



Le Sabre



Cleveland High School

Volume 73 , Issue 1

September 30, 2009

Budget cuts switch up Cleveland administration



photo by Haig Nalbandian

New Administrators: Shanna Sarris and Kevin Frost.

BY WENDY MAO AND AMANDA SILVER
Features Editor and Production Manager

District budget cuts made over the summer have led to a number of changes in the Cleveland community, including a shakeup in Cleveland administration, teachers, and staff.

Prior to the May 19, 2009 special election in which voters faced a decision on propositions that could have offset a percentage of budget needs, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger warned California citizens of the dangers state cuts would pose to educational resources. He predicted there would be an additional \$2.3 billion in budget cuts imposed on California's public education system.

Under California law, by June 30 of this year, the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) had to estimate its budget from the 2009-2010 to the 2011-2012 school years. For the next two school years, the district estimated a deficit of \$1.3 billion. In an attempt to stabilize the 2009-2010 budget deficit of \$869.5 million, LAUSD superintendent Ramon Cortines implemented several action steps, including the juggling of teacher and administrative

positions. A title reduction was implemented in force, lowering the overall number of administrators and new teachers. Half of LAUSD's senior staff members were assigned to different jobs.

When Cleveland Principal Robert Marks announced his resignation in June, and with the title reduction program in place, LAUSD appointed Herman Clay as Cleveland's principal. Principal Clay officially assumed his role on September 4, 2009, just five days before the start of the 2009-2010 school year. For the last four years, Clay had been on LAUSD's senior staff where he was the director of history and social sciences, though he was a principal for six years prior to becoming a senior staff member.

When asked if it was difficult adjusting to a principal's duties, Clay casually replied, "No. It's actually easier than I thought..." He clarified that his responsibilities as a high school principal are not at all simple, but that the transition from a senior staff member to a principal was not as nearly as strenuous as he imagined.

With LAUSD relocating so many of its employees, former Cleveland Assistant Principal Nidia Castro was transferred to the position of principal of Vista Middle School. Meanwhile As-

sistant Principal Carlos Valdovinos, who had to be let go at the end of last year, was able to return almost immediately to Cleveland to fill Castro's position.

As a staff member who felt the direct effects of the budget cuts, Valdovinos said, "It is impossible for a school, any school, not to suffer with such depletion of school budget [but that these changes] provide exciting and refreshing opportunities as professionals to work as a team."

Valdovinos also praised Cleveland for its achievements in spite of the budget crisis. "It is not common [for a school] to have low economic status, yet still do so well," he said.

Budget cuts have also bought changes to the Cleveland teaching staff. Teachers with less seniority, or who were on probationary status, were cut or placed at other schools. As of this past summer, 17 teachers were supposed to leave, but with Title One funds, which were not affected by state budget cuts, Cleveland managed to buy back ten teachers at near to their previous salaries. Title One funds are given to the school in accordance with the economic status of its students.

■ see 'New administration,' page 5

Village Nation API scores soar

BY JOLENA COLLAS

The Village Nation achieved a 92 percent pass rate in both subjects on the CAHSEE, and an 81 point raise in API scores for the 2008-2009 school year.

Teacher Fluke Flucker and his fellow Village Nation co-founders have been key to raising CAHSEE passing rates and API scores among the African American student body.

Last year's API scores dropped 30 points, which was both a shock and a disappointment to the co-founders and students. This disappointment became a strong motivating and driving factor, as students vowed to reverse the decreasing scores.

Although there was not a particular goal established, a seven

ment at their success.

"The point jump proved how much hard work and dedication we all contributed to show the world how smart and talented we really are," Sophomore Naja Naomi Crawford said.

Both Flucker and Village Nation member Marc Anthony Johnson called each student one by one for a personal meeting. Students were reminded of how smart and capable each of them are. Teachers asked, "Am I my brother's keeper?" and to that students replied, "Yes, I am." This chant signified how people are responsible not only for themselves, but also for their brothers and sisters.

"His business is your business, his success is your success, and his failure is your failure,"

"In my eleven years of teaching, I had never seen a raise [in scores] so incredible and amazing.

--Teacher Jennifer Macon

point raise was required. Rather than limiting themselves to a number, Flucker said, "Our goal was simply to try our best and to recommit ourselves to the test scores."

The Village Nation did many things as a group to keep everyone motivated. One significant slogan mentioned by Flucker was, "one and done." This slogan described how students were kept motivated by the promise that they only have to take one CAHSEE.

When it became known that 92 percent of African American sophomores passed both CAHSEE subjects, several teachers were proud.

"In my eleven years of teaching, I had never seen a raise [in scores] so incredible and amazing," said teacher Jennifer Macon.

Students also showed excite-

ment at their success. Flucker said. With this approach, Flucker and Village Nation faculty have instilled a system of accountability and encouragement between the African American students and teachers.

The Village Nation as a whole has grown the African American student body into a family. Flucker alluded to the legendary Massai warriors and their greeting. The warriors learn how they are doing by asking, "How are the children?"

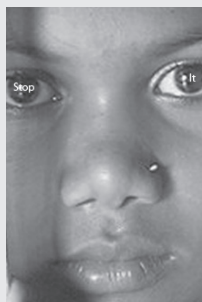
"If the faculty, community, city, and country asked each other and answered honestly, we would know that our youth is not doing too great," Flucker said.

The Village Nation was created to get the African American student body to make better decisions. The concept is based on the African proverb that, "It takes a village to raise a child."

INSIDE

Human Trafficking Opinions

Page 2



Robert Pattinson: Hot or Not? Entertainment

Page 6



International Students Features

Page 8



'Stripping' it down to the facts

BY JEILA SAIDI

A young girl sits solemnly in the corner of a cold plain room and wipes the thick grime off her tear-streaked face in defeat. Her body, sore from countless incidents of abuse, lays limp and bruised against the cold wall. Her red dress, provocative and dark, is tattered like those of the other girls in the brothel. Dozens of girls stand around the room; they stand in hopeless groups waiting for their next clients. The heavy sound of footsteps echo from the outside hall as the pimps and clients make their way to the door. A group of gruff men enter and the room drops to a dead silence as the pimp walks towards the girl in the corner. He grabs her by the arm and overpowers her meager attempts at resistance by pinning her to the wall and tugging at her hair. She surrenders as she is dragged out the door by her gaunt arms. Tomorrow she turns nine.

Human trafficking is the second highest illegal income-generating syndicate in the world. Trafficking is the trading of a specific commodity or service and can include drugs, sex slavery, fugitives, laborers and immigrants. Over 27 million people are enslaved into the world of prostitution on an international basis.

As an adolescent female, I find it absolutely repulsive that millions of girls my age and younger can be sold and traded like products. I feel distressed that women all over the world could be branded by the invisible barcode of a pimp.

Many adolescents and women are trafficked under the false pretenses of better opportunities

even family members, can put a price on dignity.

The sickening demand for children as sex slaves has only increased over time, especially in major metropolitan cities such as New York, San Francisco, and even Los Angeles. As a Los Angeles high school student I see hundreds of teens every day sitting in classrooms studying. As I look over at my peers, I cannot

would be undoubtedly high. I see the media concentrating on what people are buying, whom celebrities are dating, what miniscule actions they take in politics, but I see nothing about the 1.2 million children and adults that are being sold. We talk about how much material goods cost but fail to see that human beings are being traded like these goods. The United Nations has estimated that



photo illustration by Holland Mervis

help but see the morbidly contrasting image of trafficked youth. I think of how we are sitting in

the total market value for this clandestine industry is over 32 billion dollars.

My only query is this: are we doing enough to abolish slavery? I personally feel like that we are nowhere near our potential capability to end this travesty.

Without the facts, without the stories, and without attention from the media, these children are trapped. We, the United States, should utilize our resources to free these children.

Millions of people around the world have been stripped of their names, clothes, and freedom but have not lost their hope. We have the power to give back to the victims all that they have lost.

classrooms protected by the safety of the United States and how hundreds of children in Asia sit in rooms too, rooms in brothels.

The numbers are staggering and wretched, but why does the public not acknowledge this? I deeply wish that this had more exposure in the media because the impact

Without the facts, without the stories, and without attention from the media, these children are trapped.

in another country. They are promised jobs as waitresses or massage therapists only to be trapped into the cruel and stomach-churning world of prostitution against their will. Others are sold by relatives to relieve personal debts or to accommodate ruthless greed. It is disturbing to me that people, or



photo illustration by Holland Mervis

Fro-yo, the only way to go!

BY DAVID KIM

Ahhh ice cream. It has been around for as long as anyone can remember, back to the days of Rome in sixth century BCE with Emperor Nero. However, there is a new challenger that is on the rise to steal ice cream's spot as the number one dessert: frozen yogurt.

The threat that frozen yogurt has toward ice cream is tremendous; it has already stolen much of the previous fans and lovers of ice cream, and not without good reason. Frozen yogurt does have its strengths. It is served as an alternative to ice cream, because it is low in fat and can be either sweet or sour. Frozen yogurt has the ability to accommodate all with its wide variety of tastes and toppings. Frozen yogurt also melts slower than its predecessor, and its variation of recipes makes it extremely appealing.

One can choose however many toppings he or she wants, and indulge in prolific amounts. For example, one can have mochi, gummy bears, fruity pebbles, chocolate chips, and other confectations galore. The devourer of desserts can choose from a myriad of

delicious treats to top and tend to his/her tummy. With frozen yogurt, preference comes first.

Even today, in 2009, the popularity of frozen yogurt is prevalent and prominent with quaint little shops such as Red Mango, Pinkberry, Tutti Frutti, and Yogurtland, just to name a few.

The immense popularity of these shops speak to the fact that frozen yogurt definitely is gaining on ice cream's record for as the most popular desert. It is the era of frozen yogurt. People do not go out for ice cream; they go out for that tarty taste with the perfectly complimentary fruits and mochi.

At the moment, I would have to say that frozen yogurt is defeating ice cream in this dairy dessert duel, and can honestly say that I am a frozen yogurt fan. There is just so much that one can choose from, with the terrific amount of toppings available. As for myself, I love the profusion of possibilities and think that frozen yogurt is like an upgraded version of ice cream. It has plenty of variety, melts slower, and is healthier for you. What more could you ask for?

Le Sabre

Editor in Chief: Noor Tell

Managing Editor: Judy Kim
Copy Editor: Mery Hounanian

News Editor: Jillian Goodman
Opinions Editor: Haemin Jee
Features Editor: Wendy Mao
Entertainment Editor: Ingrid Kwon
Sports Editor: Kristie Shu
Production Manager: Amanda Silver
Business Manager: Daniel Koo
Advertising Manager: Amna Waheed
Photo Editor: Katherine Zhang
Photoshop Editors: Holland Mervis and Eric Tran
Online Editor: Sara Grossman

Le Sabre is published by the Advanced Journalism class at: Grover Cleveland High, Room D-2, 8140 Vanalden Avenue, Reseda, CA 91335. Telephone: (818) 885-2300 ext. 3648; Fax: (818) 727-0964. The newspaper is desktop published by the students and printed by American Foothill Publishing. Subscriptions are \$20/year. Cleveland is a LEARN school accredited through 2012 and a California Distinguished School. Letters and guest articles are encouraged.

As the staff of *Le Sabre*, we strive to objectively cover the entire Cleveland High School community, including all small learning communities and the diverse interests of the student body, faculty, and surrounding neighborhoods. We aim to engage and involve the student body by providing accurate information while upholding the highest standards of journalistic ethics.

Staff: Tara Atrian, Haylee Averill, Isabelle Bolla, Young Cha, Jolena Collias, Alex Hernandez, Chandler Hudson, Lucia Hwang, Adam Jun, David Kim, Alex Lee, Allison Li, Jenny Luong, Sandy Mayen, Calvin Ratana, Jeila Saidi, Armand Saroghlianian, Jonathan So

Staff Photographer: Haig Nalbandian

Adviser: Coleen Bondy

From Gowns to Stripes: Youth in Crisis

BY ISABELLE BOLLA

In today's hyper punitive and surveilled society, the youth of our age are constantly being subjected to more unjust criminalization and crude punishments than ever before. A massive hierarchal structure and system of social and political control has fused together and thrown itself on today's already struggling youth. The police, defunct juvenile systems and rules, and "punishment" institutions are only few of the various systems that have led and helped pave the way to the jarring amount of juvenile committed crimes and acts of intolerance.

There is an epidemical hype spreading about jailing and governing kids and teenagers in ways more detrimental than led to believe. More kids and teenagers alike are being tried for crimes or "delinquencies" they have committed, and are being sentenced and dealt unfair consequences. More and more teenagers are becoming statistics on local juvenile websites, placed under the tagline: "Another teen accused of 'so and so' tried as an adult."

Not only are teenagers being tried as adults for "delinquent crimes," but also for "gang related crimes." Controversial debates have been fought over this topic, propositions have been proposed, and teens have struggled with

the consequences. Young people, particularly minorities, can be targeted and placed into "gang databases." These databases characterize an individual based on several underlying factors: the location and neighborhood the person lives in, the neighbors of the person, tattoos he or she may have, and clothes he or she may wear.

It is almost as though the system is trying to find lucrative

“ More kids and teenagers alike are being tried for crimes or “delinquencies” they have committed, and are being sentenced and death with unfair consequences.

ways to lock teenagers in, and “keep them off the streets.” Only problem, is jail life better than no life or street life? I think not.

From police who demoralize them, probation officers who survey them, prosecutors who try to sentence them, school administrators who take no active roles in their lives, teachers who humiliate and dehumanize them, and parents who disapprove of them,

where is the leading light for our youth?

From my side of the fishbowl, it is like this: why don't we stop placing millions and billions of dollars into the prison systems and spend it on something that can transform these teenagers and help them lead more constructive lives?

Jail time surely is not working, and if anything these kids are left with so little when they come

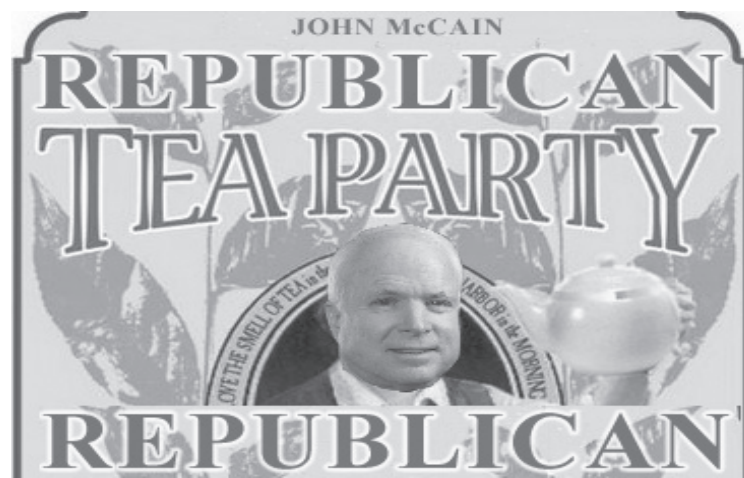


photo illustration by Eric Tran

Spoiling the Republican Tea Party

BY MERY HOUNANIAN
Copy Editor

Who would've thought that this would ever happen? Republicans have taken to the streets, protesting what they believe to be President Obama's plan for big government and a socialist republic. These concerned citizens seem to have taken a queue from their liberal, Democratic opposition. More power to them for using their First Amendment right of freedom of speech.

However, I have a problem with protesting when the protesters are lacking information. The Taxed Enough Already (TEA) Party Protests started in California on Aug. 28 and made their way all the way to Washington, D.C. to show their concern about the direction this country is headed in. They rallied against what they think to be big government, which will limit personal freedoms and turn the U.S. into a socialist republic. Then we'll be back in the U.S.S.R, sort of.

Fringe groups that believe that Obama was not born in the country have joined the protests and mixed with more mainstream groups who say that they are worried about his plans for health care reform. Health care reform is the focal point of these protests, though the stated purpose was to protest taxes and spending.

First off, President Obama was born in the United States, making the assertions otherwise completely foolish. Secondly, no where in his plan for health care reform is there any mention of a government takeover of private insurance. People with privatized health care will get to keep their health care. I see no need for people to be sick and dying, unable to go to the hospital because they don't have health care. It just seems inhumane. I, for one, am in support of health care reform. How many people can go without health care, fearing that a trip to the hospital will cost them an arm

and a leg? The Obama administration believes that a comprehensive reform includes reducing the long-term health care costs for businesses and government, protecting families from debt or bankruptcy from health care costs, guaranteeing choice of doctors and health plans, investing in prevention and wellness, and improving patient safety and quality of care. This will not diminish the quality of doctors and health care professionals. Shouldn't the main intent be to help people, regardless of how much they can pay?

Thirdly, here I was, under the impression that people have to spend money to jump start the economy. And of course, spending and taxes will turn the U.S. into a socialist republic. Socialism, based upon Karl Marx's and Frederick Engel's descriptions, is a system in which production and distribution are controlled by the people and operated according to equity and fairness, rather than market principles. And this is a bad thing?

At the rally in Washington, Senator DeMint from South Carolina was quoted as telling the *New York Times* that, "This is not some kind of radical right wing group."

Some signs protesters in Washington held included "Bury Obama Care With Kennedy" and "Obama Bin Lyin" as well as a picture of the President sporting Adolf Hitler's signature moustache (which he stole from Charlie Chaplin in an attempt to get people to think he was loveable). Is this really necessary? Comparing the President who has only been in office nine months to a terrorist and a fascist dictator? Disrespecting Sen. Kennedy, who had just passed away? If this is not a radical right wing group, and this is the way all Republicans think, I am certainly concerned for the future of this country.

Losing the gender race

BY TARA ATRIAN

South African track runner Caster Semenya's results are in, and they are not the kind of results a female athlete gets excited about. She has just found out she is a hermaphrodite, and her life has come tumbling down because of the ignorance of the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF).

Caster Semenya was thrust into the spotlight when she flew past other runners in the 800 meter race at the World Championships in Berlin.

Just because she ran faster than all the other girls and had broad shoulders, it raised a red flag.

The IAAF, just waiting for a scandal, pounced. They questioned Semenya's gender and

forced her to prove her that she had a vagina, like every other girl running in that race (and as far as the IAAF know, maybe they should check the others, too).

Gender is such a big part of society. The world we live in does not render genders equal and if a person is of a certain sex, they have to vigorously prove it.

sure others that they are masculine enough.

The most humiliating thing for a female to do is to prove that she is a woman. Just the plain prosecution of gender is embarrassing but when the whole world is watching you, as they did with Semenya, it is an emotional time bomb just a few seconds away from detonation.

It is just plain unprofessional and immoral for the IAAF to cause this much humiliation on such a large scale.

After Semenya found out that she had higher testosterone levels than the normal female and was a hermaphrodite, she dropped out of a race she had been planning to attend.

I wonder if the IAAF feels any sympathy from the deep black holes they call hearts yet?



photo illustration by Eric Tran

Girls are always trying to up the ante on their femininity to prove that they are not manly, and guys are always fighting to reas-

C-House celebrates C-Day



Red, White, and Blue: Cavs keep busy with Constitution Day activities.

photo by Haig Nalbandian

BY CHANDLER HUDSON

The Land celebrated Constitution Day on September 17 in traditional red, white and black fashion. Students gathered on the quad to refresh their memory about one of the most powerful documents in American history.

Constitution Day was designed to raise awareness about the document written by the United States' founding fathers many years ago. Teacher and Senior Board Director Danielle Aucoin and Career Advisor and Leadership Sponsor Stephanie Slaughter worked in tandem to bring fresh energy to the event this year.

"I thought it was a great success," Aucoin said. "There were

lots of student participation, and it really was successful in promoting awareness of the Constitution."

The event took place on the quad and featured various games and activities designed to raise awareness and create pride in America. The festivities included a Constitution crossword, bracelet making, face painting, Constitution charades, relay games, "know your amendments," and presidential trivia. The games were designed by Aucoin's AP Government students and tested the general Constitutional knowledge of the Cleveland populace. Prizes, such as candy, were

awarded for correct answers.

"The activities were informative and fun," Senior Marisa Rader said. "Their hard work really paid off."

The event even inspired some philosophizing. "The Constitution is to the U.S. what mustard is to hotdogs," Senior David Yoo said.

Teachers and students attending the event were encouraged to wear red, white and blue to show Cleveland spirit. The music and technical equipment were provided by Leadership.

"Even though it was a scorching day, there was a great turnout," Senior Melody Medina said.

School Board votes on charter and private school systems

BY JENNY LUONG

The board of the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) settled the controversial school choice of whether charter and private organizations will be allowed to bid for control of LAUSD schools. On a six to one vote, held on August 25, the board turned over one-third of district schools to charter school operators and private organizations.

Within the next few years, LAUSD plans on opening 50 new schools, allowing some or even all to be privately managed.

"I am very much against it," Spanish teacher Leslie Broyles said. Broyles and Ricky Kupferer, Cleveland's American Literature and Contemporary Composition teacher, make up the leaders of the teachers' union at Cleveland High School. They, along with others, are a powerful group of teachers who fight for their voices to be heard in education.

"Public schools have been the cornerstone of our democracy," Broyles said. There has always been a preconceived notion throughout the past and present that charter schools were far superior academically to public schools, yet charter schools exclude students that are more difficult to educate.

"The kids that would be more costly—they want to get rid of," Broyles said referring to ESL (English as a Second Language) students. "Their primary objective is to make money."

"We don't want education to become a big business," Kupferer said.

Broyles explains that although California law states that public and charter schools are required to accept all students, charter schools tend to draw the more motivated students and families away from the public schools.

"Schools should be for everybody," Kupferer said. "[Private organizations] do whatever makes the most money, which is certainly not good for the kids."

Other privately run schools drill their students endlessly on test-taking skills to succeed.

When a public school is handed over to a private organization, teachers "lose a lot of control over the educational process," Broyles said. "A lot of the charter schools don't have to meet the same standards as public schools."

"Small groups are in charge and they get rid of anyone they don't like," said Kupferer. "Teacher's jobs are lost."

Birmingham High School recently became a charter school this year, with many of its teachers losing their jobs. Many charter schools do not have the same contracts with teachers as public schools. Private organizations are often looking for a profit and may not have the same benefits for teachers as public schools.

"The UTLA [United Teachers of Los Angeles] also has the right to apply for charter status," Broyles said. "We're trying to come up with private schools that would be an alternative to charters."

Lucky break for class of 2012?

BY JONATHAN SO

In an attempt to increase the fairness of college admissions, the UC Regents voted early 2009 to exempt the SAT subject tests as admissions factors, beginning with the incoming freshman of the class of 2012. These students will not be required to take the SAT IIs in order to gain admittance to a University of California campus.

In February 2009, the UC Board of Regents made this proposal to provide a larger pool of high-achieving students with the chance to apply to the UCs. One side effect: more high school students will be inclined to apply to the UC system since it means one less standardized test.

Although there will be one less test, fewer students, overall, will be guaranteed admission. According to UC representatives, since the requirement to take SAT IIs will now be waived, more people will apply, giving students a smaller change of admittance.

"I think it's a bad idea," College Counselor Sharon Drell said in response to this change in policy. "I think we should keep them. The SAT IIs are curriculum-based

while the SAT I is not." She noted that the school prepares students for the SAT Subject tests, while the SAT I is not an accurate standard of achievement and knowledge. Therefore, the SAT IIs could benefit students in the admissions process.

On a different note, students who fall in the top nine percent of the high school graduates statewide and in-school will now be guaranteed admittance into one UC campus. This is a significant increase from the previous four percent policy. Those students who are eligible and rank in the top four percent of their class will, under the new policy, be required to complete 11 of the 15 "A-G" courses by the end of the junior year. In previous years, there was no time requirement for the completion of the "A-G" requirements as long as they were completed by the end of the senior year.

Whether interpreted as good or bad, a new pattern is emerging within college admittance that focuses less on standardized tests and more on a well-rounded student. "I guess I won't have to deal

with the pressures of taking the SAT IIs," Freshman Kristen Hahn said. She also stated that it would affect her positively since she could direct her energies towards her extracurricular activities.

This does not mean that the significance of traditional high school scores will be lowered. According to UC President Mark Yudof, "The new admissions policy will increase opportunity for students by expanding the number of applications our campuses review, while continuing to produce a freshman class that is just as qualified as in years past, including by the traditional measures of high school grades and test scores."

Yudof adds that as long as students work diligently and challenge themselves with academically-rigorous courses, they will get to make their case for UC admission. Whether or not the exemption of the SAT IIs is a lucky break is subjective. But, the importance of school scores and an overall impression of balance still remain crucial factors in the process of college admissions.

Save trees, read online!

Le Sabre is on the web!



Information at your fingertips

Photo galleries

Fashion blogs

Student blogs

Student profiles

Up to date information

Music blogs

Sports video clips

Multimedia

New administration

continued from front page

Cleveland has also managed to find enough funds to hire a few new teachers, including several teachers who have relocated to Cleveland from Birmingham High School. At the same time, Cleveland eliminated three full-time one part-time custodial positions, as well as a bathroom monitor.

In a related move, LAUSD decided to lower the ratio of assistant principals to teachers. As a result, 64 assistant principals with the lowest seniority were either let go or moved for this school year. Shanna Sarris was one of the assistant principals moved to Cleveland due to budget cuts at her former school, Sutter Middle School. She is now in charge counseling and the master program at Cleveland.

"Everyone's been very welcoming," Sarris said. "The students are great, and I'm looking forward to a very successful year here at Cleveland."

Kevin Frost, formerly an assistant principal at Chatsworth, was named another one of Cleveland's newest assistant principals. As a result of drastic budget cuts at her original school, Chatsworth High School, Frost was rotated by LAUSD into different open positions, as they attempted to find a place for all staff members who could not be let go. During the summer she was transferred first to Chatsworth, then to Kennedy as an intervention coordinator (teacher), then to Frost Middle School as an assistant principal, and finally to Cleveland as an assistant principal.

Frost was (in her words) "tickled pink" when she learned she would be coming to Cleveland. "On my first day at Cleveland, I walked through those doors, and a young man named Brian started talking to me, asking me how I was," Frost said. "So far, everyone has been just as welcoming, just as open."



photo illustration by Eric Tran

The Land votes for iPods, Site Council to make final decision

BY WENDY MAO
Features Editor

On Sept. 8, a pupil-free day, teachers gathered at the Land to vote on whether or not iPods would be allowed on campus. The proposal passed with an overwhelming 75 percent of yes, iPods-should-definitely-be-allowed, votes. Three weeks later, on Tuesday, Sept. 29, the school leadership council reviewed the proposition, holding its own final vote of whether to make any electronic music-listening devices legal on campus.

If the School Site Council approves the policy, it will probably go into effect spring semester.

The policy would allow students to use music-listening devices on campus, but only before and after school and during nutrition and lunch. While class is in session, these devices must be off and hidden away; otherwise, the teacher in charge reserves the right to confiscate such items.

Cavaliers, including students,

teachers and members of the administration, have expressed differing opinions on the subject.

Teacher Richard Posito revealed he voted yes for iPods to be allowed on campus.

"I don't really care if you [Cleveland students] want to listen to music on your own time... it's cool... I don't want to infringe on the few minutes students have to themselves," Posito said. "It's not a battle worth fighting."

However, not everyone at Cleveland shares the same view.

One senior mentioned, "I don't like forbidding rights, but I don't see the use. School is usually there to foster social ties, but technology takes away from that."

In previous years, all electronic devices, except calculators, were banished from school property. The campus rule has always been swift confiscation of these devices, if seen, found or, as many Cavaliers know, heard.

Cleveland welcomes Principal Clay

BY JILLIAN GOODMAN
News Editor

With the start the new school year and in light of recent budget cuts, Cleveland welcomed Herman Clay as its new principal.

Clay has a diverse and colorful background in education, ranging from teaching and school administration to district level positions. He began his career as at Van Nuys High School, where he served as a history, mathematics, and computer programming teacher. Although he moved from teaching at Van Nuys to working as the computer literacy coordinator at the LAUSD offices, he later returned to Van Nuys and served in various administrative positions, including dean, assistant principal, and principal. At one point, Clay was also an Assistant Principal at Millikan Middle School.

Most recently, Clay worked for the District as the director of history and social sciences. However, as a result of budget cuts and reduction on force, he was removed from the District offices along with many other district administrators. Clay became a principal on loan, meaning he could serve as a principal in any middle or high school in the Valley.

"I was lucky enough to be

asked to come to Cleveland," Clay said. "I felt good about it. I actually thought I was going to go to a middle school because that's where many of the openings were. I know being a high school principal is a very intense job."

Although Clay had not served as a principal for many years, he said the transition was smooth



photo by Haig Nalbandian

and easier than he had thought.

"It's been great," Clay said. "The first day that Mr. Marks introduced me to some of the senior staff, everybody was extremely welcoming and helpful. That's really continued."

In addition, Clay has much high regard for the students at Cleveland. He has been impressed so far with how the students conduct themselves on campus and get along and was glad to experi-

ence a smooth school opening.

Clay plans to take the time to become familiar with The Land before he institutes any major changes.

"I'm really going to try to enhance what is here," Clay said. "My philosophy is to really take some time to try to learn the school, students, teachers, and everyone else and appreciate all the good things."

When asked about the possible return of Fall Fest and the other season festivals, Clay responded very enthusiastically. "I think the Fall Festival and activity days really enhance the culture and support the idea of students from all backgrounds working together," Clay added. "It also engages the faculty."

Outside of the school environment, Clay enjoys cycling and going to concerts. However, he joked that he likes "old people music" like Classical.

Clay hopes to remain at Cleveland for at least the next four to five years and might consider retiring at that point.

"I hope to do a good job for the staff and students here because I really work for you," Clay said. "I don't work for me. One thing about Cleveland that everyone said to me that I found to be very true is that Cleveland's really a family."

Budget cuts don't make the grade

BY HAEMIN JEE
Opinions Editor

California's six billion dollar education budget cuts, authorized by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, are leaving no high school untouched, including Cleveland High School.

Every budget is being reworked, and every small learning community is feeling the effects of the recent cuts. The Gifted budget that directly provides for many students' needs in the classroom is estimated to be cut up to forty or fifty percent. Instead of receiving fifty dollars per student, Cleveland is anticipating only twenty five or thirty dollars per student. The Gifted budget has a deep influence on campus; every small learning community has gifted students who enjoy the benefits of the supplies, books, and technology that the Gifted budget provides.

According to Wayne Basinger, the Gifted budget coordinator, the most talented students on campus will feel most strongly the aftershocks of losing so much of the Gifted budget. This budget usually provided lab equipment for Advanced Placement science classes, test banks for practice tests in Advanced Placement history classes, and field trips for small learning communities. In comparison to other budgets, every penny of the Gifted budget is used to directly benefit students in

the classroom, usually to provide supplements to the curriculum to help gifted students receive a more active and interesting education. The Gifted budget was also used to pay teachers overtime for staying after school or on the weekends for Advanced Placement preparation with their students.

"There's no question [AP scores will drop]," Basinger said. "We have amazing teachers. But how will you know what the teacher is talking about if you don't do the experiment? Teachers now have to be creative about how to teach their curriculum to go beyond the classroom."

This is a common theme in the small learning communities at Cleveland. Teachers are forced to be more and more innovative without the money they are used to having to fund extra projects. Without Title I funds to provide buses for field trips, the Humanities Magnet is looking to fundraisers to pay for the many field trips that have always provided its students with supplements to their curriculum.

The Humanities Magnet is also feeling the loss of Neil Anstead as a teacher. Anstead, who founded the Humanities Magnet, unfortunately had the least priority in the budget cuts because he gave up retirement to come

back to teach. With his departure, Cleveland cut Anstead's Advanced Placement Art History class from the schedule, as well as his popular Opera Class that he taught through Santa Monica College.

The Interdisciplinary Studies small learning community will also suffer since the funds for buses from Title I will not be available to provide buses for field trips.

"We just have to find unconventional ways to do the stuff we have to do," Humanities Magnet and Interdisciplinary Studies Coordinator Gabriel Lemmon said.

Title I funds are now being used to rehire teachers that Cleveland would have lost without that money. The ESL community has used most of its budget money to hire back teachers and hire a counselor. This means less money for supplies and equipment, including laptop computers.

Every student on campus can attest to the growing class size and inaccessibility of counselors.

"More students in the classroom mean less time dedicated to students from teachers [and] less counselors to help," ESL Budget Director Tom Carrola said. "That's going to have some effect on student learning and performance."

Remembering Patrick Swayze

BY ISABELLE BOLLA

I remember growing up and having sleepovers with my friends, it was almost a monthly ritual to revisit Patrick Swayze in the film "Dirty Dancing." I mean, the way he moved, the way he danced; we were young, and he most definitely

farwell more heart felt.

Swayze became a heavy alcoholic after his father died at the age of fifty-seven. This led to a downfall in his career and personal life, and he was later acquitted into rehabilitation. Despite this rough

is a licensed pilot and during the last few months of his life, made periodic trips from Los Angeles to North California so Swayze could receive proper treatment at the Stanford University Medical Center.

One of my favorite quotes in

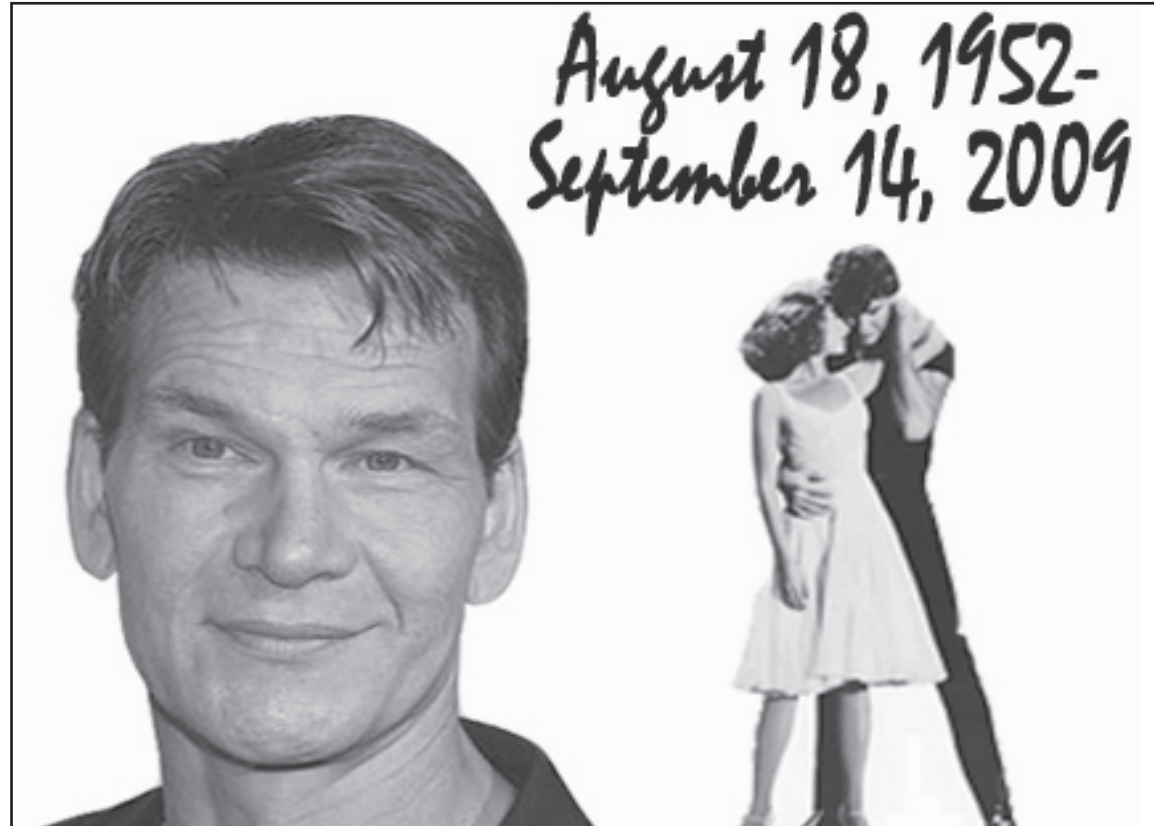


photo illustration by Holland Mervis

fulfilled his role as a noted "heart-throb." I have memories of my friend and I attempting to reenact the very last scene, where Patrick Swayze would lift Jennifer Gray in the air, with full force and unrequited passion, but our attempts never matched his. He touched our hearts in "Ghost" and continued to do throughout his career.

While I would like to say only praise for him, I feel that it is necessary to bring light onto even the dark aspects of his life to make my

patch, Swayze was described as a "kind soul," and a "people pleaser"; these qualities shine through in his movies. Swayze had been fighting the deadly form of cancer that he was diagnosed with for around twenty months. Aside from wowing on the big screen, Swayze was an avid conservationist; after several trips to Africa, Swayze was moved by the people and did whatever he could to help. Swayze met his wife Niemi when he was 19, and the two have been together ever since. She

"Dirty Dancing" has always been: "I'm gonna do my kind of dancin' with a great partner, who's not only a terrific dancer; somebody who's taught me that there are people willing to stand up for other people no matter what it costs them; somebody who's taught me about the kind of person I wanna be." Looking back on his life, Swayze lived out the words he spoke on the big screen. A big star, with a big heart, he will never be forgotten.

Oasis runs dry

BY MERY HOUNANIAN
Copy Editor

As I was waiting for my flight back to L.A. at London's Heathrow airport over the summer, idly watching the news, I was shocked to hear that Oasis had split up. Wait a minute, hasn't Oasis been ready to fall apart since 1995? Why now?

The band was formed by Liam Gallagher, Paul Arthurs, Paul McGuigan, and Tony MacCarroll. Liam's older brother Noel Gallagher soon joined the band. As of this year, they have sold over 70 million records worldwide.

The Gallagher brothers have not always seen eye-to-eye, and both have threatened to leave the band in the past. However, this never happened until recently. On Aug. 28, following a fight between the Gallagher brothers which resulted in Liam breaking Noel's guitar, their manager announced the cancellation of their

concert at the Rock-en-Seine festival near Paris just minutes before it was about to begin. A bit of a bummer for fans who spent money to see them, huh? Their European tour was also cancelled and a statement was released saying that the "group does not exist anymore."

brothers was released as a single titled "Wibbling Rivalry". Their mother, Peggy Gallagher, has been quoted as saying that she hopes the two will reunite since they "do love each other very much." She also said that they did not fight as children, only when they began the band did the two ever argue.

On Sept. 5, Liam Gallagher told News of the World that Oasis will continue despite Noel deciding to quit. That'll make for some awkward family reunions for the future, but is it any surprise that this happened? Since the band's inception the two have been at odds. Who knows what Oasis's future will hold, and how their music will be affected?

One can only wait and hope that Oasis doesn't suck completely without Noel, as Liam remains the only original band member left. Arthurs, McGuigan, and MacCarroll had been replaced by Gem Archer, Andy Bell, and Chris Sharrock. I mean, change is a necessary part of life but sometimes sticking with the old is a good thing.



photo illustration by Holland Mervis

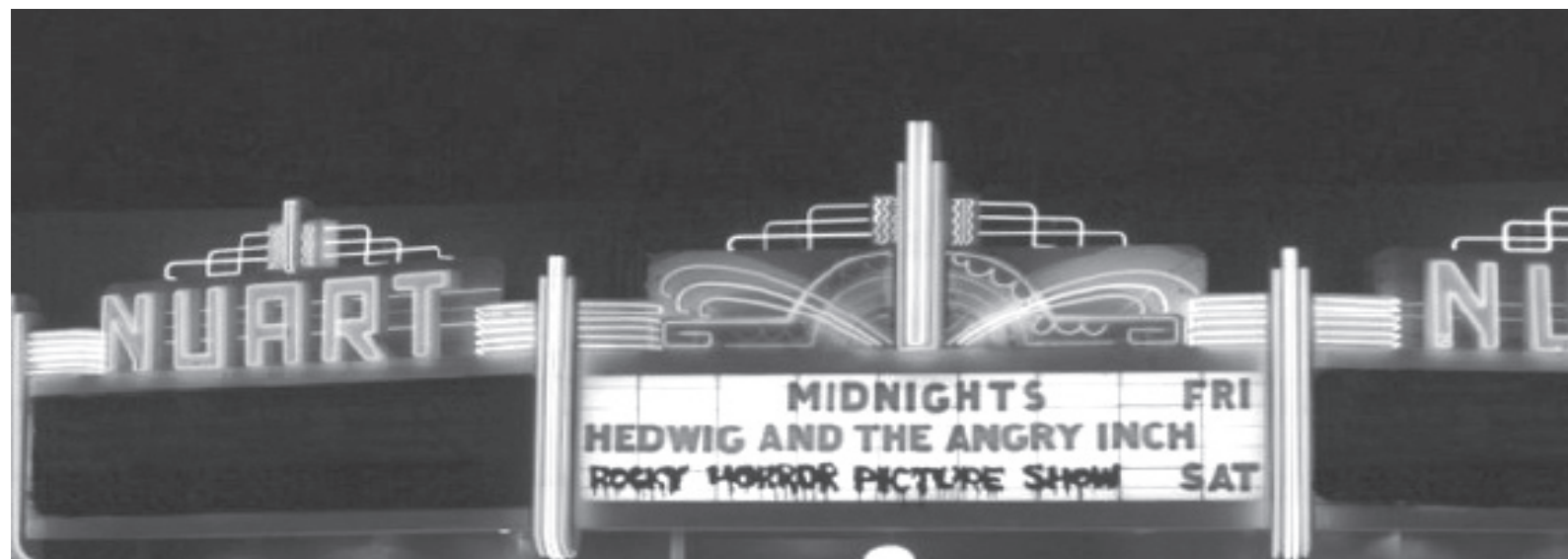


photo illustration by Amanda Silver

Discover 'New-Art'

BY JONATHAN SO

If you consider yourself an eccentric indie-fan, or at least an individual daring enough to try something fresh, check out the Nuart Theater located in the heart of West Los Angeles. Hailed as a Los Angeles landmark since its opening in 1974, the Nuart Theater provides its audience with a diverse mixture of programs and films.

Independently run, the theater plays a wide array of films like its ever famous *Rocky Horror Picture Show*. The *Rocky Horror Picture Show* is a cult hit full of adventure, love, hate, creation, and sex. From *Rocky Horror*, "a sweet transvestite, from transsexual Transylvania" to the confused and terrified couple, Brad and Janet, this parody of horror and science films portrays a unique world that

never fails to draw in an enthusiastic and captivated crowd. Local to Los Angeles, Jim Sharman's play is a must-see, providing viewers an accessible and enjoyable cinematic experience.

As an eclectic art house, the Nuart is home to a wide array of independent film, documentaries, foreign language cinema, and restored classics. One contributor claimed, "The Nuart has been playing the best movies that you've never seen..." These indie films are productions that step outside of Hollywood's major studios and are created independently of major restrictions.

These independent films take a fresh approach to creating films. There is an advantage of independent films that major budget pro-

ductions lack. There are no movie studios to dictate the production of independent films, and many viewers appreciate this fact since they are able to watch an unadulterated and pure portrayal of a story. Foreign films and documentaries, too, have distinct styles that differ from the majority of today's movies.

In addition to its collection of films and appearances, the Nuart makes an effort to create the best experience possible. The theater was remodeled extensively in 2006 and aside from its obvious changed appearance, the structure holds comfortable and homey reclining seats and THX-certified sound devices, assuring that the sound quality is superb. With a mixture of new technology and classic film, the Nuart Theater lives up to the

standards. It is hailed by the Los Angeles Times as "L.A.'s premiere art house."

Although the normal theater experience may be sufficient to some, independent theaters like the Nuart take the initiative to bring art and quality back into film. When asked whether or not he would want to watch an independent film, junior Justin Hahn replied, "I would love to try watching something new. It would be a refreshing break from all the blockbuster films these days."

Past influences are making a huge comeback, as seen through the rising popularity of techno and once-retired fashion trends. One way to partake in this revival? The Nuart Theater.

The Rob Debate '09

BY HAYLEE-RAE AVERILL

"Everything about me invites you in. My voice, my face..." says Edward Cullen, the fictional vampire of the *Twilight* Saga, played by Hollywood hunk Robert Pattinson. In the past year, Pattinson has reached limits of fame that are unimaginable for many; he began to be known as a "fantasy movie cutie" when he appeared in a couple of the *Harry Potter* installments, but achieved ultimate stardom when he hit the big screen as the sexy vampire Edward Cullen.

While some people may say that he is not attractive, doesn't dress well, or have good hygiene, I believe that those people are all under false impressions. Robert Pattinson has thousands of women place next to Edward for all of eternity. Romantic? I think not.

After my traumatic *Twilight* experience, I am beginning to see Rob Pattinson as a hideous symbol for the cult of misogynistic vampire stories, which has only begun to unfold. Unlike other people, who may see Pattinson as some kind of masculine god, I see him as nothing but a sad sign that our generation of women has stepped backward in time. I would hope that modern young adults, of both genders, would enjoy books that were maybe just a little bit more well written, and, hopefully, a bit less sexist.

In the movie Pattinson looks gorgeous with his perfect and dewy skin and "troubled teenage boy" look. But, in real life, especially on the red carpet in a tuxedo, he looks even better. There is that argument that Pattinson is too pretentious to "dress-up" for the awards show. That untruth can

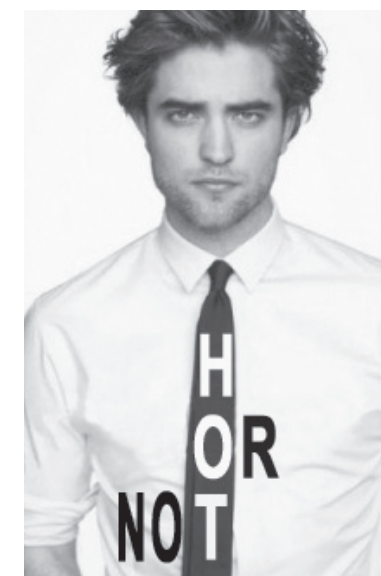


photo illustration by Holland Mervis

easily be put down. He has been picked on for not looking presentable when he is being interviewed and photographed, but the truth of the matter is that he is dressing like an ordinary person. It is ridiculous that Pattinson is expected to wear a tuxedo each time he is in public, so it should not be an issue that he is merely expressing himself by wearing what he thinks is appropriate and comfortable.

Another quality that makes Rob Pattinson hot is that he is a musician. His album is going to be released in London in the near future, but two of his songs made it on the *Twilight* soundtrack. This musician side of him allows girls to not only fall for him because he is a talented actor who plays the guy of their dreams, but also because he could potentially sing his way into their hearts.

But ultimately, there should be no question since it is quite clear that Robert Pattinson is hands-down, hot.

Television to Feed the Brain

BY ARMAND SAROGLHANIAN

September marks the start of school for most. It is also the beginning of rising stress levels, all-nighters and for some, bouts of depression. Already feeling the heat? The new fall line up will help make the transition from summer vacation to the new school year smoother.

To start off this season, another vampire novel is coming to the screen. No, not *Twilight*, this was actually written before the *Twilight* series and it goes by the name, "The Vampire Diaries." Two brothers, Stefan, (Paul Wesley of "Army Wives"), and Damon, (Ian Somer-

halder of "Lost"), are centuries-old vampires. Stefan, the "good guy" of the two, tries to win the heart of a girl at school named Elena, (Nina Dobrev of "Degrassi: The Next Generation" fame), until Damon begins to wreak havoc upon the relationship. Problems start arising in the town of Mystic Falls, Virginia as the brothers clash. Sure to be a hit, "The Vampire Diaries" is on KTLA the CW every Thursday at 8 p.m.

The highly-anticipated fall comedy "Community" is sure to get big laughs. Jeff Winger (Joel McHale from "The Soup") is a lawyer who gets his degree revoked. With the support from his friends, he decides to go to Greendale Community College and forms a study group with his fellow classmates. Many famous comedians make cameos on the show, like the comedic legend, Chevy Chase and even Ken Jeong from *The Hangover*. Witty and charming, "Community" is on every Thursday at 9:30 p.m.

From the creator of "Nip/Tuck" comes a new comedy, a musical simply named "Glee." "Glee" is about teacher Will Schuster, played by Matthew Morrison, who attempts to revive McKinley High's Glee Club, while helping a group of aspiring underdogs realize their true star potential. The cast includes Jayma Mays, ("Ugly Betty" and "Heroes.") Jane Lynch, (*Taladega Nights* and "Two and a Half Men"), as the school's autocratic cheerleading coach and

Cory Monteith. ("Kyle XY.") Join the "Glee" Club every Wednesday at 9 p.m. on FOX.

Not a fan of comedy? ABC is offering a new science fiction show called "FlashForward." The show does not start with a "big bang", rather, the show opens with people working the daily grind. Suddenly, this normalcy is broken as the entire human population blacks out for a little over two minutes.

During these two minutes, people are given a glimpse into their futures. A Los Angeles FBI agent named Mark Benford, (Joseph Fiennes), along with his partner Demetri Noh, (John Cho), investigate this other-worldly event and try to piece together why exactly it happened. Catch "FlashForward" on Thursday night at 8/7 C on ABC.

Luckily, this wide array of television shows will help take the edge off of school.

Find these shows on the channels listed or check your local television provider for more details. Happy viewing!



photo illustration by Amanda Silver

From Texas to Darfur

BY ALEX LEE

Tracing his steps backwards, Tracy McGrady, better known as T-Mac, decided to step out of his comfort zone and took a trip to Africa. McGrady, a seven time all star and one of the best active players in the National Basketball league, took a life changing trip by traveling to the country of Sudan in order to experience lifestyles very different from his own. Upon hearing of the challenges that children from Darfur were facing in the refugee camps in Chad, McGrady took up the efforts to travel there.

In 2007, McGrady, with the help of filmmaker Josh Rotherstein, filmed his trip to Darfur, making a documentary called *3 Points*. In promoting his humanitarian efforts, McGrady even changed his number to #3. The documentary focuses on McGrady's trek through three villages in Chad to reveal the broken lives of children refugees from Darfur.

In February of 2003, hundreds of Darfurians were forced to flee from their native homes due to the continuous attack of the Arab militia. While there has been a long

history of disputes between the black Africans of Darfur and the Afro-Arabs, the violence broke out into an actual genocide with the rise in arms of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA). These two groups accused the Sudanese government of supporting the Afro-Arabs in favor of the black Africans living in Darfur. Although the Sudanese government has denied any claims of favoring one side to the other, it has been shown countless times that one major perpetrator of this genocide is the Sudanese military, the other being the Janjaweed, a Sudanese militia group.

300,000 people from Darfur have been murdered and an estimated 2.5 million have been forced from their homes. The Janjaweed and Sudanese military kill without discrimination and many Darfurians have had to flee as a result.

Though people have fled to survive, the conditions in the refugee camps that greeted them were of no comfort. Upon seeing what seemed to be a soccer field, McGrady asked, "How much is it

to build a soccer field?" The escort told McGrady, "\$1,000." McGrady immediately decided to donate funds for the creation of a new field. With a new mission in mind, McGrady pounded the escort with questions about building swimming pools and recreational areas for the children to play in. The escort responded that the children did not need such worldly things but more necessities such as food, clothing and shelter. McGrady was shocked to hear that on top of being underfed and unkept, the children were denied, what he believed to be, "what the kids needed."

With the release of his documentary, *3 Points*, McGrady hopes that many will recognize that the effects of the genocide in Darfur. Despite the fact that *3 Points* was shot over 2 years ago, McGrady remains conscious of the issues plaguing Darfur. He continues with his humanitarian acts and is now educating his fellow athletes and other high-profile individuals to bring about a general knowledge of the situation in Darfur.

McGrady's *3 Points* is expected to be released late fall of 2009.

Cavaliers From Beyond the Border

BY SARA GROSSMAN
Online Editor

Cleveland halls ebb and flow with the surge of students pushing their way to class each day. The Land overflows with students of all races, cultures, and sexual orientations, but the school's diversity extends even beyond that. It may surprise many Cleveland kids to learn that international students roam among them as well.

These foreign exchange students hail from all corners of the globe. From Asia to Europe they arrive at Cleveland seeking new experiences and opportunities.

Leano Peters is one such student. Peters, a sophomore, came all the way to Los Angeles from his native Germany. He decided to come to the US for new experiences, and was especially excited

the trees that line the streets of Los Angeles. The large, compact town from which he is from consists mostly of tall buildings and apartments.

Geng, who goes by "Evan", has already been in the U.S. for over a year. He spent last year in Las Vegas with a host family, enjoying walks around the casinos at night. This year he came to Southern California to be close to an uncle who lives in the L.A. area. He lives with a different host family—this time sharing the house with two other Chinese exchange students, as well as one from Japan.

Geng said that the hardest part about coming to America alone was missing his family.

However, he came here because

American schools to be nearly as challenging as those in China, where one is expected to study until at least nine o'clock at night.

In addition, compared to China, Geng said that Americans are much more talkative and outgoing.

"[They seem] happy about their lives," he said. In China, he continued, "People just stay quiet because the [Communist] government is too strong."

Geng was not the only international student who was surprised by the American outward displays of emotion. Poramat Ruangkana, a junior from Thailand, said he was at first taken aback when he saw two people making out in public in the U.S.

"It's not socially acceptable



photos by Haig Nalbandian

Hello America: Exchange students, Ruangkana (left), Peters (middle), Geng (right), smile for the camera.

to come to L.A. when given the chance to choose between going to Nebraska or California.

Peters started learning English in the fifth grade back home in Germany, where everyone is required to learn the language. However, this is his first visit to the United States.

His favorite thing about Los Angeles is the amazing weather. He also loved going to the beach for the first time, enjoying the waves and sand.

Peters said his experience in Southern California has been good so far, although

he is still learning to navigate his way through American culture and lifestyle.

"When I came here I heard alcohol is bad," Peters said "In Germany, everybody drinks. It's not a bad thing. It's just part of the culture."

In addition, Peters said that the "big cars" were another huge surprise.

"In Germany we have big cars too, but not as many."

Peters was not the only international student surprised by differences between California and his native country. Senior Cong Geng, originally from the Chong Qing province in the middle of China, said he was shocked by

he hopes to go to college in the U.S. and thinks he will have a better chance of getting into the college of his choice by going to high school here.

"I also wanted to come to the U.S. because I saw a lot of American movies," Geng added.

Both Geng and Peters said that people have been very friendly to them, making it easier to adjust to their new surroundings.

Geng noticed a few main cultural differences between the American lifestyle and that of the Chinese.

He said that many American parents will encourage their children to do things beyond the purely academic

"Like if you want to play guitar they will encourage you to," he explained. In China, Geng said academics are always the main focus.

He added that he has not found

[in Thailand]," he explained.

Like Geng, it is Ruangkana's second year in the U.S. He came to California last year and attended San Bernardino High School. However, he didn't like it so much because of all the gangs there.

Ruangkana, 16, chose to stay in the U.S. another year with an aunt who lives in Los Angeles. He said he chose to attend Cleveland because it was close to his aunt's house and he had heard it was a good school.

So far, Ruangkana said his experience at Cleveland has been better than at San Bernardino. His favorite thing about the school is the diversity.

Both Ruangkana and Geng hope their experiences in LA will be worthwhile.

"I hope this year I will have a good time here," said Ruangkana.



photo illustration by Judy Kim.

Gender Free: Male and female symbols are not the only labels.

WHO NEEDS GENDER ROLES? Not Pop!

BY MERY HOUNANIAN
Copy Editor

A Swedish couple decided when their child was born to keep Pop's (their child's) sex a secret. Except for a select few, nobody knows whether Pop is male or female. In an interview with Swedish newspaper Svenska Dagbladet, the parents were quoted as saying that their decision was rooted in the feminist philosophy that gender is a social construction. Sex is biological and has to do with genetics, whereas gender and gender roles are socially constructed.

In the same interview, Pop's mother was quoted as saying "It's cruel to bring a child into the world with a blue or pink stamp on their forehead." Mother and father want Pop to grow up more freely without being forced into a specific gender role from the outset.

Pop's parents believe that this way, Pop will be able to avoid preconceived notions of how people should be treated depending on their sex.

The two-and-a-half year old's wardrobe consists of pants and dresses, varying upon Pop's mood for the day. Pop knows that there are physical differences between boys and girls, but Pop's parents never use personal pronouns when referring to the child. Neighbors and peers of the family have been supportive, though not

everyone agrees with the parents' decision.

Susan Pinker, a psychologist and newspaper columnist was quoted saying "Ignoring children's natures simply doesn't work." She adds that "childrearing should not be about providing an opportunity to prove an ideological point..."

Teacher Jennifer Macon is one of the teachers of the gender unit that is taught in eleventh grade humanities magnet classes. On the topic, she says that she agrees "with the notion that gender is socially constructed." She adds that there is an element of nature vs. nurture involved as well. She says that "99% of all violent crimes done by men is nurture, not nature." Nothing in biology makes men violent. Naturally, men have more testosterone, which accounts for more aggression, but this does not automatically lead to violence. Society shapes and molds peoples' perception of gender.

"In theory, this sounds good...I think this is a very radical approach...I'm interested to see how this works out when the child is school aged," Macon adds. On raising her own daughter, Macon says that "as a woman, she can be anything." She believes in equality, not in a gender-free life.

styles of the
40's, 50's
60's & 70's



Clothing, Shoes
and Boots at
their very best

(818) 907-6716
(818) 907-0526 FAX

14422 Ventura Blvd.
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403

www.iguana-clothing.com

COLLEGE FOR DUMMIES: A need-to-know for all those seniors applying to college



photo illustration by Eric Tran.

BY JUDY KIM
Managing Editor

As October rolls around, college applications draw nearer and the panic level rises higher. While there are those diligent seniors that have started the process back in August, most of us still have an enormous pile of forms to fill out, essays to write, fee waivers to apply for, etc.

Luckily, it is only September and there is still sufficient time left to make sure that we package ourselves in the most favorable light to our choice colleges.

By now, you should've begun your college search and have compiled a list of colleges that you are applying to. On this list, track the required forms and supplements that each college needs, as well as their due dates.

Also, now is the time to (if you haven't already) ask your teachers for recommendations. Most colleges ask for two teachers from different academic fields and one counselor. It is important

that you choose teachers that you have a relationship with to ensure that their recommendation reflects who you are. But no matter who you ask, be sure to thank them for their time and effort. No one is obligated to write a recommendation and really, all they get in return is your gratitude – so be sure to give lots of it!

In addition to the recommendation, it would be wise to start your college essays as soon as possible. Through essays, you can really show the colleges who you are and what you bring to the table. It is the one part of the application that really reflect on your individuality so you want to make sure that you have time to edit, edit and edit. By finishing your rough draft early on, you can utilize all the resources available at school, such as your English teacher and your counselor.

It is wise to start the CSS/Profile since some colleges require

the form to consider the student for scholarships. In this economy, you want as much money as possible and take as many opportunities available to you so apply early! Go to our ever-useful college office for information on a great number of scholarships. The College Peer Counselors will cheerfully help you select those that apply directly to you and try their best to answer any other questions you may have about college.

Finally, remember that now is not the time to procrastinate. All your hard work is about to come to fruition and falling apart these crucial months would be doing injustice to everything you've done! Our dream school is only a few months away. Whatever the outcome, putting in your best effort till the last moment will save regret later on.

Good luck seniors!

Females Fear Not: Secret to Combating Dirty Public Restrooms Revealed

BY LUCIA HWANG

Cheer on! No longer do women have to fear those unsanitary public restrooms. New and improved inventions have been made for the women. These devices, namely Urinelle, Freshette and Go-Girl, allow women to urinate standing up.

Go-Girl was released in January 16, 2009. Sally Dillon had been developing the product for 20 years. Europeans have been patenting Female Urinary Directors (F.U.D.) for years.

The main purpose for the F.U.D. is to redirect the urine. Instead of going straight down, the urine is channeled away from the body. This way women can relieve themselves just as easily as men do.

Urinelle comes in a package of biodegradable bacterial. After every use, the package is discarded. Almost like paper, it is light weight and discreet. Also hydrophobic, Urinelle allows the

user to stay dry.

On the other hand, Go-Girl can be reused because of its silicon material. Go-Girl is not at all irritating and is extremely sanitary. After washing it with soap

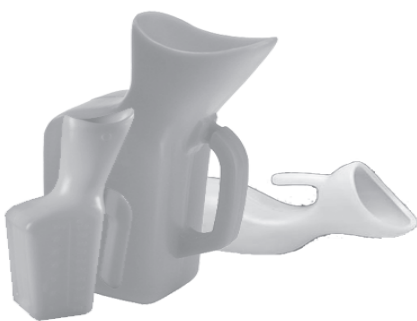


photo illustration by Eric Tran

F.U.D.: F.U.D.'s have been used in Europe.

and water, one can hide it away conveniently in a purse or glove compartment

San-Fem designed the Freshette, which includes a 5-inch funnel, the longest out of the three examples. These are

distributed in collector bags, disposable bags that substitute porta-potties.

All of these brands are used like all the other F.U.D. by placing them against the body in order to create a leak proof seal. Now the person can direct the funnel like spout straight into the toilet. Almost all the portable feminine urinals allow the user to be in a standing, sitting, or reclined position. After practicing once or twice, the process should be like second nature.

Whether for traveling, hiking, skiing, canoeing, shopping, or surfing, F.U.D.'s will always be the perfect fit. These devices are made to fit into any and every lifestyle. It even works for the disabled, who have to deal with inaccessibility and dangers when using the restroom.

Ex Child-Soldier Visits the Land

BY ALLISON CI
AND JOLENA COLLAS

Former child soldier Ishmael Beah graced the Cleveland campus earlier this month to speak about war and violence.

The civil war in Sierra Leone has devastated several families and lives. Yet, many are still unaware beyond what mainstream media depicts. "People had a

Beah, and a couple other child soldiers, were chosen by the UNICEF men and taken to a rehabilitation center. By that point, Beah had become a drug addict and an extremely violent person, filled with hatred.

Over time, however, the patience of the rehab workers began

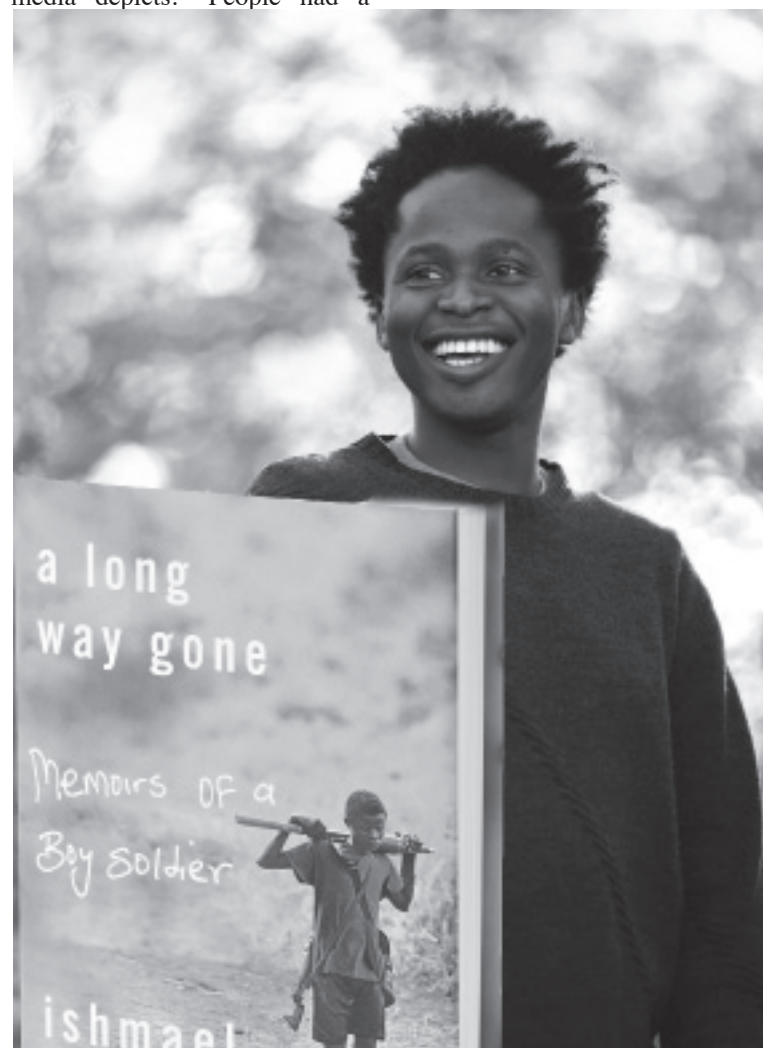


photo illustration by Noor Tell

Survivor: Beah has lived through many obstacles, as mentioned in his book.

twisted perception of Sierra Leone based on the media and movies such as *Blood Diamond*. But there was a Sierra Leone before the War," Beah said. He spent the first 11 years of his life in a peaceful upbringing, with many happy memories and family.

Beah was 12 and living in Sierra Leone when the civil war first came crashing into his life. From that first encounter with the war, Beah embarked on a year-long journey across Sierra Leone in an effort to escape the war and reunite with his family.

When he found them, it was too late. The rebels had burned down Beah's village. Soon afterward, he came across some men from the Sierra Leonean Army, who recruited him as a soldier at the age of 13.

The next few years were a blur of blood, drugs, tragedy, and ruthless killing. Beah was transformed into a cold-blooded killing machine.

After a couple years of this, UNICEF came to the rescue.

to unravel his hard exterior. He learned to accept everything that had happened, learned to become human again.

After moving to America, Beah wrote a book recounting his life during the civil war in Sierra Leone. Entitled *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*, this book is used to spread Beah's message of hope across the world.

"I was touched by his honesty," says freshman Natalie Alas. She, among many others in Beah's audience, was moved by his words. He teaches great life lessons to the students, about how privileged we are, how precious life is, and how tragic violence is.

"War does not help you learn about yourself. If you do not know about yourself you can't know about others. All you learn is how to seek vengeance and pain and suffering. Violence is purely destructive. You have nothing to gain but so much to lose," said Beah at the lecture.

Fall sports '09 at The Land

Captain Jill Kirkendall hopes to lead Cleveland's **CROSS COUNTRY** team to victory this year. "I think our varsity girls have potential," Kirkendall said of this year's team. Coach Hernandez echoes her positive outlook. "I expect the Girls' varsity to make it into city finals this season. If the Boys' varsity trains well, they can also make it to city."

Last year's record: Won 5 meets (girls' team)

Biggest competition: Birmingham and Taft.

Notable team members: Jill Kirkendall, Karmina Padgett, Melissa Moreno, Andres Hernandez, and Leo Ibarra.

Next meet: October 1st at Pierce College.

As **FOOTBALL's** Coach Vaughn said, "We're rebuilding this year's team". Despite a win/loss record of 5-6 last year, rival teams Arleta and Taft (the team's biggest competitors), and the loss of many seniors, the team has high goals: "[We aim to] beat Arleta and win playoffs", says Vaughn. "We lost a lot of seniors, so we're rebuilding the team."

Star players: Collins Holliday, Jose Segura

Record so far: 2-0

Notable new players: CA Nunnally, Jailyn (from Michigan)

Next game: Arleta (Sept 30th)

Coach Farr holds high expectations for **GIRLS' GOLF**. With experienced captains Vickie Ma, Sandy Lee, and Pauline Shin, Farr believes that this year's team is "undefeatable!" As of now, the team holds a 1-0 W/L record.

Coach's expectations: "Every year we are battling for the league championship, and this year is no different. We have the talent to win."

Last year's W/L record: 4/1

Biggest competition this year: El Camino

Any new/star players: Sally Chung, Kristine Jermakian, and Lindsey Jimenez

Captains' thoughts on this year's team: "We have veterans and new talent but we all have the potential, and we can kick butt!"

Next match: Wednesday, Oct. 7 against Monroe at El Cariso Golf Course

GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL, led by co-captains Allie Moat and Stephanie Leonard, started their preseason on a shaky note. In a league so strong that every team is considered "big competition", they hope to improve their win/loss record this year.

Captain's goals: "To lead the team on the court and keep everyone talking and working together well." (Moat) "To win as many games as possible." (Leonard)

How the team compares to last year's: "A lot of seniors left the team. But the returning players have a lot of dedication and I think it will pay off." (Leonard)

Record so far: 0-3

Star players: "Our back row is really strong," says Moat. Allyn Urbina, Richee Manubay, Stephanie Leonard, and Michelle Hyoung, and Allie Moat.

Notable new players: Katie Wong

Next game: October 1 at Birmingham



GIRLS' TENNIS is off to a promising start, with a preseason record of 2-0 so far. Despite losing 5 seniors, the team-wide improvements make up for it, and is currently seems to be strong that last year's as a whole. Coach Lowe pointed out that "[The girls' tennis team this year] definitely has potential for a very successful season."

Captains: Kristie Shu and Sidney Becker

Goals: To beat Granada Hills and go as far as possible in playoffs; "I want this year's season to be the best yet, and I know it's possible," Becker said.

Team compared to last years: "I feel that this year's team is a lot stronger as a whole." (Becker)

Star players: Sidney Becker, Kristie Shu, Gabi Fernandez

Notable new players: Freshman Eva Vosahlo

Next game: October 1 against Taft

BOYS' WATER POLO, as usual, has started its preseason strongly with swift victories (over Venice and Eagle Rock). Having



only lost one senior, the returning class is experienced and ready to finally attain their goal of defeating longtime rival Birmingham.

Captains: Valentino Vilches, David Portillo

Goals: To win City and go undefeated, and beat league rival Birmingham

Star players: Valentino Vilches, David Portillo, Tal Bernard

Captain's thoughts on this year's team: "I think we are operating better as a team this year, and everyone contributes to the games." (Vilches)

Star players: Tal Bernard, Valentino Viches, David Portillo

Next game: October 1 against El Camino

CAVALIER CALENDAR: EARLY OCTOBER

Cross Country

- Chatsworth/Birmingham @ Pierce, October 1
- Granada Hills @ Pierce October 8
- Taft @ Pierce October 15
- El Camino @ Pierce October 22

Football

- @ Arleta October 2
- @ University October 9
- Vs. Chatsworth October 16
- @ Birmingham October 23

Girls' Golf

- Monroe @ El Cariso October 7
- El Camino @ El Cariso October 14
- League finals @ El Cariso October 28

Girls' Tennis

- Vs. Taft October 1
- @ Granada Hills October 5
- Vs. El Camino October 7
- Vs. Chatsworth October 12

Girls' Volleyball

- @ Birmingham October 1
- @ Taft October 5
- @ Granada Hills October 7
- Vs. El Camino October 12

Visit DriversEd.com and enter discount* code **CARS** during the online payment process.

Save
25%!

DriversEd.com
makes earning your license easy.

Take drivers ed all online!

- Fun, flexible lessons so you pass your permit test
- California DMV-approved
- 50 free online permit practice tests
- 2.1 million students and counting...

Questions? Call us at 1-888-661-AUTO.



DriversEd.com

Renowned WNBA pioneer to retire

BY ALEX LEE

Flash back to the early 1990's. If someone were to walk down the street and ask, "What do you think of the NBA?", often times, the response was similar: "What is the WNBA?"

Women's basketball was never appreciated, despite the work that these women put into playing basketball at the professional level. Lisa Leslie changed

WNBA has become more popular because of Lisa Leslie.

Senior Alexa Davison was one of those impacted by Leslie's achievements and was very surprised that Leslie had given up the sport she had loved so much. "I was very surprised and sad because she was such a huge part of the WNBA and womens basketball," says Davison. Davison was



photo illustration by Eric Tran

history as she became a renowned star in the world of women's basketball, brining the WNBA its needed attention and popularity.

Leslie began her journey when she announced that she would be attending the University of Southern California on a basketball scholarship after high school. Towering at six foot and five inches, she flourished as an athlete and quickly became of the games best players. After her college career, Leslie was selected as the seventh overall pick by the Los Angeles Sparks in 1997. As soon as she got to the Sparks, she made an immediate impact on the court as well as off.

Coach Carol Holton is the girls basketball coach at Cleveland High school and is an enthusiastic fan of Lisa Leslie and was actually at the time when Lisa Leslie announced her retirement.

"I was very happy for her and I have come to appreciate all that she has done for girls and the community. She was a pioneer and really began the journey for young women in playing basketball at the high school and collegiate level," she said of Leslie's achievements.

Being an Leslie fan, Coach Holton took the girls basketball team to numerous Los Angeles Sparks games and even has a poster of her in the girls basketball team room. Coach Holton believed that because of Leslie, many young women were inspired. She also believes that the

also inspired by Lisa Leslie being the first woman to dunk.

"She was the first woman to dunk and she was a great team player and contributed to the team greatly."

To many, Leslie was not only a figure in women's basketball but a gleam of hope for women who want to play basketball.

Leslie has won the WNBA, MVP award three times, was the first woman to dunk in a WNBA game, the first WNBA player to reach a 6,000 point plateau, a four-time Olympic gold medalist, and an eight time WNBA all-star, and has led her team to two WNBA titles.

Leslie, one of the pioneers of the WNBA has announced that she will be retiring after the 2009 season ends. Appropriately, Leslie gave her retirement speech at the 23rd annual National Girls in Sports Day. She has been a role model for many women athletes, being one of the first people to join the WNBA in her eleven year career as the franchise face of the Los Angeles Sparks, and also embodied the female athlete role as she has dominated over the years. Leslie will, by females and males alike, be deeply missed as a figure on the court but more importantly be remembered as one of the most prestigious female athletes in the world.



photo illustration by Eric Tran

Upsets and comebacks a common theme in Flushing, New York

BY NOOR TELL

The clock on Arthur Ashe stadium had just hit four hours, yet the energy was still as if not more vibrant as it was at the beginning of the match. Juan Martin Del Potro was one point away from becoming the next men's US Open champion.

With both fans for Del Potro and his opponent Roger Federer, five-time straight US open champion, cheering, Del Potro was able to come out with the win. The crowd applauded as he fell to the ground, hands over his face, paralyzed and overwhelmed with joy.

This year, the U.S Open was all about comebacks and overcoming expectations for both the women and men. Del Potro was not expected to win – first of all, he is only twenty years old meaning he has much less experience in regards to Federer. Secondly, he was competing against someone who had won fifteen time grand slam singles and is ranked number one in the world.

Those stats, however, did not hinder Del Potro. In the fourth set, when Federer only had two more games to win to become the champion, Del Potro was able to dig deep and defeat Federer in the tiebreak. In the fifth set, Del Potro took control, using his strong forehand to keep Federer on his toes and ultimately was able to pull out the win. He is now the second Argentinian to have ever won a U.S open since 1977.

"It was so difficult to keep trying to keep fighting [by the fifth set]. But one more time the crowd and the fans helped me a lot to fight

until last point," Del Potro said of how he managed to secure the win over the defending champion.

With regard to his reaction about winning, he added, "You know, I did my dream, and it's unbelievable moment. It's amazing match, amazing people. Everything is perfect. I can't believe [it]."

Just a day before, a similar turnout occurred in the women's tournament. Kim Clijsters, from Belgium, was another underdog who triumphed over several tough opponents, including the

“

A mother's amazing comeback, a terribly shocking yet delightful win over a 15-time champion, this year's US Open did not disappoint in excitement.

”

Williams sisters who she defeated in the quarter and semi finals.

Clijsters also had her own personal hill to conquer since she had left her tennis career on hold for two years to get married and have a baby. She entered the tournament after USTA gave her a wildcard, and ironically "wildly" blew theirs and her own expectations, blowing the crowd away with her defeat over Serena Williams, an upset that will go down in history.

"I just wanted to come here and get a feel for it all over again, play a Grand Slam so the start to the next year I didn't have to go through all the new experiences over," Clijsters said.

However, Clijsters was already

aware of how it felt to be on top since she had won the U.S open before her retirement in 2005. In addition, she held the number one spot several times but lost her ranking due to her two-year leave.

After defeating opponent Caroline Wozniacki, Clijsters was able to share her unbelievable win with her two-year old daughter Jada and husband Brian Lynch. She received the traditional U.S Open trophy, \$1.6 million, and a 2010 Lexus IS Convertible, as did Del Porto.

The outcome of this year's Open was a surprise for fans everywhere.

"[The Del Potro match] was one of the greatest matches I've ever seen. It was amazing to see Roger [Federer] get upset like that," senior Seth Eisenberg reflected.

Even the president of the USTA (United States Tennis Association) wrote in his blog: "A mother's amazing comeback, a terribly shocking yet delightful win over a 15-time champion, this year's US Open did not disappoint in excitement."

For sports lovers, "Fantasy" takes on a new meaning

BY DAVID KIM

Fantasy and fiction over reality and the real world?

A large part of the teenage word today seems to think so, as it embraces the world of Fantasy Sports.

This form of entertainment is peaking in popularity in this day and age among sports lovers, and the appeal lies in the fact that there is a myriad of different Fantasy Sports to suit everyone. Participants can choose among among such sports as hockey, football, basketball, and baseball.

Ultimately, any person with access to the internet and a computer can play. That person just registers, joins a league, and then drafts players, following the exact process of that takes place in the real-life athletic world. Participants acts as team owners or general managers of the team.

Upon assembling their teams, they are ready to compete. The number of participants and match-ups in each league varies every time, and each match consists of two people's teams going head-to-head.

The performance of one's fantasy team is dependent on the real-life performances of the real-life athletes that the participant

"owns". For example, if Kobe Bryant on the Los Angeles Lakers scored thirty points in a game, his Fantasy equal receives those statistics.

The winning team is based on overall performance. At the end of the game, the statistics of both teams' starting five players are compared, as well as statistics of other players. Team totals for points, steals, rebounds, etc. are also drawn up, and all contribute to the decision of winner. The entire Fantasy Sports system revolves around the players and their real stats in their respective games. There are even playoffs in the Fantasy games, depending on the league joined.

This real-life sensation of athletics seems to find popularity predominantly among males; out of five females at Cleveland who were asked about Fantasy Sports, only one had heard of it, and had no interest in trying it. However, the enthusiasm that Fantasy Sports lovers expressed makes up for it.

"I love Fantasy Sports," senior Andrew Seong says. "It's an excellent time-spender and allows me to be interactive with the thing that I really love."

"I find [Fantasy Sports] really cathartic," senior David Yoo admits of this pastime. "When I play Fantasy Sports, I get a feeling of power you don't get anywhere else." His favorite is Fantasy Baseball, and he is also a member of a few Fantasy Football leagues.

There are a lot of host websites that house the commodity that is Fantasy Sports. One can play on such websites as Yahoo, head2head.com, and CBSSports.com.

Do Fantasy sports allow the common folk to get more involved with the sports that they love to watch but never got the chance to take part, or does it promote the virtual reality instead of the real thing? Teenagers and adults alike seem have fallen in love with the whole Fantasy Sports regime, and there seems to be no definite downside. Fantasy Sports allow one to get more involved and more interested in watching the actual sports. Participants also gain more knowledge on the athlete and the athlete's abilities.

One thing is certain, though; Fantasy Sports are something worth trying.

Meltdowns in athletics: understandable or unacceptable?

BY CHANDLER HUDSON

Sports figures nowadays are under a whole lot of pressure. What this pressure does is cause some serious explosions, usually verbal but sometimes physical.

Take Serena Williams for example. Part of being a champion is dealing with those kinds of situations, which she obviously has a hard time doing. Obviously we as viewers can't put ourselves exactly in Serena's position, but most of us, even if we feel like someone's breaking the rules, aren't going to threaten to kill a lineswoman.

"I swear to God, I'm f----- going to take this f----- ball and shove it down your f----- throat, you hear that? I swear to God." Serena denies the linesman's claims of "she threatened to kill me," but last I checked shoving a tennis ball down someone's throat isn't too good for their health.

Meltdowns aren't unique to tennis though, Chicago White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen had this to say after a game with the Cleveland Indians, "I have Konerko [White Sox player] bruised all over the place. Around the league, be careful because we're going to hit people. I don't care if I get suspended because I need to protect my players." If a baseball manager, the supposed leader of a team, makes statements like this how

do you think his players are going to react? The very nature of sportsmanship has gotten out of hand.

Frenchman Zinedine Zidane at the 2006 world cup final actually head-butted Marco Materazzi, a member of the Italian team. Granted, he was provoked by some vulgar words spoken by Mr. Materazzi but he did have a choice not to attack the guy. The event went down in world cup



photo illustration by Eric Tran

history as a low-point in sportsmanship.

The NFL's Plaxico Burress has recently been sentenced to two years in jail for shooting himself in the thigh at a night club. Two years doing hard time and this is the champion of the 2007 super bowl. Just think, kids are looking up to individuals like

that; what kind of message are they getting?

Today's athletes need to make the differentiation between "intense competition" and "completely uncalled for and inappropriate behavior".

The problem is sports figures are being conditioned to behave like this. These are the kind of actions that bring media attention and even draw crowds. Society perpetuates the meltdown be-

cause it's entertaining to watch, but is it good for sports?

It's a slippery slope; without sportsmanship, the pure essence of competition that is sport is degraded. We've got to stop shining the spotlight on the atrocities and start focusing on the good.

Player Bio



Jose Segura

Grade: 12
 Sport: Football
 Position: Center- Offensive line captain
 Nickname: Tonka
 Years playing the sport: 4
 Favorite athlete: Kobe Bryant
 Favorite teacher: Ms. Gray
 Celebrity crush: Hilary Duff
 Favorite pick up line: "I've fallen in love and you're the one who tripped me."
 Favorite post-workout meal: Chicken and watermelon
 Favorite color: Red
 Favorite Gatorade flavor: Grape
 Most memorable high school moment: Winning league champs with Alex Lee
 Fitness tip: Eat healthy
 Plans after high school: Go to culinary school
 "I can't live without...: My best friend, Brendan Francois."



Silent Auction for Journalism

We are having a silent auction for back to school night October 15th in the Garden Patio.

Many great items are being auctined!

*Garden Patio is located in the Administration Building