



## OPINION

### Methods questioned

The Every 15 Minutes program was intended to raise awareness on the perils of drunk driving. Through realistic simulation and student involvement, the 2-day program aimed to imprint a sad truth into students' minds; drunk driving kills, and nobody is safe.

While the presentation surely raised eyebrows and provoked tears, some were unimpressed.

The retreat, while positively received by most, has taken harsh criticism. Many complained that it veered off topic into unnecessary territory. While it was an overall noble cause, the drunk driving workshop left a bitter taste in the mouths of many.

A participant of the Every 15 Minutes retreat expressed doubts concerning the program's methods. "It felt as if they were trying to get into my head and force me into depression," said the source. The coordinators of the program seemingly veered off the topic of drunk driving into a broader subject. "It reminded me of a visit with the school psychiatrist, they were trying to make me dig up all of the sadness in my past and concentrate it into one moment." While this method may prove effective for certain applications, the program was supposed to deal specifically with drunk driving and its implications. To some, it felt like more of a group therapy session. The facts that they did reiterate were not specifically ground-breaking. We all know that a significant amount of teen deaths are related to drunk driving. We all know that drunk driving is

wrong. We don't need a 2-day program to tell us. "I doubt that this will have a lasting effect. I guarantee you that within 3 weeks we will be seeing kids driving drunk again."

The 2-hour presentation left students unsatisfied. The guest speakers, while inspirational, seemed to run into overtime. While the points that were stressed by both guest speakers were valuable ones, the speeches went on for a bit too long. After a while, it just seemed like they were running out of things to say. Convicted criminal Ryan Lindh, while providing a valuable viewpoint to the situation, seemed as if he lacked remorse for his actions. A man was killed due to Lindh's mistake, and he showed almost no regret. He seemed more concerned with how horrible prison was. If the death that he caused were more clearly stressed, the speech would have been more effective. The conclusion to the presentation was the last nail in the coffin. Students and parents were asked to read aloud letters that they wrote to their family from the perspective that they were dead. It is wonderful for parents and their children to bond, but it shouldn't be a public activity. If one were to

have walked in on the letter reading, it wouldn't be clear that it was supposed to deal with drunk driving. Obviously, pretending your son is dead is depressing. Whether it be due to drunk driving or a freak cooking accident, the reaction would be the same.

Although the presentation helped parents and students realize life is precious, it lacked focus on the fact that drunk driving is wrong. Surely for some the experience has brought them closer to their family. It remains a question, however, as to whether or not the students will retain the intended message. Unfortunately, the message of drunk driving's consequences was overshadowed by the message that life, in general, is precious. About two-thirds of the presentation felt as if it was therapy; the other one-third fed us information that we already knew. The program did have some positive effect, but will it have a prolonged impact? Regretfully, we think the answer is no.

## ved

in both posi-  
s. However,  
the program  
on the San  
With a num-  
weekend, the  
consumption  
ve changed.  
rogram has  
Yes, people  
s and teach-  
initial shock  
ng dead re-  
majority of  
nunity went  
bits. Most  
that they are  
areless atti-

tude about drunk driving, but there are a few people who have been changed. "I know of some people that drive drunk, but I don't think I'll ever get in a car with a drunk driver again," says an anonymous student.

So, from word of mouth and first hand experience, although only a minority of students seem to have really changed because of this costly program, we realize that Every 15 Minutes had good intentions. We hope that more students will change their habits and reflect back on the "horrors" of October 23 and 24.



### Freshman and sophomores excluded

By Marie Buich and Alyssa Pomponio

Although the drunk driving simulation was successful in portraying the devastation of the situation, it lacked one important element: half of the student body. Freshman and sophomores were prohibited from attending the event due to limited space.

Assistant principal Lilli Rollins said, "The space was not enough to seat the entire student body. Next time, [probably in two years], we hope to make it a school wide activity."

Captain Reginald Lyles of the Novato Police Force confirmed,

"It came down to a very difficult decision. We didn't have enough risers to accommodate the configuration of the student body." Due to the limited area, each person was only allotted eleven inches of seating space.

Underclassmen believed this a valid reason, but thought it was unfair that they were excluded. Freshman Amanda Coggan commented, "Even though we don't get to drive, we still get into cars with people. Freshmen and sophomores still drink. If juniors and

seniors got to go, then we should have been able to go, too."

Sophomore Kiersten Webber agreed, "We're going to be driving this year also, we should have been able to see the 'live show.'"

In resolution to the concerns of exclusion of the lower classmen, Captain Lyles added, "We plan to continue this event every other year" in hopes of having the current freshman and sophomores participate in the "Every Fifteen Minutes" program.





Mia Ernst and Brad McCarter were double cast with Brittany Bexton and Steve Kenyon in "She Loves Me"

## Plays showcase student talent

By Julia Capasso and Brad McCarter

After the spectacular production of "The Music Man" last spring, the San Marin Music Department followed up with the musical comedy "She Loves Me."

The story line of this show is closely related to that of the movie "You've Got Mail." It is the love story of a hopelessly romantic young woman, Miss Amalia Balish, played by Brittany Bexton and Mia Ernst, and a suave, intellectual young man, Georg Nowack, played by Steve Kenyon and Brad McCarter.

The two young lovers correspond with each other through love letters without even knowing the other's name. And all the while they have been working together at the same store owned by Mr. Maraczek, played by Eric Rivera. Not only do the two know each other, but they despise one another as co-workers. Will they ever know the truth about each other?

Other stars of the production included Jamie Sarubbi and Kylie Pearson as Ilona Ritter, Spencer Hatfield as Steven Kodaly, Graham Howes as Mr. Sipos, Preston Hatfield as Arpad Lazlow, and Keith Tonini as Detective Keller.

Directors Emily Gates and Parker Lee and the cast of talented singers, actors, and musicians

helped "She Loves Me" excite and entertain audiences over the Veteran's Day weekend.

San Marin's advanced drama class has always presented solid, entertaining plays, and this November's production of Neil Simon's "Rumors" is no exception. "Rumors" is a farce about a group of socialites that arrive at their friend's house to celebrate his 10th wedding anniversary," explains assistant director Megan Paulson, a sophomore. "When they arrive, they discover the host shot in his room with his wife nowhere to be found. It's a quick, witty play that everyone will enjoy." The entire advanced drama class has a lead part, providing all the performers a chance to shine. Says Paulson, "Everybody's really given their all in their performances. I can't wait for opening night." Some of the stars include seniors Devonne Johnson as Chris Gorman, Kevin Oliver as Ken Gorman, Rachel Garber as Claire Ganz, and Jeremy Brown as Lenny Ganz. The play opens on November 21, and runs through the 25th. Performances will be at 7:30 p.m. on every night except for Sunday, when the performance will be at 3:00 p.m. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for children.

## Donlan leaves San Marin



Former girls' varsity basketball coach and PE teacher Pat Donlan left San Marin at the end of October to seek his fortune. Because his family size is about to double—Donlan and his wife are expecting twins in early December—Donlan has taken a job as a mortgage banker. Donlan promises to make a guest appearance in the gym during the annual dance unit in PE. He hopes to bring his babies with him (with their mother's permission).

## Dredg's "El Cielo" a winner

By Ross Thelen

In a time when music is more a commodity than an art form, it is becoming increasingly difficult to discover original and honest music.

Few modern bands create music for their own artistic satisfaction; rather, they manufacture a product to be marketed.

One of the few bands that still pursues music at its most raw and emotional level is the Los Gatos based **Dredg**. Their Interscope debut album, "El Cielo," combines an international compendium of instruments and styles into one of the most beautiful and pure albums in modern music history.

The band's name is an indication of their intentions. The word "dredge" means to unearth or dig up. Through their inspirational vocals and overwhelming atmosphere they present to the listener new ways of thinking. The interconnected 16-track album evokes images and recalls memories. With confidence and conviction, Gavin Hayes's vocals vary from soft and melodic to tortured and strained. Mark Engles, with his intricate and ethereal guitar work, raises the music to an epic and grandiose level. Drew Roulette's bass lines flow in and out of the album's consciousness in a sinister fashion. At the core of Dredg's sound,

however, is the percussion. Varying from subtle tribal beats to crisp snare rolls, Dino Campanella constructs a warm and fluid foundation over which the universe of Dredg travels.

Following in the footsteps of their first independent release, "Leitmotif," "El Cielo" is at its core a conceptual album. As for what that concept is, "We're kinda keeping it a little secret for now," said drummer Dino Campanella. The vocals make obvious the band's views of the world's diseased modern society. In "Triangle," Hayes sings, "We live like penguins in the desert / why can't we live like tribes?" In the opening track, "Same 'Ol Road", he states that "All you need is a modest house in a modest neighborhood, in a modest town where honest people dwell." While each song carries its own moral and social implications, the album as a whole follows a recurring theme.

"El Cielo" is inspired by the condition of sleep paralysis. It ponders the mysteries of the subconscious and the soul. The album opens with a short instrumental titled "brushstroke: dcbtfoabaapo sba." To most, the title is gibberish. In actuality, it embodies the theme of the work.

Salvador Dali created a painting in 1944 titled, "Dream Caused by the Flying of a Bee around a

Pomegranate One Second Before Awakening." The first letter of each word in the title correlates to the album's opening track title. The whole album revolves around Dali's painting.

To wash away all subtlety, Dredg did include an encrypted explanation of the entire album in its closing track, "The Canyon Behind Her." At the opening of the song, a woman can be heard in the background speaking in Japanese. When her words are translated into English, they read: "This album is a dream which is created by a flying bee around a pomegranate just before waking up, based on the title of an old painting. I recommend that you listen to El Cielo as you look at the painting. It is some kind of situation that causes hallucination. In other words, it means that music is a painting."

In today's musical culture, Dredg is the underdog—the honest, expressive artist with a point to make. They retain artistic integrity and will undoubtedly hold a place in music history. Intriguing, evocative, and stimulating, Dredg's "El Cielo" is crafted with such intricacy and honesty that it is a must-have for any true music lover.

## Sniper attacks bring high school events to a standstill

By Rebecca Guthrie

It was a lovely October day in Silver Spring, Maryland (near Washington, D.C.). The golden leaves flourished on the trees lining the road and the sun was shining brightly. The smell of wood smoke could be faintly detected as is typical for the beginning of autumn.

Yet, there was something not so typical about this day and the days prior.

The soccer fields, usually full of breathless children and excited red nosed parents, were untouched and perfectly green. The night was eerily silent as everyone locked their doors and closed the curtains, and no one ventured outside. It seemed as though all of Virginia and Maryland was somber on that day.

A mother of four was quoted as saying how she knew how the Israelis lived every single day: in fear.

The sniper incidents that occurred in the D.C. area caused so much trauma due to the fact that there was no real organization to the attacks.

How terrified would you be if one day an old man was shot coming out of a restaurant and the next a toddler playing on the jungle gym?

No one knew what to expect. The sniper scare caused more than just a mystery for the media and society. It turned the greater

community's world upside down.

For the sake of safety, all outside activities were cancelled at all schools in the area.

And, for a lot of seniors, this has ruined their last year at high school. Unfortunately, this is the time for a lot of school's homecomings. A school in Upper Marlboro, Maryland had to completely cancel all of its homecoming activities including the rallies, dances, contests, parade, spirit days, and the football game. Other high schools are just postponing their school functions until the basketball season or even the spring.

This also poses a problem for students hoping for athletic scholarships to colleges. Most football teams in that area practiced in their school gymnasiums and, if they were lucky, could only

participate in games 150-200 miles away from school. Not to mention all the other fall sports that take place outside. And, for some, it is too late due to the season ending in early to late November.

Getting to school was posing enough of a problem already. A 13-year-old boy was one of the sniper's targets while arriving at school in Maryland's Prince George's County. During the scare, every day when the bell rang, it was a mad dash from the parent's cars and school buses into school. Some were lucky enough to have police escorts. Maryland and Virginia classrooms were filled with doubt, fear, and confusion. Many students could not fully comprehend the reasons why they were on "lockdown." All they knew was that times were different.



Terrified Americans can't risk being unprotected in the face of terror.

## Where to see a concert

By Julia Capasso and Paige Lehman

The following clubs are local venues that you should be familiar with, as lots of good local bands play there. Have fun kids!

### Pound S.F.- Pier 96, the corner of Cargo and Jennings, San Francisco

The Pound, while in an extremely shady part of San Francisco, is a respectable bar/club. Tickets range from \$5 to \$10 or \$15, depending on the bands performing. Since it is a bar, underage patrons can be identified by the large, Sharpie-induced X's on both of their hands.

The room itself is extremely small, with the area in front of the stage being the size of most peoples' living rooms. However, the small size provides for excellent moshing opportunities on packed nights. Young newcomers such as Animosity have played at the Pound, as well as local favorites such as Hostility (incidentally, most of Hostility's band members graduated from San Marin, and their roadies include two recent SM graduates!).

All things considered, this is a solid venue with a relatively varied and talented history of performers. The only obvious drawback is its distance from Novato; all you kids without your license or a car will have to suck up to your friends or your mom to make the 45 minute drive and pay the \$3 bridge toll.

### The Oasis- 1115 3<sup>rd</sup> St. San Rafael

The Oasis is all about the crowd. Located in downtown San Rafael, the club is easily spotted by the hordes of kids lining the surrounding blocks. This is a fun, safe place to go to hang out with your friends and meet new people.

The club itself is very small, about the size of a classroom. Oftentimes the place is overcrowded and sweaty, and people who are simply watching the show can find themselves in a middle-school mosh pit, as there is little room around the stage.

All this makes it very hard to simply enjoy the music. The music, however, is lacking in several areas. Most of the bands are high school aged with little or no performing experience. While the Oasis does provide these bands with an opportunity to perform, it is little different than listening to your friends jam in your basement. Admission is usually under \$10.

### Gilman- 924 Gilman Street, Berkeley

When first approaching Gilman, you might be struck by the vast number of kids just lounging around the street and sidewalks; wasn't there a show going on?

You'll soon discover that, much like The Oasis, most kids at Gilman chill outside while the less-talented bands play, only to rush in once the headliner shows up onstage. Admission is usually from \$5-\$7, and sodas, water, and snacks are on sale inside.

Most bands playing at Gilman are hardcore/punk, and range from your brother's latest band to seasoned veterans such as S.E.E.D, All Bets Off, and AFI. On good nights, there are lots of nice kids hanging out who are very friendly and open, so it's easy to make new friends. The interior is relatively large, and excellent for karate-style dancing. Worn-out couches are strategically placed around the room for those of you who may be too lame to dance or just want to hang out. Gilman is an all-ages venue, and remember: NO DRUGS or ALCOHOL or FIGHTS!

However, similarly to the Pound, Gilman is an approximately 45 minute drive from Novato, plus you have to pay the toll on the bridge coming back. Nonetheless, if you are a hardcore/punk music fan, find some way to get down to Gilman.

### The Phoenix- 201 Washington St., Petaluma

There's nothing better to do on a Friday night than watch Ryan Mattos, the bassist of Scissorhands, pretend to hang himself with his bass. The Phoenix provides such an opportunity. Open to all music genres, the Phoenix plays hosts to all types of events, from raves to record release parties. However, the music tends to mostly be of the hardcore/punk persuasion.

The Phoenix is an old movie theatre renovated into a concert hall. It sports some old-school architecture and has a balcony for a fuller house. There is a large area of both sitting and standing room in front of the stage, and also a vicious circle pit for those who like to take out their aggression in a more musical fashion. Skinheads and racists beware, if you show your face, you WILL get 86ed! Overall, the Phoenix, because of its size and proximity to Novato, is probably the best choice for a night of fun. Ticket prices depend on the bands playing.

## CONCERT CORNER

By Julia Capasso and Paige Lehman

November promises to be an exciting month for music fans. The great Duncan Sheik is making an appearance with brooding Ben Folds at the Warfield. Gilman is hosting the return of Terror to the Bay Area, which is looking to be a great show. Look out for newcomers Animosity, they are truly vicious. Beck's appearance at the Paramount Theater should be a fun-filled retrospective of his long, varied career.

Nov. 15 **Ben Folds** with **Duncan Sheik** at the Warfield \$20-\$25

Nov. 16 **Thought Riot** with **Scattered Fall** and **Never Again** plus 2 more TBA at Gilman, Berkeley \$7

Nov. 16 **Korn** with **Disturbed** and **Trust Company** at the Cow Palace (\$10 discount for teens)

Nov. 16 **The Slackers** with **the Phenonauts** at the Phoenix Theater \$ TBA

Nov. 18 **Fresh Blend** with **Subterranean Z**, **West Side Chemical**, **Bucho**, and **Go Cart Go** at Bottom of the Hill \$3

Nov. 21 **Box Car Racer** with **H2O**, **the Used**, and **Taking Back Sunday** at the Warfield \$20

Nov. 21 **Pretty Girls Make Graves** with **J.R. Ewing** and **Hint Hint** at Slims \$8

Nov. 22 **Mighty Mighty Bosstones** with **Simple Plan** at the Warfield \$20

Nov. 22 **Locale A.M.** with **On Lisa**, **Domeshots**, and **Diary** at the Oasis Teen Center

Nov. 23 **The Damage Done** (record release) with **Scissorhands**, **Beneath the Ashes** plus 2 more TBA at Gilman, Berkeley \$7

Nov. 23 **Dead Kennedy's** at Catalyst 16 and over \$12-\$14

Nov. 24 **Cali Comm** with **Del The Funky Homosapien**, **Aceyalone**, **People Under The Stairs**, and **Motion Man** at the Fillmore \$20

Nov. 26 **Beck** at Paramount Theatre, Oakland.



photo by Alex C.

land.

Nov. 29 **Stroke 9** at Slims \$12-\$14

Nov. 30 **In Control** with **All Bets Off**, **Terror**, **First Blood**, and **Animosity** at Gilman, Berkeley \$7

Dec. 6 **Stunt Monkey** with **Dexter Danger** at the Phoenix Theater \$6

Other News...

DF members may already know, but for all you AFI fans out there, their new album is scheduled for a February release; stream some new songs at [www.afireinside.net](http://www.afireinside.net)

## San Marin calendar

November 20-21

Oregon Shakespeare Festival visit

November 21-24

Fall drama play "Rumors"

November 23

PLAN (Practice ACT)

November 27-29

Thanksgiving Break-NO SCHOOL!

November 29

Hanukkah begins at sundown

December 6-8

Madrigal Feast

December 7

SAT (Juniors should plan to take this SAT or the next one)

December 13

Next "Pony Express"

Note: The senior fashion show, originally scheduled for November has been rescheduled to next semester. Listen to the announcements and read the "Pony Express" for specific details.

Petaluma's most bustling trattoria is where friends and families meet, feast and fest.



We look forward to creating your memorable night out, celebrating in our authentic Mediterranean atmosphere.

## Buona Sera Cucina Italiana

◆ Succulent Roast Duckling, Savory Seafood & Decadent Dessert

◆ Energetic Ambiance with Warm and Attentive Service

◆ Wine Spectator "Award of Excellence"

◆ Scrip Supports San Marin

Dinner Nightly  
148 Kentucky Street  
Downtown Petaluma  
707 • 763 • 3333

Tuscan...  
and Beyond