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MHS Cheer-leading Squad Wins Big at Competition

By Emma Blackwood
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

in addition to regular practice.

At their last competition the Malibu High School cheer squad placed first in their respective division and received the most outstanding varsity squad overall out of approximately 15 to 20 teams.

The squad cheer during halftime, time outs, and quarters in the games, pep rallies, and attends other competitions as well.

“At our competition, we went in not knowing who we were up against or what would happen”

- Senior Emily Thiessen

The squad is working to participate and win at nationals in Las Vegas, Nevada on April 16th, 2011.

The team consists of freshmen

Jade Collins-Parnill, sophomores Jenny Kolyar, Kelly Watson, Ysidora Bravo, Nicki Cunningham, Mia Nunez, Eden Concoff, and Jessica Murray, junior Paige Schwimer, and senior Emily Thiessen.

girls whom I know I can depend upon, no matter the situation.”

The girls make get-well cards and treats for the team members who have been injured. And for football games, the squad creates giant signs for the team

“It’s an exhilarating rush to go before people and show them how hard we worked”

-Sophomore Kelly Watson

The team practices on Tuesdays and Thursdays, attends one varsity boy’s basketball home game during the week and during the fall season cheers at the varsity football games.

Occasionally the team attends the girls basketball games as well. During the summer, the squad attends cheer camp with the United Cheer Association (UCA)

run through at the start of the game.

Additionally the girls decorated the boy’s locker room to help boost school and team spirit before the game.

Thiessen said of the teams work, “At our competition in January, we went in not knowing who we were up...continued on page two



Stay Classy Malibu: The school’s new broadcast journalism program, Shark TV, is in its third week of production.



New Teacher Evaluation Well Received by Teachers and Students

By Davis Thacker
EDITOR IN CHIEF

This year, the California State Legislature passed a law allowing high school students to complete teacher evaluations similar to those a college student would

complete at the conclusion of a class.

State Senate Bill 1422 states the student government at a school can develop a coalition of teachers, students, and administrators to create a survey that lets students give their opinions about their teachers.

The evaluations are to

be completed only once a year, and this past week at Malibu High School marked the first time that the school has done teacher evaluations.

The evaluation form consisted of 30 multiple-choice questions that were meant to accurately measure a student’s satisfaction with the teacher and the class in

general. The forms are to remain anonymous in order to let students give precise answers without fear of punishment by the teacher. For this same reason, students were given the evaluation forms following their finals so that their grades in the class would... continued on page 3



SPORTS

Davis Thacker and Will Rosenthal re-cap the Superbowl.



CAMPUS LIFE

What to do and where to go on the most sexist holiday of the year: Valentine’s Day!



OPINION

Lexie Kelly and Caroline Kaufman discuss and debate President Obama’s State of the Union Address.

NEWS
BRIEFS

February
9
Last Make-up
Picture Day

February
11
Middle School
Dance

February
16
Masque Auditions

February
21
No School

February
25
Last Day to Order
HS Yearbook

Opening Night of
MS Musical

March 12
SAT at MHS

March 19
Masque

March 25
Spring Pep Rally

Court Ruling May Abolish Student Fees at MHS

By Cameron Hart
FEATURES EDITOR

A lawsuit was recently filed by the American Civil Liberties Union saying that California schools are charging students for things that students, according to the nature of the public school system, should not be charged for. These fees include: transportation fees for athletics and textbooks for advanced classes.

The lawsuit states that these kinds of fees are illegal because it violates the law that all American citizens are privy to a free elementary and secondary education. The lawsuit was settled by the court systems within the state of California. However, the effect the court ruling will have on Malibu High and other public California high schools is unclear. Part of the lawsuit stated that California schools would be given directions about what the school can

or cannot charge students for.

There is the possibility that the new guidelines will end all student fees. Some students support a system that would prevent the school from administering excessive fees. Realistically, however, the abolition of all student fees would mean significantly less money for schools to use for several programs and departments, including athletics. The effects of the abolition of student fees could be so

There is the possibility that the new guidelines will end all student fees

drastic that some programs and privileges would have to be cut.

Therefore, these programs would have to depend entirely on fundraisers and donations to keep them running. These sorts of incomes are not dependable and could potentially mean trouble, especially during turbulent economic times.

This law is a statewide issue and will certainly affect Malibu High School. The athletes at Malibu High have been required to pay a 170 dollar bus fee

for the expense of traveling to away games. The bus is a bit expensive, but it makes it possible for the teams to travel and play competitively.

However, if a student who does not have the money, he or she is still allowed to travel with the team. The bus fee is instead paid by Malibu's ASB.

"I do not have a problem with the bus fee because it is a one time payment for the whole season," said senior Jordan Seah.

One possibility for the future of athletic programs might be having students and their families pay for a "bus donation" instead of a bus fee. This will mean that those who can afford to pay money to support the team will do so. If this is the case, the sports teams will essentially be receiving income in the same way that they did before.

A second possibility is for a few parents who can afford to put up a large sum of money for the whole team, would do so. An issue with the fees in the past, is that students put up money for their sport, when in reality part of that money may be going towards another sport. With the donation system, money donated toward a sport will

go towards that individual sport.

However, less popular sports, or sports with fewer team members might, then, receive less money and be limited in their ability to compete properly.

Any way you look at it, the Malibu High School sport's teams need money in order for them to be a part of this school. Without money the teams cannot afford to pay for traveling expenses and sports equipment.

"The option is that we don't have athletics at Malibu," said Principal Mark Kelly.

As a result of the lawsuit, the state of California will have to provide guidelines as to what California schools can receive money for.

As of now Malibu High School is waiting, just like many other schools, to receive these new guidelines. The future of Malibu High School is unclear until these new set of rules are received.

Another school issue affected by the lawsuit

are the AP exams near the end of each school year. Students are charged 90 dollars so they can go take a four hour test in the gym, with the goal of getting some college credit in the future.

If a student does not take the test or refuses to pay the fee to take the test, the highest that student can get in the AP class is a "C."

Many AP students jump at the possibility of college credit, however, there are those students who are not

As of now MHS is waiting to receive these new guidelines

looking for college credit. Since students are down graded for not taking the tests, it brings

up the issue of whether or not these students who do take the test are paying for their grade.

In the future students may still have to pay to take the AP test, but students will most likely not be down graded if they do not wish to take the test. However, nothing is certain until the day that MHS receives the new guidelines regarding student spending.

Cheerleaders Hope to Start Trend Toward School Spirit

.....Continued from page one.....

against or what would happen. However beforehand, we literally shed blood, sweat, and tears, and we shared our hard work with the world."

Thiessen believes that the founding of the cheerleading squad may eventually cause overall school spirit at Malibu High to change.

"We planted a small seed at Malibu where we all know it will one day grow into a mighty oak tree that serves a foundation for unprecedented school spirit and courage," said Thiessen.

Many of the girls take tumbling lessons outside of the team practice but in team practice they do cheers, stunts, and dances. The team started in middle school between 2008 and 2009 with six of the girls in eighth grade continuing to create a team in high school.

Only one member

(Thiessen) is graduating this year and a successful middle school squad will supply the team with more members.

"It's going to be really sad seeing Emily go. She's like the big sister of the group" said Koltyar.

The girls feel that they have a special bond, that cheer at this school has become a lifestyle for them rather than just another sport. They feel that they are under constant watch by others at Malibu High School, more so than other high schools as the cheer team here is relatively new.

Murray said "That [cheerleading] is the hardest, the most painful, and the most demanding sport. I also play other sports, and though practice for cheer is only two days a week we definitely get a tough workout those days."

Although the girls recognize that others will judge them because of their sport, they have learned to move past others' judgement and

focus on winning.



PUT YOUR POM-POMS UP!: The MHS cheerleading team prepares for a game.

"Evita" Takes the Stage as the Spring HS Musical

By Davis Thacker
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The Malibu High School Theater Department has chosen *Evita* as the musical that will be performed this coming spring.

Auditions for the various roles of the play were held on January 19th and 20th, with the official parts being revealed the following week.

Seniors **Ren Martinez** and **Staffan Edenholm** will perform the lead parts

of the production, with a number of other actors and actresses comprising a talented and experienced cast.

The play revolves around the life of Eva Peron (played by Martinez), the second wife of Argentinean politician Juan Peron (played by Edenholm). The play includes Eva's early life, her rise to prominence in Argentina, her charity work, and many other aspects of her life including her romantic endeavors.

A character simply known as Che narrates the play.

Whether this character is based on Che Guevara, the Argentinean Marxist revolutionary (or the guy you see on t-shirts all of the time worn by people who have no idea who he is) is up to the adaptation of the musical.

In a number of versions of the production, Che remains an enigmatic figure that bears no direct resemblance to Guevara. However, in the film

"I'm looking forward to learning how to dance the cha-cha and spending time with my fellow senior Ren"

- Senior Charlotte Van Ireland

theatrical production at Malibu High School for two of the Theater Department's most experienced senior actresses, Martinez and **Charlotte Van Ireland**. As they begin practicing for their last production at

a theater department that has been an integral part of their high school experience, both Martinez and Van Ireland reflect on their

Martinez.

"It was actually the first show I ever did. I was six years old and performed in the children's choir in Pepperdine's version of the show."

However, while Martinez and Van Ireland have performed in every musical production since their middle school days, the only other senior in the cast, Edenholm, is appearing in his first musical.

While the prospect of playing the lead in the first musical he's participated in may seem daunting to some,

Edenholm is approaching the opportunity in a different way.

"I'm a little nervous, but I've done shows before so I think I'll be okay," said Edenholm.

"But once I get on the stage, I know that I won't be nervous Staffan anymore, I'll be Peron."

Evita began practice on February 2nd and will continue practicing until

they open four months later on June 2nd.

The cast has already begun taking what will be a number of dance classes.

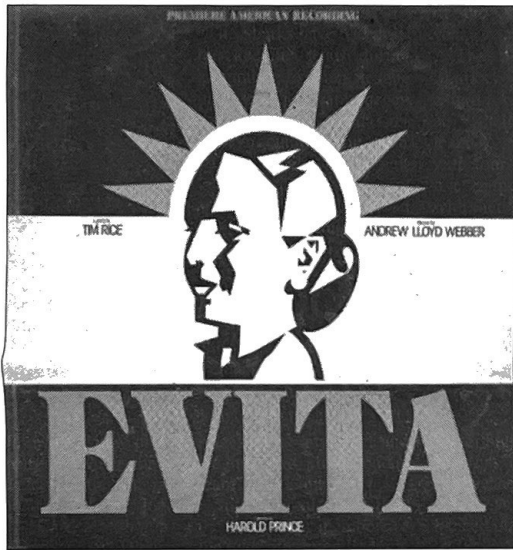
Along with the massive chorus that accompanies the show, the dancing will

be one of the harder parts for cast to perfect. However, once practiced enough times, the theater department believes that it will be something that the audience will be able to enjoy and get into.

"I'm excited for the show," said sophomore **Payden Hayes**, who played the lead male part in the fall's

production of *Radium Girls*. "The style of song and dance is easy to get into."

The road to putting on a production like *Evita* is a long and arduous one, but the theater department is used to the work and is looking forward to the challenge.



adaptation of "*Evita*" (where Eva is played by Madonna and Che is played by Antonio Banderas). Che plays a central role in the play and is clearly based on the revolutionary.

Che will be played by a guest actor that has not been announced yet.

The musical will mark the last

experiences in Malibu High School theater and their desire to leave on a high note.

"I'm looking forward to learning how to dance the cha-cha and spending time with my fellow senior Ren," said Van Ireland.

The show also holds special significance for Martinez in that she has a long history with *Evita*.

"It's always been one of my favorite shows," said

New Teacher Evaluations Go Smoothly

...continued from page one not be affected by their answers.

This protection of the students was a paramount issue when members of Malibu High School's Associated Student Body and faculty members discussed the procedure of the evaluations.

ASB was the body that first proposed the idea of having teacher surveys at Malibu High School. ASB took care of the original questionmaking, the distribution and sorting of the Scantrons, and helping pitch the idea to the administration and faculty.

Following the original suggestion of the idea, members of ASB and representatives of each faculty department gathered to go over the questions and the general procedure of the surveys.

One such meeting took place on January 11th, in

which ASB representatives **Elizabeth Wilson, Charis Buff, and Maddy Rotman** met with staff members and teachers

Gonzalez, Ryan Bell, Jason Clark, and vice-principal **Phil Wenker** to go over the final touches of the survey.

In the meeting, it was decided that the teachers would give their students the surveys during the week after mid-year finals instead of at the end of the year as the avoid much of the end of the year confusion.

"I think it was definitely a good decision to do it at the end of the first semester

instead of at the end of the year," said Wenker.

Wenker later added that the process was relatively seamless as a whole.

"We didn't really have any roadblocks. ASB did a good job of taking care of everything," said Wenker.

Another issue brought up in the January 11th meeting was the quality and effectiveness of questions. Both teachers and students did not want to waste one of the 30 questions on the survey with a question that would not be beneficial to the teachers or one that would not accurately reflect the

opinions of the students. "One of the main objectives for both the administration and ASB was to follow the outline given by the Senate Bill in order to avoid any complications with the teacher's union. Once again, confidentiality was key.

The survey results received by the teachers are to remain in the teachers' hands and are not to be seen by the administration. This ensures that the teachers will not be punished should they receive dissatisfactory results from their students. "We wanted to make sure

we did it correctly and followed the bill exactly in order to avoid union issues," said Wenker.

While the results of the surveys were not revealed directly to him, the general feedback from the teachers has been positive.

"I have not heard a lot yet," said Wenker.

"But the teachers that I have talked to said that the results have been helpful. I haven't gotten anything negative yet."

A number of teachers and

we did it correctly and followed the bill exactly in order to avoid union issues," said Wenker.

"I think it's a good idea. It lets you reflect on what works and what doesn't"

-Teacher Rafael Hernandez

While the process was somewhat expensive due to the number of Scantron sheets, administration believes that the results are worth it.

"It will be up to teachers and ASB whether we continue this next year," said Wenker. "While it was a little costly, I think in the end it's beneficial so it's worth the cost."

A number of teachers and

"It was a little costly, I think in the end it's beneficial so it's worth the cost"

-Vice Principal Phil Wenker

New Broadcast Program Comes to MHS

By **Caroline Kaufman and Davis Thacker**
EDITORS IN CHIEF

On February 1st Malibu High got its first taste of Shark TV, Malibu High's broadcast journalism program.

The idea for the program came in a House of Representatives meeting last month when several students complained that school events were not publicized enough. In reaction to this complaint seniors **Davis Thacker**, **Evan Schoenbrun**, **CJ Keossian**, **Chase Hall**, **Mo Bardovi** and juniors **Jackson Winner** and **Levi Woods** decided to create Shark TV. Thacker, Schoenbrun, Keossian and Hall are the anchors of the pro-

gram. Thacker writes the script for the program.

Winner primarily films and edits the program. Woods and Bardovi helps with sounds, editing and filming.

"The core group of us wanted to make a little broadcast announcement at first," said Schoenbrun. "It started small and has grown a lot."

Thacker also has great hopes.

"When we set out to do

Shark TV, our main focus was to provide the students with an announcement system that was more engag-

ing," said Thacker.

"At the end of the year, I hope that Shark TV makes students more involved in the school and makes more student come out to school events."

Shark TV is independent of both the journalism program and the film program despite the fact that film students and a journalism student is involved. Film and journalism teacher **Rachel Stowell** advises the group of students and basically

acts as the program's producer. Stowell is optimistic about Shark TV and believes the students involved have done very well. She has been supportive of Shark TV since its conception.

"I thought it was a great idea," said Stowell. "It's a big undertaking."

Stowell is also pleased with the effort the students have put into the new broadcast journalism program.

"I'm so proud of the students," said Stowell. "I think they've done a great job so far. There have been some rough spots, but that's

to be expected whenever you try something new."

Shark TV has broadcasted twice as of the printing of this issue of the newspaper.

The program broadcasts on Tuesdays over the internet site Vimeo. The group hopes that they will be able to continue to broadcast on

Tuesdays for the rest of the school year. The program is currently a mix of comedy and announcements. The group is unsure whether it will try to become more humorous or more informa-

tive.

Stowell would like the program to become more visual.

So far the program has focused largely on sports events and ASB sponsored events. The Shark TV crew wanted to both inform students and excite them about upcoming school events.

The school's reception of Shark TV is currently unclear.

Teacher **Rafael Hernandez** is definitely supportive of Shark TV.

"I think it's really cool," said Hernandez. "Kids seem to like it and the visuals make the kids actually listen and pay attention to the announcements."

Senior **Ren Martinez**, as well as Hernandez, enjoys Shark TV.

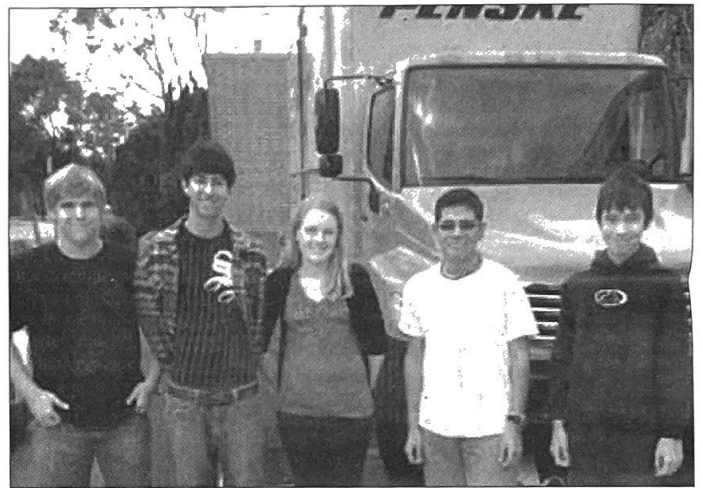
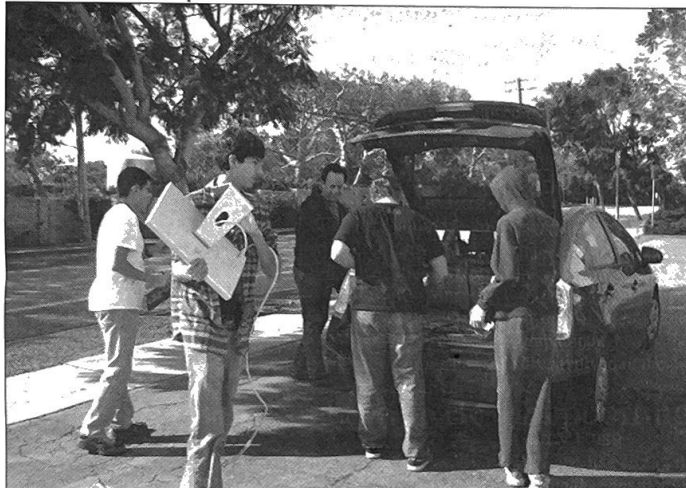
"I think it is a great new development," said Marti-

"Kids seem to like it and the visuals make the kids actually listen and pay attention to the announcements"

- Teacher **Rafael Hernandez**

"I hope that Shark TV is able to make students more involved in the school"

-Senior **Davis Thacker**



DO WORK: Members of the Student Environmental Association collect old electrical equipment and pose for a photo at an E-Waste collection in January.

Papa Jacks Skate Park in Search of New Home

By **Lexie Kelly**
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

On December 15th, 2010, the Malibu City Council was given a termination notice on the lease of Papa Jacks Skate Park. The loss of this park will most certainly have an effect on the Malibu community.

With the lease terminated, the Park has 90 days to vacate the site. On January 26th, 2011, an extension was placed in order for the City of Malibu to come up with a committee to find a new permanent place for the popular skate park.

Papa Jacks Skate Park is a 10,000 square foot skate area with various ramps and other obstacles including

some quarter pipers, a pyramid, and some ledges.

The park is open to the Malibu public year-round. Anyone from in-line roller skaters, bikers, to skateboarders are allowed to use the facilities.

Malibu's Parks and Recreation Department has been renting the area for the park with no charge.

Developer and owner of the area of which the Skate Park rests, **Steve Soboroff**, submitted

An application to the Malibu City Council in May in order to develop the

six-acre land.

The land, according to Soboroff, would become a 24, 000-square-foot Whole Foods, including several retail stores and restaurants.

The Malibu Parks and Recreation Department, which has been renting the area for the Skate Park for no charge, has been planning as late as 2008 to develop a new skate park for the Malibu Community.

Parks and Recreation Director **Bob Sallings** announced recently that a committee would be set

up in order to consider the formation of a new skate park in the city.

The department is optimistic about its chances of finding a new and permanent spot for the skate park.

"They have to take all the ramps out by October this year, but they got an extension for the end of the year," said senior **CJ Keossian**.

"A Whole Foods will be built in two years. They were thinking of moving it near the Malibu Public Library."

For some skaters who have been loyal to Papa Jacks Skate Park since its development in 2000, losing the park comes at a high cost. The loss of the park will certainly

be felt in the Malibu community.

But with the low level facilities and the possibility of a new and more open location, to idea of

a new park does is very highly regarded.

Still, losing the Park is bittersweet for some of Malibu High's most avid

skaters.

Many of the skaters from Papa Jacks Skate Park will remember their fond memories of the park and their time spent there.

"We had a camp out at Papa Jacks one night. There was a gnarly water balloon fight midway through the night, but it was pretty great," said junior **Jackson Winner**.

Papa Jacks may be gone by the end of the year. But its memory will be left with those who truly grew up in the skate park.

"It sucks but, hey, its good that we're still going to have a skate park, it is just to bad that we have to say goodbye to Papa Jacks," Keossian.

Population Expected to Reach Seven Billion in 2011

By Gabriella Grahek
STAFFWRITER

By the end of 2011 the global population is expected to reach to seven billion. The ever increasing number of humans has governments across the globe concerned.

Currently there are approximately 6,892,512,949 billion people on this planet with an addition of 80 million people born each year.

It has been estimated by many demographers that humans before the 20th century had not lived to see the population double in size. At the present time there are many people who have seen the human population triple.

With such a high population growth rate, it makes sense to wonder what will happen in the years to come.

Most likely there will be an extreme strain on natural resources, but hopefully the world will have evolved to live in a more

conservative manner with regards to our resources.

With the present growth rate, the largely depleted natural resources are already leaving close to a billion people hungry every day. If people keep living with the common standards of the world's wealthier countries, there will be millions more people hungry in the near future. With food, water, fossil fuels, and many other life necessities running short as well as a tough economy, governments are beginning to intervene by trying to reduce their birth rates. The common goal is to bring the rate for each country down to "replacement fertility," allowing each family to reproduce only for the lives of the two parents.

China, which is home to more than a fifth of the world's population, has had a one-child policy in place since 1979. In India, the government is offering to pay low-income laborers almost a week's earnings to disable their reproductive systems. Although this is helping, India is still on a path to exceed the population of China by 2030, rising to just over 1.6 billion.

If another alternative, such as population control, is successful then the next century may not be overcrowded.

Currently there are approximately 6,892,512,949 billion people with an addition of 80 million people each year.

Since 1979, in India, the government is offering to pay low-income laborers almost a week's earnings to disable their reproductive systems. Although this is helping, India is still on a path to exceed the population of China by 2030, rising to just over 1.6 billion.

If another alternative, such as population control, is successful then the next century may not be overcrowded.

Zlotnik, director of the UN Population Division, optimistically reports, "the population as a whole is on a path toward non-explosion-which is good news."

Although, by the end of 2011, the population is said to reach seven billion people.

The increase in years to come is much more frightening than that. If the constant increase in population increases, there could be a very bleak future for later generations.

China Replicates U.S. Technology

By Caroline Kaufman
EDITOR IN CHIEF

China has been viewed as an eventual economic and military threat to the United States and its allies for several years. Several of China's newest progresses in military technology may be considered as cause for concern.

According to "the Huffington Post," China has developed a new stealth fighter jet and new ballistic missiles.

It appears that the new Chinese stealth fighter jet uses technology from the American F-117 Nighthawk that was used during a NATO conflict with Serbia in 1999. This jet was shot down during the military conflict.

This fighter jet was not the first of its kind. The technology for this aircraft was first introduced during the Cold War.

According to the Associated Press, the Department of Defense reports that Chinese intelligence has been flying over the area where the fighter jet crashed. The Department of Defense believes that the Chinese have been buying parts of the jet from locals. The new Chinese stealth

fighter jet is known as the Chengdu J-20. The jet had its first flight on 11 January. The flight reveals China's intimidating military technology.

According to "the Huffington Post," the J-20 may become a rival to the American F-22 Raptor. The Raptor is the successor to the Nighthawk and is currently the only stealth fighter in the American Air Force.

Although China's improving military technology is worrisome, the development of this plane does not mark China's overtake of the United States in military technology. This development should not be ignored, but should not cause immediate panic.

Another Chinese development in military technology could become very worrisome in the near future, however.

The Chinese have recently developed a new ballistic missile that could destroy an aircraft carrier even when the ship is over 2,000 miles out to sea.

According to FoxNews.com, the Department of Defense does not believe the missile will become a major threat even if made operational. The DoD believes that the Navy's anti-missile technology will be able to adequately fight and destroy this particular missile.



Power Happy: Chinese President Hu Jintao is pleased with China's new technology and China's diplomatic and economic powers.

LifeStraw Saves More Than Lives

By Natalie Bark
STAFFWRITER

Millions of people, mostly children, die from drinking unsanitary water. The diseases they die from are completely preventable, but most who die from unsanitary water come from third world countries and have no way to access clean water.

Often times women from these communities will walk for hours to bring home water for their families, water that they need to live on- however, this water will be the very

thing that kills them. Approximately 6,000 people a day die from waterborne illnesses, most of which are completely preventable.

Solutions have been attempted, but most cannot reach the rural communities where aid is most needed, and even if they do, oftentimes families cannot even raise the meager amount that water purification treatments cost.

However, about five years ago, Swiss innovator Vestergaard Frandsen came up with a solution.

Vestergaard invented an ingeniously simple water

purification system, called Lifestraw. Its name is self-explanatory- Lifestraw is quite literally a straw, with layers and filters in it to clean the water.

About twelve inches long, the Lifestraw contains multiple levels. First, the water passes through mesh with 100 micrometer spaces, then through another layer of mesh with 15 micrometer spaces. After that, the water passes through a chamber with iodine coated beads, to kill bacteria.

The last layer contains active carbon, which removed the iodine taste and kills medium sized bacteria.

Best of all, the entire process is powered by suction, which means that there is no need for electricity, batteries, or replaceable parts- many of which are inaccessible to the people who are most affected by contaminated water.

The life straw will remove

99.9% of all waterborne bacteria, viruses, and parasites. The impacts of this invention could be enormous if it is widely distributed.

Not only could it save and change millions of lives, but it could improve the crushing poverty of many nations, transform third-world

The Lifestraw will remove 99.9% of all waterborne bacteria, viruses, and parasites.

economies, increase childhood survival, school attendance, gender equality, and environmental sustainability.

For those in first-world countries where water is always a turn of the tap away, it is hard to conceive of a life without easy access to water. The problems of third-world countries seem at times so complex and multilayered that one does not know where to start in attempting to find a solution.

In fact, many of the problems that third-world

countries face stem from the lack of accessible and clean sources of water.

First of all, after spending so much time and back-breaking effort on obtaining water for their families, oftentimes these women are bringing back the very thing that will end up killing their children.

Also Water sources are often far from villages and rural communities, whose inhabitants often have to walk hours a day to collect water to drink, clean, and cook with. This responsibility most often falls on the women and girls of the community, who spend hours each day hauling heavy loads of water, instead of seeking education or becoming employed.

This would have a negative effect on the nation's economy, for a good 50% of the eligible work force is not being utilized.

Many water sources in third-world countries are contaminated, carrying bacteria and parasites that without treatment will be deadly to children in particular.

This, apart from being a tragic and unnecessary

loss of life, also negatively affects the economy, for sick people cannot work as effectively and children who die early on from preventable diseases will never grow up to be profit-earners.

This tragic cycle seems impossible to break, but in fact, there are clear solutions to this myriad of problems.

First of all, education programs need to be set up to teach people in third-world countries about how to treat and take care of their water.

Second, a simultaneous effort should take place in order to supply communities with water sources, such as wells.

These projects can also provide employment opportunities. These two factors will provide at least a start in mending the global water crisis and all of its branches.

In the meantime, however, LifeStraw and other similar products should be distributed to keep these struggling people alive and well enough to begin to turn not only their own lives around, but their countries as well.



A CLEAN STRAW GOES A LONG WAY: Thirsty African children use Lifestraw to drink water from a lake.



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 Sports Photo, Second Place:
L.A. Times Student Journalism Awards, 2003

Outstanding Sports Reporting:
Quill and Scroll Society 2005

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Mandatory Community Service Strangles Altruism

By Davis Thacker
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Let me get something out in the open before I move to the main point of the article. I am in no way arguing against the idea of community service. I believe that community service can be a very valuable tool in some people's lives and many people love doing it. What I will argue against in the following paragraphs is the mandatory community service institution at this school and across many schools in the nation.

The first and foremost argument I have against mandatory community service is that the whole idea of it being mandatory takes away from the main purpose of community service; which is a person

willingly taking time out of his or her schedule to serve the community. Under the system that we find ourselves in now, community service seems more like a chore rather than a genuine deed of goodwill. While I will contend that many people are able to go out and serve their community out of their kindness, a large portion of people feel that they are doing the equivalent of homework or busy work.

Now, this sort of chore-like attitude that pervades the mandatory community service aura has made many students over the years lie about their hours of service. While the recent changes

to the Community Service Learning Program have made it more difficult to cheat in recent years, there is always the possibility of forging of hours. Not only does this disrupt the integrity of the program

Under the system that we find ourselves in now, community service seems more like a chore rather than a genuine deed of goodwill.

and the idea of community service itself, but it also tarnishes the genuine attempts by students who enjoy community service and do it honestly. Abolishing the mandatory

nature of the current community service program at Malibu High School would properly distinguish the people who actually serve the community as an extracurricular activity from those who either see it as a chore or lie about it.

Finally, I offer one more reason for the discontinuing of the current mandatory community service story. Some people simply have too much on their platter between their various after-school activities on top of their homework. Community Service should serve as something that is completely optional to the students of Malibu High School. I believe that the school has done a great job of providing students here with great community

service opportunities and should continue to do so, but I do believe that the program should be reformed so that it is not mandatory, but instead optional, to do eighty hours of community service.

Serving the community is a deplorable action when done under coercion. It defeats the altruistic purpose of community service.

So take it from someone who is about halfway to achieving his requirement of eighty hours, it is better to have a small number of willing community serves than a large number of unwilling ones.

The Price of Love

By Caroline Kaufman
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Every year one day comes that degrades love into stickers, pink and semi-edible chocolate: Valentine's Day. Valentine's Day was originally the day the Catholic Church honored the martyrs who had died in the name of religion. This tradition was practiced for hundreds of years until greeting card companies and the movie industry turned Valentine's Day into a sham of a holiday.

Valentine's Day may be the most anticipated and disappointing day of the year. Couples look forward to romantic walks on the beach, holding hands and exchanging cheap gifts made by starving children in China. Singles, on the other hand, spend the day eating chocolate ice cream and crying while watching "Titanic." Of course these assumptions are not based off of my own experiences.

But despite my own personal problems with Valentine's Day, there are some aspects of Valentine's Day that should be analyzed.

Valentine's Day, as it is currently practiced, celebrates romantic love; it does not recognize maternal, paternal or platonic love. Therefore, one can assume, the way in which we celebrate this holiday reveals how we, as

a society, define love. We, then, as a society define love as gifts and food.

Think of the Valentine's Day rituals. I will wait. Done? Okay, I will give you a couple more seconds. Most Valentine's Day rituals feed off of our materialism and our desire for food. Materials and food neither signify love nor a healthy relationship. If the way we define love is entirely material, then it is no wonder Americans have such a high percentage of divorce.

When Madonna sang about materialism in the 1980s, was she right? Are we, as a society, going to allow plastic to define our concept and definition of love? I think not!

Here is my advice for the three people who will read this article. Oh no, one of you stopped reading. I have advice for all two readers out there.

If you are currently in a relationship, decide how you define love. Now, on Valentine's Day celebrate that definition. If you define love as acts of service, do something nice for your temporary partner. If you define love as words of affirmation, then tell your partner how much you enjoy spending time with them, even if your

relationship is doomed to end within three months. Also, on Valentine's Day, stay far away from me. I will be armed with tomatoes and I will use them against any nauseating couple.

If you have found the other gender to be unsatisfactory, are single by choice and are currently pleased with your lack of a relationship, then congratulations. The rest of us singles salute you. If you are single, celebrate your definition of love with someone whose friendship you cherish. Or just watch every terrible bad romantic comedy and cry. Feel free to call me; I will bring the chocolate.

Ladies, gentlemen, and singles, protest materialism and protest Valentine's Day

staff editorial

The recent shooting in Tucson, Arizona is reminiscent of an age we all hoped had passed. The Current hoped and believed that the age of shooting politicians and leaders ended with the untimely and unfortunate deaths of JFK, Bobby Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr.

The recent shooting is a tragedy and should be mourned as such. It is not a violent manifestation of bipartisan politics. This incident should not be blamed on the Tea Party or Sarah Palin. This incident was the manifestation of one young man's mental illness.

It is time we stop pointing fingers at party politics and the speeches of politicians for violence. We all have a choice, to make the right choice or the wrong choice. We are not robots or mindless animals who blindly follow the orders and suggestions of politicians and public figures. There are those

who are so ill they cannot distinguish between right and wrong. Even the violent actions of these individuals should not be blamed on politicians who call for political action.

Politics on Capitol Hill will be tense this year as politicians attempt to repeal and keep the legislation of Obama's administration. However, the Current does not want politicians to play down how tense the politics are or fight less intensely for their beliefs. The possible ramifications of politicians' calls for change or stagnation are too numerous and complicated to guess.

Politicians must not write their speeches and pass legislation in fear of the violent actions of individuals. The Current calls for mourning over the shooting in Tucson, but does not call for a change in the way politics is conducted. We hope that politicians will go to Capitol Hill and do the best they can.



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The Great Debate #3: State of the Union Address

By Lexie Kelly
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

For those of you who did not see President Obama's State of the Union Speech on January 25th, 2010, you did not see the true introspection, and at times lack thereof, that Obama provided. As a student, I am torn between naively following Obama's hopeful message and analyzing his words to deduce whether his promises can be kept. The pessimist in me calls the speech a plea for reelection while the optimist argues that it is a bipartisan call to action. Nevertheless, fundamental issues were brought to light while others were pushed aside.

Right now, the Internet is plunged in debate over the right to bear arms as stated in the Second Amendment, and what is and what is not dangerous diction. Yet, Obama did not once discuss the possibility of gun control. Since Gore lost his home state of Tennessee in the 2000 election, no government official has brought up the topic. And that is a shame, because right now there are more guns than people in the United States. This cannot be ignored and more people will die and get injured because of this. America is the only first world country that does not regulate guns, and we are paying the price.

In the speech, Obama also congratulated the recent success of the Tunisian government for their first democratic election.

"We saw that same desire to be free in Tunisia, where the will of the people proved more powerful than the writ of a dictator. And tonight, let us be clear: the United States of America stands with the people of Tunisia, and supports the democratic aspirations of all people," said President Obama.

Yet now in Egypt, with protestors raging against Egyptian President Mubarak, the American government will not promote the rebels' cause against the thirty-year service of Mubarak and his corrupt government. Now, that is perhaps because of America's fear of a theological government stepping in or a potential dictatorship occurring, but Egypt deserves democracy as much as Tunisia.

In the State of the Union address, Obama called for going above party lines and to come together as an "American Family". This call, not that it was not on high terms, seems insignificant. American is too divided along party lines

at this moment. As Obama spoke, Republicans in the House began implementing their overhaul of Obama's Healthcare reform bill. It seems almost naive to call the nation together, when there is such a large wall splitting us apart.

"We are part of the American family. We believe that in a country where every race and faith and point of view can be found, we are still bound together as one people," said Obama.

To be fair, Republicans and Democrats sat together in a show of friendship and promoting the "American Family" image, but their faces gave them away. Pause the video when the camera shows John McCain and John Kerry sitting together, both miserable. Kerry and McCain only share one similarity, and that is that they both had failed bids for President. Any hope for a sense of unity is quickly diminished when you see that the two refused to even look at each other.

Now, as I refer to my notes, there were a few positives in the speech.

Obama called for an agenda of carefully balanced political goals and an increase in spending on education, scientific research, technology, and transportation to make our nation more competitive.

"This is our generation's Sputnik moment," said the President. "Two years ago, I said that we needed to reach a level of research and development we haven't seen since the height of the Space Race. And in a few weeks, I will be sending a budget to Congress that helps us meet that goal."

It good that the President is recognizing the need for a push in education and scientific research, but it is disconcerting that he is saying this at a time where families are barely living within their means and the government is spending more than it takes in.

There were also pledges to cut the deficit and crack down on wasteful spending. Yet, Obama never explains what will be cut and what is deemed as wasteful.

"I'm asking Congress to eliminate the billions in taxpayer dollars we currently give to oil companies...I don't know if you've noticed, but they're doing just fine on their own. So instead of subsidizing yesterday's energy, let's invest in tomorrow's," said Obama.

Ah, so yes, he does at least say that taxpayer dollars will no longer subsidize oil companies, but I doubt this will happen. There are so many lobbyists and concerned constituents that any backing of this enthu-

siastic proposal will surely fall through.

Obama's most ambitious statement during his speech was a call to overhaul the No Child Left Behind Act with a new reform act for public schools.

"Race to the Top is the most meaningful reform of our public schools in a generation. For less than 1 percent of what we spend on education each year, it has led over 40 states to raise their standards for teaching and learning...Race to the Top should be the approach we follow this year as we replace No Child Left Behind with a law that's more



HELLO AMERICA: President Obama pauses for dramatic effect in the State of the Union Address, while Vice President Biden and Speaker of the House Boehner look on.

flexible and focused on what's best for our kids," said Obama.

The State of the Union address, while usually trivial and general in nature, with a few inserts of American success stories, is not supposed to divulge into too much detail on one subject. Yet, Obama did not outline where money for his proposed education programs will come from.

The extension of the Bush tax cut to 2012 is a hard blow for any new policy agenda. The top 5% of the population should be taxed heavily, not to create social equality, but because they can afford the taxes and still live well within their means. It is the poor, the unemployed, and the non-existent middle-class that is suffering and will continue to do so.

America has a 14 trillion dollar debt that our generation, our children, and their children will be paying off for the rest of our lives. As much as it thrills me that we might begin to move forward in green energy and providing more money for education, which desperately needs it, I have to ask if America can afford this ambitious goal without cutting state and federal budgets that are already scarred from recent budget slashes.

By Caroline Kaufman
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Dear Mr. President Obama, The Republican Party hoped that your State of the Union Address would alleviate our fears that you are attempting to diminish the prestige of the United States abroad and turn our country into a socialist country. You did not alleviate our fears, however. You solidified our conviction that we must vote you out of office in 2012. And the American people, if they listened closely to your speech,

increase. This will help in the 2012 elections, but will only cause the prestige of your administration to diminish further. You could have become a Clinton, an acceptable Democratic President, and yet you let every chance to do so pass you by.

Mr. President, there are several parts of your speech that I do not understand. You said that the United States needs to cut unnecessary spending, but that we need to "invest" in several new programs. Sir, I am not a moron. I realize that invest is just another synonym for spending. It

terrorists will only wait us out and then take over. We will have accomplished nothing if we leave now. If we stay and keep working toward democracy, we can be remembered well.

I have another questions, Mr. President. You said that the economy is recovering well and the stock market is moving toward what it once was. Can you show me the data corroborating this point? We are still neck deep in this recession. Although it is true there have been some positive changes in the economy has occurred, the word recovery is certainly a hyperbole.

Mr. President, I worry that you are giving the American people false hope. Those on Capitol Hill should still pass legislation as though we are in the depths of a recession. To properly reverse the recession, Congress must act wisely. If you spread false information, everyone will have problems. You must remind the American people that we have not fixed our economic problems.

Now I would like to address Congress, Mr. President.

Although I appreciate the out-pouring of feeling for Representative Giffords, I am not sure sitting next to each other during the address is particularly helpful to Giffords or the country.

Republicans gained several seats in the House and Senate because the American people desire a change in power and policy. We elected Republicans because we want Republicans and we elected Democrats because we want Democrats. The debate over health care, our role in the Middle East and the economy divide along party lines. These issues are vital to our success as a country. Now is not the time to compromise along party lines. To succeed we must stick to our deepest beliefs about the current issues.

Finally, Mr. President, you sounded very good during the address, but your words and ideas are empty. I cannot wait to vote in 2012. If I have my way you will soon be out of a job.

may soon be convinced that they too must contribute to the effort to get you out of office.

Mr. Obama, you are the worst nightmare of the Republican Party incarnate; You are neither FDR nor Clinton. FDR passed his reforms in the 1930s quickly, despite their general ineffectiveness, he at least passed them. After Clinton's health reforms were defeated and considered defunct, he at least let it go. You, Mr. Obama, refuse to accept that the American people do not want Obamacare. And you refuse to move on.

In your State of the Union, you said you wanted to continue to debate and discuss your health care plan, despite Republican plans to repeal it. This will lead us into gridlock and Americans' frustrations with Capitol Hill will only

seems that you are going to expand spending in domestic spending, but make significant cuts in military spending. It does not seem like you are truly dedicated to lessening our ever-increasing deficit if you plan to invest heavily into several new areas. How can you expect to lessen our spending by creating new sinks for spending? Mr. President, it simply does not make sense.

Another thing that does not make sense to me: our situation in the Middle East. You consider our retreat out of the Middle East a victory. There is absolutely no victory in retreat. You and I fundamentally disagree about the nature of victory and the nature of our involvement in the Middle East. Whether or not you agreed with why we entered into combat in the Middle East, we must finish what we started,

GUEST COLUMNS AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Students At Malibu High School Look Forward To Valentine Day

By Becky O'Mara
STAFFWRITER

It is that time of year again. Yes, Valentine Day! The day we look for to, dread, or are pretty neutral about. Valentines day is a day to celebrate love and affection with our companion, be it boyfriend, girlfriend, or suckered-in-to-it friend. Some find this day to be a great way to celebrate the love they share with their special someone while others seem to find this day completely ridiculous and unnecessary.

"I'm going out with my boyfriend and my friend who has a boyfriend and a friend who's bringing a date to a dinner at Benihana in Santa Monica and then we'll see where we go from there. Valen-

tines Day isn't a big deal but is still fun!" said **Junior Katherine Jacobson.** "I'm going to dinner with some friends and my girlfriend, Valentine's Day is a fun time but it's not that great if you don't have

someone to celebrate with" said **Junior Jacob Oroz.**

Valentines day can be just as fun if not more fun with a valentine than without one. Singles awareness day (S.A.D) is a parody of Valentine's Day. It's a day celebrated on the 14th of February or even the 13th or 15th (for those who want to stay away from "loveable dovey" holiday). It is a fun day to go out with some girlfriends or meet up with a group of friends to do something fun and out of the ordinary. This option seems a lot better than hiding under your covers all night and crying yourself to sleep, which is not the most productive way to spend this.

"This Valentines I am going to hang out with a bunch of girlfriends and go see a movie and then have a sleeper over it should be a fun night!" said **Freshmen Miriam Hamilton.**

Also there is no reason to go all out and throw a "I hate love party" as seen in the 2010 hit comedy "Valentine's Day" starring a cast including Jessica Biel, Jessica Alba, Bradley Cooper, Patrick Dempsey, Taylor Lautner and many more.

S.A.D is simply a suggestion to have an excuse to go out and do something fun with your friends. Valentine Day was established around 500 A.D. to celebrate love by giving presents and going out of your way to do something nice for your lover.

Valentines Day is also referred to as a "Hallmark Holiday" because of the card company's aversion to creating a significant amount of cards for the holiday.



If you're a little worried about how to ask your special someone, gentlemen, a bouquet of roses will usually do the trick. Ladies if you would like to ask a boy out on Valentine's Day, go for it! What do you have to lose? So how will you spend your Valentine Day? If anything you may consider going out of your way to do something for your number one...YOU! You're worth it right!? Happy Valentines Day!

Animal Rights Club Lends A

Paw

By Briana Verham
STAFFWRITER

Eight billion chickens are killed for their flesh each year, according to PETA.org. However, a Malibu High School club is going to try to change all that.

"My love for animals is practically a part of my DNA," said **Senior Sierra Hinds.**

Hinds is just one of eight students to join Malibu High's Animal Rights Club. The club, established September 2010, was found by **Sophomore Jenny Koltyar.**

"We try to stop animal abuse and inform others of the various animal abuses that are out there," said Jenny Koltyar. "We try and enforce animal rights. They might not be people but they have beating hearts and feelings and are alive and deserve humane rights."

Although Koltyar is a vegetarian, she believes that

there is nothing wrong with eating meat but believes that the ways animals are treated on farms and the killing of animals for the fur only is inhumane and cruel.

"[The farm animals] should be free to wander in grassy fields, and not stuffed with antibiotics to make them grow faster," explains Koltyar. In order to gain awareness and to gather supplies and money for donations, Koltyar organized a local bake sale in front of Ralphs that was held on Saturday, the 29th of January. The bake sale gathered over 200 dollars.

The club also participates in petitions and sends them to fashion designers to stop them from using fur products. They collected 300 signatures and sent the petitions out to 50 designers, 15 of which were located out of the country.

Along with the bake sale and the petitions, the club has been having a collection drive on campus to gather supplies that they

will donate to a shelter. "By the end of this school year we would like to have made a difference in the fur industry hopefully at least lessening if not ending its production," said Hinds.

Of course Hinds has smaller goals as well. "I also hope to be able to volunteer and have an animal toy or products drive to help the animals in shelters with food and bedding."

Animal Rights Club is asking the community of Malibu to protect animal rights in many ways; by decreasing your personal meat consumption, by possibly becoming a vegetarian or vegan, refusing to purchase fur products, or volunteering your time or money to a local animal shelter.

"Be aware of what's going on and don't just sit there and let it happen," asks Koltyar. "Ignorance doesn't help anyone. We are using our voices for those who can't."

The Animal Rights Club meets at room 210 at lunch every Wednesday.

A SINGLE'S SURVIVAL GUIDE TO VALENTINE'S DAY!

By Emma Blackwood & Lexie Kelly & Josh Corrigan

7 AM

Wake up in the morning feelin' like...oh. It's Valentine's Day. Well, that's OK! It's just another day in a long week, how bad can it be? Ignore the fact that your girlfriend broke up with you over a text last night. Take a deep breath and get ready for school!

10 AM

Ah, how nice! A Valentines gram! Smile to yourself as you receive one from a pink-clad choir member. You open it, smirking at your gram-less neighbor. It's from your friend who is compensating for missing your birthday. Don't get mad, just flaunt your rose.

12 PM



Take a lonely nap. You want to cuddle?

Use your backpack.

3 PM



Walk home alone to your house of solitude. Turn the TV on, and find yourself in the middle of the Lifetime original movie Are You Lonesome Tonight. Your answer is yes, I am. And guess what, your remote's broken.

7 PM

Eat a pint of ice cream, preferably Ben & Jerry's Half-Baked, which has cookie dough and brownies mixed in chocolate ice cream. It will dull the pain.



11 PM



Try to sleep. Be consoled in the fact that there's only an hour left of your misery.



What Is Indie To Us?

By Hailey Hoffman
STAFFWRITER

The term "Indie Music" is short for independent music and describes musicians who are unsigned by major labels or who create small-unaffiliated labels of their own. Indie musicians are viewed as avant-garde, and music devotees respect them because they won't sell out their sound to fit popular trends. The term "independent" perfectly describes the many protégées of Malibu High.

These students are typically passionate about art and their own unique views of music and style. While they display a wide range of talents, they all reflect a preference to remain "unlabeled".

Senior Ali Gilliam's is an inspired and avid photographer.

"I think using 'Indie' as an adjective is kind of stupid. To me it means that you're interested in art and a certain type of music," said Gilliam's.

"Lauren Ducoff is my number one favorite photographer ever! She photographs for Rolling stones, album covers, and she uses all film. I go to concerts all the time and I want to be a music photographer. I am more interested in backstage photography. My number one goal in life is to tour with a band and photograph their lifestyle."

Authenticity is a signature feature of an independent style in art and fashion.

"I hate Photoshop because people over edit stuff all the time and it is really fake," said Gilliam's.

This search for true and unadulterated style is a key reason that indie music lovers often eschew malls and mainstream chain stores in favor of thrift shops and flea markets for unique, vintage, rare clothing, where they can create their own style combinations.

When asked if musicians affect her choices of what to wear, Ali was quick to respond.

"Yes, Alanis Morissette is my idol! I like to dress like her and I usually look at what some people in the bands wear. I'm not going to lie, I like fitting into that image. If I listen to music then yeah I like dressing like it. But I love the style; I think it's cute. I love the

way that people dress who go to those concerts and that influences me," said Gilliam's.

Indie artists have much more control over their music compared to mainstream bands. They create their own hours, say whatever they want in their songs, and alter the melodies of the song to suit their moods. Many see mainstream music as becoming less genuine as it is more influenced by advertising tie-in agreements and product endorsements.

ments.

For example, the magazine Advertising Age last year reported that McDonald's and Seagram's Gin had paid rap stars to include their brands in the artists' lyrics. Because business managers and advertisers do not process indie music, indie artists can basically create whatever image they want for themselves. For this reason their music is preferred by many people as being more pure, genuine, and real.

Indie musicians have a very strong create-it-yourself ethic, and Sophomore Payden Hayes is an innovative poet and songwriter who reflect this experimental edge.

"When I sculpt or paint my inspirations usually come from the things that won't leave my head," said Hayes.

But when it comes to developing lyrics, Payden has a stream of consciousness approach.

"I don't think, and I try to understand what I'm feeling and put it into words. Sometimes I will write about whatever is around me, but mostly I write about people. Most of the time, I just start playing music. Whatever I am making myself feel I will just say and it just turns out that that's the lyrics. Sometimes it just happens and other times I will be up all night," said Hayes.

The no-label approach applies to Payden's perspective on fashion.

"I don't think I have a taste in fashion. If I see something I like then I will wear it," said Hayes.

Payden says writers such as Arthur Rimbo, William Blake, inspire him and Jack Kerouac, who were all cultural pioneers who pushed the boundaries of the status

quo during their time.

Indie music is a great inspiration for studio artists like Junior Simone Hills, who has been drawing since she was very young.

"I have drawn ever since I was a baby. I have always known what I wanted to do with my life, which is art. I have gone through phases. I like drawing people a lot. Weird people and weird fingers," said Hills.

Simone notes that alternative music trends have spawned new concert venues and websites that reflect wild, exotic outfits and artwork.

"I belly dance. I live in Topanga and every year there is Topanga Days and my mom always loves the belly dancers and my friend got me into it. Dying my hair was a progression. I used to have long hair down my stomach and my friends cut their hair and I liked it, so I kept cutting it. I get bored, so I think it was just getting bored. I like change and variety," said Hills.

The Coachella Music Festival, the FYF Fest, and Outside Lands are all giant music festivals that support the indie phenomenon with outside the mainstream bands and wild fashions. Simone also exchanges photos with other artists online.

"I can't lie - I look at tumblr and websites and get my inspirations on my fashion from there sometimes. I follow a bunch of people so I can look at all of their blogs. I post my own pictures, pictures from my friends, and I reblog a lot of things that I like a lot," said Hills.

One of the true signs of an artist who can't be labeled is someone who studies as many artists as they can to gain a little bit of inspiration from each of them.

Junior Tanner Porter, who has been studying music seriously since a young age, writes and performs her own music. She has an encyclopedic knowledge of great musicians.

"When I was younger I was really taken by Philip Glass, and when I started becoming interested in film music I began listening to Thomas Newman's scores a lot. Danny Elfman's score for 'Black Beauty' was a really large inspiration because it was the first time

that I ever heard music and then missed hearing it so much that I was kind of heartsick with missing it. More recently, Simon Jefes, the Penguin Café Orchestra, and also Andrew Bird have really inspired me in writing. Andrew Bird was the one who got me into writing pieces for the voice. When I heard his 'First Song,' where he takes a poem written by Galway Kinnell and puts it to melody, I was really startled by how music could encompass words. I don't know why, but for some reason that song just made me realize how well melody and lyrics can complement each other," said Porter.

"A lot of the time I unfortunately don't really know where I'm going when I start a piece, and so sometimes, depending on how obsessed I become, I can have a relatively full draft of it laid out in a number of hours or days, but other times a song can take months. This happens a lot when I let myself get pulled away from something I'm in the middle of writing, and then when I come back to it I'm in a different place in my head than I was before. The great thing with music, however—especially in live performance, is that you can always change it if you want, so sometimes it can be like a song isn't ever really finished."

The deeply personal nature of the creative work of Malibu High School's artists is conveyed by Tanner's response to the question, "Do you prefer writing a song or singing one that has already been written by someone else?"

"What it really comes down to for me is how well I can convey the emotion of a song as I understand it, and how much fun I have while I'm singing it. The thing that is so wonderful about emotionally connecting with someone else's work is that you're kind of serving as an example for how the emotional aspects of art transcend the people who create them," said Porter.

Malibu High School artists are genuine, connected to their feelings, and ardent. In the end, no one has labels. People are individuals with different unique personalities and passions.

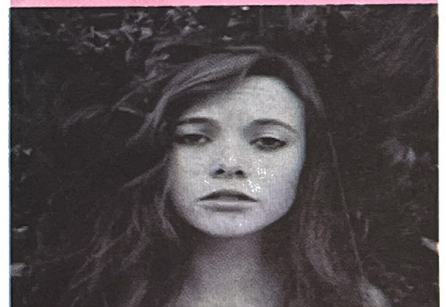
Meet The "Indies"



Junior Tanner Porter.



Junior Simone Hills



Senior Ali Gilliam



Sophomore Payden Hayes

How to Avoid the Waiting Blues

By Davis Thacker
EDITOR IN CHIEF

It is that time of the year again. Freshmen are freshmen, sophomores are unnecessarily stressing about their first AP test, juniors are worrying about SAT testing, and seniors are... seniors are slowly losing motivation and developing the teacher-irritating condition of senioritis.

For seniors, our applications are in and we are beginning the stressful period of waiting for our eventual acceptance or rejection to schools.

Some have experienced the thrill of being accepted to a

school and the sigh of relief that comes with knowing that every school has not does not have a personal vendetta against you.

For others, the first letter of acceptance cannot come soon enough. And the fear of future rejection begins to grow exponentially. This article is not meant to offer solace. This is a list of suggestions of how to cope with this oh-so-grueling waiting process follows. Some of them will be things people actually consider, some will cause people to mock me in the hallways.

Stay In School: And let the mocking begin. No, administration did not bribe me in any way shape or form; this is simply my own thought.

of being a second semester senior and all of the wonders that accompany such a title, I have come to realize that the main way to keep my mind preoccupied while waiting for college decisions is to endure one more semester.

I know that this is a hard proposition to accept, but I believe it has some merit to it. While I am not endorsing 4.0s for every senior at MHS, I do endorse coming to school. It will take your mind off of more stressful things and it will give you a chance to spend more time with people.

Make a goal: Now that the embarrassing "stay in school" speech is over, I can start talking about things people might consider.

This next one is simply to make a goal for yourself. Let's face it, we only have one more semester of high school left and there are definitely things that we all have goals that we have not yet completed. For

some, the goal might be something tangible; like getting ridiculously buff and tan, striking up a new hobby, or maybe getting sent to the Principal's office for the first time (for legal purposes, I do not condone misbehavior or any actions that may land one a visit with Dr. Kelly).

For others, our goal may be something that is a sort less tangible and more elusive, like becoming a better person or becoming more confident with the opposite sex.

Whatever that goal may be, at least try to achieve it by the time you walk at graduation. Again, this goal will help keep your mind off of college stuff and will ease the pain of your last semester as a senior.

Get to know your classmates: This is the final part of my trio of things to do while waiting for college decisions. One of the best parts of senior year thus far has been getting to know people that I have not

For seniors, applications are in and we are beginning the stressful period of waiting for our eventual acceptance or rejection to schools.

Waiting...

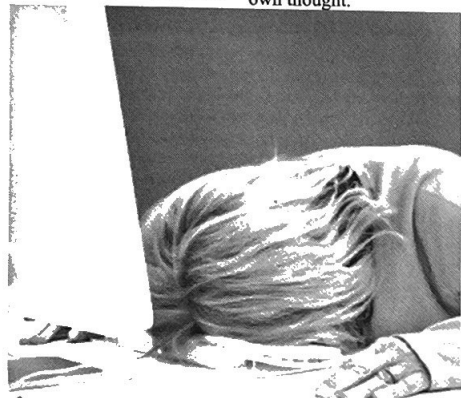


spoken onlinepersonaltrainingvideobootcamp.com semester left word to together and in my previous high school years. I will never see a lot of these people ever again (with the exception of Facebook photo updates), so get to know your class.

So naturally, my last thing to do is to know the people of my class better. We have the advantage of having a very small school and a very small graduating class as well, so it is not that hard to at least have one conversation with almost every person.

Who knows, maybe someone from our class will become ridiculously famous and you can tell your children how you had a conversation with the President of the United States about Point Pizza subs? We only have a

There are tons of other things that will successfully keep your mind off of the college waiting process, but these are just a few suggestions. And as we approach the time of year when seniors do their senior things (senior act in Masque, senior prank, prom, senior field trip), graduation gets ever-so-tangible in the front of our minds.



school and the sigh of relief

Although I do love the idea

Vasiliki Tiring Of Insomnia

By Caroline Kaufman
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Over 60 million Americans spend long sleepless nights watching the clock, waiting for morning or hoping for sleep and long tired days fighting off fatigue. 60 million Americans and senior Vasiliki Ioannou have something in common; both suffer from insomnia.

According to NPR insomnia comes in many forms. Some people suffering from it sleep for a couple of hours, wake up and then are unable to get back to sleep for the rest of the night. Others suffering from insomnia are unable

to sleep at all most nights. The reasons for insomnia are far more numerous and are not well understood. Psychologists and sleep disorder specialists have differing theories about the reasons for insomnia, ranging from depression to eating habits to physical stress.

Ioannou spends most nights awake, unable to fall asleep. She has suffered from this form of insomnia for over a year.

"I can't sleep a lot of the time," said Ioannou.

"Some nights I don't sleep at all."

Ioannou believes her lack of sleep has affected her life significantly.

"[My insomnia] affects school a lot," said Ioannou. "I've seen my grades go down since this started happening a year ago."

"[My insomnia] affects school a lot."
-Vasiliki Ioannou

Ioannou's insomnia has increased her stress level, not only because she is tired most of the time, but also because she spends most of the night just hoping she will be able to fall asleep soon. When she hears the sound of the house's sprinklers go off at five in the morning, she knows she has no hope of falling asleep.

Sometimes Ioannou gets up and tries to distract herself from the time. She reads, listens to music or watches television.

Although Vasiliki has considered taking medication for her sleeping disorder, she does not believe it is the best solution for her.

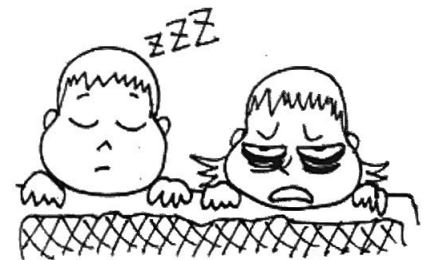
"I'm scared of becoming dependent on medication," said Ioannou. "I mean a lot of people our age go through it and then grow out of it around their 20s."

Ioannou has tried herbal teas and listening to music to help her fall asleep. Herbal tea often makes her feel more relaxed, but it is nowhere near a quick fix to her sleeping problem. Listening to Podcasts and certain music used to help Ioannou fall asleep, but it is no longer helping.

Ioannou has recently tried looking at the psychological reasons why she might not be able to fall asleep. Ioannou is able to fall asleep more often and more easily during the summer, when she is less stressed. Because of this she believes her stress level affects how fast and when she falls asleep.

"The fact I have [insomnia] stresses me out," said Ioannou. "But, [insomnia] is an effect rather than a cause of most

icancure.com



of my stress."

Ioannou is not sure where she will attend school next year but is hoping to go to Hampshire College, Lewis and Clark College or a university in England. She has not yet thought about how she will

"I make my best designs and songs when I haven't slept"

-Vasiliki Ioannou

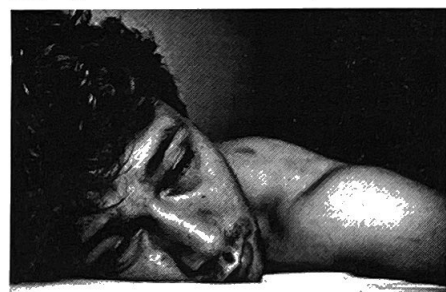
it will probably not be the best option. She believes that wellness housing will make life easier during college, but will make her transition into "the real world" more difficult.

There have been some benefits to Ioannou's insomnia. She has found it gives her a creative edge in her music and fashion design.

"I like making music a lot more when I am sleep deprived," said Ioannou. "I make my best designs and songs when I haven't slept."

deal with her insomnia at college.

Many schools offer "Wellness Housing" for students who want to live an especially healthy lifestyle. Ioannou has thought about wellness housing, but has decided



edupics.com

Foreign Exchange Student Brings Diversity to Malibu

By Hailey Hoffman:
STAFFWRITER

Foreign exchange is one of the best ways to create opportunities for international friendships.

This year Malibu High School has the pleasure of welcoming sophomore **Julia Sztajn**, a foreign exchange student from Rio de Jr, Brazil. **Sztajn** says that she has had the most amazing experience coming to the U.S. as her foreign exchange destination. She speaks four languages; English, Hebrew, Portuguese, and French. She has traveled to Europe, Israel, and major cities in the U.S. such as New York and Washington D.C. **Julia** came to the U.S. for its different culture.

"I was always watching movies, the news, and everything else, so I was always saying 'Oh, I want to go there!' and I want to live this high school experience and this teenage

experience," said **Sztajn**. There are many differences between Malibu and **Julia's** school in Rio. At **Julia's** school back home she does not get to choose which classes she takes. She has a block schedule, so every day she has different classes.

Her culture back home is also very different compared to America's culture.

"The people are different, the SATs are different, the way of studying, the way of learning is different, so everything is different. It's a totally different environment back at my school in Rio," said **Sztajn**.

Technology does not play an exceedingly important role for learning in Rio. Her teachers do not use projectors or Powerpoint as teaching methods.

Malibu High School is very different from **Julia's** school in Brazil.

"There are all types of food, stores, and the beach. I am in a small school back

home, so everyone knows each other," said **Sztajn**.

Julia also loves the areas on the outskirts of Malibu. She loves the atmosphere and environment of Los Angeles in general.

"I love LA and the fact that you can go to the beach and then straight to the mountains. I also went to Hollywood and it was kind of crazy! I don't know exactly why, but man, I love that place!" said **Sztajn**.

"I also love Malibu because this is a place where I will always want to come back to in the future because of things related to music and entertainment," said **Sztajn**.

Despite **Julia's** affection for Malibu, when she first arrived to school she had trouble breaching cultural differences.

"I think the people in Malibu are more closed off and it's really hard to get their attention," said **Sztajn**.

Julia has a very strong connection with her host family, as well.



"When I first got here it was so hard. I left my friends, family, home, and everything I was used to. Thankfully, my host family has helped me a lot. I am really grateful for them."

Julia has had to adjust to American food too. At first she was nervous and was questioning if she would like the food in this country. Brazilian food has more meat, rice, and beans. She still prefers Brazilian food over American food, but she has gotten used to the adjustment.

From this experience **Julia** has learned an exceeding amount of information, about herself and this culture.

"I learned how to be more independent, how to live without my parents, how to grow up, how to deal with people, and how to deal

with problems. If you have

problems you have to solve them," said **Julia**.

Teachers, staff, and students at Malibu High School have also been very supportive towards **Sztajn**.

"At the beginning I was really scared. I had a hard time understanding English, so I would talk to the teachers and tell them I was having a hard time and they were totally open to me. They know that it is hard for me and because of that they are all patient and kind," said **Sztajn**.

Julia has a lot of advice to give to other foreign exchange candidates as well.

"I would say that it is the most amazing, hard experience. You have to be patient and have to want to do it. You have to be yourself and you have to want it so much. People should trust themselves, be confident, and do it. Of course there's going to be different stories, different families, but everyone can do it. Every one can be strong enough," said **Stain**.

"It's a totally different environment back at my school in Rio"

- Sophomore **Julia Sztajn**.



Jordan Simon Continues to Set World Records

By Jack Platner
STAFFWRITER

This winter break most kids were either visiting family, taking a vacation or just hanging out.

Junior **Jordan Simon** on the other hand was busy setting several more martial arts world records in Sacramento as his title records increased to 19.

Simon also won the coveted junior grand championship of all competitors 17 and under. His competition was from nearly five different countries including Mexico, Guatemala, Ecuador, Ireland, and the United States.

What is even slightly more impressive is with his recent wins, **Simon** completing a 4-peat having won

that title for the last 4 consecutive wins.

Simon is a weapons and fighting specialist.

He has won more weapons titles than anyone is history of the NBL, the National Black belt League in which 1000's over its 20-year history have completed.

Talking to **Simon** is very humbling because you know he is a world champion and is among the top athletes in the world but he is just as down to earth as any other kid.

"I think it's incredible what **Jordan** has done and the fact that he is so humble about it makes it that much better," said junior **Kyle Sandler**.

He very rarely talks about his accomplishments unless encouraged to.

Jordan began and continues

to train at **Joey Escobar** in Malibu. He began training at a very young age of 3 years old. When he began to seriously compete, he also began training with another world champion, **Butch Togisala** whom he regularly trains with throughout the month.

When asked what the future holds for **Jordan** in the martial arts world, he

replied that he will continue training for karate and go to competitions as long as he has the time, but his focus now is playing for the sharks baseball team where he is the starting shortstop. When asked if his martial arts training helped him in baseball, **Jordan** said that his hand eye coordination and concentration has been great for his baseball career.

He maintains a social and academic lifestyle as well as training and competing at a world class level," said junior **Carson Meyer**.



malibutimes.com



Lady Gaga's Fame Still Strong

By Julia Blanchette
STAFFWRITER

Since her first appearance at Coachella Lady Gaga has achieved a record breaking amount of music awards, sold out performances, and a loyal group of followers that stalk her twitter posts and her every move or thought. Lady Gaga calls them her little monsters. To her fans she is an enigma and

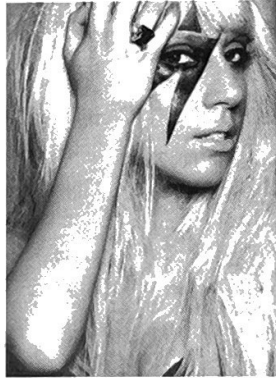


expresses her art as an announcement to people to

love who you are as a person because you are "Born This Way." But Lady Gaga is seen like a Rorschach painting that could be interpreted in a million different ways, custom to each person listening to her music. Her lyrics and interviews act as a voice speaking for

the voiceless, for men and women who are judged ev-

eryday for being gay or different. Her lyrics describe her psychological fears of relationships and her past that every teenager can relate to. Lady Gaga acts as a vent for modern day feelings. Her music videos are stories that reflect social norms like such ideas as a corrupt government, fame as a killer, a



to her public appearances all go into her underlying theme of acting as a mirror. It seems Lady Gaga is slowly taking over the world in her own way. After meeting the Queen of

woman's body as a weapon, and a place where freedom isn't really free. Lady Gaga says, "she is her art, she is her persona". Everything she does is for her performance, from what she wears

England Lady Gaga plans to release her own line of electronics ranging from a camera designed as a pair of sleek sunglasses that

a digital flip screen Polaroid. Her upcoming concept album will be released in May and is promised to be frame breaking musical



projects the image onto the lenses, a portable printer that prints pictures instantly from your phone, and

art. The single "Born This Way" releases February 13 2011.

Blast From The Past: "Exile From Guyville"

By Caroline Kaufman
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Rock and roll encompasses many things: anger, sex, hopelessness, strength, powerlessness and freedom. Of all the albums I have ever listened to, only one album has all of these things and is still not cliché or overly dramatic. This album is "Exile in Guyville" by Liz Phair.

This album is fueled by Phair's disdain for men, society and basically everything else. She is not afraid to criticize anything. She attacks the standardized testing system and then summarily questions her own dedication to gender role in her song "Canary."

In her song "6'1" she describes a fight with her boyfriend. Although on the

surface the song merely describes Phair's frustrations with her boyfriend, the song is truly about the female frustration with size. Phair sings that while she is yelling at her boyfriend "I was standing six feet one instead of five feet two." This is a fight from a female perspective. Phair resents that her boyfriend is taller than her and able to dominate the fight AND she sings about it. Phair is good.

The greatest song on the album, and in my top ten favorite songs, is "F*** and Run." In this song Phair questions modern relationships. She asks "whatever happened to a boyfriend, the kind of guy who tries to win you over?" Despite singing about meaningless hook-ups in other songs, in

this song Phair denounces them. She says "I want a boyfriend." Throughout the entire album Phair insults men and calls relationships meaningless, and yet in one song she is entirely vulnerable. For just three minutes, Phair questions her entire outlook on males.

This album is feminism and yet weakness. It encompasses many emotions, scenarios and trains of thought. There is no album out there that is so diverse and emotionally expansive that I know of out there.

The unsophisticated listener would call Phair tone deaf and monotone. This listener is not listening to the lyrics or emotion of the song. It is true that Phair is not the greatest singer or vocalist in the world, but she is a fantastic lyricist.

By Emma Blackwood
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

After almost two years, popular indie rock band The Decemberists released a new album titled "The King is Dead" on January 18th, 2011. Typical in some ways to previous Decemberists songs such as the "Raincoat Song" and "Yankee Bayonet", this album also incorporated new aspects from the band.

This album is rather short with only nine tracks and about 45 minutes long. It features two hymns and a wide array of instruments,

but only a few songs stand out.

Track one "Don't Carry It All" features a fantastic harmonica part, but is otherwise fairly standard for the band and is not particularly memorable. "Calamity Song" features lyrics and melodies also very similar to other Decemberists songs but is generally well written. The following song "Rise To Me" is the first memorable song on

the album with great harmonica solo and features



instruments in as much as lyrics and are not as well

Me First and the Gimme Gimmes "God Down Under"

Old Habits Mixed With New

In "The King is Dead"

Although the lyrics and style are typical of the band, it is well put together and one of the better tracks.

"Rox In the Box" and track six "Down By The Water" are both upbeat tracks with a wide variety of musical instruments but have typical Decemberists

harmonic and are not as well

sung, making them not particularly memorable. The former song is very short, and has a more folksy music feel than other songs by the band. "All Arise" is even folksier with a violin, guitar, and piano featured with the voice and is uncharacteristic to The Decemberists, overall decent but not a hit for the album.

The two hymns titled "January Hymn" and "June Hymn" are both fantastic, though they begin like typical Decemberists songs they feature heavy instrumentals that match the vocals very well. The "January Hymn" features more guitar while the "June Hymn" has more harmonica with the gui-

tar. Although typical lyrics for the band, both are very memorable tracks and are exceptionally well written.

The last track is by far the most successful and leaves the listener satisfied with the album. Title "Dear Avery", the song is more mellow than other tracks and does not feature the harmonica that was heavily present in the other songs but it is a great song.

Overall, this album mixed the old Decemberists with new touches like the prevalent harmonica, but it was very successful.

Rating:



"Bieber Fever" Runs Rampant Amongst Teens

By Natalie Kaufman
STAFF WRITER

Never Say Never coming out on February 11, 2011 is a movie that follows Justin Bieber on his 2010 tour. Named after his song *Never Say Never* written for *The Karate Kid*, this concert movie will be similar to Disney concert movies such as the Jonas Brothers concert movie and the Hannah Montana concert movie, both featuring the artists on tour and behind the scenes exclusives.

Although *The Jonas Brothers: The 3-D Concert Experience* did not gross as much as expected, *Hannah*

Montana and Miley Cyrus: The Best of Both Worlds concert grossed over 70 million dollars. The Jonas Brothers, Hannah Montana, and Justin Bieber concert movies all have a similar fan-base. However, the number of fans afflicted by "Bieber Fever" worldwide may be larger than the number of Hannah Montana and Jonas Brothers.

This movie will follow Justin Bieber's journey to fame in addition to his tour, from his first time performing in home videos to the concerts with an overwhelming number of people in the audience. Justin Bieber comes from a small

town in Canada. He mainly resides with his mother and has been involved with music since a very young age.

Bieber, who came from a family with no background in the music industry, has worked his way to international stardom by talent.

Some of the "Beliebers" interviewed in the movie

and more than one manager was interested in Bieber's potential. Justin ended up signing with Usher and was rejected by several labels before signing with Island Records (who also produces of Sum 41). Bieber, who came from a family with no background in the music industry, has worked his way to international stardom by talent.

Some of the "Beliebers" interviewed in the movie

Never Say Never have followed him on his path to fame while others became devoted when he became artist of the year. *Never Say Never* will follow from his journey to fame, to the sensational concert performances.

Even with a huge fan base, it depends how many people will attend, how many will pay for the more expensive 3-D tickets versus the 2-D version, and how many times they will see it in theatres. The Hannah Montana movie promoted as only playing for one week and only was shown on 687 screens in the United States making

millions while the *Jo Bro's* movie was more highly promoted and played in many more screens for much longer. As a promotion tactic for this movie, there is a sweepstakes to see the premier of *Never Say Never* in Los Angeles, people may perform one of several Justin Bieber songs and the person with the best audition wins. Although Justin Bieber has millions of fans, it is a highly specific demographic. With a large majority of younger girls the people who are counting down the days until the premiere of the movie, it is difficult to estimate the success of the film.

Carolyn Pushaw Best Picture "The King's Speech"

Despite my reservations about the apparently boring subject matter of *The King's Speech*, in which King George VI attempts to overcome his stutter, I was utterly captivated by this movie. I started out watching it merely as research for this article, and, abandoning the math homework I was trying to do simultaneously, ended up literally on the edge of my seat, awed by the amazing skill of the actors, whose performances made the movie. During the climax, I even stopped breathing for several seconds.

Best Actor Colin Firth

I desperately wanted to pick Jeff Bridges for this, one of my personal heroes/favorite actors, that I was actually slightly disappointed upon seeing Firth's magnificent performance in *The King's Speech*. His depiction of King George VI was so realistic and spellbinding that I found myself deeply sympathizing with the character and becoming emotionally involved in the movie, which is a rare occurrence for me.

Best Supporting Actor Geoffrey Rush

First of all, I would just like to say that I believe Andrew Garfield (Eduardo Saverin in *The Social Network*) was completely robbed, as he was not even nominated for his stellar acting. Apart from Garfield, the only contenders for the award are Bale and Rush, who were both so good that it could really go either way. However, I thought Rush's portrayal of the king's unorthodox speech therapist in *The King's Speech* provided an excellent counterpoint to Firth's intense acting.

Best Supporting Actress Hailee Steinfeld

I was shocked to discover that Steinfeld is only 14, as her obvious and refreshing talent seems to defy her extreme youth. She was able to shine in a star-studded cast consisting of such established actors as Jeff Bridges, Josh Brolin, and Matt Damon. Indeed, I think she was actually improperly nominated; she should be in the Best Actress category rather than Best Supporting Actress, as her character was the main focus of the movie.

Best Actress Natalie Portman

After training for over a year for her role, it is no wonder that Portman delivered such a powerful performance as Nina, the lead ballerina in a production of *Swan Lake* who develops a rivalry with another ballerina. Her character's descent from the pure and innocent White Swan to the depraved *Black Swan* is gripping, believable, and above all disturbing.

Best Director Darren Aronofsky

Aronofsky's directorial triumph, *Black Swan*, was visually incredible and really trippy. I particularly enjoyed his use of mirrors and pictures to reflect the main character's increasingly fragmented mental state, and the ballet itself was spectacularly filmed. I was left both amazed and confused by his ability to so cleverly combine reality and delusion into one epic movie experience.



2011 Oscar Predictions

By Kat Rowan
PHOTO EDITOR

Throughout the past couple of years The Academy Awards have been quite easy to predict, however, this year is a bit more challenging. With amazing performances, original ideas and true emotion, any of the nominations could win. From bloody tongue injuries to delusional hang nails, the nominations are unforgettable. Westerns, different worlds and the story of our generation should make it a thrilling and entertaining Oscar night.

While some experts believe that *The Social Network* and *Black Swan* are tied for winning, others speculate that *The King's Speech* or *Never Let Me Go* could take home the gold. *The King's Speech* might not be as well-known or popular as *The Social Network* yet the reviews are exceptional. Rolling Stones wrote, "Two men alone create an epic landscape of feeling in one of the very best movies of the year." This year's hosts are James Franco and Anne Hathaway. The night should be full of surprises with this year's nominees.

Best Picture Nominees



Kat Rowan Best Picture "The Social Network"



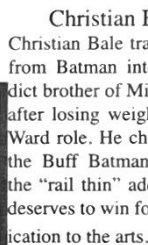
The Social Network has been the poular vote to win. It is the story of the youngest billionaire and the founder of facebook. *The Social Network* was expected to win, however, the once underdog *The King's Speech* is now gaining popularity and could possibly win. This movie may or may not win, but it will take a place in history.

Best Actor Colin Firth



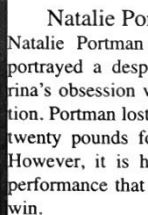
Colin Firth is absolutely extraordinary in the film *The King's Speech*. Firth gives the performance of a lifetime in this tale of a king cursed with a severe stutter. If Colin Firth does not win it only be due to stupidity and ignorance on the part of the Academy.

Best Supporting Actor Christian Bale



Christian Bale transformed from Batman into the addict brother of Micky Ward after losing weight for the Ward role. He changed for the Buff Batman body to the "rail thin" addict. Bale deserves to win for his dedication to the arts.

Best Actress Natalie Portman



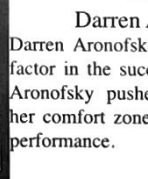
Natalie Portman beautifully portrayed a desperate ballerina's obsession with perfection. Portman lost a shocking twenty pounds for her role. However, it is her amazing performance that deserves to win.

Best Supporting Actress Melissa Leo



Leo played Alice Ward, the mother of Micky Ward in *The Fighter*. She completely captured the character and her struggles as a mother. Leo deserves the win for her true understanding of her character and her ability to portray someone so much older than her.

Best Director Darren Aronofsky



Darren Aronofsky may be the main factor in the success of *Black Swan*. Aronofsky pushed Portman beyond her comfort zone and into a brilliant performance.

Boys Basketball Rebounds From Slow Start to Season

By Hayley Bosworth
STAFFWRITER

The Malibu High School varsity basketball team now holds a 8-17 record, 4-5 in league. With coaching from second-year Coach Bobby Tenorio, the team's intensity, skill, and connection is being brought together to form what a majority of the team considers a family.

"I think one of our great

est strengths is definitely the chemistry, trust, and the fact that our team is so young and has so much time to improve even further than we already have this season," said senior Chase Hall.

Many players agree that the main component to their team's success is the chemistry they have together.

"We're all really close. This team is more of a family than any other team I've ever played for," said junior

Patrick Fontenette.

The Sharks' "family" includes a variety of personalities, such as those who are known for bringing energy and spirit to the team. Returning member Kyle Sandler feels a much deeper connection to this team than last year's.

"The team last season was not very close, but this season we're one big happy family. The chemistry this team is astronomical," said Sandler, a third year starter

for the varsity squad.

One of the main things that the team has tried to change about this year's season is fan participation during the home games. The team has relied on constant advertising ranging from signs, announcements, and even a video announcement before the Sharks' first league game.

"The energy off the court is really important in the game. We got great energy and support from the stands, and that helped a lot while we played," said senior Evan Schoenbrun.

In their first league game against Santa Paula on January 7, Malibu lost 46-51 in overtime after surrendering a double-digit lead in the second half.

The Sharks have had trouble keeping leads during a number of their league games. The team began the season 0-4, but has recently begun to hit their stride. Following their game against Carpinteria, when the Sharks used an impressive second quarter to spark the team's energy

and lead them to their first league victory. The following game, the Sharks rode the wave of energy and momentum to a win against Santa Paula while they were away from the Shark Tank. Junior guard Jack Platner scored 32 points in the Sharks victory against the team that cost them their first



league loss of the year.

The Sharks ended their league season with four of their five games on the road, with their only home game being their senior night against Villanova Prep. The

Sharks bade farewell to all four of their seniors, including Schoenbrun, Hall, Montrail Yates, and Saadiq Hassan. The final home game afforded the seniors a chance to say goodbye and thank all of the fans that have supported the team throughout their careers as Malibu High School basketball players.

"Fans are a great aspect to the game. They help out so much in dire situations and are very supportive. We love our fans because they bring all of the excitement," said Hall.

While the Sharks did not win the Frontier League as they had hoped to when the season began, they can take solace in the fact that all five of this year's starters as well as a number of their top reserves will be returning next year to attempt to accomplish the goals that they were unable to fulfill this season.



LEADER: Junior Kyle Sandler leads an offensive possession during a game against Carpinteria.

Girls Soccer Looks To Make Deep Run Into CIF

By Grace Van Dien and Hannah Horton
STAFFWRITERS

As the Malibu High School varsity girls soccer season begins to come to a close, the team looks to return to CIF and secure a high ranking in their league. After winning CIF last year, the team was bumped up from the Frontier League to the Tri-Valley League, where they have faced much stiffer competition.

"We feel that we are still good enough to make it to CIF and we play every game like we want to win," said Kristiana Konkol, last year's MVP of CIF playoffs.

The girls have been deter-

mined to make this season as amazing as last year's and in order to do so, they have not let their bad moments phase them. For example, when the girls fell in a 5-0 contest to the Oaks Christian Lions, they took it as a valuable lesson and used the loss as motivation to practice harder and become a better team. The next time the Sharks faced the Lions, Malibu lost 0-1 in what was a heavily contested and well-fought game that many of the players and coaches believed they should have won.

"At the end of the day, that's a game we should have won," said Head Coach John Johnstone in an interview with the Malibu Times.

This year's season

brought a lot of new players, many of whom have been welcome additions to the squad. Freshmen Jane Sidley, Karena Thompson, Erin Samuel, Danica Downing, and others have all found success thus far on the team and have bought into the team's and coaches' strategies and work ethic.

The addition of the team's new players could not have come at a better time for the team, who lost a number of their starting seniors from last year's championship squad. Players such as Claire Haft, Kelcie Meyer, and Caysie Beetley were greatly missed at the beginning of the season, but the girls have begun to find their mojo since.

"We don't have our star-

ring seniors anymore, and we have no close-bonded team" said Konkol.

Still, Konkol (as well as the other older members of the team) thoroughly enjoy being leaders and helping the newcomers. This year's team is led by a strong group of senior and junior girls that have all returned from last year's team and who know exactly the amount of work and time that go into winning a CIF title. Seniors Gigi Wooler, Ashtin Miller, and Claire

Kiefer highlight a team that now has a decent mix of experienced older players as well as younger inexperienced players.

"Getting the team together, and meeting the newcomers has been my favorite part of the season so far," said junior Paige Stoker.

As the season begins to come to a close, the girls stand in second place in the Tri-Valley League behind Oaks Christian (who is undefeated in league play). The team is con-

tinually working towards achieving a CIF bid and hopefully moving deep into CIF playoffs once they get there. While the competition will be tougher for the girls this time around, they hope that their experience in big-game situations from last year's playoffs as well as the improvement that both individuals and the team as a whole have undergone this year will serve them well.

EYE ON THE BALL: Junior Kristiana Konkol dribbles during a game against Oaks Christian.



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Super Bowl Recap:

The Current offers a recap of the playoffs as well as a recap of the Packers-Steelers throwdown.

By Will Rosenthal
STAFFWRITER

Pending the results of the Super Bowl, the NFL playoffs are coming to a close. Followed by a year of unexpected teams winning certain divisions, the playoffs promised to be a fun one.

For the first time in history a team with a losing record of 7-9 made its way into the playoffs. The Seattle Seahawks from the worst division a NFL regular season has ever seen, the NFC West, were facing the defending Super Bowl champions, the New Orleans Saints, who were huge favorites to win the game. The game was full of big plays and high scoring, including "one of the best runs I have ever seen in my football career," says Saints coach Sean Payton about Seahawks running back Marshawn Lynch's amazing 67 yard touchdown run. The Seahawks pulled off

the amazing upset beating the Saints 41-36.

The game that followed was an exciting match-up between the Indianapolis Colts and New York Jets. With the Jets known for hardnosed, big hitting defense and the Colts for a high powered offense run by one of the best ever, Peyton Manning, it looked to be a great battle. The game finished with a time-expiring field goal by Jets kicker Nick Folk to win the game for the Jets 17-16 in a very exciting game.

The next game was played between the Baltimore Ravens and the young Kansas City Chiefs. With the experience and lockdown defense, the Ravens pulled away early and never let up, winning 30-7. The next game was thought by most to be the most intriguing game played on wild card weekend, the Green Bay Packers led by superstar quarterback Aaron Rodgers and the Philadelphia Eagles led by the rejuvenated

Michael Vick. The Packers pulled away during the first half winning 14-3 and dominated all aspects of the game. But a second half comeback sparked the Eagles and they had a shot to win the game, but fell short due to a late interception by Vick which closed the game out. The Packers advanced winning 21-16.

Divisional weekend started with a great game with the well rested Pittsburgh Steelers and the Baltimore Ravens. Both teams are known for their excellence in defense, but this game showed otherwise. In a high scoring fiesta the Steelers came out on top 31-24. The ensuing game was between the Green Bay Packers and the Atlanta Falcons. With one of the great quarterbacking performances of the year by Aaron Rodgers, the Packers demolished the Falcons 48-21.

The Chicago Bears and the surprising Seattle Seahawks faced each other next. The Seahawks showed their weaknesses in cold weather in Chicago with the Bears walking all over them, winning 35-24. Next was by far the most anticipated game during divisional weekend, the New England Patriots against the New York Jets. With tons of trash talking and bragging by the Jets, the Patriots remained silent, wanting to prove themselves on the field. But they couldn't, the Jets contained Patriots quarterback Tom Brady and won the game by a final score of 28-21.

With two evenly matched

games, the conference championships promised to be very fun games to watch. First, in the NFC championship, the Chicago Bears and the Green Bay Packers set to battle for a trip to the Super Bowl. With the Bears quarterback Jay Cutler sustaining a knee sprain in the second quarter, the Bears didn't have much offense till it was too late and the Packers earned a trip to the Super Bowl defeating the Bears 21-14.

The Pittsburgh Steelers and the New York Jets also battled for the AFC championship game. Both teams were at the top of the league in almost every defense category, but it was the Jets who slipped up on defense first. The Steelers jumped out to a 24-0 lead after the first half because of Jet turnovers and lacking offense. Knowing their season is on the line, the Jets came out inspired in the second half and cut the lead down to only five points. But in the end, the Steelers offense converted two key first downs to run the clock down the zero, defeating the Jets 24-19 and earning a trip to Dallas for the Super Bowl.

The Green Bay Packers and the Pittsburgh Steelers met in Dallas for the Super Bowl. However, if you want to read more about the Super Bowl (in case you for some reason missed the one of the most-watched event on television), read Editor in chief Davis Thacker's article on the right side of this article.

By Davis Thacker
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Throughout the week leading up to Super Bowl Sunday, much of the talk leading up to the big game was a matter of experience. The Pittsburgh Steelers came in with almost their whole team having one or more rings from the team's wins in two of the previous five Super Bowls. The Packers, on the other hand, came in with many of their starters ringless... well, before Sunday was all said and done.

In a game that lived up to all of the hype surrounding it, Super Bowl XLV showed that it's not about what got you to the big game, but how you perform once in it. In their 31-25 victory over Pittsburgh, it was Green Bay that looked like the more experienced team. They committed fewer stupid mistakes than the Steelers, their quarterback Aaron Rodgers looked way more comfortable than his two-time Super Bowl winning counterpart, and they overcame a slew of injuries in a game that proved to be a microcosm for their season as a whole.

The game began with a wonderful rendition of the National Anthem by Christina Aguilera in which she forgot a number of lines and attempted to make sentences out of almost every word. If there was one thing that was wrong with this Super Bowl, it was the choice of musical performers.

Anyways, the actual game began with Green Bay jumping out to a quick lead due to a number of Steeler misfires and Aaron Rodgers. Rodgers delivered the first touchdown of the game to Jordy Nelson, putting Green Bay up 7-0 early. Three plays later, Ben Roethlisberger threw an errant pass that was intercepted by Packers safety Nick Collins, who returned it for a touchdown. At the end of the first quarter, the Packers found themselves up 14-0.

The second quarter saw renewed life from the Steelers, who were able to close a 14-point first quarter deficit to an 11-point deficit by halftime. This was largely due to improved defense and a couple of big plays from Roethlisberger.

At the half, the score was 21-10 in favor of Green Bay.

To say that the halftime show was a disappointment would be somewhat of an understatement for me. I say somewhat because I was not expecting much to begin with. But once I heard Will.i.am open up with an autotune to the face, I knew it was going to be a long ride. There were glimpses of hope throughout the show, such as when Slash suddenly appeared as if from nowhere. However, that was quickly ruined by Fergie's rendition of Sweet Child Of Mine. And once Usher descended from the heavens, I knew it was too much. Part of me was expecting Justin Bieber to make a cameo appearance and sing Time of My Life with the guy whose sole purpose in the Black-Eyed Peas is to wear the flashing Tron suit. However, that wish did not come true.

The third quarter did not see much scoring, but did see the momentum quickly shift to Pittsburgh's side. The Steelers were able to close the gap to four points after Rashard Mendenhall ran for an eight-yard score, but failed to lessen the deficit even further after Sean Suisham made a Ray Finkle-esque field goal attempt.

The fourth quarter proved to be the deciding quarter, as Green Bay was able to stifle Pittsburgh's last attempts at redemptions with another Rodgers touchdown and a Mason Crosby field goal. At the game's conclusion, the Packers won 31-25, and Aaron Rodgers was named Super Bowl MVP, thus finally erasing the shadow of Brett Favre from his figure.

The Packers showed that experience is not quite everything when it comes down to the big game. The Steelers looked sluggish, inexperienced, and plain stupid at numerous portions of the game. But in the end, that's exactly what they deserve for beating the Cardinals two years ago.

LEADER OF THE PACK: Quarterback Aaron Rodgers led the Packers to a Super Bowl in 2011.



Girls Basketball Suffers From Major Injuries

By Davis Thacker
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Malibu High School's varsity girls basketball is 4-17-0 on the season. Despite the team's strong senior class composed of players such as Danielle Bush, Hannah Robinson, Zoe Katz, and others, the team has been ravaged by injuries throughout the season. Bush has been hampered by a torn ligament in her hand for a good majority of the season. After originally being ruled out for the rest of the season, Bush returned to the lineup midseason as starting point guard. While Bush eventually returned to the lineup, her hand continually aggravated her play throughout the season. In addition to the injury to Bush, senior Robinson and junior Carolyn Pushaw also missed time this

season with injuries to the ankle and eye respectively. These injuries have led to inconsistencies with the team's rhythm and chemistry. The team has been forced to play a number of their subs, many of whom are inexperienced and still learning the basics of basketball.

The team's struggles this year were evident in their league record as well as their overall record. After placing fourth in the Frontier League last season with a 5-5 record, the team is 1-5 thus far in league play this season. It also looks as if the team will not make CIF playoffs this season after being the first team in Malibu High School girls basketball history to win a playoff game last year. Again, this is due primarily to the team's number of devastating injuries suffered throughout the course of the season.

The girls will say goodbye

to a large majority of their team this season. The Sharks are senior heavy this year, as over half of their starters will be graduating at the conclusion of the season. Seniors Bush, Robinson, and Katz are four and three year starters for the team and will be greatly missed next year.

However, the girls will return starter Pushaw to the team next season. The junior leads the Sharks in rebounds and blocks per game and ranks second in points scored per game behind Bush. Also returning to the Sharks' lineup next year will be sophomore Sam Stafford, who was second on the team in rebounds and blocks per game behind Pushaw. While the Sharks will rely heavily on these two forwards next season, they hope to inherit some new talent to help replace the presence left by this year's group of seniors.

While the girls will face a

lot of adversity next season after losing such a large part of their current team, they will have one constant Head Coach Andy Meyer has been at the helm of the girls basketball for a number of years now, and will look to use his experience as head coach to guide the team through the next couple of years.

This year has been somewhat of a disappointing season for the girls basketball team, who look to end their season strong with a win against Villanova Prep on Thursday night.

Sidley
LAW GROUP

Girls Water Polo Goes Undefeated in League

By Kelsey Borenzweig
STAFFWRITER

After a successful 2009-2010 girls water polo season, the Malibu High School girls water polo team has not failed to live up to their preseason expectations thus far. At the beginning of the season, the girls set out to win the Tri-Valley League for the third straight year after going undefeated the

past two seasons. "Our goals for this season are to get as far as to win league, because we've won league for a lot of years now, and we want to get as far as we can in CIF," said senior Miranda Bard. Although the girls made it deep into CIF playoffs last season, they look forward to doing better this year. Not only did the team play well together, but the individual participants were additionally outstanding.

As Bard said, the this year's team is determined to prevail when CIF comes around this season.

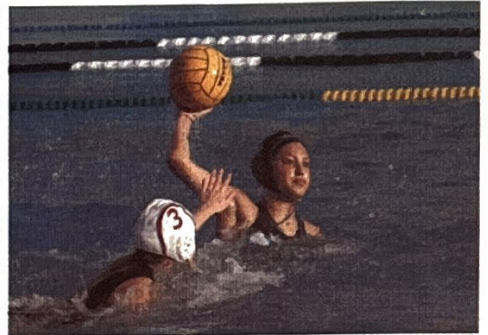
The team's league opener was a successful 10-0 against Villanova, an outstanding start to an already successful season.

This year's team is composed of strong players who are ambitious in their goals and hard-working. This year's squad is led by a strong group of senior players who are experienced and battle-tested. Seniors Sophie Galate, Jojo White, Bard, Faith Brown, and Erika Wooler look the lead this year's team both in an out of the pool.

In addition to a hard-working group of players, the coaching staff, led by Head Coach Tim Segesman, is dedicated to the team's success and pushes the girls through a number of rigorous practices. Another

way that the coaching staff has made sure that the team rises above the less-skilled challengers of the Tri-Valley League is through routine participation in many large tournaments in locations across Southern California, such as Arroyo Grande and Coronado. In these tournaments, the Sharks have faced stiff competition from schools in higher divisions as well as the top schools in their division. This level of competition has helped prepare the girls for their ultimate goal of the season: winning the CIF Championship.

One of the main differences from this year's team and last year's team is the level of team chemistry that the girls have developed between each other. This has led to better relations out of the pool as well as better play in the Shark



SHE SHOOTS!: (above) Senior Sophie Galate shoots on goal. (Left) Junior Lauren Haas does the same



Tank.

"The team this year seems a lot more together than the team last year," said sophomore Linda Brown. As the season begins to come to an end, the girls look forward to maintaining their undefeated record in league while at the same time preparing for CIF.

After coming so close to achieving their goals last season, this year's group is looking to ensure that this year's campaign for a title is successful.

Boys Soccer Develops Younger Talent

By Riley Smoller
STAFFWRITER

The Malibu High School varsity boys soccer team's season is coming to an end as the team attempts to end the season on a high note.

The boys started their 2011 league season with two strong victories against quality opponents. The Sharks defeated Santa Clara 6-2 and Oak Park 3-2. The Santa Clara Saints won the Tri-Valley League last year, but lost many of their starting seniors last

year. In the game, junior Sam Haft scored three of the Sharks' six goals, and junior Giovanni Landin added another goal of his own. The Sharks used their offensive firepower coupled with a strong defensive unit to take down both Santa Clara and Oak Park.

One of the main improvements of this year's team over last year's squad has been this year's stress on technical ability. The Sharks coaching staff has made improving each player's technical ability paramount during every practice so far this year.

"Our technical game has been on-point and we've just really been working on connecting passes and beating the other team with skill rather than just playing kick ball," said Haft, who leads the team this season

in goals.

The Sharks had to go through a major coaching change at the beginning of this season. Former Head Coach Dan Metcalfe left the Sharks after a three-year stint at the helm of boys soccer. Stepping into Metcalfe's shoes are girls head and assistant coaches John Johnstone and Lloyd Kinnear. The two are coming off of a CIF Championship with the girls last season and hope that their experience and talent as coaches will translate to the boys team.

"The boys used their early momentum of the league season to carry them into the mid-portion of their league campaign.

"I feel the last game we played was a great win boosting are confident going into one of our biggest rivals on Friday Oak

Park because we had a little slump before, but I feel we will make playoffs and have a good shot at going all the way," said sophomore Sean Ryan following the Sharks' win against Oak Park.

However, the boys met some roadblocks during the middle portion of the season. The boys fell to Oaks Christian (who is undefeated in league) twice, Carpinteria once, Fillmore once, and tied Santa Paula. However, the boys persevered and were able to maintain their league record around .500. As of now, they have a league record of 4-5-1 and are looking to end their season with a winning record in league.

The boys look to end their season on Wednesday against Fillmore. The boys will say goodbye to their seniors in the game, including senior standout

Hayden Kessenich.

While the boys will not win league like they set out to do at the beginning of the season, there is hope for next season and beyond with the young talent they developed during the season. Juniors Haft and Landin will likely be the leaders of next year's squad, with underclassmen such as sophomores Ryan, Apollo Loomis, Adam Fote, and Zach Le as well as freshman Ari Taublieb, Ethan Flor, and Tyler Savitsky providing valuable talent for later seasons. However, this year's team is focused on ending the season on a high note and sending their seniors off right.

EYE ON THE PRIZE: A Sharks player begins a strike on goal during a game against Santa Clara.



TRADING CARDS

Who is your favorite athlete?

Design by Davis Thacker Compiled by Carley Sedlak

KATE KLEVITT	 <p>Basketball "Kevin Love." '14</p>	KATE KLEVITT	 <p>Soccer "Pele." '13</p>	KEVIN LOVE	 <p>Soccer "Kobe." '12</p>	MIRANDA BARD	 <p>Soccer "Christiano Ronaldo" '11</p>
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