

The Clarion

January 2007

How To Keep Safe On Myspace

By **Huong Nguyen**
Staff Writer

Type in www.Myspace.com, log in, click "skip ad," check messages, check comments then refresh to see if you got new ones even though you just checked them less than a minute ago.

This is the routine of a typical Myspace addict, and sadly, relates to much of the student population here at Chatsworth High. Although it is well known that Myspace is a common ad-

diction among us teens, it has also been proven to be a dangerous one, raising the attention of parents and administrators. Thus, a PTSA meeting was held to give parents and students advice on how to keep safe while on the internet, particularly on Myspace.

Ms. Hazel, from the District Attorney's office, was the leader of the presentation. She gave examples of real-life, worst-case scenarios of an online friendship gone wrong, as well as listing to parents some signs that may show their child is having a sus-

picious online relationship and what can be done about it.

"Imagine driving down a major freeway, such as the 118, and seeing a billboard with your picture, name, hobbies and phone number on it for everyone to see. That is exactly what you are doing when you are posting your information online, for the world to see," said Hazel.

With approximately 10,000 profiles belonging to students here at Chatsworth High School, El Camino Real High School, and Granada High School, sev-

eral harassment incidents have been reported, and even tried, causing parents to raise their eyebrows upon the safety of their child when they are surfing the net and interacting on sites such as Myspace.

"I go on Myspace everyday to talk to my friends but I think its really weird when strangers try to talk to me, because I don't even know who they are," said sophomore Kareem Jamal.

During the past couple years, online predators have

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Late Kids To Sacrifice Saturdays

By **Vinh Nguyen**
Staff Writer

Chronically tardy students may soon be forced to serve a two-hour Saturday detention for their tardies, according to a new tardy policy that will go into effect in the spring semester.

The Chatsworth Leadership Council developed this new policy after analyzing several tardy policies from Local District One and District Two high schools.

Students will no longer be sent to K-78 for being late, but will instead be assigned two hours of Saturday detention on their sixth tardy. Only students with referral forms are going to be sent to K-78 for disciplinary problems. Parents will be receiving a letter or call home from K-78 after their child's third tardy. Teachers will still be permitted to have their own tardy punishments such as taking away points.

After serving their detention, students start off with a clean slate and would not receive another detention sentence until their next sixth tardy, and would receive a four-hour detention on their third detention.

If the student does not attend a Saturday detention, they will receive a four-hour assignment along with loss of student privileges until the detention time is served.

If the tardy problem continues, the School Attendance Review Team Process (SART) would be initiated, resulting in severe legal proceedings to try and solve the problem. This may include finding an alternative placement, referring the parent/guardian, or student to court. This new tardy policy would hopefully reduce school wide tardiness.

Flashback 2006

The End of Saddam, Korea Gets The Bomb, Iraq Far From Calm

By **Jasmine Liu**
Staff Writer

In 2006 we lost some familiar faces (Saddam Hussein, the planet Pluto, Gerald Ford), and there were more of the same events (Israel Lebanon conflict, War in Iraq). The year also encompassed a variety of other events, from North Korea's test firing missiles and a nuclear bomb, to stricter airport regulations, and the House of Representatives bill 4437 (The Border Protection, Anti-terrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act of 2005). Here is a wrap up of some of the major events that happened in the year 2006.

Saddam Hussein's execution: Saddam Hussein, the former

president of Iraq was hanged on December 26, 2006. After his death, a graphic video of Hussein's hanging was posted on the internet, causing an uproar.

Pluto is no longer defined as a planet: After many years of debate, astronomers resolved to demote Pluto on August 24, 2006. Pluto is now called a dwarf planet, which is any other round object that has not cleared the neighborhood around its orbit, and is not a satellite," stated MSNBC.

New airport security measures: According to MSNBC, after a terror plot in Britain, new security measures, which became effective on September

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Chatsworth Had Its Share Of Adventures in 2006

By **Raeanna Shay**
Staff Writer

From a capsule that was lost in time to freshmen in houses and baseballers in Cuba, 2006 had it all.

First off, Chatsworth graduates from 1976 returned to dig up the time capsule they believed was buried by the John F. Kennedy plaque near the Administrative building. However, apparently no one knew exactly where the capsule was because gardener Jerome Thomas dug several holes before eventually giving up. The graduates still have hope, though, and will search again to find their buried treasure.

A month earlier, approxi-

mately 500 students stayed home from school in May to show the influence of the Hispanic community. This followed a walkout in April when the tension resulting from the new proposed immigration law broke loose.

Also in May, three CHS students won big bucks for their culinary skills. Alexander Granados, Christopher Higa and Loan Nguyen came straight from Mr. Lauten's cooking class to the Los Angeles Trade-Technical College to compete for loads of cash. Granados won \$22,000, Higa won \$2,200 and Nguyen won \$9,000. These Chancellors really know how to bring home the bacon, and it

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Remembering Tyra: 2006 CHS Grad Passes Away

By **Brenda Fuentes**
Staff Writer

For Tyra Smith, graduating was the most important thing in the world. Last summer, she accomplished that with the rest of the CHS class of 2006. On Jan. 8, 2007 she was laid to rest.

According to preliminary details coming from her friends and teachers, she was taken to the hospital on Dec. 21 "because she wasn't feeling good," said her friend, sophomore Diamond Matthews. Two days later she died. She was 18.

"My grandmother told me it was from a blood clot in one of her lungs," said Matthews, whose grandmother was close to Tyra's family.

"She was a very sweet young lady, she was always smiling," said Mrs. Greenberg, her counselor. "She came to my office every day to make sure she was going to graduate. She knew she was, she just wanted to hear it.

Tyra lived with her brother



2006 Grad Tyra Smith.

and mother and liked football and basketball, Matthews said. During her last year at Chatsworth, Tyra was a library aid and also Ms. Pearson's teacher assistant and a very good friend. "I was just lucky to at least have known her," said Ms. Pearson. "She was very sweet, and a kind girl. I was devastated to hear she had died." Pearson was upset

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Is There a Doctor in C-House? Why, Yes

By **Maggie Ghahri-Saremi**
Staff Writer

After 11 years of research and dedication, a 250-page dissertation, and 3 years at one of the "10 worst schools in the state of California," our principal, formerly known as Mr. Davis, can at last call himself Dr. Davis.

On May 11, 2007, at the University of Southern California, Davis will officially become a doctor of education (EdD) when he receives his diploma. While working full-time as an educator and working towards his doctorate degree over a period of 11 years, the University granted Davis time extensions so that he could complete his higher education.

In order to get a doctorate degree, Davis had to complete a dissertation, an in-depth research paper on a specific topic relevant to his educational leadership degree.

After three years of successfully carrying out his re-

sponsibilities as principal of Sun Valley Middle School, Davis could finally begin work on his dissertation which is "an analysis of how to take a school that's failing and make it successful even to the point of doubling performance."

Indeed, test scores at Sun Valley improved: "In one year test scores were up 51 points" and "in three years they were up 131 points," Davis said.

Davis started writing his dissertation in July 2005, when he began working as principal of Chatsworth High. It took him years to carry out his research and gather information, and one and a half years to complete his dissertation.

Principal Davis' dissertation is currently being used to set an example for other educators to follow and includes methods that are now part of educational research.

Davis said the experience of earning his doctorate "makes me more introspective."

In This Issue

Find out who died, what movies thrived and what else happened in the world (and CHS) in 2006. See the stories on **pages 1 and 3**.

Snow in Malibu just a few days after the mercury topped 80 degrees in Chatsworth? **The weather sure has been wacky**, even by L.A. standards. **Page 2**

A **vaccine** recommended for teenage girls can cut the risk of cancer. **Page 2**

"**Stomp the Yard**" and "**Freedom Writers**" reviewed on **page 4**.

Three CHS football players were selected **all-city athletes**. **Page 4**

Oh, The Weather Outside Is Frightfully Odd

By Jordan Lynn Urquhart
Staff Writer

“Why is it so cold?” “Why is it so hot?” Why is it so windy? These are the questions that have been on students’ minds lately. This winter, students have had to deal with very harsh weather conditions. It is difficult to predict what the day is going to be like, because it’s cold in the morning, and then hot in the afternoon, or vice versa. The past few weeks we’ve had temperatures between 85 degrees to almost 30 degrees, just within days. Many theories are believed to be the solution.

According to MSNBC, an increase in greenhouse gasses

can explain why the weather in the U.S. has been so extreme. The greenhouse gas that affects the weather is carbon dioxide, which is released from burning fossil fuels. All of these burning fossil fuels from running cars are contributing to a natural greenhouse effect around the earth, trapping in heat. Since the beginning of the industrial revolution, carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has increased by thirty percent, helping to make 2006 the warmest year on record so far.

Another reason why the weather is extreme is because of recent El Ninos, which are Pacific Ocean patterns that affect weather by preventing arctic blasts across the United States.

Southern Californians are already used to weather having its ups and downs. For example, on January 9, Chatsworth had a high of 81 degrees, which is normal for us here in Southern California. Just a couple of days later, on January 13, we had a high of 50 degrees, and a low of 27 degrees, cold enough for snow, in California!

The weather across the United States is very different from our temperatures here in Chatsworth. The coldest day of the month in Chatsworth was January 13, with a high of 50 degrees, and a low of 35 degrees.

If you were to relocate yourself and travel to Columbus, Ohio, the coldest day of

January was Jan. 25, with a high of 25 degrees and a low of 15 degrees. In Nashville, Tennessee, the coldest day in January was Jan. 23, with 39 degrees as the high, and 28 degrees as the low. Augusta, Maine’s coldest day this month was Jan. 17, at a freezing 6 degrees, and a low of -6 degrees. So the next time you complain about it being ‘cold,’ remember you aren’t even getting half of it.

Not sure if you need mittens or suntan lotion? Well, there are lots of things you can have handy just in case. You may want to keep a coat and an umbrella in your locker to be pre-

pared for the cold later in the day. For windy weather, it is recommended that you wear Chap Stick. Lotion is something important to remember on a cold or windy day because if your hands get too dry, they can crack, which can be quite painful. Guys usually don’t wear lotion, but there is lotion that doesn’t smell, and it should be worn to help you in the wind.

Students commented on how they are dealing with these harsh weather conditions. “The weather constantly changes, so I never know what to wear,” said Senior Brittnay Marcus.

Starving for Perfection Proves Fatal for Some Models

By Raeanna Walker
Staff Writer

Anorexia nervosa is not a new concept to the world or high school students in general. Many women, as well as men, have suffered and died from this deadly disease. So it was no surprise to hear that yet another model died from complications due to anorexia. Ana Carolina Reston died in Brazil weighing 88 pounds at 5’ 8”. Doctors state this is the normal weight for a five feet tall, 12 year-old.

Reston’s death followed the death of Uruguayan model Luisel Ramos from heart failure. Both models ate close to nothing preceding their deaths. Reston died after going on a diet that consisted of only apples and tomatoes, according to the Herald Sun. Ramos passed away after consuming only lettuce leaves and Diet Coke for close to 3 months. Reston died at 21, while Ramos perished at 22.

So what exactly is happening behind this awful situation? And what do students here at CHS feel about this? “That’s

horrible that women do that. They should feel beautiful and love their body. If they don’t love themselves, then no one will,” said junior Dominique Ortiz.

Why do these beautiful girls feel the need to starve themselves? Some state the modeling industry is to blame. “The image of modeling, yes, but there are many other kinds of modeling like plus size models,” said senior Shayna Isenburg.

Some also think that the pressure to stay thin comes from not only modeling and advertisements, but from the expectations from the men around them. However, some disagree. “In my perspective guys are going for the healthy-looking girls. I have overheard many guys say that anorexic-looking girls are not attractive and [that] they prefer girls who are healthy and not afraid to eat,” said Isenburg.

In addition, 10 guys here at CHS and 10 females were shown two images from “Glamour” magazine, one an ultra skinny model and another photo of the same model that

had been brushed up to add a few pounds. Nine out of 10 males, as well as females, preferred the photo-shopped model to the naturally rail-thin model.

Newsweek’s Jessica Bennett states, “Genes load the gun and an environment pulls the trigger.” So more aspects come into play than one may imagine. Advertisements showing unrealistically skinny girls wearing popular clothes, and families and peers that pressure children to stay thin, all make an impact on young children, especially females and those predisposed to anorexia nervosa. More than we think comes into play.

Reston’s mother had this to say: “Take care of your children... no money is worth the life of your child, not even the most famous child, not even the most famous (fashion) brand is worth this.”

Why are we pressuring our youth to be thin and unhealthy? Maybe we should pour the same energy into making people want to be healthy and happy as we do making them feel they need to starve to stay skinny.

Myspace *Continued from page 1*

struck time and time again, focusing on young and naïve teenagers who are more likely to go along with their lies. Hazel told the audience at the meeting of a young girl who was tricked by a “professional photographer” into meeting in person. After this, he kidnapped her from home and sexually assaulted her.

According to statistics, 1/5 teenagers have been sexually solicited and 70 percent of this occurs within the safety of their own homes.

At the meeting, parents freely spoke their minds of their

concerns as far as who their kids are interacting with, ways to monitor their child’s internet activity, and ways to talk to their children about how to be safe online.

Complaining that the Myspace group does not take action when it comes to complaints, parents felt like they had to take matters into their own hands and figure an alternative method to monitoring their child’s online activity.

Keeping the computer in a common room, knowing online acronyms, checking buddy lists regularly for strange screen

names, and knowing your child’s emails and passwords are all suggested ways to keep tabs on their safety.

Little program disks were also being sold for \$5 that would scan the computer for phrases that would suggest any suspicious activity and gave the parents the option to delete them. Students were informed as well, to always report suspicious activity, to never meet a stranger in person, and to only converse with and add those that they have met in real life while setting their profiles on “private” or “friends only.”

Vaccine For Sexually Transmitted Infection Also Cuts Cancer Risk

By Belen Espinoza
Staff Writer

New HPV vaccines are being given in U.S hospitals to prevent infection from four strains of HPV.

HPV, the human papillomavirus, is the most common sexually transmitted infection in the United States, with about 6.2 million cases diagnosed annually according to kaiseredu.org. The name of the vaccine is called Gardasil and is given in a series of three doses.

Kaiseredu.org states that the vaccine is recommended for girls and women between the ages of 9 and 26. The vaccine protects against four types of strains, two of which cause 70 percent of cancer cases, and the other two, which cause 90 percent of genital wart cases. There are more than one hundred strains of HPV. In 2005,

there were 500,000 new cases of cervical cancer worldwide, and 260,000 women died from the cancer. A majority of the women were in developing countries where forms of tests and prevention aren’t very strong. “I think it is a good thing because even though it is a preventative vaccine, it is a good precaution to take,” said junior Melissa Chua.

The site also states that the vaccine does not prevent against all strain types of HPV. This makes Pap tests mandatory for the detection of precancerous cells because if detected early, cervical cancer is highly treatable. The vaccine is highly accepted by gynecologists and physicians, but is taken voluntarily.

The cost of the vaccine for three doses is about \$360 but most likely medical insurance will cover the costs.

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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.

Icons Passed Away in 2006

By Danielle Bourgholtzer
Staff Writer

2006 was a beginning for some, though with every beginning there's an ending. So here's a list of all those who have passed away, but made a great impact in what they did.

Coretta Scott King was the wife of Martin Luther King Jr. she continued on with her husband's dreams of an equal society. She died on January 31, 2006 at the age of 78.

Steve Irwin, who made his fame through his television series "The Crocodile Hunter", died on September 4, 2006 be-

cause of a stingray stab through the heart while filming a new television program on Australia's Great Barrier Reef.

New York Yankees pitcher, **Cory Lidle**, passed away after his plane crashed into a Manhattan condominium tower. It all occurred on October 11, 2006. He was only 34.

Creator of childhood shows Tom & Jerry, Yogi Bear and The Flintstones passed away on December 18, 2006, due to natural cause. The famous animator was 95 years old.

The "Godfather of Soul", **James Brown**, passed away from heart

failure on Christmas mourning. He was 73 and one of the most influential musicians of the past 50 years. He will be greatly remembered.

Former President and Vice President **Gerald R. Ford** died on December 26, 2006 at the age of 93. He was an open and straightforward president who will be missed by millions.

Iraqi dictator, **Saddam Hussein**, was hanged on December 29, 2006 for ordering the murders of 148 countrymen and conspiracy. The United States government hopes that since he is gone the reign of terror agonizing Iraq will finally be over.

Chancellors Coax in '07 with Mickey and Sushi

By Candy Wong
Staff Writer

Seconds away from heralding in a new year, the 1,070-lb lighted ball in New York City's Time Square sliced into the frosty air. Decked with 504 Waterford crystal triangles engraved with names of the World Trade Center attacks' deceased, 96 high intensity strobe lights, 90 rotating pyramid mirrors, and 696 multicolored light bulbs... (pew, deep breath!) it was quite a sight to behold.

However, while the ball dropped in NYC, while clocks worldwide lunged for midnight, and while resolution-makin' optimists anxiously awaited another chance for renewal, here's how some Chancellors coaxed in '07...

"I went to Disneyland's New Year's Eve Countdown and partied. Saw fireworks and Minnie, but I couldn't find Mickey."
-**Vanni Gio**, junior

"Every New Year's Eve, my wife and I either bring home sushi or Chinese food. This year was Chinese food. We also make chocolate milkshakes, sit on the couch, and watch the ball drop. My wife doesn't watch it [drop], though—she's supersti-

tious about it. We're also thinking about adding in some Jacuzzi time."

-**Jeff Davis**, principal

"I was sick at home with pneumonia."
-**Lisa Weissnar**, junior

"We played foosball and threw a party. When it struck twelve, there were kisses everywhere, poppers going off, fireworks..."
-**Ana Gonzalez**, senior

"I went to my grandparents' house in Hollywood. We all spoke Russian. My grandma's the best cook ever and we had so much Russian food. We stayed up until 4 a.m."
-**Elena Bartel**, junior

"I went out to eat with my family at some Italian place in the Valley. One of my family members also threw a party for New Year's Eve."

-**Mariah Bonilla**, freshman

"I was up at the Naval Air Station in Fresno for Cadet Officer Basic Corps, a week-long cadet training program. On New Year's Eve, I was ironing my uniform, getting it starched, and finishing up a book report. The other cadets—they went to everyone's rooms and partied."

-**Raoul Baldwin**, junior

Reeling in the Epic Flicks of '06

By Jackee Peavler
Staff Writer

It's the beginning of 2007 and it's a brand new year, but what exactly happened in 2006, movie-wise? Well, let's go back and see what movies were the most popular. Out of a list of 100 movies on the website: <http://www.boxofficemojo.com/>, 10 movies were seen by the most teens around the world.

- 1. Pirates of the Caribbean 2**-Johnny Depp, Orlando Bloom, and Keira Knightley came back with another extraordinary adventure, with Jack being made chief of an interesting country, after being informed that he still has a debt to pay. Meanwhile Elizabeth and Will's wedding was ruined on the account of helping a pirate.
- 2. Cars**-Lightning McQueen, voiced by Owen Wilson, gets lost on the way to the Piston Cup Tournament, and he's stuck in a little town called Radar Springs. He

meets some very interesting characters.

- 3. X-Men: The Last Stand**-Hugh Jackman returns for another amazing X-men movie, only this time the humans have a cure for their "sickness."
- 4. Da Vinci Code**-Tom Hanks stars in this drama, where he is framed for killing a man. He travels on an adventure with Audrey Tautou looking for clues left by Leonardo Da Vinci.
- 5. Superman Returns**-Brandon Routh stars as Superman, who's been gone for five years, and returns unexpectedly to find out that everything has changed. Clark/superman has to face Lex Luther, who once again is trying to take over the world.
- 6. Night at the Museum**-Ben Stiller as the new night guard soon finds out that at night the whole entire museum comes to life

7. Casino Royale-Daniel Craig stars as James Bond, who travels to Madagascar to spy on a terrorist named Mollaka

8. Over the Hedge-Bruce Willis, Gary Shandling, Steve Carrel star in this hilarious movie. RJ a very hungry raccoon steals food from his friend the bear. RJ now has to pay his friend back before the moon is full.

9. Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby-Will Ferrell races in the NASCAR events. Ricky Bobby and his friend race to get #1 and #2 place, but when someone challenges them for first place, they accept and try to keep their number 1 spot.

10. The Pursuit of Happyness-Will Smith stars as Chris Gardner who struggles as a salesman. One day he sees a stockbroker, and is inspired immediately.

CHS Year in Review *Continued from page 1*

looks like they know how to cook it too.

In the beginning of the year, Chatsworth switched over to ISIS, an online attendance program that allows teachers to take roll using their computers and mice rather than pencils, paper and TA's.

Following the introduction of ISIS, CHS decided to deduct homeroom from our regular schedule since the need to take attendance became covered by the new online program.

Burglars vandalized various classrooms in the E, S, and M buildings in late February. Over the weekend the thieves stole cameras, computer monitors, as well as 3 LCD projectors. All in all the vandals ruined or stole \$25,000 worth of CHS' valuable equipment.

The new school year brought about one of the biggest changes here at Chatsworth High—the introduction of the freshman houses. The houses were designed to include smaller learning environments to increase the communication between the teachers and the students. All incoming freshmen were grouped together into a "house" with specific teachers assigned to each group.

Matt Dominguez and Mike Moustakas made CHS proud by attending a baseball tournament for Team USA, held in Cuba, making Chatsworth the only high school with two players to attend.

Finally, November was an eventful month for CHS. Marching band won the sweepstakes award, the most prestig-

Tyra *Continued from page 1*

she didn't find out about Tyra's death in time to attend the funeral.

"We know that this must have been devastating for the family," said Mr. Shockley, who was collecting money for Tyra's family

Tyra was loved by all her friends, family members and teachers. "It's very sad for the family, it's a tragedy every time this happens" said Mr. Davis

In a letter to the faculty, Davis wrote, "Tyra was a very sweet and polite young lady who touched the lives of many of our faculty, staff, and students during her time at Chatsworth High School."

2006 *Continued from page 1*

26, 2006, were placed for airport security. Some of these main measures are preventing passengers to have liquids such as water, shampoo, hair gel, and suntan lotion to be taken through security check points and having passengers arrive two hours earlier to allow for additional screening.

Death of former President: Gerald Ford Jr. was the 38th president of the United States. He passed away peacefully at 6:45 p.m. on December 27, 2006 at 93 years of age.

North Korea's missile test: North Korea's missile tests caused a lot of commotion and fear for the United States and other countries including Japan and China. According to CNN, in July 5, 2006 "North Korea test-fired a long-range missile and five shorter-range rockets... but the closely watched long-range test failed within a minute, U.S. officials said,"

House of Representatives bill 4437: The bill was passed on Friday December 16, 2005 became a catalyst for United States immigrants rights protests in 2006.

Democrats Win Control of the Senate: In the elections for the United States Senate that were held on November 7, 2006, the

democrat candidates defeated six republican incumbents. Now the Senate has a 51-49 stand, which is in favor of the democrats.

Freedom Towers: The Freedom Towers is a complex that would take the place of the World Trade Center in lower Manhattan. The foundations for the Freedom Towers complex began on April 27, 2006, and the first steel columns were being installed as of December 19, 2006.

Los Angeles Mayor Gains Control of School: Mayor Villaraigosa wanted to take control of LAUSD to boost performance in graduation rates. While his plan was approved by the state legislature, the court ruled against it. Therefore, an appeal is pending.

Israel and Lebanon conflict: With a long history of war between the two. Israel attacked Lebanon after Lebanon kidnapped a few Israeli soldiers leading to a war that lasted from July 12, 2006 to August 14, 2006 and costing numerous deaths and casualties.

War, war, and more war: The war Iraq ground on its 5 year with the casualties reaching 3,065 American soldiers dead.

Fantasy Sports Thriving

By Arun Dillon
Staff Writer

It has been estimated that over 16 million people in the U.S. have the power to draft and manage a team of their favorite sport, right from their own computer.

Fantasy sports are an obsession that has been taken up worldwide. It allows sports fans to construct a team of sports icons and compete against other fantasy owners based on the statistics of a player of a professional sport. The most played fantasy sports are, baseball, and football. Other fantasy sports include, soccer, basketball, golf, hockey, auto racing, and cricket. You don't even have to be a sports fan to have a fantasy team. There's also something called Fantasy Congress, where

owners can manage a team of U.S. congress members; points are gained by bills getting passed and approval ratings across the country.

Most fantasy sports fans have to be devoted to the team they build because creating and maintaining a good team can take several hours to do.

Fantasy sports fans say that the main reason fantasy sports are fun and addicting is because it gives them the power to take control over their own sports team filled with all their favorite players. Fans also say it feels almost like the real thing.

Money can play a big role on how serious people take fantasy sports. Some leagues cost money and some leagues give away prizes, t-shirts, trophies, and even money.

CHS Teams Well Positioned For Playoffs

By Vinh Nguyen and
Joe Carter
Staff Writers

As the winter season kicks off, many of CHS' sports teams are in good standings to make the playoffs.

The boys' varsity soccer team is coming off an impressive 5-0-1 start, which is due largely to their great forward and midfield line. Their toughest opponents will be league rival El Camino. The boys' varsity team looks very impressive at this point in the season and will be a tough contender for the playoffs. The team was in first place at press time, following their recent defeat of Taft.

The girls' soccer team came off a disappointing loss to Granada Hills High School and

is now 4-1-1, but was only half a game out of first place at press time.

The girls' varsity basketball team also has an impressive start with a 3-2 record with both their losses to Taft. The Lady Chancellors have a well-

balanced team with a good offense and defense.

The boys' basketball team is currently 4-2 with a sure shot for making playoffs. Seniors Michael Palarca and Jeffrey Osborne are leading their high-powered offense to many victories.

Three Chosen All-City Players

By Joe Carter
Staff Writer

After a seasonal record 6-4, and a disappointing loss in the first round of the playoffs to Crenshaw, three CHS football players were recognized as all-city players.

Seniors James Walker and Wilmer Segura were honored for the first time and this is

Eric Banuelos' second time achieving this honor.

Coach Corcoran said he was very proud of the team and that they had a great year and a successful off season. He felt that other players like, seniors Trent Jones, David Romero, and junior Tom Franco should also have been recognized. Corcoran said he has higher expectations for next year.

ENTERTAINMENT

Stomp Your Way To The Latest Dance Flick Cliché

By Jannet Torres
Staff Writer

"Stomp the Yard," the movie industry's latest "on the dance floor" cliché, which came out on Jan. 12th, proved that great acting and rhythm techniques can beat an unoriginal script any day.

A prodigy street dancer from the Los Angeles area, D.J. (Columbus Short), his older brother Duron (Chris Brown), and their group of dancers begin the movie by battling at an underground arena for money. After winning the match, D.J. and

his friends are hustled by the opposing team and Duron ends up being murdered. Unfortunately for D.J., he is convicted and sent to jail for trying to save his brother's life.

The real plotline begins when D.J. moves to Atlanta to attend the historically black Truth University on a scholarship. Working as a gardener at the university, he quickly rearranges his priorities and takes up a love interest, April (Meagan Good), who happens to be the girlfriend of a fraternity brother and the daughter of the university president. When

two opposing fraternity leaders realize that D.J. has what it takes to join the fraternities, D.J. pledges for the less popular of the two in hopes of helping them win the National Step Show Championship.

Sound familiar? Of course it does. It's been done already in music with "Drumline," the girls have had their chance at nationals in "Bring It On," and B2K drove the ladies crazy in 2004 with "You Got Served"—not to mention "Step Up," "Honey," and "Take the Lead."

It almost seems impos-

sible that this movie was able to bypass even "Alpha Dog" the true story of a murdered high school student from the Valley, who at one point attended CHS, starring Justin Timberlake himself. Then, comparing the acting in both movies, audiences picked the better of the two regardless of the storyline. "Stomp the Yard" brought in \$21.8 million its weekend release, while "Alpha Dog" only took in \$6.4 million.

Besides the acting, the film did contain eye-catching choreography. Rather than watching the same old hip-hop

routines, the movie focuses on modernized African American stepping, which is something viewers don't see in movies on a regular basis. And last, but not least, there were no sex scenes involved.

As for spending ten dollars to watch "Stomp the Yard", movie-goers who enjoyed "You Got Served" and "Step Up" are encouraged to see the film. Those who have yet to be fond of big-screen dance-off scenes should still watch the movie and will perhaps learn to appreciate a traditional dance style.

'Freedom Writers' Inspires

By Stephanny Landaverde
Staff Writer

Two-time Academy Award winner Hilary Swank stars as Erin Gruwell in the inspirational movie "Freedom Writers," which is based on a true story.

In 1994, Gruwell started teaching at Wilson High School in Long Beach as a freshman and sophomore English teacher. She was excited to teach, but her hopes were brought down when she saw that her students, groups of Blacks, Latinos and Asian gangsters hated her because of the mere fact that she was White.

Despite the fact that her students hated her, Gruwell listened to her students and understood that these kids weren't bad people but regular teenagers that had to fight never ending wars everyday. Many of her students had been released from

jail. Some had innocent family members put in jail. Some lived in the streets and others with a single mom. But all of them have lost at least one loved one to gang violence.

Knowing about the 'wars' that her students fought everyday, she had her students write in journals. They could write about the past, the future, etc. The sky was the limit on the things they could write. As time passed, Gruwell turned their diaries into a book titled "The Freedom Writers Diary," which was published later on in 1999.

What made this movie so inspiring was that each of Gruwell's students didn't even think that they would make it to 18, but she made them see for the first time that they did matter, and that each and every single one of them had a story to tell. And although this movie only focused on one class, the entire movie was pretty good.

You Won't Feel Too Clean After An Episode Of New Series 'Dirt'

By Jannet Torres
Staff Writer

FX's newest television series "Dirt," which premiered Jan. 2nd, could have ultimately proved to be the sister show of "Nip/Tuck," but unfortunately lacked pizzazz in all aspects.

Courtney Cox stars as Lucy Spiller, a ruthless editor of two Hollywood celebrity gossip magazines, who is always on the run for tabloid news. Along with her schizophrenic paparazzo partner Don Konkey (Ian Hart), Spiller goes to immoral extremes for scandals of the entertainment industry. Perhaps all this is due to her socially disturbed personal life, in which her only friend seems to be her manic photographer.

Holt McClaren (Josh Stewart), a B-list celebrity, and his girlfriend Julia Mallory

(Laura Allen), one of the most famous women in Hollywood, trade off a friend's secret pregnancy in exchange for publicity. Spiller then blackmails McClaren into spilling more secrets for "Dirt" so that she can gain profits for the company before her boss Gibson Horne (Timothy Bottoms) fires her.

A man sells his soul for fame, Spiller finds sexual pleasure in celebrity gossip, a pregnant actress overdoses in her bathtub, and the photographer hallucinates. Although "Dirt" sounds like the perfect replica of Nip/Tuck, it's far from ideal. The acting is completely horrendous due to its bland nature. Cox may have gotten her big break in "Friends," but alone she fails to portray the rough-edged Lucy Spiller. She almost makes you want to scream.

Aside from the acting,

the script is too much for 60 minutes of airtime. Death, pregnancy, drug overdose, and sex in just one episode is quite overdone. If there weren't any randomly scattered sex scenes and overrated drama, then maybe the plotline would be comprehensible. Nevertheless, Ian Hart's character keeps the series going with his schizophrenic obsession with cats. At least the crazy man lets the viewers sympathize his with his guilt of eavesdropping on celebrities.

FX is known for its dramatic television shows such as "Rescue Me" and "Nip/Tuck," but "Dirt" probably has the network producers feeling pretty trashy. And in case anyone would be willing to stand the torment of the wannabe overdramatic series, the show airs Tuesdays at 10:00 p.m.