



# Pony Express

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**Q: What is the shape of a cashew nutshell?**

A: Cashews grow on cashew trees (who would've guessed). At first glance these trees appear to be fruit trees, with just a large, pear-shaped pseudofruit (fake) called the cashew apple. The true fruit, called the drupe, is present before the growth of the apple. The drupe is smaller and kidney-shaped and contains one seed, or cashew nut.

**Q: What was Mr. Krakora's hit song in Germany?**

A: "What you Want" on the album "Hot Shots". It has a similar rhythm to the Macarena... except German.

**Q: What's with the Vitamin Water craze?**

A: You mean the diluted Gatorade? Put simply by an anonymous sophomore, "It tastes alright and it doesn't make me fat."

**Q: What happens when you swallow gum?**

A: Ah, the infamous question, followed by horror stories involving sickness, death, and bowel explosion. Everyone swallows gum eventually. It rarely causes any serious problems. Your body can digest all the ingredients in gum (sweeteners, preservatives) except the gum resin itself. In small quantities, gum resin and other non-digestibles are pushed through the digestive system and... removed. However, swallowing large amounts of gum, or a lot in a short time, can cause a plumbing problem in your body (i.e. blockage). Blockages can also be a result of mixing other non-digestive materials with gum. In the case of a baseball player, seed shells.

**Q: What came first, the chicken or the egg?**

A: The first member of any species is the offspring of another very similar species. The first chicken egg (*Gallus domesticus*) was laid by a red junglefowl (*Gallus galus*). Humanity's domestication of the red junglefowl to the common chicken is the reason for this evolution. Because the chicken developed in the egg after the egg was already developed, the egg came first. Unless, of course, you're a creationist, in which case you think the adult forms of all animals appeared on earth sometime around 4004 BCE.

**Q: Who was the teacher with the "love bite"?**

A: You should ask every teacher that and see what they say.

## Cell Phones on Campus

by Michael Cusack

In mid-September, one of San Marin's two assistant principals made a trip to every third period class in the school to pass out green pamphlets titled "Behavior Standards" and do their best to scare the students into conforming as such. The bulk of these standards were fairly cut-and-dry, yet one in particular caught the eye of many: the claim that a third cell phone usage offense on campus would result in the item being confiscated by the school until next June.

The alarmed pupils and all other conscientious observers had cause for concern. Cell phones are private property even when used in contravention to the already heavily criticized rule prohibiting their use. As always, private property is protected, and neither the California State Education Code nor the NUSD Board Policy contain any provisions for confiscation of items which are not illegal.

There is considerable disagreement on the specifics of the rules on the issue. While the assistant principals claimed originally that a phone would absolutely be taken away until the end of the school year, Mrs. Anderson gave assurance that it would be returned at the end of the nearest grading period. When further prodded, Mr. Dell'Immagine revealed that while no student has yet to reach a third strike, upon that strike the punishment will much more likely focus on suspension or detention than

confiscation. When asked if he thought it would be legal for the school to take a student's phone indefinitely, he admitted, "Who knows?" jokingly adding, "That's why we have lawyers."

In fact, there is no written rule at San Marin (not even in the green pamphlet) that deals with cell phone policy and certainly nothing that indicates indefinite confiscation. After some searching (it is mysteriously missing from the NUSD website), the board policy on cell phone possession can be found. It states that phones may be possessed by students, provided that they are turned off and "do not disrupt the educational program." The policy indicates that any violations should be dealt with by suspension or expulsion. Interestingly, the policy also dictates that the school's jurisdiction also extends off the campus during school hours. This includes lunch, and even on the way to or from school, provided it's between 7:25 and 2:30 pm.

Students looking to challenge the school's right to confiscate their personal property be warned: it appears that no school administrator has a real intention of confiscating anything until June. That was merely a grandiose threat aimed to scare the student body into turning off their phone. It is far more likely that you'll simply end up with a suspension.

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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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## Avian Influenza: The Next Pandemic?

by Eric Eisberg

Each new flu season brings the threat of a deadly new strain of influenza and the risk of another pandemic rivaling the 1918 flu, which killed millions around the world. The most recent avian flu strain this season, H5N1, has spread into Asia and Europe, although it is not yet transmittable between humans. However, it has led to several scattered cases of human infection, infecting 120 people and killing half that number as of November 1, 2005. As a result, thousands of domestic birds, especially chickens, have been slaughtered to prevent the spread of

the disease.

The United States government has already begun developing strategies and coordinating various agencies to respond to the possible outbreak. President Bush has asked Congress for \$1.2 billion to manufacture and distribute flu vaccines. State and city governments are receiving instructions from federal officials outlining which people should receive the limited amounts of antiviral medications. The Center for Disease Control has also begun preparing for the worst while cautioning that the strain, while worri-

some, is not yet a major problem and should not be a great concern.

While much commotion is being made about this "superstrain" of flu, many point out that most strains of avian flu kill only about 5% of all those who contract it, mainly the very old and the very young. However, this strain of flu kills 50% of all people who become sick. But, as of now, it is unable to spread from human to human, limiting the risk of a major epidemic. While this is an issue worthy of some concern, it is unlikely to seriously affect our community.

## Pop Warner Gets Field; Mustangs Get Boot

by Alex Randall

Throughout our new all-weather track's construction, it has acted as a moat around the new football field. Under district advice, San Marin set up a 20-day window to allow for the placement of the track, during which none of our sports teams could use the field. Even our varsity football team has spent limited time on the new turf- and yet, Pop Warner, the local youth football league, uses it on Sundays.

Because of the growing demand for fields by local recreational athletics has increased, a system of user contracts has been established. Ms. Andersen and Ms. Zanardi, the overseers of this process, issue contracts for the use of the field for a

small fee. When Pop Warner came to San Marin in search of a contract, Andersen and Zanardi turned them down in respect of the district recommendation. This same district, however, overturned this decision, giving Pop Warner permission to use the field.

While it seems strange that Pop Warner could use the multimillion-dollar athletic facility on which our own varsity soccer team couldn't play its playoff game against Branson two weeks ago, this decision was justified by scheduling. With every application of the artificial substance, a day must pass before anyone may tread on the surface. This gives the layer adequate time to settle. Because the football teams

practice daily, construction would have to be postponed until football season ends, as the layers could not be placed during the week. This interference is why the teams are currently restricted from using the field. Since Pop Warner's are played on Sundays, the layer placed on Friday can settle on Saturday.

With hostilities abounding among football personnel, Ms. Andersen sympathizes with the team, but she is left helpless, as the district maintains final say. "It's confusing," comments Ms. Zanardi.

Despite the controversy, the field will be usable for our homecoming game against Terra Linda this Saturday.

## White Sox Take Series

by Alex Randall

At the beginning of the season, any analyst predicting that Chicago's second baseball team would hoist the World Series trophy in late October would have been forced to have a CAT scan done on them. ESPN's analyst crew didn't produce a single prediction that the White Sox would make the playoffs, but who could blame them- the White Sox hadn't been to a Series in 46 years, hadn't won one in 88 years, and last year, finished nine games behind the Minnesota Twins in the AL Central. Despite preseason doubt, the Chicago White Sox swept the Houston Astros in the 2005 World Series.

Chicago's road to the championship proved tough, as they had to battle through last year's champs, the Boston Red Sox, as well as the dangerous Los Angeles Angels. In the ALDS, Chicago beat Boston into submission in the first game with a commanding score of

14-2. The Red Sox never fully recovered, losing the next two games and thus eliminating themselves from the playoffs. After this sweep, Chicago never looked back and took four out of five games from the Angels in the ALCS, aided by controversial calls. To join the White Sox in the Series, Houston fought through the Atlanta Braves 3-1, then subsequently shocked the Cardinals with a 4-2 punishment.

In game one, the veteran ace Roger Clemens couldn't handle the strength of the Chicago line-up, giving up three runs in two innings before leaving with a sore hamstring. Jose Contreras threw seven strong innings for the White Sox, and Joe Crede's tiebreaking home run in the bottom of the fourth proved enough to give Chicago the first win of the series, by the score of 5-3.

The second game of the series was a rollercoaster of emotion. After jumping out to a 4-2 lead on White Sox starter Mark Buehrle, the Astros watched as Chicago put up a four-spot in the bottom of the seventh. Sensing the need for a greater per-

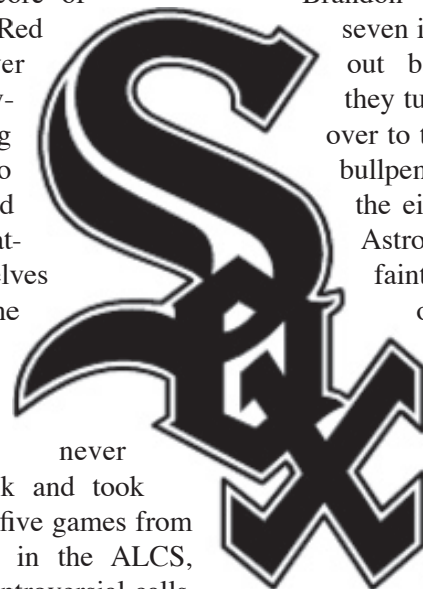
formance, Houston rallied to tie the game at 6-6 in the top of the ninth. Even this comeback was not enough to fend off the relentless White Sox, as a one-out solo shot by Chicago third-baseman Scott Podsednik ended the game in miracle form. After taking these first two games at home, the two teams ventured off to Houston.

Although now with home-field advantage, Houston couldn't outlast the White Sox in game three. After thirteen innings of neck-and-neck baseball, the White Sox' Geoff Blum broke a 5-5 tie in the top of the 14<sup>th</sup> with a solo home run to put his team on top for good. This game lasted for five hours and forty-one minutes, setting the record for the longest World Series game ever played.

The decisive game four turned into a pitching duel for the history books. Both starters, Chicago's Freddy Garcia and Houston's Brandon Backe threw seven innings of shut-out baseball before they turned the duties over to their respective bullpens. In the top of the eighth, however, Astros fans grew faint as White Sox outfielder Jermaine Dye singled in a run. From there on out, Chicago's defense proved to be impenetrable.

Shortstop Juan Uribe became a hero, as he obtained the Series' final two outs with remarkable efforts. With one out, Houston's Chris Burke hit a foul ball down the third baseline. As it approached the fans closest to the field, Uribe dove over the wall and onto spectators to make an outstanding backhanded grab. Uribe then finished off the game with a quick play on a slow roller to beat Orlando Palmeiro with a bullet to first.

Soon after the game, Chicago's Dye was named the World Series Most Valuable Player, as he went 7-16 in the final round of the playoffs. While this was Houston's inaugural Series, the Chicago White Sox spoiled their ambitions, proving themselves not only to the Astros, but to the entire professional baseball community.



## Homecoming Horoscopes

by Alaina Gutfeld and Hilary Johnson

**Capricorn:** Homecoming is going to bring you a new outlook on your peers and Saturn's powers will help limit your bad decisions on homecoming night.

**Aquarius:** Good deeds that you performed earlier in the year will come back around on homecoming weekend. Plus, a new romance is coming your way.

**Pisces:** Think simple this homecoming; don't spend too much time or money trying to look good. This homecoming, do your favorite things and hang out with your close friends.

**Aries:** Gain a new perspective by staying in Novato and having a good time with your favorite people. At homecoming you're going to feel adventurous. Take the journey, but be careful of the obstacles on the way.

**Taurus:** Venus will have an effect on your personality. If you're feeling different, then stay with a close friend for homecoming. If you can't figure out what to wear on homecoming, take the advice of a sibling or a friend.

**Gemini:** On homecoming, your shiny personality will show to those who hadn't noticed before. Try showing your unique or different side for a great homecoming.

**Cancer:** Hold off on making any decisions. Life is likely to change drastically and you will have to change a lot of ways you do things. You may not like change, but this month you will have to be prepared to go whichever way the wind blows. Stay open-minded about people and places, especially this homecoming season. People who may seem to be your friends could have ulterior

motives, and those who you think are your enemies could have your back.

**Leo:** It's your turn to shine. A little love and romance is in the stars, and a chance to do something different will boost your enthusiasm. Money is coming your way, but don't spend it as fast as you get it. Homecoming week opens itself up to be whatever your dreams can fathom. Don't sell yourself short when you can score a touchdown.

**Virgo:** Your insight, genuine knowledge, and consideration will be impressive. If there's something you want this month, go for it; your chances of realizing your heart's desires are very high. Try to be as fair and articulate this month as possible because those around you aren't thinking straight.

**Libra:** This is not the time to trust someone else to look out for your best interests. This month is the time to get serious about the relationships in your life or relationships you'd like to be in. Whether they are business connections or personal, make commitments and take your plans to the next stage.

**Scorpio:** Everything will depend on how well you get along with the people you work with. This includes homecoming plans. Don't let anyone push you around; be firm about what you want. You can be the one in charge if you are authoritative.

**Sagittarius:** This is not the time to be indecisive. Act on your gut feelings and go after your dreams. You can turn things around, make people happy, and do something that will enhance future prospects.

## A Letter from Clifford

By Clif Bachmeier and Kavon Benezad

Hello, San Marin High School! Maybe you have been wondering where Clif Bachmeier is. Well, I am studying in the 720-year-old city of Rezekne in the 803 year old country, Latvia. Rezekne is a city with a similar population to Novato; around 50,000 inhabitants. Rezekne is located almost half-way-around the world, in the eastern part of Latvia. Latvia is a rather small nation, with about 2 million people, who not long ago received independence after the collapse of the Soviet Union and who has even more recently joined the European Union, on May 1, 2004. Latvia is East of the Baltic Sea and West of Russia, and it is the middle of the three Baltic States with Estonia to the North and Lithuania to the South. The community of Rezekne has a small majority of Russian people. As one person told me, "here [in Rezekne] we are Russian." Latvians live in Riga [the capitol of Latvia]. The Russian culture is very strong here in Rezekne. Often there are very big concerts at their large Festival Park with very popular Russian groups and bands. There are quite a few people who like rock music, especially American rock. Their favorite American bands are Linkin Park, Limp Bizkit, Korn, and Green Day. Also, there is actually a group of people who are very familiar with hip-hop music, especially 2-Pac, Eminem, 50 Cent (or to them 50 Cents).

People in Rezekne love to drink tea and coffee. and they never drink water. When I first got here, my

## Goblet of Fire

by Yuekai Sun

The Harry Potter phenomenon that has captivated millions of readers worldwide will deliver its fourth installment on November 18. Directed by Mike Newell, the Goblet of Fire is by far the most eagerly awaited film this season.

The Goblet of Fire is the first Harry Potter film with a PG-13 rating, owing to "sequences of fantasy violence and frightening images." J. K. Rowling has said herself that the Harry Potter series gets progressively darker. The Goblet of Fire opens with a scene of the Quidditch World Cup, where death eaters terrorize the camp. The campground is set aflame and pandemonium ensues. But this is

host family would ask if I wanted tea or coffee all the time, and I always said water is fine. I think they thought I was strange. There are two alternatives to tea and coffee that people drink here: juice and alcohol. Soda isn't very popular. Also there is an alcohol-free beverage that has a beer flavor to it. The water that is sold here in Latvia is carbonated. For food here, most people eat a lot of potatoes, sausage, cheese, and fish. But my favorites are their chips, which are very good, and even more enjoyable as there are no nutritional facts on the package, or at least they aren't printed big enough for me to see. I also like their ice cream and chocolate, which are very good, and best of all, very cheap. The food here is very cheap as a whole. Yesterday I ate at one of the very few restaurants here for 0.60 lats, which is about one dollar.

The roles of the sexes are very old fashioned in Latvia compared to that of the United States. The girls wear very formal or stylish clothes everyday to school. They all wear high-heels. Almost everyday, the first few weeks of school I actually got a lot of amusement from looking at these people's shoes. Though it has been very cold, the last few days, there are still several girls who still wear skirts and high boots with high heels and pointy toes.

Here in Rezekne, I study at Rezekne School Number 6. There are six of these schools in Rezekne. It starts with school number-one, which is the oldest, to

school number six, which is the newest. At the Russian schools, the teachers must use a 40-60 rule where 60% of the lectures and lessons must be in Latvian and 40% must be in Russian. The Latvian schools can be taught all in Latvian if they are able to, which is not likely since there are lessons such as English. These schools have grades 1 through 12. School number 6 is known for its music programs and opportunities to practice music. I try to take advantage by practicing drums each Wednesday after school. There are problems with my drumming ability and communicating with the teacher, but other than that it's quite fun. At the school here, the students take about nineteen classes. But there are only eight lessons a day, and in a week many classes are taken once or twice a week such as Geography, Business, Psychology, and Philosophy. Besides a wide fascination with pop music, many people here are very interested in cell phones or as Europeans call them, "mobiles." Many people will use their break period from school to play with their mobiles. Everyone between the age of 5 to 70 has a mobile. Many homes like the one I live in just use mobiles as their instrument of telecommunications, without having a home phone line. There is so much to write about, I haven't even said anything about Riga. And the train rides from Rezekne to Riga; well, those are adventures in their own right. Until next time. Visu labu!

a mere foreshadowing of the things to come. Harry is put through a series of dangerous tasks as part of the Triwizard Tournament, which involves, among other things, fire-breathing dragons and giant spiders. The movie climaxes when he is forced to witness the rebirth of Voldermort and face his parents' murderer in a duel.

Needless to say, the film pushes the technology of special effects and computer generated imagery (CGI) to its limits. Visual Effects Supervisor, Jimmie Vitchell, explains, "We've got Industrial Light & Magic doing the dragons and the World Cup trying to replicate 80,000 screaming fans." With the talent of ILM

behind this blockbuster, Harry Potter fans can be assured that the special effects will be on par with those of the Star Wars trilogy. Newell was very impressed with the CGI effects. "I'm convinced these guys can create a realism that is completely credible... There's that famous phrase: 'The suspension of disbelief.' And you really do suspend disbelief with the effects in this movie."

Stunning visual effects coupled with a bestselling series is a formula for success. Harry Potter has captured the hearts and imagination of millions of readers worldwide and will continue to do so on the big screen.

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## Embarrassing Stories

by Allison Arnheiter

### Cleopetra

Halloween was approaching and I was extremely excited to go trick or treating in my new costume. I was stoked, considering I was Cleopatra and had a really neat gold dress and blue veil. My mother made me wear black leggings under my costume, since it was October on the East Coast it can get extremely cold. I had to pee pretty badly, but I hated taking off tights and putting them back on after I peed. So I decided to hold it, even though my mother kept telling me to release the contents of my bladder.

I started trick or treating, forgetting about the pee that was building up in my system. I came to a hill and I had to walk down it, but I had smooth soled shoes and the roads in New Jersey suck. So I took a step, slipped, and fell straight on my butt. As if that wasn't not bad enough, because I had refused to pee I started to pee and it went down the hill like a stream. Also, kids surrounded me from my school, who were all laughing at me. I cried my eyes out, with my costume soaking wet in urine.

### Kiss and Die

My dad is a coach at SM and a couple of weeks ago, while he was taking my dog for a walk, he saw his friend's daughter making out with a guy behind the gym. She called me and asked how often our parents talked. Apparently, she wasn't supposed to be seeing the guy or something, so she had a nervous breakdown. It was so funny.

### Tripping over Achiever

During P.E. freshman year, Mrs. Schmitz made us run a lap around the track right before we started playing football. The run was our warm-up. Now, I always used to run in P.E. for the warm-ups, the Friday runs, etc. So naturally after Mrs. Schmitz finished talking, a few students and I took off running. As I was running I saw some mud in my path so I tried to run off to the side. As I tried to move around I hit the cement boarder surrounding the fence and started to trip. In attempt to save myself from falling, I stuttered stepped but I ended up tripping myself with my own two feet. My hair flew in front of my face and I fell flat on the track. I cut my knee and scraped my hands. When I got up everyone was laughing, even my future boyfriend.

### Over Exposed

My friends and I were on our way to the Mardi Gras dance. We all looked great and we were ready to hit the dance floor. We got into the dance and the music was blasting. I was so excited; this night was going to be great. Then this boy asked me to dance and, of course, I said yes. I was wearing a white corset top with silk laces. As I was dancing my laces slipped apart. My dancing partner picked me up while we were dancing and my shirt fell to my stomach. I wasn't wearing a bra because it was a tube top, and I didn't need one when the shirt was laced up the right way. The bad thing was that I didn't even notice until my friend pointed it out that my whole chest was exposed to the school.

### Full Moon

Last year in P.E. class, our teacher told us that we would be playing flag football. As excited as most of us were, we strapped on our flag belts. I finally got the ball passed to me and I turned around and started running. I got by all of the defenders until one kid reached over and tried to pull off my flag. But instead, he grabbed my shorts and pulled them down so half of my butt was showing to everyone behind me. I turned around to see if anyone saw, and everyone was laughing.

### Friendly Flasher

One afternoon, it was really windy and, of course, I had to wear a short skirt. The whole day I managed to get away without my skirt blowing up. At the end of the day I walked to my car to go home. I was standing in the parking lot trying to get the keys out of my bag and one big gust of wind blew past me and my skirt blew up on all sides. I didn't think anyone was in the parking lot so I just fixed it and continued to get into my car and drove home.

The next day, I was talking to my best friend and he commented on my exposure. I knew it was too good to be true that no one was around.

### Muddy Fashion

Everyone knows about the big puddle that forms on the side of the Student Center next to the lockers. Well, I thought that my friends and I would walk past and joke about pushing each other in. During freshman year, I was wearing a suede jacket that went down to my knees. After sixth period, we walked down towards the puddle. As we slowly walked by one of my friends scared me in a fake attempt to push me in. I jumped and stepped forward, but I took a step too close to the puddle and I slipped on the mud. As I slipped my books flew everywhere and I fell straight on my back, right in the center of the puddle. Everyone saw, and then I had to go to seventh period, where more people got a laugh at my expense.

### Love Struck

The cruise had been great so far. Good food, good service, and hot guys. However, one guy in particular caught my eye. He was tall, dark, and Australian. He was probably in his early twenties, with a thick flirtatious accent. It was a great week of fun, and seeing him around made it that much better. When the day came to leave the boat I was sad I would never be able to say goodbye. Lucky for me, my dreams were about to come true.

While waiting for an elevator, my friends and I were reminiscing about what a great week we had. When the elevator came to our level, the door opened and there stood my hot Australian in all his glory. He gave a quick smile and greeting and then the doors closed because it was too full for us to get on. Right before the doors slammed shut on his beautiful face, I blurted out, "Goodbye Forever!" Ding. Suddenly the doors reopened and he looked at me with a stare of confusion. Once the elevator doors officially closed I was able to breath again and see all of my friends on the floor in hysterics.

## Burrito Bonanza

by Paul Himmelstein

Novato is a smorgasboard of international cuisine. Whether you want Chinese, Mexican, Japanese, Thai, or fast food, there is always a unique choice for your daily hunger attacks. However, the opening of one restaurant has torn a rift in the balance. There is no

padre macho, and the newly established abuelo macho. Before the abuelo was introduced, the padre macho was the prize; if you finish one you are immortalized with your picture on their wall. If you walk into the restaurant, you may underestimate the padre's size by the amount



more freedom of choice; all of Novato is called to only one restaurant: Mi Pueblo.

Before Mi Pueblo, Novato had a decent array of Mexican options. Most notably are High Tech Burrito, La Hacienda, and Tommy's Salsa. Although each of these are respectable establishments, the arrival of Mi Pueblo raised the bar to a new level of burrito expectations.

Mi Pueblo brings to Novato what most taqueria can't: fresh, delicious ingredients that do not resemble canned cat food shoved into a tube. Instead of looking like it came from an assembly line, their food actually looks home cooked and "prepared with care." Specifically with their burritos, you will never start at one end without sour cream only to find it had all accumulated at the other end.

The delicious burritos come in a variety of sizes: regular, super, macho,

of pictures on the wall, but be warned. The padre macho is eight pounds of authentic Mexican cuisine, and will incapacitate any who consume it in one sitting.

If the padre is so large, what could the abuelo macho possibly be? It is a padre macho on steroids. Twelve pounds of burrito make up the behemoth, a literal island of burrito placed on a plate. Many animals gave their lives for whatever meat you choose, so this sinful delight is not for the faint of heart, or stomach.

Mi Pueblo's menu is more than just gargantuan burritos. Fish tacos, tamales, and taco salads are also high quality and satisfying. Unfortunately, there is no Holy Grail of taco salads, so the burritos are still the most prominent portion of the menu. If you think you have what it takes to conquer the abuelo, an invitation is open for you to try... and fail.

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# HOMECOMING COURT

## How far would you go to King/C

**Billy Nicolini**



"I'd run through campus naked to get a few votes."

**Annie McIsaac**



"Show all of my super sweet skills because people like a queen with good skills."

**Alex DeConde**



"I'd do everything everyone else would, plus one."

**Dana Sockolov**



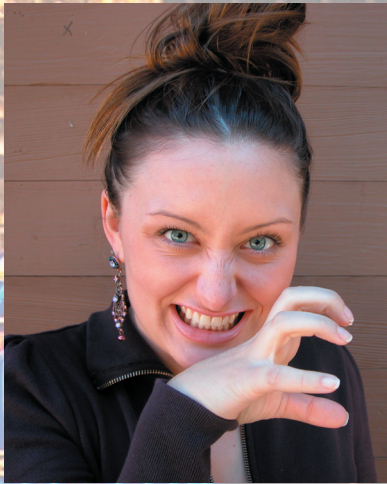
"I'm willing to get down and dirty and mud wrestle Maria Baum."

**Marty Cunnie**



"I would grow some huge mutton chops....oh wait."

**Sara Keller**



"I would pull a Tanya Harding."

**Scott Menasco**



"All the other candidates are overrated."

**Maria Baum**



"I'm willing to get down and dirty and mud wrestle Dana Sockolov."

**J.J. Miller**



"Go back in time, train with master Bruce Lee, and karate chop the other candidates into submission."

**Rachael Shotz**



We were unable to get a quote, but we are sure she would go all the way to Hong Kong.

### If you could be any superhero



Nick Petty, Freshmen Lord - "Spiderman, because he can fly."



Kayla West, Freshmen Lady - "Catwomen, because she whips boys into shape."



# HOMECOMING COURT

## to become Homecoming Queen?

Alex Randall



"I'd fight Marty."

Emma Gauci



"I would physically manifest the concept of failure onto a dinner plate and then force feed it to the other nominees."

Garrett Bartok



"I would hitchhike to Alaska."

Jenice Bartee



"I would skip 1st, 2nd, and 3rd and go all the way home."

Clint Potter



"I would go back in time and sterilize all the parents of my runningmates."

Alison Greggor



"I would consume nothing but liquid marshmallows and Sunny D for a week."

Chris Haller



"I would probably just make a wish because I heard 60% of the time they come true every time."

Paige Thelen



"I would referee the battle between Marty and Alex and bet on Alex winning."

Taylor Jones



"I'd probably drive to Australia, maybe kayak to Finland and then breaststroke all the way back to San Marin!"

Cathryn Bennett



"I would go to great lengths...from the track to the football field for the rose ceremony."

### , who would you be and why?

Dan Xu, Sophomore Duke - "Batman because he doesn't have any superpowers."



Daniel Hong, Junior Prince - "Flash because when I run down the corridors, all you'll see is a flash."

Haley McFadden, Sophomore Duchess - "Wonderwoman, because she's hot."



Mira Fielding, Junior Princess - "Captain Underpants because he has really cool underpants."

## Las Vegas Fashion Made Easy

by Miquelle Bagley

It's the question that's been lingering in the back of your mind since August. "What am I going to wear to Homecoming?" You can describe perfectly what you want everything to be like; from whom you're going with, what your hair is going to look like, down to the color of polish on your nails, yet you can't even begin to imagine what you want your dress, shoes or jewelry to look like! Here are some tips to have the homecoming of your dreams.

**Yes's-** Say yes to **Metallics:** This season's surprising trend of shining golds, silvers, and bronzes, has even influenced this fall's formal wear. It seems everywhere you turn there is a new style that reflects the glimmering fabrics. Gold shoes are a must, along with the shiny jewelry of your choice. **Raw Silk:** You know you love

feeling the glossy feel of raw silk, so why not let others in on the treat too? Designers are all about helping silk make its comeback, using it in almost every type of cut available. Don't go dull on the colors though. Make sure you spice it up with a bright teal, orange, or even yellow as you tear up the dance floor. **Embellishments:** Homecomings all about the glam. And what's more glam than a dress full of beads, jewels, and sequins? These enchanting sparkles jazz up a more simple cut, and can even be worn on shoes to dress up an outfit.

**No's-** Just say no to... **Butt cleavage:** Not that your cheeks are anything less than wonderful, it is just that the whole student body doesn't want to see them shakin' on the dance floor! Resist the temptation of getting a too short dress because it fits well

everywhere else. There are plenty of other fish in the sea. **The little black dress:** It's not a funeral for crying out loud! Refrain from going with the simple black cocktail dress just because it's safe. Take a chance and wear a green, or hot pink dress to really get noticed! I see London, I see France!: No see through dresses please! Not only will you not be let in by the administration, sheer dresses are a trend that should've gone out with the Spice Girls.

**Guys:** You have it easy. Simply rent a tux or a suit from your local tuxedo shop, throw on a tie and wham! You're ready to go! This is the only time you have to dress up, so leave the tennis shoes at home! But remember, it doesn't hurt to impress your girl and splurge on a nice corsage that matches both of your outfits.

## Used Car Buying Guide

By James Gramalia

Vehicle Identification Number, Certified Pre-Owned, depreciation, and negotiation are just a few of the words and phrases that you will hear as you are searching for or buying a used car.

Buying a used car is a treacherous process, with many dangers, lies, and loopholes. The used car world is a dangerous place, as many sellers will try to lie to you and cover up the car's blemishes.

The process can also be long and frustrating, eventually leaving you feeling as if having a car is not worth all of the trouble.

To avoid being cheated or ripped off, follow the steps presented to you in this article...

1. Have some cars in mind that are within your price range. Do not just focus on one car, as it may take months on end to find one that is perfect. Expanding your horizons leaves your options open in case

the once in a lifetime deal that you are hoping for never appears.

2. Evaluate what the car is worth or should be worth. Price is based on mileage, condition, reliability, performance, and popularity. Try to find a car with under 100,000 miles on it, as that is when major problems begin to occur. Visit sites such as [kellybluebook.com](http://kellybluebook.com) or [Edmunds.com](http://Edmunds.com) and research the average selling price of the car you like or find out what the price of a prospective car should be. These websites provide comprehensive evaluations.

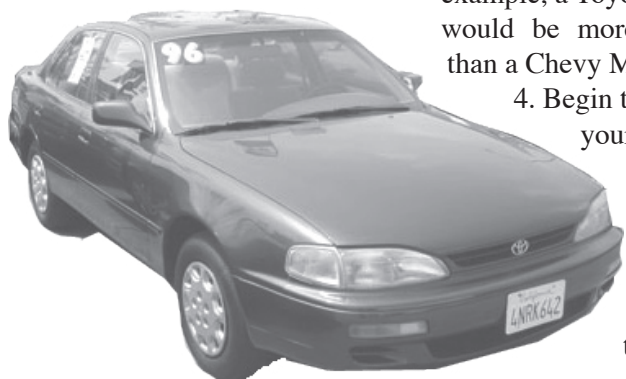
3. Get to know carmakers. Research different companies and find out what their pros and cons are. For example: Japanese cars are generally best for reliability, European cars are generally best for performance, and American cars are known for most depreciation and least value for your dollar. For example, a Toyota Camry would be more reliable than a Chevy Malibu.

4. Begin to look for your car. Use websites such as [autos.yahoo.com](http://autos.yahoo.com), [autotrader.com](http://autotrader.com), or [craigslist.org](http://craigslist.org) to narrow down your search criteria and find a car. Do not forget to check the VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) of each car you look at, or else you may waste a trip to go see the car. The VIN shows the car's entire history. If it says "Salvage," turn away and forget about it. Also, if it looks too good to be true, it probably is.

5. Test drive the car once you have found one that fits you. Check for ride quality, braking, engine power, and anything out of the ordinary. If something is out of the ordinary, do not let the seller try to cover it up, and, if it is only a minor problem, use it to your advantage during negotiations. After you test drive the car, bring it to a mechanic to have it checked out; this will rule out or bring to your attention any major problems.

6. Negotiate for the best deal possible. Find out what the Blue Book price is and use that as your maximum price. Be tough, as the seller will usually be the first one to crack and give you your deal.

These steps will hopefully make the used car buying process much easier on you.



## Legal in Las Vegas

by Tiana Fields

Known for its hot weather and even hotter night life, Las Vegas has proven to be a haven for entertainment. Whether you want to take a tour, watch a show, or ride a roller coaster with a questionable name, the "Strip" has a poison for all of your needs.

Take to the skies over the dazzling Las Vegas Strip with the Vegas Neon Nights helicopter tour. Enjoy stunning views of America's "City of Lights" as you soar over the Strip and downtown's Glitter Gulch (Not to be confused with the Mariah Carey movie "Glitter" that made me want to take a rocket launcher to my T.V after the first ten minutes). The Vegas Neon Lights Tour is a must! Only in Las Vegas can you experience famous landmarks from around the world while enjoying refreshments in your "front-row" seat in the sky.

Prices starting at: \$55.00

The infamous Cirque du Soleil, pronounced "cir-cus ole" for those who don't speak French, has taken the Las Vegas theater scene to a new level. Their most renowned Vegas show, "O", is an aquatic masterpiece that tells the history of theater through the decades from street performances to the grand opera. While it doesn't sound all too appealing, I've seen it myself and it's actually pretty cool... except for the whole 'guys in tights' business but if that's your thing, more power to you. It's expensive but definitely worth the cash.

Prices starting at: \$380.00

One of Las Vegas's most popular tours: A relaxing 11 mile river trip starts at the base of the Hoover Dam. Your raft captain will float you down this rapids-free part of the Colorado River so you get all the adventure without the hazards... which is all the more useful for the accident prone like myself.

Prices starting at: \$109.99...

or \$110... why do people always do that? The 10 cent difference will be well accounted for when you add tax... why not say \$60 instead of \$59.99? Sorry- but that's always bugged me.

If you're stuck with

the siblings or the casino security isn't quite buying the "My ID is up in my room," bit, the Circus Circus Adventure Dome is the perfect place to appease the situation. With eight major attractions in a nicely air conditioned bubble, you can't lose.

The Canyon Blaster: Imagine being on the world's largest indoor double loop-double corkscrew roller coaster. While speeding through the Adventure Dome at speeds of 55 mph, this ride is not for the faint of heart! Just when you catch your breath, the double corkscrews will have you gasping for more.

The Rim Runner: (Previously mentioned ride with questionable name) Welcome to the Rim Runner, one of the wildest and wettest rides in the park. You'll ride through the Dome on a gentle stream on your way up, but once you reach the top, brace yourself for the 60 foot waterfall!

The Sling Shot: Soar into the sky with the Sling Shot. A tower ride that shoots you up with 4g's of acceleration and then shoots you straight back down again.

Chaos: A thrill ride that whirls and twirls its riders in three ranges of motion. The speed and intensity of motion provide a totally unpredictable ride every time.

The Inverter: It's endless flipping at mind-blowing speeds. It's 360 degrees of constant force, the likes of which you've never experienced.

Laser Blast: A "Q-Zar" Vegas style. Combine forces of pure excitement and family fun into an arena where hiding is impossible.

Dino Island I&II: "Escape from Dino Island" is a thrilling 3-D adventure in which you attempt to save the only surviving T-Rex from extinction.

• **Spongebob Squarepants** the 4-D ride: Dive into Bikini Bottom and join Spongebob's latest adventure on their newest thrill ride. The amusing feature, produced by Nickelodeon/Paramount Parks Inc., features everyone's favorite Spongebob on a zany and hilarious search for a pickle to complete the perfect Krabby patty.



## The Arduous Road to College

by Yuekai Sun

### University of California

The UC is one of the most prestigious research universities in the world. Admissions to the top-tier UC's are highly selective. The UC admits students according to its policy of comprehensive review. The 14 criteria evaluated are:

1. Academic grade point average in all completed "a-g" courses, including additional points for completed University-certified honors courses.

2. Scores on the ACT Assessment plus Writing or SAT Reasoning Test, and two SAT Subject Tests.

3. Number of, content of and performance in academic courses beyond the minimum "a-g" requirements.

4. Number of and performance in University-approved honors courses and Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate and transferable college courses.

5. Identification by UC as being ranked in the top 4 percent of the student's high school class at the end of his or her junior year ("eligible in the local context" or ELC).

6. Quality of the student's senior-year program, as measured by the type and number of academic courses in progress or planned.

7. Quality of the student's academic performance relative to the educational opportunities available in his or her high school.

8. Outstanding performance in one or more academic subject areas.

9. Outstanding work in one or more special projects in any academic field of study.

10. Recent, marked improvement in academic performance, as demonstrated by academic GPA and the quality of coursework completed or in progress.

11. Special talents, achievements and awards in a particular field, such as visual and performing arts, communication or athletic endeavors; special skills, such as demonstrated written and oral proficiency in other languages; special interests, such as intensive study and exploration of other cultures; experiences that demonstrate unusual promise for leadership, such as



as significant community service or significant participation in student government; or other significant experiences or achievements that demonstrate the student's promise for contributing to the intellectual vitality of a campus.

12. Completion of special projects undertaken in the context of the student's high school curriculum or in conjunction with special school events, projects or programs.

13. Academic accomplishments in light of the student's life experiences and special circumstances.

14. Location of the student's secondary school

and residence.

Each campus has its own methods for evaluating the factors in comprehensive review. Each campus may give each factor different weight and consideration. The comprehensive review process at UCSD and UCD are provided below:

Looking at the comprehensive review process at UCSD and UCD, one can see that academic factors (GPA, test scores, rigor of academic course load) are given the most consideration. Like most large universities where the admissions process is less personal, good grades in challenging classes and high test scores will go the furthest in helping you get admitted. For more information, visit [http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/general\\_info/uc\\_reviews/freshman\\_app.html](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/general_info/uc_reviews/freshman_app.html)

### California State University

CSU admissions are rather straight forward. No essay is required. You are evaluated based on your grades and test scores. You are asked to cite whether you participated in extracurricular activities, but they do not ask for your level of involvement. Just like any other large public university, good grades and high test scores will help the most.

### Private Colleges

Private colleges are generally smaller than large public universities. Therefore, their admissions processes are

### UCSD

Step I - Academic Review	Points
Uncapped Grade Point Average (GPA)	4500
Scores of All Required Exams	3200
Number of "A-G" Courses Beyond the Minimum	500
Step II - Additional Academic Factors	
Eligibility in the Local Context (ELC)	300
Educational Environment	300
Step III - Socioeconomic Factors	
Low Family Income	300
First Generation College Attendance	300
Step IV - Personal Characteristics and Achievement Factors	
Demonstrated Leadership	300
Special Talents/Achievements/Awards	300
Community and Volunteer Service	300
Participation in Academic Development Preparation Programs	300
Special Circumstances/Personal Challenges	500

### UCD

	Points
High school GPA (capped at 4.5)	4500
Admission exams*	4000
Eligibility in the Local Context (ELC)	1000
Number of "a-g" courses beyond 35	1000
Individual initiative	500
Participation in EOP	500
Academic preparation programs	500
First-generation university attendance	250
Nontraditional applicant	250
Veteran/ROTC scholarship	250
Leadership	500
Special talent	250
Perseverance & personal difficulty	250
Marked improvement in 11th grade	250
Significant disability	250

much more personal. They require recommendations and ask for interviews to gain a better perspective of you as an applicant. If you are a non-traditional applicant who has accomplished a lot outside of school, private colleges will look at your application more closely than the larger universities.

However, good grades and high test scores are the norm at some of the highly selective private colleges. Good grade and high test scores will not get you in but bad grades and low test scores will keep you

out unless you have significant achievement outside of school.

An easy way to apply to multiple private school without going through the arduous process of filling out multiple applications is to use the common application. The common app can be found online at [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org). However, most highly selective private schools have their own short supplement to the common app. These are usually less than a page in length and consist of a few short answer questions.

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## Injury Plagued Mustangs Strive Toward Post-season

by James Gramalia

The San Marin football team is cruising at 5-2 heading into the final games of the 2005 season. Victories over Tam and San Rafael have the team riding high, as the wins clinched a Mustang playoff berth.

The return of senior **Keith Renner** has boosted Mustang morale, further strengthening their stable of running backs. He has revitalized the San Marin offense with impressive rushing performances in the last three games, striding to over 300 yards combined yards.

The Mustangs headed into their October 15 matchup against Tam without their starting quarterback, junior **Tyler Taggard**. Junior backup **Jeff Johnstone** stepped up and led the team to a 34-0 victory, though, in his first start at the varsity level.

"I had a few butterflies at first," Johnstone, who went 6-9 for 102 yards said, "but I started to feel better and find my groove."

The ground attack flourished for a total of 253 total yards evenly distributed among six backs. Renner set the tone, going for 94 yards on 18 carries. Junior **D'Jaun Eure** also excelled, coming through for 68 yards on 8 carries.



Junior Jeff Johnstone sets up to pass

Courtesy of Alex Oppenheimer

"We owe our victory to the great week of practice leading up to this game," senior wideout **Jeremy Shaver** said. Shaver caught two balls for 40 yards and a touchdown in the win.

This victory set the Mustangs straight after a tough loss to Marin Catholic the previous week.

San Marin kept their spirits high leading up to their October 21<sup>st</sup> battle at San Rafael, and it paid off in the

form of a 28-14 victory.

The running game again came through, covering over 200 yards and scoring 4 touchdowns. After taking a game off due to illness, junior full back Vince Ross bounced back to rush for 47 yards on 8 carries. Senior halfback **Mike Depew** also played well, gaining 78 yards and scoring one touchdown. Renner enjoyed much success on the ground again, rushing for 104 yards and two touchdowns.

A long kick return by senior **Scott Menasco** didn't hurt the Mustang spirit either.

"Anyone could have run it that far with the blocking I had," Menasco said, "we needed something to pick us up, but I was just doing my job."

The Mustang defense held back late pushes by San Rafael and secured their second victory in a row.

In the all-important

Novato game on October 29, the Mustangs were simply over-powered by the Hornet offense.

Minus their starting quarterback, the Mustangs failed to put together any successful long drives, with their only score coming on a 72-yard screen pass caught by Depew.

Scott Menasco again came through on kick returns, taking one all the way for a touchdown, only to have it called back on an illegal block in the back penalty.

San Marin's flaws were magnified thoroughly in the routing.

Poor practice habits yet again bit the Mustangs in the behind, as lost focus during the week eventually carried over to the game. Practice has been a major theme throughout the season, as there is a correlation between good practices and wins.

The team looks to learn from their mistakes and set a positive precedent as they continue on into the playoffs.

"It was a tough loss," said junior **Jimmy Peterson**, "but all we can do is look ahead and work past the negatives."

## Lady 'Stangs Arrive in Playoffs

By Miquelle Bagley

Disappointment was the only flavor in the Mustangs' post-season this year. The team went into the playoffs play in third

place and was expected to come out victorious. They have won six of the last eight matches and were looking forward to playing at NCS.

"We've been playing very well together," number one doubles player **Gina Soares** said, "it seems like our team has finally hit our stride."

The team defeated Marin Catholic, Novato, Terra Linda, Drake, and San Rafael, in only what can be described as

a lucky streak. The most crucial game for the team was their narrow victory against rival Marin Catholic that clinched their playoff berth.

Though San Marin lost in the team MCAL finals against Redwood, they are still in the running for individual MCAL's.

Number one doubles team, Gina Soares and **Emily Randall**, have enjoyed much success this year, going 13-1, losing only two games, in the two final matches against Redwood.

The team looks forward to individual MCALs, reviving the tradition of having a superlative tennis team. They are hoping to ride the victory wave through MCAL's, and into next season.



Senior Dina Rosenberg begins her serve

Courtesy of Alex Oppenheimer

## Staying Afloat in MCAL Waters

By Allison Arnheiter

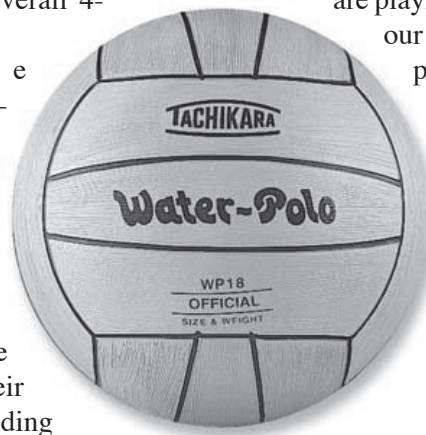
The Girls water polo team is in 8th place in MCAL league standings, with their only league win against Novato. Their record is 1-6 league and overall 4-7.

The Boys are doing a little better. They are in 6th place. Their total league standings are 1-6, and their overall standing

is 2-6.

"We are doing pretty well. We have had three close games against the third and fourth place teams. We

are playing Novato in our first MCAL playoff game, and hopefully we will win and advance to the second game," says **Chris Moghbel**.



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## Big Matches to Decide Season

by Alaina Gutfield

The girl's varsity volleyball team is headed toward the MCAL playoffs competing for the 6<sup>th</sup> and final position in post-season play. With totals of three wins and five losses, the girl's have come out of this season with level heads, seeing what needs to happen to make a lasting impact this season.

The girl's spirits are higher than they have been, realizing that team etiquette needs an adjustment.

Senior **Amanda Morrow** said, "We have talented players but can't seem to work as a team, we have

our offense and defense down and we just need to learn to play as a team rather than as individuals."

After an emotional loss to rival Novato on senior night, the team is looking to close the season out strong with victories over Drake and Redwood.

"The loss to Novato put us in a tough position," said senior **Liz Maurer**, "We need to really come together and win these final two games if we want to make the playoffs."

Redwood is currently sitting atop the MCAL league

standings, and Drake is in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. These games will test the Mustangs, as they will have to play at their best.



Alex Oppenheimer

## Cross Country Goes South

by Marco Perez

The San Marin Cross Country Team left behind their home course at O'Hair Park to compete at the prestigious Mt. Sac Invitational held October 21-23 in Los Angeles.

On October 21, the Mustangs raced against 18,000 elite runners from all over the nation. Very "excited to participate in such an important event and run a great course," as Senior Briana Van Epps affirmed, the Mustangs excelled in the race.

Senior **Allison Greg-**

**gor** obtained first place in the extremely competitive Girls Varsity Division III Race with a time of 19:18.

"Everyone did an amazing job; everyone's success is a team work, since the team has a supportive and positive attitude," said Greggor.

The Mustang team performed well, especially Seniors **Roger Klein** and **Briana Van Epps**.

Mustangs look forward to MCALs on November 12.

## Varsity Soccer Boys Successfully Turn Season Around

by Kavon Banejad



Courtesy of Alex Oppenheimer

Senior **Joey Garcia** dribbles past Branson defender

The San Marin Boys Varsity Soccer team has finally begun to work as a team, finishing 4<sup>th</sup> in MCAL. After not winning the first six games, the Mustangs astonished MCAL's by winning 6 and tying 1 of their last 8 games; 5 of the wins were shut-outs.

San Marin ended the regular season at 6-4-4.

The star of these games has indisputably been Senior goal keeper **Taylor Jones**. With a league leading nine shut outs, much of the

Mustangs success should be accredited to Jones.

"My experience allows me to lead our defense," said Jones.

Senior **Loney Nicol** stated, "The games we lost in the beginning of the season were not because we didn't have the skill, but because we needed to develop the chemistry we lacked."

Although the second half of the regular season proved promising, the playoffs did not. The San Marin Boys Varsity Soccer team lost

in the opening round of playoffs to 5<sup>th</sup> place Branson 1-0. The lone goal of the game was an early shot to the upper V, just out of Jones reach.

When asked how he felt about the outcome of the game, Senior Captain **David Holleran** replied, "We didn't play our game and Branson capitalized on our mistakes, but just making it to the playoffs was an accomplishment; if we played Branson again, I'm confident we would win."

## SPORTS STANDOUTS

### Fili Ramirez



by Yuekai Sun

The star of the varsity soccer team this season is captain Fili Ramirez. Ramirez, who has been playing soccer since he was 7, made MCAL all-league first team this year. Fili made the varsity soccer team as a freshman and has received the sportsmanship award every year.

According to Ramirez, his most memorable seasons were in 2002 and 2003 because he "could look up to more experienced players for leadership". He also cites the playoff game against Marin Catholic last year as "the most intense game he has ever played" as the Mustangs lost in triple overtime to the Wildcats under the lights at IVC. In addition to playing for San Marin, Ramirez also plays for a club team in Santa Rosa.

Fili was inspired to play soccer by his older brother, Edgar. Ever since he started kicking a ball around, he has been on various club teams around the Bay Area. He has enjoyed his soccer experience as both a recreational and educational activity, and hopes to continue his soccer career in college.

### Dina Rosenberg



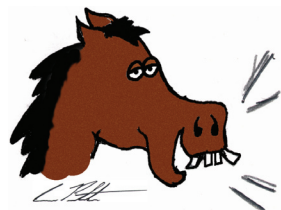
by Paul Himmelstein

A word often associated with Dina Rosenberg is "ace". Year round, this 5' 3", 125-pound tennis studette can be found swinging her racquet, whether it is at Rolling Hills or on the San Marin Mustangs varsity team. As a freshman, she tried tennis for the first time. She was the only freshman on varsity at the time, and by sophomore year she was a Varsity Captain.

Outside of year round tennis, Rosenberg works at the Marin Humane Society.

Rosenberg has been an athlete all her life. She trained hard as gymnast, and was in competitive gymnastics for 8 years. She decided to end her gymnastics career in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. About her change to tennis she says, "I never thought I'd be able to switch sports. For the longest time I could only picture myself as a gymnast."

She was able to successfully switch sports. As a Scholar Athlete throughout high school, Rosenberg has enjoyed her success in both sports and academics. She would like to continue both in college, whether it's on a club team or at a Division 2 school.



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

by Katrina Richards

- For the first time in years, the Homecoming Parade won't be able to go around the track.
- Class of '09 attempts to throw a party at the Deadhouse. Unfortunately, they haven't shaken their middle school roots yet.
- Senior Annie Lowe announces her intentions to drop 500 big-ones on the coveted first senior parking spot.
- Anonymous Junior couple gets caught making out in the darkroom.
- Chicks of '06 seek revenge for the chalking of the hill. Sounds like '08's shark bait.
- Ms. Andersen wins the Cheerleader's 50/50 Raffle money during the game against Marin Catholic and keeps it.
- Senior Editor gets slapped by girl at party for something he didn't do. Hilarious, nonetheless.
- Senior limo drama breaks up friendships.
- Self proclaimed "best looking Junior girl" is heard bragging to Junior Kyra Toquinto about how the "beautiful should stick together." Kyra's response? Laughing in hysterics.
- Group of Sophomore boys rumored to be trying to get Mr. Krakora's German pop-songs played at Homecoming.
- The Lindsey Senior vs. Julie Kern feud continues to trudge along. Julie: 3. Lindsey: 1.
- SM Alumnus Mark Abulencia is currently teaching piano to "That 70's Show's" Wilmer Valderrama.
- TomKat's...er...Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes's unborn child rumored to not be Tom's. Supposedly, it's Chris Klein's (Katie's recent Ex).
- Picture of infamous Junior girl getting pantsed resurfaces on MySpace.
- Class of '09 proves to be the most boring class since '37.
- Locker rooms become social breeding ground for underclassmen. Please learn to get your books and LEAVE!
- Freshman girl tries unsuccessfully to party with the socialites. Too bad she never gets past the front door.
- The Drug Dogs come and go ...taking a Junior boy with them.
- The vegetarian population of San Marin continues to grow.
- Orange Fake-N-Bake tans threaten to come back and take over the girls of San Marin.
- Campus overwhelmed with the smell of horse fecal matter yet again.
- Check out the "Ask Paul" section on the Opinion Page.

## Fun Facts

by James Gramalia

- In South Africa, termites are often roasted and eaten by the handful, like pretzels or popcorn.
- Burger King® uses approximately 1/2 million pounds of bacon every month in its restaurants.
- Orchids are grown from seeds so small that it would take thirty thousand to weigh as much as one grain of wheat.
- More people use blue toothbrushes than red ones.
- The average human scalp has 100,000 hairs.
- You can't plow a cotton field with an elephant in North Carolina.
- In Lehigh, Nebraska it's against the law to sell donut holes.
- In New York State, it is still illegal to shoot a rabbit from a moving trolley car.
- In Saudi Arabia, a woman reportedly may divorce her husband if he does not keep her supplied with coffee.
- The largest school in the world is a K-12 school in the Philippines, with an enrollment of about 25,000.
- The rock band Lynyrd Skynyrd took their name from a high school teacher named Leonard Skinner who had suspended several students for having long hair.
- Warner Communications paid \$28 million for the copyright to the song "Happy Birthday".
- Trivia is the Roman goddess of sorcery, hounds and the crossroads.
- In 1977, a 13 year old child in Vietnam found a tooth growing out of his left foot.
- Julius Caesar was self-conscious about his receding hairline.
- Phobophobia is a fear of fearing.

## SPAM vs. SPAM

by Devastatin' Dave

Everybody gets it, whether they asked for it or not. It floods your email, and can look so irresistible that you just might think they actually personally selected you for a trip to Jamaica, all expenses paid for by some company you've never heard of. That's right, it's spam and it's getting so annoying that I, Devastatin' Dave the turntable slave, have decided to step off the DJ's turntable for not a lot baby girl just a lil' bit and take a stand against this infuriating plague of internet spam. Whether it be in the form of pop ups, email, or those annoying boxes that follow your mouse arrow around, spam, in the words of Shakespeare, SUCKS. However, and as dumb as this may sound, some people get it confused with a delightful treat that has been one of America's favorites for decades, Spam. So in order to sort this out I am going to show a diagram I have created which may clear up some this confusion.

### Spam the delicious American treat

- consists of a spicy piece of ham in a handy 12-ounce can
- since its introduction in 1937 has sold over six billion cans worldwide
- has been accredited with feeding thousands of Allied troops in World War II and in other various wars
- the 7-ounce can easily fits in your back pocket and is ready for travel
- Is considered a delicacy in Korea
- if you laid every can of SPAM ever sold back to back, it would stretch around the world 13 times
- comes in several different delicious varieties, including SPAM oven-roasted turkey and SPAM lite
- chances of getting a bad can of SPAM: 0.00%

### Spam the annoying internet bug

- mostly consist of ridiculous offers for "free\*" products or trips to exotic spots around the world, \*active participation required
- since its introduction, has annoyed nearly everybody with a computer with an active internet connection
- has been credited with being the single most angering part about surfing the internet and accidentally clicking yes in the boxes that ask if you would like to receive other offers in your mail
- all forms of spam easily find a way to follow you around through your computer whether you like it or not
- is hated around the world, in every language and culture that has the internet
- if you managed to read every article of spam in email and in pop-ups, your eyes would probably start to bleed and you would be left brain-dead
- comes in several different rage-inducing forms such as pop-up games and flashing CONGRATULATIONS signs
- chances of downloading viruses or spyware, which opens the door for more spam: 99.9%

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