

\$35



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**In the April 11
Pony Express**

**Continuing coverage
of the school district
budget crisis**

Spring sports



Pony Express

Volume 34, Number 6 • San Marin High School, Novato, California • March 14, 2003

State budget crisis continues

Board prepares to slash positions and programs for worst-case scenario

By Susan Beresford

As of press time, the state of California had still not adopted its budget policy for the upcoming fiscal year.

The new fiscal year begins on July 1, 2003 and the state must have its budget approved by July 7, 2003. However, since last year's state budget wasn't adopted until September, prospects for this year aren't looking good.

Because the Novato Unified School District does not know how much of the state's \$35 billion deficit will affect education, on March 4 the board chose to plan the worst-case scenario.

By March 15, more than 117 teachers and administrators will have gotten lay-off notices, although they won't necessarily lose their jobs for the upcoming school year. On February 25, the school board offered incentive for older teachers and administrators to retire, in an attempt to reduce the number of employees. Teachers who have worked in the district for more than 20 years and are over 55 years old would be compensated in two extra payments for early retirement. If twenty employees retire, they'd each receive \$8,000 in the two payments. The more employees that retire the more money each would get. However, in comparison to other districts, Novato's compensation is significantly lower. According to the Santa Rosa Press Democrat, Santa Rosa teachers are being offered \$30,000 for early retirement compensation.

In the NUSD very few teachers stepped forward to retire, resulting in the major layoffs the board has been forced to plan for. Although the board has made the list of possible program reductions to ensure that they have maximum flexibility when the state finally adopts its budget, valuable programs such as Journalism, Yearbook, and Leadership are facing the possibility of elimination. Eliminating electives that help students find their passion will only repress students and narrow their horizons. Core class sizes next year will be much larger; 10 English and 10 math classes from

each high school as well as 5 sections of social studies and 5 sections of science will likely be eliminated. Both high schools and middle schools may face the next school year without assistant principals, counselors, deans, and librarians. Elementary schools will be greatly affected as well because P.E. teachers, music teachers, Spanish teachers, reading specialists, and 41 regular teachers are also facing lay-offs.

Certificated staff must legally be notified of lay-offs by March 15,

and after this date the board cannot add or remove names from this list. On May 15, reemployment rights are enabled, and if by August 15 the increase in the district's revenue is less than 2%, more lay-offs will occur. Classified employees will also be laid-off; however they only need 30 days notice.

Community members and organizations are actively involved in helping decrease the district's deficit. Within the last month, more than 500 people responded to a survey put out by the board,

offering comments, suggestions, questions, and priorities of what should be cut first. Frank Howard Allen realtors offered to host a fundraiser walk/run for community members looking to help. According to retired military officer John Sammons, local veterans organizations and community leaders have created Building Better Citizens for America in hopes to save the ROTC program. Novato parent Victoria Crawley suggested that if each parent donates \$160 per student, the

district could raise \$1.2 million. Hopefully the board will not have to follow through on the "worst-case scenario," however, the board feels that it is important to take extreme precaution. San Marin will be greatly affected by these changes, no matter how minor the cuts. Education, college acceptances, student expression and safety are at stake. The 2003-2004 school year will assuredly be challenge for the Novato schools.

Sniffin' out drugs, alcohol, firearms

By Stephanie Alderson, Rebecca Guthrie and Mark Kellner

They tried to fence us in and now they want to sniff us out.

No, not the administration, canine companions.

These dogs are specifically trained to find the illegal substances that you do not have. Yes, it is true folks; these dogs could be here as soon as May.

A private company called Interquest is spearheading this pilot project. They have no affiliation with the police. Interquest specializes in randomly searching schools for illegal substances. "I'm for supporting our students and providing the best environment for our students to learn in," says Assistant Principal Lilli Rollins. San Marin is one of Novato schools that would participate in this program. However, there is still hope, this program has yet to be approved by the Novato Unified School District Board. On March 18 the final decision will be made as to whether or not Novato High Schools will be subject to these random searches.

The searches, conducted with an administrator, canine, and instructor, would be conducted at any location advised of by the administrator. For example, if an administrator thought it would be a good idea to search the parking lot, the team would conduct the search in the parking lot. If suspicious items (scents) were reported by the dog, the administrator would take

action. Places not to hide your illegal substances are now expanded from not only your locker, class, backpack, and person, but to each parking lot and/or car, if on campus. In the scenario that the location chosen is a classroom, the teacher and all of the students will be asked to step outside, and leave all of their belongings inside of the class. The rest can be found in the police log.

At a time where the budget crisis seems to be cutting just about everything from schoolbooks to classes, this pilot program slipped through the unrelenting budget. How did something that would seem so costly as this seem to just "slip through?" one might ask. The funds for this program are described as "not significant" by Rollins. These funds have been specifically allotted for school safety, and will not have any effect on books or other school supplies. "It comes from High School safety funds as provided by the state, which can only be designated for safety issues," said Rollins.

The canines in company with their instructors would only be conducting these searches twice a month, which is in part why it is described as a lower-budget expense. This expense is less than that of replacing the vandalized win-

dows around San Marin, which would also come out of the High School safety fund. Due to the vast amount of vandalizing this year at San Marin, this fund has been left almost drained, and the Interquest pilot program being brought here will deplete the funds.

Students will be notified before this policy is implemented, but the element of surprise will

likely catch you. "It's going to send a message and consequently our scholastic achievement will improve too," Rollins adds.

The board will decide on the program at the March 18 meeting, so there is still time to let your administrators and board members know how you feel about this program's effects on our life at San Marin.



Dogs like Sadie could interrupt classes to search belongings

Question of the issue Why are a student newspaper and a journalism class important to you?

By Logan Bartling and Jade Fielding



"It gives kids a chance to discover they're good at something." Lindsey Knaebel, senior



"It reports on interesting topics that affect us, and aren't really talked about elsewhere." Natalie Graham, junior



"Because its important for students to have a voice." Jessica Cruz, sophomore



"Students can be updated on school issues and teenage conflicts from the perspective of our classmates." Alison Dorsay, senior



"It's about us and gives students a voice." Kaleb Houston, freshman



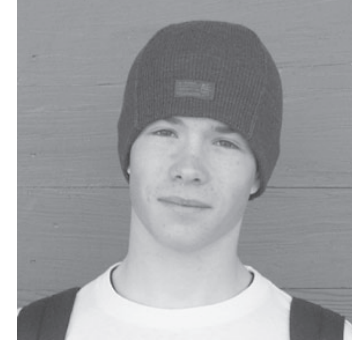
"I think Journalism gives students other avenues to express themselves other than just straight classroom writing assignments." Paula Vantrese, career room tech



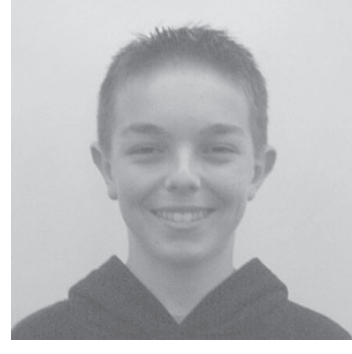
"Having a journalism class is important because the school board and city council don't always listen to us. It gives us a chance to express ourselves on the issues we care most about." Katie Standish, senior



"It gives students a forum to express their opinions and ideas." Jarrell Pegeron, freshman



"Reading the paper enlightens and educates the student body of SM. Plus I get to see myself in the paper." Ben Calkins, sophomore



"With most high school students not spending enough time watching the news or reading the newspaper, the school paper gives them an opportunity to learn about what's going on in our school and the world." Alex Randall, freshman



"I think that Journalism gives students the opportunity to research the things they care about, practice different styles of writing and learn more about their community. Viva La Journalism! -Laura Kopp, senior



"The pen is mightier than the sword, and it is very important that there be an open arena in which students and others in the San Marin community can share their thoughts and opinions." Samantha Tonini, senior

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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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The school district wants you

By Jamie Lummis and Amber Shields



(front) Osiel Romo, Marcella Mendiola, Sam Tonini, (back) George Reategui, Marco Perez, Rocio Espinosa, Ramiro Espinosa

The Novato Unified School District receives approximately \$35 for the attendance of each student per day.

But with absences averaging 35 within any given day and sometimes reaching 50 or 75, at San Marin alone, the school district is losing a lot of money.

At this crucial time in the budget crisis every little cent counts, and the \$1400 to \$3000 San Marin is losing each day hurts.

The district is paid each day that a student attends school—even if the student goes home sick or arrives late.

The school doesn't make money for excused absences, such as sickness, and is especially hurt by family vacations.

Although taking vacations during the school year is discouraged, there is an option for those who can't work around district-wide vacations. If a student must be absent for more than five school days, he is encouraged to sign up for an independent study program.

This program not only benefits the student, but allows the school district to receive the money they would have collected if the student had been in school. Unfortunately, because most students are only gone for a few days or choose not to sign up for independent study, the district loses a large amount of money from vacations.

Francine Cunnie, one of San Marin's two attendance clerks, encourages students, "Take vacations during the designated vacation times. Not only is this better for the student—it's better for the District."

At a recent school district meeting, trustees noted that the

NUSD has a 95% attendance rate. Although this is high already, just one percent more would yield \$35,000 more a year, and a mere 2% increase in attendance rate would double this sum to an incredible \$70,000 more a year for the District.

Hoping to increase the attendance in Novato, some people are looking to the attendance policies of neighboring schools.

Terra Linda High School, for example, discourages student vacations during school time by requiring a pre-approved vacation form to be filled out. The student must obtain teacher signatures and approval prior to departure. If the student neglects to fill out this form, or the teacher refuses to sign it, the teacher is not required to issue make up work. Does such a strict policy really prevent vacations? Not significantly, but

FAST FACT

The unofficial Senior Ditch Day on 03/03/03 cost the school district \$3,360 for 84 seniors who were absent.

Other seniors ditched after coming to school for at least one period, so the district did not lose any money for them.

this may be a step in the right direction.

In this time of budget crisis, we should all try to do our part. As students, just attending classes can make a significant difference.

You're worth thirty-five dollars a day... so go to class!

New club fills information gap for Latino students

By Christina Pelka

Senior Marcella Mendiola thinks that Spanish speaking students at San Marin need more information and academic support. With the help of Spanish teacher Natasha Pelka, Marcella has created the new Academic Latino Club, which meets every Tuesday at lunch in room 302.

The club has nothing to do with culture. It is strictly an academic club, designed to assist not only low-achieving students, but also all Spanish-speaking students new to San Marin.

The club helps students understand how to navigate certain aspects of an American high school, such as credits to graduate, transcripts, standardized tests, homework, truancies, counseling, and scholarship information.

Never before has a club been created by Spanish-speaking students for the purpose of academic achievement. San Marin strives to be the first high school with a club that has the specific purpose of helping Hispanic students succeed in high school.

The timing couldn't be better for the club, since program cuts are jeopardizing funding for ELD programs in the schools. Now, more than ever, clubs and electives need to be resourceful.

The club hopes to achieve its goals using students helping other students, eliminating the need for district money for ELD counseling.

English-speaking students can also join the club to participate as one-on-one tutors. Sophomore Spanish-speakers who do not pass the high school exit exam will receive special tutoring from the English-speaking members.

Senior Samantha Tonini plans on being one of the first to participate as a tutor. "I am very excited to be in a club created with such an honest and meaningful purpose."

The first meeting of the Educational Latino Club featured Linda Pughe from the attendance office who explained how to clear truancies and other attendance-related matters.

Last week's speaker was Paula Vantrese, who gave the students a tour of the College and Career Center and explained how it can be used to find scholarships and grants. The Academic Latino Club hopes to accomplish its goals this year and leave a lasting effect on San Marin's Hispanic population.

Pelka hopes the best for next year. "New Spanish-speaking students (not ELD classified) should feel that there is a club that provides one on one help, besides all the other available resources at school. We at San Marin want to make sure no one falls through the cracks."

Students interested in participating can sign up with Jennifer Yorty in room 207 or Liz Shine in the academy.

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What really happens at Saturday School?

By Challen Pressley

A half asleep group of San Marin students gathered around room 200 at the crack of dawn last Saturday to serve their time in Saturday School.

The students earned their seats at Saturday School by ditching class or taking part in various other behavioral infractions.

Once inside, the group of zombie-like students listened as the supervisor, Marc Nelson, outlined exactly what was in store for them in the next two hours.

They passed the time writing apology letters and other short es-

says about why they were there, how they could fix this problem, etc. Tardiness, talking, and cell phones were all prohibited; this certainly was nothing like The Breakfast Club.

But as much as students may moan and complain about Saturday School, it still isn't some horrible, torturous experience.

Yes, you have to wake up early and suffer through a long morning of detention, but if you hate it so much then just go to class. From now on, I will.

GSA joins national Day of Silence

By Paige Lehman

On April 9th, many students at San Marin will remain mute as part of the national Day of Silence, designed to symbolize the silencing of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning, pansexual, and intersexual youth. Participants will wear red arm bands to show support.

The Day of Silence, sponsored at San Marin by the Gay-Straight Alliance, was started in 1995 to raise awareness about silenced populations in our society.

It is now a nationally-recognized event. "Even though there is awareness of [homosexual] youth in today's society, there is still a lot of instituted homophobia that goes unnoticed. Through the day of silence, we can raise awareness and acceptance of this issue," says sophomore Gay-Straight Alliance member Sarah Davis.

Students interested in participating can sign up with Jennifer Yorty in room 207 or Liz Shine in the academy.

San Marin Talent Show March 20 @ 7:00 pm Student Center

Don't miss the chance to see your classmates show their talents

Ticket are \$5 at the door and benefit the senior class

ASB Account Totals

ASB general	\$ 7,081.32
Class of '03	\$11,848.69
Homecoming	\$11,531.19
Class of '04	\$ 3,762.33
Class of '05	\$ 1,398.43
Class of '06	\$ 769.67

as of March 6, 2003

Teen abortion: The right to choose?

By Myra Perez and Alyssa Pomponio

Though many may choose to deny it, teenagers have sex.

It may seem like innocent fun at the time, but sex can lead to bigger issues including pregnancy.

Each year, one million American teens become pregnant—85% of those pregnancies are unintentional. If the child is not wanted, there are basically two options: adoption and abortion.

Many teen mothers choose not to keep their babies. Although it is considered respectable to put a child up for adoption, the mother will still have to go through the entire pregnancy process. This can be economically costly, emotionally scarring, and an educational setback.

The other option for unplanned pregnancies is abortion. Abortion allows the mother to continue with her life as normal as possible, without the added pressures of being pregnant and raising the child. The statistics regarding pregnancies are almost unimaginable: four in every five

Americans is sexually active by the age of 20, and 40% of these women have been pregnant at least once. Sixty percent of these young women (ages 15 and under) have had sex forced on them. The obvious age component, among other things, is a major deciding factor when pregnant teens debate on terminating the pregnancy.

Reasons for having an abortion

Unwanted pregnancies at any age are difficult, but a teenager's decision can be life altering. If a teen decides to keep her baby, she is more likely than other girls to drop out of school, receive inadequate prenatal care, rely on public assistance to raise her child, develop health problems, and have her future marriage end in divorce. The children of teen mothers are

also affected; there is a higher probability that they will encounter medical, psychological, economic, and educational disadvantages throughout their lives.

Reasons for not having an abortion

Though many pregnancies are unwanted, some believe that abortions are not the answer. It is thought that terminating the growth of the fetus is the same as killing a human life. Often times, specific religious groups and political parties share this view. To those who believe abortion is murder, they advocate other solutions to dealing with the unborn child.

Adoption is a popular alternative to abortion. Instead of taking away a life, adoption gives the

child a promising chance to receive the support it deserves. This is a very beneficial situation: it allows the mother to not take any responsibility after the child's birth, supplies the child with a hope for love and acceptance, and enables infertile couples to raise a child.

Forms of abortion

There are two forms of abortion: medical and surgical. Medical abortions can be performed up until seven weeks into the pregnancy. Methotrexate or mifepristone can be taken orally or injected as a shot, followed by misoprostol which will ultimately end the pregnancy. Medical abortions can take anywhere from three days to four weeks. About 1 in 20 women who try to have a medical abortion will ultimately need to terminate the pregnancy through a surgical abortion because the medication does not work effectively.

Surgical abortions are more common than medical abortions. Legal abortion, performed by trained doctors, is one of the most common and safest procedures. If the woman is still in her first trimester, the most used method is to open the cervix and use a vacuum-like device to remove the contents of the uterus, including the fetus. The longer the pregnancy has progressed, the longer and more invasive the procedure will be.

Restrictive laws

Many states have enforced, or are in the process of passing, laws that restrict teenagers' access to obtaining an abortion by requiring parental and judiciary involvement in the decision. Such laws include:

Parental notification laws that state a medical personnel must inform

the teen's parents of her intentions to obtain an abortion;

Parental consent laws that require written permission from the teen's parents before performing an abortion;

Judiciary bypass options that allow a waiver of parental notification and consent laws in exchange for a judge's permission to proceed with an abortion

Though these laws are intended to aid the teen in her decision, they often do the opposite. Teens can feel unsafe or uncomfortable discussing the situation with their families. Rather than tell their parents, many teens resort to illegal abortions or try to perform the operations themselves. The consequences of these actions include serious injury, death, or criminal charges. Also, teens are less likely to seek the needed medical care they need in the early weeks of pregnancy if doctors are forced to tell their parents before administering care.

A judicial bypass can be administered to override restrictive abortion laws. In such cases, a judge decides whether the teen is mature enough to make the decision herself, or whether it is in her best interests to involve her parents. However, obtaining a judicial bypass can be difficult for teens, especially if they want to keep it secret from their parents. She will need to hire a lawyer, find a judge, work her way through the legal system, and expose herself to intense questioning by strangers. This intimidating process may cause the teen to avoid legal help and resort to an illegal, unsafe abortion.

Though abortion is not illegal, there seems to be a definite bias against it. Laws in 46 states allow minors to place their children up for adoption without involving their parents, yet many of these states require parental notification or consent before a minor can obtain an abortion. This presents a standard that favors one resolution over the other.

Steve Zanardi spreads it around

By David Hoytt

For decades now, San Marin has been pumping the successful

Gates isn't the only person that Zanardi remembers. Possibly



Reasons for sex education

By Stephanie Alderson and Rebecca Guthrie

One out of four sexually active teenagers will get a sexually transmitted disease this year, making it a whopping three million cases nationwide. With over 25 kinds of infections spread by sexual activity, teens need to know

San Marin students have few opportunities to become educated about the repercussions of unsafe sex.

what they are getting themselves into.

Yet, the case seems to be that many teenagers are uneducated about these consequences of their actions.

In 1981 Congress passed the Adolescent Family Act, which funds educational programs promoting abstinence but does not require education on contraception or STD prevention. With over one million American teens pregnant last year, teens are still having sex despite their "chastity education."

In fact, while the funding for abstinence only education has risen, the number of American teens contracting STDs or becoming pregnant has also risen.

Fifty percent of all teens have sex before reaching the age of eighteen, and, as much as people would like to ignore it, this statistic doesn't exclude San Marin students. Although youth and premarital sexual activity is certainly prevalent in society today, San Marin students have few opportunities to become educated about

the repercussions of unsafe sex.

In previous years, San Marin students were able to contact the Peer Counselors, not only because they were San Marin students, but also because they were quite knowledgeable and understanding on subjects like sex, drugs, and pressures facing our demographic. Abstinence, the only 100% effective contraception and defense against disease, was also taught. However, for those who do not choose to abstain, the education is imperative to prevent further disease and unwanted pregnancy.

Assistant superintendent Jan Derby was able to provide information on what is being taught according to the board policies. In the areas of K-5, students are taught about puberty, basic human anatomy, hygiene, reproduction basics, drugs and pregnancy, and an introduction to the importance of HIV and AIDS. Anyone remembering Family Life? This is a program taught in the seventh grade that covers STD's, HIV/AIDS, and pregnancy. The new ninth grade health class covers the following: use of steroids, STD's, HIV/AIDS, pregnancy, breast/testicular self-exams, prenatal care, and abstinence. California Education Code 51553 requires that students be taught the option of abstinence in the classroom.

As far as the role parents play in the education of their students, they have the right to opt out of anything that their child is being taught. Parent opinion was also taken into consideration when developing the courses that are being taught now. With the recent cut-

ting of the Peer Counseling program, the board believes that the addition of the new 9th grade health class and the on-site counselors will be able to help the students in various situations.

One significant form of sex education that is apparent in our community is a group known as Reach. Members include students at both San Marin and Novato High School. The group is focused on STD and AIDS prevention as well as risk factors involved in contracting HIV. They are able to be invited into school classrooms and do approved presentations regarding sex and HIV. They have performed for all the schools in Marin except for San Rafael and San Marin High School. For more information, you can contact Laura Kopp and Laura Cherkas or call 457-2487 ext. 113 (The Marin Aids Project).

"The reason sex has become such a dangerous habit in our society in modern times is because the average number of sexual partners the average person has in a lifetime has exponentially increased in the last century," Kopp says.

Because of the increased number of sexual partners, there are more risk factors that people need to be informed about. However, too many teens don't know these risk factors or how to protect themselves. As numbers of pregnancies and STDs increase, education is essential. The best way to receive education is by individual initiative. The Bay Area is fortunate to have services such as Planned Parenthood that provide teens with options such as pregnancy and STD tests, contraception, and confidentiality.



leaders of tomorrow in all sorts of fields. Mustangs can be spotted in music, sports, and business. However, the class of 1996 produced something a step above all of the others. '96 gave birth to some real "crap." More specifically, "Three Hours of Crap."

Steve Zanardi, who is in his last semester at San Francisco State, has been manning a radio show called "Three Hours of Crap" from the university's radio station KSFJ 100.7 for the last few years. Co-hosted with S.M. alumnus Mike Juliano ('97), the show is tough to explain because it is so versatile. "Describing three hours of crap is tough," commented Zanardi. "It's basically two normal guys who like to talk."

And talk they do. With topics ranging from sports to music to local events and everything in between, there truly isn't a dull moment. The main purpose of the show, however, is to act as a forum for local punk bands. Some even stop by to chat every once in a while. "We have interviews with different punk bands," said Zanardi, "we had Divit on the show and The Offspring one time." That's right, Nitro Records superstars The Offspring.

Hanging with rock stars and enjoying radio fame, however, won't give Steve a big head. He still remembers his days as a theater student, a class clown in Emily Gates's class. "I had her every year while at school. I suppose she'd be a person I'd want to thank."

the best portion of the show comes when he welcomes old friends onto the show via phone. Past guests include the Letsch Brothers, Eric (current senior), and Bob (class of '99). Also making the occasional appearance on the show is the ever-volatile Dr. Tony Love, who repeatedly offers advice on the emotional and physical aspects of relationships.

So, what lies ahead for Steve Zanardi? He'll tell you, "I'd love to get on with the mainstream radio stations." However, he is no one trick pony. The former S.M. acting student still likes to do some performing. "I have a friend with a cable access show," he says, "I do some skits for them," although he admits there isn't much future in it. Instead, he has caught numerous breaks in local radio. His resume includes Live 105 and working in promotions for Alice, doing work on the old Sarah and Vinnie Show. And all of this is done while moonlighting as a DJ. With all of this, it seems that Steve is on the up-and-up but not before he makes some more waves at SFSU.

If you are tired of the same old stuff and you want to listen to some "crap" that is funny, informative, and entertaining, "Three Hours of Crap" is on Tuesday's from 6-9 P.M.

You can listen to it from the Internet at ksfj.sfsu.edu and if you want to call in for a request just call 338-1832.

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Academy Award movie preview

By Kevin Kahn and Abby Yim

When the 75th annual Academy Awards air on March 23 the movie industry's brightest stars will shine. The year's top movies and actors will gather at the Kodak Theater in Hollywood to celebrate the best in motion picture arts and sciences. Despite the tardy fashion of most of this year's nominees,

2002 produced a barrage of critically acclaimed pictures. The best picture category ranges from an exuberant musical set in 1920's Chicago to a disturbing account of a Jewish pianist during the Holocaust.

The Academy awards have evolved over the past 75 years. The

first aired in 1928 with only a small handful of categories, compared with this year's twenty four, including best visual effects and best animated feature film. The Academy Awards have become the premier night in show business and one of the most watched events of the year.

Although movies are being honored, the awards have also become a primary showcase for fashion. Gucci, Prada, Yves Saint Laurent and other notable designers adorn the red carpet. Joan Rivers and recent star of "I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here!" Melissa Rivers critique each fashion faux pas on their pre-show special. Cameras swirl and interviewers mingle with the nominees. The night is charged with energy as everyone anticipates who will go home with an Oscar and who will be left with a fake grin hoping that the nomination will still be able to snag them that seven figure salary. The Academy Awards have indeed grown to embrace every part of the globe, just as the motion picture has.

Here's a brief description of the five Best Picture nominees:

Chicago: Despite the backlash that the musical genre has faced; Chicago has risen to a peak of popularity. Set in the prohibition era, Chicago follows the life of Roxie Hart, an aspiring star thrown in jail for the murder of her lover. Directed by Rob Marshall, the feel of Chicago stays true to stage director Bob Fosse's raw portrayal of both politics and show business. Renee Zellweger and Catherine Zeta-Jones are a wonderful pair and displayed their multi-talented abilities on screen. Singing, dancing and acting come naturally to both and are both worthy candidates for this year's Oscar. San Marin students agree that 'Chicago' is this year's best picture. Hanna Yannover says: "I loved it. I'm not a big fan of musicals but after seeing Chicago, I seriously debated taking a dance class!" Fellow junior, Devon Mulligan stated, "The acting was so great. It was a fun movie to see in theatres, and deserves the best picture Oscar."

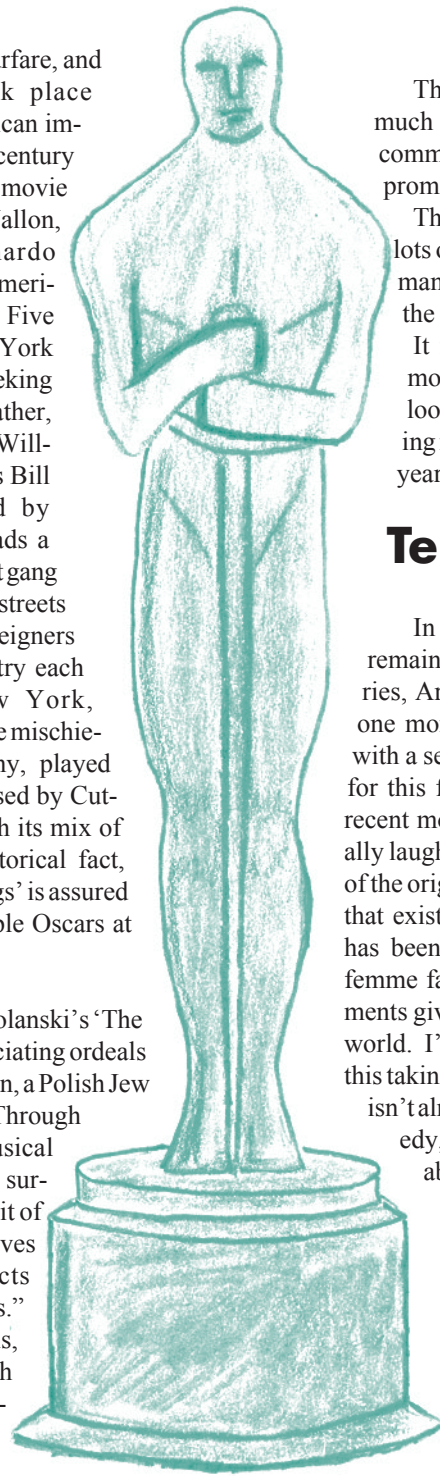
The Hours: As soon as this film hit theatres, the word Oscar followed. Although it's up for best picture, it's the performances, not the story line, that have gotten the most attention. Three talented actresses teamed to portray three women going through a life changing experience. Nicole Kidman's performance as writer Virginia Wolfe got immediate attention. Willing to shed most prima dona's demands for younger, prettier roles, Kidman altered her appearance and shed the Australian accent. Meryl Streep and Julianne Moore also impressed audiences depicting a modern day woman and a 1950's housewife. Junior Claudia Collins commented: "The story was slow, but the acting was superb. I don't think it is the best picture of the year but Nicole Kidman definitely deserves an Oscar."

Gangs of New York: Nominated for 10 Academy Awards, 'Gangs of New York' is legendary director Martin Scorsese's epic about

the brutal violence, warfare, and corruption that took place among the new American immigrants in mid-18th century New York City. The movie follows Amsterdam Vallon, played by Leonardo DiCaprio, an Irish-American who returns to the Five Points district of New York in 1863 in hopes of seeking the murderer of his father, killed 16 years prior. William Cutting, known as Bill the Butcher, played by Daniel Day-Lewis leads a ruthless anti-immigrant gang determined to rid their streets of the hoards of foreigners coming into the country each day. While in New York, Amsterdam falls for the mischievous pickpocket Jenny, played by Cameron Diaz, raised by Cutting in her youth. With its mix of gruesome battles, historical fact, and great acting, 'Gangs' is assured of taking home multiple Oscars at this year's awards.

The Pianist: Roman Polanski's 'The Pianist' tells the excruciating ordeals of Wladyslaw Szpilman, a Polish Jew during the Holocaust. Through his extraordinary musical gifts, his strong will to survive, and with a little bit of luck, Szpilman survives Hitler's inhuman acts against all "non-Aryans." This movie lacks thrills, special effects, or high suspense; it simply displays the vigor of the human spirit in trying times. Throughout the movie, Szpilman, played by Adrien Brody, instills hope in other prisoners, telling them that the world is still a hopeful place, and that eventually they all will be saved. Polanski's goal in this film was not to make the audience "feel good" because the Holocaust was something that wasn't uplifting or hopeful in any sense. The director achieves this by keeping the story as real as possible. Polanski wanted to avoid the common survivor stories because they misrepresent the true nature of the death camps. The fact remains that 2/3 of Europe's Jewish population died in the Holocaust, and so he stays away from the common Hollywood, "feel good" ending where the characters all survive and live in happiness. 'The Pianist' is a truly powerful film that attests to the power of the human spirit.

The Lord of the Rings: This movie is the second of Peter Jackson's adaptations of J.R.R. Tolkien's 'Lord of the Rings' trilogy. After last year's massive box office success with 'The Fellowship of the Ring,' this second film continues where the first movie left off, sharing many common characteristics with the first, including breathtaking cinematography of the New Zealand countryside and marvelous sound and special effects. It is recommended, however, that one see 'The Fellowship of the Ring' before the sequel, because Jackson takes no time in recapping the previous movie. With the spectacular visual and sound effects, along with an engaging, edge-of-your-seat storyline, 'The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers' is destined to become a big winner on March 23.



By Ross Thelen

Coming to the big screen in 2003

The year of 2003 looks to provide much entertainment for the lowest common denominator as Hollywood promises more surprises than ever.

There will be much cleavage seen, lots of explosions heard, and surely many gallons of blood spilled on the big screen this year.

It is only fitting that we take a moment to step aside and take a look at some of the most promising movies planned for release this year.

Terminator 3

In an attempt to milk the last remaining cash out of this action series, Arnold Schwarzenegger is back one more time to look cool and talk with a sexy accent. When the preview for this film came on screen before a recent movie I saw, the audience literally laughed. It looks like all of the flair of the original has been lost, and now all that exists is pure cheese. The villain has been dubbed the "terminatrix," a femme fatale whose surgical enhancements give her the ability to destroy the world. I've heard of implants, but isn't this taking it a little bit far? If this movie isn't already being marketed as a comedy, it should be. It would probably earn more money that way.

Matrix: Reloaded and Matrix: Revolutions

Unlike "Terminator 3," these two upcoming sequels to the blockbuster sci-fi action hybrid, "The Matrix," look to impress. Combining some of the most amazing special effects to date with some innovative story ideas has paid off. The two flicks were filmed all at one time, and they are being released six months apart. We can expect the first sequel, "Matrix: Reloaded," in May, and the second, "Matrix: Revolutions," in November. The people making this movie built their own highway, complete with onramps and road signs, for a few million dollars just to film a sweet car chase. Come on, it has to be good.

Bad Santa

This is likely to be a refreshing dose of holiday fun. "Bad Santa" is an unconventional Christmas film starring Billy Bob Thornton as a drunk, trashy, ciga-

rette-smoking mall Santa named Willie T. He and his dwarf comrade, Marcus, work at a mall as Santa and his Elf, and rip off the department stores on Christmas Eve after the store has closed. The idea of showing an unshaven Santa stinking of liquor curse out little children is pure gold. To top it off, he's a sexaholic that tends to spend some special time with women in department store dressing rooms. The film starts with Willie vomiting in a drunken stupor in his Santa outfit. That scene alone could keep me laughing for ages.

Kill Bill

Quentin Tarantino returns to the director's chair for his fourth film, "Kill Bill," which stars Uma Thurman as a homicidal bride with a vengeance. Her goal is simple; kill Bill, the guy that murdered her husband. Tarantino always provides some of the best rock n roll directing out there, and I'm sure that this film won't be an exception. We've got a hot actress flailing around, doing kung fu moves with a sweet sword, flipping out and killing people, all the while keeping that fresh Tarantino style. At least it doesn't take itself too seriously. This film is going to

be sweet. And by sweet, I mean totally awesome.

HULK

I don't really know my way around the strange comic universe too well, so excuse me if I don't get all the facts right on this one. After the surprising success of last year's "Spiderman," the studios decided they might as well do what they do best: milk the genre for all it is worth until nothing with an ounce of dignity remains. The first new film on the list is "The Incredible Hulk." It's about a scientist that takes some special potion and turns into a big green dude that wrecks stuff. I'm not really sure what else to say. Except that it will probably be really bad.

X-Men 2

Continuing along the trend of superhero films comes the sequel to "X-men." Returning is the familiar cast of mutant protagonists: Wolverine, Cyclops, Rogue, Professor X, the list goes on. They are pit against the evil, mutant-oppressing government as well as Magneto and his henchmen.

I suppose that the film looks good if you are into that type of stuff. I mean, there is sure to be lots of action, featuring mutants using all their cool powers. There will likely be some explosions too. Halle Barry is in the film as well. On that note, I suppose I'll see it.

Lord of the Rings: Return of the King

The conclusion to the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy, "Return of the King," is set for release this December. Hobbits and wizards and dwarves and orcs await you in the land of Middle Earth. The past two films were actually quite fun, if not a bit long, and the last film promises to be the best. All sorts of arrows and swords and axes will fly, and that creepy Gollum dude is back. If director Peter Jackson really knew what's up, he'd feature a nude scene with one of those female dwarves. I hear they have beards and whatnot. My curiosity demands a nude bearded female dwarf!

2 Fast 2 Furious

This is thrown in for pure comedic value. Seriously, look at the title. If that isn't enough to incite laughter, I'm sure the hokey racing scenes will. I hear Vin Diesel, the star of the first film, isn't even in this one. If that guy thinks the movie is too embarrassing, it has got to be bad. If they stick to the original formula of filming a feature-length MTV music video, than it might just sell a few tickets. Keep in mind that millions of dollars were put toward this movie while kids in Afghanistan are starving to death. That's just plain wrong.

Keeping score

By Susan Beresford and David Hoytt

S.M's Choice	Our Choice	Performance by an actress in a supporting role	Your Choice
6%		Kathy Bates in "About Schmidt"	
16%		Julianne Moore in "The Hours"	
25%		Queen Latifah in "Chicago"	
3%		Meryl Streep in "Adaptation"	
50%	X	Catherine Zeta-Jones in "Chicago"	

In her first major movie in years, Zeta-Jones wins this award as a comeback actress of the year award. Unless you call those phone commercials some banner work.

S.M's Choice	Our Choice	Performance by an actor in a supporting role	Your Choice
6%		Chris Cooper in "Adaptation"	
8%	X	Ed Harris in "The Hours"	
25%		Paul Newman in "Road to Perdition"	
28%		John C. Reilly in "Chicago"	
33%		Christopher Walken in "Catch Me If You Can"	

Here, we're rootin' for the underdog. Walken is the obvious choice based on pure dancing ability (trust us) but our gut goes with Harris.

S.M's Choice	Our Choice	Best Animated Feature Film of the Year	Your Choice
58%	X	"Ice Age"	
28%		"Lilo & Stitch"	
8%		"Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron"	
0%		"Spirited Away"	
6%		"Treasure Planet"	

"Ice Age" could win this award solely on the short film that introduces it but the entire movie is comic gold. There is something about a sloth with a lisp that is just classic.

S.M's Choice	Our Choice	Performance by an actress in a leading role	Your Choice
25%		Salma Hayek in "Frida"	
28%		Nicole Kidman in "The Hours"	
8%	X	Diane Lane in "Unfaithful"	
6%		Julianne Moore in "Far From Heaven"	
33%		Renee Zellweger in "Chicago"	

Diane Lane gives a great performance as a disillusioned wife seeking solace in the arms of another.

S.M's Choice	Our Choice	Performance by an actor in a leading role	Your Choice
11%		Adrien Brody in "The Pianist"	
19%		Nicolas Cage in "Adaptation"	
6%		Michael Caine in "The Quiet American"	
36%	X	Daniel Day-Lewis in "Gangs of New York"	
28%		Jack Nicholson in "About Schmidt"	

Day-Lewis gives an incredible performance as a ruthless yet charismatic gang leader of the "native" Americans. He makes the audience hate him but understand his intentions.

S.M's Choice	Our Choice	Achievement in Directing	Your Choice
39%		"Chicago" Rob Marshall	
33%		"Gangs of New York" Martin Scorsese	
22%	X	"The Hours" Stephen Daldry	
6%		"The Pianist" Roman Polanski	
0%		"Talk to Her" Pedro Almodovar	

We aren't exactly sure how to judge directing, but "The Hours" was pretty good and is bound to win some awards.

S.M's Choice	Our Choice	Best Motion Picture	Your Choice
39%		"Chicago" Miramax	
6%	X	"Gangs of New York" Miramax	
3%		"The Hours" Paramount and Miramax	
46%		"The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers" New Line Cinemas	
6%		"The Pianist" Focus Features	

In a down year for movies, "Gangs" wins this one almost by default off of Day-Lewis's performance. "The Lord of the Rings" was entertaining but effects don't win this award.

Academy Award word search

F	J	K	F	N	U	F	M	A	G	C	B	U	T	M	K
E	P	X	I	M	N	B	H	C	T	I	T	S	F	T	A
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T	G	C	A	I	M	L	G	F	H	J	U	E	J	K	B
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R	C	S	N	R	O	B	E	M	O	O	A	D	H	I	A
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ACADEMY AWARDS
ACTRESS
ANIMATION
CHICAGO
FEATURE PRESENTATION

GANGS OF NY
HAYEK
ICE AGE
KIDMAN
LILO

MIRAMAX
MOTION PICTURE
MOVIE
OSCAR
POPCORN

SALMA
SCORSESE
STITCH
THE HOURS

Watch the 75th annual Academy Awards on March 23 at 5:30 PM Pacific time on ABC.

Lover-ly production of "My Fair Lady"

By Marie Buich

"Oh! Wouldn't it be lovely..." to have the opportunity to sit back, relax and watch an amazing musical performance that'll have you singing along to each tune?



This weekend is your last chance to see "My Fair Lady," directed by Parker Lee and Emily Gates.

This production is truly one of a kind; not only is it one of America's favorites, but it is

if they were professionally done and both the acting and singing are superb.

The story takes place at Covent Garden, a rustling, eventful town within the heart of England. Professor Higgins (played by seniors

Mrs. Eynsford-Hill (juniors Christine Young and Meghan Gillespie).

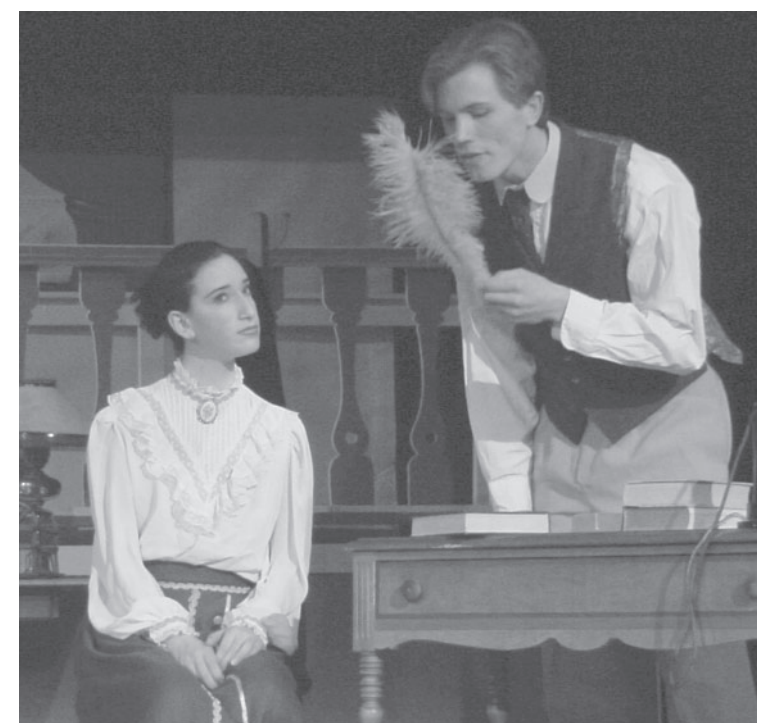
Within days, Eliza Doolittle becomes Miss Doolittle, a beautiful, poised lady, the complete opposite of what she used to be.

Even her own father (played by freshman Marty Cunnie and sophomore Keith Tonini) fails to recognize his daughter.

In the end, Higgins may have fooled everyone at the ball, but what is to happen to Miss Doolittle once the experiment is over? Will she marry Freddy? Is she fit for anything else?

These questions are answered in this incredible production.

Show times include tonight and tomorrow night, March 14th and 15th at 8pm and Sunday, March 16, at 2pm. Tickets are \$7 in the office and \$9 at the door.



Spencer Hatfield and Phillip Koehler), a sophisticated scientist of phonetics and his fellow colleague, Colonel Pickering (sophomore Graham Howes and junior Preston Hatfield), place a bet based on a cockney-speaking lower-class flower girl, known as Eliza Doolittle, (sophomores Genevieve Greene and Lara Palanjian).

Higgins claims the ability to transform this simple, contemptible commoner into a stunning, well-spoken duchess by a deadline, the night of the grand ball he is to attend with hundreds of dignified, arrogant faces. Eliza becomes his obsession, his latest experiment.

Other characters in the play include Mrs. Higgins (freshman Madeline Stoddard and sophomore Jaimie Brandley) and

Matthew Shepard immortalized in play

By Julia Capasso

In October of 1998, the murder of a young college student in Laramie, Wyoming not only shocked America but also opened the eyes of all in the nation. Matthew Shepard, a young homosexual man, was brutally beaten, tortured, and left to die by two men who claimed Shepard made sexual advances towards them while they were giving him a ride home. The reaction was immediate; the media swarmed all over the story, and caused an uproar of protest all across the country. Tragic and grotesque, Shepard's murder served as an example to the country that more education and awareness was essential in stopping homophobia.

In March of 2000, playwright Moises Kaufman opened his play "The Laramie Project" at the Denver Theater Center. Kaufman's

play included interviews with the citizens of Laramie and chronicled their emotions and reactions to the hate crime. The play went on to New York in May of 2000, and since then has been performed over 600 times in over 40 U.S. cities and made into a highly acclaimed HBO movie.

This May, "The Laramie Project" will be performed at San Marin. The drama students are very excited to be bringing such an important, critical play to San Marin's stage. Says drama student Nick Pottoroff, "It's good to have the opportunity to show that SM is not a prejudiced school as we've been portrayed after the various incidents and that our students are open-minded and welcoming."

The show runs May 16-May 19.

RIAA is drowning

By Ross Thelen

The Recording Industry Association of America thought it won the war against music piracy a few years ago when it successfully sued file-swapping program Napster out of existence. The program allowed Internet users to download illegal MP3s for listening on their computers. Unfortunately for the RIAA, the destruction of Napster only led to the birth of countless new programs exactly like it, with a twist. The newer file-trading services are impossible to shut down because they don't run a centralized server like Napster did. It's rather hilarious watching the RIAA attempt to sue anything they can get their hands on now. Play with fire, and you're gonna get burned.

The most popular program used to download music now is Kazaa, a peer-to-peer network composed of millions of users. Run by a daring vixen CEO, the company has eluded all attempts by the recording industry to shut it down. In fact, Kazaa has the industry so confused that they don't even know where to start. Thanks to the clever infrastructure that Kazaa-owner Sharman Networks has established, they are all but untouchable.

The servers that hold the company's information are in Denmark. The software is located in Estonia. The actual company is hidden on an island somewhere in the South Pacific. Sharman was recently formed on the South Pacific island of Vanuatu, a nation known as a financial safe haven. The kazaa.com domain name is registered in Australia under a company called LEF Interactive. "It's hard to know which one to sue," said one recording industry investigator.

And even if they did successfully sue the company and milk it for all it is worth, nothing would happen. There is no emergency shut down with these things. They are run by the people that use it.

The RIAA is a diseased behemoth and someone better put it out of its misery. They are attempting to stop a tsunami with a wooden fence. It has become very clear that illegal file trading on the internet can't be stopped, and it has to be accepted. If the RIAA would put more money toward benefiting from the new technology, perhaps they could stay afloat. But right now, they are drowning, and the water is only getting higher.

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Burning rubber

By Rachel Oppenheimer and Bret Pughe

ERRRRRRR! "Whoops, there goes another cone!" After a day full of screeching tires, burning rubber, and top speeds in Ford Focuses, a group of San Marin student drivers went home with a new knowl-

before breaking. This gave students the skills needed in order to avoid collisions at high speeds.

With newly acquired knowledge of driving at high speeds, the participants put their



edge of the road.

Taught by professionals from Russel Racing School and AAA, this educational course enabled students to experience driving in dangerous circumstances. The importance of using safety equipment properly, such as seat belts and airbags, was heavily stressed throughout the day. San Marin's participation in the program, organized by auto shop teacher Paul Rilla, intended to express to student-drivers the capabilities and dangers of cars while using hands-on activities.

The first of three activities the students were able to participate in was the skid-car. This hydraulically operated, custom-made car allowed a simulation of what it is like to lose control of your car on ice. Each student was able to drive the car, attempting to make figure eight's around cones. As easy as it seems, each person learned the skills necessary and learned how difficult it is to operate a car under these circumstances. "Driving a car that you have no control is something you never practice until it's too late. Even in the simulation skid car, it was frightening when I almost hit a parked truck!" senior Christina Restivo said.

The second activity taught participants how to stop in pressure situations. The driver accelerated until they reached a set of cones. At this point, they would slam on the brakes and attempt to stop in the designated area. The difficulty increased when the students were instructed to switch lanes

skills to the test on the speed course. Screeching around every turn, each person was competing for the fastest time and first place prize. With a time of 32.14 seconds, Dustin Colclough was the recipient of the "prize of unspeakable value".

As a reward for their cooperation, each student took a joy ride in a Ford Focus around Infion Raceway. Although not in actual racecars moving at high speeds, the

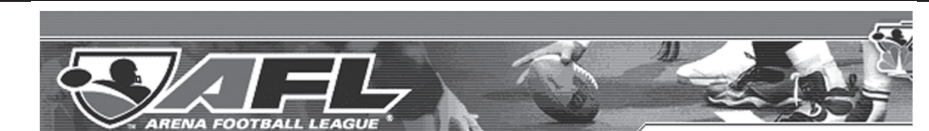


70 m.p.h. was enough to get the adrenaline rushing.

Junior Danny Wilson excitedly said, "The hot lap was the perfect ending to an 'action-packed' day."

After getting off the racetrack, everyone was treated to Togo's sandwiches.

As if the day hadn't been rewarding enough, each participant earned a Certificate of Completion and a fashionable T-shirt. The program left a huge impact on every day driving for teens, making the road a safer place.



The hidden sport

By Colin Dietz

The NFL season is over and Spring Training is just beginning. You may be asking yourself, "What can I watch?"

Well, my friends, the answer is simple: the AFL. The Arena Football League is more exciting than the NFL in that it relies on an offensively charged game plan in which the players play both offense and defense. I'd like to see Jerry Rice go one-on-one covering Terrell Owens.

The AFL offers affordable ticket prices and a fan-friendly atmosphere that makes the AFL the clear choice for entertainment during the stretch between the NFL and MLB.

The Field

The Arena Football League is played in an arena on an indoor artificial grass surface that is 50 yards long, with eight-yard end zones. The goal posts are a mere nine feet wide with a crossbar height of 15 feet, compared to NFL goal posts that are 18-1/2 feet wide with a crossbar at 10 feet.

The AFL has goal-side nets that are 30 feet wide by 32 feet high that are in play. Players may return missed field goals or kick-offs that deflect off the net. There is no "true" sideline like in the NFL, rather there is a 48-inch high barrier made of high-density foam rubber that runs along a four-inch white boundary line.

Rules of the Game

A regulation game is comprised of four 15-minute quarters with only a 25-second play clock. The clock stops for out-of-bounds plays or incomplete passes only in the last minute of each half or when the referee deems it necessary for penalties, injuries, or timeouts. The running clock speeds up the game and makes it more exciting for the viewer, as there are not all those long, drawn out TV timeouts that the NFL has.

After scoring a touchdown, a team has three options: 1) one point - kick the extra point 2) two points - successful run or pass 3) two points - drop kick (like a punt). Although there aren't many field goals kicked, teams are awarded three points for a field goal by placement or four points for a field goal by a drop kick.

As a result of the shortened field, kick-offs are from the goal line. Surprisingly, there are no punters in the AFL, because they are not needed. Punting is illegal! On fourth down teams must either go for a first down, touchdown, or field goal. Thus, the importance of the rule that the end zone nets are in play.

Teams carry a 20-man active roster and a four-man inactive roster. To add to the excitement of the game, there are eight players on the field from each team. Unlike NFL players, the AFL players play both offense and defense except for the kicker, quarterback, offensive specialist (which is the kick returner of defense) and two defensive specialists. All non-specialists are allowed to substitute only once during each quarter.

There are only four down linemen on offense and three on defense. One linebacker may blitz on either side of the center but must be two or more yards off the line of scrimmage. On offense, interesting play-calling results from the ability to have one

receiver in motion towards the line of scrimmage before the ball is snapped. The receiver often gets up to a 15-yard running start.

Why the AFL

The Arena Football League is designed for the fans. The AFL notes, "Every fan is entitled to a wholesome environment free of violence, profane gestures and language or rude and invasive behavior that could in any way interfere with a first-class entertainment experience." This is definitely something that the NFL cannot offer. The AFL consists of true gentlemen who play for the love of the game. As part of their contracts the players from both the winning and losing teams will remain after the game for hours signing autographs and talking to fans.

There are 16 teams in the AFL that are broken up into four divisions, in which they play a 14 game season.

Our hometown team, the San Jose SaberCats, who won Arena Bowl XVI last year, are the most successful franchise for the past three years (35-7 since 2000) with a good chance to repeat as champs this year. QB Mark Grieb and DS Clevan Thomas of the SaberCats became the first pair of teammates since 1996 to win the Offensive and Defensive Player of the Year awards in the same season. Thomas also received Rookie of the Year honors.

The AFL prides its self on affordable ticket prices ranging from \$5 for seats near the top of the arena to \$82 for the first few rows next to the field. These affordable tickets and the AFL fan agreement make for cheap family fun. Collisions along the sideline often result in players diving into the fans' laps, adding to the flare of the game.

The SaberCats, who are currently 4-2 and tied for first place in their division, play at the HP Pavilion at the Compaq Center in San Jose, the same place the Sharks play.

AFL vs. NFL

The AFL is a dominated by the passing game whereas the NFL has a balanced attack. The SaberCats were the leading rushing team with only 30.1 yards per game compared with the Minnesota Vikings who led the NFL averaging 156.7 yards per game. The passing offense shows more similarity; the top AFL team, Grand Rapids Rampage, averaged 284.7 yards passing, and the NFL leader, the Oakland Raiders, averaged 279.7 yards.

The defensive statistics —the number of interceptions, fumbles, etc.—are similar. The AFL is more exciting because they display a high powered offense that relies on the passing game, instead of the NFL control-the-clock tactics.

Next Sunday when you're sitting around contemplating whether or not to start your homework, turn to NBC and watch the AFL, which plays every Sunday at 12:00pm or 3:00pm Pacific time.

The AFL is the clear choice for great entertainment for those of you still trying to get over the fact that the Tampa Bay Buccaneers won the Super Bowl.

So sit down on the couch, grab a bag of potato chips, and get rid of the tension still left from the NFL season by watching the high-paced Arena Football League.

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Spring teams ready for MCAL

Varsity baseball

By Sean Johannesen and Zack Kinyon

The Varsity baseball team opened its preseason efficiently with a solid 8-1 win over El Molino. Senior righthander **Darrell Fisherbaugh** tossed three hitless innings, striking out six batters. Seniors **Bud Norris** and **Brian Drake** shared the final four innings, combining for six strikeouts and an unearned run. The offensive barrage was fueled by seniors **Erik Egide** (3 hits) and **Dustin Colcough** (2 hits, 2 runs, RBI).

In the second contest, the

his third victory, this time pitching six innings, and allowing only two hits while fanning eight frustrated Dons, and adding a base hit of his own. "It feels good to help your cause," he said following the game. Junior **Aron Bartee** cashed in on the offensive front, contributing a pair of RBI doubles and three hits overall. **Norris** also knocked in two runs and earned a save on the mound, striking out two hitters in the seventh.

On an intriguing note, the team's first three victories have come against opponents who they were unsuccessful against last year. "We're in the zone, what can I say?" junior outfielder **Danny Robinson** commented.

This could be the most talented San Marin baseball team in years with an excellent nucleus of ten returning seniors. Of those ten, five (**Norris, Fisherbaugh, Egide, Colcough, and Jack Rolovich**) received All-MCAL recognition last season, as juniors. Last year's J.V. team had a highly successful campaign, and the core of that team now helps account for the depth of the varsity squad. **Bartee**, last year's frosh/soph team MVP, is competing for a starting job in the outfield, adding a consistent bat and outstanding speed at the top of the order. Junior **Eric Benson** bolsters the already outstanding pitching staff, while providing a very powerful bat to the lineup at third base.

Mustangs broke in Petaluma High School's new field with an enormous 8-2 victory. The game was scoreless until the fifth inning when the Mustangs stamped their way to back to back four run innings. **Norris** started the game brilliantly, on pace for a perfect game before exiting after the second. **Fisherbaugh** then hurled another two scoreless innings.

The following Wednesday, in their first home game of the year, San Marin defeated the De Anza Dons by a score of 7-4 and progressed to 3-0 in the standings. Additionally, **Fisherbaugh** earned



Varsity softball

By Rachel Oppenheimer

With 8 returning players and no seniors, the Girls Varsity Softball team is off to a great start. All but three athletes started the season playing basketball, cutting into early season practice time. Despite this difficulty, the Mustangs are coming together well and are ready for MCAL competition.

The team consists of 4 juniors, 7 sophomores, and 3 freshmen. The young team demonstrated their amazing talent in a scrimmage against San Rafael. With many more preseason games scheduled for the next few weeks, by the time the season starts, the team will be fired up and ready to defend their title as NCS champions.

Varsity Girls' Soccer

By Niki Kidd

Goals are lofty for the varsity girls' soccer season, as all players and coach's expect success from this talented group. Coming off a loss in the MCAL championship game last season to Redwood in double overtime, the Mustangs know that they have potential for the upcoming season. The return of eight players and a newly focused attitude, the Mustangs are poised to grow upon the success they enjoyed last season.

Their mission of dominating MCAL and an NCS berth are extremely ambitious, considering they have the toughest schedule in all of MCAL. They play returning champions Redwood; Marin Catholic, a team that was defeated until they met the Mustangs

in the playoffs last season; and perennial powerhouse Branson twice this season, as opposed to their less strenuous schedule last season when the league was separated into North and South divisions.

Returning athletes include seniors **Brooke Barnecut, Jenny Jackson, Niki Kidd, and Megan Mallonee**, all of whom are prepared to add leadership to this young squad as well continue the recent success for the Mustangs.



Two seasons ago, the Mustangs lost in the semi-final games in both the MCAL and NCS playoffs, and last season they were just one goal away from the first every girls' MCAL championship in San Marin history.

High expectations difficult obstacles will definitely make this

season a memorable one for the girls' varsity soccer team. Their first game is next Wednesday against Justin Sienna.

Swimming

By Katie Winsor

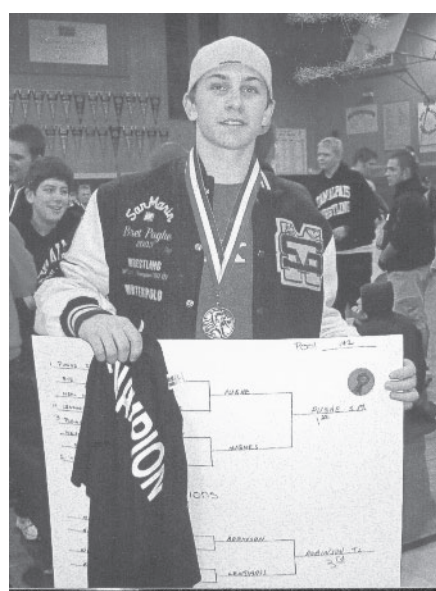
Diving into a freezing cold pool at five o'clock in the morning may not be your idea of a good time, but to members of the San Marin swim team, it's a way of

ATHLETES OF THE ISSUE

Bret Pughe

By Katie Winsor

The Pughe family tradition of wrestling dominance continued when San Marin senior Bret Pughe won his fourth straight MCAL championship.



Despite suffering from a surgically repaired right knee, Pughe dominated his weight class in the MCAL tournament. After defeating Justin-Sienna's Nick Lendaris in the 140-pound semifinals, Pughe went into his finals match with Marin Catholic's Brian Hughes. Twenty-seven seconds into the third round, Pughe pinned Hughes, insuring his fourth straight MCAL title.

The following weekend at the NCS tournament, Pughe compiled a 4-2 record, placing him fourth in NCS. "Although I didn't qualify for state, I was happy to get my first NCS medal. It was an honor," he says.

Inspired by his older brother, Pughe began his wrestling career five years ago. Since then, he has achieved numerous awards for his victories, including the 2003 MCAL Ralph Cutler Award. Pughe hopes to continue his wrestling career next year at college.

Megan Mallonee

By Niki Kidd

In one night, it all came together. The shots were dropping, the passes were crisp, and the threes were raining like men for the "Weather Girls." Megan Mallonee had hit her groove, one that continued through the rest of the season.

With her season and career high of 23 against Tamalpais High School, Mallonee garnered the respect of the entire league, and made her a player to watch and fear throughout the league. Teammate Jennie Gay said, "She was on FIRE! She's so awesome, I just love her!"

It wasn't always this way for Mallonee this season, however. "After a really slow start, it was nice to finally find my shot," Mallonee said. After only four three pointers in her first fifteen games, Mallonee drained fifteen in her final nine contests, four in a game against San Rafael alone. On senior night against Branson, Mallonee led all scorers with 13 in her final game in a Mustang home uniform.

The team may have come up just short in its playoff hopes, but Mallonee and the rest of the Mustangs proved that they were not going to be the doormat of the league anymore.

As one of the tri-team captains this season, Mallonee not only showed athletic excellence on the court, but also was a leader on and off the floor.

Mallonee has been a star athlete all her life. Her skills on the tennis court, soccer field, and cross-country course all demonstrate her athletic skill. "I've loved sports all of my life, but basketball is by far my favorite. The team was awesome this

year, and I am going to really miss the sport and the great group of girls."

Mallonee earned honorable mention all MCAL honors, a slight reward for her continued excellence throughout the season. As such an asset to her team she will be missed as both a great athlete and a great leader.



Winter athletes earn accolades

By Christina Pelka

Sport	MCAL record	Coaches	Outstanding players
Boys' varsity basketball	(6-7)	Chad Stuart	Zach Bachmeier (MVP, First team all-league), Scott Dumont (All league honorable mention), Brian Tuel, AJ Hennessy (Most improved)
Girls' varsity basketball	(4-9)	Mark Carlson, John Pachetti	Megan Mallonee (All league honorable mention), Megan Pachetti, Jenna Newberry (Second team all league), Bridget O'Connor (Most inspirational), Courtney Coughlin (Most improved)
Boys' JV basketball	(3-10)	Rob Pheatt	Chris Knowles (MVP), Casey Pughe, Amaan Nathoo, Anthony Gonzalez
Girls' JV basketball	(10-3)	Tim Hawkins	Kelly Fitzpatrick (MVP), Ashley House, Ashley Colclough, Elena Miller
Boys' freshman basketball	(7-6)	Mike Ahern	Keith Renner (MVP), Cliff Bachmeier, Alex Randall, Chris Dittmann
Girls' freshman basketball	(10-3)	Fred Lucas	Allyson Walchli (MVP), Maria Baum (Most improved), Shannon Silva, Jennie DiStefano, Jessica Champagne
Varsity wrestling	(2-1)	Chris Augusto	Brian Dempsey (MVP), Steven Needham (MVP), Camilo Ardila (Most improved), Bret Pughe (Most inspirational), Tyler Rushton (Mike Lahargoue Award) Derek Bosa, Kevin Correnti, Dean Mariello, Marshall McCollum
Frosh/soph wrestling	North MCAL champions	Chris Augusto	Kavon Banejad (MVP), Peter Combs (MVP), Paul Lillie, Nick Basile, Matt Petty, Christian Correnti
Varsity Spirit Leaders		Kim Mengarelli	Amanda Bautista (Most valuable), Nicole Bossier (Most improved), Jenny Higby
Frosh/Soph Spirit Leaders		Kim Mengarelli	Mia Clark (Most valuable), Kristen Jones, Rachel Schotz

Sport	2002 MCAL record	Coaches	Players to watch
Varsity baseball	(9-4)	Mark Whitburn	Erik Egide, Jack Rolovich, Bud Norris, Darryl Fisherbaugh, Dustin Colcough
Boys' JV baseball		Bob Scheppele	Nick Banaugh, Nick Fahy, Chris Dittman
Varsity softball	(10-3)	Randy Willis	Jennie Gay, Katie DiStefano, Lindsey Benson, Megan Pachetti
Girls' JV softball	(10-1)	Leslie Hill	Jennie DiStefano, Lyndsey Arnheiter
Girls' varsity soccer	(6-4-1)	Jay Larson	Niki Kidd, Gina Zucconi, Katherine Niehoff, Jenny Jackson, Courtney Dowdall
Boys' tennis	(8-4)	Ryan Berberian	Blaine Shields, Zack Warren, Alex Randall
Boys' golf	(8-5)	Tom Zechlin	Jason Pederson, Loren Egide, Kyle Manzoni, Reese Holtze
Boys' track	(4-4)	Lisa Kemp	Jared Barrileax, Will Grayson, Eddie DeLeon, Leland Hansen
Girls' track	(4-4)	Lisa Kemp	Zoe Brown, Ariel Brown, Lisa Bandner, Susan Beresford, Jamie Lummis, Ashley Peterson, Whitney Lee, Amber Shields
Boys' swimming	(2-4)	Tom Evers, Jim Carson	Clark Villasenor, Ian Stahl
Girls' swimming	(4-4)	Tom Evers, Jim Carson	Emily Parker, Katie Winsor, Melanie McCollum, Myra Perez
Girls' JV soccer		Mike Carbone	Kelly Fitzpatrick, Denise Nilan, Megan Claggett,

life. This year's swimmers prove to be very dedicated, spending hours practicing before and after school.

Jim Larson, returning to coach San Marin swimming for his second season, is hoping to send more swimmers to NCS this year. First-time coach Kenny Boils is excited for the season to come. "Kenny's great. He's always encouraging us to beat our best times," says sophomore **Krista Walker**. Both coaches are veterans of the San Marin swim team.

The coaches and swimmers alike have high hopes for the 2003 season. "We have a lot of fast swimmers this year, old and new," says sophomore **Jenna Marquand**. Returning NCS swimmers include seniors **Emily Parker** and **Ashley Karrell**. Most freshmen new to the team, including **Leilani Gilpin** and **Chris Moghbel**, also swim for the Rolling Hills Stingrays.

Tennis

By Michael Lovejoy

This year's boys tennis team should compete in the MCAL playoffs, says coach Ryan Berberian. "The team is deeper this year, and with no seniors, we should only get better."

The addition of two freshmen to the singles spots, **Alex Randall** and **Loney Nicol**, complements the strong singles team led by juniors **Blaine Shields** and **Zack Warren**.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

By Christina Pelka, Bridget O'Connor, Mike Gutierrez, Mark Kellner

Did you know...

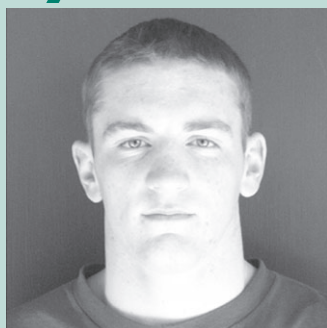
- ♣ The first St. Patrick's Day parade took place not in Ireland, but in the U.S?
- ♣ Leprechauns are the little old men who are shoemakers for fairies?
- ♣ St. Patrick's Day marks the anniversary of the death of the missionary who became the patron saint of Ireland?
- ♣ St. Patrick was born in Britain to wealthy landowners near the end of the fourth century, but at the age of sixteen, Patrick was taken prisoner by a group of Irish raiders who were attacking his family's estate?
- ♣ the first St. Patrick's Day Parade did not occur in Ireland, but in Boston, Massachusetts?
- ♣ St. Patrick was chiefly responsible for converting the Irish people to Christianity?
- ♣ St. Patrick is said to have founded more than 300 churches and baptized more than 120,000 persons?
- ♣ St. Patrick also introduced the Roman alphabet and Latin literature into Ireland?
- ♣ The Irish flag has three vertical stripes: green, white, and orange, where the green represents the Gaelic and Anglo-Norman population, orange for the Protestants (supporters of William of Orange), and white for the union and lasting truce between the two?
- ♣ The word shamrock comes from the Gaelic word *seamrog*, which means "trefoil" or "little clover?"
- ♣ Legend tells of a man, from Claddagh, who was captured by pirates a week before he was to be married. While he was enslaved, he learned to be a goldsmith. He created a ring for the bride he longed to see again, which became known as the Claddagh ring?
- ♣ St. Patrick, whose given name was Maewyn, is credited with giving a sermon from a hilltop that drove all the snakes from Ireland?



What does St. Patrick's Day mean to you?



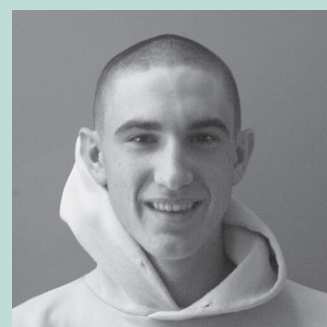
Megan Flaherty, sophomore: It means tellin' Doc Bales to hook me up with some green bands



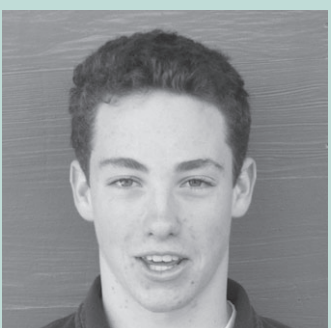
Steve Needham, junior: It means wrestling with Coach Augusto in my special green singlet



Ryan O'Leary, senior: Ask me on the weekend



Nick Fahy, sophomore: It means wearing green...or something like that



Mike Fitzpatrick, senior: It means enjoying all the green of the land



AJ Hennessey, junior: They're always trying to steal me lucky charms

Are you Irish at heart?

1. Your favorite food is:
 - a. Liver
 - b. Brussels sprouts
 - c. Potatoes
 - d. None of the above
2. You think Colin Farrell is:
 - a. Hideous
 - b. Not as good as Ben Stiller
 - c. The best actor in the world for one reason only: he was born in Ireland
 - d. The best supermodel you've seen in years
3. You think being 100% Irish is:
 - a. Creepy
 - b. Impossible
 - c. The only way to be
 - d. None of the above
4. You associate cabbage with:
 - a. Carnies
 - b. A cheap knock-off of lettuce
 - c. Corned Beef
 - d. Small hands
5. Your parents just dealt you the earth-shattering news that you are not one bit Irish. You:
 - a. Rejoice and praise your non-Irish ancestors
 - b. Stop using the phrase, "Kiss me, I'm Irish!" as a pick-up line
 - c. Cry yourself to sleep on your huge pillow and cry, "God, how could you do this to me?"
 - d. Stop investing in leashes for leprechauns
6. Your favorite Disney Channel original motion picture is:
 - a. Gotta Kick it Up!
 - b. The Paper Brigade
 - c. The Luck of the Irish
 - d. Zenon: Girl of the Twenty-First Century

7. On March 17th, you plan on:
 - a. Wearing no green and liking it
 - b. Watching Ben Stiller movies all day long
 - c. Having the time of your life while wearing all green and pinching those who are not
 - d. Pinching people for pure enjoyment, not for the whole green thing
8. On St. Patty's Day, you fully plan to take advantage of the phrase, "Kiss me, I'm Irish!" by:
 - a. Bringing mistletoe everywhere you go
 - b. Wearing those cheap buttons
 - c. I'm Irish; I don't need to use the phrase. I get all the kisses anyway
 - d. I'm a freshman and I think kissing is gross

Irish heritage and pride-but because you are the best. How can someone not kowtow to your needs and fall to their knees in respect if they know you are Irish? Good point.

If you chose mostly D's, more specifically, Kissing is gross, small hands, leashes for leprechauns, you must be a freshman.

What your answers mean:

If you chose mostly A's, you are a sad person. If you associate cabbage with carnies, you are watching a little too much Austin Powers, eh? And, seriously now kids, cabbage is meant for nutritional enjoyment, nothing else. Nuff said.

If you chose mostly B's, you are either very cheap or very uneducated. Everybody knows that Ben Stiller and Colin Farrell are classified in two totally different categories. Wearing no green is not something to brag about, so settle down and celebrate. St Patty's Day is near.

If you chose mostly C's, you have been uncorrupted by society. You are a nonconformist who fights for the rights of all Irish people. You, my friend, will go far in life. Not only because of your strong

Sometimes witty, sometimes wise, always Irish

- ♣ A man that can't laugh at himself should be given a mirror.
- ♣ A man takes a drink; the drink takes a drink; the drink takes the man.
- ♣ A narrow neck keeps the bottle from being emptied in one swig.
- ♣ Morning is the time to pity the sober. The way they're feeling then is the best they're going to feel all day.
- ♣ Better the coldness of a friend than the sweetness of an enemy
- ♣ Be nice to them on the way up. You might meet them all on the way down.
- ♣ If a man fools me once, shame on him. If he fools me twice, shame on me.
- ♣ He who hasn't kissed his wife for twenty years, will kill any man who does.



Christina O'Brien, sophomore: It means mint ice cream with mix-ins of green gumballs, green M&M's, green gummy bears and Irish Creme...ok, that'll be \$10.75. Would you like a chocolate-dipped waffle bowl with that?



Claudia Collins, junior: It means diggin' into my rich Irish heritage and pulln' out some jiggin' Riverdance moves