

the current

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CLOSING UP SHOP: Howdy's closes after over 20 years in business. Photo by Wikimedia Commons.

A District Divided

Kai Brady
STAFF WRITER

The idea of an independent Malibu school district first surfaced in 2003. During the last few months, the possibility of an independent district has increased due to recent school board elections and the work of independent organizations advocating for separation. Many Malibu parents say they are unhappy with the way the school system is organized, in which the cities of Malibu and Santa Monica share the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, or SMMUSD.

Some parents have said that they are upset with the redistribution of funds between Malibu schools and Santa Monica schools, while others say they simply want more autonomy in how Malibu schools are governed, reported the Los Angeles Times. Santa Monica makes up 85 percent of the population of SMMUSD, and until the recent election on Nov. 4, they controlled all of the seats on the Board of Education.

The Board of Education has recently become more receptive to the idea of Malibu's independence. This August, a volunteer-based Financial Oversight Committee was appointed to help guide the possible separation process.

The election of Craig Foster to the Board of Education in the Nov. 4 Midterm Election shows promise for a possible secession. Foster is the President of Advocates for Malibu Public Schools (AMPS), a group dedicated to SMMUSD's separation. Foster's election marks the first time since 2008 that a Malibu resident has held a seat on the SMMUSD board. His outspoken support for an independent Malibu school district is an important step for separation supporters.

In an interview with NBC, Foster said, "By creating two independent districts, both Malibu and Santa Monica become free to pursue their own communities'

needs under local control and the leadership of two locally elected school boards, one for each community."

Among other changes, Foster said he hopes to introduce a K-12 foreign language program, a design program, and the international baccalaureate program (IB). Foster also said he wants to strengthen the middle school soccer program if Malibu becomes independent.

Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein is also an influential member of the SMMUSD board. Tahvildaran-Jesswein is part of the growing minority of Santa Monica residents who have also spoken out in favor of separation. "I've been paying close attention to how much better AMPS is getting in its advocacy for what is truly the right thing to do, particularly from my perspective," he said to the Malibu Surfside News.

Foster and Tahvildaran-Jesswein received 16.66 percent and 16.61 percent of the school board vote respectively, taking the second and third spots in the election. Only the top four candidates are guaranteed a seat on the SMMUSD Board of Education.

Discontiguous districts such as SMMUSD have been outlawed in California since 1980, meaning that the district would not be legal if it were created today. Foster said, "Discontinuous districts don't work well, facing difficulty in reconciling the differing needs of two separate and independent communities yoked into one political entity."

MHS sophomore **Nicholas Ki-anpoor** said, "I think if the benefits are worth it then it should definitely become its own district. If it's beneficial for both Santa Monica and Malibu, I don't see why not."

One reason for separation is increased revenue for both districts. A study by WestEd, a nonpartisan consulting firm, found that Santa Monica could save up to \$1.9 million if Malibu were to separate.

Foster said, "When we create in-

dependent districts, Santa Monica will get back the \$2 million of its money that is currently spent in Malibu. Also, as a result of Malibu's geography along the beautiful Southern California beaches, Malibu would become a 'basic aid' district and receive net \$2.6 million more annual revenues than it currently receives. Both communities will see millions of dollars more each year, without a penny of new taxes."

The WestEd study also determined that teachers and staff members would be able to choose which district to remain with in the event of a split. Employee pensions would also remain unaffected, according to WestEd.

Regardless of opinion, there will be an uphill battle for Malibu's independence. Despite the two SMMUSD board members in favor of separation, the movement will have to garner signatures from 25 percent of people in the SMMUSD area before taking the argument to county and state offices of education.

Only then will the matter of an independent Malibu school district be put to a deciding vote. Foster said, "There is no set timeline for any of this, but to give it some parameters, the district superintendent, Sandra Lyon, stated in a letter to the SMMUSD community earlier this year that the process was unlikely to be completed prior to the fall of 2017."

The secession movement has faced criticism from civil rights groups regarding the racial and economic distinctions that may develop as a by-product of separation. In general, Malibu is more affluent and racially homogenous than Santa Monica, meaning that a split could decrease the diversity of Malibu public schools. Gary Orfield, the codirector of the Civil Rights Project at UCLA said, "These parents think they are protecting their kids, but what they are doing is leaving their children unprepared for the society in which they are going to live and work," reported NBC.

Howdy's Closes Cross Creek Location

Nolan Webster
NEWS EDITOR

On Oct. 27, Howdy's Taqueria closed its Malibu Country Mart location after almost 20 years in business.

Although it has closed, the much-loved restaurant is planning to reopen within the year. It will reopen under the name Howdy's Malibu Cantina where Granita Restaurant used to be, adjacent to Coogie's Beach Café in the Colony Plaza.

Howdy's closure occurred approximately two years after Chipotle opened a competing location in the Country Mart. This impacted Howdy's business, according to the owner of Howdy's, Howdy Kabrins, reported The Malibu Times.

"[Howdy's] was so overpriced," senior **Jake Durrant** said. "How could they expect to keep doing well when Chipotle comes in

right next to them and sells burritos for half the price?"

In addition to growing competition, Howdy's closure was a result of growing economic hardships for small businesses in Malibu. Along with Howdy's, Thai Dishes, Malibu Country Kitchen, and Diesel Bookstore recently closed.

Country Mart owner Michael Koss stated that a second SunLife Organics is planning on filling the vacant space.

According to Kabrins, the move may be advantageous for the restaurant, as the new space is much larger than the former location and will allow for an expanded menu and indoor dining, which was not possible in the limited space of the Cross Creek location.

"Howdy's was great. It was a staple in Cross Creek and in Malibu," senior **Cole Murphy** said. "At least it'll be back at some point."

Medical Marijuana Dispensary Approved in Malibu

Erik Vargas
STAFF WRITER

A new medical marijuana dispensary has gained approval to open in Malibu. In 2012 there were two medical marijuana dispensaries in Malibu, but federal authorities began cracking down on dispensaries in the Los Angeles and Malibu area. The two dispensaries in Malibu were closed, but following the legalization of marijuana in Colorado, Washington, and Oregon, dispensaries in California are becoming more common.

The Malibu City Council has been debating the addition of two new medicinal marijuana dispensaries for months. Because the two proposed dispensaries would be too close to each other, Malibu City Council only approved one of the two, 99 High Tide.

The approved dispensary will be located adjacent to Zuma Jay's Surfshop. Yvonne Green, the previous owner of a medical marijuana dispensary in Malibu, will operate the dispensary.

Some City Council members said they were concerned about

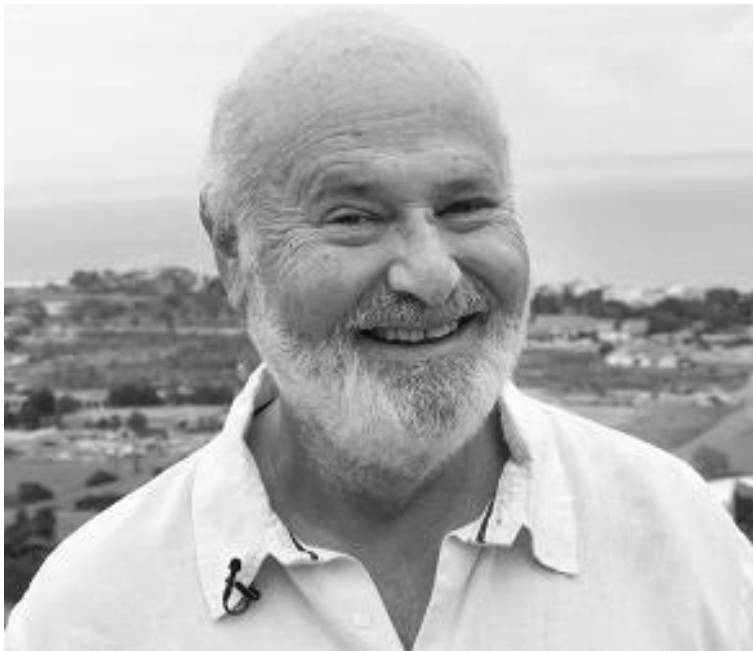
minors in Malibu having access to marijuana at the new location. In this discussion, Council member Laura Rosenthal said, "If anything, I would much prefer teenagers to be around a compassionate and medical marijuana dispensary than the other places that they're seeing and enjoying marijuana."

Although 99 High Tide has been an issue for months, students appeared unaware that a dispensary in Malibu has been approved. Many students asked said they did not know the new dispensary was opening in Malibu.

Sophomore **Abel Diaz** said, "More kids are going to be high at school and students' grades might go down because of it."

The new location will be more convenient for medical marijuana patients in Malibu, who formerly had to leave Malibu to receive treatment. The City Council approved the plan for the dispensary and Yvonne Green has acquitted the required state permits. There is currently not a set date for the opening of 99 High Tide.

Measure R Passes in Malibu



ROB REINER: One strong supporter for Measure R. Photo by CNBC.

Alec Rascoe
STAFF WRITER

Masure R passed on Nov. 5 in Malibu, a measure which allows residents to vote on which stores should be developed in Malibu so smaller non-franchised stores do not have to compete with larger chain stores.

After its approval, director, actor and activist for Measure R, Rob Reiner said, "Measure R will help preserve the unique character of Malibu and combat increased traffic and the destruction of open spaces by giving voters a say on the one million square feet of commercial development currently planned in the heart of the city and on future development plans." Due to Measure R, Malibu voters can now decide on any commercial development larger than 20,000 square feet, and chain stores are limited to 30 percent of space in new shopping centers.

The measure was intensely debated at first. Reiner defended the measure against developer and police commissioner Steve Soboroff, who said, "Measure R does the wrong thing for this community," according to Breitbart. Reiner directly replied in an interview saying, "This is not my backyardism, you bet. Everyone that lives here is concerned about their way of life. That's NIMBYism, writ large, baby."

Senior **Jeff Haas** said, "I agree with the passage of Measure R... voters should be able to control which chain stores are built." On the other hand, junior Dylan Verma disagrees with Measure R, saying, "While there should be some independent stores, Malibu needs to have chain stores to balance them. I think the power to decide whether or not to build chain stores should not be given to voters."

SpaceShip 2 Crashes in the Mojave



VIRGIN GALACTIC'S SPACESHIP 2: One dead, one injured in the aftermath of the crash. Photo by IB Times.

James Handal
STAFF WRITER

On Oct. 31, Virgin Galactic's SpaceShip Two crashed in the Mojave Desert during a test flight with two pilots onboard. One of the two pilots died in the crash. The other remains in critical condition.

SpaceShip Two, a key part of Virgin Galactic's plan to take ordinary passengers into space, launched from the Mojave Desert station successfully, but had a malfunction after it was released from White Knight Two, the rocket used to send SpaceShip Two into a 45,000 foot orbit around the earth. SpaceShip Two pilot's, Michael Alsbury and Peter Siebold, have been accused mistakenly switching the rocket engines, which caused the crash. Alsbury was killed and Siebold was taken to the hospital after a 10 mile parachute trip back to earth.

Since the crash, Virgin Galactic says they are rebuilding SpaceShip Two and hope to begin the testing phase by this summer. Virgin Galactic also says they want SpaceShip Two to be the first suborbital spaceship available for commercial flights to space.

Richard Branson, the founder and CEO of Virgin Galactic, says he hopes that the architecture of the spaceship will be a model for spacecrafts in the future. After the crash, Branson said, "Everything rests on our vision of creating accessible and democratized space that will benefit humanity in countless ways for generations to come."

Due to the crash, as many as twenty-five Virgin Galactic customers decided to get a refund. According to Telegraph Today, many passengers realized the danger of going into space and now doubt the safety of the technology. While investigating the wreckage of SpaceShip Two, the

Chief of the National Transportation Safety Board, Christopher Hart, said, "This will be the first time we have been in the lead of a space launch that involved persons on board."

Richard Branson said that Virgin Galactic will become the first commercial space company to send individuals into space. NASA has affirmed that safety of the pilots and the spacecraft's technology are under investigation and the Virgin Galactic program will not continue until further safety hazards are evaluated.

Virgin Galactic's project will be closely monitored until SpaceShip Two's investigation is complete. Virgin Galactic says it hopes to continue its launch into space in 2016.

For Virgin Galactic, everything rests on our vision of creating accessible and democratized space that will benefit for generations to come.

AMPS

ADVOCATES FOR MALIBU PUBLIC SCHOOLS

It's Clear...!

... Independent Santa Monica and Malibu school districts are better for the children and residents of both communities.

We're Endorsed By:

- Boys & Girls Club of Malibu
- Malibu Special Education Foundation
- All Four Malibu PTAs
- Malibu Association of Realtors
- All Five City Council Members
- Malibu Chamber of Commerce

.....and more to come



It's Feasible

- We have two research studies that confirm separation is feasible and outlines the pathway to separation.

www.AMPSmalibu.org
amps@ampsmalibu.org
(310) 734-2021

Ms. Bowman-Smith Stays at MHS

Nikita Weber

CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

Due to California Governor Jerry Brown's recent budget cuts to education, Regional Occupational Programs (ROP) will be cut in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School district along with many other state funded schools. The proposed \$154.9 billion budget cut threatens more than 100,000 California high school students and has directly impacted Malibu High School faculty. Even so, MHS' financial resources and loyal alumni have ensured that **Ms. Bowman-Smith** will retain her position at Malibu High School.

The ROP program helps students acquire job skills and prepare them for job opportunities in high school. The program also involves out-of-school youth and adults who gain direct experience in the work force. Courses sponsored by ROP assist students in making informed decisions about college majors and helps students build portfolios and scholarship applications for college.

As the photography, yearbook, and digital design ROP teacher, Ms. Bowman-Smith, said she became nervous when she heard the Governor's decision. Ms. Bowman-Smith began working at Malibu High 18 years ago as



THE WOMAN, THE LEGEND: Yearbook, Photo, and Digital design teacher, Ms. Bowman-Smith, pictured at her desk.

a visual arts teacher. A couple of years ago, however, MHS faced massive budget cuts and the former principal, **Dr. Kelly**, asked Ms. Bowman-Smith, and MHS theater director **Mrs. Plaia**, if they would become ROP teachers.

"I immediately said yes," Ms. Bowman-Smith said. "I didn't want any teacher to lose their job so I decided to join the program."

Dr. Kelly knew both Ms. Plaia and Ms. Bowman-Smith could qualify for ROP funding, due to art credentials. As an ROP teacher Ms. Bowman-Smith six paid periods under ROP, which also allowed the development of six more classes for the school.

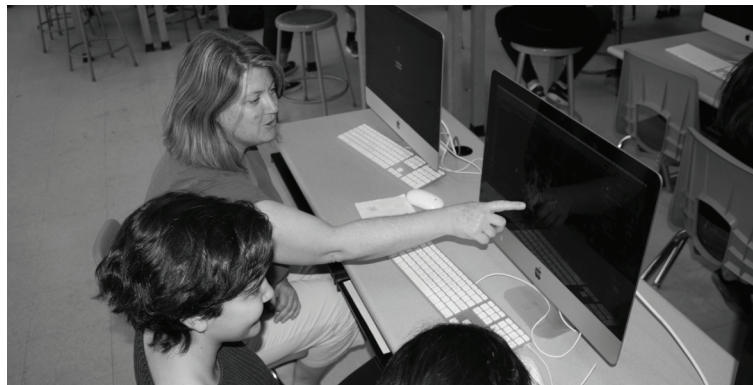
"She's like one of the most passionate teachers at our school and her room is a perfect workspace," said advanced photo and digital design student **Harrison White**. "She's funny and keeps class interesting. It's really the class I look forward to during the day."

Once the program was cut, Ms. Bowman-Smith was looking at the end of her teaching career at Malibu High School. However, in January, Ms. Bowman-Smith received news that would save her job.

MHS Principal, **Mr. Jackson** said, "We are blessed to have Sandra Lyon and Terry Deloria, who both understand secondary education, along with our school board which understands the circumstances."

It has been confirmed that neither Ms. Bowman-Smith nor Ms. Plaia will be negatively affected by the ROP cuts. Both teachers will now be funded using general education money, which comes from the state to our district.

"I am thankful for our district office and board of education for their understanding and helpfulness to MHS and our wonderful students" Mr. Jackson said.



LENDING A PROFESSIONAL HAND: Ms. Bowman-Smith giving yearbook advice to sophomore student, **Izzy Chavira**.

Teacher's Views on Common Core

Nicholas Kianpoor
STAFF WRITER

Beginning fall 2014, Malibu High School teachers have been implementing the new Common Core system into their classes programs. Common Core has been a controversial subject, with some viewing the standards as Federal infringement on state's rights, and others seeing the program as a comprehensive step towards the creation of a national education code.

Common Core began as a state initiative to standardize the nation's decentralized education system. With the Federal government grid locked over education reform, it was originally the National Governors Association brought together a panel of educated experts to develop a set of core standards for students across the nation. The standards alter previous curriculums in nearly every subject field, changing what students need to learn and how it is taught.

Officially, the program's purpose is to "provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them."

Some Malibu teachers say that common core is an improvement compared to the previous curriculum. In the mathematics department, **Mr. Wadsworth**, a geometry and multivariable calculus teacher said, "one of the big focuses is critical thinking... so learning to think about the math and apply it".

Wadsworth also said the system has its flaws. According to Wadsworth, the new standardized testing system provides less feedback for underclassmen teachers. This is because the new system only tests students during junior year, which does not allow ninth and tenth grade teachers to see the impact of their teaching at the end of each year.

While **Mr. Panish**, MHS A.P. US History and A.P Government teacher said, "[I] like the idea of Common Core in raising the bar of what is expected by our regular college prep students," but also said "the worry is [the testing] is going to reflect more on people who teach eleventh grade than ninth grade and tenth grade."

In the English department, the changes brought about by common core are "already incorpo-

rated" according to **Ms. Stowell**, a tenth grade English teacher at MHS. In English as well as Mathematics, there has been a new emphasis placed on making sure students understand the material. For these teachers, it means avoiding student memorization and focusing on the conceptual aspect of their subjects.

Mr. Ervin, MHS A.P. European History, World History, and World Issues teacher said, "It's not a major impact. It's more adding to what we already do, so even that is not going to be too much of a struggle for us or the students."

While teachers like Stowell say they like the idea of a "standard at the federal level," some disagree about the level of standardized testing. The standardized testing system has been altered from the Californian STAR exam system with the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP).

Despite the increased level of standardized testing with the new CAASPP system, Stowell said it is an improvement compared to past standardized tests. "The CSTs weren't a very good indicator of how our students were doing", Stowell said.

Ervin also said "it is an improvement from the STAR Testing that the state used to do, which tended to test more on strictly multiple choice... it didn't really get to deeper analysis or critical thinking."

While the A.P. courses that Mr. Ervin and Mr. Panish teach are developed independently of Common Core, Ervin said "It's almost like A.P. is even lining itself up with [Common Core]... it's really taking what we do well in the history classes and is building upon that."

Malibu High School experimented with Common Core implementation last year, however, this is the first year that the Common Core standards are officially implemented in each department's curriculum.

Although teachers acknowledge its flaws, most seem to consider common core an improvement from the past curriculums. Mr. Wadsworth said "(Common core is a) good transition from where we were a few years ago."



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2005, 2004

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2004

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Check out our NEW Website:

www.mhscurrent.com



COMMON CORE: The logo for the new state standard: Common Core.



School Events

February/March 2015



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	2 SPIRIT WEEK	3 CAHSEE :(4 CAHSEE :(5	6 →	7 WINTER FORMAL
8	9	10	11 BOY'S SOCCER SENIOR NIGHT	12	13	14 VALENTINE'S DAY
15	16 PRESIDENT'S DAY	17 MIDDLE SCHOOL SPIRIT WEEK	18 BOYS BASKETBALL CIF	19 GIRL'S SOCCER CIF	20 COFFEE HOUSE!	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 MIDDLE SCHOOL PLAY	28 YEARBOOK ORDER DEADLINE
1	2	3	4	5 MASQUE!	6 →	7 →

18,514 Feet Up: Mr. Corrigan Takes on the Himalayas

Natasha Rothenbucher
STAFF WRITER

Over winter break, Malibu High School teacher **Mr. Corrigan** hiked to the Mt. Everest Base Camp in Nepal. To begin his journey, Mr. Corrigan flew to Kathmandu, Nepal and took a small plane to Lukla, Nepal.

"The Lukla airport is known for being the craziest airport because when you take off, you take off downhill off a cliff," Mr. Corrigan said.

From Lukla, Mr. Corrigan embarked on a nine-day hike to Gorak Shep. From there he went on two excursions: one to the Everest Base Camp and the other to Kala Patthar Peak, which, at 18,514 feet above sea level, is the highest

Mr. Corrigan has ever climbed. In comparison, Mt. Whitney, the highest peak in California and the highest Mr. Corrigan had ever previously climbed, is 14,505 feet above sea level.

The hiking tour was comprised of 15 hikers, 22 staff members, and eight yaks that carried the group's belongings. Mr. Corrigan said he did not find the hike strenuous because the guides moved at a slow pace.

Mr. Corrigan also said he never felt altitude sickness on his climb because he was already used to high elevations from his previous hikes, specifically from summiting Mt. Whitney.

Mr. Corrigan and the rest of the hikers were well fed throughout the trip. The program served

warm food despite the cold climate. According to Mr. Corrigan, they served potatoes 10 different ways and for nearly every meal. Now, Mr. Corrigan says he is "sick of potatoes."

For Christmas, the cooking staff baked pies and cakes by dropping hot rocks in pots and on Christmas morning, two of the Sherpas dressed up as Santa Claus and wished the hikers a merry Christmas.

According to Mr. Corrigan, the Himalayas were relatively warm during the day, but it got very cold at night. "My zero degree sleeping bag probably would not have cut it so my -10 degree sleeping bag was a very important purchase," Mr. Corrigan said.



15 GOING ON 18: Mr. Corrigan holds up one finger on his right hand and five fingers on his left, to represent his first time reaching 15,000 feet.



STARTED FROM THE BOTTOM, MR. CORRIGAN GOT HERE: Mr. Corrigan and the rest of the group pictured on Kala Patthar over 18,500 feet up.



BRIDGE TO THE HIMALAYAN BASE CAMP: Mr. Corrigan and the group walk on the high bridge over the Dudh Koshi River.

Cooking with Cam-Smo

Cameron Smoller
STAFF WRITER

If you are looking for some great Christmas recipes, then I've got you covered. I'll be showing you how to make some "bomb" cranberry glazed pork tenderloin. For dessert, I'll help you make some gingerbread cookies.

My family has been making this recipe for years now. My grandmother made it for my mom during Christmas when she was a kid and now my mom makes it for us. It's my favorite dish because I like the mix of cranberries and pork. My mom and I normally make it together.

In order to make the Cranberry Glazed Pork Tenderloin you will need some simple ingredients.

Ingredients:

Pork tenderloin
Chicago steak seasoning
1(12oz) bag of fresh cranberries
1 1/4 cup of sugar
2 tsp orange zest (from 1 large orange) 1/4- 1/3 cup fresh ginger, minced
1/4 cup of orange juice
1 1/4 cup of water
1 tsp fresh chopped rosemary.

Directions:

Put the cranberries, sugar, orange zest, minced ginger, orange juice, and water into a mixing pan.

Bring the sauce to a boil and cook for 10-15 minutes. Add the chopped rosemary and the sauce is complete.

To cook the pork, season and sear it on all sides in a hot frying pan. After searing, put it in the oven at 375 degrees for approximately 20-25 minutes.

Take the pork out of the oven and let the meat cool for 10 minutes before slicing it into pieces.

Finally, pour the sauce over each pork serving and voilà! You've

got yourself some cranberry glazed pork tenderloin.

For dessert we will be making gingerbread men. This is my favorite part of Christmas baking because my whole family makes huge gingerbread men, and whoever makes the best one wins a cash prize.

Ingredients:

Gingerbread men
3 cups all-purpose flour
1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
3/4 teaspoon baking soda
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon ground ginger
1 3/4 teaspoons ground cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
6 tablespoons unsalted butter
3/4 cup dark brown sugar
1 large egg
1/2 cup molasses
2 teaspoons vanilla
1 teaspoon finely grated lemon zest (optional)

Directions:

Preheat your oven to 375 degrees. Prepare baking sheets by lining them with parchment paper.

In a small bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, ginger, cinnamon, and

cloves until they are thoroughly blended.

In a large bowl, beat the butter, brown sugar, and egg on medium speed until the mixture is smooth. Add molasses, vanilla, and lemon zest to the blend and continue mixing until well blended.

Gradually stir in the dry ingredients until the batter is smooth.

Divide the dough in half. Wrap each half in plastic and let it sit at room temperature for two to eight hours.

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Place one half of the dough on a lightly floured surface.

Sprinkle flour over dough and rolling pin.

Roll out the dough until it is 1/4-inch thick. Use additional flour to avoid sticking.

Cut out the cookies using a gingerbread man cookie cutter.

Place the cookies 1 1/2-inches apart and bake one sheet at a time for seven to ten minutes each.

Remove the cookie sheet from oven and allow the cookies to cool until they are firm enough to transfer to a wire rack.

After cookies have cooled, decorate them any way you like.

That's how you make gingerbread men... enjoy!



NOT THE GUMDROP BUTTONS: Have fun during the holidays and have a gingerbread man contest!

Humans of Malibu High School

Sakura Smith
STAFF WRITER

Cacey Madden
Grade 12

"This year I am asking for this pesto basil vinaigrette. It is only sold in Aspen and I really want some. I am going to ask for like four bottles."



Isabella Thatcher
Grade 11

"I come from a family of musicians so every Christmas we used to do this performance for each other. Once my little brother [Sonny Thatcher] got up there and started to sing 'Jingle Bells' and forgot the words. He stopped singing and started hitting himself in the face. We haven't done it again since."



Conor Hunter
Grade 10

"When I was five, I got this really cool pair of socks with sharks on them that I saw once in a magazine. I was pretty excited."



Restaurant Review: Tatsu Ramen

Nicolas Paige
STAFF WRITER

Tatsu Ramen is a ramen restaurant that has soul.

Quality: *****
Price: \$\$\$\$
Quantity: *****

Locations:

2123 Sawtelle Blvd, Los Angeles
Sun - Wed: 11a-2a
Thu - Sat: 11a-3a

7111 Melrose Ave, Los Angeles,
Sun - Wed: 11a-2a
Thu - Sat: 11a-3a

When I review food establishments, I leave the joint with a list of pros and cons. At Tatsu Ramen, the only con was that I was too full to finish my noodles. This place has the best ramen I have ever tasted. Tatsu Ramen's specialties range from their bold ramen (a homemade Tonkotsu broth with 11 bold ingredients, served with seasoned soft-boiled egg & a choice of pork, chicken or tofu) to their hippie ramen (a vegan broth for the flower child in all of us with sweet onion and soy sauce based broth with a hint of ginger and served with spinach and a choice of pork, chicken, or tofu). Sides include three rice dishes and other extras to make your ramen dish the best.

The restaurant's atmosphere is great. The workers are friendly and hospitable, the food is amazing, and the service is quicker than any other restaurant I have been to. The greatest part about

the restaurant is how easy it is to order. iPads are mounted to a wall with a sign that reads, "Goodness starts here." Customers can choose from a variety of ramen dishes using the iPads. This ordering system allows complete customization of each dish and enables customers to choose spiciness level, the amount of garlic, and the type of protein. At the next step, you can add extra noodles, more protein, another egg, a bowl of rice, and more. Finally, you can select a drink and pay right away via iPad.

The iPads allow you to get your meal and leave whenever you want without the hassle of getting a waiter's attention and asking for a check. If you choose to pay with cash, the waiters are friendly and quick. If you want to leave a tip after the meal, stop by the iPad at the exit.

All in all, the food is marvelous and the service is exceptional. If you are in the area and looking for food, you should definitely stop by Tatsu Ramen.



RAW, MAN: Tatsu Ramen's menu is completely customizable. (Image from yelp.com)

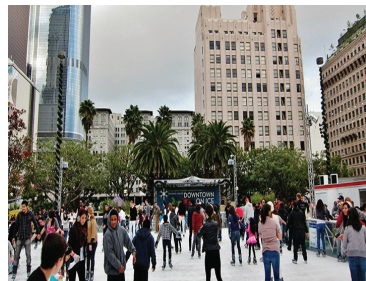
Holidays the L.A. Way

Nikita Weber
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

With 70 degree weather and a lack of Christmas decorations, the holiday spirit may be hard to find in sunny Los Angeles. Still, there are numerous events and displays in the Los Angeles area that can help you achieve that warm and magical Christmas spirit feeling.

1) **LA Zoo Light Show:** After a five year hiatus, the holiday tradition at Griffith Park is lighting up once more. The light show, previously held in Griffith Park, will now take place at the LA Zoo. The show runs from Nov. 28 to Jan 4. Tickets are \$13 for adults and \$11 for children.

2) **Ice Skating Downtown:** Like



DOWNTOWN ON ICE: Ice skating is a great way to get physical during the holidays. (Image from discoverlosangeles.com)

the rink at Rockefeller center in New York, Downtown Los Angeles has a seasonal ice skating rink. The rink is located in Pershing Square. "Downtown on Ice" is the largest seasonal outdoor ice skating rink in Los Angeles and is surrounded by both towering trees and skyscrapers. It is open every day from Nov.13 to Jan. 17. Tickets cost \$12 for one hour of ice skating and boot rentals.

3) **Woodland Hills Candy Cane Lane:** Woodland Hills has been the unofficial destination for winter holiday lights and decorations for years. Candy Cane Lane is composed of a few blocks in Woodland Hills where many houses go all out with holiday lights and decorations. The neighborhood is open to visitors from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the evening during the holiday season.

4) **The Grove:** During the holiday season, this famous shopping center becomes a winter wonderland. The Grove's display boasts the tallest tree in Los Angeles, thousands of light decorations, and Christmas themed water shows.

5) **25 Days of Christmas:** Looking for a way to feel the holiday



THE GROVE: Los Angeles breaks out awesome decorations for the holidays. (Image from teawithjam.com)

spirit without having to leave the house? ABC Family's 25 Days of Christmas television event has got you covered. Beginning on Dec. 1, ABC Family will play classic Christmas movies every day leading up to Christmas. "Elf", "Polar Express", "Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause" and many more will be playing throughout the month.

Although Los Angeles has no snow, these five holiday activities make it possible to feel some Christmas spirit. Whether it is ice skating, a light show, or simply watching a movie at home, you can get into the holiday spirit and enjoy Christmas festivities.

Paradise Cove: a Private Paradise

Roman Jensen
STAFF WRITER

Many tourists have the misconception that Paradise Cove is a public beach, but it's not. Here in Malibu, there are public beaches like Zuma, Westward, and Broad Beach, and there are private beaches, which only residents of the area can access. One of these private beaches is Paradise Cove Beach.

Paradise Cove has recently faced criticism regarding their parking and beach fees. It seems that critics of Paradise Cove are unaware that it is a private, not public beach. These critics also complain about the high beach access fees. Paying \$20 to access a private beach in Malibu may seem pricey, but it is near impossible to access to these private beaches unless you are resident.

Malibu High School senior and professional surfer **Thelen Mck-**

inna-Worrel said, "The high prices are good. It controls the crowd and keeps fewer people from surfing."

The \$20 entrance fee not only gives tourists access to the beautiful private beach, but also keeps the locals content. Malibu High School sophomore and local surfer **Sky Petreti** said, "I feel that the locals of Paradise Cove should not have to pay to get in and tourists that do not live in the area should."

Paradise Cove is a private beach and local residents expect it to be respected by tourists. Those who complain about the beach fees simply misunderstand the facts. As Malibu High School sophomore and Paradise Cove resident **Ryder Sturgis** said, "Since the prices have risen to get in, it keeps the tourists out. The residents are happy to have their beach back."



SPACE SHUTTLE ENDEAVOR: NASA's Space Shuttle Endeavor taking off. The shuttle was active between 1992 and 2011.

Healthy Mind to Healthy Body

Justin Baldinger
STAFF WRITER

Recently, issues of Photoshopping models and having exceedingly high expectations for beauty standards have caused quite the controversy. Calvin Klein model, Myla Dalbesio was classified as a plus size model because of her dress size of 10. This sparked the emotions of many because she looks healthy and thin yet is considered plus size.

Personally, I have no problem with her being labeled as plus size not because she is overweight but because she is plus size for a model. The problem is that we set standards for normal people to look like models. The dimensions these models have are, for many people, unobtainable and efforts to attain them are virtually hopeless. The reason models look like that is because it's their job for the fashion industry, not the public. To me these criticisms are no different than saying every guy should like Mr. Olympia.

To add to these unrealistic expectations, models are heavily Photoshopped, further exaggerating the idealistic perception of what a body should look like. We need to reevaluate our beauty standards to be more realistic and healthy. The goal should be to be comfortable in your own body and strive to be healthy, not to starve yourself to be thin.

The problem lies within public opinion not with the companies. Companies have no moral obligation to the public; their sole purpose is to make money. If picking ridiculous looking people and

Photoshopping them until they are unrecognizable makes them more money, then why not do it? People need to understand this and set their own goals to more realistic standards.

This issue can also be found in the fact that the dieting business is a 40 billion dollar industry. Our lives should be healthy enough so that we don't need the industry. With 69% of adults medically classified as overweight and 34% classified as obese, it makes sense why the diet industry is so big; however, when 95% of people regain the weight after dieting, the issue clearly becomes about our lifestyles, not the industry. Weight Watchers, Jenny Craig, the newest exercise fad and diet pills are only temporary fixes. We need to change our perception as how to manage our health and weight. It should not be considered normal to be 15 pounds overweight or healthy to be constantly yo-yo dieting—losing weight by starving yourself then binge eating back the weight.

Changing our habits to eating healthier and having less sedentary lifestyles will lead to healthier and better bodies. The aesthetics should not be the only thing to determine how we perceive our bodies. If you wish to change the way you look, work towards doing it in a healthy manner, if not, be content with what you look like in healthy and active ways. We should be content with our bodies and how they look as long as we are healthy, and not look for quick fixes for sudden results.

Marsalis Adriano
OPINION EDITOR

Within the past few months, space exploration has experienced both success and failure. The Virgin Galactic crash in October killed pilot Michael Alsbury and injured co-pilot Pete Siebold, possibly grounding space tourism for awhile; SpaceX announced new plans to establish a colony on Mars by 2026; and the European Space Agency's probe, Philae, successfully landed on the comet 67P. Each of these announcements and accomplishments, albeit exciting, have put the endeavors of space exploration in a strange light, rekindling old doubts about the consequences of exploring the final frontier.

After the crash of Virgin Galactic's SpaceShip Two on Oct. 31, dozens of investors and potential clients considered pulling out of the program, skeptical as to whether the benefits of space travel outweigh the risk of losing human lives. This debate has plagued space programs for decades from the Challenger crash of 1986 to the more recent Columbia disaster of 2003. Now, due to the budget cuts of various national space programs around the world, space exploration has largely fallen on the shoulders of private companies.

The benefits of space travel can be placed into two categories: intangible and tangible. The intangible merits are the ideas behind globalization and humanity's endless thirst for knowledge. The tangible benefits include the

technological advances that space endeavors have brought to earth, including satellite systems, light-based anticancer therapy, and solar panels.

In Christopher Nolan's *Interstellar*, Cooper discusses our ultimate purpose as human beings, "It's like we've forgotten who we are. We're explorers - pioneers, not caretakers." Although the statement is rather cliché, the argument remains true. Mankind is a species that is meant to expand our knowledge so as to extend the boundaries of civilization. Exploration is what drives human progress - it's what allows us to advance. Without it, humanity would suffocate within the confines of our world.

Space exploration is also a way to promote globalization and unify various ideologies under a common goal. Russian, American, Asian, and European scientists have united through the SpaceX, Virgin Galactic, NASA, and European Space Agency programs to continue venturing into the depths of our universe, discovering as one.

Along with the metaphysical arguments, there are tangible ones: those concerning technological advances to improve humanity. Global warming is becoming a vital issue. Space exploration allows us to use our newfound knowledge of distant planets to solve issues like global warming back on earth. For example, scientific studies being done on the Martian environment, its evolution, and current state as a terrestrial planet, are aiding scientists in their attempt to better understand

the climate change processes on Earth.

Many of these space programs have also prompted dozens of important technological advances used in daily life. These include several forms of cancer therapy, high temperature alloys used in jet turbines, solar panels, water purification systems, and various biomedical technologies. Investing in space programs is the most resourceful way to help promote technological advances that benefit humanity as a whole.

Probably the largest and most severe argument against the continuation of space exploration is the concern for human life. Human life is precious, but it must be said that these space programs run on, although paid and highly competitive, a volunteer basis. The men and women that sign up for this duty are fully aware of the dangers attached to space exploration and are prepared to lay their lives on the line for the sake of progress.

There is no advance without risk. It is the same for the chemists who work with lethal chemicals in the lab, the divers that plunge into the depths of the Mariana Trench, and the primatologists that spend years living amongst some of the most dangerous beasts on Earth in order to expand our knowledge just a little bit more. Space exploration is an important part of human advancement, and therefore requires a great deal of risk from those willing to give their lives for the advancement of humanity.

Our Place in Space

How to Survive Finals

Zoe Detweiler
STAFF WRITER

All students know, the inevitable soul-devouring void known as “finals” will soon be upon us. Here are some helpful tips to help you survive.

1. Get plenty of sleep. Teens need at least nine hours of sleep each night to function best, but lions get 20 hours of sleep per day, and we all know who the real king of the jungle is.
2. Make sure you have the right lighting. Scented candles can help stimulate your senses and keep you focused. Chant the Quadratic Formula while staring into the flames. Sacrifice yourself to the cleansing fire, rising anew as a better student.
3. Work out. Increased physical activity helps to promote brain activity. Plus, everyone knows being in prime physical condition gets you everything you want and need in life.

4. Eat right. Scientists have proven that diets consisting entirely of gummy worms and Hamburger Helper© Chicken Fettuccini Alfredo are necessary for optimal brain function and retaining memory.

5. Find a study buddy. Invite the smartest kid in class to study with you so you can absorb their precious geek essence while their back is turned. Your grades will improve, and it's not like the

nerd had anything better to do anyway.

6. Just breathe. Breathe in everything. Inhale your surroundings. Snort pencils. Breathe in a three hole punch. Sniffing office supplies is the best way to ram it up your brain forever. Nasally ingesting a calculator may seem difficult at first, but trust me, when you can find the cubed root of 476,527 in your head, it'll be worth it.



HELLO DARKNESS MY OLD FRIEND: *The dreams in which I'm dying are the best I've ever had.*

Horoscope of the Month

Emma Kelly
HUMOR EDITOR

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)

Your element: *Puppets*

You know what they say. You've always known what they say. You know who fills out the reports and whose desk those reports eventually land on. You know how the electoral college works, what the U.S. Department of Agriculture is spraying on our heirloom tomatoes, and where the aliens are buried. You've always known. Watch it, Aquarius. You're flying too close to the sun. Your name is on lists you don't want your name on. You're angering people you really don't want to get angry. Stay low. Erase your search history everyday. I hear Sweden is nice this time of year, but you didn't hear that from me.

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20)

Your element: *The sound a dream makes when it dies*

Good things come in small, venomous, 100-legged packages.

Aries (March 21 – April 19)

Your element: *Mountain Dew*

You're barking up the wrong tree. Why are you even barking in the first place? Do you remember what happened last night? Listen, buddy, I don't want to freak you out but ... do you remember that episode of Goosebumps where everyone turned into a dog? Well ...

Taurus (April 20 – May 20)

Your element: *Bloodstone*

Today you will wake up, consume food, use the bathroom, and breathe air. You will occasionally blink and itch your toe. You will go to school. You will be marked “present”. You will sit in a desk and stare at nothing in particular. You will stand up and walk to another room where you will sit at a desk and stare at nothing some more. You will consume food, use the bathroom,

and breathe air. You will return home. You will ignore your homework in favor of a passive activity such as watching TV or “liking” pixilated photographs taken by people you know. You will consume food, used the bathroom, and breathe air. You will sleep. You will dream. Tomorrow you will wake up. Maybe.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20)

Your element: *Heavy metal*

Don't give up on your poetry. I won't tell anyone about it. I promise. I see within your work the innate lyricism of a young Gabriel García Márquez. When you wrote about the time your father broke all of your “sissy” vintage jazz records, I lay down on the floor of the locker room and cried for three hours. I'll see you soon and we can discuss the merits of Sylvia Plath over a few chilly bottles of Gatorade©.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22)

Your element: *Orange*

The rift in the space-time continuum is only widening. The center cannot hold. Now would be a good opportunity to tell your family you love them.

Leo (July 23 – August 22)

Your element: *Weirdly-shaped potatoes*

I've been living in your house three years now and you haven't noticed yet. I'm a great roommate. I vacuum behind the refrigerator a lot. There are all sorts of lovely creatures living there that I think might interest you. I also like to collect all the hair that gets stuck in the drain and make little doll versions of you with it. They keep me company when you're away. Sometimes I put my face very close to yours while you sleep and make relaxing ocean sounds with my mouth. You left your phone in the pocket of your jeans last night so I took it out and charged

it for you. You have 97% battery now. You're welcome.

Virgo (August 23 – Sept. 22)

Your element: *Human hair*

If train A leaves the station going sixty miles per hour and train B leaves one hour later going eighty-five miles per hour, how long will it take all of the passengers' regrets to catch up with them? Show your work on a piece of scratch paper and mail the answer to a past lover.

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22)

Your element: *Dark matter*

An apple a day might keep the doctor away, but you'll never be free from your feelings of self-loathing and dread.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21)

Your element: *Glitter*

Take time out of your day to make someone feel special. Each stranger is a friend you haven't made yet. Why not walk up to someone in the hallway and compliment his or her outfit, they'll love it.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21)

Your element: *Plutonium*

Beware of anyone who is too friendly. They probably just want something from you. You've been hurt before. If some creep tries to come up to you and give you a phony compliment about your outfit, you should just fight them right there in the hallway.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19)

Your element: *Fear*

There's no “I” in team. But if you rearrange the letters in “team,” you do get “meat.” Take that how you will.

Emma “Twisted Spirit Mistress of the Elderflower Moon” Kelly is available for tarot card reading, crystal ball viewing, and small animal sacrificing by appointment. You can reach her at 1-800-VOID666.

College Apps: the Tenth Circle of Hell

Cole Murphy
STAFF WRITER

Not even one quarter through my life, I lost my way in a dark bedroom. The only illumination was the pale glow of the Common App website. This is a godless place. I switched from the Common App to Netflix and sulked.

Distressed and lonely, I cried out, “SCREW COLLEGE! SOMEBODY HELP ME!” and at that moment, a shade appeared in the doorway.

“O hey dood,” said the great poet **Marsalis Adriano**. He still wore his backpack and his face sported a smarmy grin that was still somewhat inviting. Perhaps it was just the light from my monitor playing off his mochacino skin, but I felt I could trust him.

“Hey wanna go to hell dood? It's right down there,” he pointed towards the door, “might be cool to put on your college app.”

As I had nothing better to do, I decided to oblige the great mystic in my bedroom, after all, Netflix only distracted me for so long.

He led me out the door to a platform where, just beyond the edge, was a great black chasm. The jagged edges of the chasm were decorated with graduation caps with the tassels torn off and old forgotten football helmets of formerly glorious players. Marsalis looked to me and shrugged a quick shrug, pursed his lips, and raised his eyebrows skyward. He motioned me to the edge of the platform, where a seemingly endless flight of stairs led into the pit.

Everything was a horrible shade of mustard yellow, as if a color-blind interior decorator was paid to douse the walls in this horrendous headache-inducing paint. I stepped from the final step onto the floor. The walls hurt my eyes and the floor pattern swirled into an inconceivable mush of unevenly painted checkers.

What was this place, I thought.

As my eyes adjusted to my new irritating surroundings, I spied a computer on a desk with a vacant

seat. I sat down at the desk and looked at the pallid monitor which displayed the Lewis and Clark College website. The website looked so inviting. Bucolic space intermixed with the atmosphere of pure unadulterated learning. I then looked at the surface of the desk and saw a notebook with a seemingly harmless heading.

“College List.”

Though the list was not my own, I felt that writing in it couldn't really do me any harm. I merely wrote down, “Lewis and Clark.” I felt a sense of satisfaction, as if I had solidified some part of my life.

But the notebook began writing on its own.

“A 3.5 GPA is necessary for admission. You're hardly a candidate, perhaps you should look elsewhere.”

The gall of this notebook!

It continued, *“Do you really want to live in Portland? I mean you've moved once before and you remember how tumultuous that was.”*

I turned to Marsalis. Another quick shrug. Curse him. I looked back to the screen of the computer. It had changed to a new college. Amazing! A wonderful liberal arts program, nice scenery. I wrote it on the mysterious list.

“Oh, you indolent ninny! You're just settling for this one because you know there is no way you'll get into your first choice. Joke's on you though, you're still not a person of a high enough caliber to get into this school.”

My brow began to sweat, but I continued on. No reason. I knew I had the choice to get up and stop searching at anytime, but something compelled me to stay. A feeling of obligation, almost.

Six colleges later, a new heading appeared

“Gap Year?”

I thought about it. Well, that seemed just lovely. I would be able to work, save money, and get a better idea of what I wanted to do with my life. I wrote under the heading in the affirmative.

The notebook curtly replied:

“Fool.”

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WINNING BIG: Senior **Owen Franz** shooting a goal during the Malibu High Sharks Championship game against Segerstrom. The Sharks scored 10 goals in their Championship victory.

Boys Water Polo takes CIF Title

Jake Nokes
STAFF WRITER

After their loss in the Division VI CIF Championship to the Palm Desert Aztecs, the Malibu water polo team strove for their first CIF Division VI title. This season the Sharks title team became a reality as the Sharks won their first ever CIF title following a 26-4 record and finishing 10-0 in league.

The Sharks' undefeated league record put them in first place in the Tri-valley league. They outscored their opponents 167-69. The closest team in the league was Nordhoff, which has a record of 8-2. Malibu beat them 18-8.

Varsity player **Freddy Keith** said, "We want to keep our momentum going. We have a strong starting line-up that is made up of players that are playing well and players from last year."

After a 30-1 season, the Sharks entered the season motivated to

make an impressive run in the playoffs, despite losing many key seniors from last year's team, such as Henry Buckley, Jens Cole, and Cooper Bell. They made an effort to work twice as hard in the off-season to reach the level of last year's team.

The Sharks' league record put them in a favorable position going into CIF. The Sharks' first CIF game was on Nov.13 vs. Santa Ana at home. They won the game 19-4. They moved on to the quarterfinals and beat Elsinore High school 14-5. They played the semi-final game on Nov.19, beating Beaumont High School 19-9. The CIF final game was on Nov.22 and the Sharks' beat Segerstrom High School 10-7, finally reaching their goal of winning a CIF title. Senior **Owen Franz** said, "Winning the championship gives my teammates and I a tremendous since of pride."

Hump's Last Hoorah



HE WILL BE MISSED: After 10 years, Malibu High School's football coach, **Ray Humphrey**, steps down.

Jena Weinberger
A&E EDITOR

After ten years as the head football coach at Malibu High School, **Ray Humphrey** is stepping down. Taking a break from both football and basketball, Humphrey is going to continue weight training and will coach his last season of Track and Field, this spring.

Coach Humphrey or Coach "Hump" as some students refer to him, has an extensive background in football. He started his coaching career with Pop Warner teams for two years, learning the basics of coaching. He then moved on to Santa Monica High School and coached there for 12 years. Humphrey also had experience coaching a semi-pro team the Santa Monica Sharks, before coming to Malibu High School to be the head coach, taking over from Malibu High P.E. teacher **Rich Lawson** who had coached for nine years prior.

"I've been around football since I was ten years old, played through high school, and played some semi pro before I coached it. So 34 years of either coaching or playing football is a lot and I'm just taking a break from it. It will

be very strange and I'll miss it a lot, but after 34 years, I definitely needed a break, and I wanted the kids to have the best athletic opportunities they can," Humphrey said.

Senior and linebacker on the football team **Winston Churchill** said, "We completely understand everyone needs to move on and the team will be okay, but we'll miss him."

"I got a great response from the team. Everyone understood and I explained that this is a personal decision for me that will allow the players to have a new coach with a fresh take" Humphrey said.

Although he is resigning from coaching, Humphrey will still help to train kids and will continue to participate with Malibu High School athletics.

"I will still be weight training and have the weight room open. I will continue to be involved with sports, just on a smaller scale. I have a lot of love for Malibu and this was my first official head football job where I was in charge of everything, so I have a very soft heart and I'm definitely not running out of here," Humphrey said.

Humphrey said some of his proudest moments were his first

win at Malibu against Ribet Academy, and seeing the kids he has coached play football or basketball in college.

"I'm not completely sure how the team will do once I leave, but I expect very good things. We got the lights, the seats, a Pop Warner Team for the elementary and middle schoolers, and a principal who is pro sports and has helped to create a lot of enthusiasm within the school. You never know what the future holds, but if this continues with the wonderful attitude and hard work that I've seen, it can only get better and I hope it does, because that is the ultimate goal" said Coach Humphrey said.

It is still unclear who will take over the responsibility of coaching both the football and basketball teams. Coach Humphrey has made lasting impacts on numerous students and is well respected through out Malibu. Filling his position will be tough as it will be hard to replace such a kind and well respected coach. The position will be posted on the CIF website for any qualified coaches who are interested.

Crossing the Caro-line

Natasha Rothenbutcher
FEATURE EDITOR

Caroline Pietrzyk Malibu High School senior and cross-country team captain, was named Tri-Valley League MVP on November 6 and continues to run with speed and perseverance. On October 24 she was the Ventura County champion, the winner of the Mt. Sac Division IV Sweepstakes. She was the 2014 Ventura County champion and became fourth on the record board at the Lake Casitas course on October 31. On November 22, Pietrzyk won the Division IV CIF South Section Finals where she broke 17 minutes on the course. On November 29, Pietrzyk won the Division IV State Championships

"I run because I love to run," Pietrzyk said, "I think it's exciting and I love my teammates. Mrs. Gonzales and my team keep me going because they are always there to cheer me on."



READY TO RUN: Senior **Caroline Pietrzyk**'s smokes the competition on her way to another Championship.

Junior **Madeline Ward** Pietrzyk's friend and teammate, said, "Caroline is one the most hardworking athletes I know and she is always there to cheer the team on. Even though she is always farther ahead than us during practice, she is always supportive of us."

Pietrzyk's coach, **Mrs. Gonzales**, guides Pietrzyk's training and said she is her "number one fan."

Pietrzyk runs six days a week. She trains outside of regular practices by swimming for two hours three times a week and doing core drills twice a week. Pietrzyk tries to maintain a healthy diet. She is a pescatarian and includes a lot protein and carbs as well as antioxidant rich foods in her diet.

Pietrzyk said she is most interested in attending University of Washington, University of San Francisco, Vanderbilt, and Northwestern University. "My goal right now is to go to college or run," Pietrzyk said.