Senior – freshman profiles

By Susan Beresford and David Hoytt

ASHLEY BUTLER

♦ May not be for me, but for freshmen–not being able to go off campus is pretty bad. I got suspended freshman year for that.
♦ Probably not that much…
♦ Not succeeding…or being a bum and not being able to shower.
♦ A cat because cats don’t listen to anyone.
♦ I’d pitch a tent. I wouldn’t really watch but I’d throw them some blankets.
♦ It’s a pretty campus but it’s too long. There are also good teachers…especially Mr. Krakora.
♦ I’m not sure…Winona Ryder, but I wouldn’t steal things in my movie.

QUESTIONS

♦ What rules at school do you disagree with the most?
♦ If a rich person wanted to buy your parents, how much would you sell them for?
♦ What’s your biggest fear?
♦ If you could be an animal, what would you be and why?
♦ If you were on vacation at the beach and people were swimming naked would you stay and watch or leave?
♦ What’s your favorite thing about San Marin?
♦ If there were a movie made about your life, who would play you and why?

MEGAN BERESFORD

♦ Freshmen going off campus for lunch. If they can do it at Novato why can’t we? We’re better than they are, right?
♦ $1,000,000. They’re too strict.
♦ My big sister Susan because she’s so tough.
♦ A skunk so I could get back at the people I don’t like.
♦ I’d probably join the party.
♦ Rudy breaking up the fights. He’s sooo brave!
♦ Josh Hartnett because he’s so hot.

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The Pony Express is published monthly by the journalism class at San Marin High School. The Pony Express seeks to provide a public forum for student expression and encourages letters to the editors. No unsigned letters will be accepted; however the author’s name may be withheld upon request.

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Something at San Marin bother you? Confuse you? Want to know when or why a tradition started? Contact the Pony Express and we’ll find out for you.

Disagree with something you read in the Pony Express? Something you heard at school? Write a letter to the editors and start a dialogue. Remember the Pony Express is the voice of the San Marin student body.

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Dedication merges past with present

On September 28, 2002, members of the San Marin community past and present came together on the San Marin football field to dedicate a flagpole to Paul Sloan (Class of ’95) and a bench to Jack Keohane (Class of ’78), both of whom lost their lives in the September 11 attack on the World Trade Center.

The dedication included performances by the San Marin music department and presentation of the colors by the ROTC color guard joined by members of the Novato Professional Firefighters Association and the captains of the San Marin football teams.

Bill Striveson, San Marin assistant principal for 30 years, said, “When you walk around this campus, you will see that San Marin has had many memorials over the years. In a large high school community, a microcosm of society at large, many students and faculty members have passed away by car accidents, cancer, and any number of illnesses. Ali Beri, a math teacher, has a memorial in the middle of the campus. Larry Demetrak, also a math teacher, has a building named after him. Paul Ferreboeuf, and English teacher and basketball coach, our latest tragedy in the faculty, has the gym floor named after him.”

“But this memorial is special. Special in that these two young men were cut off in their prime. I will have in my mind’s eye Paul and Jack, these two beautiful young men taken from us in their prime. I will have a deep sense of loss because of their sacrifice but also a great sense of pride to have known them and to have felt their support and help nurture and develop them at San Marin.”

Drug testing of athletes possible

By Mike Gutierrez, and Mark Kellner

According to San Marin’s new Athletic Director, Mark Carlson, the Novato Unified School District is considering the establishment of a drug testing system for all High School athletes.

The method of testing would require each student athlete to provide a urine sample. If this test proves positive to any of the following drugs a second test will be performed to confirm previous results: steroids, illegal sport enhancing drugs, and marijuana or other recreational drugs. If the second test verifies that drug use is in fact evident within the athlete’s system they would be put on probation status. This person would then have to attend counseling regarding their drug abuse, and could possibly be barred from competition in their games.

Last year’s athletic director Tom Zochlin reported he had yet to hear about this new district policy, but when questioned about it, “I’m all for it. If students have nothing to hide I don’t see what they have to worry about.”

They ruled that schools’ interest in getting rid of drugs on campus out weighs students’ right of privacy. Although rumors have been spreading rampantly among students and coaches about this new policy, in reality, the NUSD or other member schools of the Marin County Athletic League still have yet to adopt it.

“The school District and both schools (San Marin and Novato) are definitely interested in getting it on the fast track during the school week. It could be that they are taking advantage of the convenience of having detention during the school week. I believe with all my heart that kids are taking advantage of Tuesday school attendee you may feel that drug testing is a violation of your privacy, a Supreme Court decision made in June legalizes these random tests. The Supreme Court decision not only applies to student athletes, like Chicago’s drug-testing system, but now holds all students participating in after school activities or clubs accountable for their decisions.

![Football team leaders raise the flag](image)

Peer counseling gets the ax

By Stephanie Alderson and Mark Kellner

Remember the presentation two years ago when Ryan Booth was dressed in a white condom, trying to promote safe sex?

Or when your younger sibblings came home from middle school exclaiming, “Mommy, mommy we got to see San Marin’s peer counselors do an awesome show today”?

When we used to travel around and perform our skits, people loved us. We would get letters and phone calls from people asking us to travel and perform for them. We were able to perform for middle schools in other districts,” said Maura Purcell, an avid peer counselor.

When principal Loeta Andersen returned to San Marin this year after a year as Assistant principal at Redwood High School in Larkspur, she was dumbfounded when she saw the class was missing from the master schedule.

Andersen said that further investigation on her part revealed that although a full roster of students was already accepted into the class last spring, late last school year Greg Duffey, San Marin’s former principal, cancelled the class after the school district cut the number of “sections” allocated to San Marin.

Sections or class periods are allotted to each school based upon the student population. They are first allocated to academic classes to meet all the requirements of the students, and the left over sections are then used for electives.

Because last year’s peer counseling teacher Tanya Tchesnynky was a counselor, the section allotted to the class came out of the counseling department and not one of the elective sections. She was leading the class as part of her counseling duties.

Carlson reported that the idea originally sprouted from Chicago public schools, where the system has been in use for 12 years, and has proven successful in keeping sports competitions both fair, and for the most part, drug-free.

Though some students might feel that drug testing is a violation of their privacy, a Supreme Court decision made in June legalizes these random tests. The Supreme Court decision not only applies to student athletes, like Chicago’s drug-testing system, but now holds all students participating in after school activities or clubs accountable for their decisions.

However, with schedules constantly changing and work loads maxed out for SM counselors, Duffey determined that it was too much time for one of the new counselors to continue.

“The school has a commitment to the program and we’ve investigated the possibility of one of our new counselors being an advisor of the program, but we’re just not sure what form the program can take right now,” said Toni Beal, one of San Marin’s assistant principals.

Previous peer counselors are discussing the possibility of starting a new free-lancing peer counseling a club this year, because a class is not possible. “We’re hoping to make peer counseling a club so we can possibly reconstitute the class for next year’s students,” said Devonne Johnson, a devoted SM peer counselor.

Peer counselors say the class, which was taught by former San Marin science teacher Lyn Moreno for many years, was independent from school funding. They raised all their money for materials and travel expenses. However, the funding for a period of a teacher’s time would come out of the school budget.

“We don’t have ‘peer counseling boosters’ like music and sports,” said Purcell.

It just comes down to money. “I’m really hoping to get it back for next year. It is important, especially for a high school as big as San Marin. We should have it,” said Andersen.

San Marin already offers a limited number of other peer counseling and peer counselors and the administration feel that removing peer counseling from San Marin takes away from the atmosphere as a whole.

Our own “Breakfast Club”

By Jamie Lunnis and Abby Yin

It’s Saturday morning 8:00. Mom is in the kitchen cooking pancakes, Dad is reading the paper and the morning cartoons are blasting the living room. Where are you? Well, if you’re the usual Tuesday school attendee you may find yourself trapped in a San Marin classroom.

“I don’t care, I’ll just do my homework.” This seems to be the attitude held by most Tuesday school attendees. It could be that they are taking advantage of the convenience of having detention during the school week. I believe with all my heart that kids are taking advantage of Tuesday schools,” Principal Loeta Andersen comments.

Andersen hopes that the move will motivate students to be more aware of their actions and cut down on the number of detentions distributed. This may be achieved solely based on the fact that students will no longer be able to work on their own homework. They will now be forced to complete specially assigned Saturday School work.

The question is will Saturday school decrease the number of behavioral problems? The feelings are mixed. “It won’t stop me from doing what I’ve done in the past,” one honest student comments.

However some seem to be going along with Andersen’s grand master plan. Junior Jared Overfield states, “I don’t appreciate it moving to Saturday but it will stop me from getting into trouble because I don’t want to wake up that early during the weekend!”

So before you plan to ditch your sixth and seventh period classes, double check your Friday night plans because you may be finding yourself listening to the sound of your alarm clock around 7:30 Saturday morning.
A summer at Cambridge with Laurel
By Brad McCarter and Abby Yim

During the summer, you can usually find your average sixteen year old at the local mall, pool or the ever-dreaded family vacation. But unlike most “average” sixteen year olds, San Marin Junior Laurel Lemontt could be found studying diplomacy and English Literature at Cambridge University in England. This highly competitive program is not exactly “average” either; it is an intense study that requires each applicant to fulfill certain requirements: 6+ average, three letters of recommendation from teachers, and a two-page essay on what you plan to gain while at the university. “It was very difficult to meet all the requirements, but I was up to the challenge because I wanted to do something productive with my summer,” Lemontt explains. Unwilling to let her mind take a break over the 3 month hiatus from school, Lemontt looked up this program via the internet and struck gold. The organization is called The Cambridge Tradition and offered various programs; criminology, medicine and psychology, just to name a few. “I was really interested in the diplomacy program and it sounded like something that would be fun to learn about,” says Lemontt. In the diplomacy program, students participated in class discussions and in-class essay writing based on current international affairs. Michael McKinley, Director of Jesus College, Cambridge, said, “Laurel has a keen interest in international relations, and shows promise of distinguishing herself in a college course or future career in international relations.”

Gates drums up excitement in the music department
By Kevin Kahn and Michael Lovejoy

For San Marin’s award-winning music department, another year of concerts, festivals, and gigs is off to a “great start,” says music teacher Emily Gates. With a great mix of talented young freshman and experienced juniors and seniors, our concert and jazz bands and choirs are sure to have another quality, fun-filled year.

Gates, an institution at San Marin, has taught music at the school for over 20 years. She began teaching in Novato at Sinaloa Middle School and was offered a job as band director at the high school. Choir, her specialty, was not offered at the time, and the reply from school administrators was that choir doesn’t work at the school. However, Gates decided to take the job at San Marin and has transformed the previously poor and unorganized music department into one of the best in the region. In her first year here, only three people signed up for choir, compared with the two other quality, fun-filled year.

Gates’ tireless efforts touch the music student’s each day. In recent years, San Marin’s talented musicians have been asked to perform at Carnegie Hall in New York City twice, in Banff, Alberta, and on cruise ships sailing the Pacific. The music program has also earned numerous awards and accolades. Gates’ reason for continuing to teach music here is the kids’ success after high school. “What kids do when they leave here is amazing. I have former students working on music all over the world, from Europe to Broadway, and I like to help get them there.”

The San Marin community can see the fabulous music students at our many concerts. Here’s what’s in store for fall:

10/4: Fall Show - Jazz and Concert Bands and all choirs
10/11: Vocal Jazz Festival at San Marin - Host a choir festival for area schools.
11/7-10: Fall Musical - “She Loves Me”

Don’t forget to promote school spirit by watching the San Marin Pep Band at every home football game!

Drama gets fired up
By Logan Bartling

The stars of Linda Kislingbury-Cain’s drama class are almost ready to make their move. Rumors, a play by Neil Simon, who authored TV’s “The Odd Couple,” will be their first production of the 2002 school year, and they aim to please. Opening night is November 21st.

The drama class is excited by the opportunity to present the first Neil Simon play performed at San Marin Drama. “Rumors is a fabulously funny, farce” commented Kislingbury, affectionately called Mrs. K by her students. “The play is really funny. It combines a quick wit with even quicker dialogue that will keep the audience teetering on the edge of their seats,” remarked Jeremy Brown, obviously confident about the quality of the production.

Brown believes that one of the best qualities of Rumors is the lack of a single star, “It’s an ensemble cast, which allows a lot of interaction between characters and keeps the humor fresh.”

The class loves performing so much that they’re already discussing extending their run. Currently, the drama class is scheduled to perform a show each night from November 21st to November 24th. Tickets are not yet available, but will be sold both at the door and in advance.

Creative writing club formed
By Amber Shields

Distressed at San Marin’s lack of a creative writing class or club, junior Laurel Lemontt decided to take action and created her own creative writing club. “I love creative writing and there hasn’t been a class or a club at San Marin for a while. I’m a writer and I want to get together with people and share our work.” In the club, Lemontt plans to share and talk about students’ writing while also looking at other great works of prose and poetry. She also hopes to do some writing in the club.

Meetings will be held during lunch on Mondays in room 501, beginning October 7.
Uvarov and Donohoe trade jobs, lives
By Bridget O’Connor

Can you imagine packing your bags and venturing off to an entirely different country, with a culture so deeply different from that of your native land, and actually going to school? For those of you who find a feat such as this impossible, well, we have some news for you: it’s far from impossible.

Terry Donohoe, who has taught in the Novato School District for seventy years, likes to move around to keep from getting bored. In his career, he has started at Hill Junior High (before it closed for a number of years in the ‘80s), moved to San Marin and taught journalism and English, and then moved to Sinaloa in 1985. His next position was teaching social studies at North Marin. He returned to San Marin last year. Donohoe, who likes to experience new things, participated in the Fullbright Exchange Program once before, spending a year teaching in England.

Zaynep Uvarov was born in a city built up in 1980, and went to college in Turkey. All of her education in Turkey was in English and the school where she teaches is all English as well. She has been teaching for eight years. Last year, both Donohoe and Uvarov applied and were accepted into the Fullbright Teacher Exchange program and began preparing to trade jobs and homes for the year.

This past summer the two met in Washington D.C, and wished each other luck as they each ventured to an unknown land.

How does American culture differ greatly from that of Turkey?

Donohoe: There’s no comparison. America is continually changing and reinventing itself where Turkish culture slowly evolved over millennia. Modern Turkish culture is the result of its geography. Because it is a land bridge between Asia and Europe, many ethnic groups passed through and left their mark. Phrygians, Hittites, Assyrians, Persians, Slavs, Seljuks, Armenians, Greeks, and Romans each contributed to Turkish architecture, customs, and cuisine. Islam has been a dominant factor in Turkish life since the 10th century. The Ottoman Empire controlled most of the Middle East and the Balkan Peninsula for over five centuries.

Uvarov: Not a very great deal, but obviously there are differences in terms of humor, food, and the level of individuality. Turkish people are a closed society; that means they are less individualistic and sometimes I find it hard to understand here especially when students do everything in class to get more points. However, I think it is a good thing because people say what they think openly and freely, which is a good thing.

How does the method of teaching differ?

Donohoe: One of the biggest differences is that Turkish students remain in the same classroom all day. It’s the individual subject teachers who move. I go into an eighth grade classroom to teach my English lesson, and when I’m done, I head off to another room. The school day is very long. Students have nine forty-minute periods. School begins at 8:15 and ends at 3:15. In middle and high schools, students’ grades are determined mostly by quarter and semester tests.

Uvarov: A mentioned the American system has a lot more space for points, grades, and exams. Students are competing all the time, which is a good thing.

In Turkey, we don’t have to offer students so many points; they do some things in class just because they have fun doing and learning. Most students won’t do much if there are no rewards in terms of grading. So obviously teaching is different.

Students here can do more independently but one thing that is hard is to cater for students who are not motivated.

At home I would try to help those individually because we have fewer students in each class, but here the system does not allow it to be.

What are the similarities in education?

Donohoe: Like teachers in the US, Turkish teachers are always looking for ways to motivate students. Students complain about too much homework.

Uvarov: Many things are similar but the ultimate goal after high school and the system is a little different. In Turkey, we have a central exam for all universities, but there are many who can’t pass the exam. So it’s very important for Turkish students to be able to pass this exam and go to good colleges (universities, as we call them). Here it’s similar but if you have a good GPA I think you can go to a good school after high school. Perhaps students are less stressed because probably they will end up going to college, whenever in Turkey, if they can’t pass the entrance exam, they have to wait for a year to retake the exam which puts a lot of pressure on many students at the high school level.

How do students differ?

Donohoe: I teach English as a foreign language to students who will use English during their university education or in business. The kids are very affectionate. I’ve been the recipient of many student hugs since I’ve been here. The kids love to talk. It’s often a challenge getting students’ attention during class.

Uvarov: American students are mostly mature and they are responsible (at least from my experience). Turkish kids are mostly the same, but perhaps more protected by their parents. Some of the issues and student problems are not problems over here but mostly they are very similar.

How is the simple task of crossing the street different in Turkey and America?

Donohoe: Turkish drivers don’t slow down for pedestrians. They honk to let pedestrians know that they’d better get out of the way. Before I step off the curb, my head swivels in every possible direction in order to avoid any danger—I look left, right, in back of me, around the corner, down the street. I’ve become a proficient jay-walker and taxi dodger.

Uvarov: It doesn’t differ, but here the drivers stop immediately if a pedestrian is trying to cross. In Turkey this is a rare occasion unless you’re at the crossing.

Has it been easy to assimilate to society? Why or why not?

Donohoe: Although Istanbul doesn’t cover a huge area, it’s packed with people. Istanbul’s population has been estimated at 10 million people, but it’s probably larger. I think the entire Bay Area has between 3 and 4 million people. People are crowded. Side walks are crowded. Traffic is usually nightmarish.

Uvarov: Trying to understand what works best for my students. Because they’re American and their mother tongue isn’t English doesn’t mean they know all the words in the books we’re reading. I thought they would at first, but now I understand. I’ve spent time figuring out what really works best for them.

Apart from this, having my own class is something new as we teachers walk in an out of classes back home. At the beginning it was kind of hard to get used to the idea that I had a class to myself.

If you could live in the country in which you are an exchange teacher, would you? Why or why not?

Donohoe: Living in Turkey for an extended period would be exciting. The people are friendly. The food is delicious. The scenery is spectacular. Everywhere I look, I get a history lesson. The upper Bosphorus where I live and work reminds me of Sausalito. I’d love to spend a few years exploring the countryside. The US dollar stretches a lot further here than it does in Marin County.

Uvaroh: I probably would. It’s a beautiful place with beautiful people. There are many things to do.

Do you miss the most about your home country?

Donohoe: Ben and Jerry’s Chunky Monkey. Maybe you could send some.

Uvaroh: My mom’s cooking and my niece who is only three and half years old.

So far, Donohoe and Uvarow have been able to assimilate into the culture and society of the countries they are living in. The fact that both say that the people have made the feat much more enjoyable says a lot about the countries they now inhabit.
If you could have any super power, what would it be? Would you use it for good or evil?

Jon Sin: I would want mind-control and make everyone fix me peppered turkey sandwiches and water my Chia pet.

Lisa Bandner: I’d want to be in control of EVERY situation.

What would you do for a Klondike bar?

Jack Rolovich: Anything Ashley wanted me to do.

Ashley Puma: Anything Jack wanted me to do.

If you could trade places with any person affiliated with San Marin, who would it be and why?

Andrew Banakus: Wait, is this a one time trade or a long term one because I’m not sure I’m ready for that kind of commitment.

Devonne Johnson: No one, because then I would have to work at San Marin.

If you had one day to live, what would you do?

Mike Gutierrez: You don’t want to know.

Jessica Zanoni: I’d spend the day with Mike.

If you were a woodchuck, how much wood?

Greg Rosell: Uh!

If you saw your partner sitting in a corner boom him/her come home with you?

Bret Pughe: Did you just fart, cause you blew me away.
HOMECOMING

If you were a type of car, what would you be and why?

Danny Gasparini: Well, if I could travel to any place in the United States, it would be Crosby, West Dakota.

Brooke Barnecut: I would be a 1985 Ford Fiesta because I was born to party.

If you could be any member of a circus who/what would you be?

David Hoytt: I would be Cristina’s trapeze partner.

Cristina Restivo: I would be a trapeze performer because I’m so flexible.

If you could go to Homecoming with any celebrity, who would you ask and why?

Ryan O’Leary: Heather Locklear, SHWING!

Kim Larkey: Matt Galli.

If you were about to be executed and could have one last meal, what would you eat?

Scott Dumont: I’d eat out.

Gina Rosellini: A big fat Italian sausage.

If you were a type of wood chuck...and why?

Annie Drummond-Hay: If I were a wood chuck, I would chuck all the wood I could chuck, because if I were a wood chuck I would chuck wood.

Susan Beresford: What do you say we go back to my place and I’ll put you in a half Nelson.

Saturday, October 5, 2002

12:30 pm: Parade
2:00 pm: Varsity football vs. Tamalpais
Halftime: Queen crowned
8:30 pm–11:30 pm: Homecoming Dance
King crowned after 10:00
**Homecoming memories**

By Stephanie Alderson and Rebecca Guthrie

Jennifer Carlomagn, science teacher (San Marin Class of '89)

“I have many fond memories of dances at San Marin. I remember one year my date never even made it to the dance, he passed out in the limo.

Also there was some big scandal with a guy’s date hooking up with someone else, it was a very big deal.”

Mike Kinane, history teacher (San Marin Class of ‘93)

“I never understood why Homecoming was such a formal event. When I was a junior, my friends and I wore tuxes and took our dates to Burger King for dinner. We even wore the crowns. Our dates were not happy.”

Chris Eisenberg, office manager

“I went to Terra Linda High School and our homecoming was in the gym. I wore a blue suit, like business attire. I remember the gym being packed because there were 2,400 students. It was my junior year, that must have been 1967.

Lilli Rollins, Assistant Principal

“I had a strict family and my father was the minister of the town. So guess who took my date and I to Homecoming? My father. My date had to sit in the front seat while I had to sit in the back. I remember the dance being from 7-10 and I remember wearing a pink pastel-colored dress. Girls in those days wore light pastel colors and the wider the skirts the more hip you were. My date wore a pink cummerbund with a pink bow tie.”

By Amber Shields

San Marin’s Homecoming isn’t just a dance, but a full day of spirited filled activities. The exciting day begins with a parade around the football field at 12:30. This parade features San Marin students along with the Homecoming King and Queen candidates driven around in snazzy convertibles. At 2:00 the Mustang varsity football team takes on Tamalpais. The dramatic crowning of the Homecoming Queen takes place at half-time. Each of the queen candidates walks onto the football field, escorted by her father. The girls open their flower boxes, all of which are filled with roses. The girl with the red roses is the winner. The dance starts at 8:30 that night. Come dressed up for the Hollywood Nights theme. At around 10:00 the King is crowned. Dancing continues until 11:30. Celebrate the whole Homecoming Day by supporting your school and team at the game and dance.

**Homecoming styles have changed**

By Rachel Oppenheimer, Myra Perez, and Challen Pressley

Homecoming was such a formal word search

By Rachel Oppenheimer, Myra Perez, and Challen Pressley

Circle these words when you find them:

**Hollywood Nights**
dance
football game
limousine
money
queen
king
dress
parties
corsage
hotel


**Come out for Homecoming**

By Rachel Oppenheimer, Myra Perez, and Challen Pressley

San Marin’s Homecoming isn’t just a dance, but a full day of spirited filled activities. The exciting day begins with a parade around the football field at 12:30. This parade features San Marin students along with the Homecoming King and Queen candidates driven around in snazzy convertibles. At 2:00 the Mustang varsity football team takes on Tamalpais. The dramatic crowning of the Homecoming Queen takes place at half-time. Each of the queen candidates walks onto the football field, escorted by her father. The girls open their flower boxes, all of which are filled with roses. The girl with the red roses is the winner. The dance starts at 8:30 that night. Come dressed up for the Hollywood Nights theme. At around 10:00 the King is crowned. Dancing continues until 11:30. Celebrate the whole Homecoming Day by supporting your school and team at the game and dance.
Homecoming on same day as Novato, MC

by Stephanie Alderson and Rebecca Guthrie

Many of you are probably aware that October 5th is not only the date of San Marin’s homecoming, but also of Novato’s and Marin Catholic’s. According to the San Marin administration, this occurred for a number of reasons, most of them unique to this year.

There are very few home football games this year at San Marin and the fans want to witness a victory on their home turf. The San Marin Mustangs are playing the MCAL’s perennial doormat, Tamalpais High School, instead of longtime-rivals, the Novato Hornets or recent league leader, the Redwood Giants. The attempt to change game day was unsuccessful.

Interim principal Loeta Andersen noticed the conflict her first day on the job in August. She made a quick call to Novato High School Matt Byrnes to work something out. “Unfortunately, almost every Saturday in October is a standardized testing day and Novato happens to be the main testing site.” Thus, October 5 stayed for both Novato schools.

Senior Class representative Laura Kopp explains, “It is foreseen that we will lose money. We may lose people who decide to go to Novato High’s or Marin Catholic’s. From my experience in leadership, homecoming has been the biggest fundraiser for the senior class. But it is too late in the game to change it. I don’t know if it will affect the senior class budget, but this should just encourage more people to participate; go buy candy, go to school dances, attend the barbecues.”

You should have voted for me

By Ross Thelen

So, it is true. After all of the gallons of cologne, the hours spent in front of the mirror perfecting my handsome appearance, and the thousands of dollars spent on Abercrombie clothing, after all that, I get nothing.

The past four years of my life have all been dedicated to one goal: become the homecoming king of 2003.

I had all going for me: suave, charm, and a pert behind.

Somewhere along the line, though, it all went wrong, and now I have no chance of achieving my lifelong dream. This truly can’t be happening.

But it is. I am no longer the He-man that I envisioned myself as.

Instead, that sexy loincloth I wore has been ripped off of my sword removed.

I am not a beautiful hero any longer; I am a pale kid standing naked out in public, and everyone is laughing at me.

I can’t believe they took away my sword.

Before I knew that my goal would not be achieved, I was Arnold Schwarzenegger. Now I am a 50-year old retired bodybuilder with droopy and gross muscles.

I was the President of the United States. Now my scandal has been exposed and everybody is humiliating me.

It wasn’t supposed to be like this. I was supposed to be the one under the spotlight, dancing with the voluptuous queen. Everyone would watch us, and our eyes would meet and it all would be perfect. People would clap and smile, and take pictures, and a beautiful love song would come on in the background.

All of my worries would disappear, and I would melt into a symphony of love and harmony, combining with my partner in one furious fit of passion.

At this point I would sing along with the music, “It’s getting hot in here, so take off all your clothes.”

People would clap and smile, and meet and it all would be perfect.

I would watch us, and our eyes would meet under the spotlight, dancing with the voluptuous queen because I can tame even the wildest beast.

Royalty represents Mustangs

By Bridget O’Connor, Christina Pelka, and Katie Winsor

Melanie McCollum, Junior Princess: He’s small, furry, and we love to cuddle...Wait, that was Mr. Blimp...Rest in Peace.... I love you Francis!

What is your favorite thing about your twin?

Marshall McCollum, Junior Prince: When Melanie straps on Daddy’s Billy Bob Teeth and dances to “Where the Boys Are” while watching “Psycho.”

If you could be a Disney character, who would you be?

Ashley Ng, Sophomore Duchess: Beauty in “Beauty and the Beast” because I can tame even the wildest beast

If you could have any celebrity babysit you, who would it be and why?

Casey Pughe, Sophomore Duke: Frodo

Rachel Sholtz, Freshman Lady: Ja Rule, because he’s always on time

Ross Matthewson, Freshman Lord: Verne Troyer, because he dances like a madman

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Paul Eisenberg, Owner – Operator
It’s happened. The sky has fallen, the earth has trembled and the pigs are flying out of you know where. On a cold, dark night at Sonoma Valley High School, the San Marin Mustangs varsity football team lost for the first time in over a year, 17-15.

Things started out fine and optimism seemed at a high point as Scott Dumont booted out the opening kickoff, pinning the Dragons back. Senior Eric Egide echoed the feelings of the entire team, saying, “I was feeling confident. I’ve never felt in two years and one minute not to feel good.” So the Mustangs left with a silent bus ride home with only one thought on their minds.

But that question was “what if?” when the Mustangs played perennial doormat San Rafael the very next week. The answer would most definitely be a resounding victory. 41-8 to be exact. Many felt this was an inevitable, as the Bulldogs drew the unlucky task of playing an angry giant. “It was a good way to get our confidence back and prove that we’re for real,” said senior Mike Gutierrez. “It was really what we needed coming off Sonoma.”

With a solid performance by the line, Egide had the breakout performance the Mustangs needed rushing deep into the 100-yard ranks. Also having a breakout game was senior Scott Dumont who caught two touchdown receptions out of the backfield. After “Redwood was talking so much trash, it felt good to show that the Mustangs are no pushovers,” commented Dumont following the victory.

Having another standout performance was the Mustang defense, who, barring one trick play on the first play from scrimmage and a kick return, held the Giants scoreless. Starring on defense was Letsch, who collected two sacks despite being in a career accident that morning, one which left his car totaled. “After the accident happened, I didn’t even expect to be on the field that day,” Letsch said after the win. “Surprisingly enough, though, I went out and had the best game of my career.” The Redwood game, however, was not the most important part of the day.

As many of you probably know, many Marin students Paul Sloin and Jack Keohane were tragically taken from all who knew them on September 11, 2001. Before the Junior Varsity game began, there was a dedication of the Paul Sloan Memorial Flag Pole and the Jack Keohane Memorial Bench, which both stand alongside the track on Mead Field. The dedication included the playing of Amazing Grace by Jason Gavazza, a performance by the jazz choir and a moving song by junior Drew Gasparini.

As many of you may know, the Mustangs victory. The defense was able to stop Redwood’s offense and the Mustangs regained control of the football. However, Bacon threw an interception with 9:06 left in the fourth quarter as the Mustangs were trying to run out the clock. A controversial pass interference call on the ensuing play resulted in a 50-yard penalty (high school rules) for Redwood. The drive was capped off with a 22-yard touchdown pass on a screen play that was called back because of offensive holding. It looked as though the momentum had swung until Bacon connected with Chris Knowles on a 45-yard pass. On the ensuing play a Mustang fumble was recovered by fullback Matt Maurer for a touchdown. The Mustangs now controlled a 14-0 lead after a drive that ate up over half of the third quarter.

A key defensive stand once again stopped Redwood’s offense and the Mustangs regained control of the football. However, Bacon threw an interception with 9:06 left in the fourth quarter as the Mustangs were trying to run out the clock. A controversial pass interference call on the ensuing play resulted in a 50-yard penalty (high school rules) for Redwood. The drive was capped off with a 22-yard touchdown pass on a screen play that was called back because of offensive holding. It looked as though the momentum had swung until Bacon connected with Chris Knowles on a 45-yard pass. On the ensuing play a Mustang fumble was recovered by fullback Matt Maurer for a touchdown. The Mustangs now controlled a 14-0 lead after a drive that ate up over half of the third quarter.

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**Pony Express**

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**By Niki Kidd**

**The San Marin High School girls' golf team started their season with an opening match loss to Redwood on September 17th. The Mustangs fell to the MCAL powerhouse Giants 307-280 (low score wins) at home. Junior Rachel Oppenheimer blew away the field, shooting 74-34, but an individual effort wasn't enough in the team competition. The Mustang’s a three-match week against Novato, Marin Catholic, and Justin Sierra proved to be a disaster in the win/loss column, but a success in the learning process for the season. Although they all lost three matches, in each one they progressively improved their play.**

**By Niki Kidd**

**Against Justin Sierra, the defending MCAL champions, the Mustangs put in their best match of the season, losing 251-276. Oppenheimer led the Mustangs with a 56, along with strong outputs from senior Niki Kidd with a 53, freshman Allison Green, also with a 53, and senior Andrina Carlson with a 56.**

**Runners up strong**

**By Amber Shields**

**The girls’ cross-country team started the season with a second place finish to Marin Catholic in the Stinson Beach relays on Thursday September 5. The team followed up with another great performance at the Viking Open Invitational, including a third place finish by newcomer freshman Alison Greggor in her first race. At the invitational Contra Loma Classic, the girls’ varsity team beat out nine of the top East Bay team to finish first as a team. Led by sophomore Megan McCray who came in third, the team finished with all of their five top runners coming in the first 10 places. Senior Zoe Brown came in fourth, followed by sophomore Lauren Candia in 8th, junior Courtney Dowdall in 9th, and sophomore Carly O'Leary finishing in 10th place. In the Junior Varsity race, Greggore received first place finish followed by junior Danielle Deshazo coming in second.**

**Water polo on the rise**

**By Jamie Lummis, Myra Perez, and Katie Winsor**

**The girls’ water polo team kicked off their season with a loss against Novato High. Senior Emily Parker, junior Melanie McCollum, and sophomores Kayla Schott-Bresler and Myra Perez scored the team’s four goals. Other outstanding plays were made by senior Sarah Cochrane, junior Jamie Lummis, and senior Jade Fielding.**

**Slow start for volleyball**

**By Christine Pelka**

**After a long and anxious preseason of conditioning and tournaments, the girls’ volleyball team kicked off their season with a disappointing defeat against Justin Sierra.**

**Soccer slump**

**By Sean Johannessen**

**Wins have been hard to come by for this year’s boys’ varsity soccer team. After a strong start with victories over Justin Sierra and San Rafael the team has failed to win in their last four games. Currently, the team has a 2-4 mark in MCAL and a 3-5 mark overall. “We’ve caught some tough breaks but hopefully we can get back on track,” commented junior Andrew Marcus.**

**Tennis Faults**

**By Niki Kidd**

**Rosenberg finished off the upset with a 6-3, 4-6, 10-7 victory, with the super-tiebreaker third set deciding the match. On September 17th, the Mustangs lost to MCAL tennis dominators Branson 9-0 in match play. Despite the sound defeat, many bright spots came through for the tennis team. Senior doubles Megan Mallonee and Lindsey Knaebel had the closest match of the morning winning 7-6 (7-2).**

**Tennis Faults**

**By Niki Kidd**

**What do Venus Williams, Serena Williams, and San Marin junior Jessica Ruth have in common? All three have been nationally ranked in the United States Tennis Association’s junior rankings.**

**By Niki Kidd**

**What do Venus Williams, Serena Williams, and San Marin junior Jessica Ruth have in common? All three have been nationally ranked in the United States Tennis Association’s junior rankings. Ruth, who transferred from Blue Valley High School in Kansas City before this school year, has been ripping up the competition in MCAL’s. She is the #1 ranked player on the San Marin tennis team, and is arguably one of the best players in the entire league. This far, she is 1-1 in individual match play, with victories over the top ranked players of Marin Catholic, San Rafael, and Justin Sienna.**

**By Niki Kidd**

**Her victory in the Justin Sienna was her best all around match this season. She won in straight sets against a tough opponent. “My opponent was very good, and I was just very happy that I was able to attack her weaknesses,” Ruth said. Ruth was one of the few bright spots on a tennis team that started 0-3 until their upset victory over Marin Catholic. The victory over MC gave the Mustangs their first win of the season, and started the team back on the winning ways that they expected from the start of the season. As a team, Ruth felt that the victory over Marin Catholic “showed our good overall status as a team.” With a core nucleus of seniors graduating this season from the tennis squad, Ruth will be the main focus of the team next season, where she will turn heads and smash the competition.**

**By Niki Kidd**

**The girls’ water polo team kicked off their season with an opening match loss to Novato High. Senior Emily Parker, junior Melanie McCollum, and sophomores Kayla Schott-Bresler and Myra Perez scored the team’s four goals. Other outstanding plays were made by senior Sarah Cochrane, junior Jamie Lummis, and senior Jade Fielding.**

**Although they started off the season with a loss, the team rebounded in their next game with an astounding victory over Redwood, 7-3, 7-3. Goals were scored by Perez, McCollum, and Parker. The win against Redwood moved the Lady Mustangs to an overall fifth place in the MCAL standings. The boys began their MCAL season with a win over arch-rival Novato for the season’s opening match. The boys’ water polo team is currently placed sixth in MCAL standings.**

**By Niki Kidd**

**The girls’ tennis squad started the MCAL regular season 0-3, despite a positive attitude towards the 2002 season. “It was not what we were looking for in this situation, but I think we can get through this and improve this season,” said senior Niki Sciolco. The 0-3 start put a damper on their hopes for a winning season, although it is not out of reach by any means. Because after that tough start, the Mustangs pulled through with the upset victory over Marin Catholic 5-4 in match play. It was a total team effort, with strong performances coming from the star players all the way down to their last doubles pair. Four of the five victories came in straight sets, and the final match went down to the wire to decide the match. Doubles partners Annie Drummond-Hay and Dina Rosenberg finished off the upset with a 6-3, 4-6, 10-7 victory, with the super-tiebreaker third set deciding the match.**

**By Niki Kidd**

**What do Venus Williams, Serena Williams, and San Marin junior Jessica Ruth have in common? All three have been nationally ranked in the United States Tennis Association’s junior rankings. Ruth, who transferred from Blue Valley High School in Kansas City before this school year, has been ripping up the competition in MCAL’s. She is the #1 ranked player on the San Marin tennis team, and is arguably one of the best players in the entire league. This far, she is 1-1 in individual match play, with victories over the top ranked players of Marin Catholic, San Rafael, and Justin Sienna. Her victory in the Justin Sienna was her best all around match this season. She won in straight sets against a tough opponent. “My opponent was very good, and I was just very happy that I was able to attack her weaknesses,” Ruth said. Ruth was one of the few bright spots on a tennis team that started 0-3 until their upset victory over Marin Catholic. The victory over MC gave the Mustangs their first win of the season, and started the team back on the winning ways that they expected from the start of the season. As a team, Ruth felt that the victory over Marin Catholic “showed our good overall status as a team.” With a core nucleus of seniors graduating this season from the tennis squad, Ruth will be the main focus of the team next season, where she will turn heads and smash the competition.**
CONCERT CORNER

By Julia Capasso and Paige Lehman

This month in Concert Corner, you’ll find more underground and local show listings. Your support of these bands is vital and necessary for their survival! So please check these shows out; we’ll try to include shows as close to Novato as we can.

Queens of the Stone Age at the Fillmore, SF (10/5)

Jimmy Eat World at the Warfield, SF (10/9)

Public Enemy, Dilated Peoples, Blackalicious at the Fillmore, SF (10/10)

Willie Nelson with Los Lobos at the Chronicle Pavilion, Concord (10/10)

The Labrats with the Social Drones and the Dismembers at Café Ecclectica, , Albany (1309 Solano, 10/11)

Dredge with Apex Theory, Exposure, Locale A.M., and Further at the Phoenix Theater, (10/12)

Jurassic 5 with Planet Asia and D-Styles at the Fillmore, SF (10/13)

True Skool 3 Year Anniversary, SF feat. Bahamadia, Gennessee, Foreign Legion, at Storyville, SF (751 Fulton, 10/18)

Bob Dylan and Band at the Greek Theatre, Berkeley (10/18)

40-Grit, Hostility, Element of Surprise, Dopesick, Still Breathing at the Greek Theatre, Berkeley (10/20)

Scissorshands with For the Crown and Ten Grand at Gilman, Berkeley (10/19)

Nelly with The St. Lunatics, Fabolous, and Amerie at the Fillmore, SF (10/20)

Ani DiFranco at the Paramount Theater, Oakland (10/25-26)

Dashboard Confessional with Hot Rod Circuit at Slims, SF (10/30)

Tiger Army, Loose Change, and guests at the Phoenix Theater, Petaluma (11/2)

Don’t forget: Lauren Mendez performs her original songs at the Broken Drum in San Rafael on Sundays.

Did you know?

compiled by Logan Bartling

Giant Lemurs larger than Gorillas used to exist in Madagascar only 2,000 years ago, and beavers larger than Polar bears used to live in North America only 10,000 years ago.

Don’t forget: Lauren Mendez performs her original songs at the Broken Drum in San Rafael on Sundays.

Hazing a rite of passage?

By Marie Buich and Alyssa Pomponio

Chalking the hill, a fierce rivalry with Novato High School, the annual senior prank. As these trademark San Marin traditions live on, the infamous freshman hazing ritual is in the process of elimination.

Lillie Rollins, Assistant Principal at San Marin, is strongly against hazing in general. “If (hazing) may have been tolerated more in the 80’s because we weren’t as conscious about the events happening in our country; today there is zero tolerance for hazing.” San Marin, along with the other Marin County district schools, follows the strict board policy #5137 and state education code regarding this issue. The policy states, “Students shall refrain from unruly, disruptive, or inappropriate behavior, including demeaning activities such as hazing and slave days.” Although this is an administrative regulation, each school within the district has the right to dictate its own consequences for those who refuse to comply with these guidelines. Punishments vary according to the action’s extremity. A light consequence is issued when no physical contact is made; however, any sort of physical contact results in harsher consequences, such as a maximum five-day suspension. San Marin is, “trying to dispel this tradition,” says Rollins. School administrators plan to hold grade level meetings in the near future to discuss the seriousness of hazing.

ASB President Greg Rosell said that hazing is a customary tradition at San Marin and should remain that way, unless violence is involved.

“The administration’s actions are too harsh. As long as no one is hurt, punishments should be to a minimum.”

Freshman Steven Tidwell’s attitude towards hazing is similar to Rosell’s. “It’s really not a big deal...it should keep going…it’s tradition.” He also commented, “Before school, my friends said they knew people who got egged on Fridays...nothing really happened this year so far...but I’m not scared.”

Freshman hazing has been long practiced throughout high schools for decades. U. S. history teacher Jaime Curren reminisces about her high school experiences in Connecticut. Upper classmen on the volleyball team “initiated” incoming freshman volleyball players. “They would stop me in the hallways and make me roll or dive in front of everyone. But I was not traumatized.”

English teacher Mark Whitburn remembers the thirteen years of hazing throughout his high school teaching career at San Marin. The tactics of hazing have transformed over the years, from massive water balloon-fights to present day egging. Although he doesn’t embrace these events, he believes, “A sporadic egg doesn’t hurt anyone.”

As the much-debated hazing issue persists at San Marin, students remain eager to keep this ritual alive, which many see as a customary tradition.

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San Marin calendar

October 4 Fall Show
October 5 Homecoming
October 12 SAT
October 16 Minimum Day
October 18 End of first quarter
October 19 PSAT at San Marin
October 26 ACT
October 27 Daylight Savings Time ends
October 31 Halloween
November 7-9 Fall musical, “She Loves Me”
November 11 Veteran’s Day, No school
November 15 Pony Express #3

In the November 15 Pony Express:
• Hornet’s Buzz crushed
• Oregon Shakespeare Festival visits
• Fall sports

ODDS AND ENDS

ASB Account Totals

ASB General $3,660.63
Class of 2003 - $8,745.93
Class of 2004 - $2,925.14
Class of 2005 - $1,026.36
Class of 2006 - $50.00

Note: Last month’s totals did not include the Class of 2005’s portion of the Car Wash earnings. The Pony Express staff apologizes for any confusion that may have resulted.

as of September 26, 2002