER

The Malibu High School boys water polo team is looking forward to a successful season this year. Seated in the 6<sup>th</sup> division within the Tri-Valley league, they are looking for yet another league title and hopefully a CIF title banner. The new season starting the boys are training hard and looking forward to making it past the quarterfinals of CIF this year. Head coach **Mike Mulligan** has been training the team since the summer to get them ready for a successful season. The varsity team just won first place in the tournament that was hosted in our very own Shark Tank.

The team has won countless league titles, but this year the Sharks are determined to win the CIF championship. After being knocked out of the competition last year during the quarterfinals of CIF last year they are determined to make it farther and go all the way to the finals. The varsity team has a strong set of seniors including **Emmett Pierson**, **Sean McPartlin**, **Morgan Hawthorne**, **Dane Sartorius**, and **Jordan Clarke**.

"[The seniors] are leading by ex-

ample [and the younger boys are] seeing how hard work and team work can pay off," said Coach Mulligan.

Mulligan has high hopes for his team this year as well as the players on the team. As of now the team is just starting league with a win over Carpentaria and are confident in their abilities as a team to conquer any challenging teams that cross their path.

"We feel confident against most of our league opponents. Our greatest challenge will be Oaks Christian's counter attack and goal keeper," said junior, **Cooper Bell**.

The rivalry and tension that resides between the Oaks Christian team and the Malibu team has been continual and provides great motivation for both teams.

Junior **Jack Thompson** also believes that Oaks Christian will be a tough game.

"I'm thinking that oaks is definitely gonna be the main competitor of our season. Its definitely gonna be a challenge to beat them in CIF," said Thomson.

With only one loss on the team's record, it looks like the team has a good chance to win both league and CIF.

## Football kickoff season with record breaking performances

By Josh Corrigan  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Malibu High School football team has managed to fight its way to a 4-2 record with only two weeks to go before starting their league season.

The Sharks started the season off with a tough loss to Saint Monica 12-20, after nearly coming back from a 17-0 score at half time. However, the Sharks were not deterred by this defeat and came back to win another close

**BEAST MODE:** Senior Brennan Cassone makes an incredible one-handed catch against Chadwick.



match 32-29 after the new junior quarterback **Chase Gardella** connected with senior wide out **Brennan Cassone** for a touchdown with less than a minute left in the game. Despite this great victory, the team lost a key player. Wide receiver and kicker **Apollo Loomis** tore his ACL during the game.

The team has had to deal with a lot of injuries this season, losing many of its most important players to injury early on in the season. The team lost another close

match against Poly, 19-22. Still, the Sharks lost no determination and came back the next week at beat the formidable Flintridge Prep in overtime, 40-34.

This was the last of the close matches for the Sharks who got into their best form to destroy Webb 28-7. In the Sharks most recent match, they broke the school's all-time scoring record in a single game against Bell-Jeff.

Much of this early success is thanks to the state #1 wide receiver Cassone, who passed 1000 receiving yards this season. Cassone also has contributed largely to defense, nearly reaching the 50-tackle milestone.

Despite being such a small team, the Sharks have managed to exceed expectations. It looks as if the Sharks could be on their way to one of the best seasons in team history.

The team is also starting to show off some of its depth after replacement running back sophomore **Matt Vincent** had a 150 yard rushing game with three touchdowns last on October 5th.

The team's biggest challenge is staying healthy and maintaining the same quality of play for the full four quarters. Almost every player on the Sharks has to play on both sides of the ball while their offensive and defensive opponents have time to rest sitting on the bench. The Shark's fa-



**AN UNSTOPALBE FORCE:** Senior Alden Quartz makes a huge hit against an unexpected Chadwick receiver.

tigue as a result of this was seen when junior tight end **Antony Kodomickalos** and Cassone frightened fans after being unable to get up due severe leg cramps.

Regardless, the team still looks strong and is starting to return to full health with senior linebacker **Alden Quartz** and junior corner back **Dylan Miller**, who came back from injury for the blowout of Bell-Jeff.

With all the set backs and close losses, the Sharks, with a help of a few teal colored supporters, have remained resilient and are optimistic for the team's future success.

"The only difficult team we

have left to play is Fillmore and I think if we play the game together and play well, we can take them. We can possibly move on and go undefeated in league and hopefully make it to playoffs," said Cassone.

The Sharks will start off the league season on Homecoming night against rival Fillmore that could decide the winner of the Frontier League.

"This year we have more drive and more focus than last year," said Cassone. Hopefully this new and improved mindset will help the Sharks beat Fillmore and possibly earn them their first league title.