

...page 4





that districts must create a budget



receive from the state. Though potential loss of millions of dollars from the school budget, each district is dealing with the crisis in their own way. Marin's three districts that include high schools-Tam, San Rafael, and Novatohave all responded with different ways to cut, and save, the structure of their district.

## Tamalpais **Union High** School District

Union High School District Board reviewed budget reductions totaling \$4.34 million. They then came up with proposed cuts that would help retain the structure of their district by reducing the scope and scale of programs, not eliminating them.

tion notices to 26 temporary teachers and possible layoff notices to 30 probationary teachers (those who have only been at the district

Where is Qatar anyway?



Gas prices out of control... page 8



Warmer weather means heading to the beach...page 12

# Pony Express

Volume 34, Number 7 • San Marin High School, Novato, California • April 11, 2003

## **County Districts Plan for Budget Cuts**

By Sean Johannessen and Amber Shields

paring for a worst-case scenario in assignment to 24 administrators school principal, one high school the budget crisis. The problem is and 15 classified employees.

for next year without knowing ex- any decisions on whether or not to departments.

assistant principal, and reductions But they won't be making in business and human resources

In February, the Tamalpais

The District issued termina-

actly how much money they will cut classes until they have the final sign ups for next year's classes. All faced with the same problem, the final decisions will be made in an attempt to reduce, not eliminate, district operations.

#### San Rafael High **School District**

San Rafael will have to make cutbacks of an estimated \$2.2 million, 15% of their current budget. San Rafael is trying to maintain its standard of excellence by making cuts as far away from the classroom as possible.

They began at the district level by not replacing people vacating their positions whenever possible. They have already saved money by not re-hiring an associate superintendent and a high school principal, who left earlier this year.

The Board is pulling together to save as many programs as they can and have come up with possible solutions, like sharing teachers between the two high schools.

Still, the board was forced to send pink slips to 21 full-time equivalents and 12 classified positions. Cuts in the district may inThe District hopes that many of these cuts can be avoided if Governor Gray Davis's proaway basic aid and property tax funding is abandoned, but they are still looking for other ways to raise money. PTA's and school foundations are joining together to help

> raise money, while the District is working with the Public Education Foundation to

help fill the possible void. The District hopes that the community, as in other times of crisis, will join together and pull through this dif- specific programs can be saved. ficult time.

#### Novato Unified **School District**

The Novato Unified School District is also planning for the worst

Of a faculty of 474, NUSD presented 145 certificated employees, including teachers, principals, vice principals, and district office administrators, with lay-off notices on March 15. The Board also has the option of cutting back the classified staff because they are only entitled to thirty days' notice.

Possible program reductions, also created using a worst case scenario, also threaten to make cutbacks at San Marin and other Novato schools. The Board was forced to consider program reductions in so many different areas so that they will have the flexibility needed to respond to the amount of money, and stipulations for spending; they receive from the State. High school electives may be the

The past few months, Califor- for a few years). They have also clude the position of one associate hardest hit. Accounting, Yearbook, nia school districts have been pre- sent notices of possible layoff/re- superintendent, one continuation Journalism, Psychology, Drama, and Leadership are just a few of the brimming classrooms could be suggested reductions. The District has not finalized any of these pro- the students can be expected to posed budget cuts and encourages members of the public to express ronments. "Too many teacher cuts their views at board meetings. They hope to work together with the community to create the best possible solutions for this crisis.

> Novato parents, worried about posal to take the effects of lay-offs in the class- than 20 students," comments freshroom, are in the beginning stages of forming a foundation to raise money for the district. The Novato Foundation for Public Education hopes to develop a group to do significant, long-term fundraising to support NUSD schools. Frank Howard Allen Realtors are working on a letter writing campaign asking Novato residents to make a donation to NUSD. They are also trying to organize a 5K/10K fun run in fall of 2003 to raise funds.

Another group of parents is developing an Emergency Education Fund to keep programs and teachers from being cut next year. They are going to ask for donations from parents between April and May in hopes that teachers and

Many students are also worried about the proposed cuts. Freshman Jessica Bousquette is afraid that, "If all our electives are taken away, no one is going to want to come to school here."

The possible lay-off of teachers and an increase in already extremely large classes is another

concern. For many students it seems hard to imagine that their packed with more students and that learn in these claustrophobic enviwill increase already large class sizes. Some of my classes are huge, almost 40 people, and it is much harder to learn in these classes than in my English class, which has less man Briana Van Epps.

#### Community copes

As people begin to realize the drastic realities of the budget crisis, it falls on the students, parents, and community to help save their schools. While districts are urging the community to write letters to state legislators and Governor Davis, they are also taking a local approach.

By working with community members and foundations, they are looking to make up for losses from the state, and by voicing their opinion, parents and students are looking to keep what is important to them. Although each district is looking at the budget differently, they are all pulling together similarly. Only by working together with the students, parents, teachers, administrators, and comm nity can Marin hope to pull through this crisis intact.



A San Rafael hallway; SRHS is one of many Marin County schools anticipating cuts.

## **OPINIONS**

Pony Express

## **Question of the issue**

What do you think of the situation in Iraq? Will our efforts there make the world a better place?



U.S. Marines escort captured enemy prisoners of war to a holding area in the desert of Iraq. *Courtesy of defenselink.mil* 

**By Logan Bartling** 



"I'm for the military action in Iraq. war." Nick Porttoff, junior





No, it's only going to make old white people richer, and everyone else poorer." Jeremy Brown, senio

#### **Pony Express Staff**

Michelle Winsor, senior

"Given how important and historic

this war is, it's disappointing how

little we discuss it in class."

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"Operation Iraqi Freedom" is a misleading name for a mistake that is sure to lead to long-term instability in the Middle East and around the globe. The Bush administration is setting a dangerous precedent: that violence is an acceptable solution to any perceived threat, with or without the approval of the international community." Jeff Arnold, senior



peaceful solutions to all the world's problems." Katie Arcidiacono, sophomore



"I just think people who are so "No, and it's ridiculous the way pro-war should be willing to go over and fight it themselves." Rachel Walera, senior



freshman



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"If I have to drive behind one more person with a "NO WAR ON IRAQ" bumper sticker, I'm going to lose it!" Andrew Banakus, se-



we're alienating our traditional allies and telling the U.N. to screw itself." Debbie Goodman, junior



worse than the threat of Saddam and Saddam has like 1 million Hussein." Melissa Corner, cousins, and I don't want to fight



"The threat from our invasion is "No, too many lives will be lost, baby-Saddam or baby-baby-Saddam." Nick Lerch, senior

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## Seniors weigh their options **College Acceptances Arrive**

	ASB		\$ 6,995.72	
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## '05 vs. '03

#### The Battle for the Hill

#### By Bridget O'Connor

Chalking the hill has been a long-standing tradition since the creation of San Marin. It is the seniors' privilege to chalk the hill, displaying to San Marin and the community the year they will graduate. The key to the tradition is that seniors chalk the hill, not sophomores.

Throughout the years, the hill has not just displayed the year in which the seniors intend to graduate, but it has been a place to make statements, play jokes and honor those who have passed.

In recent years, cross-town rival, Novato High, has repeatedly climbed the hill and chalked the letter N in an attempt to show their superiority and dominance. Of course, the actions of Novato have upset the student body, but that anger has only helped to rally students together.

At the end of some years, the junior classes have chalked the hill the night before the seniors graduate—or at least threatened to do so. This caused some trouble between the seniors and the juniors, but it was soon forgotten. However, the current situa-

tion at San Marin over the hill is quite different. It is a battle within our school, and it is not between seniors and freshmen, or juniors or seniors. It's a battle between the classes of 2005 and 2003.

A few weeks ago, as many of us sleepily roamed the campus on a Monday morning, we realized that the hill no longer said '03. Much to the anger of many seniors, it said '05. Senior Cristina Restivo comments, "I am digusted by the entire situation. Why can't the class of 2005 just wait their turn?

The most important aspect about the tradition of chalking the hill is that it is a rite of passage. One is supposed to wait four years to experience the tradition. The sophomores that are chalking the hill two years prematurely are not only ruining the tradition for the class of '03 but for themselves as well. How will it be special when they are seniors if they have already experienced it two years before?



A Capella Harmony, "The Accidentals" – Brad McCarter (baritone), Drew Gasparini (lead), Eric Rivera (bass), Danny Gasparini (tenor) – placed 4th in the high school quartet category at the Barbershop Western Regional Competition in Reno. They will be singing the national anthem at the A's game on Saturday, April 19th.

#### **Laramie Project Opens May 15**

he drama department's Beth McLaughlin, Cayla Wardenburg, Project, which dramatizes the community response to the murder of Mathew Shepard, a gay University of Wyoming student who was lured from a college bar, kidnapped, tied to a Brandon Hoberg, Danielle McVay, fence and beaten with the butt of a gun Ally Mangarelli, Kaley Myer, Chrisopens Thursday, May 15 at 7:30 p.m. tina O'Brien, Shane Rose with special in the Student Center with productions on Friday, May 16, 8:00 p.m., Saturday, May 17, 8:00 p.m. Sunday, May 18, 3:00 p.m., Monday, May 19, 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the door and in the front office.

The ensemble cast includes Devonne Johnson, Kevin Oliver, Rachel Garber, Jeremy Brown, Jeff Arnold , Andy Zabko, Nick Pottorff,

spring play, The Laramie Ali Mafi, Lillian Nickelson, Jeni Bacich, Megan Paulson, Sean Poojarara, Winston Friedman, Brittany Bexton, Erin Brydon, Melissa Corner, Yan Gorman, Charleen Hall. cameo appearances by community members Brian Brady, Father Phil Rountree, Ross Millerick, Rich Gerhardt and Pat Eklund

Student directors Ali Mafi, Rachel Garber and Devonne Johnson assist teacher/director Linda Kislingbury Cain and student producer Cayla Wardenburg.

Pony Express

# FEATURES

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#### Pony Express

## **Unsure About Earth Day Celebration**

By Jamie Lummis and Alyssa Pomponio

pril 22. Does this date have any particular sig nificance to you? To those who are environmentally

scious,

this day is

designated to cel-

ebrate the earth in

all its magnifi-

cence. Celebrated

internationally to-

day, this holidav

was fathered by

the United States in 1970.

Senator Gaylord Nelson,

concerned with the lack of atten-

tion focused on the environment

in the early 1960s, took it upon

himself to persuade President

John F. Kennedy to raise na-

tional awareness through a con-

servation tour. The circuit, popu-

lar among the general public,

failed to attain the political sup-

port that was originally hoped

for. However, it was the first

step to proclaiming Earth Day.

anti-Vietnam War demonstra-

tions taking place throughout the

country, Senator Nelson decided

to organize a "grassroots" rally

to raise awareness about the dam-

age occurring to the environ-

cial Earth Day activities were

based in San Francisco in 1970,

ith huge success. The massive

following prompted it to become

the international holiday it is to-

ment

The first offi-

Ultimately inspired by the

While the day has not been forgotten, participation and support have dramatically decreased. especially among today's youth as shown by sophomore Pat Filipelli: "What the funk is

Earth Day?" Contrary to Filipelli's comment, much of the San Marin student body is aware of the holiday and also involved in everyday earthfriendly activities.

Though many students wish to do more to help the environment, recycling seems to be the sole environmental activity for lack of other ideas. Junior Gina Zucconi exemplifies this, "Uh...I recycle...I would do more but I don't know what else to do." Custodian

Mark Miller worries about the

lack of environmental concern at San Marin. "It's hard for me to do it all by myself. The Environmental Club and the contributions of the senior Integrated 4 science class last year, both no longer in commission, made a big difference."

For those who are interested in getting more involved in the environment, Earth Day is the perfect occasion to start. Events occurring nationwide in the month of April offer opportunities for hands-on workshops, involvement in the beautification of cities, and other earth-related activities.

Science teacher Eliza Spang gives additional advice for those wishing to make every day Earth Day: "Things like recycling and carpooling are easy ways to help out. Traveling and seeing natural places will help you understand why it's important to protect them.

## Where in the World?

#### By Kevin Kahn and Michael Lovejoy

When you hear the word 'geography,' do you cringe as vou think of mind-numbingly boring maps, globes, statistics, and charts? Does geography seem like just another pointless subject? After all, how hard is it to locate a country on a map, or know how many people live in a city?

However, geography is one of the most important fields of study because of its broad range of topics. It encompasses such subjects as history, culture, politics, economics, religion, ecology, geology, and meteorology, just to name a few. It broadens peoples' minds on current events and global issues, while allowing people to learn about different cultures, philosophies, and ways-of-life. Geography studies the diversities of the world, from the people who habitate it, to the geological factors that affect its intricate balances. According the National Geographic Society, people with strong backgrounds in this diverse subject are more tolerant of other cultures, better educated in global and national affairs, and have a better understanding of the human impact on the planet.

Despite geography's importance, a recent study by the National Geographic Society shows Americans to be among the most geo-illiterate. In the 2002 Geographic Literacy Survey, 3.000 18 to 24 year olds in Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Sweden, and the United States were polled and asked several questions. The questions concerned global matters in politics, environment, popular issues, and map locations. The results showed that the US scored second to last behind Mexico, implying that Americans lack geographical skills compared with the other leading nations of the world.

Only 25% of Americans could correctly identify the

population of the United States. Almost 70% polled thought the number of inhabitants was between 500 million to 2 billion. This statistic worries John Fahey, President and CEO of the National Geographic Society. "It gives sense that there is this Americentric thing going on—that we are big and powerful and have all these people in our country." Says Fahey, many Americans fail to recognize the existence of many countries in international affairs, thus believing in US superiority in all facets of the world. The correct population of the US as of July 2002 is 281 million, according to the CIA. The US ranks third in population in the world, far behind both China and India, each with

Another startling result was Americans' poor scores on locating Middle Eastern countries on a map, such as Israel, Iraq, and Afghanistan. "Despite the [turmoil] in Iraq and the daily reports of suicide bombers in Israel, less than 15% of the young

locate either country," reports Fahey. The results underscore an i n e p t understanding of global affairs and too much attention on material and social matters. "More US

citizens in the study knew that the island featured in last season's Survivor is in the South

Pacific than could find Israel." To see how San Marin students would rate in geographic

knowledge, an abridged version of the National Geographic survey was given to 121 students in sophomore and junior history classes. The results from the questions referring to a world map

**San Marin Test Results** 

were very encouraging. Every student polled was able to identify the location of the US, and 98% could locate Mexico. Over 90% could identify Japan, Italy, and the Pacific Ocean.

Despite all the recent news in the Middle East, 57% at San Marin could find Afghanistan and 87% could find Israel. Only 17% and 21% in the national survey could locate Afghanistan and Israel, respectively. The statistics show that SM students know where the major countries and features of the world are, but more remote nations' locations, such as Israel and Afghanistan, are unknown. The San Marin results of the

political/environmental questions were around the national average. 29% of those polled at San Marin knew the population range of the US was 150-350 million people. This is slightly better than the 25% nationally, but significantly worse than every other country surveyed. Most students thought the population was between one and two billion, a fact that attests to

"More US citizens in the study knew that the island featured in last season's Survivor is in the South Pacific than could find Israel." - John Fahey, President and CEO of the National Geographic Society

> president John Fahey's americentricism.

The subpar results of this quiz at San Marin and around the world For the full test and

geosurvey.

stress the importance of teaching and learning geography. results, go to the National Geographic website at http:// www.nationalgeographic.com/





Still don't know what to do? Check out these activities:

#### **Second Annual Peoples Earth Day 2003** Event Date: April 12, 2003 EventTime: 11:00am-4:00pm Address: Heron's Head Park (Pier 98), San Francisco For more info: http://www.lejyouth.org

**Naturally Funny Comedy Show** Event Date: April 26, 2003 Event Time: 7:00pm-10:00pm Address: 685 14th St., Oakland For more info: http://www.informedeating.org/ events.html



#### **Question Number**

well over one billion. US citizens could



#### **Spring Fling** Check out the hottest trends to hit SM this spring!

By Bridget O'Connor, Rachel Oppenheimer, and Challen Pressley.

The temperature is rising and these micro minis is with a little



Juniors Ashley Peterson and Leland Hansen get

a leg up for the camera.

tra feminine floral tops look sultry

paired with spring's most leg-lov-

ing trend, the mini skirt. Keep in

By Challen Pressley and

Bridget O'Connor

San Marin students are crawling variation: try skirts with low-rise waists, cargo pockets, corduroy, or with

a wide, low-slung belt. Beware of the too short, Christina Aguleria skirts; dirty isn't in style this sea-Colorful son. graphic tee's are also a must, as are classic thong flip-flops. Overall, when shopping for some saucy and hip clothes, look for bright colors, short hemlines, and anything you will feel good in this season while soaking in some rays.

The effortlessly fashionable guys at San Marin have nothing to fear this spring. Top trends for guys have little variation from what you sported last year at Spring Break. Loose-fitting cargo shorts are still fabulous this year, especially rested oh-so-

low on your hips. Trust us. These out of their drab winter confines to shorts are stylish in natural hues discover the fun fashion trends for such as olive green and khaki. Pair spring 2003. The hottest styles for these with a slightly fitted graphic guys and girls are relaxed, fun, and tee and your favorite flip-flops and just in time for Spring Break. the girls will be flocking. When Girls, your closets are about considering what to wear this seato get more colorful and hip with son, think faded colors in a relaxed the latest vintage styles that are fit, and don't forget some sun coming back full speed ahead. Ul-

screen Wondering where to find these dazzling styles? Try Abercrombie and Fitch, Pacific Sunwear, Amerimind the best way to sport one of can Eagle, Macy's, and Gap.

## **Getting ready for Prom**



## ... or any other special occasion?

We can help with just about everything you can think about including a full line of gowns and accessories. Visit us on-line at gownswest.com or 643 Martin Ave. Suite One, Rohnert Park or call us at 707.585.1686.

Gowns West

Special Occassion Gowns for the Most Demanding



What is your favorite spring style for the opposite sex?





Alicia Miranda, sophomore: "You gotta love when guys with toned arms wear those cut-off shirts."



Joe Farasati, junior: "Any kind of clothing that shows skin. I have to say, skin is in this season "



Vito Capitan, freshman: "I love when a foxy chick strolls by in a leopard print spandex suit with sequins."



Nicole Shea, senior: "A wifebeater clinging to a tanned, perfectly sculpted body."

Check out these websites the new spring styles: www.abercrombieandfitch.com www.pacificsun.com www.ae.com www.macys.com www.nordstroms.com www.gap.com www.jcrew.com

# **FEATURES**

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Pony Express

# **Worst Case Scenario Will Affect Every Student**

## **Limiting Electives**

By David Hoytt and Mark Kellner

In the coming weeks and months, the school board will make many decisions regarding numerous classes at San Marin. Because many of these are designated electives, some people may see them as unimportant "fluff". However, students in these classes often gain experiences and vocational training that is often more valuable than those available in many college prep courses.

The following is a sampling of the classes that could potentially end up on the chopping block and why they are important to the students they serve.

#### Drama

What we have now: Three periods of drama, two introductory classes and the advanced drama class that meets at night

Number of San Marin students enrolled 2002-2003: Intro-66, Advanced-28

Worst case scenario: Drama offerings could be reduced by two sections at each school which would leave San Marin students with one section of drama

What's at stake: A UC elective that provides visual or performing arts credit, drama is self supporting except for the teacher's salary

Comments: "It gave me a sense of community," commented former drama student Laura Kopp. "I vastly improved my public speaking skills and knowledge of literature and history." Kopp, who has become a fixture at almost every school board meeting, hasn't gone on Broadway, but the skills she learned have helped her to feel confident speaking in public. According to Kopp, "Besides filling your UC elective, Drama offers a chance during the school day to release energy and get your creative juices flowing.'

#### Journalism

What we have now: One period of Journalism I, II, III combined Number of San Marin students enrolled 2002-2003: 30 total in Journalism I, II, III admitted by application

Worst case scenario: Journalism would be eliminated as a class and possibly become a club, but it's unlikely that students would participate in an academic class for no credit when they rarely have enough time to complete the paper with 50 minutes a day

What's at stake: A UC elective with a 30+ year history at San Marin, journalism is the only English elective at San Marin.

The "Pony Express" is so popular in the community that it collected almost \$3,000 in subscription sales for the 2002-2003 school year. The only cost of the class is the teacher's salary.

Comments: Hopefully the importance in journalism comes out simply in the publishing of the "Pony Express" every month. The journalism class is the only academic elective that produces a product. This product, the monthly paper, gives a unique perspective on the events and concerns of the San Marin student body while providing insight into the lives of students, staff, and community members. The true value of the class comes in the education that the staff receives. Senior editor Ross Thelen, who plans to major in journalism at USC's Annenberg School of Journalism next fall, explained, "English classes teach us how to write, but journalism teaches us why to write." The journalism class and the "Pony Express" have been in existence since 1969.

#### **Psychology**

What we have now: One period of psychology

Number of San Marin students enrolled 2002-2003: 25 Worst case scenario:

Psychology would be eliminated as an elective

What's at stake: A UC elective whose only cost is the teacher's salary.

Comments: Students will lose the opportunity to take a UC approved elective.

#### Architectural Design

What we have now: Two periods mixing beginner and advanced courses and enrolling a total of 60 students

Number of San Marin students enrolled 2002-2003: 52

Worst case scenario: Architectural Design would be eliminated as an elective What's at stake: Classes such as architecture are important for those students who seek an education in many trades that aren't prepared for in standard CP English or History courses. The students learn manual drafting, computer drafting, and real construction application. Without classes of this sort many students could be unprepared and confused when graduation time comes.

**Comments:** According to teacher Cathy Oakes, "Any elective is an introduction into a vocational field. If these classes are eliminated the students will leave the structured classes offered with no idea of what they might be interested in." Paul Rilla had another angle. "The need for a four-year degree isn't huge. There are a lot of college graduates who don't use their degree and need training vocational careers."

#### Yearbook

What we have now: One period of yearbook Number of San

Marin students enrolled 2002-2003: 18

Worst case scenario: Yearbook would be eliminated as a class and possibly become a club that students would receive no credit or grade for, and would also likely suffer due to a lack of students

What's at stake: A 30+ year history at San Marin, and a book that graduates usually keep for the rest of their lives. The quality of the yearbook could suffer with fewer students in the program to work on it.

Comments: Ryan Berberian, the Yearbook teacher, said that "they [the yearbook students] should get some credit for the work they put into it."

#### Student Council

What we have now: One period of student council

Number of San Marin students enrolled 2002-2003: 33 students elected/selected as class officers and representatives

Worst case scenario: Leadership would be eliminated student achievement. students would receive no credit or grade for and would also likely suffer due to a lack of students. What's at stake: It's a slacker class, right? NO!! Did you go to homecoming or the winter formal? Ever eaten at one of the class barbecues or any other school function? And do you want to go to prom? That is the nothing that the leadership class run.

#### **Comments:**

has accomplished in the class during his four years at San Marin. "Leadership is a huge factor in my getting into college," said Letsch, a former class you a better person in terms of teachers to work with students



The voice of the students: journalism, yearbook and student council students are asking that each school be allowed to decide what to cut based on student signups.

communication and in being open to new ideas and experiences. I owe a lot to the program." If the class is cancelled, many students such as Letsch, who doubles as a varsity baseball player, will have no time to come to an after school club and will undoubtedly never reach their potential as leaders of their school.

#### English

What we have now: State funded class size reduction in freshman English classes limiting classes to 20 students with a maximum of 22 Worst case scenario: If the state eliminates funding for class size reduction, freshman English classes will be staffed at the district ratio, which will result in an average of 31 students in each class

What's at stake: Student attention and teacher jobs. Although studies have not proven the benefits of class size reduction, students, teachers and parents all believe that smaller classes result in more individual attention and increased

the fewer students in a class, the more frequently teachers can assign essays without killing themselves. With ten more students in these classes, grading would become impossible. This means that writing skills of students in these impacted classes would severely decrease. Objective tests would be given more often, and teachers would does. They are the fuel that makes have a more difficult time testing the '85 Pinto that is our school students' skills. Discussion time would also decrease with larger classes that would be harder for a Senior Eric Letsch based his teacher to control. English entire application on the feats he department chair Ronnie Campagna, who has been teaching ninth grade English since 1975, has noticed a tremendous difference in her students' progress under class size reduction, "Small president and treasurer. "It makes freshman English classes allow

individually and really concentrate on their writing. I can't imagine 'slicing and dicing' over 30 essays.

#### Math

What we have now: State funded class size reduction in freshman math classes limiting classes to 20 students with a maximum of 22 Worst case scenario: If the state eliminates funding for class size reduction, math classes will be staffed at the district ratio, which will result in an average of 31 students in each class.

What's at stake: Student attention and teacher jobs. Although studies have not proven the benefits of class size reduction, students, teachers and parents all believe that smaller classes result in more individual attention and increased student achievement.

**Comments:** Cutting of math classes would mean additional students being put in classes that are already overcrowded. Class size in Algebra 1 and geometry classes would be affected the most and grades may go a little down as as a class and become a club that Comments: In English classes, a result. "It is likely that it will cause decreased performance in the larger classes, by how much, I don't know," math teacher Tom Zechlin said

#### Library media center

What we have now: Librarian three days a week (cut mid-year fro full time), full time library clerk Worst case scenario:

No librarian (Donna Tantillo is the library clerk; the board has not made any proposed any classified staff reductions public.)

What's at stake: Books catalogued more slowly, no time to pull books for class research Comments: Students' research has become more difficult, as the librarian's time in the library has been decreased due to the budget cuts. The library is also closed more often, such as during lunch time. Collaboration with teachers has also decreased, also making research harder

#### English Language Development

of ELD with a teacher and a bilingual aid funded by the state as a categorical (required) program Number of San Marin students enrolled 2002-2003: 43 Worst case scenario: The program will have to be changed to reflect the state model and the district will lose funding for it. The state will continue to require that the school offer ELD for newcomers to the country (probably funded by the district) and ELD students clustered in classes taught by trained CLAD and SDAIE teachers. What's at stake: Funding for ELD has allowed the district to provide two ELD classes and a part time bilingual aid. If that funding ends the schools will be forced to take over funding. The state requires schools to provide support for ELD students, so the program can't be eliminated entirely. Most teachers at San Marin have been trained to teach ELD students. **Comments:** The state is committed to placing students in rigorous academic classes rather

#### Voice your opinion about the budget cuts

Do you have an idea about the way the board should approach the budget crisis? The board and superintendent encourage community input.Write an e-mail (addresses listed at http://nusd.marin.k12.ca.us/board/board.htm#members)or letter to the school board (1015 Seventh Street, Novato, CA 94947) or speak at one of the upcoming board meetings on April 29 or May 6. Meetings are held at the District Education Center and begin at 7:30 pm. The board will make a decision at the May 6 meeting.

than separating them from the rest of the student body in ELD classes. After about a year in ELD, students can move to SDAIE clusters in regular classes, which will allow English learners to gain academic skills more quickly. The new Hispanic Academic Support Club will provide tutoring, counseling and other support for ELD students.

#### **By Paige Lehman**

**FEATURES** 

At San Marin, thirty-two teachers reportedly received March 15 letters telling them they may not have jobs next year. This number includes temporary teachers and those hired within the past three years.

These teachers have to plan for the fourth quarter and upcoming finals with the knowledge that they may not be coming back next year.

While there is a chance that many of them may be hired back in August or not laid off at all, for many not knowing just makes it harder

"The uncertainty of it all is partly what makes it so bad," explains English teacher Ryan Berberian. He is in the process of trying to buy a house in the converted Hamilton Air Force Base. As an NUSD employee, he is entitled to a priority slot in the lottery for a house. However, if laid off in May, he may lose his chance for a house, even if he is re-hired as early as August.

Another teacher who preferred not to be named said that she had to stop looking for a new house

"It really puts your life on hold." commented Principal Loeta Andersen

**Teachers wait for answers** 

And it is not as easy as just finding a new teaching position. All the districts in California are facing cuts; very few are looking for new teachers. And, in addition, there will also be recently-credentialed teachers looking for jobs. "The reason why this round of lay offs is different from past layoffs is there are so many more teachers on the market [than positions to fill]" says Andersen. This could result in many qualified teachers being completely out of work.

The remaining teachers will also be greatly impacted by the potential layoffs. Their class size could increase dramatically. It is almost certain that ninth grade English and math classes, limited to 20 students for many years, will rise to the district average of 31. An understaffed, overcrowded school is no means an ideal working environment.

For now, many teachers are just dealing with the emotional toll of being laid off. As they prepare lesson plans and grade papers, they are also having to confront the possibility of being laid off. "Becoming a new teacher, I never thought I'd be laid off. I don't think you feel appreciated as a new teacher. You understand [the layoffs], but you don't feel appreciated," says another teacher on the staff. It is extremely stressful for teachers to be unsure of their employment situation. Teachers will know for sure by May 15th if they are being laid off. However, depending on the budget situation in Sacramento, additional letters

#### "It really puts your life on hold." –Principal Loeta Andersen

can be sent as late as August.

As students look forward to the end of school, it is important to remember the teachers. They are working hard for us, and they may never be fully compensated for it. We should show our appreciation for them, and they should know our gratitude. It will not be long before we understand how much they really matter in our lives.

# What we have now: Two periods

# Why Can't Clubs Replace Electives?

#### **By Marie Buich**

As we already know, the California budget crisis is causing major problems for school-districts within the state, not to mention students' schedules at San Marin. Several valuable classes are at high risk of elimination, which may result in students losing the opportunities to enroll in crucial electives, such as Journalism, Leadership, and Yearbook. Besides simply eliminating these classes, another possible solution is to offer them as after-school *clubs*. Due to personal experience, I can assure you that this strategy will not be a

The beginning of the second semester of my junior year started off with a frustrating dilemma, thanks to hasty decisions made by the school district. Not only was I notified of the sudden change

within my class schedule, but was also introduced to a hopeless struggle of juggling my classes around, in attempts of creating a suitable schedule from the few classes offered as replacements. Because of the budget crisis, my seventh period U.S. History class and several other classes were simply "cut" from the school day...a bit unreasonable, in my opinion. Junior Brad McCarter, who expe- I wasn't willing to give up such a rienced the same difficulty, comments, "Trying to juggle the responsibilities of journalism outside of class time has been quite difficult and I don't see how Journalism could exist as a club, when it has never in the past." Considering I am one of many students enrolled in AP and Honors classes, which are only offered once throughout the school-day, I was

limited as to how much I could do to resolve this issue. My only options were to simply drop one elective, or to place one class under the "independent study" category, indicative of my being in Journalism on my own. Quite frankly, choosing to study Journalism indepen*dently* was not my exact favorite approach to dealing with the problem, but the options were slim, and valuable elective.

I can guarantee that writing articles in the comfort of my home is not as enjoyable as you'd imagine it to be. In class, I had the opportunity to seek help, ideas, and suggestions from my fellow classmates...to interview students from our school conveniently...to manage my time wisely. At home, I feel as if I am missing out on the true "journalism experience..." it just isn't the same. I don't have as much of an inspiration to write as I did while I was attending class daily. I'm excluded from group editing, learning valuable journalism lessons offered in class, and most depressing of all, conversing with the fabulous journalists during class. If Journalism and other electives are made after-school clubs, the outcome will not be as successful as expected. This deci-

sion will only result in less interest in the elective, and will diminish the importance of Journalism to both our school and our community. The countless skills we attain from this class will benefit our futures tremendously, especially if we plan on pursuing careers in media or broadcasting. Applications of reading, writing, and computer skills are incorporated into this elective, and a realistic understanding of the media and commu nications is also offered. Other acquired skills include self-expression, photography, art, organization, and time management. One concerned Leadership student, Junior Sunny Banihashemi, remarks, "I think that leadership couldn't function as a club. Class time is critical to run our main events, such as dances, fundraisers, and keeping students spirited." The fact that many students engage in sports and other after school activities will only result in further conflicts and less student participation. I am not speaking on behalf of myself, but on the behalf of dozens of enthusiastic, eager students who devote much of their free time and imagination contributing to classes of their liking, whose fates lie in the hands of our school district's budget-cut decisions.

# FEATURES

#### Pony Express



Gas guzzlers: steer clear of stations like Chevron where you'll pay more.

Buying gas makes a huge dent in a teenage budget

have enough money for my week-

end hobbies because I'm wasting

## Fill 'er up... not in Novato

absurd.

By Mike Gutierrez

**T** n California, gasoline prices rouse a ridiculous 27 cents a **L** gallon (on average) in the past two-month, due to the growing

#### Gas prices in Novato

Gas prices in Nova	ato	gasoline	stations
Gas Station	Unleaded fuel (price	are price	gauging.
	per gallon)	Just	because
Shell (the square off of	\$2.33	Novato	citizens
Novato Blvd.)		tend to be	wealthy,
Shell	\$2.25	this	, out out of the second s
(Rowland)		doesn't	~
Via	\$2.23	give gas	Gas
(near Grant Av.)		stations	State
Chevron	\$2.23	the right	
(Vintage Oaks)		to take	
Chevron	\$2.29	advan-	
(Novato Blvd.)		tage.	
Average	\$2.27		Denv
*(as of 3-25-03)	· · · · ·	Novato	
(40 0. 0 20 00)	<u> </u>	gas sta-	Wisco

conflict in the Middle East. As of March 20<sup>th</sup>, the average price for gasoline in California had risen to \$1.88 a gallon.

However, these averages don't compare to Marin County, which currently holds the position of the most expensive gasoline nation wide! Novato sure helps in assuring that Marin continues to poses this honor.

Why is gasoline so expensive in Novato? The answer is nowhere to be found. Not only is the price for gasoline less expen-

#### Gas prices in Marin and Sonoma counties

Gas Station	Unleaded fuel (price per gallon)
<b>Costco</b> (Rohnert Park)	\$1.98
<b>Valero</b> (Petaluma)	\$2.17
<b>Gas and Shop</b> (freeway between Petaluma and Novato)	\$2.11
<b>Arco (</b> Redwood Highway, Mill Valley)	\$2.11
<b>Gateway Gas</b> (Northgate Drive, Terra Linda)	\$2.13
<b>Tower</b> (Santa Rosa)	\$1.99
Average *(as of 3-30-03)	\$2.08

sive just twenty minutes down all my money on gas," explains the highway, but it is also less in junior Joe Farasati. Tahoe as well as Hawaii. This is

It's time for a change. Why aren't the prices consistent? Novato It certainly seems gas stations claim that since they that Novato's are smaller businesses, it cost them more to acquire the same fuel. This is definitely a legit argument, but I am tired of paying so much more for a gallon of gas. Especially when Tahoe gas stations seem to be about

#### Gas prices nationwide

\$2.23	give gas	Gas prices hacionwide		
\$2.23	stations the right	State	Unleaded fuel	
-	to take		averages	
\$2.29	advan-		(price per gallon)	
	tage.	Denver	\$1.57	
\$2.27		Denver	φ1.57	
	Novato		¢ 1.40	
	gas sta-	Wisconsin	\$1.40	
	tions are			
notorious fo		Indiana	\$1.55	
prices, and				
	the Middle	Michigan	\$1.46	
East is driving	ng up prices			
even furthe	er. The ri-	Texas	\$1.48	
diculous pri	ces become		<b>•</b> ••••	
quite expe	nsive, and	Florida	¢1.40	
make it di	ifficult for	Fiorida	\$1.69	
people to a	afford their			
	their jobs.	National average	\$1.50	
	s are espe-	*(as of 3-26-03)		
- 1	h on high			
school stude	-	L		

the same size as Novato's stations, plus they have to pay for transpiration over the summit. This doesn't make any sense to me or the majority of high school students either. Sean Behm, a senior, explains his difficulty with soaring gas prices. "Just because it's the Bay Area, that doesn't mean that gas stations can take advantage of us. The high prices make it very difficult for a teenager's budget."

Maybe Novato citizens need to boycott all the local stations, and go to great extents to fill up elsewhere. It will save people money and might even influence a price drop locally. The price gauging needs to stop!

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## **Reality TV: An Escape from Reality**

By Niki Kidd and Abby Yim

In a world full of bombs, chemical warfare, and a slumping economy, wondering if Ruben will win American Idol seems of themselves on national preposterous. On the totem poll of quality television reality television is in the dirt, underneath everything else, so it seems reasonable that no one would watch it.

But instead, reality television ratings and options are reaching an all-time high, with dozens of new shows in the works to add to the already popular Survivor, American Idol, and The *Bachelor(ette)*. Is this simply the deterioration of American pop culture, or there a deep seeded reason for the popularity of this fluff programming?

Television ratings would point to the latter, as they have consistently beaten such stalwarts as The West Wing and other award winning shows. Arguments and protests over the war are Fountain overlooked because of the amazing outcome on Married by America. In the '60's, they created 'bubblegum pop' to deal with the stresses of the Vietnam conflict. Now, we have reality TV. These diversions from the real world have helped people avoid being completely depressed over the state of the country, the school, and society.

As the world goes to hell in hand basket, Americans, and more specifically the San Marin community, reach for the stupid and inane rather than the intelligent dramas that actually win awards. Junior Devon Mulligan said,

#### "Sometimes it's just nice to get away from all the problems in the world and watch people make fools television

This is a popular opinion among most SM students, seeing it as a way to escape from the rigors of the world and the pressures of society. "I like seeing people screw up their lives on television! It makes my life seem so much better!" said an anonymous senior, afraid that the San Marin student body would learn of his obsession.

Others differ in opinion, taking the more rational and intellectual approach toward television watching. "It is ridiculous that we as San Marin students spend so much time watching this TV because it seems so fake, even though it's called 'reality," said senior Heather

But what else is there to watch? The market is flooded with reality programming, leaving slim pickings for alternatives. "Why watch someone on television make a PB&J when you can make one yourself and eat it, too!" said senior Katie Standish. So when Wednesday night

rolls around and you are contemplating watching the new season of The Bachelor or The West Wing, think: do you really want to watch a show about depressing world events or would you rather watch twenty five desperate women ruthlessly cat fight over a multi-millionaire? The answer is obvious.



serious accidents.

partment or highway patrol.

usual. zone)

me, oh crap.<sup>2</sup>

what he needed.

miles over the speed limit!"

long line) before the judge. She asked me

1
up and whip out a rose
c. Throw him/her in a jungle
and see who is left standing
d. Throw a microphone at him/
her and hear their rendition of,
"She blinded me with Science."

would you:

laser pointer

2. On your typical Saturday night, you are

a. Standing in front of you mirror in awe of your reflection

b. Narrowing down your dating prospects

c. Rubbing two sticks together in your backyard

d. Lip-syncing to the latest Kelly Clarkson song on your hairbrush

3. What's your theme song?

a. "Hot in Herre," by Nelly b. "100 Girls," by Stroke 9

c. "I Will Survive," by Gloria

Gaynor

a. Have him/her get down to 4 Are you hott? their skivvies and whip out a a. Yes, of course, I'm the mack daddy/momma! b. Have 25 of the options line b. Yes, I'm always fighting off

Kelly Clarkson

WHICH REALITY SHOW SHOULD YOU GO ON?

1. When picking a lab partner, d. "A Moment Like This," by

at least two dozen potential c. Who cares if I can find the

closest water supply! d. I have a great stage presence

5. What do you think you'll be

voted for in the Senior Celebrity? a. Best Looking b. Most Desirable

c. Most likely to become a millionaire

d. Most Talented

#### Answers

Mostly a's: Are you hot? Mostly b's: The Bachelor Mostly c's: Survivor Mostly d's: American Idol

*Guest reporting by Heather* Fountain and Katie Standish

# FEATURES

#### April 11, 2003 • Page 9

San Marin student gets a ticket after lunch right in front of school

## **Run In With the Law**

#### By Rebecca Guthrie

never considered myself to be a poor motorist on the roads of Novato. I wasn't voted "craziest driver" in the senior class and I have never been in any

I mean, sure, the speed limit always seemed a little slow to me and I'm not always into coming to a complete stop at intersections. I had prided myself on my excellent "cop radar" and was sure to slow down at any sign of Novato Police De-

However, one day my turn came; I received a speeding ticket.

School had just gotten out and I was rushing home believe it or not, to meet, my math tutor. I knew I was late so I pressed a little harder on the gas than

I knew the usual spots on San Marin Drive: the new stop sign area in front of the school, the bottom of the steep hill, and NOW, the new one that I got caught at, the intersection at Sereno Way. Apparently I drove past the cop car unknowingly doing 48 (San Marin Dive is a 35mph

The police car followed me for probably a quarter mile before he had to turn on his sirens. I saw him behind me and thought, "He's not following ME. I don't get pulled over. Oh wait! He is following

I pulled over and I realized that I would have to give him my license, registration and proof of insurance. I knew that I had my license, but I had no idea which cards were which. So I handed the officer everything I had and asked him to pick out

He then asked me why I thought he pulled me over, and I stupidly said, "no?" I could have at least started crying or given some sob story about how I was racing to the hospital to visit my dying aunt. But no, I stayed silently dumbfounded while the ticket was issued.

Once he cleared me to go and told me to watch my speed, I thought I was in the clear. I thought I was in the clear, but the misery had just begun.

About two months later, my lovely afternoon was interrupted when the mail arrived and I was summoned to juvenile traffic court. "Oh no! I have to go to court? I'm not a criminal, I just went 13

A month after that, my father accompanied me in my best clothes to the Marin County Court in San Rafael. I arrived to find about 20 other kids from around Marin County, some of whom I knew. I was lucky to go second (out of a

how I pled. It was odd to hear the word, "guilty" come out of my mouth. In any case, I was issued my fine and ordered to complete traffic school within 60 days. I wasn't done yet—I still had to complete 8 hours of traffic school in order to get the point that could raise my insurance rates off my record.

If what I said before hasn't convinced you not to speed all the time, I hope traffic school will. Traffic school is Hell on earth! You get a long list of schools in the county and phone numbers. Since I chose to slack and wait until I had two weeks until my 60 day deadline, I didn't find a lot of schools that fit in with my busy schedule. I ended up going with "Great Comedians" traffic school. "Pizza-for-You" was already full; they were my first choice.

So I was expecting 8 hours on a Saturday of my stomach hurting from laughing so much at these "crazy" traffic instructor clown guys. Let me just say, I did not crack a smile once during that entire Saturday. It was about 50 people (mostly old women with bad coughs who were hard of hearing) cramped into a tiny room in the back of the Embassy Suites with no air conditioning. All that was required of me at that class was to stay conscious and up right, like driving a car, according to the instructor.

So that's just what I did.

I learned a few things here and therefor instance, it is illegal to consume any beverage or food while driving-but I mostly just spent my time wishing I wasn't there.

That's what I get for speeding, right? The cost of my ticket hit me hard as well. All in all, it cost me about \$150 that I just finished paying for a ticket I received in November.



Guthrie "mugs" the camera swearing she did no wrong.

## CONCERT CORNER

#### By Jade Fielding

Why not venture to the greater Bay Area for The Matches at Bottom of the Hill, SF some quality live music?

Fonight: Foo Fighters, The Transplants, Spe- Ambionic Diary, and Fighting Riley at the cial Goodness at the Henry J. Kaiser Cen- Oasis Teen Center, San Rafael ter, Oakland; Del the Funky Homosapien at the Lower Sproul Plaza, Berkeley

April 12: Razhel and Lyrics Born at the room, SF hoenix Theatre. Petaluma

April 14: The Ataris, The Juliana Theory, Further Seems Forever, and Yellowcard April 22: The Family Tree Tour: Slum at the Fillmore, SF

April 18: Matches, Red Top Road, Jose Inverness, 2Bucks, Short Go Left, and Dorsoll at the Oasis Teen Center, San Rafael May 2: Tomahawk, Melvins, and Skel-

April 19: Sum 41, No Use For A Name, and Hall, SF The Starting Line at the Warfield, SF Disturbed, Chevelle, Taproot, and Unloco May 9: Natt, Exposer, Thought Crime, at the Events Center, San Jose; Skinlab, Overview, and The Ferrious Minds at the Pissing Razors, 40 Grit, Spike 1000, Oasis Teen Center, San Rafael Scorched Earth Policy, Pitbull Daycare, Displace, 3rd Rail, Primate, Un I.D., Hos- May 10: Against Me, Pansy Division, tility, Lowt, For Madmen, Ankla, Stom- Fifth Hour Hero, Jason Webley, and ach, 1 Kill Hit, Legion, Mad At Sam, El Panty Raid at 924 Gilman Street, Berke-**Buzzard,** and **Council** at the Pound, SF ley

April 20: Left Coast Allstars, Volume II: May 11: Hip Hop Appreciation Day Zion I, P.E.A.C.E. (Freestyle Fellowship), featuring: KRS-ONE and others Tajai (Souls of Mischief), Esoin, Organ- B-boy/girl arena, graffiti art, vendors, food, ics, and Poeticali Disturbed at Tropicana local showcases, and more at the San Jose (Studio 47), San Jose; Yeah Yeah Yeahs, State University Campus The Icarus Line, Pleasure Forever, and Death Rock Booty Call DJ at Bottom of the May 16: Straight Outta Prison Tour: ODB Hill, SF

April 23: Mr. Lif and Oldominion at Slims

April 24: Live 105 Local Lounge Night: Need an excuse to get out of Novato? The Velvet Teen, Divit, Locale A.M.,

April 25: Locale A.M., Wasting Time,

April 26 and 27: A.F.I., The Explosion, and Time In Malta at the Avalon Ball-

April 29: Atmosphere at the Fillmore, SF

Village, Pharoahe Monch (Organized Konfusion) at Tropicana (Studio 47), San

eton Key at the Great American Music

(Wu Tang) and Fingerbangerz DJs at Tropicana (Studio 47), San Jose

Look for the next Concert Corner and get the scoop on concerts from Coldplay to Good Charlotte to Andre Nickatina

## **The Triumphant Return of Nuclear Rabbit**

By Sean Johannessen and Zack Kinyon

The Richmond-based rock band, Nuclear Rabbit, has recently announced their reformation and welcomed back original singer Greg Parrish. Original members, Jean Baudin (Bass) and Steve Sigaty (Percussion), along with guitarist Pat Garner, were a part of the popular group Element of Surprise until their break up in December of 2002. Now, they have decided to go back to their roots and continue the Nuclear Rabbit project, which lasted ten years (1989-1999). Baudin noted that he always felt like Nuclear Rabbit "was an unfinished project."

> "Nuclear Rabbit is hella tight man." comments Brendon Sorensen, a recent graduate of San Marin. "How does that guy play the nine string bass?" Nuclear Rabbit's recklessly funny music entices a deep and ever growing local fan base to buy their albums and see their shows; their publicity is strictly word of mouth (or print). "I first hear them from a friend who downloaded it off the Internet," says junior Drew Fernandez. "My initial thought was that it was really funny. But later I complex.

Baudin plays a ninestring bass, which he had custom made in 1999, but only

played toward the tail end of Nuclear Rabbit's career. He has continued to hone his skills on this esoteric, six octave "beast" ever since, and will incorporate it into the band's new material. This instrument allows Baudin a much broader range of musical capabilities. He often mixes "tapping" with traditional bass rhythms, and can add an unusual melody to the songs while he is simultaneously producing the obligatory low-end

In terms of their respective approaches and sounds, Element of Surprise and Nuclear Rabbit are very different bands. Element of Surprise was a much more straightforward brand of rock and roll which, at times, restricted their writing and creativity. This contrasts with the bizarre and unsettling music Nuclear Rabbit's style produces. Lyrically, for example, Element of Surprise leans on more traditional poetry, while Nuclear Rabbit bases a lot of their songs on funny stories, such as celebrity sightings or birthday parties. Nuclear Rabbit looks to fuse the styles of the two bands this time around.

Nuclear Rabbit is currently working on their fourth album, to be recorded in June, and are re-releasing their first to albums, which are out of print. The band hopes to realized that their songs are very play its "welcome back" show within the next couple months. A possible venue for this grand event is Petaluma's Phoenix Theater.

Pony Express

# **SPORTS**

April 11, 2003 • Page 10

## **Team to Beat in MCAL**

By Colin Dietz

pre-season success does not dis- doubles play a team's true expectations, for the San Marin Mustangs Varsity first time this season, the Mus-Baseball team it does. After an tangs pulled off a 6-5 win over San amazing 7-0 preseason, in which Rafael. Despite five errors, due in

Although for the most part, for 2 with 2 RBI, 2 runs, and 2 **Pollnow** to score **Jack Rolovich** 

Although trailing early for the



Senior Erik Egide gets a base hit.

they beat such highly touted teams part to only their second night as El Cerrito (2A NCS Represen- game all year, pitcher Norris (2-0) tative) and Arroyo (3A NCS Rep- was able to keep the Mustangs resentative), the Mustangs went close through six innings, striking on to win their first three regular season games before losing a heartbreaker to Marin Catholic

It was the first time since the 1982 thought of a Bulldog seventh in-NCS Championship team went ning rally by striking out two and undefeated throughout the pre- picking a runner off first base to season. The Mustangs did it with earn the save. great pitching (led by Darrell Fisherbaugh and Bud Norris),

solid defense. and a powerful offensive lineup that outscored its opponents with a combined score of 55-10.

San Marin opened league play against a tough Justin Siena team that is predicted to be in the top three. The Mustangs proved that the pre-season was not a fluke in an explosive 8-1 victory. Fisherbaugh stepped up as the opening day pitcher, throwing a complete game. He improved his

out seven Braves without allowing sixth inning. They rallied for two a walk. The hitting attack was led runs to tie the score, one of them by **Dustin Colclough** who was 2 coming on a squeeze bunt by **Ryan** 

out six, and allowing only four hits (all in the first 2 innings). Fisherbaugh extinguished any

The Mustangs trailed by as many as three runs at one point,



Senior pitcher Darrell Fisherbaugh

overall record to 6-0 by striking and were down 5-3 going into the

By Jamie Lummis The seventh inning rally was started by a leadoff double by Ryan **O'Leary**, who was driven in by Erik Egide's game-winning single, his third hit of the night. Colclough also contributed two

doubles to help the Mustangs. San Marin's bats came alive as the Mustangs crushed the visiting Branson Bulls 12-0. Leading the Mustang assault was Egide (2 for 4, 2 runs, 2 RBI), Aron Bartee (2 for 3, 2 RBI, run), Rolovich (2 for 2, 2 runs, RBI), Joey Ratto (2 for 3, 2 runs, 2 RBI), and Fisherbaugh (1 for 3, 2 RBI, run). Fisherbaugh (7-0) held the Bulls to just two hits through five scoreless innings. Brian Drake continued the pitching dominance as he threw two hitless innings while striking out Senior Kim Larkey penetrates through the defenders four

The Mustangs were left shocked after the visiting Marin Catholic Wildcats handed them their first loss since June 2002. The Mustangs (10-1, 3-1 MCAL) were held to only two runs as they lost 4-2. The Wildcats were able to score three runs in the first inning and sustain the lead with their pitching and defense. Colclough (3 for 3, RBI), Egide (2 hits), and Norris (2 hits) accounted for the Mustangs' seven hits.

Be sure to come support your Mustangs during Spring Break as they host the Jim Doane Tournament (Monday, April 14 to Wednesday, April 16). Their first game will be Monday at 10:30 am against San Ramon, the toughest team in the tournament.



**Impressive Start for New** 

**Lacrosse Squad** 

The newly formed girls lacrosse team is proving that they deserve a permanent spot on the San Marin sports roster.

Winning all their pre-season games, the young team (with only two seniors) is showing its skills.

At their first league game on March 18, the girls traveled to the prestigious Sonoma Academy. In a sweeping victory, the Lady Mustangs outscored Sonoma 15-5.

Junior Karli Jayne led the team with an incredible five goals. Senior Kim Larkey and sophomores Kelly Larkey, Bonnie Lummis and Lisa Neal also contributed with goals. Sophomore Kim Puliafico, a first year player, made a great showing as the team's goalie.

Encouraged by their previous victory, the Lady Mustangs were eager to face the Marin Catholic Wildcats. Despite the Wildcats' long lacrosse tradition, the Mustangs were able to hold their own after overcoming a lackluster first half. With goals from Jayne, Larkey, sophomore Lori Stohler and freshman Liz Maurer, they were able finish with a tied score of 8-8. The stunned Marin Catholic team decided not to continue into over time. "They chickened out for an overtime... Next time it's goin down!" commented Lummis.

If the rest of the team has any of Lummis' enthusiasm, they are sure to have a successful first season as a high school team

Overall, the girls' have had

## Pony Express

#### Track

**By Christina Pelka** "Skilled, but small." The San Marin Boys Track and Field team may be lacking participants, but it's definitely not searching for talent. Freshman Marty Cunnie, who throws shotput, and freshman Jeff McLaughlin, who runs the 800, 400, and 4x4, have shown to be strong leaders of the frosh-soph. team. Jared Barrilleaux, a 2year track veteran, who will continue to contribute to the varsity team in the pole vault and the mile, and Scott VanHootegen, a runner in the 4x100, 100, and 200, have shown to be strong competitors on the varsity squad. "I plan on having a lot of fun during my senior year and I hope we have a successful, injury-free season." Barrilleaux commented

After getting warmed up at their first three invitational meets, San Marin competed against Drake on Thursday, March 20, where the girls' team won by two points. The girls hope to dominate the league in all events, especially the 4x4 relay, where senior Susan Beresford and juniors Whitney Stenberg, Ashley Peterson, and Marie **Buich** have worked to create one of the best relay teams in years. Many compliments have surrounded this group of exceptional athletes. Other leaders of the girls' field team include juniors Amber Miller (high jump, triple jump), Kelly Wyrsch (shotput, discus), and Courtney Carroll (shotput, discus)

day, May 1.

### Swimming and Diving

second win.

The girls attained their first win of the season in their meet against San Rafael. Senior Emily Parker placed first in the 500 yard freestyle with a time of 5:17:23. Sophomore Sarah Cochrane finished second with a time of 5:49:71. "Our 400 yard freestyle relay has

this season

The boys, however, lost their n against San Rafael. Freshman N McDonald finished third in the 200 v freestyle with a time of 2:13:71.

#### Golf **By Brad McCarter**

## **Soccer Worthy of Notice**

By Niki Kidd

Despite the recent success of the varsity girls' soccer team, it seems as though they are placed behind the JV baseball, softball, and freshmen baseball teams. How so? The talented girls are not allowed to practice on their home soccer field.

Their practice space is elegated to the football field a torn up area with non-regulation goals. These goals are the main reason why the Mustangs can't play their regular season home games there, as MCAL may force the team to forfeit any games they play there. Yet they practice there nonetheless, as they are not allowed to practice on their home field.

When game time does roll around, the girls play on the upper field, an area where the boys' soccer team plays in the fall. It also throws them in the midst of baseball and softball practices. These practices force the Mustangs to take a ride on the field merrygo-round, never getting the opportunity to become acquainted with their home turf.

A team should have a homefield advantage when it plays on

its own turf. But if a team can't Katherine Niehoff. The practice at their own home field. Mustangs prevailed even with the larger, slower field and the wet where is the advantage? The girls' soccer team is suffering in this weather field balancing act, seemingly being delegated to whatever field success in the regular season thus is left rather than getting priority far. They are 3-1-2, and are over the lesser teams.

continuing to improve. With one Despite these problems, the of the most difficult parts of their girls' won their first home match schedule complete, the Mustangs against Justin Sienna 4-0 with hope to maintain their focus and goals by senior Brooke Barnecut edge while improving upon (2), and juniors Gina Zucconi and individual skills and talents.



# **SPORTS**

## **Spring Sports Update**

## ATHLETES OF THE ISSUE

Jenny Jackson and Katherine Niehoff

By Niki Kidd

The next meet is an invitational at Santa Rosa J.C. against many of Northern California's strongest track school on Saturday, April 26. The team will meet their cross-town rival, Novato High, on Thurs-

#### By Myra Perez and Katie Winsor

Although this year's San Marin swim team has faced several disheartening defeats, the swimmers are managing to keep their heads above water. While the girl's team has a firm record of two wins and two losses, the boys are still striving for their

consistently dropped time over the past four meets. We are currently at a 4:03:25," says junior Melanie McCollum. The team hopes to send seniors Ashley Karrell and Parker, and sophomores Myra Perez and Cochrane to the North Coast Section Championships with their 200 and 400 yard freestyle relays

As the season begins, the San Marin boy's golf team faces some steep competition. The first match of the season was a face-off against Justin Sienna. But by the end of the day, San Marin lost by 2 strokes. By the third match of the season, the team

finally pulled through against San Rafael. After that empowering win, the team followed with a 7 stroke win against the Branson team. Now in the third week of competition the team stands with a 2-5 record.

Some of their toughest matches are coming up in the weeks to follow including their match against the team to beat, Redwood High School. But with the help of all the players, including #1 Kyle Manzoni and #2 Reese Holtz who have consistently shot well all year, the team can easily pull out of the slump they find themselves in.

#### Softball

#### By Rachel Oppenheimer

Spirits remain high among the young group of screaming girls as the score remains tied at the end of the 7th inning. After another scoreless inning junior Jennie Gay slams out a magnificent triple in the bottom of the 9th scoring on a RBI groundout by Lindsey Benson. This win over Justin Siena, 1-0, set the tone for another dominant Girls varsity softball season.

"I'm really optimistic about the season to come and I'm happy with the way the girls are coming together as a team as well as friends."

The young team has a reputation to hold and intends on working its hardest to remain number 1

### **Boys' Tennis**

By Kevin Kahn

After a 2-0 start with wins over Justin Siena and San Rafael, the varsity boys tennis team lost tough matches against league powers Marin Catholic, Redwood, and Tamalpais. However, they bounced back from the losing streak with wins over Terra Linda, cross-town rival Novato, Drake, and Justin Siena to have a strong current record of 6-3. One and two singles players **Zach** Warren and Blane Shields, both juniors, are currently undefeated in league play, and the strong doubles squad led by sophomores Kevin Jamieson and Aaron Hartney round out a balanced attack. The team plays each Tuesday and Thursday at 3:00 and fans are always welcome.

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of their two star outside midfielders, senior Jenny Jackson and junior Katherine Niehoff From crosses, to breakaways, to give and helped lead the Mustangs to a successful regular season thus far.

They combined on two goals in a 2-0 win over perennial soccer powerhouse Catholic in a 1-1 tie. "I really want to beat Branson, in the biggest victory of the year MC and Redwood. I can't wait to play them thus far for the Mustangs. The combination of Niehoff crosses and Jackson finishes propelled the team past the Braves and into a 2-0 overtime MCAL loss last season, both the upper eshilon of MCAL soccer.

Jackson enters her senior season after years of success on both the Mustangs and her numerous travelling soccer clubs, most recently the Tiburon Lightening. Her

No matter what side they attack from, has led her in the pursuit of other scholarship the San Marin Mustangs girls' soccer team opportunities at other universities. Jackson is dangerous. That is because of the presence said, "I love being on the field, and I think we can do really well this season."

Niehoff's speed and ball skills have proven why she is a force to be reckoned go's, these girls dominate the field and have with this season in MCAL. She has five assists during the regular season, none as impressive as her cross to Isabel Rowley to help the Mustangs keep up with Marin both again," Niehoff said. And after a 1-0 loss to Redwood on April 2nd, not to mention Niehoff and the rest of the team have plenty of movtivation to beat the Giants.

The combined effort of these cocaptains has led to the best start by the Mustangs in several years, despite having accolades on the soccer field have led to an the toughest schedule in all of MCAL. With offered scholarship from Dominican, and these results, expectation continue to be high for this talented group of girls.



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Pony Express

## **Sun's Out— Head for the Beach**

By Stephanie Alderson

Beaches	Advantages	Disadvantages	Activities	Rules (fires, camping, clothing)	Doggies	How to get there
Stinson Beach	Largest beach in Marin, great atmosphere, and a seasonal snack bar	Dangerous swimming conditions and recent shark attacks	Volleyball, fishing, surfing, picnic areas, hiking, biking, kayaking	No camping, fires allowed in picnic areas, nude beach in one section	Nope	Marin. Take Highway I/Stinson beach exit, follow ths signs.
Muir Beach	Good surf and restrooms too!	Dangerous swimming conditions and windy	Surfing, hiking, and picnic areas	Campfires allowed	Yes (with leash)	Marin. Six miles from Highway I exit.
Bolinas Beach	Calm water within sand bar and a view of Twin Peaks in San Francisco	Bad parking, no lifeguards	Kayaking, surfing, fishing	Camping and campfires are allowed	Yes (no leash required)	Marin. Three miles north of Stinson Beach Exit CA I at Olema-Bolinas Road west. Go through town, turn onto Wharf Road and follow it to the beach
Baker Beach	Protected from wind (warmest beach in SF), view of the Golden Gate bridge	Frigid water, no lifeguards, and swimming is not recommended	Hiking, picnic areas, and fishing	No camping or fires, northern end is a nude beach	Yes (no leash required)	San Francisco. Located on Bowley Street off Lincoln Boulevard in the Presidio
China Beach	Picturesque, protected from wind, restrooms and showers	No lifeguards	Picnic areas, BBQ's	Campgrounds nearby	Nope	San Francisco. Adjacent to the exclusive Sea Cliff District
Ocean Beach	Longest beach in SF, great waves for surfers, restrooms and showers, lots of free parking	Cold and windy, dangerous for swimming	Surfing, sunset watching	Fires allowed (packed with nighttime bonfires during the summer)	Yes (no leash required)	San Francisco. Western edge of the city from approximately Sloat Boulevard to Golden Gate Park.
Pacifica State Beach	Attracts a lot of surfers, close to a Taco Bell, restrooms and showers	Dangerous swimming conditions	Surfing (especially longboarding), fishing, clamming	Fires allowed	Yes (on leash)	Pacifica. From San Francisco take Highway I South-exit Paloma/Francisco Blvd.

## **62 Days and Counting**

#### Senioritis plagues the class of '03

By Bret Pughe

T t's now three weeks into the fourth and final quarter for San Marin seniors. College walk across the stage on June 14. acceptances are finalized, spring

ing year up on the hill (if it hasn't Senioritis seems to happen



Senior Bud Norris dreams of the ladies on the beach...a common symptom of Senioritis.

break is here, and the weather is every year; when the sunshine getting warmer. Instead of the classrooms, the summertime and the beaches are beckoning the class of 2003.

Although ALL of my classes are extremely challenging and enjoyable, the smells of summer BBQ's and exotic senior trips are much more appealing at this time of the year. Don't get me wrong, San Marin has been wonderful the past four years; however, most seniors have been anxiously awaiting their turn to put their graduat-

comes out and the senior contracts are due, most seniors begin to focus their attention elsewhere than school. The anticipation of the Disneyland trip, senior cut day, Safe Grad Night, and Prom are just a few of the distractions seniors are presented with.

Senior Will Grayson explained his senioritis diagnosis without hesitation, "I've had senioritis since kindergarten. I can't wait to graduate!"

Now into April, the seniors been changed by sophomores) and also have a good idea of where they will be spending the next two, four, or even six years of their life. All the pressures of getting good grades throughout high school, applying to colleges, and getting accepted are over; the days of spending time with friends and family before we leave for school are now here. However, there are still 62 days left in the school year and we need to make sure we all graduate.

> So, class of 2003: we're almost there. The long anticipated wait and the struggles with senioritis are almost over. Our last moments with good friends and the senior festivities are here. Senior Jenny Jackson summed up her emotions, "I'm going to miss all the friends I've made over the last four years, but at the same time I can't wait to go off to college."

Party time is just around the corner, and I for one can't wait.





Takin' it easy:SM students await the end of the school year.

Nice catch: gone fishin' at the beach.

