

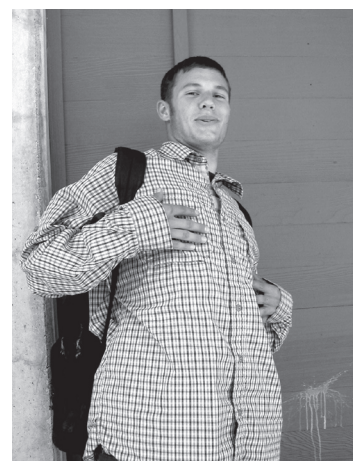
# Pony Express

Volume 36, Number 6 • San Marin High School, Novato, California • May 13, 2005



## Question Man

### What Senior privilege are you looking forward to most and why?



**Scott Menasco** - "Can't wait to show off my sexy body at the fashion show."



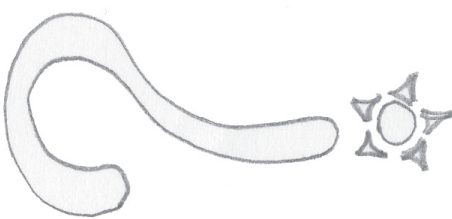
**Taylor Jones** - "Senior ditch day, because it is a perfect excuse to miss school."



**Maria Baum** - "Chalking the hill, 06 represent!"



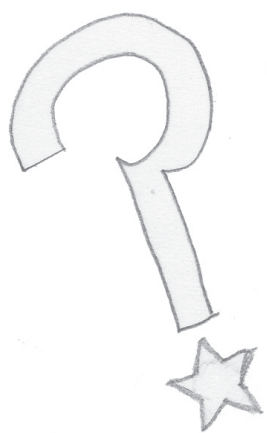
**Liz Maurer** - "Being able to blame my laziness on senioritis."



**Alison Greggor** - "I can't wait for the chance to finally chalk the hill."



**Keith Renner** - "Can't wait to be at the top of the school, finally show everyone who is boss."



**Chris Haller** - "Do seniors even have privileges at this school?"



**Vanessa Miranda** - "Getting out at 12:00, so I don't have to be here."

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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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## Beloved Teachers to Leave San Marin

by Kristen D'Angelo and Alex Randall

It is not uncommon to see a teacher leave a school after working there for decades; what is uncommon is to see three teachers of such tenure depart at once. Sad to say, this is what is happening at San Marin this year. English teacher Ron Butori, Spanish teacher Natasha Pelka, and P.E teacher Chris Say have all elected to end their careers at San Marin at the conclusion of the 2005 school year.

After 39 years of grading essays and assisting students in bettering their grammatical skills, Mr. Ron

Butori is looking forward to putting his red pen to rest. Butori recently commented that he's looking forward to "traveling to places I haven't been, and doing those things around the house that need to get done." Though he claims he won't miss teaching, he mentioned that his favorite memories include "seeing the accomplishments my students have made, and having them come back to visit me and tell me how what they learned here has helped them." Butori also considers coaching baseball and helping Mr.

Whitburn win his first NCS pennant for baseball as two of his other favorite memories here at San Marin.

Senora Pelka, a 10-year veteran of San Marin, will be moving to Illinois this summer. When asked what she will miss most about teaching, she quickly replied, "the students." Some of her favorite memories include taking students to MOMA (Museum of Modern Art) each year, celebrating Cinco de Mayo, a tradition which she established herself, and the first and last days of

school. She plans to continue teaching Spanish in Illinois, but assures that she'll also have other ways to keep busy. Living only 18-minutes away from Chicago, she plans on immersing herself in more city activities, including shopping and visiting the Opera. Pelka is also anxious to remodel her new house and begin quilting.

Ms. Say will finally hang up her gym shorts after 35 years of teaching. She plans on continuing to teach as a substitute for kindergarten through 3rd grade classes in

her hometown, Santa Rosa. Say is hoping to be able to play more golf in her free time, and when asked about her favorite memory, she commented that she enjoys "seeing kids change for the better," but won't miss the commute to school every morning.

With a combined total of 84 years of teaching, these three teachers have been a significant part of the San Marin staff, and they will be greatly missed by students and teachers alike.

## Cheaters Beware

by Eric Eisberg

As we've all recently become aware, there is a new integrity policy at San Marin. This new policy, created by a group of San Marin staff, is much stricter than the former policy, which left discipline up to teacher discretion. Under the new policy, punishments become increasingly stronger with each offense and new definitions of plagiarism and cheating are given.

According to the new policy, a first offense results in a loss of credit for the assignment and notification of both the student's parents and the administration. A second offense reduces the student's course grade by one letter grade for the quarter, results in a conference with the teacher, parents, department head and an administrator,

and a record is placed in the student's permanent cumulative file. Finally, a third offense results in a failing grade for the course, a suspension, and removal from an AP or honors course.

Cheating is defined in a similar manner to that of Sonoma State University; in fact, two of the eight definitions of plagiarism and cheating provided were copied directly from the Sonoma State Cheating and plagiarism policy. Cheating is primarily defined as "copying, in part or whole, or otherwise acquired from another's examination, paper [including homework assignments], mathematical calculation[s], research, creative project of the like;" while plagiarism is primarily defined as "the

act of incorporating the ideas, words of sentences, paragraphs, or parts thereof without appropriate acknowledgement and representing the product as one's own work."

While the new policy may be harsh, it is considered necessary by teachers to stem the tide of rampant cheating at San Marin. Furthermore, in college plagiarism can often be grounds for expulsion. "Cheating is a character flaw," said Mrs. Kemp, one of the architects of the new policy. "If I was on the college admissions board and had to choose between a student with a DUI and a student who had plagiarized, I would choose the DUI." So San Marin cheaters beware, your day of reckoning has come.

## MLB Update

by Eric Eisberg and Katt Knecht

The baseball season is finally upon us, with both local teams boasting new looks. The Giants still have a strong veteran lineup and what looks like, on paper, one of the strongest pitching rotations in the national league, including Noah Lowry and Jason Schmidt. The Athletics, down to only Barry Zito of last year's Big Three pitchers, must make do with a lot of young talent in both their lineup and rotation.

Perhaps the biggest story of the preseason is the Giants' loss of Barry Bonds. The superstar has had three major knee surgeries and Giants' fans are facing the prospect of seeing an entire season without Barry.

Around the rest of the league, the steroid scandal continues to dominate the news. Stemming from reports that former Athlete

Jason Giambi and Barry Bonds had taken steroids, and strengthened by the accusations in Jose Canseco's book, the story has dominated national headlines. The testing policy, strengthened after congressional hearings, has not so far exposed any major stars, though Mark McGwire has refused to testify on the matter.

Millions of fans around the nation awaited the Spring baseball season, and are ecstatic now that it is here. So get out to the ballpark (bring your mitt and hat), and go root for the Giants (or the A's if you can't get tickets to Pac Bell!)



## Hasta Pronto Señora

by Marco Perez

After ten years of being an asset to the Foreign Language Department, Natasha Pelka is moving to Chicago at the end of this school year, arousing despair to the 06 class, which will miss her next year in Spanish 5/AP.

Being the unique and sensational person she is, Señora possesses a peculiar background. Born and raised en la bella Cuba, Señora was molded by the Latino culture, which she upholds dearly. As a young idealist at the age of nineteen, Señora Pelka, along with her mother, immigrated to New Jersey, escaping the oppression of Cuban dictator

Fidel Castro. Without many resources available, but with a thirst for success, Señora worked as hard as possible to help sustain her family and succeed in a strange country. With a set goal in mind Señora thrived to achieve a college education, which helped her reach all of her goals. As French teacher Rosemarie Walwyn asserted, "Natasha's story is one of success and dedication. It's admirable how she managed to succeed in a different country, after being raised in Latin America."

In a cross-section of Señora's career, a continuing ascent can be observed. In 1995 Señora joined the San

Marin staff, hired to be the Spanish 1 and 2 teacher. In a short time, due to her intense dedication and wide knowledge, Señora was promoted to the position of Chairperson of the Foreign Language Department. Among her new duties were the teaching of the Spanish 4 and 5/AP classes, coordination of the department, and trained other teachers. But more than conveying herself as a supreme authority, Señora portrays herself as a kind, giving person, who is always there when needed. As Spanish teacher Reyna Lowrie confirmed, "Señora is my mentor; she guided me when I

entered San Marin. Her wide knowledge of the subject, and uttermost her willingness to help, is breathtaking."

Moreover, Señora hasn't only acquired the respect and appreciation of fellow teachers; she has been able to leave an impression on everyone of her students. Junior Stephanie Schoch declares, "Señora encompasses everything you could ask for a teacher and a human being: compassion, humor, and a kind heart."

Her desire for helping others is illustrated through her funding of the Academic Latino Club. Remembering

her struggle when arriving to America, Señora felt the necessity to ease the adaptation of other immigrant students by creating the club. Senior Ariana Cuervo remembers Señora as "the person who opened the doors for her when arriving to the US, the only welcoming hand, which guided her through high school."

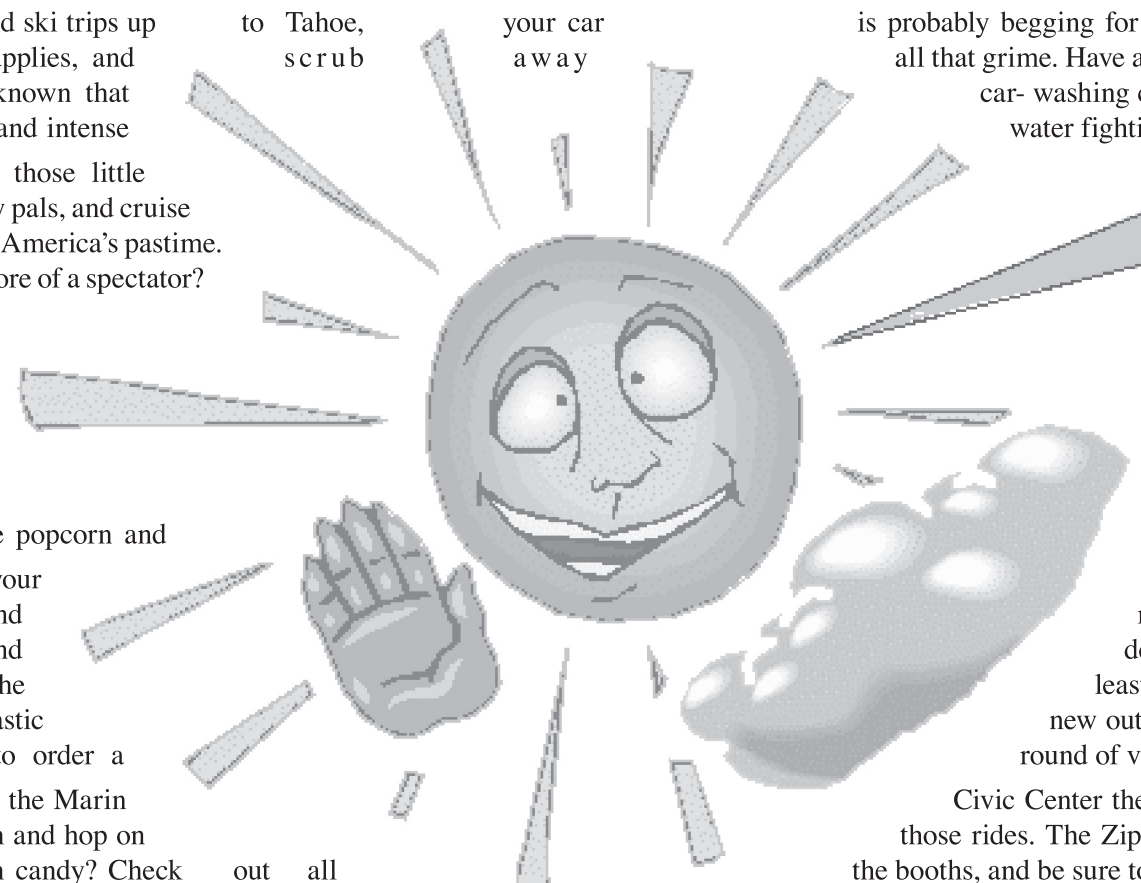
Even though Señora is leaving San Marin with the 05 class, the imprint that she left in teachers and students' lives will remain. Such a wonderful person could never be forgotten. Señora, es un hasta luego, no un adios; you are the key of my success.

## Fun in the Summer Sun

by Kristen D'Angelo

It's almost that time of year again: when ice cream becomes its own food group, bathing suits become a wardrobe staple, and students rejoice in being free from school. Yep, summer vacation is the next stop after finals, and this list was created to keep you entertained during those carefree summer days.

1. Break out the bikinis and board-shorts, fill up the ice chest, and pack up the car with frisbees, boogie boards, your friends, and all those other beach necessities. Trek out to one of Marin's many sandy havens, and enjoy a sun-filled beach day.
2. Are you still working on getting that license, and don't have anyone to bum a ride off of? No worries; gather around the pool for a bit of chlorinated fun, or turn on the sprinklers for some playtime little-kid-style. Hook up those portable speakers to your ipod, and blast some summer-time tunes while working on your tan and engaging in some quality gossip-magazine reading. Don't forget the sunscreen!
3. After those winter storms and ski trips up to Tahoe, your car is probably begging for a little TLC. Throw on a bathing suit, dig up some cleaning supplies, and scrub away all that grime. Have all your friends drive over and make it a party. Who would have known that car-washing could be so fun? Warning: the hose may be turned into a weapon, and intense water fighting may ensue.
4. Wishing you could re-live those little league days? Grab a bat, a couple of baseballs, some sporty pals, and cruise on over to one of Novato's diamonds for a rousing game of America's pastime. Hit up the ice cream truck and make the loser team pay. More of a spectator? Hop on the ferry and check out a Giants game.
5. What's a better way to spend a scorching summer afternoon than in an air-conditioned movie theater catching Not interested in anything that's playing? Run over to blockbuster and stock up on all those movies you missed during the school year when you were too busy to breathe. Pop some popcorn and make it a "Blockbuster night."
6. Putting in all those hours at your summer job can mean mucho dinero. So, pile in the car and declare that whoever finds the cutest little twist to the excursion and warm-weather ensemble, with the least amount of damage to their wallet wins. Get dolled up in your fantastic new outfit, and head out to dinner with all your girlfriends. Remember to order a round of virgin margaritas!
7. Every year the fair comes to the Marin Center the week leading up to the Fourth of July. Be sure to cruise on down and hop out those rides. The Zipper is a must, and what trip to the fair is complete without cotton candy? Check out all the booths, and be sure to get some "ink" done...henna, that is.
8. Fill up the gas tank, compile some awesome c.d.'s and hit the road with your "bestest" buddies. Road-trip it on down to so-cal, making stops in Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, and San Diego. Do you prefer pine trees to palms? Drive up to Tahoe instead.
9. What's a summer vacation without a little romance? Grab your summer sweetie and a blanket, and cuddle up for some star-gazing. First one to see a shooting star gets a kiss...it's a win-win situation. Or make it a bonding experience and bring all your closest friends for a bit of reminiscing of all your high school memories.
10. The bliss is about to end, and soon you'll all be stocking up the school supplies. Before vacation ends, gather all the photos and mementos that you collected over the past two months, and make a scrapbook to document all the fun you had in the summer sun.



## Cool Colleges Checklist

by Kristen D'Angelo

Most of us aren't lucky enough to be donning caps and graduation gowns in June. In fact, instead of packing for college this summer, it's more likely many of us will be touring them instead. While it's no doubt that stops will be made at common campuses such as those of the UC's (University of California) and CSU's (California State University), those aren't the only diploma delivering campuses. There are numerous private colleges that are just as good, even better, but don't get as much publicity. Think of it in Hollywood terms: it's similar to a really talented Indie actress being considered B-list just because she hasn't turned out a huge blockbuster yet. To give you a head

start in compiling your list of colleges to check out, a short list has been gathered of both California colleges and out-of-state ones.

**California:**

**University of San Diego (USD)** – Located in sunny San Diego, the 180 acre campus views the Pacific Ocean and is only 15 minutes from Downtown San Diego and the airport. **Quick stats:** avg. G.P.A.: 3.80. avg. SAT: 1167,\* avg. tuition: \$28,760.\*\* total student body: 7,262.

**University of San Francisco (USF)** – Constructed on 58 acres, this big-city campus is two blocks from Golden Gate Park, and a 20-minute bus ride from downtown, Fisherman's Wharf, and the Embarcadero. **Quick stats:** avg. G.P.A.: 3.4, avg. SAT: 1130\* total

student body: 8,000

**University of Southern California (USC)** – Located in the heart of Los Angeles, USC was established in 1880; making it the oldest private-research university in the West. **Quick stats:** avg. G.P.A.: 3.9, avg. SAT: 1319,\* avg. tuition: \$30,512,\*\* total student body: 32,000.

**Pomona College** – Built in Claremont, the college is 35 miles east of downtown L.A. Competition to get in is tough; 86% of freshmen were in the top 10% of their class. **Quick stats:** avg. SAT: 1460,\* avg. tuition: 28,370,\*\* total student body: 1500.

**Out-of-State:**

**Tulane** – Situated in New Orleans, Louisiana, Attending this college ensures that you'll never

fall victim to boredom. Whether you're partying down on Bourbon Street during Mardi Gras or hitting up a local restaurant for some authentic gumbo you'll always have fun. **Quick stats:** avg. SAT: 1344,\* avg. tuition: \$33,346,\*\* total student body: 13,214

**Cornell** – Opened in 1868, it is located in

Ithaca, New York. The New England campus lays a mere 60 miles southwest from Syracuse. **Quick stats:** avg. tuition: \$30,750, total student body: 20,334

\* Average score is based on the old SAT; it is out of 1600.  
\*\* Tuition costs are just an estimate and do not include the cost of room & board, meals, etc.

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## An End to a Saga

by Paul Himmelstein

A short time from now in a theatre very close to you, the final installation of Star Wars will be. Episode III: The Return of the Sith, will feature all the heroes for a final bout against the Dark Side as Anakin Skywalker (Hayden Christensen) completes his turn to evil. Returning highlights from Episode II will include Yoda jumping around like a deranged pogo stick, Mace Windu's unique purple

complete the first. Episode I: The Phantom Menace came out in 1999, with a weird-looking guy named Darth Maul who used a two-sided light saber (once again, only normal fans will remember this). Anakin was just a wee little child then, but was full-grown in the most recent release, Episode II: Attack of the Clones. Anakin has become a skilled fighter, but still receives constant reprimand from his master



Darth Vader and his entourage posing before battle.

lightsaber, and Anakin becoming even more insane and butchering more sad, innocent bystanders.

For the people who haven't been collecting Star Wars memorabilia since birth, perhaps a recap is in order. The first Star Wars movie came out in 1977, titled Episode IV: A New Hope. Obviously, first-time viewers were confused, and wondered where the first three movies were. No one really knows what went through George Lucas's head to make him start off a series halfway through the story. Despite this odd organization, the movie was a huge hit, with amazing special effects and a unique story line begging for

Episode V: Empire Strikes Back. Although exciting and original, to many Episode V is only known for the line, "Luke, I am your father." Luke, if you REALLY don't know Star Wars, is Anakin's kid prodigy. Following Episode V was Return of the Jedi, perhaps the best movie so far, mainly because of the Ewoks. Ewoks are nutty little creatures who swing around in trees and whose sole purpose is to look adorable.

20 years after completing the second half of the series, Lucas decided to

Obi Wan Kenobe. He seems to be sane, but he constantly whines. After seeing his mom die, he unleashes his immaturity and butchers an entire village of sand people. Sounds like the Dark Side, if you ask me.

Some may be wondering how exactly Anakin turns to the dark side. As you witnessed in Attack of the Clones, Anakin and Padme Amidala (Natalie Portman), were secretly married. While Anakin is off earning brownie points by killing Droids with Obi Wan Kenobi (Ewan McGregor) in Episode III, Padme is becoming more and more pregnant. When Anakin learns this, dark prophecies haunt him, visions of Padme dying at childbirth. In order to prevent her death, he goes down a dark path and commits many actions that don't exactly qualify as part of the "Light Side." All of Anakin's actions eventually (and inevitably) lead him to duel his former master, Obi Wan, which everyone was expecting; except for perhaps Obi Wan, who becomes a nutty hermit on Tatooine.

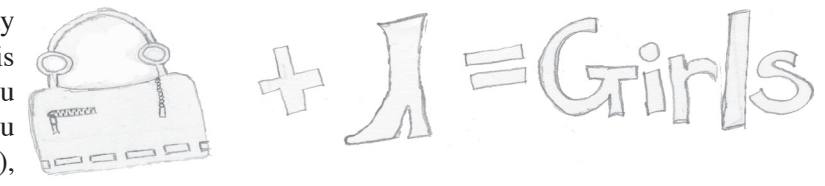
## The Guys Guide to Girls

by Kristen D'Angelo

There are many perplexing things in this world, such as why you really can't stop once you pop (that can of Pringles), why guys insist on yelling at the TV, or why the worst drivers imaginable are able to pass their tests the first time while everyone else fails. Yet, perhaps the most perplexing creatures roaming the earth are females. It isn't uncommon to hear even girls admit their confusion about their own gender, so you can only imagine what it's like for guys. Which is why I'm here, to aid in the clarification of all the little mysteries of females.

It's no secret that girls love to trek to the restroom in packs, but this strange habit often leaves guys wondering what it is exactly they're doing in there. Well, no need to be worried, your girl is (hopefully) completely capable of using the bathroom herself, girls just like their friends to tag along in case they need some lip-gloss,

a brush, or a "feminine product." Also, if you're all out on one big group date, a girl gets the chance to chat with her friend about the night,



whether or not she's enjoying herself, and, of course, what she thinks of you.

While guys tend to be fanatical about their sports, many girls tend to wile away their free time helping the economy out... aka, shopping. It's a form of entertainment, and a way for us to bond with our friends. A Saturday spent shopping and having lunch with our girlfriends gives us the opportunity to catch up on everything that's happening in our lives whether it be school, parents, and, of course, boys, while at the same time acquiring some hot new additions to our wardrobe. Still can't see what's so great about shopping? Try comparing it to the Superbowl...

Guys aren't known for frequently sitting down with their buds to enjoy a giant bowl of chocolate ice cream while having lengthy heart to hearts. So why does it seem that every time the littlest thing goes wrong, girls find it necessary to congregate with

their friends and vent. Exactly why do girls tell each other absolutely everything? Blame it on a genetic condition that only girls seem to have. But, in reality, it's just our way of developing relationships. When we trust our friends and feel close to them, we express it by divulging things to them that no one else knows. No need to fret though, most girls will keep their lips sealed when it comes to you. Your secrets are safe; even the fact that you still sleep with your blankie and stuffed duck.

Yes, girls are confusing creatures, but guys have their fair share of unexplainable habits and idiosyncrasies. And while this list doesn't even begin to scratch the surface, it's a step towards clarity. If you feel you're just completely clueless, and your friends are no help either, pick up a copy of Cosmo...it pretty much sums up everything you could ever want to know. But, don't worry, I won't tell... your secret's safe with me.

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## Mt. Burdell: Hiker's Refuge

by Clint Potter

Looming over Novato at a lofty 1,560 ft., Mt. Burdell is a refuge for hikers, cyclists, equestrians and nature lovers. As Novato's only prominent natural landmark, Mt. Burdell has a long and interesting history, especially in comparison with the rest of Novato.

Founded in 500 A.D., it was originally named Olompali by the Coast Miwok, meaning Southern Village. Climaxing in 1200 A.D., it was one of the largest villages in Marin. In 1843, 8,900 acres were granted to the last chief of the Olompali Miwok, Christianized Camilo Yanitia. When Yanitia sold the land to James Black in 1852, the true dispute began. Because Black left his only daughter, Mary, out of his will she supposedly bit off Black's signature and swallowed it after his death. This audacious action allowed her and her husband Galen Burdell to obtain the land in a legal case. Eventually, after years of attempting to sell Mt. Burdell, the Southern half was purchased by the Marin County Open Space District in 1978 and the Northern half was bought by the State of California.

Nevertheless, this somewhat turbulent past has not tarnished the natural beauty of Mt. Burdell. Having a new face for each of the four seasons, there is always something new to discover on Mt. Burdell. However, Spring is easily the best time to visit Mt. Burdell. During spring, especially just after the end of rainfall, a wide array of wild flowers are visible including fields of the California poppy. In addition, there are flocks of birds, including the notorious roaming turkeys, and at Secret Lake you can see tadpoles as they grow into frogs.

At any time of the year, Burdell can provide a moderate hike with great scenery and views of Mt. Tam and the Petaluma River. Trails are easily reached on the south side along San Marin Drive, including San Andreas Fire Road off of San Andreas Drive, which is probably one of the more heavily trafficked trails. On the North Side, you can reach trails leading to Olompali Park.

## Stafford Lake

by Marco Perez



Do you enjoy hanging out with your friends and family in exotic places? Do you like to play ultimate sports? Or are you simply a fan of nature? If so, Stafford Lake is fitted for you.

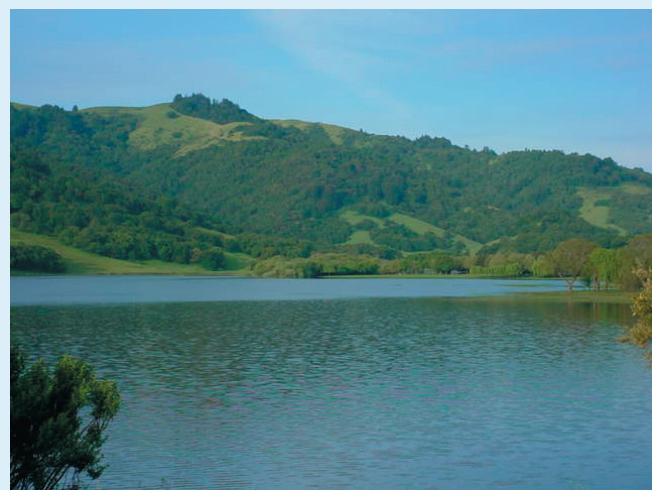
Offering various activities, Stafford Lake can elevate your level of fun considerably. With plenty of barbecue grills available, you have the option of cooking exquisite meals while you and your friends and family are surrounded by nature. Just make sure to clean the grill beforehand, for the remaining, decomposing food and some strange animal liquids could add a peculiar flavor to your food, which could upset your stomach. Junior Julio Sanchez admitted,

"The food tasted good, but my guts kind of resented it later."

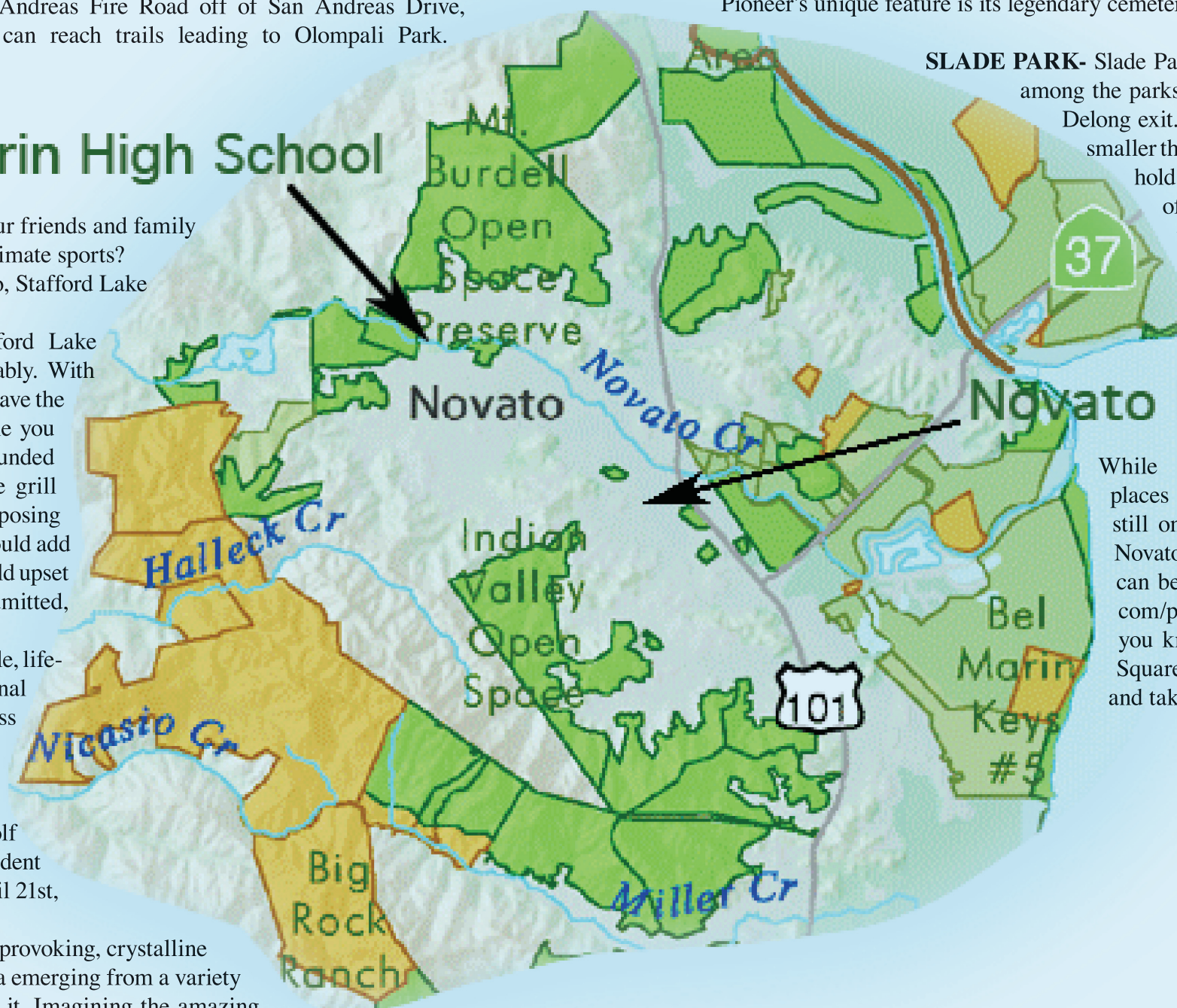
Moreover, the opportunity to interact with nature may provide the visitor with unforgettable, life-changing experiences. Junior Jenny Bankie describes Stafford Lake as "a wonderful, recreational and scenic area. She also added, "I especially love sitting for hours and watching the ducks unless they get obnoxious and fierce and attack me for food."

Without any doubt, Stafford Lake is fitted for everyone. Art teacher Bobby Rock asserts, "The lake is a great place for running; an open space, away from buildings." Furthermore, Stafford Lake may house almost any rough or rather soft sport. With volleyball and Frisbee golf courts, the lake provides a space for amazing activities. Agreeing with Rock, an anonymous student commented on the lake's greatness, "I love the lake, it's so peaceful with no one around; on April 21st, me and a bunch of friends went there to chill out and celebrate."

Undoubtedly, Stafford Lake is a place for nature lovers. With wet, terse grass, a thought-provoking, crystalline lake, crawling bugs and biting mosquitoes, food-obsessed ducks and geese, and a peculiar aroma emerging from a variety of animals, Stafford Lake provides a great opportunity to admire nature and especially smell it. Imagining the amazing picture of yourself sitting on the grass on an intensely warm day, cows on the opposite side, ducks after your food, and bugs crawling on you. If this sounds appealing, then Stafford Lake is fitted for you. Undoubtedly, Stafford Lake is an asset to Novato's community and a great opportunity for entertainment.



## San Marin High School



**SLADE PARK-** Slade Park? A mystery to many, Slade Park is a hidden gem among the parks of Novato, found on the non-downtown side of the Delong exit. Slade Park offers a wide, open, grassy area slightly smaller than that of Pioneer, but much more level. Its playground holds the best swings in Novato, offering a fantastic view of marshland. Slade's special trait is the train tracks that run right by it. This train do not come often, but when it does, it makes quite the astonishing ruckus.



While any of these parks would be great places at which to spend an afternoon, they still only constitute three of many parks in Novato. Other playgrounds and their locations can be found at <http://www.justplaygrounds.com/play/novato>. So, the next time people you know are planning to hang out at The Square, grab a Frisbee and take them to a park.



## Parking in Novato

By Alex Randall

Novato's lack of hang-out spots is something that has frustrated the student population for years. Unless a car can take one to the beach, the mall, or even San Rafael, one must resort to lounging at a friend's house or at the local shopping center. And yet, many substitutes for The Square go unnoticed by teenagers; the parks of Novato. What could be better than a day spent barbecuing lunch, tanning on the lawn, and carousing on the jungle gym with a group of close friends? Novato's parks are free, easily accessible, and full of possibilities for adventure.

**MIWOK PARK-** A well-known park, Miwok is located off of Novato Blvd., across from Eucalyptus. It offers sufficient grass area for a rousing game of Frisbee, as well as 2 playgrounds, numerous benches and barbeque pits, and plenty of shade. Unique to Miwok are both horseshoe and bocceball courts.

**PIONEER PARK-** Yet another popular park in Novato, Pioneer can be found off of Simmons Lane. A side entrance can be found on Novato Blvd. across from the Square.

While offering slightly less shady sitting spots than Miwok, it holds a greater acreage of lawn area, as well as tennis courts and a bigger playground.

Pioneer's unique feature is its legendary cemetery.

## Novato: Wide and Open

by Dan Saslow

During spring break, hordes of people flood from Novato through Highway 101, escaping to the hills of Tahoe or the beaches of southern California; it is common knowledge that nature provides a peaceful atmosphere that no other environment can. However, many residents of this suburbia are ill-informed of Novato's beauty outside of Mt. Burdell – and most associate Mt. Burdell with sweaty, tiresome hiking. Throughout the city, spanning from Indian Valley to Hamilton, 3,500 acres of open space preserves are free to the public, without distraction of park benches or playgrounds, and with enough isolation for anyone to escape from the stress of life.

As indicated by the map available on this page, there are numerous public open spaces available throughout Novato. The most popular, as mentioned before, is Mt. Burdell - 1,600 acres of preserves provide a plethora of hiking and biking trails, as well as a panoramic view of Novato and the bay. Another, less popular, spot lies across the valley, hugging the side of the hill from Blanca Drive up around Maestro Road. This extensive stretch of land provides incredible views of the valley, a variety of wildlife including deer and rabbits, and large expanses of wildflowers during the spring.

There are many more available escapes spread throughout Novato for the nature-loving and adventure-bound. For the stressed, one of the easiest and cheapest techniques for relieving depression is relaxation and the absorption of sunlight. No matter what reasons you have, check the adjacent map for the open space closest to you, and enjoy.



## New SAT Scores FAQ

by Yuekai Sun

Last year, a score of 1400 was considered exceptional on the SAT. This year, that score is below average. On the old SAT, a 1400 was Ivy League standard. On the new SAT, that score will hardly get you into a state college. The changes to the SAT have raised questions among many students and parents. Two of the most common questions are "What is a good score on the new SAT?" and "Where will my scores take me?" Another common question is "How can I improve my score?"

The main difference between the old and new SAT is the addition of a writing section, which includes an essay. This writing section is nothing new; it used to be known as the SAT II Writing test. Also, the ETS replaced analogies in the verbal section with enhanced critical reading passages, and removed quantitative comparison questions on the math section. The math section has also been expanded to cover second-year algebra material. Due to the addition of the writing section, the test has been lengthened from three hours to three hours and forty-five minutes now, the perfect score is now 2400 instead of 1600.

The new and old SAT scores are not proportional. You cannot find the old SAT equivalent of your new SAT scores simply by multiplying your new SAT scores by 2/3. Although the College Board has not released an official conversion chart, the Princeton Review came out with a preliminary old SAT to new SAT conversion chart. Based on these two charts,

you can estimate the old SAT equivalent of your new SAT score and gain a good sense of where your scores will take you. Remember, SAT

Old SAT	New SAT
1600	2400
1400	2040
1300	1920
1200	1760
1100	1650
1000	1500
900	1350

School	Avg. old SAT
UC Berkeley	1300
UC Davis	1190
UC Santa Barbara	1182
Cal Poly	1233
Chico State	973
USC	1350
USD	1165
Oregon State	1080
Arizona State	1106
Sonoma State	1043

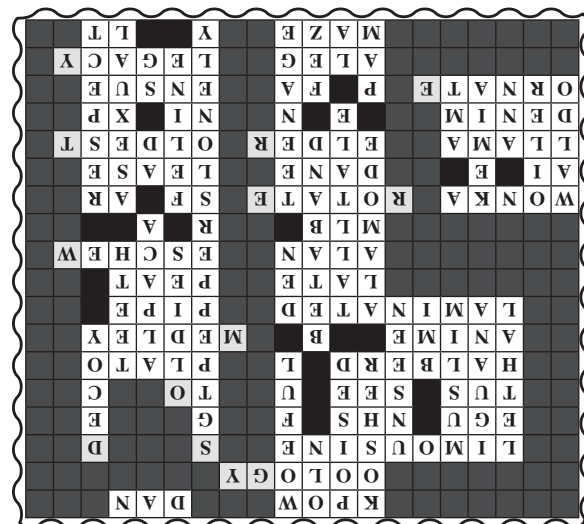
Information from the Princeton Review

scores are just one factor college admissions look at. Your high school record and extracurricular activities also influence the decision.

Due to the changes to the SAT, many colleges have not decided on how to treat the new scores. Yet, The College Board has published a list of colleges that require the writing score at [www.collegeboard.com/prof/counselors/tests/sat/about/sat\\_require.html](http://www.collegeboard.com/prof/counselors/tests/sat/about/sat_require.html).

The College Board also says that colleges will not only look at your total score but also at your scores for each section. Many science and technology oriented schools such as Virginia Tech will look at your writing score, but they'll put more emphasis on your math score. On the other hand, many liberal arts colleges will give more attention to your writing score.

Now that many of you know how well you did, you may be



wondering how to do better next time. There are numerous classes and programs that claim will help you improve your score. These range from \$100 one-time strategy sessions to \$1000 prep programs. A complete listing of coaching classes is available at the college and career center. However, the effectiveness of coaching is questionable. According to the College Board, coached students are only slightly more likely to have large score gains. About one-third of coached students experience little or no gain at all. Yet some test prep services guarantee score increases. Do not believe these "guarantees". The Princeton review promises a 3-point improvement on your ACT composite. I do not believe that a Princeton review class can help me score a perfect.

In my opinion, the best way to improve your SAT score is to practice. Get a SAT prep book and do all the sample questions and tests. When you have finished one book, get another. By doing hundreds of SAT questions, you will be exposed to a wide variety of question types. You will also become more familiar with the format of the test. Because you have seen these question types before, you will know how to tackle them during the real test. Good luck on your next test!

New SAT miscellaneous facts:  
 •Average critical reading is 508  
 •Average math is 518  
 •Of the around 300,000 students that took the new SAT in March, 107 got a perfect score  
 •The average score of the SMHS Journalism class is 2016  
 •Percentile information for the new writing section will be released in Fall of 2006

## When Your Boyfriend has a Boyfriend

by Kristen D'Angelo and Katt Knecht

It can be hurtful when you see your boyfriend looking at other women, but it's just plain confusing when you see him sharing loving looks with his best friend. It's true, they do spend a lot of time together, but that's just normal for best friends...isn't it? Those late-night video game tournaments and Chinese food binges, the sleeping in the same bed, hugging, and butt grabbing can be the sign of a far more "special" bond: that of the Hetero-Lifemate. This very intense relationship is something with which no girlfriend, long-term or temporary can interfere.

There are both obvious and subtle signs of platonic philandering. Does the other object of your beau's affection accompany you on your dates? Does he call you all the time? Did he give your boyfriend a carnation on Valentine's Day? He might have just been supporting the senior class, but chances are he really just wanted to express his undying devotion to your sweetie. Pablo Himmelstoobin\* bought one for Jesus LaCoco, \* (he claims as a joke). Just as Seamus Rhododendron's\* intentions became clear after he programmed Edward Estecles\* on speed dial.

It was decided that to better understand the depth of this type of friendship, a little investigative reporting was needed. A list of questions was developed and the hetero-life mates were rounded up. Thus began a very entertaining and interesting interview.

**Katt and Kristen:** "How long have you guys known each other?"

**Edward and Seamus:** "Six months."

**Jesus and Pablo:** "Eighteen months."

**K&K:** "How many days out of the week do you spend together?"

**E&S:** "Eight days."

**J&P:** "Three days."

**K&K:** "What are some of the things you do when you're hanging out?"

**E&S:** "Eat, listen to music, and play computer solitaire."

**J&P:** "Eat, watch anime, play video games, listen to Pablo whine about women..."

**Both:** "Sleep in the same bed..."

**K&K:** "Right...How well do you know each other?"

**E&S:** "Define what you mean by 'know'..."

**J&P:** "Different parts..."

**K&K:** "What's something about him that only you know?"

**E&S:** "Comment deemed not appropriate for school paper..."

**P:** "Every girl he's hooked up with."

**K&K:** "Exactly how deep is your love for each other?"

**E:** "He's like oxygen, I can't live without him. He's also like an Abuelo macho: I can't fit him all in at one once, but I can try..."

**P:** "He's like Tabasco sauce, I need him for everything."

**K&K:** "If you were gay would you two be together?"

**Both:** "Yes!"

**K&K:** "Do you ever feel awkward when it's just you two and the girlfriend?"

**S:** "NO...well, at first, but then I got used to it."

**P:** "AWKWARD FOR PABLO!"

**K&K:** "Would you like the girlfriend to bake cookies for you?"

**Both:** "Cookies?? YES!"

**K&K:** "Are you two planning on being best friends in college?"

**E&S:** "Yes"

**J&P:** "Yes"

**K&K:** "Do you think you'll be together forever?"

**E&S:** "Pssh..no!"

**J&P:** "Yep!"

Still pondering what to do if your boyfriend and his best friend act just like these two pairs? The answer is simple; accept it and deal with it, and bake them cookies...

## Pre-Prom Prep

by Kristen D'Angelo

You've ordered your cap and gown, completed all your credits, and of course, picked what college campus you'll be frolicking around next year. Now, there's only one thing left to do...madly celebrate with your entire class at that little event known as Prom. After four years of attempting to accumulate all you need to woo those college admissions, your brains are probably fried to the max. So, to help you out, a complete checklist has been compiled to assist you in making sure nothing goes unnoticed in your pre-prom prep.



### Girls:

#### Necessities

- Dress
- Shoes
- Jewelry (Earrings, necklace, bracelet)
- Handbag
- Boutonniere
- Ticket

#### Appointments

- Hair appointment
- Nail appointment (doing it yourself? Have the supplies that you need)
- Makeup appointment (DIY? Gather all the makeup that you're going to use)

#### Reservations

- Dinner reservations
- Limo reservations
- Hotel reservations

#### Handbag Essentials

- Cell phone
- Ticket
- Money / I.d.
- Gum / mints
- Lip gloss or any other small makeup item to keep you looking fresh
- Camera

### Guys:

#### Necessities

- Tux / suit
- Tie / bow tie
- Dress shoes
- Wallet
- Corsage
- Ticket

#### Appointments

#### Haircut

#### Reservations

- Dinner reservations
- Limo reservations
- Hotel reservations

#### Wallet / Pocket Essentials

- Cell phone
- Ticket
- Money / I.d
- Gum/ mints
- Camera

Now that everything is all in order and taken care of, there's only one thing left to do, celebrate! Have fun and take lots of pictures. After all, it's your last high school dance ever...

## The Pride and Joy of Art Club

by Emma Wnuk

After five months of hard work, Art Club has finally completed the Table Tennis sign for the P.E. department. President Bree Mead designed the acrylic-painted sign sporting two paddles, interlocked in fierce competition. It reads: San Marin High School Table Tennis Center. Over the course of these last months, Art Club has poured sweat and blood into the sign, forced to return with the paintbrush anytime a scratch or smear appeared. But a long-awaited

ceremony was held in March presenting the sign to Mr. Bedar so that he may post the sign in the gym for years to come, (during the table tennis unit, that is.) Club members Amanda Momenzadeh, Amanda Tarkman, Emma Wnuk, Michelle Oga, Nicole Oga, Emilie Chiang, Wes Brewer, Kelly Glass, and Mica Magsombol helped paint it while advisors Mrs. Reily and Ms. Mozetti supervised. It was a fun experience, and in the words of Bree Mead, "It was awesome!"



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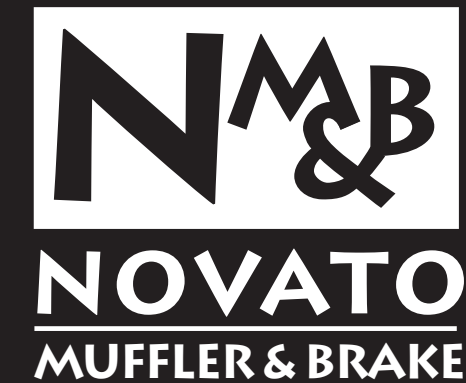
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 OWNER/OPERATOR

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Bottom line: it's a new place, it's local, it's friendly, and it's looking for satisfied customers. You might as well take advantage of the situation.



\*No, not the Mustang car, the mighty San Marin Mustangs, see?

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## Galloping to the Crease

by Paige Thelen

The San Marin Varsity Boys' Lacrosse team began its spring season with a few setbacks, but with the season now in full swing, the team has set new goals and learned a few lessons along the way. With the loss of **Nick Shaw** and **Alex DeConde** early on in the season, the team was forced to make major adjustments. "Our biggest weakness is our lack of experience and discipline, but we are improving," claims junior Mike Depew, one of the Mustangs' top scorers.

With a current record of 3-7, the Mustangs aren't boasting extreme success; however, they can account for a few close games, triumphant wins, and devastating losses. On March 30, the boys faced the Redwood Giants and fought until the end losing 5-2. Two days later they matched up with Branson and clenched their first win, 5-2. On April 2nd, the Mustangs headed down to Terra Linda to face off with the Trojans in an evenly matched game and were closely beaten with



Andrew Razo charges at a Branson player.

a final score of 11-10. Top scorers and offenders of the team have been recognized as junior **Mike Depew**, sophomores **Brendan Aaesby** and **David Buros**, and freshman **Keith Jayne**. Lone senior **Kyle Wideman**, sophomores **Erik Schadler** and **Andrew Razo** as well as freshman **Tyler McCave** are important defensive assets to the team. Freshman goalie **Will Rushton** deflects 3 out of 5 shots on average. Top scorers **Max Larkin**, Jayne, and Depew have especially stood out on the field.

## La-Crossin' it Up

by Mike Depew

The San Marin Varsity Girls' Lacrosse team has put forth quite an effort this season with a record of



4-5. The team's main strengths are quick plays and fast stick skills that allow them to catch the opposing defense off-guard and to put the ball in the back of the net. Senior **Jeannie Ngo** is leading the team with assists while goalie **Kim Puliafico** stops shots dead in their tracks. The team's weaknesses seem to be ground balls, throwing, catching under pressure, and transitions from offense to defense and vice versa.

Luckily, the team hasn't lost anyone due to grades, although there was a complication with senior Kim Puliafico's grades, but they were quickly changed. "It really scared us," junior **Avi**

**Fernandez** claimed, "she's definitely our biggest strength, without her the team would have a lot of trouble. The

Mustangs have suffered a few close calls where they came up short, like against Redwood High, which extended into overtime. Freshman

**Kim Rubens** stepped up big in that game with a hat trick. She is training to be the team's goalie next year to replace graduating Puliafico. During the Novato game, freshman **Kristen Swigg** came through with five goals. The leading scorers are juniors **Liz Mauer** and **Paige Thelen**. Top defenders include juniors **Julie Kern** and **Lauren Dumont**. "We really want to beat Marin Catholic, Redwood, University, and Tam," Kern stated.

## Pitching for a Title

by James Gramalia

Coach Whitburn reached a major coaching milestone as he and the varsity baseball team earned his 300th career win. The victory came on the way to winning the Jim Doane tournament hosted here at Lefty Gomez Field.

San Marin kicked off the Jim Doane tournament with an easy 12-0 victory over Hercules. Senior **Nic Banaugh** struck out six batters in five innings of work to win his first start of the year. This victory was the third straight shutout for the San Marin pitching staff. Offensive support was provided by junior catcher **Richie Riboli**, who led the team with four RBI's.

In the semi-final game of the tourney, the Mustangs glided past Salesian with a score of 10-0. This game marked Coach

Whitburn's 300th victory as a coach. Run support did not come until the fourth inning, when the Mustangs came through with three runs to take the lead. Later, in the fifth, San Marin hitters teed off on Salesian pitching to score seven runs. Junior shortstop **Billy Nicolini** drove in two of those on a single. The Salesian hitters were held scoreless on two hits as senior pitcher **Brian Gee** picked up another victory.

The Mustangs started off slow, but finished strong to defeat Vallejo 12-5 in the championship game of the tournament. San Marin scored 11 runs in the final three innings to overcome a 4-1 deficit. Junior **Chris Haller** finished 3-4 with three RBI's to help his cause as he pitched three scoreless innings of relief to earn the win. Riboli was named tournament MVP,

going 5-10, with six RBI's. He also threw out three runners.

On Tuesday, April 5, The Mustangs defeated Novato 14-1, riding on the arm of Nic Banaugh, who pitched five innings and recorded six strikeouts. **Matt Hoffmire** led the offensive charge with two hits and 2 RBI's. The bulk of the Mustangs' runs came in an eight-run, fourth inning rally. This win improved their league record to 3-0 and their overall record to 10-2.

As the season has progressed the Varsity Boys' baseball team has continued to improve and show that they are the top team in MCAL. The season is not over yet, and the boys are looking ahead to the playoffs. As senior Banaugh put it, "So far we have been successful, but we will not be content until we win the title."

## Just a Dip in the Pool

by Ben Sangster

Silence around the pool deck. A giant tension has concentrated every thought, every care, onto three guys in Speedos crouched above the pool. Then suddenly, a flash of light and a loud, brief beep come from a machine on the deck. A tenth of a second later, water flies and cheers erupt from the spectators as the swimmers sprint back and forth across the pool. With one last lunge forward, the one in the middle out-touches the others, and raises his arms in a sign of victory, a grin on his face.



San Marin's season began with a bang and a whimper. The men's swim team was victorious over Justin Sienna, San Rafael, and Branson, while the women's team took a close loss against Justin Sienna after beating the other two. Says freshman **Katelyn Conroy**, "I think I've done



## Galloping Strong

by Alyson Walchi

The San Marin girls' Varsity Softball team is maintaining their title form as they dominate MCAL competitors. With a grueling practice schedule and at least two games a week, the Mustang play is constantly unstoppable. Head coach **Randy Willis** brings structure and competitiveness to a team of enthusiastic girls. With the

guidance and leadership from such a strong and likable coach, the San Marin girls softball team will continue to prove their willingness and determination on the field.

This season there are many new additions to the team. Their contribution to the squad will aid them in the continuation of the team's victorious record. "I love

being a part of this team," comments junior **Jenice Bartee**, "it's like having a bunch of sisters." **Jennie Distefano**, a fresh face on the varsity team, enjoys her role, motivating the team while contributing her talent and abilities. The teams' dominance in MCAL will carry over as the Mustangs head for the playoffs.

## Spiking for Success

by Mike Mann

It's been another successful season for the San Marin Boy's Volleyball team. But what is success? Success is tying last year's record, winning one game so far this season. After losing four seniors, having only five players return, and having three starting players who've never played before, this season is solely for rebuilding. Yet, the team

remains optimistic. Everyone is expected to return next year and earn some victories under the energetic leading of co-captains junior **Mike Mann** and sophomore **Josh Boccacio**. Junior **Tae Yoon**, sophomores **Tony Sanguinetti** and **Daniel Hong**, and freshman **Jinwoo Nam** make up the solid line of offense, whose ball placement and power make up for the

lack of height. Always able to touch the ball, freshman **Theo Madias** is the core player on defense, and **Josh Garcia's** masterful serves and back row specialties are a vital aspect of the team. Though, wins have been scarce this season, the boys' youth, positivity, skill, and dedication will prove a force to be reckoned with in upcoming seasons.

## Courts are Quiet as Season Closes

by Dina Rosenberg

This spring the boys tennis team faced numerous dilemmas and obstacles; a shortage of players and a lack of solid experience. Even though the Mustangs were not supplied with an abundance of talent, the boys showed a definite improvement and potential for next season. Some newcomers, who had never even picked up a racquet, competed intensely in singles and doubles. "We had a tough year, but there was much fun to be had, despite our 0-14 record. We lost eight seniors last year, but we had some newcomers, namely **Chris Sangster**. Even though we had a poor season this year, we will be much stronger next year, when our newer players are a little more experienced," explained Sophomore **Andy Garon**. The team's most successful match was their second encounter with the

Novato Hornets, with a final score of 3-6. Junior **Alex Randall**, greatly contributed to this score with his 6-1, 5-7, 11-9 victory, as well as wins in the number one doubles, **Loney Nicol** and **Aaron Hartney**, and number two doubles, Sangster and **James Gramalia**. The only leaving seniors this year will be **Mark Meier** and Hartney, but the boys have become more experienced throughout these last matches, and it looks as though next season might be more promising. Junior **Cliff Bachmeier** light-heartedly stated, "It was fun...hmmm...we learned a lot." Even though their scores may not have conveyed it, overall, the team has taken tremendous steps forward this season.

Interview with Alex Randall

Q: What was your most successful match?

A: "Novato."

Q: What was the final score of the game?

A: "3-6."

Q: Who are your leaving seniors, and how does the team look for next year?

A: "Mark and Aaron, looks about as promising as it did this year, maybe more experience."

Q: How has your coach supported you and your teammates throughout the season?

A: "He has encouraged us to become better players and people on and off the court."

Q: Even though your team has not done extremely well this season, how have the newcomers improved?

A: "They show a lot of promise, some have not had any tennis experience and our now competing in singles and doubles."

## SM Tracks Towards MCALs

by Marco Perez



The Girls 4x400 relay team

After the vicissitudes confronted at the beginning, the Track & Field team is now ready for the culmination of the season: MCAL's. The Varsity Girls and Frosh/Soph Boys rejoice with successful standings that give them a good shot at qualifying for tryouts. Even though the Varsity Boys weren't as successful as the other teams, they also have a chance to perform well in MCAL's. Junior **Lisa Vance** makes a hypothesis for the struggling of the Varsity Boys. "The boys didn't seem to get along very well; they performed as individuals rather than as a team; maybe that contributed to their fiasco."

Yet, everything hasn't been lost. The Track

## Going for the Par

by Alyson Walchi

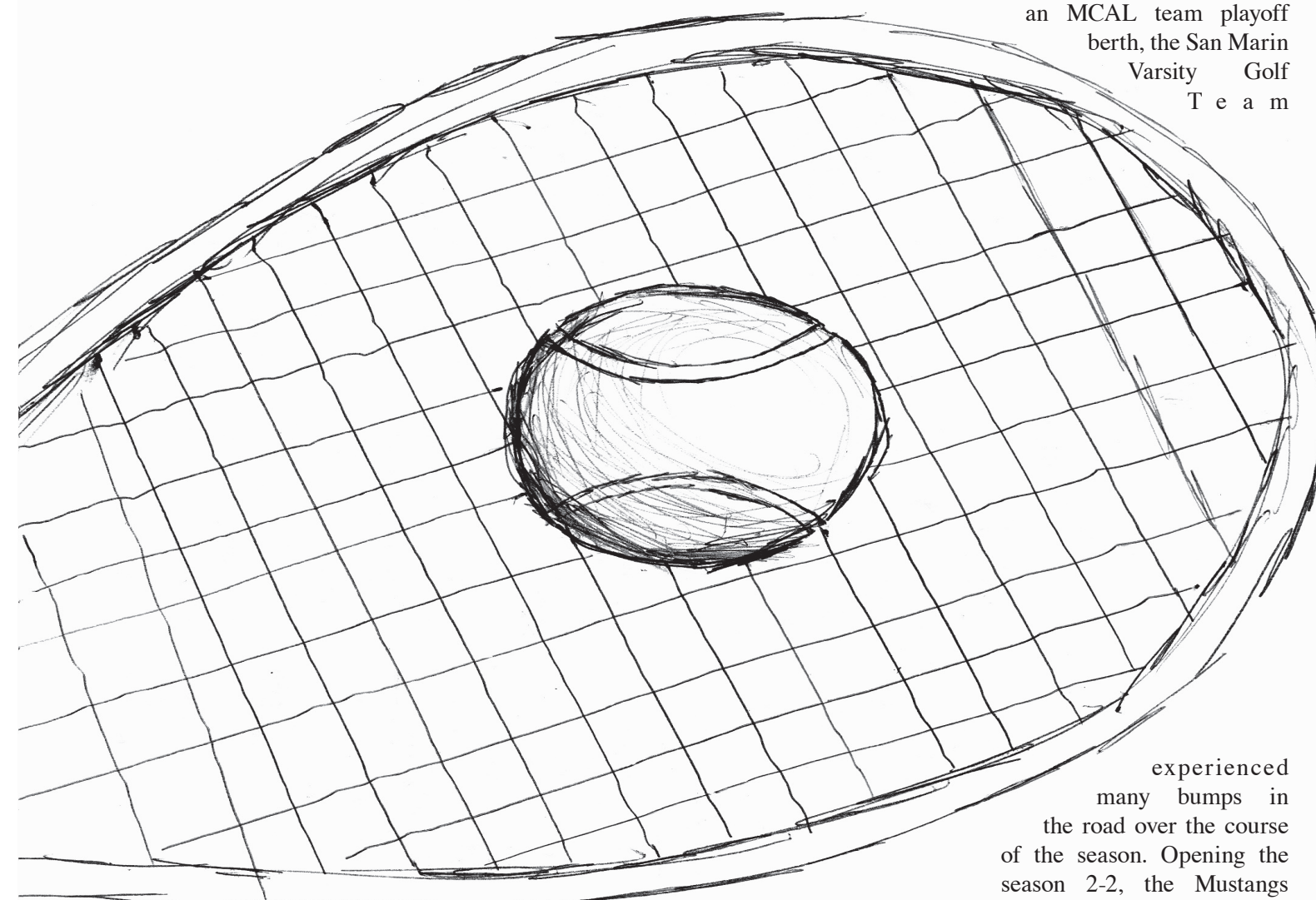
After beginning the season with hopes of an MCAL team playoff berth, the San Marin Varsity Golf Team

& Field team is now united and hopes to show other Marin County athletes what the Mustangs are made of. Among the distinguished athletes to who attention should be paid in MCAL's include: distance runners **Alison Greggor**, **Evan Ball**, **Eric Reed**, and **Russell Barry**; pole vaulters **Theo Phan** and **Angie Pillacielli**; high jumpers **Mackenzie Arnold** and **Jeff Baum**; long jumpers **Greg Mercurio** and **Chris Knowles**; discus thrower **Paul Himmelstein**; and hurdler **Garren Suen**.

With hopes high, and conflicts in the past, the Track Team is ready. As coach **Juan Carlos** (aka JC) affirms, "There is no more drama than in the track team."

looked optimistic and in position to make a postseason run; however, they struggled in reciprocating the results they attained in their first few matches. The team proceeded to lose their next eight matches, and nine out of their final 10, with the majority of these matches played without all of the best players on the team, hindering their overall performance. To quote head coach **Bob Lacy**, "Nothing really fell into place for us like we'd hoped. There's not really any other way to put it. But we still managed to have a lot of fun."

The team will lose five seniors to graduation, including the three of the top six players, but will return with an experienced core of sophomores **Rhett Carlsen** and **Jeff Yen** and junior **Pat Graham**. With continued hard work, enthusiasm, and dedication, the Mustangs will be looking to rebound next season with the hopes of earning a trip to the playoffs.



experienced many bumps in the road over the course of the season. Opening the season 2-2, the Mustangs

## Fun Facts

by Clint Potter

- 150 wigs were owned by Queen Elizabeth I.
- It takes 28 days to completely replace a human's outer layer of skin.
- Legendary science-fiction author H.G. Wells coined the term "atomic bomb."
- A typical vampire kit contains a mirror, garlic, an ivory cross, a pistol, silver or lead bullets, a Bible, a mallet, and a wooden stake.
- Firefighters had to be called to an English hospital when the hospital staff was unable to cut titanium nipple rings from the chests of two teenagers who came in complaining that their nipples were sore. The firefighters used bolt-cutters to get the rings off. That probably didn't help much with the soreness, though.
- The longest one-syllable word in the English language is "screched."
- Los Angeles' full name is "El Pueblo de Nuestra Senora la Reina de los Angeles de Porciuncula."
- Mr. Rogers was an ordained minister.
- A blue whale's heart is the size of a Volkswagen Beetle.
- The Pacific entrance of the Panama Canal is farther east than the Atlantic entrance.
- There are more nutrients in the cornflake packaging itself than there are in the actual cornflakes.
- In ancient Japan, public contests were held to see who could fart the loudest and longest.
- In a year, approximately 900 million trees are cut down to make the raw materials needed for American pulp mills and paper.
- Americans are responsible for generating roughly 20% of the garbage in the world.
- The Giant South African Earthworm can grow up to 22 feet long and 1 inch thick.
- Bob Hope and Billy Joel were boxers.
- Chop-suey is not a native Chinese dish; it was created in California by Chinese immigrants.
- More Monopoly money is printed in a year than real money.
- Martha Stewart became a billionaire while in prison.

## Crossword Puzzle

by Dan Saslow

### ACROSS

- Cartoon sound effect
- The author
- Animal science, minus "z"
- Prom transportation
- English Golf Union
- Rival school
- Tucson airport
- Candy-maker
- Maroon 5 hit "Harder \_\_\_ Breathe"
- 15<sup>th</sup> century weapon with long shaft
- Student of Socrates, teacher of Aristotle
- Popular cartoon style
- Music compilation
- Plastic coated
- Mario transportation
- Tardy
- Soil of decayed plant matter
- Actor Alda of M\*A\*S\*H
- Shun; avoid
- Baseball league
- Chocolate factory owner
- Turn; twist
- Giants' home
- Pirate exclamation
- Futuristic Spielberg film

- A great dog
- Temporary property contract
- Andes pack animal
- Someone old and wise
- The most experienced 53-across would be the \_\_\_\_\_
- Jean material
- "Holy Grail" utterance of the knights
- Windows version
- Intricate
- Fourth of the singing scale
- To result
- What Long John lost
- Inheritance
- Puzzle of paths
- Lieutenant

### DOWN

- Jewish dietary laws
- At the ready
- Outdoor Life Network
- Funeral reaction
- Life-threatening
- Chromatically flexible reptile

- Allah believer
- Concealed
- The most famous club of hearts
- Distraction
- Musical genre, 50's-70's classics
- Important reference for athletes, abbr.
- 50-across cousin
- Food grinders
- Scottish "folktronic" band
- Style of food preparation - ice cream w/ pie, in America
- Exaggerated stories of American frontier
- Safe haven

- Fuel carrier
- Disease, leu\_\_\_\_\_
- High school student characteristic
- Gato
- Sexual independence
- Aretha Franklin's demand
- Advertisement for short
- Author Coulter, of insulting political humor
- Amount, abbr.
- Pan spray
- Felt hat with tassel
- Specific gravity

Where's Waldo?

