

The Clarion

April 2007

Threats Are No Joke, But Are Jokes Threats?

By Candy Wong
Staff Writer

The Virginia Tech tragedy, now touted as a "college Columbine," left many in shock, causing some CHS students to wonder: At what point do you report a student's strange or threatening behavior?

After all, friends "mess around" all the time, right? Just because you claim you'll blow out so-and-so's brains doesn't mean you'll *really* go through with it... Does it?

"My friends are very goofy

people. If they said that [they will harm others], I wouldn't take them seriously," said senior Lecreatia Nelson. "No one really knows what's going on inside a person's mind. They'd have to physically display it."

However, Dr. Davis, who advises freshmen about reporting threats during orientation, says it's better to be safe than sorry. When threats are reported, administrators investigate but never reveal who made the report. Three or four times he has referred students to the school psychologist after con-

cerns were raised about their behavior.

In the case of Seung-Hui Cho, who murdered 32 students and faculty before killing himself, teachers and fellow students had alerted school officials and police about Cho's behavior. Still, interviews with CHS students revealed that many would need more than a muttered threat before they would consider reporting a fellow student.

"I honestly think that most students are joking when they make threats, but there's always

those psychopaths," noted student body president and senior Christine Lee, wryly.

Junior Gretchelle Quiambao agreed, "At first, I would think she [or he] is joking. I would have to read more into it."

In fact, a 2002 study by the U.S. Secret Service concluded that most school killers, though they exhibited worrisome behavior, did not directly threaten their eventual victims before the attack.

According to an article by msnbc.com entitled, "10 Myths
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Gas Prices Are Driving Us Crazy

By Randi Seidel
Staff Writer

While gas prices are soaring, people are roaring.

Gas prices appear to be burning an even bigger hole in our already burnt out pockets. The price of regular unleaded gas has steadily increased over the past several months.

In fact, according to Energy Information Administrations, unleaded gas cost \$2.58 in February. In March, the average for unleaded gas was \$2.85. Currently, the price for unleaded gas is \$3.35, according to the Automobile Association of America (AAA). This comes close to the Los Angeles record high for unleaded gas, which was \$3.40 on May 16, 2006.

Since gasoline is refined from oil, the supply and demand is always changing.

Edmonds.com explains how people want more oil than oil producers can supply. It's hard for sellers to guarantee delivery of oil when the regions major producers are so unstable.

For some teenagers, these prices simply mean spending more money. Junior Catherine Lee said, "I still have to drive, and as much as I hate it, I'll still spend the money to get from place to place."

Cutting down on driving is also a result of the inflating prices. "I try not to drive far distances, and carpooling helps," said Christine Lee, a senior.

For others, the Metro bus works just as well, as stated by junior Stephanie Baptiste who resorts to traveling by Metro. "It's not fair that gas prices are constantly going up because it is too expensive to drive," said Baptiste. Though the Metro is a good substitute for driving, it doesn't beat the availability of a car.

To conserve gas, take these tips given by the Office of Energy and Planning website into consideration. First, avoid rapid acceleration; horsepower consumes a lot of gas. Also, try to avoid braking and sudden stops. Drive slowly and remove extra weight from your car. Finally, reduce the use of your air conditioner.

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Narcissus has nothing on Generation Y, according to a new study. See page 3.

Not sure whether you want to see **Shia Lebov** as a nosey neighbor or **Will Farrell** as, well, Will Farrell? Check out the movie reviews on page 3.

See how the CHS teams are doing in **sports** on page 4.

Better Chalk Art Beats Bad Vandalism

By Desiree Ramirez
Staff Writer

If there is one good thing that came out of a second day of chalk dust, bruised knees, and sore fingers for Humanitas students, it was better art.

After spending several hours creating art works centered around the theme "Protest Art," the Humanitas students arrived the next morning to discover their artwork had been destroyed and they would have to make them all over again in time for Open House that night. All the chalk creations were vandalized except a few in front of E and D hall.

Junior Iris Kim said, "We worked harder rather than motivated" to remake their pictures. "My fingers were sore from the first day and to do our art once again made me angry," she said. However, Kim and other students said their work came out

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Staff photo by Lauren DeGaines

Humanitas students create "Protest Art" for the annual Chalk Festival, April 18.

New Servers Should Better Serve Us

By Huong Nguyen
Staff Writer

If you have been wondering why the school network (especially the internet) runs so slowly, it is because our computers are connected to servers that were purchased in 2001, but that's all about to change.

District 1 helped the school acquire three new servers, each worth an estimated \$2,500, said Dr. Davis.

"Our internet connection will be much faster but we still need to buy two more [servers]," according to Dr. Davis.

A server is basically the central place for all the computers to communicate. Teachers and students can save their data anywhere on campus on any computer and it would get sent to the servers and stored.

The servers also manage and monitor the internet accounts of teachers and students.

They even help prevent campus computers from contracting viruses by monitoring and blocking inappropriate activity. But because they are old, they tend to not function correctly, said Mr. Jarvis, the assistant principal in charge of technology.

"The main purpose for these new servers is not speed, but more to prevent system failure. Each time that there is a failure, our server is out for 30 to 40 minutes before we can restart and reboot. Within that time, most teachers and students on campus do not have access to the network," Jarvis said.

According to Jarvis, faster speed is not guaranteed, but if our computers (which happen to be two generations behind today's up-to-date technology), along with our servers got replaced, then the speed would definitely increase.

All of the new servers are expected to be installed this summer.

Will Rising College Prices Lead To Crisis?

By Jannet Torres
Staff Writer

As if getting into college weren't enough stress, the cost of Cal State and University of California campuses is going up for the fifth year in a row.

The Cal State Board of Trustees voted to increase full-time undergraduate fees by almost \$300, to \$3,451 (not including housing and books) for one year. Graduate fees are expected to increase anywhere from \$300 to \$3,000.

In the UC system, the Board of Regents hiked tuition 7 percent, which equates to \$435 more for undergraduates. Without housing and book fees, the average price to attend a UC would be \$7,347. Graduate students will pay \$483 more.

Board of Regents Chairman, Richard Blum, hopes that everyone can see that "the reality is the system is underfunded," according to the Los Angeles Times.

About 35 percent of Cal State students and 43 percent of UC undergraduate students will not be affected, depending on their family income. Those whose earnings are under \$65,000 a year won't have to worry about the increases. Additionally, approximately one-third of the new fees will go toward financial aid.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger made a deal in 2004 that said public universities won't increase student fees by more than 10 percent and that enrollment would increase over 2 percent annually. This is to ensure that the UC and Cal State systems continue to be some of the most affordable colleges in the nation.

Seniors like Stephanie Calderon see only one option for dealing with the fee increases. "The more money they charge us, the more loans we're going to need. At this rate, they better prepare us for successful careers," said Calderon.

Let's Face It—We're Full of Ourselves

By Lauren DeGaine
Staff Writer

Beware: if you were born after the early 1980's, you have a greater chance of being full of yourself.

Jean Twenge, an assistant professor at San Diego State, conducted the Narcissistic Personality Inventory on the Millennial Generation—or Generation Y, as some call us—and compared it to the results of the test taken in 1982.

The Inventory had test-takers respond to statements such as “I am special,” “If I ruled the world it would be a better place,” and “I like attention.” According to the results, we are 30 percent more narcissistic: two-thirds of test-takers representing our generation scored higher on the test than did those of Generation X, our predecessors.

From jocks picking on other kids at lunch to catty girls criticizing each other as a hobby, to

kids sitting in the “popular” area throwing chocolate milk cartons and tin foil balls at quiet book-laden kids with out-of-style clothes walking by alone, more and more of us seem to think we can do whatever we want. But do these displays of cruelty reflect a rise in self-centeredness and a growing lack of compassion?

“I believe it,” remarked Britany Quijano, a junior. “Parents tend to spoil their children; [the kids] become obsessed with

themselves.”

“There’s higher standards for us now—we have to be more confident,” added junior Allison Schaub.

But there’s a definite line between confidence and cockiness. If we let our egos get ahead of us, important morals fade. Self-assuredness, a quality that is undoubtedly an asset, does not mean focusing so wholly on our own feelings that we forget others. Sure, there

will always be that kid that, no matter what anyone else tells him, continues to believe he is above everyone else, above kindness. That kid exists in every generation.

But if the results are true and our narcissism is inflated, we may need to step back and analyze our generation as a whole, and maybe make some changes, because there is no way we can contribute to the world when we’re only concerned with ourselves.

The Hijab: Liberating or Oppressive?

By Maggie Ghahri-Saremi
Staff Writer

It seems fitting that a veil covering the hair and neck, which serves as an external barrier, should be called a *hijab*, meaning partition or barrier in Arabic.

Like many people, I used to think the hijab was degrading and oppressive to women, but since taking Ms. Hernandez’s Intro to Anthropology/Women’s Studies class I’ve come to see the hijab in a different light.

I realize now that the hijab is both a sign of liberation and suppression. When a woman wears the hijab for the right reasons she is liberating herself from unwanted stares from men and from the norms of society, which often portray incredibly warped images of women.

The hijab is a sign of liberation for Muslim women if, and only if, it is worn willfully and

devotedly. I believe when the hijab is forced upon a woman by a relative or government she is being exposed to radical, fundamental religion and a suppression she does not deserve.

Unless the hijab is willfully worn out of respect for Allah, it is as much a sign of suppression among women now as were corsets for women in past history.

Some practicing Muslim women cover their heads, while others choose not to. Some women wear the hijab simply because it is a traditional, religious practice. Others choose to wear the hijab for the rest of their lives. And some wear it because they’ve never known life without the hijab.

When a Muslim woman chooses to wear the hijab, or not, she is proclaiming to the Muslim world and Western society that she will dictate her dress, and her attire should not



Source: desertstore.com

be a determining factor of her faith in Allah or her dedication to Islam.

I respect women who choose to wear the hijab for the right reasons—to express love to their god, to protect their character, and to stand firm when all around them women are revealing things about their womanhood that should be kept holy and mysterious.

Recovering From The Trauma Of Sexual Assault

By Maggie Ghahri-Saremi
Staff Writer

It’s a nightmare that has plagued hundreds of high school girls for decades, young girls who never expected *it* to happen to them.

The aftermath of sexual assault (whether it be date rape, acquaintance rape, or another form) undoubtedly leaves a young girl entangled in a mess of emotions: scared, angry, confused, and depressed.

Some girls want to scream to the whole world that they’ve been violated, but are afraid of how people they trust and love will receive the news. Others want to curl up in a corner, wishing and praying for a tornado to tear their house down because they can’t bear to share the details of an event so atrocious.

Statistics in the National Crime Victimization Survey conducted in 2005 by the U.S. Department of Justice show that a friend or acquaintance com-

mitted 73 percent of sexual assaults, and 43 percent of rape victims are under the age of 18.

Before they find themselves in a compromising situation, girls must learn what they should, or should not do, to prevent sexual assault.

According to Missouri Shores Domestic Violence Center, girls should “not give mixed signals. Say ‘yes’ when you mean ‘yes’ and ‘no’ when you mean ‘no’.”

They also advise girls to “be firm in uncomfortable situations. Do not worry about being polite or hurting someone’s pride or feelings.”

Most importantly, if you don’t know someone well enough, meet in a public place or go out on a group date.

The National Sexual Assault Hotline, 1-800-656-HOPE, helps victims deal with the aftermath of sexual assault. For more information, visit the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN) website at <http://www.rainn.org>.

Chalk *Continued from page 1*

better the second time around.

Mr. Gomez said school officials “are exploring all possible leads and I’m putting in extra effort to find these vandals since I was once in the humanities program.”

The first day the students worked on their art through the wind and cold. They battled weather and time putting all they could into their pieces of art. Junior John Williams said, “The first day of our work we had tons of fun, messed around, and got the work done despite

the bad weather conditions.” Williams’ group was one of the few whose artwork was left untouched.

Many students took time from their day to go out and help recreate the destroyed projects. Seniors, juniors, and sophomores took part in helping despite rumors of it being a senior prank. Sophomore Talina Saegh said, “I came out and helped my friends because I know how much work they put into it.”



Staff photo by Rhett Brandt
Junior Sarah Gartsman.

Virginia Tech *Continued from page 1*

About School Shootings,” the first mistake we make about school shooters is: “He didn’t fit the profile.”

The article stated that, “Just as in other areas of security—workplace violence, airplane hijacking, even presidential assassination—too many innocent students will fit any profile you can come up with, and too many attackers will not.”

Some question whether or not a potential killer can be identified and treated before it’s too late, and if authorities are doing enough to prevent school shootings.

“We’ve had so many shootings. We should take action. You should, first of all, have people with authority really get into the case—like talk to the kid and consult the guardian or parents,” said sophomore Michael Widjaja.

“I would report it [death threats]. Nowadays, you can’t just ignore it. Kids say stuff to me [about threats they hear], but it’s never along those lines,” said art teacher Mrs. Lawson.

“Sometimes our society tends to overlook some of the quieter ones. They internalize everything and don’t say it and

then just erupt. That’s what worries me,” she said.

Senior Azucena Cruz said she could spot a potential school shooter by: “...the way they react over a long period of time, or their changing moods.”

So, how safe are students? The msnbc.com article stated that: “Even including the more common violence that is gang-related or dispute-related, only 12 to 20 homicides a year occur in the 100,000 schools in the U.S. In general, school assaults and other violence have dropped by nearly half in the past decade.”

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Clarion’s Editorial Policy

The goal of The Clarion is to provide relevant and reliable news to the 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.

Spring fashion

It's All About The Colors This Season

By Stephanny Landaverde
Staff Writer

Say goodbye to big, puffy, marshmallow-like jackets and warm fuzzy boots and say hello to this year's spring female fashion.

Let's take a quick look at what some brands have to offer this spring.

Hollister Co.'s Spring Break line consists of graphic tees and strap shirts in light green, orange, and yellow. For bottoms, they have shorts and Bermuda shorts in different colors while still maintaining the same design: plaid.

Hip-hop brand Rocawear has shirts in light pink, dark purple, black, and white. Many of them have the Rocawear logo in either the front or back of the shirts. Skirts are either denim or stripes.

American Eagle has different kinds of shirts in sky blue, red, and dark purple, but shorts seem to have a variety of light pastel colors.

Kimora Lee Simons' de-



Photo courtesy of hollisterco.com

signer brand Baby Phat (which stands for "pretty hot and tempting") has almost every shirt with the Baby Phat kitty in the front. The shirts are in deep pink, dark yellow, white, and burgundy. For bottoms, dark colored denim capris with the Baby Phat logo on one back pocket. Bermuda shorts are in pink, brown, white, yellow, and skirts are long, a little below knee-length.

Now, no outfit is complete

without awesome accessories. This spring, plastic neon jewelry is in. Claire's and Icing by Claire's have tons of fabulous accessories such as thick headbands, hoop earrings, bangles, and long, big beaded necklaces in spring colors forest green and yellow.

So there you have it lady Chancellors, this year's spring fashion.

'Blades of Glory' Is Worth A Twirl

By Sharon Tang
Staff Writer

As "Blades of Glory" made its "frosty" entrance to the movie scene, people skated their ways into theaters to watch this spectacle on ice.

Chazz Michael Michaels and Jimmy MacElroy are two of the best male figure skaters of their time and they just so happen to be enemies on the rink.

After a no rules fight sets fire to the World Champion's mascot, the pair are stripped of their gold medals and banned from the sport for life. Three and a half years later both men are trying to live their lives without competitive skating. They find a loophole and to skate again all they have to do is put aside their long hatred for one another and join forces as

the first male-male figure skating pair to compete in the history of the sport.

Reviews for "Blades of Glory" came in as both negative and positive. The New York Post said, "...this is a comedy aimed at glue sniffers, high schoolers, dropouts and 'Wild Hogs' fans." The Chicago Tribune said it was "... full of laughs both subtle and ridiculous."

With all the laughs that "Blades" created, there still were a few things wrong with the movie. Will Farrell just wasn't the right actor for this part, but he still delivered a decent performance. "Blades of Glory" was humorous but offered a plot without substance. If you're in the mood for a movie that will give you a good laugh, head to theatres and pay to watch it.



Photo courtesy of DreamWorks Pictures

Peeping Teens Make For A Comedic Thriller

By Randi Seidel
Staff Writer

Romance, comedy, and horror are all the characteristics that bind the PG-13 rated movie "Disturbia" together. A remake of the 1950's film, "Rear Window," teenage audiences can relate fairly well to the problems of Kale (Shia Lebouf).

The storyline, though predictable, was very intense and thrilling. As the film opens, tragic events occur for Kale, and he immediately gains viewers' sympathy when knocking out his obnoxious Spanish teacher. After a friendly visit to the judge, Kale is condemned to house arrest. To make matters worse, his mom takes away the necessities of every teenager: television, music, and video-games.

Kale's last resort to keep sane is spying on the interesting people who live in the area, such as a man having an affair with his luscious maid, the attractive new neighbor Ashley, (Sarah Roemer) and the creepy, suspected killer Mr. Turner


(David Morse). When Ronnie (Aaron Yu) joins in on the fun, it becomes an even bigger comedic adventure when peering into peoples lives.




Shia Lebouf is a little freaked out in "Disturbia."

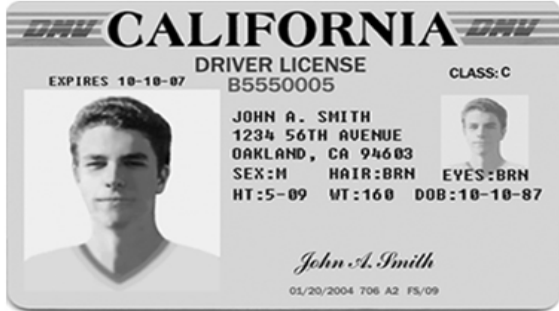
After playful peeping goes awry, mysterious screams are heard, a heavy bag dragged by Turner into his garage is shown, and blood smeared windows are seen, it becomes apparent that this man is up to no good.

Despite its not so mysterious plot, "Disturbia" came in number one in box offices the weekend it was released. The movie was gruesome towards the end, and caused a faster heartbeat for its audience. After all is well in the neighborhood, viewers were free to go home and sleep soundly with the nightlight on.



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At CHS, There's Only One 'U' In Cooperation

By Kishi Smith
Staff Writer

One, two, three U's and you're out! This is how most high schools are, but at CHS—if you get two U's in cooperation, then you're getting booted off the team.

Although this policy was put in place before our current sports director, Mr. Immken, joined the faculty, he understands why we have this policy and why it is so effective.

Immken felt that our policy holds the student athletes to a higher standard than other schools by only allowing one U in cooperation.

He said that our student athletes are, "Representing our school," so behavior in class matters.

Immken also felt that this policy is very effective as it helps the students "do what they need to do [in class]."

Coaches interviewed said they like the policy as it keeps

the players on task while in class.

"Kids shouldn't get U's if they are paying attention and doing what they are told," said Coach Minassian, from Varsity boys' soccer.

Varsity girls' basketball Coach Chevalier felt that as long as a teacher understands that a bad grade doesn't always go hand in hand with a U, then the policy will work.

Wrestling coach and geometry teacher Mr. Laundau said

that he only gives U's if the student talks when he's talking.

"If the teacher has something to say—listen," said Landau, who felt the policy works since he only had two wrestlers dropped from the program this year from excessive U's.

Girls' soccer has only had five or six players kicked off the team due to U's while Coach Altshule has been working in the program and she said, "I still agree with the policy."

Student athletes felt that this

policy is effective for our school as it forces student athletes to listen to their teachers and not talk during class.

Vanessa Ostovich, from girls' Varsity soccer said, "It's is not an issue for me because I don't have U's, but it sucks for some athletes that can't maintain it; so we lose some good athletes."

Although Ostovich has never had a U, she said it still reminds her that she must stay on task to continue playing.

Basketball Captain Osborne Nominated For McDonald's All-American Team

By Sally Rivas
Staff Writer

Chatsworth senior Varsity basketball captain Jeff Osborne was nominated to play for the 2007 McDonald's All-American team.

This came as a shock to Osborne. "I didn't expect it; I guess all the hard work just paid off," he said.

McDonald's picks out the top 2,500 high school basketball players from all over the country. Then McDonald's looks at each high school student individually and how well he or she plays basketball. From that group, they select 24 players to

make a boys' team and 24 players to make a girls' team.

Unfortunately, Osborne was one of the players who did not advance from the 2,500 chosen to make the team of 24. "I expected not to make it [since] there were 24 players who were better than me, and those 24 were the ones that were selected," said Osborne.

If you make the team, it means you're one of the best high school basketball players in the country and could get a division one scholarship to any college. Although Osborne did not make the team, he said, "I'm definitely going to play basketball in college."

Swimmers Rise To The Challenge



Photo by swim team

Senior Victor Chun dives into the water at a meet.

By Candy Wong
Staff Writer

An ad for aspiring CHS Swim team members might go something like this: CHS Swim seeks chlorine-lovin' amphibians who love H₂O, crave aquatic competition, and are willing to rise über-early for 6 a.m. practices at the Cleveland pool.

Led by Coach Fullerton, Coach Yee, and Assistant Coach Morse, the CHS Swim Team trains at Cleveland High School's pool from 6 to 7 a.m.

This formidable school of fish averages about 3,000 yards per practice, or roughly two miles of hardcore swimming. Its first meet of the season began victoriously against Banning with a total of over 100 to about 40 points, while further meets have ended without as much

success.

On swimming and meets, senior Varsity swimmer Victor Chun, a 3-year veteran on the team, said, "Swimming works all muscles, not just leg muscles. There's no other sport that actually gives you the same rush when you plunge into a substance. You can actually feel the elements around you. It's not the same with just air. Swimming lets you recuperate and refocus in the water."

After swimming on four different teams and starting at age 3, Chun—who specializes in the 100-yard breaststroke—has become at one with water.

Junior Kimberly Edwards, who joined the team this year and swims in freestyle and relay events, said, "Swimming gets me in shape and helps me make new friends."

Softball Vies For Title

By Kishi Smith
Staff Writer

They're diving, sliding, running, catching, and batting better than ever as the Chatsworth girls' Varsity softball team held a record of 17-2 and 7-1 in league at press time. Their improvement has come to a surprise to many, but skills-wise this team is better than before. New practice routines and players, as well as stricter guidelines are some things that have led to the improvement.

Coach Altshule knew this season would be different from other sub-par seasons they have had in the past—she just didn't know how much better. With three juniors, three sophomores, and five freshmen, the varsity softball team has now faced all the teams in the league and for the first year in a long time, they have given every team a run for their money.

With a nail-biting game against Granada High the Thursday before spring break, Tyler Cano scored a walk off home run in the seventh inning to lift Chatsworth to a 1-0 victory against their rivals. Tyler Cano said, "I was just so mad that he (the umpire) had called the first two pitches strikes, which I had to avoid getting hit by. I took that anger and put it into the next pitch, getting a great piece of the ball, and hitting it almost as far as I could."

The softball gods were not on their side the Monday returning from spring break as a depressing 0-1 loss to El Camino Real took place. Coaches Altshule and Lara declared after the game that this would be the last loss of the season for them.

In a second showing against Granada, Chatsworth pulled off another incredible win as they defeated them once again on Granada home turf 3-2.

The team was 3-0 in the second half of the season, after again beating Cleveland, Birmingham, and Granada the second time around. The team played rival El Camino Thursday afternoon. A win would place CHS and El Camino in a tie for first place in the league. Results of the game weren't available at press time.

Runners Are On Track

By Corinne Haynes
Staff Writer

The 2007 Chatsworth Track and Field season is in full swing and head coach Mr. Lauten is confident about this year's team. Frontrunners include Turquoise Williams, Sam Gally, and Leah Flowers, who Lauten said were "always liable to set a school record."

Junior Sam Gally won last year's Frosh/Soph city title in

pole-vaulting at 12 feet, while junior Leah Flowers has set many school records in hurdles. Senior Turquoise Williams is looking to improve her personal records and breaking the varsity triple jump, as well as the 100 meter and 200 meter, which she said were her main focuses.

Though these three athletes will lead the Chancellors this season, Coach Lauten assured "there's always many surprises."

The Big Leagues

Speed And Pitching Could Help Dodgers Stay Atop The NL West

By Arun Dillon
Staff Writer

After winning the National League wildcard race in 2006, the Los Angeles Dodgers are ready to make another playoff run in 2007.

The Dodgers didn't make any big off-season trades, but they still picked up some useful players. Luis Gonzalez came over to L.A. after spending most of his career with the Arizona Diamondbacks. In 2006, Gonzalez hit .271 with 15 homeruns. Although his power numbers have gone down, Gonzalez is still very good at hitting in pressure situations.

Veteran outfielder Juan Pierre will play centerfield for the Dodgers this season. Pierre had an average of .292 and more than 200 hits in 2006, and will

bat at the top of the Dodger lineup.

The Dodgers also signed pitchers Jason Schmidt, and Randy Wolf and catcher Mike Liebrethal.

Nomar Garciaparra returns along with Rafael Furcal, Jeff Kent, Andre Ethier, and Russell Martin. Garciaparra was honored with the 2006 Comeback Player of the Year award, and Ethier and Martin were two candidates for the rookie of the year award. Furcal hit .300, and Kent showed he could bounce back after being on the disabled list for a while.

The Dodgers got off to a slow start but they picked it up and are now on top off the National League West.

The Dodgers haven't won a World Series or a playoff series since 1988.

Angels Need Another Big Bat, But They're Better Defensively

By Arun Dillon
Staff Writer

The Angels have changed a lot since winning the World Series in 2002. They changed their name, lost a lot of players, signed many players, and even forgot about the rally monkey. Last season, the Angels missed the playoffs for the first time in two seasons.

The lack of power in their lineup has caused them to struggle when it comes to scoring runs. The last big batter the Angels signed was Vladimir Guerrero, who was the American League MVP back in 2004.

Injuries have been a big issue for the Angels in the last couple of years. Left-fielder Garrett Anderson has suffered from back problems and hasn't

produced like he used to, and his average, as well as power numbers have gone down to reflect that.

The Angels haven't done much to improve the power in the lineup. However, they have signed Gary Matthews, Jr.—who hit over .300 last season, has some power, and is batting at the top of the order. His speed and excellent fielding ability is a perfect fit for the Angels lineup because they are mainly a small ball team.

Vladimir Guerrero continues to shine in the number three spot. He's hitting over .300.

In their opening series, the Angels swept the Rangers. The Angels got off to a great start but they're still struggling to win. They are currently in second place in the American League West.