



8TH GRADE DRAMA PRODUCTION

By Christy Stewart and Terese Rutkowski
Staff Writers

On 27th and 28th of March the 8th grade drama class entertained many with their comedy about Romeo and Juliet.

They say dying is easy and comedy is hard, but the cast of Romeo and Juliet managed to combine the two. The play was based on a book by Avi that was turned into a script by Sandra Asher. It follows the lives of two eighth graders as they tried to set up their two best friends.

Pete Saltz played by Ryan Lisman falls Anabelle Stackpoole played by Maryam Nouh, but their shyness keeps them apart. When Pete's best friend, Ed Sitrow (Woody Buck), learns of Pete's crush on Annabelle, he and Lucy Neblet (Laura McClelland) devise a plan get the two together. After reading Romeo and Juliet in class Lucy and Ed decide that by putting on a production of the play would be the perfect opportunity for Pete and Anabelle to talk, even kiss. Their disaster of a play creates a hilariously funny production.

"We worked hard for like five months, but once we were out there it was just a rush...it was just amazing," said school three student Nicoletta Polora. The drama class led by Lindsay Horne practiced for an entire semester to put on the production.

Now that they have completed the biggest challenge of their class, they will continue to practice improve and just have a good time.



8th Grade Drama Class

FIRE STATION 19'S NEW RIDE

by Vinnie Jaidar
and Zane Bodmer
Staff Writers

Remember when you were little and you used to play with toy fire trucks? Well, adults still do, but they play with real ones. Fire Station 19 just got a new toy. Now, Fire Station 19 has a new addition to their fire fighting force.

Fire Station 19 is located on Foothill Boulevard across the street from the Glendale 2 Freeway onramp and New Mayor's Park. It is also neighbors with the Montessori Preschool. The Fire Station got a new truck in early March. New features are air conditioning (most of the crew members have never had air conditioning in there fire engines before), seats located inside the truck, an automatic transmission, and all new equipment. This includes brand new hoses, ladders, and other necessary equipment like smoke ejectors and chainsaws.

Another useful feature is that it has 300 feet of hose which shoots out water at 1,500 gallons per minute. Each truck costs roughly \$350,000, and weighs 42,000 pounds (21 tons). This truck is one of 260 trucks distributed to the Los Angeles County Fire Department which will help fight fires and save lives every day. They have taken fire fighting to the next level.

Photographed by Zane Bodmer



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

SCHOOL NEWS LA County Science Fair Winner!	P2
NEWS Pet Food Recall	P3
CULTURE Recipe: Cream Puffs	PP 4-5
SPORTS Basketball Bowl	PP 6-8
OPINION The Sad Fact About Baseball	P9
FEATURES Horoscopes	PP 10-11

SCHOOL NEWS

HOOFIN' FOR HEIFERS

by Kuan-Yew Clive
Staff Writer

On March 29th, several 8th graders from School Four jogged on the high school track after school at three o'clock in order to raise money for the Heifer International project. The Heifer project is a huge money-raising project in which School Four is attempting to raise \$5000 in order to purchase lots of farm animals to give to extremely poor and hungry people in Africa. This will help them make money by selling milk from a cow or eggs from a chicken. Also, it will help them live a happier life. In this Jog-a-thon led by Mr. Constantinides and Mr. DiConti, the 8th graders were sponsored by parents, friends and a certain amount of money



many ran in this hour-long event. The total amount of money made in this hour-long event was about \$4000. School Four had passed its goal by about \$1000 after that event and is now attempting to complete a second \$5000 project! The best participant in this event was Sean Leddie, who ran 24 laps. This was an extremely successful event for School Four, and it will most likely plan on having a similar money-raising event in the future.

Sean Leddie was the big lap winner.



Participating Teachers

Left to Right:
Mr. DiConti, Mrs. Baird, Mrs. Sinnette (Principal), Mr. Constantinides, Mr. Gilliland, Mr. Matthews, Mrs. Miller, and Mrs. Baldwin

MOJARRADI MEDAL WINNER AT LA COUNTY SCIENCE FAIR

by Ian McElfresh
and Bo Mattix
Staff Writers

On Saturday, April 28, Amir Mojarradi won third prize at the Los Angeles County Science Fair. There were 40 students from schools all across Southern California competing for the first prize, one hundred dollars, and bragging rights for having won one of the best science projects there all of L.A. Since the topic for the contest was to build something related to light physics and magnetism, Amir made a high voltage power supply that runs off of batteries and uses a television transformer to make the battery much more powerful. It takes the batteries and changes the electricity of it to alternate current which is sent through a TV transformer making 5000 volts of electricity. The high voltage power supply also makes a one inch spark while converting the electricity. While competing against other projects such as a high speed camera and a radio built from scratch, Amir won 3rd prize of \$25. Because he won third prize, Amir gets to move on to the state finals.



Amir Mojarradi

CJSF WHAT STUDENTS ARE DOING FOR HOURS

by Bo Mattix,
and Ian McElfresh
Staff Writers

Many 7/8 students are in the program California Junior Scholastic Federation, or CJSF, but some are having trouble finding things to do to complete the hours required for the program. Students are required to do ten hours of community service. If students complete the ten hours of community service, then they get to go on a roller blading field trip at the end of the year. However, if you miss any of the after-school meetings, you have to do an additional two hours. Four out of ten students polled in CJSF are having trouble finding things to do for the community service hours they need.

If CJSF members are having trouble finding ways to do community service hours, here are some ways to get them done. Helping at a senior's home is a great way to contribute to the community. If working with younger children is a passion, students can work at a CEC. Working at the IRC (Information Resource Center) is a good way to earn hours, but students can only do it if they have special training. Helping teachers at school can also help out with hours, but they don't count if extra credit is included in the deal. Volunteering at an environmental institute like Eaton Canyon is great if doing things outdoors with nature is something enjoyable. Helping to prepare for school events is great, and can help make the activities even better. Helping out with coaching a little league sports team, or even being an umpire for a game if sports, is something enjoyable. Cleaning up trash in your community is a great way to earn hours. Students could volunteer at a church or temple. Helping out at a hospital is another way. CJSF is not just about getting hours to go on a trip at the end of the year, but it is also a way to make your school, community, or even the world a better place.

NEWS

PET FOOD RECALL

by Vinnie Jaidar
Staff writer

On March 16th, Menu Foods Inc. initiated a voluntary recall involving a large number of both dog and cat foods. The products are sold by many different distributors under different brand names that people may be feeding their dogs or cats. The affected products are both moist (packaged in pouches) and canned diets. They are described as “cuts and gravy” style pet foods. The recall started after reports that at least ten pets encountered kidney failures and died after eating the food, according to the Food and Drug Administration. Forty cat food brands and 51 dog food brands were involved with the recall. At this time, no dry dog or cat food show to be involved in pet injury or death. Some signs that your pet may be poisoned include sluggishness, jaundice (yellow whites of the eyes, gums or belly), fevers, and severe, persistent vomiting. If you want to find out any more information about the recall, please check the Menu Foods Recall information at

<http://www.menufoods.com/recall>.
The recalled cat foods are: Americas Choice; Preferred Pets; Authority; Best Choice; Companion; Compliments; Demoulas Market Basket; Fine Feline Cat, Shep Dog; Food Lion; Food town; Giant Companion; Good n Meaty; Hannaford; Hill Country Fare; Hy-Vee; Key Food; Laura Lynn; Li'l Red; Loving Meals; Main Choice; Nutriplan; Nutro Max Gourmet Classics; Nutro Natural Choice; Paws; Presidents Choice; Price Chopper; Priority; Save-A-Lot; Schnucks; Sophistacat; Special Kitty; Springfield Pride; Sprout; Total Pet; My True Friend; Wegmans; Western Family; White Rose; and Winn Dixie.

The recalled dog foods are: America's Choice; Preferred Pets; Authority; Award; Best Choice; Big Bet; Big Red; Bloom; Bruiser; Cadillac; Companion; Demoulas Market Basket; Fine Feline Cat; Shep Dog; Food Lion; Giant Companion; Great Choice; Hannaford; Hill Country Fare; Hy-Vee; Key Food; Laura Lynn; Loving Meals; Main Choice; Mixables; Nutriplan; Nutro Max; Nutro Natural Choice; Nutro; Ol'Roy; Paws; Pet Essentials; Pet Pride; President's Choice; Price Chopper; Priority; Publix; Roche Bros; Save-A-Lot; Schnucks; Springfield Pride; Sprout; Stater Bros; Total Pet; My True Friend; Western Family; White Rose; Winn Dixie and Your Pet.

Remember that all of these dog foods are wet food, not dry. If you do use any of these dog or cat food brands for your pet(s), you should find out more about it and see if your food was involved in the recall.

MCDONALD'S AGAINST THE MCJOB

by Eleanor Cardell
Staff Writer

McDonalds has started a public petition against the word McJob in protest of dictionary's definition. “McJob: a non-stimulating, low paid job with few prospects, especially one created by the expansion of the service sector;” originated as a slang term and first described by the Oxford English Dictionary online in March of 2001. Many people would make the connection with McDonald's, but the company thinks otherwise. “We believe that this is out of date, out of touch with reality and most importantly it is insulting to those talented, committed, hard-working people who serve the public every day,” wrote David Fairhurst, the company's chief people officer in northern Europe. It should be redefined to “reflect a job that is stimulating, rewarding and offers genuine opportunities for career progression and skills that last a lifetime.”
They have decided to launch a “high-profile public petition” in Britain and the United Kingdoms to change the definition in the Oxford English Dictionary, which is considered by many wordsmiths to be the gold standard for the English Language. They have tried several times before, without success, to redefine this word. Once in 2003 they took it to court in the United States and failed. Will they be able to change or remove this word which many people find accurate and appropriate?

BYE-BYE, MY HONEY FLY

by Ailin Kim
Staff Writer

It was two years ago when honeybees started vanishing from America at an alarming rate. This is a huge threat to the farmers' crops and livelihoods.
The pollination of flowers by honeybees contributes to America's economy up to \$14 billion. If the bees are gone, the price of avocados, almonds, kiwis, and other fruits and vegetables will increase. As a result, consumers will pay higher prices.
In 24 states throughout America, more than half of the honeybee population has disappeared. Beekeepers reported that 70 percent of their bees had vanished. Bradshaw, 50, a Californian beekeeper, found half of his 100 million bees missing.
“I have never seen anything like it,” Bradshaw said. “Box after box after box are just empty. There's nobody home.”
Since bees play an essential role in the production of nuts, the loss of these honeybees will surely affect California's almond crop. Since honeybees play a big role on the production of almonds, the mass extinction will decrease the prosperity of the almond industry.
Some researchers suggest that this could be the AIDS of the bee industry. Others even call it the “colony collapse disorder.” However, the situation isn't totally hopeless. Growers are actually developing a new way to spread the pollen across plants, according to researchers. The strategies run the gamut from giant blowers to helicopters. Recently, researchers have been trying to develop “self-compatible” almond trees, which require fewer honeybees.
“The real question is why they leave,” told Jerry Hayes, a bee expert from the Florida Department of Agriculture, to the Orlando Sentinel newspaper. “Bees are highly social insects. They don't just leave their babies and the queen.”



CULTURE

CREAM PUFFS

by Morgan Devaud
Staff Writer

Envision yourself tasting chilled vanilla cream custard wrapped in a puff pastry with chocolate drizzle unfolding in your mouth. Picture the smooth, rich, creamy custard melting on your palette. This tasty dessert could easily be yours by following the simple instructions below.

(Makes approximately 3 puffs.)

- 1 cup water
- ¾ stick of butter, cut into 6 pieces
- Seasoning: 1 teaspoon salt and 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 cup of all-purpose flour (scooped and leveled)
- Exactly 1 cup of eggs- about 5 “large” eggs (blend them together thoroughly with a fork before measuring)
- Egg Glaze

- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon of water
- 1 pinch salt
- Blend ingredients together in a small bowl

Preheat the oven to 450 F. First, boil the water in a medium size pan with the butter and seasoning. Once the butter has melted, remove the pan from stove. Now, sift the flour in and beat rapidly until smooth. Once blended, beat over moderate heat for a few minutes, until the dough begins to ball up and no longer sticks to the sides of the pan. Pour the dough into a bowl and stir with a spatula for about 30 seconds to cool it slightly. Next, add ¼ cup of the blended eggs and mix for 2 minutes. Then repeat this process twice, and split the final ¼ of egg in half. Mix the dough together until thick. The dough should not fall off the spatula when lifted. Next, fill your pastry bag with the warm dough and squeeze dollops 1 inch apart from each other. Gently paint each dollop with the eggs glaze. Cook for 20 minutes at 450 F until they have doubled their size and are golden brown. When you take puffs out of the oven, slice each in half immediately.

Vanilla Cream Filling

(Makes approximately 3 cups of filling.)

- 6 egg yolks
- ½ cup sugar
- A pinch of salt
- ½ cup of all purpose flour
- 2 cups of heated half and half
- 1 tablespoon of vanilla extract
- 2 tablespoons of unsalted butter



Whisk the egg yolks in a saucepan and slowly add the mixed sugar and salt. Continue to beat until thick and lemon-colored. Now, add the flour and whisk it in. Dribble the half and half in little by little. Stir over moderate heat until custard comes to a boil. Once lumps form, mix till smooth over low heat. Your cream custard should hold its shape in a spoon. If too thick, slowly add more half and half. Remove from heat and blend the vanilla extract and butter. Let the filling chill for about 15 minutes.

How to Bring it all Together

Once puffs are cooled and cream filling is chilled, place a dollop of the vanilla custard between the two puff pastry slices. Drizzle chocolate over puffs, and place in the fridge for 20 minutes. Enjoy!

THE SECRET BEHIND THE EASTER BUNNY

Emma Persson
Morgan Devaud
Staff Writers

Imagine waking up on Easter morning to find gifts left in your house from the Easter Bunny. Have you ever wondered where the Easter Bunny came from and why it passes out eggs on Easter?

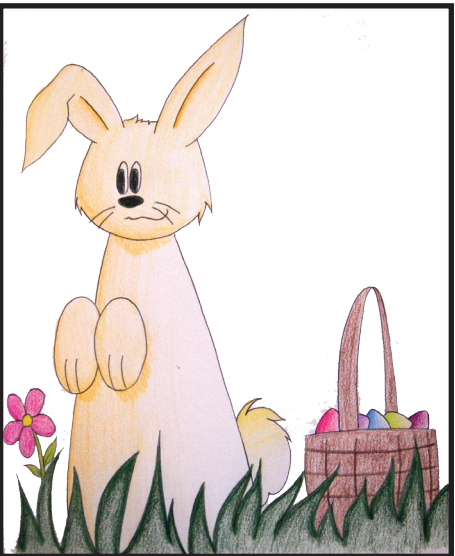
Christianity, the egg symbolizes the life of man, instead of nature, and it is common for an egg to be dyed red to show the blood of Jesus Christ. As one can see, there’s more of a meaning to Easter eggs than people think. The Easter bunny originated from Germany around the time of the 1500s. It was believed the Easter Bunny would lay red eggs on Holy Thursday and colored eggs the night before Easter Sunday. German immigrants in the 1700s brought this tradition with them when they settled in Pennsylvania Dutch.

The Easter basket came from the Roman Catholic custom of bringing food for Easter dinner to receive blessings at Mass. The basket of food people brought was called the “rabbit’s nest.” They brought it make sure there would be a prosperous crop season. The Pennsylvania Dutch created what is today known as the Easter basket that children receive Easter morning. Even though Easter



Bunnies don’t lay eggs or carry baskets, so what do they have to do with this holiday? The main meaning of Easter is celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus died on the cross almost 2,000 years ago on Good Friday, and the following Sunday he rose from the dead, proving that he is the Son of God. The bunny rabbits, egg hunts, and flowers all represent Spring versus Winter and life versus death. The bright pastel colors on the eggs celebrate happiness. Eggs have been decorated since the time of the early Romans. In the Pagan religion, bunnies and eggs represent the goddess of fertility and rebirth, Ostara. In

has many different religious perspectives, it’s still an important part of several unique cultures today.



CULTURE

MOSES,
SAVIOR
OF THE
JEWS

Ian McElfresh
Kevork Kurdoghlian
Staff writers

Back in biblical times, the prophet Moses freed the Jewish people from slavery. Over the centuries they celebrate their freedom. Passover is the most significant Jewish holiday. Not only do Jews celebrate Moses freeing the Jews, but they also rejoice on how Moses got the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments are a series of ten laws handed down from God that instructed people on how to live their ordinary lives.

The story of Passover tells that the prophet Moses was sent down by God to free the Israelites. When Moses came up to the Pharaoh and told him to release the Israelites, Pharaoh refused, and so God sent ten terrible plagues that got worse as time passed by, to force Pharaoh to change his mind.

For the first plague, God turned the Nile River's water into blood. For the second one, frogs infested the area and brought nothing but utter chaos to the Egyptians. In the third plague, God sent lice to every Egyptian so they itched horribly. The fourth plague brought cow flies that bit and pestered the Egyptians. As a fifth plague, God infected and killed all Egyptian

livestock, which dramatically decreased Egypt's supplies on milk, butter, cheese, and meat. The sixth plague was terrible, for everyone was infected with painful boils. The seventh plague brought flaming hail that would kill anything outdoors. In the eighth plague, locust swept across the land and devoured all of the Egyptian crops and trees, which led to the Egyptians having trouble to find simple foods such as bread. For the ninth plague, darkness covered the city, bringing a wave of confusion and fear among the Egyptians. For the final plague, God sent the Angel of Death to kill all first-born Egyptian sons. A Jewish family was protected from the spirit if they put the blood of a lamb on the frames of their doors. For the first nine plagues, Pharaoh refused to free the Jews. However, after the tenth plague, his son died and so, filled with grief, he ordered the Jews to immediately leave.

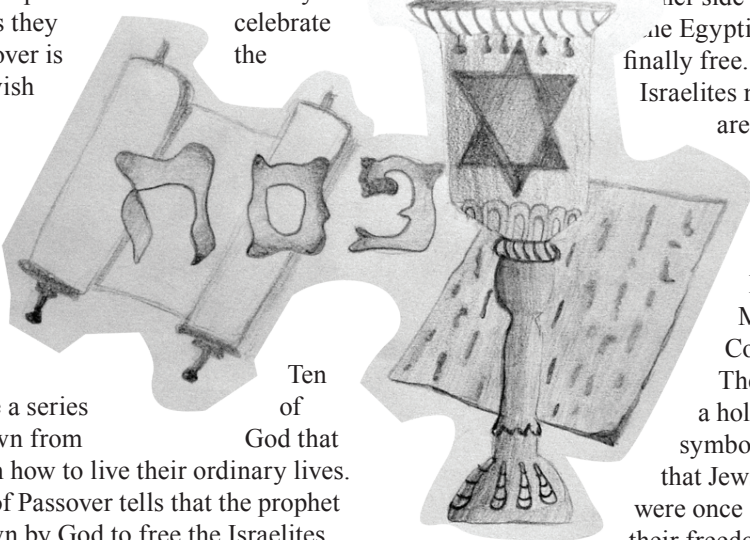
Right after this order, all of the Israelites packed whatever they could carry and began to leave Egypt. Pharaoh soon changed his mind and sent an army to go and kill the Israelites. As Moses led them to the Red Sea, he could hear Pharaoh's army approaching as fear and panic spread among the Jews. Miraculously, a strong wind came down from the heavens and parted the Red Sea. The Israelites hurriedly crossed to the

other side as the sea closed in on the Egyptian army. The Jews were finally free. However, God told the Israelites not to rejoice as Egyptians are also the children of God and suffered as well.

The Israelites then had to trek through the desert to go to Mt. Sinai. Moses then climbed up Mt. Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments from God. The Passover Seder is a holiday that uses many symbolic foods and prayers so that Jews remember that they were once slaves and fought for their freedom. This holiday reminds them to not only think about their

own freedom as Jews, but the freedom of all people throughout the world. They think about some of the modern day plagues, such as pollution, war, oppression and disease. On this holiday, they ask themselves, "What are we personally a slave to? What would make us free?"

Illustration by Miriam Pinski



NEVER
TO BE
FORGOTTEN

Kevork Kurdoghlian
Staff Writer

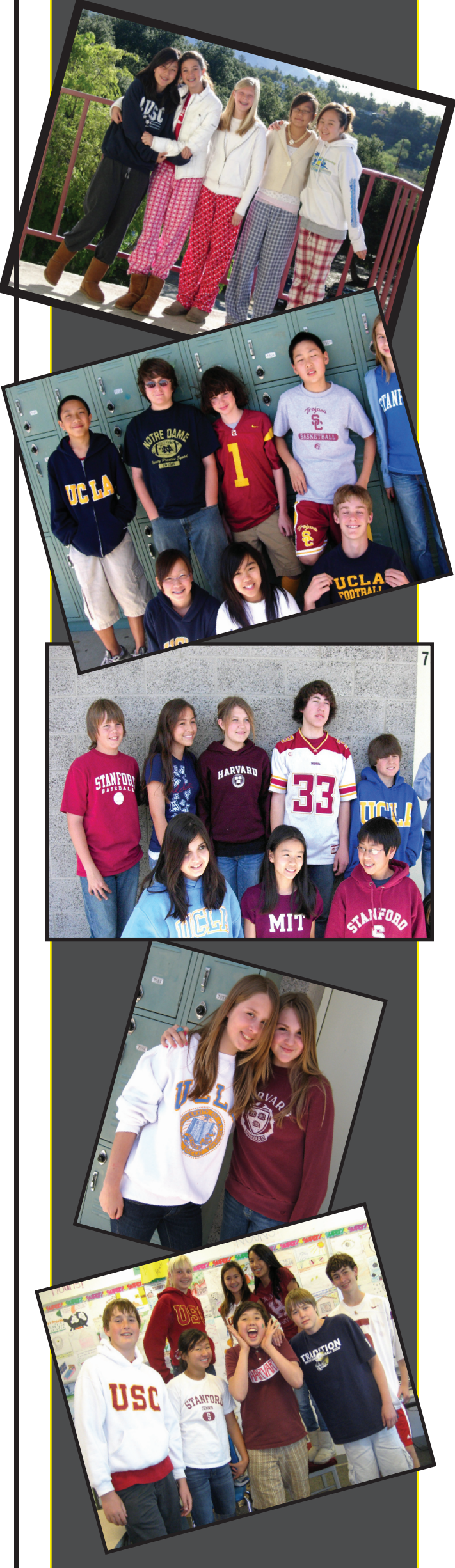
April 24 is a sad day for all Armenians across the world. On that day Armenians were massacred by the Turks for land and money. Armenians were forced to leave their homes and they were either shot, hung, drowned, or forced to walk across the desert until they starved to death. In some cases Armenians managed to survive the long and devastating walk across the desert and flee to nearby countries like Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, and Syria. Also a few had the chance to travel by boat to escape to the Americas. After the genocide there were over one and a half million Armenians dead. The Armenians also had land that bordered the Caspian Sea, Mediterranean

Sea, and Red Sea. They also had three lakes. Now all they are left with is a lake and don't border any sea. The 2007 marks the 92nd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.



Illustration by Miriam Pinski

SPIRIT
WEEK



SPORTS

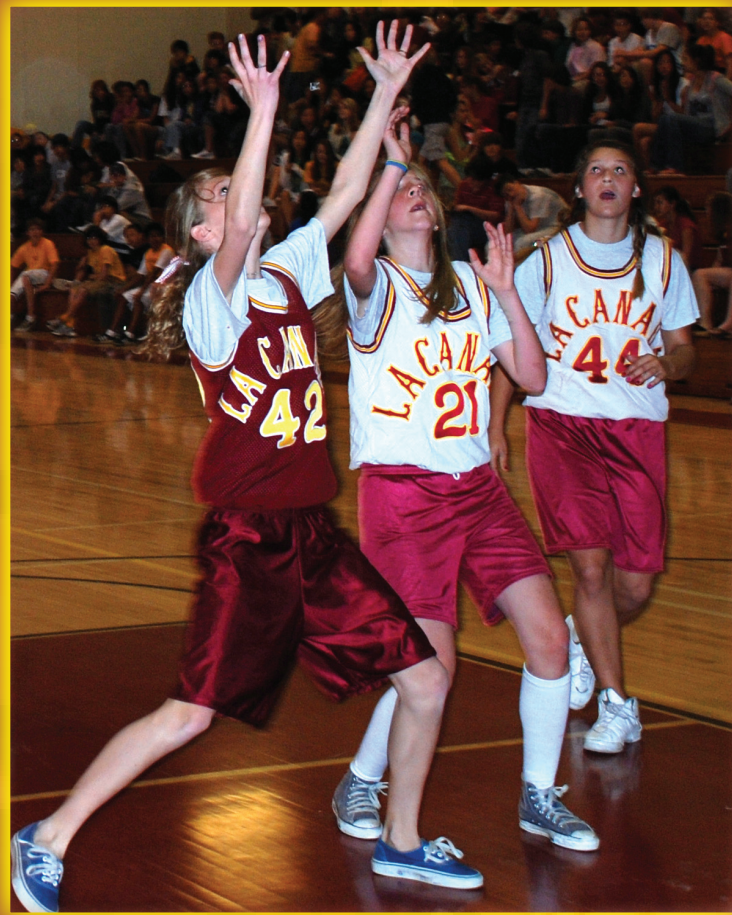
7TH GRADE BASKETBALL BOWL

By Will Swanson
And Neel Sitaramya
Staff Writers

Basketball was in the air and on March 30, 2007, School One proved they were better at basketball by sweeping School Two in both the girls' and boys' games.

The game started off slow, but School One quickly pulled ahead with help from star players Sierra Katow and Lisa Gillespie. School One went into the half up 17-12. School One continued their stellar performance in the second half resulting in a 30-19 victory. School Two put up a valiant effort though including multiple points from Katie Robbins and Abby Neat. Awards for the girl's game were for school one defensive MVP Sierra Katow, offensive MVP Lisa Gillespie and most enthusiastic Andie Evans. For School Two best offensive Abby Neat, best defensive Sam Coppi and most enthusiastic Alexis Wing.

The boys tipped off second at the start of third period and school one once again prevailed, this time in a tight game. School One started off sluggish with School Two playing tight defense and hitting there shots



7th grade girls go up for a rebound.

Left to right:
Sam Coppi,
Sydney Zarate,
and
Lisa Gillespie.



School Two Boys' Team

including a great three point shot by Daniel Zhuravlev. School one came roaring back with help from this time a three pointer by Alex Kim. Allen Moravati also helped scoring four points overall in the game. Griffin Longo was a major contributor contributing six points a



School One Boys' Team



7th Grade Boys
Tip-Off

team high. Awards for best offensive for School Two was Conner Boyd, best defensive Darrell Dansby and most inspirational was Jonathon Cho. For School One Alex Kim was best offensive, Griffin Longo was best defensive and Andrew Bartine most inspirational.



School Two Girls' Team

SPORTS

8TH GRADE BASKETBALL BOWL

by Christy Stewart
Denise Morillo
Staff Writers



Dario CiVon shows his lay-up skills.



Kristene Hoppenisian starts a fast break for School Three!



School Four Girls



School Three Girls

On March 30th, 8th graders gathered into the north gym to watch the 8th Grade Basketball Bowl.

A total of 12 players won awards for their performances. In School Four, Kristene Hossepian best won best offensive player. Alexandra Brown won best defensive player, and Olivia Warner won most inspirational. In School Three, Katherine Ring won best defensive player, Shannon O'Hara, best offensive player, and Ryan Cerina won most inspirational. Awards were given to Michael McGlashan, best offensive player; Luke Mathews, most inspirational; and Scott Grey, best defensive player, for School Four. The best offensive player in School Three was Matt Faber, while Joe Zarefsky won most inspirational, and Sam Honch won best defensive player.

"I was sitting on the edge of my seat because the games were so exciting," said Kuan Yew Clive, 8th grader. The game finished with 35-33 win for School Three. The girls' game ended with 15-7.



School Three Boys



Sam Honch shows his best "D"...

SPORTS

INTO THE NBA PLAYOFFS

by Neel Sitaramya
Staff Writer

Another year has gone by and it is NBA Playoff time again. The Western Conference is again the better conference. Dallas, Phoenix, San Antonio, Utah, and Houston already have playoff spots. The Los Angeles Lakers, Denver Nuggets, and Los Angeles Clippers are all fighting for the sixth, seventh, and eighth spots. Don't forget about the underdogs Golden State, New Orleans, and Sacramento who are still trying for the eight spot. The Eastern Conference has a few powerhouses of their own. Detroit, Cleveland, Toronto, Washington, and Chicago gotten playoff spots. The champion Miami Heat, are struggling with a 38-33 record due to the injury of Dwayne Wade. Wade led the team to a championship and won. However, without Wade in the lineup Miami is going to face many hardships. New York and Indiana are still competing against each other for the final spot in the playoffs. "Playoffs are going to be full of exciting, heartbreaking and memorable moments in the NBA," said school one student Jack Lipp.

Illustration by Kathryn Champ

NFL DRAFT

by Daniel Zhuravlev
And John Cyhaniuk
Staff Writers

The National Football League (NFL) season is over with the Colts coming out as the Super Bowl champions. The season may be over, but the off-season still has a long way to go, including the NFL draft. The NFL draft can make or break dreams, in which professional football teams draft college football players in order to enhance their franchise. As always, the draft will be held in New York, on April 28th-April 29th. So, what's in store for this year?

To start this draft, the Oakland Raiders will have the first pick. The Raiders will likely either draft JaMarcus Russel, a Quarter Back (QB) from Louisiana State University (LSU), or Calvin Johnson, a Wide Receiver (WR) from Georgia Tech University (GTU). At first, it looked like JaMarcus had no competition for the number one pick, but as work out days approached on February 24th- 27th, scouts were

impressed by Johnson's performance where he did better overall than Russell. The results for the workout days are on NFL.com and the race for the number one pick as well.

On March 27th, a trade went on between the Atlanta Falcons and the Houston Texans. This trade involves the Falcons getting a second round draft pick for the 2007 draft, while swapping their number ten pick for a number eight pick, and a future first round draft pick for the 2008 draft. In return, the Texans get a future first round pick for the 2008 draft while still maintaining a top ten pick for this year's draft. According to NFL.com, this trade was lopsided to the Texans.

While Calvin Johnson and JaMarcus Russell are racing for number one pick, names from the expected top ten picks include Brady Quinn, Adrian Peterson, Joe Thomas, Levi Brown, Amobi Okoye, Gaines Adams, Alan Branch, and LaRon Landry.

"We have lots of talent in this year's draft and there may even be some other names in the top ten picks," stated John Madden. NFL.com believes, as well as the NFL commissioner, that the participants in this draft will shape the future of the NFL.

Illustration by Ian McElfresh

NHL PLAYOFFS: THE CHASE BEGINS

by Tripp Frank
Staff Writer

The Natianol Hockey League playoff is on. The chase for the world's most prized cup begins April 11 (no not for the Holy Grail). The National Hockey League Stanley Cup is the cup their chasing after. One of the top team to win is the Anaheim Ducks. Other teams that could win are the Nashville Predators, Buffalo Sabers, Detroit Red Wings, and New Jersey Devils. This is the second year since

the infamous NHL lockout cost them the season and killed their fan base. However, the NHL has come back stronger with changing the rule from ties to ties after double OT have been decided by shootout. One of the teams with the best chances are the Detroit Red Wings. They are the Yankees of Hockey. The Ducks who ha d been this year have been top of their division most of the year and have even been suggested to be a dark horse in the chase for the Stanley Cup. The defending champions, the Carolina Hurricanes, are possibly going to miss the playoff. (quote) Many teams who were expected to make the playoff's have and so far many fans have slowly began coming back to the game as a hard hitting, more scoring game. So far it's been paying off. The NHL just signed a TV contract with NBC. Students here are pulling for their favorite team to win "I hope the Detroit Red Wings win the Cup" said 7th grader Carlos Rameriez "The Anaheim Ducks have been looking good all year and will surely win the cup" said 8th grader Diego Navarre. Other students are picking other so-so teams to win. "The Pittsburg Penguins or Boston Bruins will take the cup for sure" said 8th grader Andrew Beckner. The only thing we can guarantee is that it will be a great playoff this year.

BASEBALL SEASON HERE AGAIN

by Will Swanson
Staff Writer

With winter turning to spring it's time to get out the bats and gloves and get ready for baseball season. Starting the Mets visiting the Cardinals on April 1st at 5:05 and with the Diamondbacks visiting the Rockies on October 8th at 5:05 the baseball regular season is ready to run its course. While the season is sure to be exciting the off-season has been odd and eventful. Probably the oddest off-season move has been the White Sox selling there start time to 7 Eleven. That's right the White Sox will start all there

home games at 7:11 do to a marketing deal with the convenience store 7 Eleven. One big move has been the hometown Dodgers signing big name center fielder Juan Pierre formally a Chicago Cub and veteran left fielder Louis Gonzales formally an Arizona Diamondback. The Dodgers also strengthened there pitching staff acquiring former Giant pitcher Jason Schmidt. The Angels made a couple of acquisitions of their own acquiring controversial centerfielder Gary Mathews Jr. Mathews is a controversial subject after news was unveiled that steroids were purchased my him. Gary Mathews Jr. still made the opening day lineup though after Angels owner Arte Moreno was satisfied with Mathew's statement stating he never took HGH or steroids. The Angels looked poised to make a run for the playoffs with or without Mathews anchored by star outfielder Vladimir Guerrero and star reliever Francisco Rodriguez. Also young starting pitcher Ervin Santana produced solid numbers last year and is sure to put up the same if not better numbers again. The last Southern California team the Padres, also the reigning N.L. West champs, are ready to try to beat out the Dodgers again with help from upcoming stars Khalil Greene and Jake Peavy. Sports Illustrated released there baseball preview predicting the Angels and Dodgers squaring off in the World Series. Los Angeles sports fans only wish. In other big off-season news the Red Sox signed Japanese ace Daisuke Matsuzaka to a contract worth over all more than a 100 million dollars. Also Yankees slugger Gary Sheffield is now a member of the Detroit Tigers. Veteran pitcher and former Yankee, Randy Johnson, was also traded to the Arizona Diamondbacks. These were all important moves but only the regular season will show who has the top team in all of baseball.

Illustration by Kathryn Champ

OPINION

TEXT MESSAGING

by Alexandra Vavoulis
Staff Writer

Every day students are using their phones during class time to make plans with friends, spread gossip, and catch up with each other in class. Most of the time, the teacher doesn’t know that a student is making plans for the upcoming weekend on his/her phone, but the other students do. Students hide their cell phones under their desk, or in a jacket while sending and receiving messages. When caught... people say that they were just using the calculator on their phones, and some teachers believe it. Another way students text message in class is by pretending to read by putting their book in front of their phone. This

daily habit annoys some students around the person text messaging, and can easily distract them from learning.

Consequently, the vibrating of the phone and typing distracts classmates around them, and takes away from their learning experience. Spreading gossip through texting hurts the education of the students who text message. While text messaging, they may miss important information, due dates of class projects, and homework assignments. This will cause them to suffer academically in that class. The habit of text messaging could follow students to college and may ruin their future. Students using class time to catch up with friends from other schools is a threat to all students in the classroom by affecting their learning experience and should be stopped.

Some teachers have a solution to the problem. Solving the texting problem will help students to be more active, to listen to everything that goes on in class, and will be more likely to get a good grade. Another solution to this crisis would be to make classes more hands-on so students don’t have time to send a text messaging. The annoying daily habit of text message needs to be stopped to improve every students’ education.

THE SAD FACT ABOUT BASEBALL

by Terese Rutkowski
And Tripp Frank
Staff Writers

Baseball has lost its touch. Jackie Robinson Day and the Barry Bonds steroids scandal have turned more attention to the sport.

Recently, more people have complained and fussed about the low numbers of blacks participating in the sport. It’s like crying over spilled milk. We should be celebrating the breaking of the color barrier because it is an important step in the civil right’s movement. There are fewer blacks in baseball because there are more opportunities for them in the rest of the sport’s world. Jackie would be proud about how he helped take a step forward for all African Americans.

The other scandal is steroids. The use of steroids is embarrassing for baseball. Barry Bonds is approaching the all time home run record using steroids. How else dose a 42 year-old man hit over 30 home runs a year? The worse part of this isn’t just secluded to Barry, but to all kinds of baseball players. They all have probably used steroids; from Mark Maguire to Miguel Tejhada, who lied to Congress saying he never used steroids.

The worst part is that Ted Williams, Ty Cobbs and Babe Ruth are flopping in the graves because at least they did it for the love of the game. While today’s player want cars, mansions and millions of dollars before even seeing a pitch. Our generation better remember what those true players did with beer, class, and a little luck.

VIRGINIA TECH SHOOTINGS

by Terese Rutkowski
And Tripp Frank
Staff Writers

Due to the recent shooting at Virginia Tech the issue of gun control has once again been brought to the public’s attention.

In Virginia, the home of the National Rifle Association Headquarters, the deadliest shooting in this country occurred. We must have gun control.

This year 52 students College have been 30 students a year at school. The worst Tech took place at shooting, where, 11 other students. Now completely on guns should be in enforced. Shotguns would be hidden and safe is a has spent more than should be allowed to poses guns. Each person should be legally allowed to have only one gun. In the light of the killings, the government should establish stricter gun control. If this could be accomplished, maybe those 32 people who were killed by that crazed gunmen will have not died in vain.

from Kindergarten to killed. Since 1992, over have been killed by guns killing before Virginia Columbine High School people were killed by two we’re not suggesting a ban but, tighter restrictions allowed but, keeping them must. Any person whose six month in jail combined

THIS YEAR
52 STUDENTS
FROM
KINDERGARTEN
TO COLLEGE HAVE
BEEN KILLED.

WHY WE SHOULD TEACH THE BIBLE

by Tripp Frank
Staff Writer

Yes, you heard me right. We should teach the Bible in school. It offers many life lessons that in today’s modern world. Now, you may say “well I don’t want to learn about the Bible it’s a boring book full of words I don’t get”. It can be a little boring but, the Bible. Is the world’s best seller is 100 million copies have been sold so far. Now you might say well I believe in Darwin Evolution Theory. Well so do I. But, the bible should be taught for the common sense and strong

principles it teaches. These lessons would teach people to respect people of all races, ideas, physical structure, health, wealth, or anything else. With these teachings we could possibly end wars and violence or at least curb tail it. Another thing its teaches is to never give up hope. In today’s world we rarely ever find a glimmer of light in the dark this could help spark more lights. Now what if you’re Jewish or Muslim or any other religion and say well my religion doesn’t believe in it well then you can study the Koran or Torah. They offer you the same advice. In conclusion religion and school should be separate but a little common sense and good advice could go a long way.

Do you have an opinion that differs? Write an opposing article and we’ll publish it.

FEATURES

THE FOLLY OF POLITICAL PARTIES

by Adam Poppenheimer
Staff writer

Throughout the history of our country, there have always been different political views, and from these views, political parties have formed. They have played a major role in American politics and continue to do so today. But, are political parties really worth it? Consider what a political party is. It is a group that has a certain ideology and views on how the country should be governed. It uses money and propaganda to get voters to vote their way. But, do the political parties really believe what they say? Think about the Democratic and Republican parties, the current ringleaders in the political race. The Democrats are thought of as the liberal, antiwar, national government party, while the Republicans are considered the conservative, angelical, states rights party. But it was not always so. From the civil war to quite recently, these two political parties had exactly opposite roles. The Republicans were the liberal party while the Democrats were conservative group. But sometime in the last 20 years, these 2 parties dropped all of there ideologies and completely switched there very basis. Why did they do this? Simple: each party sought votes in the regions that supported these ideals. The Republicans saw a bounty of votes in the heartland conservatives, while the democrats saw huge voting numbers along the liberal coast. The political parties only really want one thing: power. And the only way to get power is through votes. Why do they want power, though? Power allows the leaders to project their ideals to the people. The followers of the political party follow the leaders, whether or not they believe his ideals. They think the party will promote their own personal ideals, which they rarely do. Most of the time, though, the only ideals that actually matter are the ideals of those that get seats of power, not always of the majority of the population to which the congressmen or presidents or judges serve. So do political parties serve any real purpose? Well, they do. They allow groups of lots of people to actually make a change. Unfortunately, most political parties, or at least their leaders, use our government to make money or gain power. Political parties have become painfully corrupt, which then reflects onto our government.

CHANGING ROLE MODELS

By Denise Morillo
And Christy Stewart
Staff Writers

What is a role model? Is it a person who influences you to make the right decisions in life? Or... is it a person who you just want to be like? Let's face it, the people we look up to aren't exactly worthy of the title. Lights, Camera, Action! This is what most teenagers are into today. However, as great as the stars' lives might seem to be, fame and fortune gets to their heads. Partying, drugs, and drinking are all what they seem to do. For example, even though Lindsay Lohan is under age she is in Alcoholics Anonymous, and has already gone to rehab twice. Yet people still seem to look up to her. Shawn Merriman takes oodles upon oodles of steroids, yet School one student, Neel Sitaramya said "Shawn's my role model, I want to be just like him!" Teachers, for instance, influence our lives everyday yet they receive one of the lowest salaries in the nation. The same goes for firefighters and police men. How could people who save our lives by risking their own go with little or no recognition for their brave and courageous deeds? Take a step back, and take a look at your role models...who do *you* look up to?

AMERICA'S OBESITY RATE

Diana H. Tran
Genesis Hill
Staff Writers

"I'll have an order of love handles and another tire. What would you like, honey?" "I'll have some thunder thighs and badonkadonk butt..." This radio commercial aired across America. People may have heard it, but they don't take it personally. All over the world, there are obese people. Most of these people live in America; over 60 percent of America's population is obese. Each year, more and more people are becoming plumper. They try and try to either accept themselves or go on diets. Unfortunately, they fail. Two main causes for being obese are that people either aren't active or eat way too much junk food for their own good. Junk food includes McDonalds, Burger King, Taco Bell, and Dominos. They are filled with calories, sugar, and grease. The calories and sugar are stored away in places like the stomach, waist, arms, and thighs. The grease clogs up arteries and increases chances of heart attacks. Also, junk food can be addictive, especially if you crave for some of it all the time. Many people have seen, "Supersize Me," a well-known documentary. From that documentary, it is proven that fast food will make people have liver and heart problems. Not having enough time to cook healthier meal is a problem for many Americans. There are many quick and easy recipes that don't take up all of time to prepare. Eating too much sugar and cholesterol leads up to diabetes and heart disease. These diseases will run in your family. Obese people in America aren't very active. When they start gaining weight, it is harder for them to exercise. They could blame it on breathing problems, but those problems are the result of eating too much junk food. If people start eating less junk food or exercise a little more, they might become fit.

WHEN TV IS OUT, THE INTERNET IS IN

by Terese Rutkowski
and Teresa Jiang

Internet advertising is slowly becoming more and more effective than television advertising as the world of cyberspace expands and develops. Americans watch about 535 million hours of television per day. In contrast, 85 million hours are spent on the Internet, which indicates that television is still the leading method of advertising. Nevertheless, ever since the Internet was offered to the public in 1991, it has gradually become an ideal place to advertise. Internet advertising is decreasing the yearly income of 60 million dollars that television advertising makes. Internet advertising revenue increased 33% last year to 9.6 million dollars and is still expected to expand and increase. However, both television and Internet advertising have their benefits

and drawbacks. One advantage of Internet advertising is that it is mostly unregulated and has no nationwide limitations. Internet advertising also engages potential purchasers interactively while television advertising only engages people as inactive consumers. On the other hand, television commercials are very easy to recognize, whereas Internet marketing is so merged, that it's hard to distinguish the difference between entertainment, information, and advertising. Television advertising is being deeply harmed by the Internet. About 42 percent of Internet users watch less television due to Internet use. Even with this decrease in viewers, television advertising is still more influential than Internet advertising for some. Some people believe that even with the rise of Internet use, TV is still a better form of advertising. Although television advertising may be more convincing new technology called TiVo is preventing much of consumers from viewing the commercials. This relatively new technology allows watchers to fast forward through irritating commercials. Though for now television rules the advertising world, and Internet is slowly rising to the challenge to compete.

FEATURES

TURNING STRESS INTO SUCCESS

by Terese Rutkowski
And Terasa Jiang

As high school students constantly worry and stress to get their college applications in and prepare for the SAT’s, seventh and eighth graders may ask what they should do to prevent this mayhem and stress when they are seniors.

Colleges, well aware of the rough competition for spaces at their schools, have made suggestions for students that are planning to apply. For those of you who aim for Ivy League schools, Harvard College website states that a good four-year foundation program contains four years of English with a lot of writing practice; four years of math; four years of science (biology, chemistry, and physics); three years of history (American and European included); and fours years of one foreign language. Williams’ College website stated, “Wherever possible, you should take honors or advanced level courses, especially in fields of great interest to you.” A University of Southern California representative said that students should study for the SAT, go to their classes, and participate in extra curricular activities such as sports teams and clubs, and they should have no trouble in getting into USC.

Students try to be well rounded in order to appeal to colleges. They take music lessons, join sports teams, and volunteer for community service. Many find it easier to focus on areas of interest to them. Studying for the SAT’s and joining clubs at school are common things students do to look good on their college applications. However, it is often believed that just trying to look good on the application isn’t what counts. “I don’t recommend a student to do anything to look good on a college application,” said Sally Spangler, the high school college counselor. Others take a different approach to preparing yourself for college.

“How about trying to relax and enjoy your seventh and eighth grade years. . .things will take care of themselves,” said Warren Weaver.

HOROSCOPES

By Denise Morillo
and Kathryn Champ

TAURUS- *The Bull (April 20-May 20)*- Today, you will get along well with your peers. Feel free to ask them for help. . .you might need it.

GEMINI- *The Twins (May 21-June20)*- Some nosy person is going to try to get you to spill the beans about a secret or rumor that you might have not even heard about. Make something up!

CANCER- *The Crab (June 21-July 22)*- As awkward as it may seem, whatever comes to you today, remember that you deserve it, because you do!

LEO- *The Lion (July 23-August 22)*- Your heart is full of burning energy, not from spicy foods, but from your good attitude. Keep your high spirits up, and help out that friend in need!

VIRGO- *The Virgin (August 23-September 22)*- Take in your day as it comes. Someone might try to cancel your plans, but go on with your day. Try to get used to the weird things that will be happening today!

LIBRA- *Good Balance (September 23-October 22)*- Keep your head up high. Just head the right way, and nothing can stop you.

SCORPIO- *The Scorpion (October 23- November 21)*- Somebody well respected is watching *you*. Be on your best behavior, and put any special tasks to the side.

SAGITTARIUS- *The Archer (November 22- December 21)*- You have all the time in the world, use it to show your creative side!

CAPRICORN- *The Goat (December 22-January 19)*- Some of your peers got up on the wrong side of the bed. So stay out of their way today, but tomorrow, they will be back to how they were.

AQUARIUS- *The Water Bearer (January 20- February 18)*- You are going to find a close friend or relative in disagreement. Keep it to yourself, take note of what they are saying, and keep it for later reference.

PISCES- *The Fish (February 19-March 20)*- Don’t expect a normal day at school today. Your friends are going to be pretty weird! So, keep it on the down-low!

ARIES- *The Ram (March 21-April 19)*- You have a very strong opinion about things, however some people might disagree. Be loud and proud, but not too cocky, and you will be well respected from your peers.

THE BURNING CRUSADE HAS COME

Adam Poppenheimer
Staff Writer

On January 16th, 2007, the long awaited expansion pack to one of the most popular video games on the market was made available for public purchase. I speak of World of Warcraft: the Burning Crusade. For over 2 years, more than 4 million players entered a mythical world of epic legend and taken on everything from bears to demons, rabbits to the very elements themselves.

For those of you who don’t know, World of Warcraft is an MMORPG (Massively Multiplayer Online Role Playing Game). Confusing? Lets break this down. In this game, you create a character from one of 10 different races and explore a massive world. You do everything from killing boars in the forest to saving the world from the brink of destruction. You do quest, become more powerful, buy and find items of incredible power, and defeat evil wherever it may lurk. Now, take that and add about five thousand other people trying to do exactly what you are. Add a team of people constantly adding new content, and you have World of Warcraft! The Warcraft lore started 10 years ago with the release of Warcraft I, and continues to be added on to with additional game content and the new expansion.

Now, World of Warcraft had almost every aspect of the previous Warcraft games in it except one thing: Outland. With the new expansion, The Burning Crusade, experienced players can now travel to the shattered world of Outland and fight an evil that has consumed countless worlds and now threatens to destroy the world of Warcraft as well. With this expansion comes a massive amount of new content. 2 new races, the Dranaei and the Blood Elves were added to the 8 original races (Gnomes, Humans, Dwarves, Night Elves, Orcs, Trolls, Tauren, and Undead) as well as a new profession, jewel crafting. But, besides the new world of Outland to explore, the biggest, longest awaited new content is flying mounts. In WoW (World of Warcraft in short), you can buy things called mounts. Each race has their own mount and they greatly increase your movement speed. But in the expansion, you can actually buy mounts that fly. This allows access to parts of Outland that can’t be reached without them.

All in all the new expansion is a great improvement to a great original game. The new content has attracted gamers, new and veteran, to participate in the final chapter of the Warcraft legacy. It is one of the best made games of its time and is sure to become a classic.

INTERESTS

MR. KISSEL ON THE SPOTLIGHT

by Eric Cho
Staff Writer

“I enjoy teaching a large group of 7th graders. It makes every day different.” Mr. Kissel is a wonderful and also very experienced math teacher since he has been teaching this subject to students for a very long time. He started teaching math at LCHS in the year 1983. In his teaching career he has taught nearly every age group including 2nd graders all the way up to 11th grade. He also taught 2nd-6th graders at Palm Crest Elementary, La Canada Elementary, and Foothill Intermediate School, which is no longer here.



Interestingly, he is not the only one who teaches students in his family. His wife and daughter, Alicia, teach as well. Barbara, Mr. Kissel’s wife, teaches at Pasadena College and Alicia teaches first graders. Alicia is currently 28 years old. Mr. Kissel’s other child, Shanna, is 27 years old and is an emergency nurse. He also has one sister, Caryl and really loves her. In his spare time, Mr. Kissel rides his bike three times a week. Otherwise, he spends time grading his students’ work, or experiments with difficult questions to make the pop quizzes.

GUESS THE TEACHER

by
Christy Stewart
and
Emma Perrson
Staff Writers

The first 15 students to come to room 722 with the correct answer will win a prize.

- I have been a teacher longer than one of my colleagues has lived.
- My favorite color is blue.
- My favorite food is vanilla ice cream
- I have taught square and folk dancing.
- I always travel with a stuffed animal
- I have been to Mexico, 33 states, Fiji, and all over Europe.

WHO AM I?



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The Spartan Star is published once every two months. The Spartan Star welcomes comments about school-related issues from the 7-8 student body. Names will be withheld upon request and we reserve the right to edit articles before publication.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

MARCH

School 1	School 2
Zaki Khan	Bo Mattix
Sam Whitefield	Ashley Clark
Chaeyeon Kim	Denise Morillo
Shannon Lee	Kevork Kurdoghlian
School 3	School 4
Alex Applegate	Terese Rutkowski
Peter Miller	Hayden Speck
Amir Mojarradi	Rachel Kapla
Katie Rayburn	Jason Kim

APRIL

School 1	School 2
Rebecca Burton	Kevin Yen
Alex Kim	Ashley Fejtek
Laura Lee	Morgan Devaud
Brian Mellstrom	Abbey Net
Ellen Grubb Jones	
School 3	School 4
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