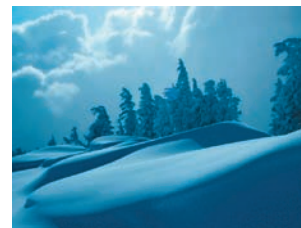




**Fast Food  
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**Madrigal  
(See  
Below)**



**Cheap  
Tahoe  
Trips  
(Page 9)**



# Pony Express

Volume 37, Number 3 • San Marin High School, Novato, California • December 9, 2005

## XBOX 360 Takes Gamers by Storm

by Yuekai Sun

Microsoft gets a head start on next generation video game war against Sony and Nintendo by releasing its newest console, XBOX 360, on November 22, 2005. Its release will be accompanied by eagerly awaited launch titles Perfect Dark Zero, Quake 4 and Project Gotham Racing 3.

The XBOX 360, at its heart, is just a computer—a very powerful computer. Its processor, custom designed by IBM, puts the fastest Intel processor on the market to shame. Its graphic capabilities are on par with the latest graphics cards from ATI. The XBOX 360 will also support high definition video and Dolby 5.1 Surround Sound.

All this advanced hardware will enable the XBOX 360 to lend a much greater degree of realism to



Screenshot from NBA Live! on the new XBOX 360.

video gaming. Its triple core processor and custom ATI graphics card means that 3D environments can be much more detailed than before. Trees will look more like trees and less like cotton balls stuck on a toothpick. Sweat glistens on the brows of players in NBA Live! The surround

sound actually allows you to hear the direction a sound is coming from. This level of detail will make video gaming a more immersive experience.

But the XBOX 360 is a lot more than just a video game console. It also attempts to take over your living room. The XBOX 360 will

allow you to play DVD movies and music. If you have Windows XP Media Center Edition 2005 and the optional universal media remote, you can even record TV shows and manage your digital photos, all through the XBOX 360.

The XBOX 360 was meant to do one thing for Microsoft—beat out Sony's PlayStation 3 as the foremost video game console on the market. It certainly has fulfilled its destiny. Thousands of avid gamers waited outside department stores at midnight on release day to grab the console.

Enterprising merchants are selling XBOX 360s on ebay for up to \$1000. It is now up to the PS3 and Nintendo Revolution to see if they can dethrone the XBOX 360. With gamers willing to pay three times the retail price for the new XBOX, it does not look easy for Sony and Nintendo.

## Tookie Williams

by Eric Esberg

On December 13, Tookie Williams, the founder of the Crips, is sentenced to die by lethal injection. After multiple appeals including a last ditch effort to characterize the forensic evidence against him as "junk science", Williams' last hope rests in the hands of Governor Schwarzenegger.

Tookie was condemned to die for a quadruple homicide in 1981, an incident which he continuously pled innocent to. He also claims that the Los Angeles District Attorney's office violated his rights by not allowing any potential black jurors to sit on the jury.

Governor Schwarzenegger has agreed to hear Tookie Williams' petition for clemency on December



8. However, no governor has granted clemency in the state of California since Ronald Reagan. Even so, it is a governor's prerogative to grant clemency in cases where there may be mitigating circumstances.

In this case, Williams has seemed to turn his life around. He has become an anti-gang activist and a children's author, and has been nominated for the Nobel prize.

Tookie Williams will be the second execution to take place this year, after Donald Beardslee was executed in January. Since the death penalty has been reinstated, 12 inmates have been executed.

## Madrigal Makes December Magical

by Alex Randall

Imagine- San Marin's cramped, circular Student Center is transformed into a medieval castle of the 15<sup>th</sup> century Renaissance. The candles are lit and flickering in the cool December breeze, the banquet tables are meticulously set, and the merry, brightly-adorned performers are engaged in various tricks and displays of talent.

The Madrigal Feast is an annual tradition among the talented San Marin vocalists that this year occurred on December 2, 3, and 4. Spectators, the lords and ladies of the evening, dine on a delicious meal of several courses, and are presented with a fantastic display of flaming pudding as dessert. Between courses, the performers flit from table to table, executing practiced slights of hand and singing classical Christmas carols such as "Deck the Halls" and "O Holy Night." During the courses of the meal, participants take a break in the serenading to put on a play. "The play is always really funny and satirical

and kind of absurd," says senior Katt Knecht, who has been involved in Madrigal for four years.

Emily Gates, head of the music department, began the annual December celebration seventeen years ago. Since that first year in 1989, she has used the money that is raised to benefit the music program. This year, about 480 people attended, raising more than 9,000 dollars to help pay for music department expenses.

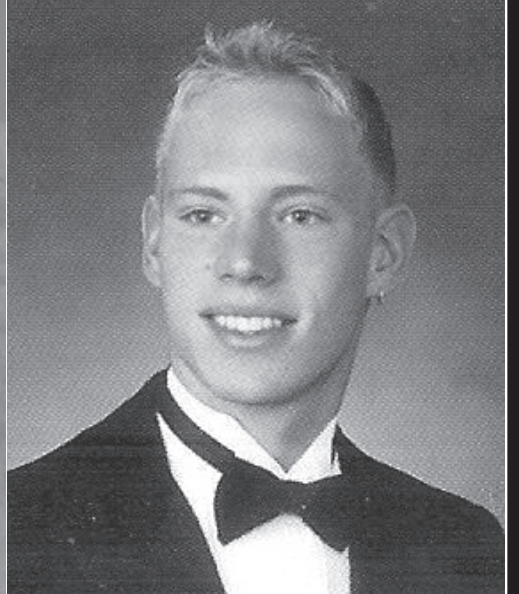
Although the space may be cramped, the students who are participating still find room to sing, dance, and have fun. Knecht sums up, "The best part of Madrigal is definitely the table entertainment because the audience gets to interact and it's really fun." Although it's over for this year, it is, of course, happening next year as well- go see it if you have a chance. Madrigal Feast is an awesome experience, and hopefully, the tradition continues for many years to come.



## In Loving Memory

### Alex Hunt

### Scott Van Hootegem



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

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

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

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## Question Man

### What is your ideal holiday gift?

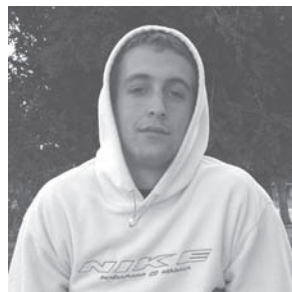
by Mandy Jacob, Hilary Johnson, Justine Alvarez



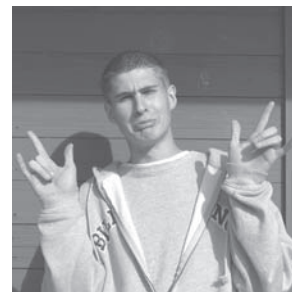
**Freshmen Isaac Madfes** - "I want all the troops to come home, especially my uncle Carlie."



**Sophomore Keith Jayne** - "I want to sit on Santa's lap."



**Junior Tyler Taggard** - "Three Mrs. Clauses in tight red skirts."



**Senior Stephen Byers** - "I wanna thanger so I can ride the ponies at Thizzmo Beach."



**Freshmen Victoria Glassmaker** - "I want Renee in my stocking."



**Sophomore Kristen Swig** - "A hot and sweaty firefighter."



**Junior Abby Ellison** - "Daniel Hong in a big red bow...just a big red bow."



**Senior Leslie Winsor** - "All I want for Christmas is you."



Answering all your strawberry-eating, boy band loving, Ebonics speaking questions.

**Q:** What are the origins of Ebonics?

**A:** Ebonics (Ebony meaning "black" and phonics meaning "language") is a combination of English, West African dialects, and Carribean Creole. The English influence could have come from the slaves' interactions with indentured servants and other workers. The tense system and the simplification of final consonant sounds resembles West African varieties spoken in Nigeria and Ghana. And the Creole trait most likely comes from the immense number of Carribean slaves brought over during the early settlement of the thirteen colonies.

**Quick Ebonics lesson:**

~We are going to school in my car.

~We be goin' to school in mah rahd. (distinct vowel sounds in English are given a dull "ah" sound in some Ebonic words).

**Q:** Are strawberries a fruit or vegetable?

**A:** Strawberries are not really berries or fruit in the botanical sense (meaning it is not the end result of a fertilized plant ovum.) The strawberry is actually an "enlarged receptacle" and is not reproductive material.

**Q:** Whatever happened to O-Town?

**A:** Did you know that one of the guys was named Ashley? For those who don't know or don't care, O-town was one of those factory-made boy bands that haunted MTV a few years ago. After their one-hit "Liquid Dreams" they practically disappeared. Now, separated, they are all trying to resurrect their careers in different ways. Dan is going on tour with other boy band rejects (from 98 Degrees to New Kids on the Block), Trevor tried some poor attempt as a solo artist that failed, Erik sang the national anthem at a basketball game, and Ashley's name is still Ashley.

**Q:** How old is the universe?

**A:** According to NASA's Wikinson Microwave Anisotropy Probe, the universe is 13.7 billion years old, with an uncertainty of 200 million years. Or, if you don't understand that: however long that meat loaf has been in the back of your refrigerator.

**Q:** What is the meaning of Christmas?

**A:** Presents.

## Cell Phone Ban on "Most Wanted List"

by Justine Alvarez and Alaina Gutfeld

Cell phone distractions create 2,600 deaths and 330,000 injuries in the United States every year. Talking on the cell-phone while driving is becoming more dangerous by the minute as cell phones become more popular with teenagers.

In response to a study on the effects electronics use while driving, many state legislators are trying to pass a bill banning the use of all cell phones while driving, regardless if you use a headset. The federal cell-phone ban was put on the National Transportation Safety Board's (NTSB) "Most Wanted List" for transportation safety improvements. The agency showed its proposal to all thirty-nine states that have not yet banned cell-phone use, in hope to improve our nations safety.

Learning to drive is a big responsibility for teens and they should give it their full attention. If you're talking on your cell phone the NTSB sees you as a threat to your safety and the safety of the drivers around you. Using your cell phone appropriately to assure your safety and the safety of others should be reason enough to pay attention. If you are not fully paying attention to your driving you run a very high risk of getting into an accident. Studies show that the reaction time of cell-phone users dramatically decrease, yielding a high risk of getting into an accident. Not only are drivers paying less attention to their driving, they're also driving slower and creating traffic. Due to slow reaction rate you are less aware of your speed and distance, which can lead to accidents.

"Learning how to drive while distracted is definitely a recipe for disaster," said NTSB's acting chairman,

Mark Rosenker. If your early months are spent driving recklessly than you develop a foundation for bad driving. The amount of time spent driving isn't a reliable test for the type of driver you are. Rather, how you drive and how much you pay attention institute the type of driver you will become. The new study also found that motorists talking on their phones were less responsive than a drunk driver with a blood alcohol level of 0.08. If we make a point of not driving under the influence then why do we run the risk by letting our phone conversation distract us from our driving?

Eleven states and the District of Columbia have already restricted cell phone use among novice drivers, and some have banned hand-held cell phones completely. Many states are unsure about completely forbidding all drivers from using cell phones, but are willing to stop use of cell-phones by new drivers. This means teenagers who have recently received their license or anyone under the age of 18 would not be allowed to use their cell phone while driving.

Drivers have to take their eyes off the road to dial, and people become so sucked into their conversations that the ability to concentrate on their driving decreases and becomes a threat to other cars, pedestrians and yourself. The study has also found that drivers have a harder time maintaining a constant speed, staying in lanes, and judging distances. In the last five years, the popularity of cell phones has grown enormously and so have the number of accidents in the United States. By banning the use of cell phones, the roads would be safer and the number of accidents would decrease dramatically.



## Ten Ways to Relieve Stress for Finals

By Justine Alvarez and Hilary Johnson

Have you been feeling irritable, anxious, or frustrated? Do you find yourself pulling your hair out or gnawing on your hand in your sleep? If you're feeling confused, disappointed and can't figure out what is wrong, you may be on the verge of a burn out. Finals week is one of the most stressful times in a teenager's life. Here are some helpful hints on reducing stress during the week of finals:

1. Don't Procrastinate! - Even though finals are only a few days away, use this time to study, but don't over work yourself.
2. Exercise - It's the number one key to relieve stress. It is important to give your brain a break by exercising; it also increases the amount of endorphins in your brain that will help you relax and cheer you up.
3. Organize - Run through your notes and put them in a way that makes the most sense to you.
4. Sleep - Don't stay up all night studying for your next test, you will just end up feeling overly tired, which can impact how well you do on the test. Get plenty of sleep so you can feel well rested and ready to take on the test.
5. Study Guides - If your teacher gives you a study guide, do it. If your teacher did not give you one,

make one for yourself. This is a great way to study and will prepare you the best for the test.

6. Eat a Balanced Meal - It takes a lot of time and energy to study for finals, eating a well balanced meal will help keep your body going.
7. Sing in the Shower - Singing your favorite song demands deep breathing so try holding the notes for as long as possible. It will allow you to relax.
8. Self Fulfilling Prophecy - Thinking positive about your tests will improve your study habits which will help you during the finals. Being pessimistic will lead to bad study habits and a lower score.
9. Realistic Goals - Don't do too much at once; take one subject at a time.
10. Take a Moment to Breathe - Take breaks from studying even if it is just for a few moments.

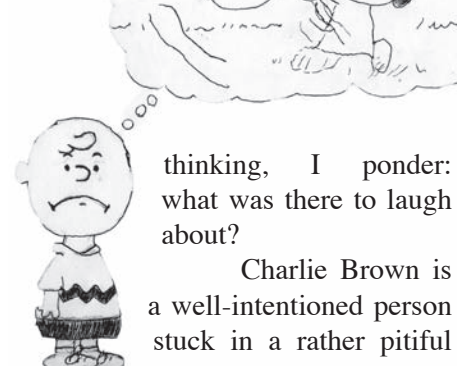
By practising these helpful tips to prepare yourself for finals, you can improve your study habits and increase your test scores. While some stress can be beneficial to you, too much stress in your life could ultimately lead to high blood pressure, heart attacks, and strokes. Take the time to use these stress relievers to improve your health and your test scores.

## It's A Hard Life, Charlie Brown

By Alex Randall

Growing up in a house that subscribed to the local newspapers, reading the Sunday comics became a ritual of mine. Every time Sunday came about, I'd be ready and waiting for the paper boy to arrive, sitting on my porch with a steaming cup of hot cocoa. As soon as he arrived, I'd take the paper inside, pick it apart until I found the funnies, and sit down and read. While Dilbert befuddled me and Family Circus pushed me closer to suicide, I was always a keen reader of Peanuts. Every week I'd laugh along with the rest of the nation whenever Charlie failed miserably as a pitcher, landed on his rear after being hoodwinked by the sadistic Lucy, or aimlessly sought psychiatric assistance.

Looking back on those days of blissful



thinking, I ponder: what was there to laugh about?

Charlie Brown is a well-intentioned person stuck in a rather pitiful

existence. He must live with friends that include a manic depressive sister, a boy whose love for a blanket demonstrates attachment problems, and a socially inept piano savant. He's the butt end of every joke and is constantly ordered around by a canine that doesn't speak. If he's so miserable, how are we entertained?

As a verifiable response to this inquiry, I would like to propose the idea of schadenfreude, or "pleasure derived from the misfortunes of others." As poor Charlie Brown finds himself in situation after situation that would throw even the most jovial of teenagers into depression, we giggle at his perpetual disappointment.

It is my belief however, that this practice is not intended to be hateful; instead, it is merely a tribute to a universal symbol of misfortune. Through all of his mishaps and frustration, Charlie Brown never learns from his mistakes, cursing himself with a life of sadness. He has become a puppy chasing its tail; hopeless, yet undeniably loveable.

As you watch A Charlie Brown Christmas this year, try to place yourself in Charlie's shoes, if only for a moment. While it may be cool to own a dog like Snoopy, be thankful that you are not sentenced to a life of unhindered melancholy.

## Holiday Movie Guide

by Paul Himmelstein

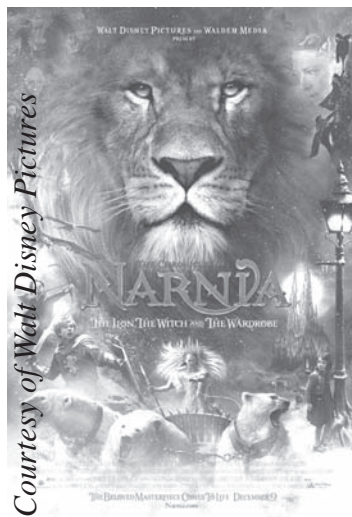
After Halloween, the holiday movie commercials attacked T.V., making people anxiously wait two months for the movies to hit theatres. Humorous, cute, and borderline annoying movies will frequent the theatres this season, providing entertainment for all ages.

**Aeon Flux**, December 2 - Charlize Theron plays the assassin Aeon Flux, a sexy, leather clad killer in the city of Bregna 400 years in the future. A disease has wiped out the majority of Earth, except



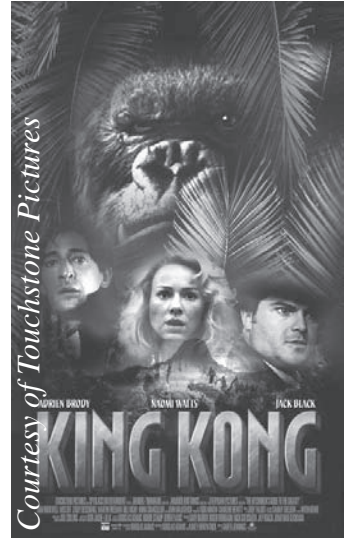
for the population of Bregna. The government of Bregna is run by a group of scientists, and is opposed by Aeon and the Monican Rebellion. After Aeon gets an assignment to assassinate a government official, she discovers a deeper plot... and kills people.

**The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe**, December 9 - The classic tale by C.S. Lewis finally makes the big screen, with more special effects than that personal you posted in the paper's dating section. Four little English children discover the magical



land of Narnia after they are sent to live with their uncle during World War II. Narnia, naturally, is under the dominion of an evil witch, and the four children must save the enchanted land. They join forces with the true ruler, a lion god named Aslan, and a huge battle between good and evil commences.

**King Kong**, December 14 - An expedition crew (led by the quirky Jack Black) travels to an island in search of mythical creatures. The island is inhabited by a native tribe, dinosaurs, and big monkeys (now that makes sense). The giant

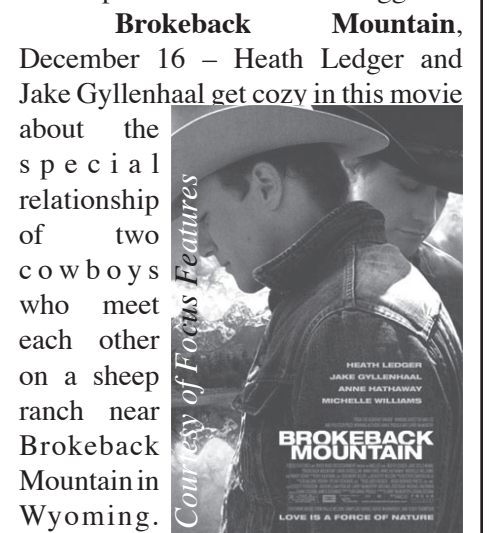


monkey falls in love with a hot blonde (Naomi Watts) and jumps on buildings to display his undying love. Cute.

**The Producers**, December 16 - The movie adaptation of the musical written by Mel Brooks. It tells the story of an unsuccessful producer and his plan to get wealthy fast. Includes Will Ferrell playing a Nazi, and people dancing to "Springtime for Hitler".

**Cheaper by the Dozen 2**, December 21 - The entire cast from the original is back in the sequel that no one was expecting. The Baker family returns to go on vacation, and meets a rival family who also happens to have eight children. The head of the rival family is no other than cinematic nerd Eugene Levy, who just makes us think of that pie scene with Jason Biggs.

**Brokeback Mountain**, December 16 - Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal get cozy in this movie about the special relationship of two cowboys who meet each other on a sheep ranch near Brokeback Mountain in Wyoming. Which just begs the question, how many ideas can chick flick writers think of? And since when was there anything in Wyoming?



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## A Letter From Clifford: Part Two

by Clif Bachmeier

Dear San Marin High School,

Recently, it has been a very interesting period of time for the politics of Latvia. The way in which this country will plan to build itself will be very interesting after a long occupation of the Soviet Union and also by having a long history of being occupied by many other nations as well. This question of how this country plans to move forward floats to the top of my thoughts, as it was recently Latvia's Independence Day. Living here in Rezekne, I have had many people that have exposed me to the laws put in place by the Latvian government.

Lately, I was able to sit down for an hour with a very bright student, journalist, singer, and actress from my school, Yelena Stupak, who described a lot about the current situation with the Latvian people, government, and how they affect the community of Rezekne. We talked about everything from the recent joining of Latvia with the European Union, Latvia's Independence and all of the recent changes over the last 15 or so years that has occurred in Latvia.

About the European Union, Lena says that the European Union is both good and bad. The good parts are that the borders are now open, and now students and people can go abroad to study and work much easily now. This is good for many adults in Latvia because there is not a lot of opportunity here. But now it is a little easier to find work in some other European countries because of the addition into the European Union. The bad part exists with the prices that are rising which makes it "hard to live by" especially as Lena describes Latvia as the "countryside of the European Union".

When questioned for thoughts about Latvia's Independence and government, she told me that Independent Latvia has been "not so good", and there is not much to like about the national government. Though reluctant to fully describe her opinion, Lena revealed that there are many problems with the rules set by the Latvian government, especially in order to gain citizenship. Many people who have lived in Latvia all of their lives have had trouble gaining citizenship because they cannot pass the Latvian Language or Latvian History tests, as many people for all of their lives spoke only Russian during the Soviet Occupation. People are also denied citizenship if they are born during certain years of the Soviet Occupation. I was told that the problem is that Latvia has almost always been occupied by outside nations, such as the Russians, Polish, Swedes, etc. and it doesn't know how to be independent. Thus, as Latvia has had their independence recently, it hasn't been without many very big growing pains that have divided the country distinctly through ethnicity- Russian and Latvian-, especially as the government wants to detach itself completely from the Soviet Occupation. This plants the seed of exclusion and segregation as the national government will mark many of the people only as Russian or alien, and not Latvian.

Finally, even with the political problems of Latvia, there is not a shortage of love for the country from the people who live in it. As Lena puts it "I love my country...the golden autumns...the very calm and peaceful towns that are like big villages where everyone knows each other...the reserved but fun people... [and mostly] the beautiful and green nature." Latvia might be a photographer's and adventurer's dream place to visit. There are many beautiful landscapes with the Baltic Sea to the west, the long winding river the runs through the country, and the countless lakes, both big and small, with stunning forests throughout the country. Each season is special and wonderfully unique with golden autumns, white wonderful winters, always-sunny summers, and beautiful green springs. There are countless historical ruins, monuments, castles, interesting cathedrals and churches, and even medieval towns in the country. Latvia is a place to be enjoyed by all people, despite the political turmoil that many of its people must face. And the people of Latvia too will feel no shame enjoying their open land and nature, and neither do many tourists.

Ciao for now,  
Clif

## I Remember Mama

by Alaina Gutfield



Allison Greggor and Haley McFadden acting out a scene.

Recently, the drama department presented an astonishing depiction of a Norwegian family living in San Francisco in the early 1900's. Written by Van Druten, *I Remember Mama* tells the tale of a family trying to make it with no much more than an immense love for one another. The eldest daughter Katrin, who later becomes a writer and learns that to write something great you must write about what you know, tells the story. Katrin knew about the love of her family and gigantic heart of a mother trying to keep her kooky bunch together. The family is your basic nut mix, a combination of overbearing and headstrong aunts, a seemingly mean and scary uncle who controls the entire family, children trying to understand and learn some of life's hardest lessons, and the glue that keeps it all together: the loving mother. It is only logical that of all the things Katrin had to remember, she'd have Mama in mind.

A cast headed by seniors, **Alison Greggor** played the role of Mama, followed closely by her loving and supportive husband, played by Brandon Hoberg. Sophomores included Haley McFadden as Katrin, the narrator of our story, and Kyle Ruth as the ruthless Uncle Chris. All were under the guidance of Ms. Linda Kislingbury-Cain who said that she was, "...so very proud of them. They did a great job." Ms. K and her entourage, consisting

of Annie Rollison as her assistant director and Mike Mann as the assistant producer, were correct. The students did a great job, but mainly due to the outstanding direction and leadership of this amazing trio.

The play is not only judged by the content or material the actors feed off of but the relationship and connection from the actors to the audience and the cast of *I Remember Mama* was feeling the love. As you entered the theater expecting another high school production, you were overwhelmed by the scenery, Norwegian lifestyle, and familiarity. For the authentic Norwegian dialect we can thank Thomas Rohtla and Dorothy Kislingbury. The costumes were another awesome addition to the authentic feel of the whole experience and the production flowed like clock work. Giving enough time for laughter and applause it almost seemed like the cast knew you would love the material and practiced the acceptance ahead of time. The acting was far beyond that of a high school level and put other drama productions to shame. This left the audience feeling warm and fuzzy and as everyone all left, they were remembering not only the families that were so much apart of them, but especially how much they are all really alike. Because all families, no matter what nationality, understand love.



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# FAST FOOD



Pony Express Rating:



**Cheeseburger w/Onion ©**

Serving Size: 268g  
Calories: 480

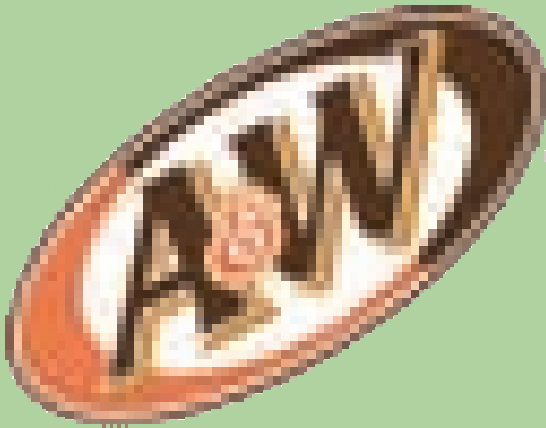


Pony Express Rating:



**BK Veggie Burger ©**

Serving Size: 183



Pony Express Rating:



**A&W Root Beer Float (Lg) ©**

Serving Size: 794g  
Calories: 640



Pony Express Rating:



**Soft Taco - Beef ©**

Serving Size: 3.5 oz  
Calories: 210  
Calories from Fat: 90  
Total Fat: 10 g  
Saturated Fat: 4 g

Calories from Fat: 240  
Total Fat: 27 g  
Saturated Fat: 10 g  
Cholesterol: 60 mg  
Sodium: 1000 mg  
Carbohydrates: 39 g  
Fiber: 3 g  
Sugars: 10 g  
Protein: 22 g

**French Fries ©**  
Serving Size: Small  
Calories: 115  
Calories from Fat: 50  
Total Fat: 6 g  
Saturated Fat: 1 g  
Sodium: 15 mg

Carbohydrates: 15 g  
Fiber: 2 g

Calories: 340  
Calories from Fat: 90  
Total Fat: 10 g  
Saturated Fat: 2 g  
Cholesterol: 0 mg  
Sodium: 950 mg  
Carbohydrates: 47 g  
Fiber: 4 g  
Sugars: 8 g  
Protein: 14 g

**Double WHOPPER Sandwich ©**  
Serving Size: 374  
Calories: 980  
Calories from Fat: 560  
Total Fat: 62 g  
Saturated Fat: 22 g  
Cholesterol: 160 mg

Calories from Fat: 90  
Total Fat: 10 g  
Saturated Fat: 6 g  
Cholesterol: 30 mg  
Sodium: 200 mg  
Carbohydrates: 136 g  
Fiber: 0 g  
Sugars: 64 g  
Protein: 4 g

**1/4 lb. Deluxe Cheeseburger ©**  
Serving Size: 245g  
Calories: 540  
Calories from Fat: 250  
Total Fat: 28 g  
Saturated Fat: 10 g  
Cholesterol: 95 mg  
Sodium: 970 mg

Cholesterol: 30 mg  
Sodium: 570 mg  
Carbohydrates: 20 g  
Fiber: 3 g  
Sugars: 1 g  
Protein: 11 g

**Gordita Supreme - Beef ©**  
Serving Size: 5.5 oz  
Calories: 300  
Calories from Fat: 120  
Total Fat: 14 g  
Saturated Fat: 5 g  
Cholesterol: 35 mg  
Sodium: 550 mg  
Carbohydrates: 27 g  
Fiber: 3 g  
Sugars: 4 g  
Protein: 17 g

Sugars: 2 g

**Shake - Chocolate ©**  
Serving Size: 16 oz  
Calories: 250  
Calories from Fat: 70  
Total Fat: 8 g  
Saturated Fat: 15 g  
Cholesterol: 30 mg  
Sodium: 160 mg  
Carbohydrates: 37 g  
Sugars: 27 g  
Protein: 9 g

Sodium: 1070 mg  
Carbohydrates: 52 g  
Fiber: 4 g  
Sugars: 11 g  
Protein: 52 g

**Chicken Sandwich - Tenders ©**  
Serving Size: 140g  
Calories: 430  
Calories from Fat: 240  
Total Fat: 27 g  
Saturated Fat: 5 g  
Cholesterol: 30 mg  
Sodium: 650 mg  
Carbohydrates: 33 g  
Fiber: 2 g  
Sugars: 3 g  
Protein: 13 g

Carbohydrates: 43 g  
Fiber: 4 g  
Sugars: 8 g  
Protein: 29 g

**Chicken Strips - 3 Piece ©**  
Serving Size: 145g  
Calories: 380  
Calories from Fat: 190  
Total Fat: 21 g  
Saturated Fat: 4 g  
Cholesterol: 55 mg  
Sodium: 1360 mg  
Carbohydrates: 27 g  
Fiber: 1 g  
Sugars: 1 g  
Protein: 22 g

**Gordita Supreme - Chicken ©**  
Serving Size: 5.5 oz  
Calories: 300  
Calories from Fat: 120  
Total Fat: 13 g  
Saturated Fat: 5 g  
Cholesterol: 45 mg  
Sodium: 530 mg  
Carbohydrates: 28 g  
Fiber: 3 g  
Sugars: 4 g  
Protein: 16 g



## Fast Food

What's Your Favorite Fast Food?

- A&W- 1
- Burger King- 6
- Carl's Junior- 2
- In-n-Out- 33
- Kentucky Fried Chicken-12
- McDonald's-11
- Taco Bell- 8
- Wendy's- 8

# FAST FOOD



**Charbroiled BBQ Chicken Sandwich**

©  
Serving Size: 245 g  
Calories: 370  
Calories from Fat: 35  
Total Fat: 4 g  
Saturated Fat: 1 g  
Cholesterol: 60 mg  
Sodium: 1070 mg  
Carbohydrates: 47 g  
Fiber: 4 g  
Sugars: 12 g  
Protein: 35 g

**Six Dollar Guacamole Bacon Burger**

©  
Serving Size: 270 g  
Calories: 1117  
Calories from Fat: 732

**Big Mac**

©  
Serving Size: 219 g  
Calories: 600  
Calories from Fat: 300  
Total Fat: 33 g  
Saturated Fat: 11 g  
Cholesterol: 85 mg  
Sodium: 1050 mg  
Carbohydrates: 50 g  
Fiber: 4 g  
Sugars: 8 g  
Protein: 25 g

**Chicken Selects Premium Breast Strips (5 Pc)**

©  
Serving Size: 221 g  
Calories: 630  
Calories from Fat: 290  
Total Fat: 32 g

**Sourdough Jack**

Serving Size: 245 g  
Calories: 710  
Calories from Fat: 460  
Total Fat: 51 g  
Saturated Fat: 28 g  
Cholesterol: 125 mg  
Sodium: 1580 mg  
Carbohydrates: 36 g  
Fiber: 3 g  
Sugars: 7 g  
Protein: 27 g

**Curly Fries - medium**

Serving Size: 125 g  
Calories: 400  
Calories from Fat: 200  
Total Fat: 23 g

**Popcorn Chicken® - large**

Serving Size: 170 g  
Calories: 560  
Calories from Fat: 270  
Total Fat: 31 g  
Saturated Fat: 7 g  
Cholesterol: 90 mg  
Sodium: 1790 mg  
Carbohydrates: 34 g  
Fiber: 1 g  
Sugars: 0 g  
Protein: 36 g

**Crispy Twister**

Serving Size: 172g  
Calories: 510  
Calories from Fat: 154  
Total Fat: 22 g  
Saturated Fat: 4.5 g  
Cholesterol: 55 mg  
Sodium: 1520 mg

Total Fat: 81 g  
Saturated Fat: 29 g  
Cholesterol: 154 mg  
Sodium: 2156 mg  
Carbohydrates: 54 g  
Fiber: 6 g  
Sugars: 11 g  
Protein: 43 g

**Spicy Chicken Sandwich**

©  
Serving Size: 198 g  
Calories: 480  
Calories from Fat: 230  
Total Fat: 26 g  
Saturated Fat: 5 g  
Cholesterol: 40 mg  
Sodium: 1220 mg  
Carbohydrates: 48 g  
Fiber: 2 g

Saturated Fat: 5 g  
Cholesterol: 85 mg  
Sodium: 1590 mg  
Carbohydrates: 47 g  
Fiber: 0 g  
Sugars: 0 g  
Protein: 38 g

**Hamburger**

©  
Serving Size: 1  
Calories: 585  
Total Fat: 36 g  
Saturated Fat: 14 g  
Cholesterol: 82 mg  
Sodium: 407 mg  
Carbohydrates: 30 g  
Fiber: 0 g  
Sugars: 3 g  
Protein: 34 g

Saturated Fat: 5 g  
Cholesterol: 0 mg  
Sodium: 890 mg  
Carbohydrates: 45 g  
Fiber: 5 g  
Sugars: 1 g  
Protein: 6 g

**Chocolate Shake - medium**

Serving Size: 413 g  
Calories: 850  
Calories from Fat: 350  
Total Fat: 38 g  
Saturated Fat: 24 g  
Cholesterol: 150 mg  
Sodium: 340 mg  
Carbohydrates: 111 g  
Fiber: 1 g

Carbohydrates: 52 g  
Fiber: 3 g  
Sugars: 6 g  
Protein: 27 g

**Potato Wedges**

Serving Size: 102 g  
Calories: 240  
Calories from Fat: 108  
Total Fat: 12 g  
Saturated Fat: 3 g  
Cholesterol: 0 mg  
Sodium: 830 mg  
Carbohydrates: 30 g  
Fiber: 3 g  
Sugars: 0 g  
Protein: 4 g



**Carl's Jr.**

Pony Express Rating:



Sugars: 6 g  
Protein: 14 g



Pony Express Rating:



Pony Express Rating:



Sugars: 98 g  
Protein: 15 g



Pony Express Rating:



## Survey

**How Many Times A Week?**

- Never- 17
- 1 or 2- 34
- 3 or 4- 20
- 5 to 7- 9

**How Much on Average Do You Spend?**

- None- 8
- Less \$5- 34
- \$6 to \$10- 24
- \$11 to \$15- 9
- More than \$15- 5



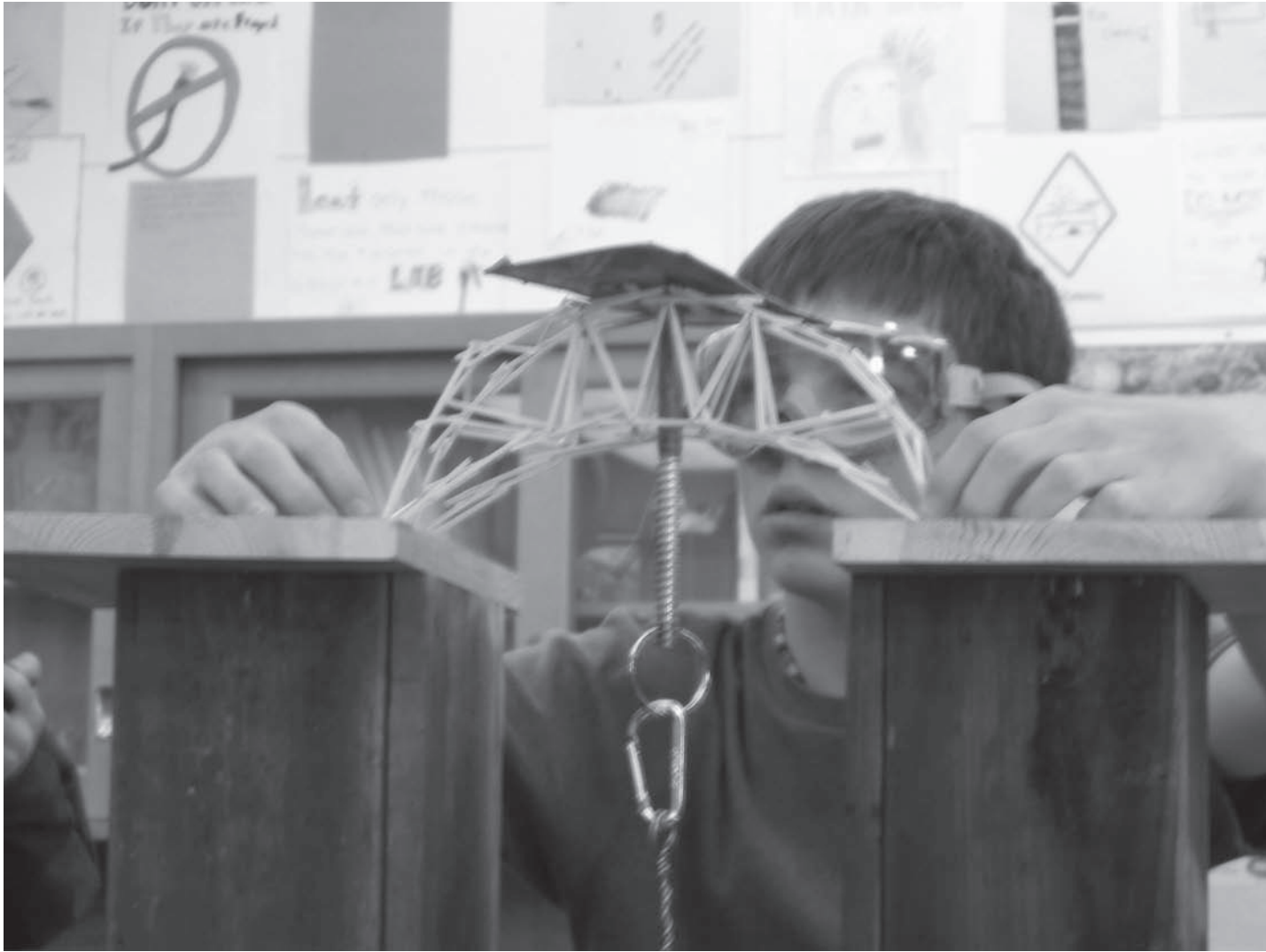
## My Bridge Is Better Than Your Bridge

by Yuekai Sun

After sitting through hours of lectures and cranking out endless homework assignments, physics students were finally given the opportunity to pit their knowledge and creativity against each other's in a toothpick bridge competition. Students were given a month to construct a toothpick bridge spanning 20 cm (slightly less than 8 inches) and weighing less than 85 g (about 3 ounces). Each bridge was tested to the breaking point and scored by dividing the weight it held over the weight of the bridge. The bridge with the highest score won.

### The Winners:

**Jhnette Stranne, Shaina Madfes and Nicole Domecus** built an arch bridge weighing 33.4g that held at least 1500+ times its own weight. Owing to lack of equipment, their bridge could not be broken. **Elizabeth Sgarella** created one of the most ingenious bridges in the



Senior Alex Randall tests Jenny Bankie's bridge in AP Physics.

competition—a simple equilateral triangle (for kids not yet in geometry, that means a triangle with three sides of equal length) reinforced by another upside-down equilateral triangle inside. Her bridge weighed 82.5 g and held at least 70,000 g. Also owing to lack of equipment, her bridge also could not be broken.

### Honorable Mentions:

**Fili Ramirez** was the only student not in AP Physics (all four winners came from AP Physics) whose bridge held more than 1000 times its own weight. Therefore, we award him an Honorable Mention for a commendable effort against tough competition. **Alex Randall** and **Jeff McLaughlin** built arguably the best-looking bridge. Their bridge, an

arch-truss hybrid based on the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge was spray painted gold and coated with glitter. Therefore, we award them an Honorable Mention for their bling-bling. **Max McDonald** and **Nicole Lundgren**'s bridge held more weight upside down than right side up. Therefore, we award them an Honorable Mention for wacky design.

I personally enjoyed the design process tremendously. Unlike most other projects, this one allowed for a large degree of independent thought. Instead of "fulfill these

criteria and your project will receive an A," it was "here are the restrictions, do whatever you must to beat the competition." Almost every student knows how to follow instructions, but not every student can design a bridge that will hold more than 1500 times its own weight. Projects like this make the truly bright students stand out.

## Myspace Craze Hits San Marin

by Alex Randall

From the vast and mysterious dimensions of cyberspace, a new refuge for young adults has emerged. Myspace.com, a profile-based web community, has become the fifth-most visited site in the U.S. Similar to how this craze has spread through the nation, its attractive and simple characteristics have made it popular among San Marin students.

Free to join and entirely customizable, the flexibility and convenience of Myspace.com has captured the hearts of numerous teens. Using other services tends to require a sense of responsibility—an obligation to create new entries on a daily basis. Such production is not essential on Myspace; in fact, many profile-holders have never written a blog. They instead spend their time commenting on their friends' pictures, posting images of their own, and designing their homepage to please the viewer's eye. Myspace

allows users to send messages to one another, post bulletins for their friends to see, and even set

opportunities for employing creativity and communicating amongst peers, Myspace is an internet-using socialite's dream come true.

In all of its glory, Myspace is also a detriment to teenage lives. Some adolescents have become addicted to Myspace, spending two or more hours a day exploring other profiles and editing their own. "I've spent hours commenting on pictures," admits an anonymous sophomore, "it's become a habit."

While this new craze is threatening these students' study habits, Myspace is merely a hobby for most young users.

As one of the newest web communities around, Myspace.com has gotten off to a quick start. Until it is trumped by a new means of expressing personality in a public manner, it will continue to thrive among San Marin students.



a certain song to play every time that their homepage is viewed. With so many

## Concerts

by Katrina Richards

Fri., Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>: Live 105's Not So Silent Night ft. Death Cab for Cutie, Hot Hot Heat, Coheed and Cambria, and others @ the Bill Graham Civic Center (6:30 PM; \$35)

Sat., Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>: The Donnas @ Slim's (9 PM; \$16)

Tues., Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>: The Aquabats, Bad Credit, and Valient Thorr @ Slim's (8 PM; \$17)

Sun., Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>: As I Lay Dying, Norma Jean, and Madball @ Slim's (7:30 PM; \$18)

Wed., Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>: Kelly Clarkson and Graham Colton @ the HP Pavillion at San Jose (8 PM; \$49.50)

Sat., Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>: Les Claypool and the Phenomenauts @ the Fillmore (9 PM; \$57.50)

Fri. Dec. 9: Early Morning, Sorry Mom & Dad, and Pointless @ YetWan Restaurant in San Rafael (9:30 PM, \$3)

Sat. Dec. 10th: Tragedy Andy @ the Novato Teen Center (6:30 PM, free)

Sat, Dec 17th: The Matches @ B Street Center in San Rafael (6:30 PM, \$13)



## Tahoe Resort Guide

by Katrina Richards

As the weather gets colder and winter creeps closer, the chances of fresh powder falling on the mountains of the Sierras grow each day. Lucky for us, living three hours away from Lake Tahoe definitely has its advantages. Plus, with the several breaks from school during the winter season, week-long trips to the mountains or even weekend escapades are a must for any snow-lover. With both North and South Lake Tahoe offering an eclectic choice of ski resorts, it is sometimes hard to find a place that goes easy on the wallet. Thankfully, this guide of resort locations and prices was designed specifically for those who wish to visit the snow.

**Kirkwood Mountain Resort:** Located along Highway 88 in South Lake Tahoe, Kirkwood has been a long-time favorite of snowboarders and skiers alike. With its awesome ski school, great terrain park, and over 65 trails, it's obvious to see why it's been a constant favorite. Also, lodgers staying on Kirkwood's premises are offered free skiing everyday, excluding holidays.

**Season Pass:** Junior Value (Ages 13-18): \$229

**Day Lift Ticket:** \$50 (full day) and \$40 (afternoon)

**Lodging:** Starts at \$85 per person per night

**Squaw Valley USA:** Found off of Highway 89, six miles from Truckee, Squaw is one of the most prestigious ski resorts of Tahoe, as it hosted the 1960 Winter Olympics. This resort has almost everything! From awesome terrain parks and six peaks to an ice

skating rink and night skiing, visiting Squaw is a must for anyone really interested in skiing or snowboarding.

**Season Pass:** \$959

**Day Lift Ticket:** \$49

**Boreal Mountain Resort:** As the first resort you see while driving up to Tahoe, Boreal is situated at Donner Summit and is the first resort in Tahoe to open each year. Boreal isn't one of the biggest ski resorts, but it's great



Heavenly Ski Resort overlooking picturesque south Lake Tahoe.

for one-day trips, considering you don't have to drive so far up into the Sierras to get to it. It consists of 41 different trails, the longest being one mile long. Their Jibassie terrain park is one of a kind in Northern California and attracts thousands of different level snowboards each year. A plus about buying a season pass is that you will still be able to use it at Alpine Meadows Ski Resort during

the spring, when Boreal closes.

**Season Pass:** \$399

**Day Lift Ticket:** \$38

**Heavenly Mountain Resort:** Known for being the biggest resort in Tahoe, Heavenly has a lot of trails to offer for people of every skiing ability. It consists of over 90 different trails and a run consisting of 5.5 miles. Prices are also very reasonable and the views from the tops of Heavenly's mountain

sponsored terrain park is famous for its 420-foot super pipe and over 90 jumps, rails, and boxes. It's a great place to go with your friends or family.

**Season Pass:** \$309 (also usable at Sierra at Tahoe)

**Day Lift Ticket:** \$53

**Sugarbowl Ski Resort:** Situated along Highway 40 on Mt. Judah, Sugarbowl has a lot of adventure to offer. It's a favorite of snowboarders, considering the Superpipe, Coldstream terrain park, Golden Gate terrain park, and Nob Hill park are all specifically designed for them. While at Sugarbowl, you can hang out at their awesome lodge when you're not hitting the slopes or learn how to ski at their great ski school. Another great thing about Sugarbowl is that their prices don't go up during holidays, unlike the other ski resorts.

**Season Pass:** \$259

**Day Lift Ticket:** \$46

**Sierra-at-Tahoe:** With over 46 slopes and trails, 6 terrain parks, and 2 half pipes, Sierra-at-Tahoe is definitely not for the easily spooked. It's known for its awesome terrain and other snow activities such as the popular snow tubing. They also rent out fun and interesting snowbikes and snowscoots if you're feeling daring. And, if your little siblings are getting in the way of you having a good time, Sierra-at-Tahoe also offers a daycare program so you can have your peace on the mountain.

**Season Pass:** \$309 (also usable at Northstar)

**Day Lift Ticket:** \$49

## Car Accidents

by Katrina Richards

Nearly inevitable for the majority of current drivers, car accidents can be either devastating or very minor. However, nobody wants to be in one, despite the severity. It doesn't matter if you think you're the best driver at San Marin; it could happen to you! With the roads becoming more and more slick with winter rains and the constant introduction of new high school drivers, it's crucial to know what to do just in case you dent your dad's BMW.

The best way to get through an accident is to be prepared. New cars come equipped with first aid kits, road flares, and everything you need in order to get through the anxiety-filled ordeal. If you don't currently have a first-aid kit in your car, it's highly recommended by the police and emergency officials that you purchase one. It's also a great idea to keep post-it notes and a pen in the glove compartment of your car in order to jot down the other driver's information. Still, it's extremely hard to be fully prepared for an accident, physically and mentally, because they are completely unexpected. Luckily for you, this procedure was developed specifically so you wouldn't wet yourself and so you could keep your

wits.

1. After the accident occurs, pull over to the side of the road where it is safe and so your vehicle is out of the way. Remember to put on your hazard lights if you are along a busy road to give oncoming drivers ample warning. If you're having an anxiety attack, just take several deep breaths to calm yourself before you get out of the car. And whatever you do, DON'T DRIVE AWAY. That's considered a "hit-and-run" and is highly illegal!

2. Be very courteous and calm while talking to the person that you hit or that hit you. It's not a great idea to be screaming at the top of your lungs, as it might get you into a whole lot of trouble later on during police intervention. If there is a lot of damage or if you are planning on reporting the accident to your insurance company, be sure to call the police in order to get a statement. You can still put in a claim at your insurance company, but it's much easier if you have a police statement. Also, if there is anyone injured, common sense dictates calling 911. Be sure to then exchange insurance information and write down the driver's license number.

3. After you leave the scene of

peaks are well worth the trip.

**Season Pass:** \$249

**Day Lift Ticket:** \$49

**Northstar at Tahoe:** A long time favorite of San Marin students, Northstar's great atmosphere adds to its even better skiing. It has runs that please everyone, from double blue circles to black diamonds on the backside of the mountain. Also, the Northstar Burton Snowboards-

the accident and are home, be sure to call your insurance company as quickly as you can to state your claim. The sooner you deal with it, the easier it will be. Also, California state law states that if you are involved in an accident where there was more than \$750 worth of property damage or anyone was injured or killed, you must fill out a form reporting the accident within 10 days of the accident. It doesn't matter if you caused the accident or not, you MUST report it if it meets the certain criteria. If you don't submit the report, your driving privilege could be suspended.

In the end, the only way to prevent accidents is to practice safe driving techniques. They're fairly obvious; don't speed, don't run red lights, check both ways before entering an intersection, etc. Also, California created the "six-months" law that

states that new drivers under the age of 18 cannot drive with anyone under the age of 20 for the first six months of having their license. Being a new driver and being distracted by your friends are two things that don't mix well, so try to avoid doing it. While driving, use common sense. And remember, getting into a small accident isn't the end of the world. After all, it happens to many drivers sooner or later.

### FREE TEEN CLINIC

- pregnancy testing
- birth control (without exam)
- HIV/AIDS testing
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Every Thursday  
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## Dec. 11th Concert

by Allison Arnheither

San Marin's Jazz Band and Jazz Choir competed against other outstanding teams of musicians in New Orleans last year. They had an unforgettable time and brought back vivid memories of the city. But after Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans, destroying the once lively city, they were devastated. After the tragedy, they decided to hold a benefit concert to help rebuild the city. Since the city of New Orleans holds a lot of jazz festivals, San Marin decided to make its concert jazz-themed. As well as helping to pay for the damage to New Orleans, the program will also donate money to Habitat for Humanity.

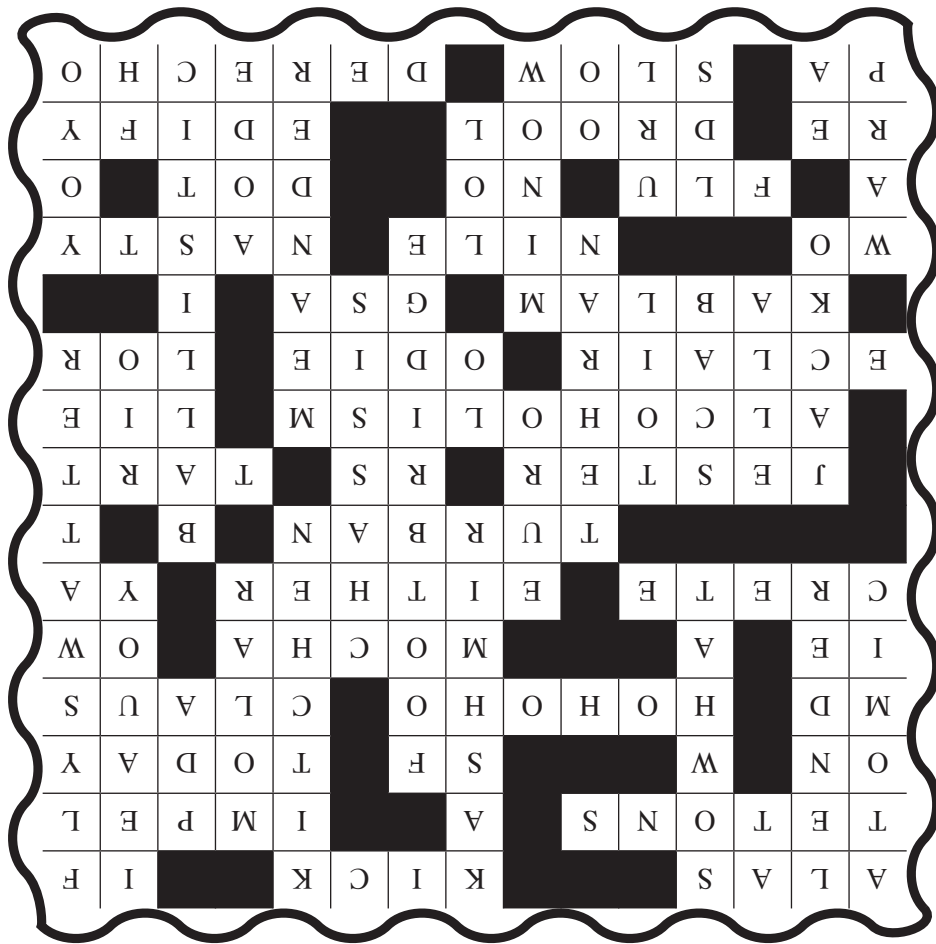
The concert will not be like any other; you will be able to stroll between the gym and the student center, which will allow you to enjoy different types of music without waiting for intermissions to stretch your legs.

The music will be preformed by groups from various schools, some even composed of graduates of San Marin. The Concert Band will be

performing songs like "Sleigh Ride," a "Hebrew Melody," as well as some original jazz.

Along with the different musical entertainment, there will be an art display for everyone to enjoy, and a silent auction with items signed by Harry Connick Jr., a famous jazz musician. Refreshments, including Starbucks coffee, will be on sale in the student center to help generate more money. In addition, Katrina relief bracelets will be sold next to the refreshments for two dollars each. Some of San Marin's old music CDs will be on sale, in case you missed your chance before.

Tickets are being sold for ten dollars a piece, both presale and at the door. The presale tickets will be sold at the San Marin office or at the District office. "This should be a terrific event, so please come and support," says music teacher Mrs. Gates.



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## SPORTS

### STANDOUTS

by Alex Randall and James Gramalia

#### DANA SOCKOLOV



As a youngster, Dana Sockolov was a Renaissance athlete- she sampled soccer, softball, and even martial arts. Although such variety existed in her athletic endeavors, she fell in love with basketball, leaving the other sports in her past.

She continued playing CYO until high school, joining the varsity team in her sophomore year as a point guard and a shooting forward. Rarely watching basketball on T.V. and never having a true athletic role model, "I just wanted to play," says Dana. Even though this will be her third year at the varsity level, her favorite memory came in her rookie year. Her team was playing against Terra Linda, and with six seconds left, Dana made a clutch shot to tie the game, sending it into overtime.

In her spare time, Dana enjoys hanging out with her friends and is currently co-coaching a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade boys Park and Rec basketball team with close friend Allyson Walchli. As she has also been a referee and a scorer for Park and Rec basketball since freshman year, Dana hopes to further her experience with outdoor activities in college, applying to schools such as Cal Poly and University of Arizona. She has enjoyed her stint at San Marin but only plans to continue playing basketball through the intermural system at her future school, as she wishes to focus on her education.

#### PAT DESHAZO



Hard work and determination are words often associated with senior wrestler Pat DeShazo. Starting wrestling only three years ago, Pat has pushed himself to become one of the elite wrestlers in the MCAL.

As each week of practice passes, Pat gains more and more technique, strength, and agility. He said about his work ethic, "All of the hard work really pays off in the long run." Over the summer, he worked out four days a week, and since school has begun, he has been hitting the mats six times per week.

The San Marin Wrestling team is looking forward to having a big season and going deep into the MCAL playoffs. As one of three returning seniors, Pat will be establishing himself in a leadership role.

Once wrestling ends, Pat will take to the mound as a pitcher for the baseball team. Pat also enjoys hanging out with his friends and reading in his spare time. Wrestling never gets away from him though, as it is always on his mind, even during the off-season.

Summing up his love of wrestling, he said, "Wrestling is not just a sport, it's a lifestyle."



## Mustangs Reach Playoffs Only to Lose in First Round

by James Gramalia

The Mustang football program enjoyed overall success this season, as each team finished high in the standings. Varsity overcame adversity and finished 6-4 and reached the NCS Playoffs for the eighth straight season. The Junior Varsity team ended the year undefeated, as the most of their games resulted in blowouts.

The Varsity Mustangs dealt with the loss of nine players due to injury over the course of the season. Prior to the big game against Novato, starting quarterback Tyler Taggard was lost for the season with a compound fracture in his leg. During the game, the offense struggled to come together and were unable to find any success.

In the following game, against Redwood, backup quarterback Jeff Johnstone was put out of commission for the remainder of the season with a



Quarterback Tyler Taggard evades Bulldog defenders

Courtesy of Alex Oppenheimer

broken thumb. Senior Garrett Bartok, who has not taken snaps since last season, was forced to step in and try to create some offensive balance. He was able to lead the offense to one

score, but Redwood held and went ahead late to win the 13-7 in their homecoming game.

For the Mustangs' own homecoming game, the defense

stepped up and shone as they shutout Terra Linda 7-0. Junior Quarterback Anthony Lelis played well in his first varsity start, as the playbook changed to suit his scrambling ways. This change proved to be the right decision, as he led the Mustangs to victory.

As the NCS playoffs rolled around, San Marin was missing seven players due to injury, and the hill the Mustangs needed to climb proved too steep, as they could not overcome the injuries and lost 28-0 in the first round against Novato.

The Junior Varsity team captured their second straight MCAL title, as they went undefeated through the season.

As many juniors showed their prospective talent throughout the season, the varsity team is looking forward to going deep into the NCS playoffs next year.

## NFL Week 11 Update

by James Gramalia

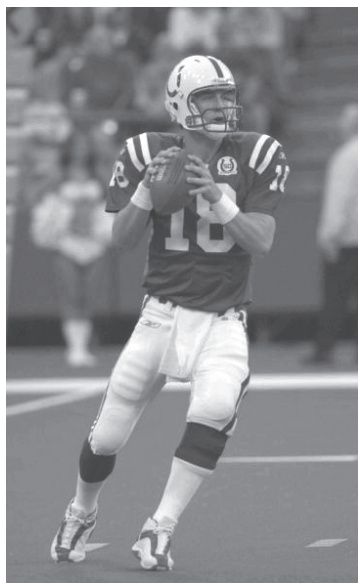
At this point, eleven games into the 2005 NFL season, many distinct trends have begun to occur. More and more, parity has become commonplace throughout the league, as the gap between the top and bottom has greatly shortened.

The Indianapolis Colts are the team to beat this year with a record of 12-0. Their offense has led the way for them again, letting their lax defense slip in their shootout wins. With 2,966 passing yards and 23 touchdown tosses, Peyton Manning has set himself up for another MVP season, further cementing himself as one of the great quarterbacks of all time.

The usual cellar-dwelling Bengals have found their way to the top of the AFC north. Years of number one draft picks have laid the foundation for Cincinnati to make a substantial playoff run for years to come. Carson Palmer is first in the league in passing yards, as his USC pedigree has finally paid off.

The New England Patriots are not having quite a stellar year, but their 7-5 record has still put them at the top of the weak AFC East. Tom Brady once again has led the team with his incredible quarterbacking ability, further silencing his very few critics.

Seattle Seahawk Shaun Alexander has torn up the league on his way to over 1300 yards rushing so far. His legs have carried the Seahawks to a 9-2 record, clinching



Peyton Manning drops back to pass

them a playoff berth with only four games left.

The NFC East is the only division still up for grabs, with the Giants and Cowboys both fighting for first place and the Redskins biting at their heels, only two games back. New quarterback Drew Bledsoe has found his niche in Dallas, truly defining himself as a team leader.

The Playoff picture is etched out with only four games left in the season. The Patriots will be making their perennial late-season championship push. Carolina is looking to make another deep playoff run, as their defense is too strong to collapse. The fluke teams such as the Seahawks and the Bengals will grow cold, as their lack of post-season experience will leave them behind once the real competition starts.

## Girls Miss Out on Playoff Play

by James Gramalia

The Mustang girls' varsity volleyball team just missed the MCAL playoffs this season.

The girls cruised through the middle of the season and were riding on high spirits as they reached the final stretch of games.

Key losses in their final two matches closed the playoff window and left them in 7th place in the MCAL standings.

"Overall we had a good year," senior Liz Maurer said, "especially for being such a young team."

As a team with few

seniors, the Mustangs did not play as well together as a more mature team would have.

"If we had worked better together," Maurer said, "we would have reached the playoffs."

The upside of having such a young team, though, is that the young Mustangs will be much better prepared for next season. The juniors and sophomores gained much needed experience to allow them to be successful the next time they take the court.



The Mustang girls pump themselves up with a quick cheer

Courtesy of Alex Oppenheimer



# ODDS AND ENDS

## Fun Facts

by Yuekai Sun and James Gramalia

- Apples are more effective at waking you up than coffee.
- Left-handed people die nine years earlier on average.
- 2500 left-handed people die every year from using right-handed equipment.
- President Lincoln's secretary's name was Kennedy. President Kennedy's secretary's name was Lincoln.
- Women blink nearly twice as much as men.
- A giraffe can go without water longer than a camel can.
- Hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia is the fear of long words.
- Crocodiles and alligators are surprisingly fast on land. Although they are rapid, they are not agile; so if you ever find yourself chased by one, run in a zigzag line. You'll lose him or her every time.
- You burn more calories sleeping than you do watching television.
- Chrysler built engines of B-29s that bombed Japan, Mitsubishi built Zeros that tried to shoot them down. Both companies now build cars in a joint plant call Diamond Star.
- If you toss a penny 10000 times, it will not be heads 5000 times, but more like 4950. The heads picture weighs more, so it ends up on the bottom.
- An ostrich's eye is bigger than it's brain.
- $111,111,111 \times 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321$
- When the University of Nebraska Cornhuskers play football at home, the stadium becomes the state's third largest city.
- Moon was Buzz Aldrin's mother's maiden name. (Buzz Aldrin was the second man on the moon in 1969.)
- In England, the Speaker of the House is not allowed to speak.
- Both Hitler and Napoleon were missing one testicle.



## Straight From The Horse's Mouth: A Little Gossip From Around the Stable

by Katrina Richards

- Two Junior girls create a Christmas CD in hopes of one day becoming famous.
- Freshman girl throws house party to impress upperclassmen boys.
- The Senior girl's "Underclassmen" syndrome kicks in a bit early this year.
- Senior Jhenette Stranne goes sky-diving at the mind-blowing height of 13,000 feet.
- Charges of assault filed at the journalism class during layout sessions.
- Congratulations to Freshman Nathaniel MacMillan who took first place at the International Lego Building Competition and walked away with a \$5,000 scholarship.
- Junior Editor ditches her wrestler boyfriend, with rhyming name, and swims away with a Senior water polo player.
- This December, our lovely principal, Mrs. Andersen, will be turning the ripe age of 54. Happy Birthday!
- The selling of mistletoe-grams at San Marin is suspected of encouraging promiscuity.
- Seniors Dana Sokolov and Allison Walchi are currently coaching a lucky third grade boys' basketball team.
- College-bound seniors send in their UC applications at the last minute...literally.
- Winter rain causes students to find new routes to their classes.
- Seniors Michael Cusack and Chris Moghbel give presentation on Benin penetrating Djibouti in their government class.
- Junior Andrew Swig shows off his new nickname for the sophomore class, "Hein '08," at the homecoming rally. Administration was not too thrilled.
- Wrestlers squeeze into spandex in preparation for the upcoming season.

## Crossword

by Dan Saslow

### ACROSS

1. What a shame!
5. Foot action
7. Used in defining a condition
9. The Grand \_\_\_\_\_
10. To drive
13. James Brown, "Get \_\_\_\_\_ up, get into it, get involved"
14. "The city"
16. The yesterday of tomorrow
17. Doctor title
18. 19-Across's exclamation
19. December fat man
20. For example
21. Alternative to plain coffee
23. Reaction to 5 Across
24. Greek island
25. Used in defining alternatives
26. Arnold's "yeah"
27. Clothing of wrapped linen, cotton, or silk
29. Popular Madrigal entertainer
33. Comes after Qs
34. Often fruit filled
36. Life-long binge drinking
39. To consciously give false information
40. Tasty pastry
41. Slobbery companion to popular orange cat
42. Military letter of reprimand
43. Cartoon collection in a television show, including Action League Now!
45. Important alliance club
46. Military officer, granted authority through a warrant
47. Longest river
49. "\_\_\_\_\_ Nate" Willis
51. Worse than the cold
54. One way to express denial

55. Periods resemble this

56. Heads a replying email
57. Reaction to good smelling food or good looking people
59. To uplift
61. This makes your voice louder
62. Standard senior citizen driving speed
63. Right of Latin America

### DOWN

1. Tiny
2. "Neither a borrower nor a \_\_\_\_\_ be"
3. \_\_\_&T Provider
4. Popular jazz standard on Kind of Blue
5. A sweater; area of southwestern Asia – disputed between Pakistan and India
6. Emeril's second home
7. All the vowels, in no particular order
8. "Matamoscas" tool; insect killer
11. Sucks to have this removed
12. Too much of this on campus
15. Passage over a gap, lacking automobiles
22. Skeleton
25. Common currency overseas
27. Iran capital
28. Irrational

29. Moonwalker

30. Jazz singer, Fitzgerald
31. Result of broken skin
32. To work strenuously
35. \_\_\_\_\_ de Oro/ \_\_\_\_\_ de Grande
37. Shakespearean exclamation
38. To wander
44. Tiny fish, one "n"

46. To distort

48. Common internet lingo
50. Game, involving lots of spinning and a string
52. Latter-Day Saints
53. Internet address
60. "Breathe" singer, initials

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