

The Clarion

November 2006

Softball Seeks Level Playing Field

By Jasmine Liu
Staff Writer

It looks as though the girls' softball team will have a place to play this year after all.

Big potholes and uneven ground currently make the field unsafe and threatened to cancel the season. However, the team has raised enough money to pay for the district to install a new field.

The problem was to be solved this summer. "We were told we were to get a new field," said Ms. Altshule, the girls' softball coach.

The team envisioned having a new field with a new irrigation system, fencing, backstop, as well as level dugouts.

According to Mr. Davis, there was never really money for the softball field. Due to financial problems, the field was never built. "Over the summer, they put dirt down and then they

stopped," said Altshule.

"If you walk out there, you will know it's dangerous," said Liz Lara, the girls' other softball coach.

Due to the dangerous conditions of the field, it is nearly impossible to be played on. "Eight or nine girls rolled their ankles [on the field]," said Altshule.

Also, the current field prevents the girls from playing their best. "You don't want to risk getting hurt before season starts," said Deanna Russel, a junior who plays catcher.

In order to have a safe season, the girls had to raise \$20,000 by the start of the new spring season. The girls were able to fundraise \$4,000 in the first two weeks by selling raffle tickets and asking for corporate donations.

Fortunately, they received money from the office of Jon Lauritzen, the school board member, which eased their



Soccer players practice on the field also used by softball.

budget to build a new field.

According to Lara, the field is due by January 29. The grass takes about six weeks to grow, but so far no work has been done.

Not only is the girls' softball field dangerous, but it is also worn out. Unlike the boys' secluded baseball field, the girls' softball field is a public facility. It is used for P.E., after

school football practice, and an adult soccer league on weekends.

Currently, the girls cannot practice anywhere else but the field. According to Coach "Hattie," the girls cannot play on the boys' baseball field because they use 60 ft. base paths, but the boys play on a field with 90 ft. bases.

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BYDID: Bring Your Date's ID

By Huong Nguyen
Staff Writer

New rules have been implemented about bringing a guest from another school to a CHS dance. A photocopy of the guests' ID is now required, as well as an "Alcohol and Drug Compliance Affidavit."

Before, the guest only had to fill out a form, which contained general information such as their name, address, school, etc., with their CHS date. A contract was also attached with signatures from both student and guest stating that neither would commit in acts of debauchery before or during the event.

"We're hoping that this will help reduce future incidents at dances. Last year at prom, there was a young man who got himself into a situation and we had no clue who he was. At least with this change, we know who to reach if the student were to find themselves in any sort of situation concerning his or her misbehavior," said Principal Davis.

This year's homecoming dance form featured several new additions on the guest's side, including confirmation from a school authority that the student will behave acceptably on a day-to-day basis, as well as a school ID. "Sometimes it's not so much the students here at Chatsworth that cause problems, but the kids that come from other schools," said Leadership director Ms. Donner.

The new policy also makes CHS students responsible for their guests. "If the guest were to get kicked out or expelled from the activity, the Chatsworth student has to understand that they must leave, too," stated Donner.

A parent-student affidavit Homecoming regarding the prohibition of the use of alcohol was also featured. Signing the form would ensure that parents do not allow their children to use any sort of illegal substance, to the best of their knowledge.

"Believe it or not, we have parents that take part in this and it is just unacceptable," said Donner.

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Forget Santa, Get Yourself a Jolly Job for Holiday Cash

By Maggie Ghahri-Saremi
Staff Writer

It's that jolly time again—time to start rummaging through your cars and couches for some of that much needed extra change because gift-giving season is just around the corner. But wouldn't you rather rummage for something a bit more promising... like a job?

Around the holidays and year-round, career counselor Mr. Pina said, "A variety of jobs are available to students. Entry level jobs that are the easiest to acquire are fast-food service jobs because the turnover is so great."

Pina adds that locations such as "Jamba Juice and Cold Stone Creamery are popular hiring centers for our students, as well as [dry] cleaners."

For students living in the Valley, newly remodeled Westfield Shoppingtown Topanga is a good place to begin their job search.

Some stores that are likely to hire teens under the age of 18 include Target, Aeropostale, American Eagle, Hollister, Limited Too, Foot Locker, Forever 21, Journeys, Gamestop, Pac Sun, and many others.

Another resource, the Northridge Fashion Center Teen Holiday Job Hotline (1-877-MALL-JOB), has updates on job listing information from mall retailers looking for seasonal help.

To ensure a holiday or part-time position, start gathering applications now. The sooner you apply, the sooner you will be scheduled for an interview.

Pick a store where you

think you will enjoy working. Consider factors such as the atmosphere, distance from your home and/or school, hourly wages (especially if you have some work experience under your belt), and the amount of hours you will be expected to work.

Once you've decided where you'd like to work, walk into those stores and ask to speak to a manager. Pick up an application and fill it out there. Make sure to turn in your application directly to a store manager and not a store clerk because it may never get to the manager for review.

If you do get an interview, remember to dress appropriately—no jeans, no flip-flops, and definitely no overly revealing clothing. You want to convey professionalism in every-

thing, including your speech, clothing, and attitude. Of course, you should be sure to consider the store's atmosphere when choosing your interview clothes and preparing your responses to the interview questions.

Before the interview, observe the store clerks—what they are wearing, saying, and how they behave in general—and get your inspiration from them. If they are wearing baggy clothing, flip-flops, or heels then most likely you can too.

Once you have secured a position, make sure to pick up a green-colored work permit application from the Career Center. "Students who turn in their completed work permits in the morning will be able to pick up the typed version at lunch," Pina said.

New Dropout Counselor Draws From Experience

By Faith Lim
Staff Writer

From being kicked out of two schools to being a dropout counselor with a doctorate degree, Matthew Meyers has gone through many hardships.

Growing up in Los Angeles, Meyers was a troublemaker. His trouble-making and class-clown ways got him kicked out of Landmark School in 8th grade. Meyers moved to another school where, again, he was kicked out. It was in 10th grade that he realized he needed to change.

"Many people told me 'you are not going to graduate from high school.' This really motivated me to work hard and I



Dropout counselor Mr. Meyers

wanted to prove [to myself] that they were wrong," said Meyers.

He graduated from high school at age 20 with help from teachers and counselors. Although he moved frequently, he graduated from America's School for a Profession

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Dropouts Face Difficulties

By Faith Lim
Staff Writer

Teenagers who drop out of high school lack minimum skills and credentials necessary to work in today's society and workplace, according to www.childtrendsdatabank.org.

The completion of high school is a minimum requirement for most jobs. High school dropouts earn less income. According to CNN.com, adults who do not finish high school in the U.S. earn 65 percent of what people who have high school degrees make.

Also, the studies have found that young adults who have low education and skill levels are more likely to live in poverty and are likely to stay on public assistance longer than those

with at least a high school degree. Furthermore, high school dropouts are more likely to become involved in crime

Chatsworth High School's drop out rate is around 2.3 percent, according to Matthew Meyers, the new drop-out counselor.

The two major reasons for dropping out from Chatsworth are lack of credits and having no connection between school and students. Meyers' job is to find students who have already dropped out or who are planning to drop out—usually they don't show up for several days—and find the best options other than dropping out for these kids.

For example, they can choose different types of school such as Stoney Point, or they can attend adult school.

In This Issue

If you think your parents are bad, wait until you read the story on page 2.

Are you paying too much for that caffeine kick? See page 2.

See page 3 to find out why PS3 is the machine to buy.

Is America ready for a woman in the Oval Office? Find out on page 4.

More Girls Turning To Diet Pills

By Jannet Torres
Staff Writer

According to a study conducted by the University of Minnesota, adolescent females have nearly doubled the use of diet pills over the past five years.

The University of Minnesota's Project EAT or Project Eating Among Teens found that more teenage girls are using diet pills as a means to lose weight. The statistics show an increase from 7.4 percent to 14.2 percent. Of the females in the study, 62.7 percent have "unhealthy weight control behaviors" and 21.9 percent use "very unhealthy weight control behaviors."

So what exactly are "unhealthy weight control behaviors"? Taking diet pills, laxatives, fasting, and resorting to eating disorders are just some examples. These females are so stuck on the idea of having a perfect body image that they do not take into account that because of their "unhealthy weight control behaviors," as stated in *medicalnewstoday.com*, they are three times more likely to become overweight.

Senior Keith Cerrato thinks "teenage girls shouldn't take pills because they should be focusing on other things other than their appearance. As a male, I personally don't like women that are sticks and bones."

The study also showed that teenage girls became less interested in exercise and workouts. On average, girls spent 3.93 hours a week working out, while males spent 6.11 hours a week on exercise.

Adolescent females are more prone to pressure of fitting into the perfect body image due to several factors. According to the website, the media, peer pressure, and even parents contribute to this. Although they may appear to have greater effects in less time, these methods of losing weight can be just as hazardous as eating disorders like anorexia nervosa and bulimia.

Some dangerous side effects of consuming diet pills and laxatives such as Phentermine, Bontril, Xenical, and Meridia are listed on the Weight Loss International website including insomnia, nervousness, high blood pressure, faster heart beat, heart attacks, stroke, heart palpitations, tightness of chest, dizziness, disruption of menstrual cycle, and possibly death. Phentermine and other related drugs are variants of amphetamines like speed.

Some Parents Do the Darndest Things

By Candy Wong
Staff Writer

Your heart stops, your jaw drops, your cheeks flush red, and you wonder if you were adopted. There's no snowball's chance in hell you are even remotely related to *Them*. Your parents, the should-be straitjacketed loonies, the source of your major mortification. There's NO WAY your parents *did what you think they just did*.

Um, is there?

Embarrassment, a seemingly universal phenomenon, happens to the best of us. But how cruel is it when it comes from people who share your blood? People who are supposed to be on your side? Well, to some CHS students, you definitely won't need enemies with parents like these.

10) "My parents showed baby pictures of me to my boyfriend." —**Maria Morales, a senior**

9) "Every time I go to the mall, when we go shopping together, she holds up a shirt or something and asks—'Is this cute?' I don't tell her, but usually it's really hideous." —**Tiffany Queen, a junior**

8) "Back in seventh grade, I was waiting for the school bus and my mom came out of nowhere and whacked me. The night before, I had done something stupid and she found out the next day." —**Aaron Situ, a senior**

7) "When we go shopping, it gets embarrassing when my parents try to bargain." —**Allen**

Huang, a junior

6) "Well, it was at Nobel [Middle School] and my mom was at my dance. She came 'cause everyone wanted her to come. She told me she didn't want to dance, but then I look back and everyone was crowding around her, saying—'Go Momma, go Momma!'" —**Brittany Braswell, a senior**

5) "When I got F's [on my report card], my parents would compare me to most of the kids in Chinatown who get A's." —**Daniel Zhou, a junior**

4) "In seventh grade, my mom came to school and said, 'You forgot your pads at home!'" —**Megan Hatcher, a senior**

3) "When I was little, I had a

tendency to pull my clothes off. I was probably about 3? So recently, my mom brought it up in front of my friends and my boyfriend. I was like, "No, Mom, I didn't—I swear!" —**Courtney Wesley, a freshman**

2) "When I went out on dates, my parents and two brothers—one older and one younger—would line up by the door and ask all kinds of questions before my date could take me out." —**Ms. Ball, the school librarian**

1) "Age of five, to make me stop picking my nose—my mom made me eat a booger in front of my friends. It was horrible! After that, I never picked my nose again." —**Mr. "B," a Humanitas English teacher.**

How To Get More Caffeine Buzz For Your Bucks

By Danielle Bourgholtzer
Staff Writer

Caffeine enriched coffee and energy drinks are sold at ridiculous prices. If you're one of the legions of students who stop by Starbucks for a quick coffee, or by AM/PM for an energy drink, you should know that there are cheaper ways to help wake up in the morning.

If you were to get a Grande

White Mocha at Starbucks, which costs \$3.90, everyday of a school week, at the end of the week you would have spent \$19.50. If you were to buy one every morning during the school week for a month you would spend around \$78. Then, if you add up how much you would spend if you got a white mocha every morning of a school week for a school year, 182 days, the total would amount to \$709. A

Grande White Mocha, though, isn't as expensive as it gets.

"I usually get a Grande Caramel Light Frap with a disgusting amount of caramel, which costs a little over four dollars," said Kathi Perrella, a senior. When asked if she minds spending this much for a coffee in the morning Perrella responded, "It's about an hour's worth of work for one cup of coffee. It's aggravating."

So instead of spending half of your paycheck on a morning pick-me-up, stick to a cheaper and a healthier way to wake up.

Eating a healthy breakfast

will help you wake up as well as get through the day. Along with a good breakfast, you should get no less than eight hours of sleep a night. The earlier you go to bed the easier it will be to get up in the morning.

However, if you still cannot seem to wake up, try brewing your own coffee. The big cans of ground coffee go for \$7, or you can do as senior Monier Mehr does, go espresso. "I usually get an espresso at Starbucks. For a Grande it costs \$1.50 and it wakes me right up. It's a really good deal," Mehr said.

And The Award Goes To...

By Clarion Staff

Several groups at CHS won awards in the past month. Here's a rundown of the winners.

Chatsworth High Marching Band and Drill Team successfully competed in the Granada Hills Highlander Marching Band and Drill Team Competition Nov. 11.

Marching band won the Sweepstakes award—the highest award presented to any band—and drill team received a first place award for High General Effects and Visuals.

Drum major Keith Cerrato, received an award as recognition for his leadership over the marching band.

The Chinese Club once again

took first place for its homecoming float. The Eminent Events Club finished second, followed by HSO Humanities, third; and American Sign Language, fourth.

Honorable mentions went to Japanese Animanga Club, Filipino Club, Junior Steering Committee and Film Society.

Drama student Adyn Wood took first place for her monologue at Fall Festival. CHS also won group awards for biographical/historic event, open scene, Moliere, group serious and sweepstakes, all in the B division.

In Division C, CHS took second for "Pygmalion" and honorable mentions for costumes and graphics.



The Chinese Club's winning homecoming float. Photo by O'Connor Brothers.

Clarion Staff

Adviser: Mr. Lehr

Editor in Chief: Candy Wong

News Editor: Jasmine Liu

Features Editor: Jannet Torres **Assistant:** Jordan Urquhart,

Sports Editor: Vinh Nguyen

Copy Editors: Raeanna Walker, Huong Nguyen, Candy Wong, Jannet Torres

Design and Layout Editor: Raymond Wong

Editorials: Huong Nguyen **Assistant:** Belen Espinoza

Staff Writers: Danielle Bourgholtzer, Joe Carter, Arun Dillon, Brenda Fuentes, Maggie Ghahri-Saremi, Stephanny Landaverde, Faith Lim, Jackee Peavler, Jorrel Quirong, Jenny Shiver

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.

'Betty' Uncovers Ugly In The World Of Beauty

By **Jannet Torres**
Staff Writer

Based on a Colombian telenovela that's made its way around the world, ABC's newest sitcom "Ugly Betty" seems to be one of this season's most watched television series.

"Ugly Betty" stars a plain-Jane named Betty Suarez (played by America Ferrera) living in Queens, New York, with the aspiration of taking part in the fashion industry. After being rejected from an entry level job by one of the hottest magazine publishing companies because of her extremely unusual sense of style, Betty is hired as the editor-in-chief's (Eric Mabius) personal assistant because her looks keep the young fashionista from sleeping around with his assistants.

The series is filled with quirky romance, secrets, and

laughter. Betty's daily lifestyle consists of going to work in an upscale outlandish industry and going home everyday to a place where people deal with a common problem of paying this month's rent. In between home and work, Betty has to deal with her eccentric boyfriend, her father's deepest secret, and the hectic absurdity of co-workers who just can't accept her for who she is.

"Ugly Betty" is a refreshingly pleasant television program to watch because it deviates from the reality TV shows people are used to. Plus, the show isn't an original American classic, which means that countries such as Mexico, Russia, and India get to watch their own versions of "Ugly Betty." The sitcom also creates a central focal point on beauty versus brains, sending out the message that sometimes beauty isn't



America Ferrera plays Betty Suarez.

enough. With "Ugly Betty," one can enjoy watching television without being irritated about the stick-thin Barbie dolls that have taken over the Hollywood scene—especially for Hispanic women who don't have to keep counting on Jennifer Lopez, because America Ferrera can do just as well.

The sitcom airs on ABC Thursdays at 8:00 p.m..

Plastic Surgeons Gone Wild

By **Huong Nguyen**
Staff Writer

The third season of FX's hit television drama "Nip/Tuck" is back and injected with more drama than ever.

Last season's finale left us all in anticipation due to the unusual cliffhanging end with the revelation of "The Carver's" identity. However, so far there has been no mention of the pair of sibling psychos that ruled the series last season.

"It's only been four episodes and I cannot believe all that's been going on in the show. It's so gross but so amazing at the same time [due to] all the drama that happens," said junior Vicky Phung.

The creators decided to try several new tactics this season to spice up the show. They were able to fit in tons of guest appearances by celebrities such as

Brooke Shields, Rosie O'Donnell, and Larry Hagman, just to name a few, during the first several episodes.

The creators also targeted many extremely controversial and disturbing topics. From Scientology to McNamara/Troy's voyeuristic owner, played by Hagman, to Christian's sexual addiction and confusion of his "attraction" to Sean, to a client's deranged and adulterous obsession with her dog, they covered them all.

These new additions almost make it seem as though the show that critics once raved as "over the top" and "without boundaries" is just trying too hard to live up to its new standards. Episodes now are even more packed than ever with jaw-dropping plot scenes and gory graphics. The show airs Tuesdays at 9 p.m.

PlayStation 3 Wins The Battle Of The Game Systems

By **Jorrel Quirong**
Staff Writer

It's November 17th, and you've been waiting in front of Best Buy for hours, anxiously awaiting for the new system. At opening day, you rush in along with the other hundreds right behind you, and you're suddenly stumped.

Which one do you get? Do you get a PS3? Do you get a Wii? Or do you get an Xbox-360?

The PS3, hands down, is the strongest gaming system to come out, even on top of the Xbox 360, graphics wise according to Gamestop. The PlayStation systems have continually handed gamers what they needed. Many games that have come out on the PlayStation have appealed to everyone.

The gaming experience for the PS3 doesn't get stale with this new installation. One new thing about the PS3 is that the new PS3 controller looks like the dual shock controller of the PS2, but offers some new key concepts. The controller has now a new 6-degree motion sensor built-in. On a jet fighter game, when the controller is tilted upward, it caused the aircraft to point its nose in the air, and vice versa. The vibration of the controller is taken out though, according to gamespot.com.

The PS3 also offers a blu-ray disc playability. A blu-ray disc boasts a regular capacity of 54GB, and a blu-ray disc player retails for close to \$1000.

It's greatest option though, is that the PS3 will be backwards compatible to both the PS

and the PS2 systems, allowing people who haven't bought the past systems yet, be able to play the old games if they buy a PS3. For an experience that is visually appealing, the PS3 is definitely the choice.

Wii takes a different route than the PS3 on how to get the attention of audiences. Using its innovative controller, it attracts many people who are looking for a new kind of gaming experience. You can use it like a sword in *Zelda: The Twilight Princess*, or a tennis racket in *Wii Sports*, or like a Plasma gun for the new *Metroid* game.

Graphics wise, it is weaker than both the PS3 and Xbox 360 (the PS3 graphic specs exceed the Wii's by twice as much).

This also is a plus for gamers as well, in that you don't need to buy a HDTV to fully appreciate

its graphics.

There were several opinions given by several students about the PS3. Kevin Ngo, senior, said that the "PS3 has the strongest engine, and has better graphics. That's why I prefer it over the Wii."

Students believe that its price may steer them away from the PS3. The hard drive of the PS3 will be different depending on how much you pay. A 20GB hard drive will cost \$499, and a 60GB version will be for \$599.

Some people dislike the Wii's innovative new controller, that is why they're moving to the PS3. Andrew Yoon, freshman, said, "I don't want to look stupid when playing, that is why I want to buy the PS3."

Even though the PS3 may be superior in its mechanical specifications, some people still

choose the Wii over the PS3, in that they want to enjoy something new. Niko Lazovich, senior prefers the Wii "because it is different than any other system."

Another selling point for the Wii, is actually its price of close to \$299. Compared to the X-box 360's \$399 or \$499 and the PS3's \$499 and \$599, the Wii sells for much less. Anthony Valera, a senior, said, "I want to buy a Wii because it is cheaper." Nintendo hopes that these factors are enough to attract more consumers.

The PS3 and the Wii have different characteristics that appeal to different people. With the PS3s graphics, and the Wii's innovative control, it is uncertain of who will come out on top.

'Gears Of War' Churns Out Realistic Mayhem

By **Raymond Wong**
Staff Writer

Want "Resident Evil" style monster action but can't get enough of that tactical shooting goodness? Well, then "Gears of War" may be perfect for you.

In "Gears of War," a recently released Xbox 360 game, the player takes control of Marcus Fenix, a disgraced former military hero who is now released from his prison in order to battle the Locust Horde, a primordial race of nightmarish creatures that threaten to destroy all of humankind. Don't let the cliché storyline fool you, though; behind it lies perhaps one of the most anticipated Xbox games ever (second to Halo 1 & 2, that is). According to IGN, "Gears of War" util-

izes the Unreal Engine 3 to create cinematic-like graphics akin to *Doom III*, which makes fire-fights much more intense and dynamic.

The gameplay focuses mainly on tactics and realistic military style fighting. With no more Rambo style shooting and fantasy solo victories, the game will quickly kill you if you don't make use of effective cover and teammates. Teammates? Yep. The game AI controls one or more partners that follow you around as you complete your missions. The AI on your teammate's part is fairly basic, but of course it is up to you to give commands and use your partner(s) effectively.

The focus of the game is less on puzzles and find-the-key and much, much more on ac-



tion. Most commands are commonly executed with a combination of one-button press and direction movement. To cut down on the usually frustrating item searches that occurs in shooting games, Epic Games has made it so that whenever an item or area of interest appears on screen, it will be immediately pointed out via a red dot and arrow with some descriptive text. In re-

sponse, the player needs to simply press a button to initiate an action.

Of course, the multiplayer aspects are beautifully integrated into the game. Any player may instantly join the single player mission in a split-screen cooperative style play. "Gears of War" will also have Xbox Live compatibility (of course), but will only support up

to eight players a map.

Multiplayer game modes won't disappoint either. With the three game modes of War Zone (a death match-type game with one life), Execution (essentially assassination mode), and Resurrection (players can only die from close range headshots and melee weapons), players will not tire of this game easily.

If E3 is any indication, "Gears of War" will be to the Xbox 360 what "Halo" was to the Xbox. With its stunning visuals, flawless gameplay, and almost perfect multiplayer gaming (if only the maximum number of players was raised...), it will leave no one disappointed. Not to mention that its \$54.99 price tag isn't too bad for an Xbox 360 game.

JV Football Flirts With Almost Perfect Season

By Vinh Nguyen
Staff Writer

The junior varsity football team has had a great season; for the first time in the eight years that Coach Parker has been coaching, the Chancellors ended with a 9-1 record. Their best prior to this was 7-2 with Troy Cassidy as quarterback.

Coach Parker said, "We have a very well-balanced team. We control the ball and the clock." This was not an easy feat; they have had difficult

games against Chaminade and Taft. Sophomore Josh Harmon has been running all over the field playing as kicker, punter, tight end, full back, defensive end, and outside line backer to help his Chancellors win. He had a very tough game against Birmingham and their speedy players in their only loss all season.

The Chancellors ended their season last Thursday with a victory over Cleveland. According to Parker, JV football is one of the few sports without playoffs.

Sports Roundup

By Vinh Nguyen and
Joe Carter
Staff Writers

The **Chatsworth Girls' Volleyball** team won the invitational playoffs Nov. 16 against Huntington Park. The team had a regular season record of 4-6 and a playoff record of 3-1. Sophomore Reanna Hill, who started in August, helped lead the varsity team to victory and averaged four blocks a game.

Team Captain Shayna Cooperstone said, "We've worked hard all season. Winning the

playoffs is a great way to end the season."

The **varsity football** team lost the first playoff game against the Crenshaw Cougars 48-10. They entered playoffs with a regular season record of 7-3, a turnaround from last year's 307 record.

Coach Corcoran said, "The season was a real success with senior running back James Walker getting over 1,400 rushing yards and senior quarterback Greg Jimenez throwing for a school record of 6 touchdowns."

Remember the Athletes

By Arun Dillon
Staff Writer

With the recent death of New York Yankees' pitcher Cory Lidle because of accidental plane crash, sports shows all over are bringing up the deaths of athletes who have tragically died over the years.

Pat Tillman (November 6, 1976-April 22, 2004)

Pat Tillman was a safety from San Jose, California. The Arizona Cardinals drafted him in 1998. In May after the attacks on 9/11, he turned down a big contract from the Cardinals to enlist in the United States Army. After serving in Iraq, Tillman was redeployed to Afghanistan, where he was killed in action on April 22, 2004 by friendly fire while on patrol. Tillman was 28.

Darryl Kile (December 2, 1968-June 22, 2002)

The first active major league player to die during the regular season since the Yankees' Thurman Munson was Darryl Kile. From California, Kile was a popular St. Louis Cardinal pitcher with a "nasty" curveball. Just after inter-league play, the Cardinals went to Chicago to play a series with the Cubs. Kile's body was found in his

hotel room. Later it was revealed that he died of coronary heart disease. Darryl Kile was honored with a big "DK-57" the Cardinals' bullpen, "DK" standing for his initials and the "57" for the number he wore on his jersey. Teammates of Kile wore the same on their hats.

Dale Earnhardt (April 29, 1951-February 18, 2001)

Born in 1951, Earnhardt grew up to be one of the greatest NASCAR racers of all time. He died during the 2001 Daytona 500, when his car was hit into a wall. Another racer, Ken Schrader, who Earnhardt bumped into earlier in the race, hit the famous #3 car. Though the crash didn't look fatal, but Earnhardt died almost instantly after his car hit the wall. His death was rare. The seatbelt in the car broke which isn't very common in most racecars. Since 2001 no NASCAR racer has died. Immediately after Earnhardt's death, his car #3 was retired.

Korey Stringer (May 8, 1974-August 1, 2001)

Korey Stringer died of heat stroke during the Minnesota Vikings' training camp in 2001. The big offensive lineman was the Ohio State Buckeyes' season MVP in '94, and was the Vikings' number one draft pick in

'95. After Stringer's death the Vikings' retired his jersey number "77", along with major changes in NFL practices: shade and water were always available and a team doctor is present at all of the team's practices. Stringer was 27.

Payne Stewart (January 30, 1957-October 25, 1999)

Born in Springfield, Missouri, William Payne Stewart went on to be one of the most famous golfers in the world. Known for his flamboyant golf attire, and winner of three golf majors, fans of this talented golfer were shocked to hear of his sudden demise. In late October of 1999, he got on an airplane from Orlando to Texas. The National Transportation Safety investigators reported that the plane suffered from a slow loss of cabin pressure and that most of the passengers on board had already died minutes after the plane took off due to hypoxia, lack of oxygen. The plane was still moving up and it couldn't be controlled because the pilots were also dead. The plane crashed in South Dakota, there were no survivors. The beloved golfer was expected to play in the 1999 Ryder Cup, which the Americans went on to win; instead he was killed in an unusual plane crash the age of 42.

EDITORIALS

Is America Ready For Hillary?

By Belen Espinoza
Staff Writer

Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton is a possible candidate for the 2008 presidential election and, if elected, would be the first woman president in United States history. Hillary has gained recognition all over the world for her involvement in politics. According to NBC.com, while attending NBC's "Meeting the Press" in February 2005, Senator Joe Biden, D-Delaware commented, "I think she'd be incredibly difficult to beat."

Women are no longer the housewives society once saw them as. They have become more independent, intelligent, and strong. Women have flourished in professions in which they perform, but have yet to prove themselves in the presidential profession. If women aren't given the chance, there is

simply no evidence to show that women aren't "cut out for the job," as some contend.

When asked whether he thought he would vote for Clinton in 2008, Mr. Miller, the AP European History teacher said, "I would vote for Hillary. She's experienced, has been in the Senate, and was a very involved first lady."

Despite the fact that some may be fond of Clinton and her positive attributes, there are others who expect her to fail. "Women aren't prepared enough for the position like men are," said junior Habib Quderi.

Whether or not women are prepared enough for the position, they are still given the chance to become competitors in the predominantly male world. If Sen. Clinton did become president, she would express to women that they could do the same things men can and create gender equality, as well.

Dropout *Continued from page 1*

Psychology last year with a doctorate degree.

Meyers' harsh youth inspired him to become a counselor. When he was in Byrd MS, he had good relationships with

students who had hard times.

He understood their situation and wanted to work closely with kids who were at risk of dropping out.

Shadow Of Steroids Falls On Athletes

By Arun Dillon
Staff Writer

There was a time when sports were a test of strength, agility, and endurance. There was a time when athletes were admired for the hard work they put into being the best at what they do. Now with all the suspensions of baseball players and news stories about steroids, no athlete is safe.

Steroids are a major topic coming up in sports today. While it's more common in professional sports, there is still some concern about student athletes. With the way professional athletes get paid today, some students may feel pressure to take the drug that will help them improve their performance in

sports. "When it comes to money, some students will give into the pressure," said JV soccer midfielder Isaac Galvez, "I'll never use steroids no matter how much the job pays." Smaller athletes feel more pressure because size can determine whether you play for the team or not, he added.

"Most of the pressure comes from society," Athletic Director Mr. Immken said. "Society says athletes are supposed to be bigger, faster, and stronger than everyone else."

With all the consequences professional athletes face, steroids aren't a major problem in high school sports yet. In 2004, 3.4 percent of high school seniors were reported using ster-

oids. Coaches and athletic directors are told to look for signs of possible steroid use such as mood swings, acne, slight growth of body/facial hair, and stunted growth. Steroids don't only affect the person when they start taking it, but they will also cause many problems for the person in the future like sleeping problems, paranoia, and depression. It can even kill a person.

Steroids don't just affect the body and emotions but can also have an impact on the way other people think about sports. Using steroids is cheating. Athletes used to be known as heroes. Now everyone, including student athletes, are second-guessed.

Softball *From page 1*

"[The boys] have an amazing field no one can touch, and we don't even have a safe field to practice on," said Zweben.

Hopefully before the season begins, the girls will be able to fundraise enough money.

"We are looking to improve our field and make it safe so we can have a good season," said Zweben.

Dance *Continued from page 1*

According to Davis, now that it has gotten more strict to bring a guest, the level of violence at school events should be reduced, according to Davis. "I've heard good things about it from the other schools that have been using it—from El Camino and Chaminade—so hopefully it will work out to our benefit here, too."

The new rules were in effect for the homecoming dance in November and things appeared to go smoothly. As Donner said, "Leadership, the chaperones, and I are all proud as to how well the dance went with little evidence of alcohol use and violence. The students all seemed to be responsible."