

The Clarion

December 2008

2008: A Year Of Triumph And Tragedy

By Sam Bae and Wendy Chan
Staff Writers

Every year has its share of ups and downs, but 2008 was a wild rollercoaster ride, and there are still a couple of weeks left to go.

The last 12 months brought exhilaration in the form of a historic presidential election and thrilling Olympic games, but also a terrible train wreck a couple of miles from campus, devastating wildfires in the hills and an economic collapse that made 2008 look an awful lot like 1932. Here's a look back at some of the most significant events of the last year.

The exciting election

This day signifies the end of the longest presidential campaign season in the United States' history, and the first

time an African American has been elected president. After a momentous race, he stood victorious over McCain, becoming the 44th president. In his speech to an enormous crowd in Chicago on election night, Obama declared, "The road ahead will be long. Our climb will be steep. We may not get there in one year or even one term, but America—I have never been more hopeful than I am tonight that we will get there. I promise you—we as a people will get there." He will be sworn into the White House on Jan. 20, 2009.

According to a survey conducted by the Los Angeles Times, this is how people feel about Obama's win: 57 percent are hopeful or optimistic, 14 percent are proud, 9 percent are disappointed, and 9 percent are



A Metrolink train collided with a freight train in Chatsworth in September, one of the tragic events from 2008.
Photo from Yahoo Images

afraid.

Metrolink crash in Chatsworth

A Metrolink train collided with a freight train in Chatsworth on the afternoon of Sept. 12, killing 25 people and injuring 135 others. Chatsworth High School was used as a reunification site for passengers and their families. The cause is still under investigation, but authorities believe text messag-

ing to and from the train's engineer just seconds before the accident may have contributed. It was the deadliest crash in Metrolink's history.

The economy tanks

Home prices plummeted, gas prices hit \$4.50 a gallon, more than a million people lost their jobs and the stock market cratered. To try and keep the country's economic ship from

Continued on page 7

'Big Three' Running Out Of Gas

By Andy Situ
Staff Writer

Henry Ford began the modern assembly lines using mass production for the Model T in 1908, the same year that General Motors was founded. One hundred years later, Ford, GM and Chrysler are reporting that they will fail within months unless they receive billions in federal assistance.

So, why should you care? Well, the Center for Automotive Research recently released a study estimating that should the Detroit three's U.S. operations cease in 2009, 3 million jobs would be lost. It would also reduce U.S. personal income by about \$150 billion in the first year and \$400 billion in three years.

Continued on page 5



Cold, wet and windy weather hit Chatsworth this week. High winds Wednesday morning snapped this limb from a tree near S84.
Clarion staff photo

Ed Tech Academy Gets Grant For \$280,000

By Andy Situ
and Erick Reyes
Staff Writers

The Engineering and Design Academy received a \$280,000 grant from the California Department of Education.

Mrs. Aviv, the lead teacher of the academy, wants to use the money to better the academy. When asked why the academy received the grant, she responded, "We have really worked hard on involving local businesses and educational institutions in developing our academy."

The grant provides funds for "programs, field trips, (and

anything related to Ed. Tech students," Aviv said. The money will be used over a four-year period to "help us make sure our program grows and keeps growing."

It will improve class equipment and fund Project Lead the Way, which offers alternative courses with an engineering and scientific tweak. It means more college classes, partnerships and internships, events, and design carnivals for students.

Although the grant is definite, the 27 teachers have yet to decide how to spend the money.

"It's cool that our academy is the only one getting it," said junior Adam Santiago.

Trouble Brewing For L.A. Schools

By Christopher Alarcon
Staff Writer

It's a hectic year, to say the least, for schools as the economic crisis pushes the school budget over the line, teachers get ready for a possible strike, and the Los Angeles Unified School District's superintendent is shown the door.

Budget cuts are going to be affecting all schools in LAUSD. This year LAUSD has to cut \$200 to \$400 million; next year it's estimated to cut \$400 million and the year after the cut may be up to \$325 million. The state superintendent is already asking for federal help of \$31

million to keep up with the free and reduced-price lunch programs.

The United Teachers of Los Angeles may strike this winter over health benefits and other budget cutbacks that affect contracts. The teacher's union also announced a boycott of all after-school meetings beginning Dec. 8th. Also, on December 10th the union had a demonstration against the budget cuts.

The school board decided Superintendent David Brewer III isn't getting the job done, so they worked out a deal for him to leave his position in the mid

Continued on page 6

College Costs Keep Going Up

By Erick Reyes and
Andy Situ
Staff Writers

The financial crisis is making it more difficult to get a college education. Faced with shrinking budgets, California universities are raising tuition and cutting the number of applicants they will accept. Plus, student loans are getting more expensive and difficult to find.

For those hoping for student loans, lenders are charging higher rates and demanding a high credit score due to the bad economy. This comes at a bad time because the average debt for college increased from \$18,976 to \$20,098 since 2007. College tuition and fees increased by 6.4 percent at public universities, while room and board went up 5.2 percent.

Many factors are working to make college more expensive, including the dropping stock market, declines in donations, layoffs, foreclosures and minimal investments. Considering the way things are looking right now, people expect college prices to continue to rise until the 2010-2011 school year.

While universities will be charging more, the number of students admitted will decrease. CSU and UC campuses may not enroll all of the student applicants, even those that meet all of the requirements. That's because Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is planning to cut off \$65 million from the \$3 billion in state funding for the schools. There will also be a 9.4 percent rise in college tuition.

"We recognize that the current economic situation has created real financial challenges for students and their families, who are increasingly concerned about how they can secure loans to help cover college costs," said Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings in the LA Times.

In This Issue

What's next for the U.S. with Obama in charge? See page 2.

Shopping on a budget? Find tips of page 4.

Does your cell phone make you itch? See page 5.

See page 6 to find out if the movie "Twilight" measures up to the book.

College presidents are asking whether the drinking age should be lowered to 18. See page 7.

Winter means soccer, basketball and wrestling. See page 8.

Students Praise Presidential Pick

By Wendy Chan,
Karen Leung and
Elizabeth Redondo
Staff Writers

History was made when Barack Obama won the Democratic presidential nomination and when he became the first African American President-Elect of the United States.

Senior Julian Leiro felt that ethnicity should not have been a factor in deciding whom to vote for. "I thought that this race would be a lot different in terms of people would have to overcome the race of the candidate and vote on how they were going to run the country," he said.

Others, however, expressed contrary opinions. "I felt that Obama would lose because America wasn't ready for a black president," said senior Luc Hall.

When the elections were done and the dust had settled, reactions were still just as mixed as they were in the beginning.

Obama's success in campaigning and on Election Day has proven that our country does understand change. "I believe that America finally accepted diversity (rather) than just talking about it," said junior Gatsby Paredes.

Some diehard McCain fans felt that diversity was not the issue in this election, "I was upset because McCain should have been elected," Hall stated, "McCain's policies just made more sense."

Other McCain supporters – like junior Kevin Widjaja – said, "People chose him as the president, so now he's my president, and I will trust and respect him as my leader." In the end he feels that, "Republicans have to get back up."

Obama fans felt that true change has come over America. "I was really happy because this is a monumental step in our nation's history since our history has been plagued with racism," said Leiro.



<http://www.lusakatimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/11/obama.jpg>
Barack Obama and his family greet a crowd in Chicago shortly after he was declared the winner of the election.

Junior Jeanny Hu said, "I'm glad Obama will be our president because I supported him from the beginning." She continued by saying that, "He'll be a good president because of his policies and ideas."

For some, the shock is still

settling in. "Very surprising, Obama being the first black president in the U.S.," said junior Daniel Lin. He continued saying, "We aren't sure what he's going to do. Right now, though, he shows he's going to be a good president. We'll see in January."

What Will Obama Do Now?

By Wendy Chan
Staff Writer

After eight years of national turmoil, Americans now have great expectations for Barack Obama for the next four years.

In his campaign speeches, Obama often promised "change for America," and set out his agenda for the nation. His grand plans may seem far-fetched to some, but to others, they provide a long-lost sense of hope and optimism. Here are some of the things Obama said he would do once he becomes president.

Obama's aim to "jumpstart the economy" begins with providing \$50 billion to the economy in order to save 1 million Americans from losing their jobs. According to his website, www.barackobama.com, he will then provide a tax cut for working families, eliminate income taxes for seniors earning an annual income of less than \$50,000, and simplify tax filing for middle class Americans. He will also create new jobs in sciences, manufacturing, and infrastructure/ construction.

What with skyrocketing college costs and nose-diving budgets, Obama promised to reform education. His "Zero to Five" plan will provide preparedness for young children for kindergarten and on. The No Child Left Behind Act will also be reformed, as schools that need improvement also need support, not punishment, according to www.barackobama.com. Moreover, he will attempt to decrease drop-out rates, expand afterschool enrichment programs and opportunities, support college outreach programs, et cetera. In addition to those is his plan to "recruit, prepare, retain, and reward America's teachers."

Another pressing issue, as always, is healthcare. Obama aims to make health insurance affordable and accessible to all Americans and to promote public health. His goal is to "make health insurance work for people and businesses—not just insurance and drug companies." Additionally, he will reduce costs by an average of \$2,500 by allowing importation of safe medicines from other developed countries at lower prices, and mandating hospitals to collect and report health care costs.

On the issue of immigration, Obama said he would create safer borders that more efficiently utilize infrastructure and technology to "preserve the integrity of our borders." He will remove incentives for illegal immigration by cracking down on employers who hire undocumented persons. Obama hopes illegal immigrants will learn English and then wait to become legal residents.

Cali Girls Can Still Keep a Secret

By Elizabeth Redondo
Staff Writer

The votes are in and adolescent girls are still able to abort unwanted pregnancies in the state of California without the consent of their parents

The suggested amendment to the Constitution of California – commonly known as Proposition 4 – failed on Nov. 4. Prop. 4 sought to mandate parental consent for all un-emancipated minors and install a 48-hour wait period after the parents have been informed of the decision to go through with an abortion, among other things.

California Now, the state's section of the National Organization for Women, released a statement saying, "Parents rightfully want to be involved in their teenagers' lives and we want our daughters to come to us if they become pregnant, and most do. But in the real world, laws like this don't work. Prop. 4 can't force teens to talk to their parents, but it may force them to do something desperate and dangerous."

Some students think that this law should have been passed. "I think that girls should have the permission (of their parents) because it would cut down on the abortion rate," said senior Luc Hall.

Others, like senior Julian Leiro, however, see it differently. "It's a wonderful that they don't need permission. It's their body and they can do what they want with it," he said.

Obama Bug Bites Computers

By Derek Lau
Staff Writer

A new wave of malware using the presidential election as a means to infect computers is catching unsuspecting users off guard.

According to the Washington Post, hackers send emails to inboxes with Barack Obama or the election results as the subject headings. Links or actual videos are attached to the email. When users click on the links they are directed to a website that asks them to download updates or plugins required to view the video. What the users are actually downloading is malware intended to steal private

information off of the now infected computer. Another strategy the hackers employ is infecting legit sites with harmful content like infected videos. Students generally thought that the tactics were underhanded.

"I think it's wrong of people to take advantage of the situation as an opportunity to send viruses to people because the election was taken seriously by a lot of people, and who's not going to click something that says its going to give you more information about the new president's campaign," said Mariah Geddie, a senior.

This certain wave malware

attack should remind students that they are never completely safe on the Internet. There are effective ways to protect your computers from these attacks and surf the web safely. Many companies, like Zone Alarm, offer free firewall or anti-virus software to remedy the solution. Most email clients automatically scan incoming and outgoing emails for traces of malicious code.

Geddie thought that the most effective way to prevent infection is to stay smart and wary on the Internet. "My advice is to not open any e-mails from people or companies that you don't know of," she said.

California Voters Deny Gays The Right To Wed

By Wendy Chan
Staff Writer

For many people, the world—in California, at least—has come to an end, for same-sex marriage is now illegal in the state. Passing Proposition 8 might just be one of the most uncompassionate actions taken by voters this month.

"Well, I feel that Prop. 8 is unfair. It's the same as women's rights; and everyone has the right to love, regardless of who they are," stated junior Daniel Lin.

On Nov. 4, voters passed Prop. 8, which is a constitutional amendment that banishes the right of same-sex couples to marry and asserts that only heterosexual marriage is valid in California.

The background of this proposition is one of vast controversy and fluctuation. In March 2000, California voters passed Prop 22 "to specify in state law that only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California."

This May, though, the California Supreme Court stated that the proposition "violated the equal protection clause of the California Constitution." For about six months, same-sex marriage was legal. Unfortunately, those who were happy about it before will now experience a period of injustice as they endure the lack of the right to marry their significant other of the same gender. That is, unless they move to another state.

Green tea

Continued from page 5

cial in diets and weight loss. According to a study at the University of Geneva in Switzerland, men who were given a combination of caffeine and green tea extract burned more calories than those given only the former or a placebo. Accordingly, studies also suggest that the green tea extract boosts metabolism and helps burn fat.

You must be careful how much of the tea you drink because it contains caffeine. However, the content of caffeine in one cup of green tea is considerably less than that in one cup of coffee: about 60 mg as opposed to over 100 mg.

When asked to describe the taste of green tea, junior Ryan Lee simply said, "Bittersweet."

"It just tastes good, so I drink it," explained junior Brian Ishiba.

'Can'cellors Build for the Better

By Alexis Nabong and
Brandon Tse
Staff Writers

On Nov. 21, Chatsworth students in the Engineering and Design Technology Academy got a chance to have fun while donating to the poor.

Students built structures out of cans, giving the event the name "Can-Struction." Boxes, string, foil, and plastic wrap were acceptable for the students to use. The structures were to be a maximum of six feet tall and four feet wide. Each home-room could have one team of eight students representing the class.

Can-struction was a chance for students to be involved in their community. "This activity has two purposes; to get service learning credits, and help the community," said Mr. West, one of the teachers of the academy. Students will be able to get credit for their Service Learning projects by spending time creating art.

"It's a pretty good way to

do charity," said Naama Shemesh, a junior involved with the building.

Cans were donated by local stores that share a common purpose in bettering the community for the holidays. "Part of EDTech was to reach out to companies and ask for their support," said Mrs. Aviv, lead teacher for the academy.

The theme this year was "Harvest." Each team decided what kind of structure they wanted to make pertaining to

the theme. "I think this activity is good for building team spirit," said West. The structures were judged, and prizes given out.

The judges were people in the community who came out to observe these works of art.

"I think that it's pretty cool that we get to get out of class and have fun, and then donate what we created to those who are in need," said junior Abraham Zhang.

Freshman Academies Compete To Collect Cans For The Needy

By Clarion Staff

The Freshman Academies collected nearly 1,100 cans of food in December to help the needy throughout the Valley.

The food donation drive was a competition between the two academies - the Titans and the Olympians - to see which could collect more food. The Olympians narrowly edged the Titans by bringing in 551 cans,

compared with 532 for the Titans. Students in the two home-rooms that collected the most were to receive pizza for lunch Friday. Those rooms were Mrs. McSwain for the Olympians, whose students donated 324 cans, and Mrs. Scott for the Titans, with 175.

The food was given to the Valley Interfaith Council for distribution.

Funding Forces Show's Cancellation

By Elizabeth Redondo and
Alexis Nabong
Staff Writers

Drama's fall musical production was cancelled for financial reasons, but plans are in the works for a spring show.

The financial difficulties arose from the fact that the school is now charging for weekend and holiday rehearsals, up to \$250 a weekend, said Mr. McDowell, the drama teacher.

For McDowell, who has

been a drama teacher for 21 years, including 15 here at Chatsworth High School, this is the first time he has ever had to cancel a performance. McDowell said, "It was a hard decision. I don't like to accept defeat, but I really didn't want to get deeper into (debt)." He went on to say that, "Like the economy, everything right now is hard on money."

Senior Janet Pinedo, one of the many students involved in the behind the scenes work, stated, "I thought we were go-

ing to have a miracle. Everyone was looking forward to it but it didn't work out. It sucked."

The Arts and Media Club president and a CHS thespian, junior Samantha Gordon, said, "I was definitely disappointed, but I realized we would overcome it. I knew that we would get to do another play and as long as we get to (perform), then it's okay."

When asked about how the club would direct funds to the Drama program, she replied,

Continued on page 7

Chancellors Bring Home Awards

By Diana De Los Santos
Staff writer

During the last few months a group of Chatsworth's students have received awards. The students earned these awards due to their hard work and dedication.

The College Board has named 21 students AP Scholars: Faith Buchanan, Justin Chan William Choy, Jonathan Cui, Henry Der, Katherine Falcon Zapata, Mariah Geddie, Imelda Houndonougbo, Sarel Iskender, John Le, Christopher Leyden, Julia Lim, Stephanie Liu, Elissa Min, Raymond Ngo, Micheal Phy, Desire Ramirez, Stephanie Ramos, Elizabeth Redondo, Estafanie Rodriguez, Andrew Sewell, Darrick Shin and David Wong for completing three or more exams with scores of 3 or higher. Six current seniors qualified for AP scholar with Honors (Suzan Arashben, Sarah Duong, Shannon Gordon, Kambrie Keith, Eleanor Trinh, Matthew Week-

ley) by earning the average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken and grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. Another group of seniors qualified for AP Scholar with Distinction Award (Deborah Davidson, Katherine Falcon Zapata, Deja Johnson, Julian Leiro, William Mendanha, and An Nguyen) by earning an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken and grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. Lisa Plattenberger earn the ranking of National AP Scholar due to the fact that she earn the average grades of four or higher on all AP exams taken during her high school career.

The Los Angeles Volleyball Coaches Association named twelve of thirteen seniors of the girl's volleyball team (Erica Alcantara, Gennifer Brandon, Tyler Cano, Jessica Lasater, Reanna Hill, Andrea Meneses, Dana Moreno, Jacqui Neale, Vanessa Ostovich, Melissa Trahin, Michelle

Trahin, and Holly Weaver) for the All - Academic Volleyball Team. In order to be included, the girls must be seniors in varsity volleyball who maintained a 3.0 G.P.A or higher for all four years of high school.

The Drama Department participated in the Drama Teachers Association of Southern California (DTA) Fall Drama Festival in which they separated into two distinct levels based on grade level. The results of this competition consisted of first place in overall excellence sweepstakes at "C" festival and third place overall excellence sweepstakes at "B" festival.

The school band entered the Granada Hills competition and the San Fernando Valley Veteran Parade competition. The band, drummers and drill team won first place in the San Fernando Valley, but in the Granada Hills competition, only band and drill team participated and won first place. There was no category for drummers.

Faster Food Finally Comes To CHS

By Derek Lau
Staff Writer

The students arrived at school recently to find a whole new cafeteria.

The new cafeteria consists of some noticeable new equipment. Some of these new technologies are hot and cold display cases. According to Leonard Johns, the cafeteria manager, they allow food to be kept warm or cool so that they remain appetizing. With this new equipment, Mr. Johns expects lunch to run more efficiently compared to the hectic environment students are all accustomed to. Another big change is the introduction of additional lines in order to speed up the process. They expect to be able to serve more students faster

and more smoothly. "We hope to get the whole line in in 15 minutes," Johns said.

Student reactions were generally positive. Many of them liked the new cafeteria because it was able to shorten the line by serving food faster. Senior Alek Sukharev thought that the new cafeteria was ideal for a high school.

"I don't have to wait until the lines are short to get my food because they move more quickly," he said.

According to the cafeteria manager, the money to pay for the upgrades came from a grant worth about \$800,000. With the grant they also expect to make more changes as the year goes on. For example, they plan to introduce a new card swipe system to replace the tickets.



Staff photo by Andy Situ
Changes to the CHS cafeteria should make the lunch lines move faster.

Choosing The Test That Suits You The Best

By Derek Lau
Staff Writer

For those planning to go to college, a few letters are extremely important: SAT or ACT. Many students wonder, though, which of these aptitude tests is the best one to take.

Theoretically, both tests are similar in difficulty and are accepted by most colleges as equivalents. However, scores and student experiences prove otherwise. According to their respective websites, the ACT exam tests students on the information they learned in high school while the SAT tests a student's reasoning and test-taking abilities. Some claim that the ACT is more challenging. Others say the opposite and insist that the SAT is more punishing.

"The ACT is way easier. It is a simpler test," said Jonathan Cui, a senior.

The subtle differences between each test seem to be the cause of the various student responses. The most obvious dif-

ference is the fact that the SAT Reasoning Test is given in three parts, a reading section, a math section, as well as a writing section. On the other hand, the ACT exam is given in five parts, a reading section, a math section, a science section, an English section, and an optional writing section. The SAT's math section only tests students up to Algebra 2, while the ACT contains questions relating to Trigonometry. The SAT exam has a penalty for wrong answers, a deduction of 1/4 point. However, the ACT does not penalize students for wrong answers. Students who are stronger in a single subject seem to perform well on one test.

When asked about this, Mrs. Koch, the college counselor, said, "Students that excel in math might do better on the SAT. Students who are stronger in language arts will sometimes do better on the ACT."

Although opinions about the two exams vary from person

Continued on page 4

Students Make Plans For Break

By Jayshawna Robnett
Staff Writer

Three weeks of sleeping in, three weeks of memories, three weeks of pure fun; winter break is right around the corner and waiting to be celebrated. Many people are celebrating this break by going out of town, partying, and playing winter sports.

Sophomore Jacob Keyser is raving everyday. In case you didn't know, raving is where teens/young adults go for social dancing to famous electro/hard core DJ's.

Alex Bolishchuk, a junior, is traveling. He's snowboarding everywhere in California and heading to Utah to do the same.

Junior Joshua Miller is leaving to Texas, taking a one and a half hour plane ride to visit his mom (he lives with his sister). "It's always nice to visit my mom when I have the opportunity," Miller said. Senior, Taye Smith is taking a road trip to Las Vegas heading to Paris, France.

Freshman Brandon White is spending his three weeks of fun by going to Utah to visit Dad and his new girlfriend, who lives there. "Sharing the love with the other side of family is wonderful," says White.

SAT vs. ACT

Continued from page 3

to person, most would agree that they take time and dedication to prepare for. When questioned about preparing for the SAT Reasoning Test, Cui said, "I recommend them (students) to go to the college office to get a SAT booklet to study from."

Students have the choice to take the SAT, ACT, or even both. Although taking one of the two tests does no harm, Koch recommends that students take both tests as well as two additional SAT Subject Tests.

The reason is that some colleges accept one or the other test. Your results on the tests are also used to determine scholarship eligibilities and other scholarship purposes as well.

Koch also urges younger students to start preparing for the two tests immediately by taking the PSAT in high school at least twice and taking advantage of numerous courses that are offered by many sources, such as the Princeton Review.

Although the SATs and the ACT are extremely important for the future, Koch assures students that they are not the only things they should focus on. "Don't stress about getting the perfect score because colleges look at the whole picture: academics, extra-curricular activities, sports, and even family situations."

Healthier Season's Eatings

By Thalia Willis
Staff writer

The holidays are just around the corner, so here are some ways to make this year's celebration dinners guilt free.

An average turkey dinner has 2,000 calories in it and 100 grams of fat, while the average person needs about 1,500 calories and 50-60 grams. Holiday dinners need a little bit of substitution to be healthy. "You can be sure it has fat and sugar if it tastes good," said Mr. Rooney, a health teacher.

Here are some helpful tips:

- Try eating smaller portions

- Have no seconds
- Take your time; it's not a race.
- Drink lots of water
- Don't starve yourself the whole day anticipating for dinner. Have a light breakfast and lunch.

You will see how much less you eat and how much faster you get full. "Eat something good, than eat something bad," said Mr. Rooney.

- If you help cook on the holidays, try making your meal and vegetables butter-less.
- We all know dessert is hard to turn down, but you really

don't have to as long as you substitute high sugar foods for lower ones.

- Have a delicious low fat pumpkin cheesecake or a sugarless apple pie instead of a cinnamon filled fattening pumpkin pie.

Remove the skin from chicken or turkey because it's filled with fats.

"My family is very big so we always have different varieties of food, from healthy turkey and vegetables to pumpkin pie and butter filled baked potatoes. I think this year I'll try to eat healthy" said Abel Casas, junior.

Holiday Shopping On A Budget

By Brandon Tse and Karen Leung
Staff Writers

Shopping this year for the holidays will be tough. Although the spiraling economy has led shoppers this year to be more frugal, the average shopper can still buy gifts for friends and family.

But let's face it; prices probably will not lower very much even though the rest of the country is hurting.

"This year people are going

to have to spend less because they don't have much to spend," said junior Hien Pham.

So people for the holidays this year are going to have to pick up some new habits, and learn to shop for less, while still bringing the holiday cheer.

Many stores sell the same merchandise, but at varying prices. Keep an eye out for the item you want to buy because it will probably go on sale during the upcoming shopping season.

"There are a lot of opportunities for people to get the better price," said junior Julie Yoo.

The website www.sundaysavers.com posts the weekly ads for store chains, such as Best Buy and Macy's.

Bargain hunters can find deals through their local newspapers and companies, such as Penny Pinchers and several websites such as www.insidesocal.com/bargain, www.bargainsla.com/index, and www.budget.com/budgetweb.

A Lot Of Gifts For Not A Lot Of Bucks

By Joseph Huang
Staff Writer

Short on cash this holiday season, here are some inexpensive and intriguing gifts under the price of \$10 to purchase for friends and family.

1. An innovative USB-powered cup warmer by Ziotek, keeps your beverage warm on the desk while using the computer and weighing at less than 0.5 ounces, it costs \$7.99 at cyberguys.com and x-tremegeek.com.

2. Another handy and fashionable gadget is the Lava Lamp USB at kleargear.com, which costs at \$9.99, providing a light source on the desktop at night. The lava lamp USB is filled with glitter inside, emitting the similar effect as a disco ball.

3. The mystifying puzzle, Rubik's Cube at HasbroToyShop.com is another alternative gift at the price of \$9.99, bringing amusement to kids and adults as well.

4. For all those stuffed animal lovers, you can purchase a furry, cuddling teddy bear, koala bear, or puppy at the price of \$10 at any Build-A-Bear Workshop location.

5. To put all the Christmas memories together this season, a 6 x 6 photo albums or scrapbook at the price of \$7.88 is the best method to approach, which can be bought at scrapbooking-warehouse.com.

Most Plan To Spend Less On Gifts

By Kevin G. Hall
McClatchy Newspapers (MCT)

For those of you hoping for plenty of presents this holiday season, a new survey has some bad news.

A slight majority of Americans intend to spend less on gifts this Christmas than they did last year, but half plan to spend at least \$500, according to a survey by Ipsos/McClatchy.

The nationwide survey, taken Dec. 4-8, pointed to the sagging economy as the reason why consumers said they would spend less this Christmas.

While 55 percent said they'd spend less, 39 percent said they'd spend about the same as last year. Only 5 per-

cent said they'd spend more.

The Ipsos/McClatchy poll results are consistent with retail sales numbers after Thanksgiving, which is generally a good barometer for what consumers will do over the entire holiday period. ShopperTrak RCT Corp., which tracks retail sales, reported that in-store sales fell 3.5 percent compared with the same week in 2007.

However, the poll results conflict with economic projections and a consumer poll by the National Retail Federation.

"Our economic forecast is calling for 2.2 percent growth (in holiday spending), and consumers said they were going to spend 1.9 percent more this year than last," said National Retail Federation spokesman

Scott Krugman.

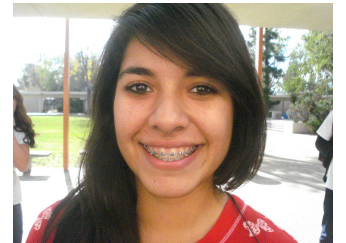
In the Ipsos/McClatchy poll, of those who said they would spend less this year, 48 percent said they didn't have extra money to spend, were anxious about the future or were otherwise coping with the economic downturn. Another 30 percent cited the bad economy in general as their reason for spending less. Some 15 percent cited worries about their job. And 13 percent said they were trying to save money this holiday season.

The mean-average amount that Americans plan to spend over the holidays was \$840, but that's skewed by high amounts at the top. The median, or midpoint, of what respondents said they would spend was \$500.

What's The One Gift You Would Want?

By Andrew Park and Alexandra Jancich
Staff Writers

If you could only have one thing for Christmas, what would it be? That's the question the Clarion asked students and staff recently. Here are their answers.



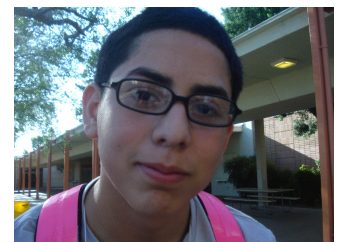
Catalina Daneshfar, Junior
"I want a car because I want to donate blood and food."



Izaira Nixon, Senior
"I want a penthouse in New York fully furnished with a maid and chauffeur."



Justin Gonzalez, Junior
"I want a new phone; the BlackBerry Storm because it's a nice phone. It attracts the ladies."



Oscar Villa, sophomore
"I want a Toyota Supra '98. It's twin turbo charged and I could race it."



Jerome Thomas, Gardener
"I want every teenager in the world to see my Child Predator Awareness seminar."

Before An Interview, Review This

By Wendy Chan and
Karen Leung
Staff Writers

Has your wallet been hungry? Getting a job is the best way to satisfy its lust for Lincoln, Hamilton, Jackson – even Grant and Franklin. The following helpful tips will prepare you for a successful job interview.

“The key is to get the interview. Companies will accept applications all day long, but if you can obtain an interview, you are more than 50 percent (of the way to getting the job),” said Mr. Piña, the career adviser.

Show off your intelligence

Since you’re constantly on the Internet anyway, you might as well research the company. From time to time, your interviewer will ask how you found out about the job opening. Give the interviewer the impression that you know what you are talking about.

Practice, practice, practice

You don’t want to look like a fool. Improvisation does not work in this case. Be prepared to answer a variety of questions, such as “How well do you work under pressure?” or “What are your greatest

strengths/weaknesses?” Learn to be comfortable with yourself, make eye contact, and exercise good volume control.

Impress through dress

Dress respectfully. Be groomed and remove excess piercings (e.g. tongue studs). “Generally, the interviewer will know in three minutes whether you will be hired or not, based on first impressions, or your appearance,” said Piña.

Be polite

Be confident and start with a firm handshake. Engage in a brief chat (e.g. “How was your morning?”) with the interviewer to display your social graces.

Try not to interrupt the interviewer while he is asking you a question. End the interview with a handshake and a courteous ‘thank you’ and ask if you may contact the company in two or three days for the results.

Ask questions

This is the opportunity for you to learn more about the available position, such as job requirements and expectations. If you do not ask questions, the interviewer may think you are not taking the interview as seriously as you should.

Write a thank-you note.

Even if you do not get the

Continued on page 7

Are Cell Phones Hazardous?

By Simon Chen and
Alexis Nabong
Staff Writers

You may have heard that talking on your cell phone may be extremely dangerous to your health, but before you say “goodbye” to your cellular device, get the facts straight.

Is cell phone radiation linked to brain tumors or even brain cancer? According to switch.com, there have been many studies to test whether or not prolonged cell phone use can create brain defects through the emitted radiation from your phone. Unfortunately, there is still not enough information to blame cell phones for the severe health hazards. “If it’s not proven yet, then yes, I will still use my phone,” said junior Sean Alviz.

Additionally, you can actually be allergic to your mobile phone. Dermatologist Dennis Gross from cbsnews.com informed that 1 out of every 10 people is allergic to metal nickel. Cell phones may contain nickel, and those who have sensitive skin can develop rashes.

You can prevent any possible harmful radiation and the nickel rash allergy from your cell phone by following these techniques: use speakerphone or a bluetooth device, because there will be less contact between your body and the phone.

Students are still willing to use their phones regardless of the harm they may cause to their health. “I still have to have my phone because I always have to talk to people,” said junior Rochelle Quijano.

Volleyball

Continued from page 8

expected, it was a great year. The team eventually bonded together as one and dominated through the West Valley League,” said junior Cheyenne Coyle. “I have bonded with the senior girls and I’m definitely going to miss them next year.”

Do You Know What You’re Drinking?

Green Tea Provides A Plethora Of Health Benefits

By Wendy Chan
Staff Writer

Put down all those sugary beverages and pick up a cup of green tea, because green tea has been discovered to be a beneficial natural remedy.

A cup of green tea will rejuvenate your health and immune system, which can reduce your risks of various diseases and complications, suggests the University of Maryland Medical Center. Not only does it contain numerous advantages to your health, but it is also easy to make.

Scientific research has been providing plentiful evidence for the health benefits that accompany a daily dose of green tea. According to University of Purdue researchers, a particular compound in the tea restrains the growth of cancer cells. In addition, research also indicates that drinking green tea lowers total cholesterol levels and increases the ratio of good cholesterol (HDL) to bad cholesterol (LDL).

The same researchers also claim that among some medical conditions green tea is known for alleviating are cancer, arthritis, high cholesterol levels, cardiovascular disease, and in-



fections. It also boosts your immune system functions.

About.com indicates that what makes green tea different from other teas is EGCG, a powerful anti-oxidant that prevents the occurrence of cancer cells without harming normal healthy tissue and slows down the formation of blood clots, which lead to various cardiovascular abnormalities. Research from 1997 by the University of Kansas also led scientists to find that Japanese smokers who drink green tea have a longer life expectancy than do those who do not drink it.

Some of you may have heard that green tea is benefi

Continued on page 2

Does That Extra Boost Do More Harm Than Good?



By Joseph Huang
Staff Writer

Students who consume highly caffeinated energy drinks may want to reconsider before taking another gulp.

The most common ingredients found in energy drinks are sugar and caffeine. Caffeine is responsible for the stimulating effects in the nervous system, generating attentiveness. Yet students rarely acknowledge that caffeine may be harmful to them. People experience headaches, nausea, rapid heartbeat, and numbness from high consumption of caffeine. According to EnergyFiend.com, “most energy drinks contain between

70 to 200 mg of caffeine, while Dr. Pepper gives you 41 mg, and a can of Coca-Cola provides 34 mg.”

Students expressed mixed judgments regarding the effects of energy drinks and their ingredients.

Tim Ta, a junior, conveyed his dissatisfaction toward energy drinks and the excessive amount of sugar and caffeine in them. “Many energy drinks contain caffeine which is addicting and unhealthy for the body,” he said.

When asked how often she consumes Monster energy drinks, Daniela Rodriguez, a junior, said, “I don’t drink it anymore because it gave me headaches and chest pains.”

In contrast, Paul Lee, a junior, enjoys the fizzing and sugary taste of energy drinks. “I drink it most of the time. Sometimes I make my own with different mixtures,” he said.

Although some of the ingredients found in energy drinks may be bought over-the-counter, they are considered nutritional supplements, according to the Food and Drug Administration. These ingredients include of taurine, guarana, B vitamins, ginseng, ginkgo giloba, and L-Canitine.

Cars

Continued from page 1



America’s car manufacturers are struggling to stay in business.

This would devastate an economy that has already lost 1.25 million jobs in the last three months.

President-Elect Barack Obama advocated helping the car companies. According to New York Times, he said, “The auto industry is the backbone of American manufacturing and a critical part of our attempt to reduce our dependence on foreign oil.”

The three American automobile companies asked for a \$34 billion lifeline, but revised

that to \$14 billion. Congress rejected both, but the White House is working on another plan to bail out the companies.

CNN’s Fortune 500 ranks General Motors and Ford Motor as the fourth and seventh largest American corporations, respectively. The magnitude of the effect on the economy would be overwhelming. Local dealers, suppliers, and many other jobs would be affected directly and indirectly, while tax revenues would be lost.

GM expects to have

62,500 U.S. employees by the end of this year, compared to 125,000 in 2003. Chrysler plans to cut 25 percent, or about 5,000, of its workers, while Ford expects to have 42,000 workers left, with 41,000 laid off since 2006.

However, despite the importance of the automotive industry and the troubles the car companies face, there was apathy among students and parents about the prospect of them failing.

When asked why American

cars are failing, senior Maurice McFarland responded, “Because gas is so much in demand. Most of the American cars run on gas so the cars are more expensive.”

On top of the gas mileage, trust and reliance are a problem for the car companies. “They’re not (economical) enough, not efficient. They’re not as reliant as foreign cars,” said Michael Unger, parent of a Chatsworth High School student. He suggested that American cars “would always be in the shop.”

Failing Companies Shouldn't Be Rewarded With Bailouts

By Diana De Los Santos
Staff Writer

Congress should not bail out the automobile industries. The automobile industries are failing due to their incompetence and a vice such as that should never be awarded with a multi-billion-dollar hand out.

Any company that is facing bankruptcy should never be relieved by governmental action. Millions of taxpayers do not get assistance when facing foreclosure therefore why should an inept billion-dollar industry be given any special consideration?

According to Catherine Clifford of CNNMoney.com, "The Detroit automakers have been lobbying for a piece of \$700 billion bail out pie to survive the economic downturn." The efforts of

the automobile companies should not be directed towards panhandling, but towards great administrative action. The power to overcome any obstacle in this troubled economy does not lie in begging, but in putting time and the best minds to work in order to create an excellent plan to keep the corporation afloat and not sink into the sea of bankruptcy.

The theory of evolution cannot solely apply to nature, but also to the world of economics. The survival of the fittest is a universal concept. If the Big Three cannot compete in this changing economy, then they should suffer the consequences and leave the road open to more financially secure companies.

College Presidents Want You To Think About Drinking

By Andrew Park
Staff Writer

Earlier this year, 100 college presidents met together and signed a petition saying that lowering the drinking age from 21 to 18 should be considered. Their basis for this argument was that lowering the drinking age would decrease the amount of binge drinking in college students.

Lowering the drinking age to 18 would help create a controlled environment of drinking, especially among those seniors who turn 18 before they graduate. Honestly, the 21-year-old age requirement is not doing anything to decrease binge drinking and drunk

driving. The older the age requirement, the more likely it would be for teenagers to disobey it.

The Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) disagrees with the initiative. According to the Los Angeles Times, they accused the presidents of "misrepresenting science and looking for an easy way out of an inconvenient problem." MADD even warns parents of the colleges who signed the petition.

MADD's argument is simply not logical. Accusing more than 100 colleges of taking an "easy way out" of the drinking problem is unreasonable.

It's Not Easy Being The New Kid

By Sam Bae
Staff Writer

When I stepped alone into the hallways of a completely new, unknown school called Chatsworth High, I knew my life had taken a big turn. Strange emotions enveloped me, and I told myself repeatedly, "So this is what being a new student feels like. I better get used to this."

You would never know the disastrous story of a new student on his/her beginning days in a new school unless you experienced it yourself. I trudged through most of my first day of school wrapped in all kinds of feelings: nervousness, confusion, loneliness, and even fear. But I am not alone. About three hundred new students come to CHS during each school year.

My unknown comrades may share the same emotions that I feel.

"I felt homesick when I started new," said Danny Ortiz, a sophomore that also has recently moved in to Chatsworth High. Like Ortiz, I was haunted by homesickness as well as loneliness during my first days. At my old school, I had friends to talk to.

Here at Chatsworth, "You don't know anybody," Ortiz said, implying that new friends are hard to find. That explains why I finished my first day of school with only two new names stuck in my head.

Some veterans here ask me why in the world I came here during the middle of a semester. Well, for one reason, I moved into this district. Is it hard to

adapt to this school, other people may ask; and I have to say yes, in a way.

For Emmanuel Farias, a junior, the hardest thing about adapting is "catching up with the schoolwork." I myself was very confused with my new classes when I found out that what I learned from my old school differs slightly from what the students here learn, despite that they are the exact same courses.

About the new adventure in the lives of all the new students, I can testify that this road is treacherous but full of surprises. I hope that a group of new friends, superior grades, and more knowledge about Chatsworth High, my new school, will welcome me in the end. These things should go on my Christmas wish list.

Fall Fires' Effects Linger

By Elizabeth Redondo
Staff Writer

By now the smoke has cleared from both the sky and our minds and last month's fires are a faded glow in the confines of our memory. For a few Chancellors, however, the flames did more than irritate their allergies.

The firestorm started at approximately 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 13, with the Tea Fire in Montecito, north of Santa Barbara. This particular blaze destroyed roughly 1,500 acres by the next day, destroying 210 homes and damaging 9 others.

Saturday, Nov. 15, also colored the sky with bitter ash as two fires ignited, the first of which was the Sayre fire, which began at 12:45 a.m. and incinerated a total of 8,000 acres. It threatened 7,500 homes and finally destroyed a total of 477 homes and marred 23 others.

The Freeway Complex Fire – originally called the Triangle fire – is the third and final

inferno that plagued the southland that distant weekend in November. The fire took off at 3 p.m. menacing the cities of Corona and Yorba Linda in Orange County, burning up 23,722 acres. The fire consumed 60 homes and scarred 100 others; 1,000 were threatened.

While the lists of numbers are hardly news, they are more than numbers to some. Senior Ashley Satenstein housed her frightened grandmother and cousins when flames threatened their home. "They were there a day and a half," she said.

When asked how she herself felt, Satenstein replied, "(Kind of) scared. Honestly it was (kind of) like everything (my grandma) had done might be for naught."

Senior William Mendanha was asked to evacuate during both the Porter Ranch and Simi Valley fires, although he and his family complied with only the first. "I felt really bad because it's like you're leaving everything your family has be-

hind," he voiced. Was he scared? "Indubitably so," he said after mentioning that the fire had come within 200 yards from his property.

The devastation wrought by these three flames did not end when the last ember went out. "Everything is gone," Mendanha said, referring to the charred scenery behind his home. "It sucks because I grew up with everything green."

Drama

Continued from page 3

"We're having fundraisers at restaurants." Gordon went on to explain that a portion of the proceeds would go to the Drama department, as well as other art based programs.

In the end McDowell stated, "Everything worked out really well." He and his students are looking forward to the spring show. A preview to the production? "I want to keep that a surprise, but it will be fun, with singing, and dancing, and comedy," he said.

2008 Events

Continued from page 1

sinking further, the Bush administration developed a "stimulus" plan that gave people tax rebates of a few hundred to a couple of thousand dollars. That cost \$145 billion. Then in October, Congress approved a \$700 billion bailout of the financial industry. Now the Big Three auto makers are asking for billions of dollars to keep them from going out of business.

On the plus side, gas is down to about \$1.65 a gallon.

Golden Olympics

With the motto, "one world, one dream," China hosted the 2008 International Olympic Games in August, which were one of the most exciting and expensive Olympic games of all time. Americans were as proud as

ever seeing Michael Phelps dominate the swimming pool and win a record eight gold medals. Usain Bolt (also known as "Lightning Bolt") broke numerous records as well, winning gold for Jamaica. In basketball, the United States took over the courts with the best players of the nation collaborating to win the gold.

A fiery fall

In October and November, wildfires in Porter Ranch, Sylmar, Yorba Linda, Montecito and elsewhere swept through Southern California, destroying hundreds of homes and devastating many residents, who watched the engulfing flames helplessly, as a portion of their lives burned away.

Clarion Staff

Adviser: Mr. Lehr

Editor in Chief: Katherine Falcon

News Editor: Wendy Chan

Editorial Editor: Andrew Park **Assistant:** Diana De Los Santos

Features Editor: Elizabeth Redondo **Assistant:** Alexis Nabong

Sports Editor: Brandon Tse

Chief Copy Editor: Andrew Park

Copy Editors: Karen Leung, Elizabeth Redondo, Wendy Chan

Design and Layout Editors: Katherine Falcon and Simon Chen

Staff Writers: Christopher Alarcon, Sam Bae, Wendy Chan, Simon Chen, Diana De Los Santos, Katherine Falcon, Joseph Huang, Alexandra Jancich, Derek Lau, Karen Leung, Alexis Nabong, Andrew Park, Elizabeth Redondo, Erick Reyes, Jayshawna Robnett, Andy Situ, Brandon Tse, Thalia Willis

Clarion's Editorial Policy

The goal of The Clarion is to provide relevant and reliable news to students and staff at Chatsworth High School. All stories are produced by students in the journalism and school newspaper classes unless otherwise stated. The paper is subject to review by school administrators before publication. The newspaper is funded by the school and private advertisers.

The opinions expressed in the editorials are those of the individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the staff as a whole.

We hold ourselves accountable for the accuracy and fairness of our work. If factual errors are brought to our attention we will correct them in the next edition.

Winter Sports Teams Looking Forward To The Season

By **Brandon Tse and Derek Lau**
Staff Writers

With the winter sport teams about to begin their regular seasons, here's a look at what to expect.

Boys' Basketball

According to Coach Switalla, the Chatsworth High School Boys' Basketball team's performance was unsatisfactory last year. This year the coaching staff expects a better record. "All the young guys have matured," said Coach Switalla, *Changes:* All the returning players from last season have matured and they have gotten rid of players that did not fit in the coach's program.

Key Match up: The team hopes to defeat Taft's basketball team, a strong rival team.

Girls' Basketball

According to Coach Chevalier, the girls' team had a very successful season last year, until they fell short of the city championships and the state quarterfinals. They ended the season with a 27-6 record. *Changes:* The 2008-2009 team is much smaller compared to the team last year because they lost five seniors who graduated. *What to Watch For:* Since the team lost depth, staying healthy is a priority for the team. "It can affect us as we get deeper into playoffs," Chevalier said. However, the team has the potential for another successful season,

provided that their three new players can adapt to the change and find a way to fit into the coach's program.

Wrestling

The Chatsworth High School Wrestling team placed 4th in the city finals and managed to send one wrestler to the state tournament. The coaching staff expects the current team to have an extremely successful season this year. "Expect each wrestler to perform at their highest level," said Coach Landau. *Changes:* All the returning players have matured and have more experience. Many of them are extremely motivated. There are also new coaches in the staff. *What to watch For:* The coaching staff expects each wrestler to

perform at their highest level. They also expect to reach the city finals and to send many of their wrestlers to state.

Boys' Soccer

The boys this year will be working with new and old talent. They played well last year, but they want to do even better. They have a new coach this year; Coach Campos. "I think that we can do pretty well this year with the talent we have," said Campos. *Changes:* Along with a new coach, about a quarter of the team is new to the varsity team, yet they are ready to play hard and fight all the way. *Key Match ups:* The first two games this season will be the toughest and most important. They will play El Camino Real

High School and Birmingham High School, two teams that have developed rivalries with the CHS team.

Girls' Soccer

After making it to the quarter finals last year, and the girls this year want it more than ever, according to Coach Altshule. "We've grown a lot together and we can act more as one," said Altshule. *Changes:* The team is more united and with 10 senior players, the team will be well-lead this year. *Key Match up:* All the teams this year will be good, but the most important games will be against our city rivals; El Camino Real High School, and Granada Hills Charter High School.

Ready, Aim...Paint!

By **Brandon Tse**
Staff Writer

How would you feel as an object flies at intense speeds with the intent to nail you? What if you are crawling for your life as rounds fly through the air, hitting anything they collide with? Most would call that war, but some call that fun.

In recent year, teens and young adults have fallen for a new kind of sport: paintballing. The thrill of surviving to win has created a newfound source of entertainment.

"It's a rush of adrenaline while you run through a wall of paintballs, driving to the next shelter," said Daniel Rochin, a junior.

Paintballing recreates the experience of what many have experienced only virtually: war.

As videogames promote their first-person shooters, many want to take that idea to real life. The adrenaline rush of taking cover and taking out the bad guys has caused people all over the nation to go out and buy \$300 guns just for paintballing and then spend the day shooting their friends. Places like SC Village and Paintball USA provide fields designed to act as battlegrounds for the experience.

"Paintballing is pretty intense and it's a lot of fun," said junior Allen De Leon.

Most teens view the potentially painful experience as a hobby. Since the outbreak of this sport, official arenas have sprung up to supply these teens with a place to annihilate each other--legally.

Various types of playing have developed, such as origi-

nal, speedball, and airball. Original is the typical game of two large teams, usually between 10-20 people on each, playing a game of survival that can take up to an hour to win. Speedball is a game on a small playing field with several objects that can be used as cover, and can take as little as 5 minutes to win. Airball is the most publicized of the three on TV. It features a small field like that for speedball, but uses inflatable covers strewn about. Both airball and speedball usually consist of teams of 2-4 people.

The game occasionally does cause injuries, since a projectile is smashing into a person. Yet, "despite the injuries someone can get, it's still attracting," said Rochin. "The bruises you come home with are stories to tell your friends at school."



Photo illustration by Erick Reyes

Varsity Football Says Farewell To Season, Coach

By **Christopher Alarcon**
Staff Writer

CHS's varsity football team was on a rough road this year leaving the season with more losses than wins, and will be in for a change next year as a new head coach comes in.

Coach Hayashida, the head varsity football coach, is ending his coaching days at CHS to be with his family, since the job of a football coach never ends.

The CHS varsity football team's rocky season ended with four wins and six losses. They beat Kennedy and Reseda by a good margin, but losing to defending city champion Birmingham left them a win short of going to the playoffs.

Hayashida said, "It (the season) hasn't been what we thought it'd be. Maybe I put these guys through too rough of a pre-season."

Junior Evan Forman, a varsity football player, saw the season as a learning experience for the team and commented, "We never gave up, no matter how badly we lost."

This was Hayashida's second and last season here at CHS. He said, "(After) twenty-three years of coaching I'm going to step down. I have a family and two kids to take care of."

Mr. Immken, athletic director, said, "I think he (Hayashida) should receive recognition for over two decades of interscholastic athletics." Mr. Immken also gives light to next year's coach commenting, "We'll have an interview process and we've had a lot of interest."

Forman said, "He (Hayashida) coached a lot of good players that are going from here to a lot of good colleges. He was a good coach, he had a good influence on the team."

Volleyball Team Full Of Seniors Rebuilding Next Year

By **Andy Situ and Simon Chen**
Staff Writers

Expect some changes next year as only two varsity players will remain on the girls' varsity volleyball team.

The team ended their season with a record of 26-7. They lost to Granada Hills Charter High School in the playoffs, but were second in the West Valley League due to losing a coin toss with Granada.

Coach Sheriff said, "Overall, the season was very successful on all levels." On the improvements to be made, he said, "we need to have better passing so that our offense can be more effective." There were "a lot of ups and downs, but in the end, I was satisfied with how the team finished and what our future looks like."

Also, he called the next sea-

son the "rebuilding year" as there are currently thirteen seniors in the varsity team. Half of the varsity team would probably be from the sophomores this year that are currently in the junior varsity team or frosh/soph team.

The captain, Reanna Hill, said, "It's been a great season, and it has been a lot of fun. We should have won." She is currently a senior and has been playing volleyball in Chatsworth for three years.

Of the things to look for next year, Coach Sheriff mentioned, "Times of brilliance that will show what our capabilities are," but there would be a "difficult road" for next year's team to accomplish what the team this year had.

"Although the 2008 volleyball season ended shorter than

Continued on page 5

Girls' Golf Takes Third

By **Alexis Nabong**
Staff Writer

Girls' golf ended their season with a record of 6-3. They finished 3rd in League and 3rd in City.

Three players made it all the way to state, Hannah Jun, Sylvia Dhimdis, and Cynthia Dhimdis. The Dhimdis sisters have been CHS golfers for all of their three years in high school. This year Sylvia was successful by beating her all time best score during a competition.

"They had a great season," said Coach Lapaz.

Junior Jeannine Garcia joined the team this year and said, "It was a great first season for me and a great experience. Golf is seriously something to do to get away from it all. It's very relaxing."