



TEMPLE CITY HIGH SCHOOL

RAMPAGE

Volume 55 Issue 03

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 09, 2009

tchsrampage.wordpress.com

Four Rose Court contestants make it to quarterfinals

By Serena Smalley
 Feature Editor

Every September, over a thousand young girls begin the tryout process for the Rose Court, held at the Wrigley mansion in Pasadena. This year, the tryouts started on a scorching hot day. Upon arrival to the first tryout, the aspiring Rose Court princesses lined up outside of the mansion as sweat and hopefully not too much make-up ran down their faces while they waited for their chance to give a fifteen-second explanation to a panel of judges on why they wanted to be on the Rose Court.

“It was very flattering...just being able to make it into the top 250.”

Senior Camille DeGravina

After the initial session, 250 girls returned for interviews that were longer and incorporated more questions as each cut was made. From Temple City High School there were four girls, Seniors Camille DeGravina, Candice Tran, June Ning, and Rebecca Ger, that made it into the top 250 but, unfortunately, none of them advanced to the top 75.

“I was number 1,031 so, I knew there were a lot of girls that I would be competing against,” Senior Rebecca Ger said. “I was thinking the building was really pretty and a lot of the girls were too.”

Even though no one from the high school who made the first cut advanced further, they, along with every other girl that tried out, still received a few perks and a taste of what life on court would have been like. Each girl who tried out received a ticket to attend the Royal Ball, which was held on Friday, Oct. 2. They also received complementary gifts from Macy's, which is a sponsor of the Rose Court.

“It was very flattering and cool to get a tour of the mansion,” Senior Camille DeGravina said. “It was a good experience just being able to make the top 250.”

CAMPUS GOES CLUBBING



PHOTO/ Erica Lee
 Junior Gabriel Jimenez blew his whistle and shouted over the sea of bustling students, getting attention for ComedySportz, on Club Day, which was held on Friday, Oct. 2.

October Ram Calendar						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	S
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14

Oct. 12: PTSA meeting
Oct. 15: Football @ La Canada
Oct. 16: End of grading period
Oct. 17: PSAT
Oct. 23: Football @ Home
Oct. 26-29: Red Ribbon Week
Oct. 27: College Fair, Parent Conferences, Minimum Day
Oct. 29: Rampage's next publishing date
Oct. 30: Staff Development Day, Football @ Blair
Oct. 31: Halloween, Loara Field Tournament

NEWS BRIEFS

By A. Nguyen & V. Lin
 Staff Writer & Exchange Editor

Club Day

Students explored the quad on Friday, Oct. 2 for the annual Club Day event. Each student organization shared a table and was allowed to make two posters to advertise and recruit new members. New clubs include the Save Darfur Club and the History Club. The Spanish club captured the spotlight with their bright sombreros while the French Club caught attention with their curly mustaches. The Environmental Club wore blue vests and sprayed their hair green to promote eco-friendly living and members of the Junior States of America wore giant posters challenging students to debate them.

High School 101

Students attended High School 101, an informational meeting about college/university entrance requirements and school policies, held in the Media Center on Tuesday, Sept. 29 at 7 p.m. The special meeting informed students and their parents about graduation requirements, attendance policies, career guidance and interests, and explains about educational options and support services.

College Rep Night

Upperclassmen and their parents gathered in the library on Thursday, Oct. 1 for College Rep Night, a fact-filled session on the benefits of receiving a college education and tips for the upcoming application process. The event featured guest speakers from Pasadena City College, California State University Los Angeles, University of California Riverside and University of Southern California, and was hosted by the Senior class counselors, Ms. Julie Jorgensen, Ms. Deanne Sciarrotta, and Ms. Kristen Castro.



PHOTO/ Veronica Lin

Obama wants to improve education, plans to extend school time

By Jason Wu
 Staff Writer

President Barack Obama wants to extend school hours or days in order to improve education in the United States.

In his speech on Tuesday, Sept. 29, he reasons that his proposal will help American children compete with foreigners for jobs.

“Our children spend over a month less in school than children in South Korea,” Obama said. “That is no way to prepare them for a 21st century economy.”

Many students aware of this plan are appalled by it because they fill up their days with extracurricular activities. In fact, students already put enormous stress on themselves with the weight of sport teams, music lessons, and clubs.

“Besides making time for school, you have to have time for yourself,” Junior Heidi Chow said. “If you're overworked, that's not good.”

Other students also question adding more hours of school into the day.

“I have volleyball practice every day and choir practice every other day,” Sophomore Daphnee Young said. “I might have to drop one of those two in order to keep up with school.”

On the other hand, staff approve of the President's plan.

“I think if those hours were spent studying,” Counselor Julie Jorgenson said, “those test scores would improve.”

It is certain that increasing school hours would help children who perform poorly in class. However, some people question

the need to increase hours for schools that perform well and have high Academic Performance Index scores.

“Temple City High School students work enough hours in the classroom,” Counselor Jorgensen said. “I have students who take seven classes, sometimes 8, and also attend PCC, jobs, community service, extra-curricular activities, and then go home to hours of homework every night.”

Whereas the number of school days in America average at 180, other countries usually have a minimum of 190. They have longer school days and shorter vacation breaks.

In America, several children attend summer enrichment programs for a few hours, which is nothing compared to the morning to late afternoon schedules chil-

dren in South Korea endure on a daily basis.

Some schools have adopted a form of this proposition, such as charter schools in Massachusetts. They have school times of 7:30 in the morning to 5:00 in the evening and their test scores are much higher than those of public schools in their respective states.

According to the Associated Press, this type of program costs twelve to fifteen percent more per student, meaning that schools are required to spend thousands of extra dollars they do not currently have.

With record low school budgets, it is unclear how Obama will be able to execute his plan. For now, students can only cross their fingers and wait to see what will happen.

Disney's new Steve "Rush" ton

By Christine Keung
News Editor



PHOTO/ Christine Keung

Steve Rushton performed at the Disneyland TLT Dance Club on Friday, June 26, with his new single, "Game Over."

Hailing from Surrey, England, 21-year-old Steve Rushton is one of Disney's fastest rising stars.

He had two songs featured in Hannah Montana the Movie: "Game Over" and "Everything I Want." Rushton also had a cameo role in the film as a band member. "Emergency" was featured in "Race to Witch Mountain" and more recently, his song "Ready to Rock" was featured in "G-Force." He is also known for singing the theme song, "This Boat is Rockin," for Disney Channel's original series, "Suite Life on Deck."

Shortly after the release of his second single, Rushton went on tour at Disneyland singing covers of old and new Disney songs as well as his own version of Lady Gaga's "Poker Face."

Before Disney, Rushton was in the British band, "Son of Dork," which released its first single, "Ticket Outta Loserville," in 2005. "Son of Dork" also released their debut album, "Welcome to Loserville," the same year. Rushton left the band in 2008. Rushton's choice to leave the band

soon proved to be a smart move as "Son of Dork" disbanded not long after his departure.

Hollywood Records signed him just last year and Rushton is on his way to becoming the next big thing. I was lucky enough to get a quick interview with him through a friend.

1. How long have you been a musician?

Since I was a little kid I've always loved music. My step-dad is an Elvis impersonator and used to bring me up onto stage with him when he would perform.

2. What compelled you to move from England to America?

America is a really tough place to break into the market, but it is a great place to be if you want to make it. LA is the place to be for all sorts of things, actors and musicians especially. I was lucky because I was signed to Hollywood Records and now get to do all sorts of things for Disney.

3. How did you catch your first big break?

My first "major" break was with "Son of Dork." I was scouted to be in their band. It was one of those things you have to audition/are found to be in. We had some hits in the UK. Here in the States, I was on a red carpet and the guy who did the music for "Race to Witch Mountain" approached me and asked me if I would write a song for it. I've been off and running ever since.

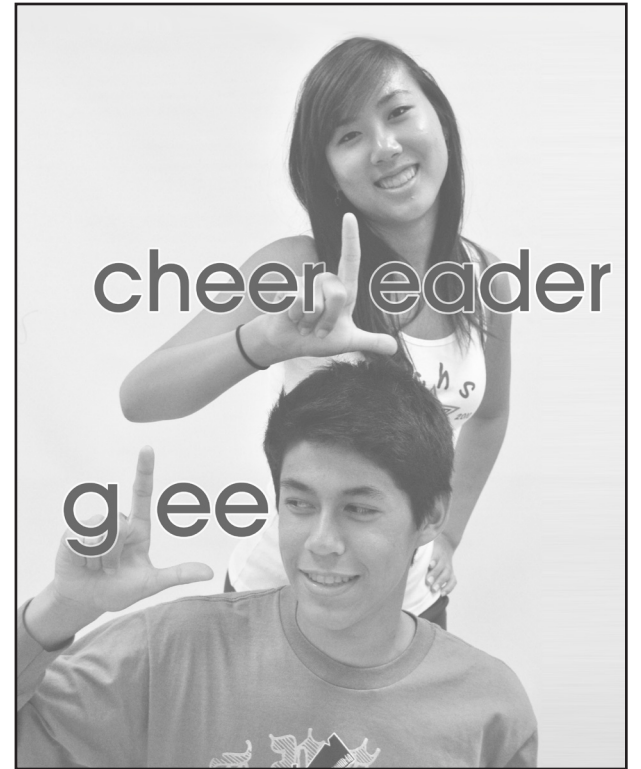
Did you know?

- Rushton just signed over the rights to a new song to Joe Jonas so that it can be sung and featured in the Disney Channel Original movie "Camp Rock 2."
- He was in a band called "Mr. Cheerful" who was featured on the British TV show Junior Eurovision 2003 UK.
- "Son of Dork" made the UK Top 10 charts twice with "Ticket Outta Loserville" and "Eddie's Song."
- While with "Son of Dork," he toured with "Bowling for Soup," one of his favorite bands.
- Rushton is a huge fan of "Green Day" and has said that that Billie Joe Armstrong was one of the key musicians who inspired him to pursue a music career.
- Rushton currently lives in Los Angeles and continues to work on new music in his home studio. His album, which is still untitled, is set to drop in January.

Students caught up on "Glee" spree

Compiled by Charlene Choo
Entertainment Editor

FOX's new hit television series, "Glee," is sweeping the nation with its comedic charm and musical appeal. It portrays the typical high school drama surrounding the Glee club, a show choir made of a mismatched group of singers, and the slow process of breaking down the social barriers among the students.



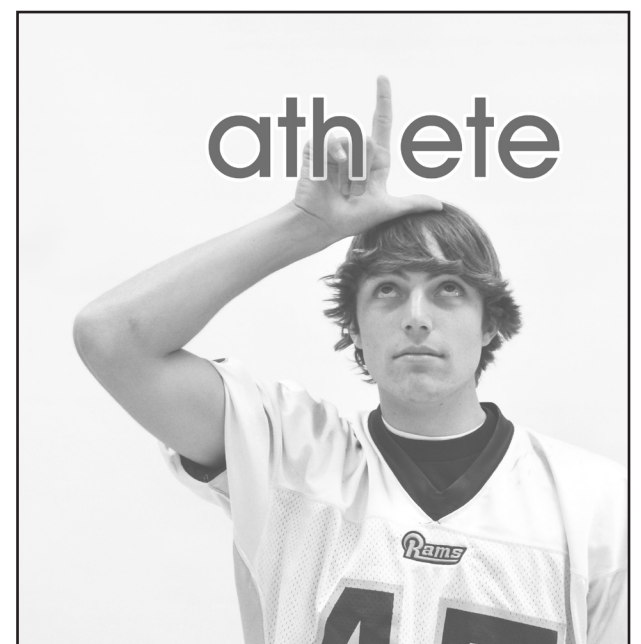
PHOTO/ Vicki Chang

"I don't know why I like 'Glee,' but I just think it's addicting. A lot of Brighter Side people like 'Glee' because it's relatable and it gives us role models to look up to. And it's really cool because our theme song for this year is also 'Don't Stop Believing.' Obviously they performed the number better than us, but I think we're pretty good, too."

Junior Andy May
Brighter Side Singers

"My favorite part about 'Glee' is probably the dancing and singing numbers. It's kind of like 'High School Musical,' except it's the soap-opera version. It has more drama and it deals with issues like stereotypes, teen pregnancy, and homosexuality. But the show exaggerates a lot. We're not actually all into football guys, I actually think nerdy guys are pretty cute, too."

Senior Debra Lee
Pep Flags



PHOTO/ Charlene Choo

"A friend suggested me to watch the show, and it was better than I thought it would be. I could see why some people like it. 'Glee' is the Hollywood-ed up version of high school. I feel like it kind of relates to my life, because I secretly love to sing too, except I don't think I'm as good as Finn."

Junior Alec Vigil
Football

Charlene's Choice

FRIENDS & DESSERT

Bean Town



PHOTO/ Charlene Choo

Bean Town carries a comfortable and friendly atmosphere for people to enjoy the food and dessert and socializing.

After enduring long hours of hunger, I finally went off campus after school to eat my belated lunch at Bean Town. According to my friend, it not only had savvy sandwiches to satiate my hunger but also the best coffee and ice cream.

By the time my friends and I arrived at Bean Town, which is located in Sierra Madre, my stomach was nearly digesting itself. I was not in the best mood to write a favorable restaurant review and was ready to pick at any faults. However, the mood of the café was friendly and comforting, and I couldn't help but smile at the little kid who was struggling with the big cone of vanilla ice cream in her hand.

After ordering a roasted beef Panini combo, which is a customer favorite, according to the friendly cashier, I

sat down on the sofa in the center of the café. The lights were dim, and soft music was flowing in the background. It set my mood to ease, especially with the deep aroma of coffee in the air.

For those who are sick of noisy, distracting restaurants with cranky cashiers, this place is perfect. Everyone is friendly and easy-going, and I even made small talk with some of the customers. If you need a quiet space to study, there are even light stands on the smaller tables, and also Wi-Fi.

Their combos come with a potato or macaroni salad, and self-serve coffee, which I enjoyed to no limit. The coffee wasn't as fresh as I would have liked it to be, but the macaroni salad was tasty and cool.

As for the Panini sandwich, it was toasted to a crisp and served in big portions. It also had thick slices of juicy roast beef and provolone cheese, and I would have even called the sandwich scrumptious, if not, for the extreme amount of mustard. I'm not a mustard-hater, in fact, I usually like my food spicy, but the mustard was too overpowering and took away the flavor of other ingredients.

I had split the combo with a friend, so I decided to fit dessert into my nearly full stomach. I was in an adventurous mood, so I ordered the lemonade-vanilla ice cream float. As mismatched as it sounds, it was one of the best ice cream floats I have ever had. The vanilla's soft creamy flavor blended into the tangy lemonade was an excellent match, even more so than root beer float in my opinion.

For less than \$10, I was full, content, and simply mellow. And with a little bit of Demi Levato on the radio and a sip of my ice cream float, I was ready to take on the rest of the week.

Visit beantowncoffeebar.com for more information.

Injustice is served!



By Julia Chen
Staff Writer

Picture this: you're walking home from your modest job when a Mitsubishi comes barreling down the street and pancakes you in the process.

Last month, The Wall Street Journal detailed an incident in a prosperous city in China that involved a young and wealthy streetcar racer and his victim from more humble roots. The driver killed the young man and outrage followed when images of the flashy car appeared alongside the victim's body. Police tried to make the situation appear accidental, but the public sensed an attempted cover-up, fanning the flames of conflict in this relatively well-off city.

Why do the laws of morality not apply to everyone? How much is it worth, a human life? The recent incident in China is just one instance of an individual, rich and powerful as it were, who can be written off as an exception to the law.

Zoom in on Roman Polanski--Academy-award winning director of "The Pianist," convicted in 1977 for drugging and having unlawful sex with a 13-year-old. Polanski fled the country and spent roughly 30 years in Europe lounging in luxury before resurfacing recently in the public eye following his arrest in Switzerland. In 1993, Polanski agreed

to pay his victim \$500,000 to settle a claim she had filed against him. Three years later, he still owed her the money, plus interest. Frankly, it still isn't known whether Polanski paid off all of what he owed. Movie script material, right? Injustice: coming to a theater near you.

A-list actors and directors the likes of Penelope Cruz, Monica Bellucci, Woody Allen, and Martin Scorsese support a petition that states, I kid you not, that "Roman Polanski is a French citizen, a renown and international artist now facing extradition. This extradition, if it takes place, will be heavy in consequences and will take away his freedom." Other supporters assert that the case is ancient history and that the director's age, 76, should be taken into consideration. Sure, the man has a couple of Oscars under his belt and the Hollywood elite at his back, but he drugged and had sex with a minor. Who is the victim here, because it certainly isn't Polanski.

If Polanski were of average talent and the director of a handful of made-for-TV movies instead of an award-winning director, the case would have turned out very differently. He would be behind bars instead of spending three decades prancing through France. Whatever talent he has and all the glitzy movie awards in the world cannot make up for the damage Polanski caused. He can't just run off to another country and consider his record clean. He committed a crime and no individual, regardless of wealth or social standing, should be above the law.



Shenanigans

By Michelle Shen
Editor-in-Chief

I knew that girls in tutus take ballet and dance to Swan Lake; what I didn't know was that they would also throw someone to the ground while they roller skate around a circular track.

Roller derby is a roller skating sport that takes place on a circular track, in which players score points by lapping members from the opposing team. Like most sports, the more points the better, but unlike most sports, the players display true teamwork by knocking out as many players from the opposing team as they can, clearing the path for the quickest member to zoom by and hopefully score some extra points.

Think a simplified version of tackle football; take away the ball and add some skates. As a result, games are often marked with broken bones, blood, and colorful bruises the size of a fist.

Oh, did I mention that this is a women's sport? And no, the players are not these giant hulking figures who can go either way in terms of gender. Quite the contrary, the sport is a celebration of femininity, with the women going into game in fishnets, tutus, and short-shorts. Make-up is a must.

Although I would probably never be able to pluck up enough nerve to purposely smash someone to the ground, the sport advocates a balance of beauty and aggression, a message that no other sport carries. Today in society, it seems like women can either be one or the other--to be too aggressive is ugly, to be deemed the pretty girl means being a little more passive.

Roller derby carries an indie, do-it-yourself spirit that tells women that it's okay to defy conventional rules, and that it's okay to step on the divider between the beauty and aggression, because they do, in fact, overlap.

Silly 'skank' lawsuit *Class of 2010* deserves prank



By Alice Wang
Co-Business Manager

Skank. From all appearances, that one word has accomplished what sticks and stones couldn't do—it caused a huge ruckus in August, involving heated court battles and a \$3 million defamation suit.

For Vogue model Liskula Cohen, it all started when she discovered "Skanks of NYC," a *Blogger.com* site apparently devoted to bashing her. In the blog that Google later removed, an anonymous writer smeared the unlucky Cohen, calling her an "old hag," a "ho," and a "psychotic, lying, still-going-to-clubs-at-her-age skank." Galling, to be sure, but no one expected Cohen's response: the thin-skinned cover girl discovered the posts and sued Google, all the while screeching for the company to give up the name of the blogger in order to sue her for defamation.

During the hearings, Cohen's lawyer argued (without proof) that the virtually unknown blog was "affecting her business," and "impugning her chastity." The judge agreed with Cohen and forced Google to

reveal the identity of the writer, who turned out to be bitter acquaintance and fashion student Rosemary Port. Cohen later dropped the suit.

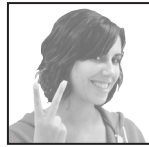
However, that doesn't mean that everything turned out happily ever after. Port, furious at (and probably not a little embarrassed by) the alleged invasion of privacy and the First Amendment violation, laid another one on the unfortunate Google—this time, a \$15 million lawsuit.

I feel sorry for Cohen. Really, I do. But what I want to do most is to slap her upside the head and bark, "Grow up, woman!" This little episode sounds like a playground squabble between kindergarteners.

What Cohen needs to understand is that backstabbing peers are a fact of life, as inevitable as puberty, income taxes, and death. It's something that we all have to put up with sooner or later, and the mature thing to do—what Cohen should have done—was to ignore it, not to waste time and taxpayer money by hashing out a catfight in court.

Ironically, in the end, Cohen did more damage to her image by advertising herself as an oversensitive and overreacting control freak in trying to squash the blog than the admittedly obscure site would have by labeling her a skank.

On the spur of the moment, I made a webpage and tacked up "Obama is a skank" in screaming red letters. When his people hunt me down and sue me, I'll be sure to let you know.



By Serena Smalley
Feature Editor

During Hitler's reign millions of people lost their lives to the genocide that took place, and although it is now 2009 it does not mean that we as human beings should forget what happened. I understand that and I have only the utmost respect for those who lost their lives as the world stood still.

Unfortunately, there are still many ignorant people in our world today. Some of those ignorant and callous individuals decided that it would be an ingenious idea to pour salt on the football field in the shape of a Swastika, which left a dried up, yellow outline. This fiasco was associated with the Senior prank of the class of 2009.

Now, as a member of the class of 2010 and ASB I was strongly advised not to partake in any prank. I was informed that if anyone were to be caught participating they would not be able to walk in the commencement ceremony.

For many years I have arrived at school early in the morning and come across various pranks that many of my friends have concocted and eagerly waited for my turn to come. However, now that my time is here I frankly have no choice but to abide by the strict rules set by administration due to the previous year's mindless actions.

Of course, administration has never welcomed a senior prank with open arms but it has never been as off limits as it currently is. As long as school property is not defaced or anyone is offended I do not see the reason why a senior prank is so taboo. There is no one sure fire way to en-

sure that a prank does not get out of hand but to say it bluntly, I just want my senior year.

One may think that even if seniors do a harmless prank some people may get riled up and go beyond what was planned. This thought is plausible but aren't we taught in school to not judge someone based on the actions of those who came before them?

Perhaps a plan could be run past the administration and a compromise could be reached. In reality there is no way we will be able to have the prank of our dreams approved but at this point we should at least fight for what we can achieve. The class of 2010 did nothing to have this censure thrust upon them but we must overcome this challenge rather than succumb to it.

There are many sides to the situation but I don't think any of them have it all under wraps.

FOR THE RECORD

Focus: The title of the third paragraph in "When Worlds Collide," Soviet Union should be Czar Dynasty.

Entertainment: In "Charlene's Choice," Flower Blossom should be Rose Blossom.

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An Apple a day or Windows to your soul

By Julia Chen
Staff Writer

Mac

Ooh, shiny—you have to admit that a Mac is a beautiful piece of technology—all those sleek lines and smooth surfaces. The Mac's opponents argue that the computers are popular because of their looks and that they lack real power, but beneath that exterior is a machine that is functional, innovative, and user-friendly.

One issue that initially keeps consumers from buying a Mac is the price. A standard iMac retails at around \$1000 and goes upward of \$2000, but considering that Macs work straight out of the box with all of the necessary programs and software included, the price isn't so steep. PCs, however, need to have their hardware and software purchased separately, which can be just as expensive.

Macs run on an operating system that is designed with security and functionality in mind. Though no computer is completely protected from viruses, Mac users are far less at risk of catching a virus because Windows is used by a greater majority of people, making Windows a bigger target for shifty third-party developers.

In the fields of graphic design and media, the Mac has no equal. The vast majority of the creative industry is Mac-based because it is superior in rendering graphics and media. Though basic "office functions"—creating documents, browsing the Internet—are similar in Macs and PCs, the Mac gains an edge in functions beyond basic computing.

The beloved button of the PC is the right-click, home to all sorts of commands. The PC mouse has two buttons as opposed to the standard one button, touch sensitive Mac mouse. The right-click menu on a Mac works by pressing the control button and then clicking and Apple laptops can have their trackpads configured for right-click.

Apple products are a cultural phenomenon - iPods, iPhones, iPads - they've worked their way into our daily language and don't plan on leaving anytime soon. Macs work and it's not just because they look pretty.

By Aaron Chua
Staff Writer

PC

The PC squashes the juice out of Macs and, from experience, I know this to be very true. First and most importantly, PCs are cheaper than Macs. At \$949 and a rather small 60 GB of hard disk and 512 MB of memory, the Mac Mini is the cheapest Mac you can buy and it doesn't even come with a screen. For the same price, you could buy a Dell Dimension E52 Vista PC with 160GB hard disk, 1GB of memory, and a 19 inch flat panel display, it doesn't look as fancy as the Mac does, but hey, why pay extra for looks?

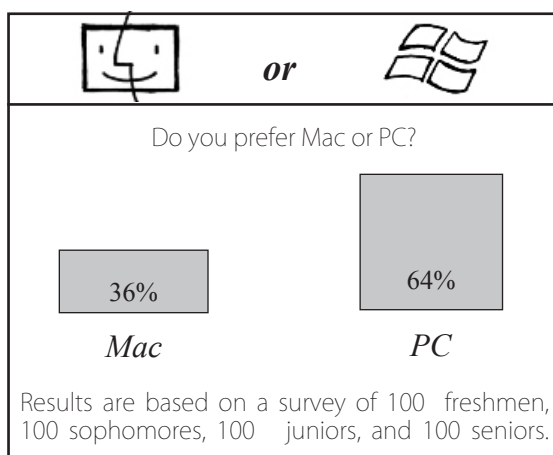
As any gamer could tell you, PC users have access to thousands of games while Mac users don't. In order to upgrade a Mac with decent graphics hardware, one has to go through Apple in order to do it. Simply put, you end up paying for the graphics AND what Apple tagged onto the price tag in order to turn a profit.

PCs are more customizable than Macs could ever be with dozens of different PC configurations ranging from gaming PCs to business PCs, all can be made using thousands of custom components to suit every individual users requirements. Mac desktops, on the other hand, come in only three different varieties: Mac mini, iMac, and Mac pro.

Now, all of you Mac fanatics out there are probably screaming that PCs crash all the time while Macs don't. I say that it's

relatively inexpensive to repair a PC than it is to repair a Mac. PCs come with a three year customer support/ return warranty that comes standard when one purchases it while Macs get a pitiful 90 day warranty, the same three year policy that PCs come with is extra, if you can afford to buy it.

Your Mac has a problem? Why not take it to a computer repair shop; I'm sure they'll fix it for you. Wait. You can't afford it. Why? Oh right, they have to pry open that sealed Mac casing, custom order the parts from Apple, then somehow glue everything back together, that racks up the labor bill not to mention how much those parts must cost.



Who will steal your moment at the VMAs?

By Jessica Meza
Staff Writer

Media constantly surrounds the world with news from the latest controversial celebrities. How many times have you heard celeb say something, only for you to shout, "What?!"? Take this quiz to find out which celebrity you'd butt heads with.

1. On a Saturday night, you'd be found at...

- the retirement center, helping out without earning service hours.
- your friend's fraternity, having a huge party.
- your house, memorizing every isotope for each element.

2. You scored 55% on your Algebra final. You...

- calmly ask if you can retake the test.
- don't even remember taking the test.
- cry, knowing Yale will certainly reject you now.

3. You're late to school, so the first thing you grab is...

- your old yet comfortable T-shirt.
- grab anything? My clothes from last night are good enough.
- your graphing calculator.

4. Your best friends describe you as...

- innocent and very considerate of people.
- the wild child who lives to party.
- a diligent student and great tutor.

5. Your ideal date would be...

- grabbing frozen yogurt after going bowling.
- going to an underage club.
- looking at the stars through your telescope.

6. Your ideal spring break would entail...

- playing with kids at the local children's hospital.
- going to Los Cabos, Mexico with your crew.
- being on a cruise. It's like home, but on water.

Scores:

Mostly A's: You are thoughtful and stick up for others who don't have a voice. If there is anyone you would go against in the celebrity world, it would be the outspoken Kanye West. That is, if you have the heart to rival anyone.

Mostly B's: You live on the edge, keeping true to the live hard party hard style. The Disney star Nick Jonas is your rival, because being a straight edge is something you don't do. Don't worry though; you can still like his hair.

Mostly C's: Being called an over achiever is something you strive for! Your rival is "star" Heidi Montag. Famous for being famous, she lives for drama and the chance to be a ditz. Haven't heard of her? Jealous!

When the two merge as one in Li

By Veronica Lin
Exchange Editor

Band and orchestra are integral to the world of music. The fundamental natures are drastically different, and the audiences are different as well. For members of either group, the relationship between the two musical groups can sometimes be considered a rivalry. Junior Andrew Li, a bass player in both Honors orchestra and a member of Drumline, however, crossed the musical boundary and manages to call both home.

"I was interested in different genres of music," Li said. "I wanted to grasp as much as I can out of the music programs at our school."

Intending to pursue a music major in college, Li first found his love for music in seventh grade at the orchestra program at Oak. Later, Li joined the Drumline in June of his sophomore year but found a pleasant surprise waiting for him.

"There are just so many things [in band] that are going on at once that we have to memorize everything and really pay attention. The night rehearsals are from six to nine on Thursdays and they are mandatory for Drumline. There are also Friday night football games. It was a very difficult four months."

Even though band was extremely different from what Li was used to, he does not regret his decision to join the program.

"Band definitely is worth the time," Li said. "We learn a lot of things such as respect and leadership, but I would say I am

more of an orchestra person. The people there have talent and commitment and it [orchestra] is a lot better sounding than band. It's more of a quiet, relaxed period of the day."

Even though Li respects the band program, his loyalties still lie with orchestra. With a more soothing genre of music, orchestra does not stress as much the need for springing to attention. Unlike Despite his favorable preference, Li feels the rivalry between the two musical groups should not exist, as each has its own qualities.

"The rivalry doesn't exist anymore," Li said. "Only if you're going to be immature about it."



PHOTO/ Jennifer Su

Junior Andrew Li, who participates in both band and orchestra, disregards the rivalry.



Forever brothers, forever rivals The Trojan vs. the Bear

By Maggie Liu
Staff Writer

Just wait and see how long it takes for Senior Derek Sy and Sophomore Raymond Sy to break out into an argument. On the surface, it seems like all they can do is disagree about the littlest things. The way they spend their time and what they are interested in is only a fraction of their differences. But it is more than just fights that make up these brothers' relationships.

What are you interested in that your brother isn't?

Derek: Being nice to our younger brother.
Raymond: Tennis and drawing.

What is one thing you can do that he can't do?

D: I get higher grades than him.
R: I can dislocate my shoulder.

What does he do that often bothers you?

D: Burps in my face and farts in my face. Also, coming home late and then not telling me and then I have to wait for him.
R: He acts like an annoying mom.

How does your brother usually get back at you?

D: He punches me.
R: He yells at me or tells my mom.

What do you compete over the most?

D: Everything, pretty much.
R: It wouldn't be athletics because he doesn't care. I would say social relationships with people. We just try to act better than the other guy.

What does he like to do or eat that you would never see yourself doing or eating?

D: Eating squids or frogs or snails.
R: Staying at home. And I will never eat plain peanuts.



PHOTO/ Maggie Liu

Senior Derek Sy (right) and Sophomore Raymond Sy (left) prove that a sibling rivalry is not enough to break their strong bond.

What do you two disagree on?

D: We disagree on how to treat our girlfriends.
R: He thinks Megan Fox is hot and I don't.

What has been the most evil thing he has done to you?

D: He took my bed sheets and he did stuff to it like the butt floss.
R: He pushed me down the stairs. That's what I remember from when I was a kid.

When can you not stand your brother?

D: From 9:00 to 11:00 at night. I'll leave it at that.
R: During the day time. Like in the afternoon from 12:00 to 5:00.

How would you describe your rivalry with your brother?

D: It's annoying, very annoying. But it never gets boring.
R: It can get very annoying. I call him mean names and he calls me mean names. It just goes on and on.

By Humphrey Lin
Staff Writer

The rivalry between USC and UCLA is no secret. Both are high-ranking schools in L.A. and have been rivals for as far back as anyone can remember.

"They're both local L.A. schools," Math teacher and USC alumnus Mr. Barry Bacon said. "So there is natural rivalry when it comes to sports."

There is no doubt that the tension between these schools is mostly based on athletic terms. The Lexus Gauntlet, an athletic title based on the combined point value of all sports has sparked great rivalry between these schools. There has been a constant tug-of-war over this esteemed trophy throughout the past eight years, and of course, the popularity of football helped spread this fierce rivalry.

"They are equally strong academically" Sophomore Mark Soendjojo, who comes from a line of USC alumni, said. "But athletics get the most attention."

Most people think of sports when it comes to these two schools, but one must not overlook the many differences between the actual institutions.

The most obvious difference between these two schools is, of course, the fact that one is public and one is private. With private schools, tuition is much higher. USC's annual tuition, plus all mandatory and extra fees, averages to around \$35,000 to \$40,000. Compare that to an average of \$8,000 for in-state students and \$25,000 for out-of state students at UCLA. If you're a local student, you should definitely consider the savings.

Another important factor to consider is location. UCLA students and teachers alike pride themselves upon the school's excellent location. Situated in West Los Angeles, UCLA's campus is near Beverly Hills, which is known to be both safe and high-class. You might also meet your favorite celebrity there. The extravagant movie theatres and fine dining makes this a fun area for students. The same, unfortunately, cannot be said for USC. Although the campus is safe, the school is located in an impoverished part of town, and you would definitely not find all the luxuries available around UCLA. Don't get discouraged, however. The area features some of the best, most authentic Latino dining you could find around.

Now, we can go into the part most students are concerned about: education. According to the National Universities Ranking by U.S. News and World Report, USC places at 26th, based on undergraduate majors and features a 21.4% acceptance rate while UCLA places at 24th with a 22.8% acceptance rate. This, however, does not mean that USC is worse than UCLA: both these schools have individual pros and cons. While UCLA may be ranked higher overall, USC features both stronger business and liberal arts majors. Also, USC has an average class size of 25 to 30 students compared to a whopping 200 to 300 at UCLA.

Of course, most peoples' bias towards either school is based, not on reasons listed, but rather on their favorite football team or a deep-seeded prejudice.

"I have many family members who went to UCLA," Sophomore Brian Chen said. "So I have a natural bias towards the school."

However, before you reject an acceptance letter to either school because of an old prejudice, consider these differences first.

Are you getting all your money's worth?

By Jennifer Su
Staff Writer

Do you prefer paying for quantity or quality? How many pieces of clothing can you buy with all the money you spend? Junior David Maligo and Junior Connie Chan let us in on how much they spend on clothing from two different types of stores.

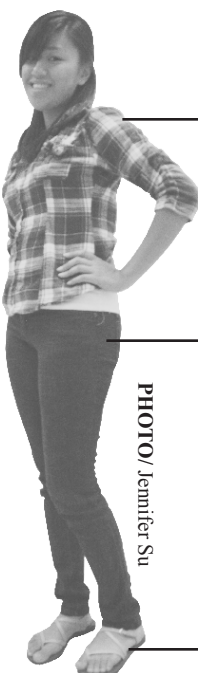
Scarf- Out of the Closet for \$1.99. Don't spend over \$10 on a type of print that will be out of season in a few months.
Shirt - Out of the Closet for \$5.99. For a silk shirt like this, one might assume that it is very expensive.
Pants - Goodwill for \$3.99. Why would you spend over \$20 on jeans when you can get them for as low as \$3.99 at Goodwill?
Shoes - Payless for \$14.99. Moccasins will be out of season soon so don't spend too much on them.

Thrift



Total: \$27.95

Brand Names



PHOTO/ Jennifer Su

Total: \$69.99

Shirt - Siren for \$25. Plaid shirts have been in style this past year. They are androgynous so many people wear them.
Jeans - Cathy Jeans for \$30. Skinny jeans have been the choice of jeans for a while now. They come in washes such as bleached, dark, and indigo. Also, they look great with any type of shoes.
Shoes - Cali Shoes for \$14.99. The store sells many stylish shoes for women at a price that will not make you feel guilty. A woman can never have too many pairs of shoes.

Park visits Pyongyang

By Ashlee Nguyen
Staff Writer

Beyond being a sophomore and AP English high school teacher and trying to achieve a doctorate in education at USC, Ms. Vicki Park is among one of the rare individuals to be invited by the North Korea Ministry of Education to help provide continuing education for the English teachers in North Korea.

"North Korea is very different from the rest of the world in many ways; the people are resilient and beautiful, but you can tell they've weathered many storms," Ms. Park said. "I feel a connection to this country because I'm also Korean American and so it definitely peaked my curiosity but I think my heart broke for this country, and ever since then I've felt like I needed to learn and visit more."

Ms. Park has visited Korea once in 2008 and again since that year with the same aspirations to learn more about Korea and help their people. North Korea is a communist country, where most of their people are conservative and controlled. While teaching in the capital of Pyongyang, Ms. Park discovered that she was actually the first foreigner, let alone the first and only native English speaker that the Korean teachers have ever met.

"A lot of the teachers I've worked with, all the same age as me, all taught the same number of years as me; we're all Korean ethnically so we all speak the same language," Ms. Park said, "But what was noticeably different was that most of the teachers from Korea don't have as much freedom as I do as a teacher. They're told exactly what to do and what to say everyday and are not given the same right to think for themselves; in that sense, we do have different lives."

North Korea differs from the U.S. greatly since there is no internet, no traffic because there are very few cars, and people dress in similar colors of grays, browns, and blacks. One of the women Ms. Park was working with couldn't believe that a Korean-American like Park could teach English in the U.S.

"That's when it dawned on me that North Korea is so isolated from the rest of the world that many of them have no clue there are Koreans born and raised in America!" Ms. Park said, "When I told him I considered myself an American too, and that I loved my country, his eyes grew big and wide!"

Despite the differences North Korea has in comparison to the rest of the world, Ms. Park admires

the people and how they've overcome many hardships, their capital city, their education, and also mentioned how awed she was when she stayed two weeks in Pyongyang hotel. She felt that they had very nice accommodations and that the atmosphere was like a movie set from the 50s. While Ms. Park helped educate, she was also able to go sightseeing.

"We saw much of the capital city of Pyongyang, and we also got to visit the Demilitarized Zone [the border between North and South Korea]." Ms. Park said, "I also got to hike a mountain and see some of the countryside."

But even while sightseeing, Ms. Park realized North Korean not only restricted the freedom of their citizens but also foreigners.

"We always had a North Korean guard and guide at all times with us to make sure we only saw the things they wanted us to see," said Ms. Park.

After learned more about North Korea, Ms. Park objects to the government's message to the rest of the world.

"Korea's whole motto is self-reliance, that we don't need the rest of the world, and they can do what they want to do," Ms. Park said. "But being in America, I've tasted freedom and America is really good at encouraging freedom, free thoughts, being able to read what you want to read; America wants us to formulate our own thoughts, opinion, and to evaluate things."

With this in mind, Ms. Park's ambition was to discover more about the North Koreans, help them understand the U.S. in a more positive light, as well as to show them how Koreans from other regions of the world are different compared to them.

Add some Shun shine to your life

By Angela Li
Staff Writer

Taking demanding and challenging courses, having fun with his friends, and working hard to get good grades, Senior Randy Shun is just another typical student; yet, he has a unique blog that is quite different from others. He has been blogging since his freshman year and it stands out from others by its content and his writing style.

"I thought I was a good writer, but my freshman English teacher showed me otherwise, so I wanted to prove him wrong afterwards." Shun said, "So I just decided to blog."

He blogged every day for the first couple months. His articles were mostly about politics, current issues, sometimes his personal life, and mass-media or mass-culture events. As he read more books, his writing style matured. Most of his recent articles have become more abstract as he began dealing with more complicated issues.

"I remember one of the most recent ones I compared not sleeping to that people don't really feel and understand each other," Shun said. "So my more up-to-date writing focuses more on small and negligible things."

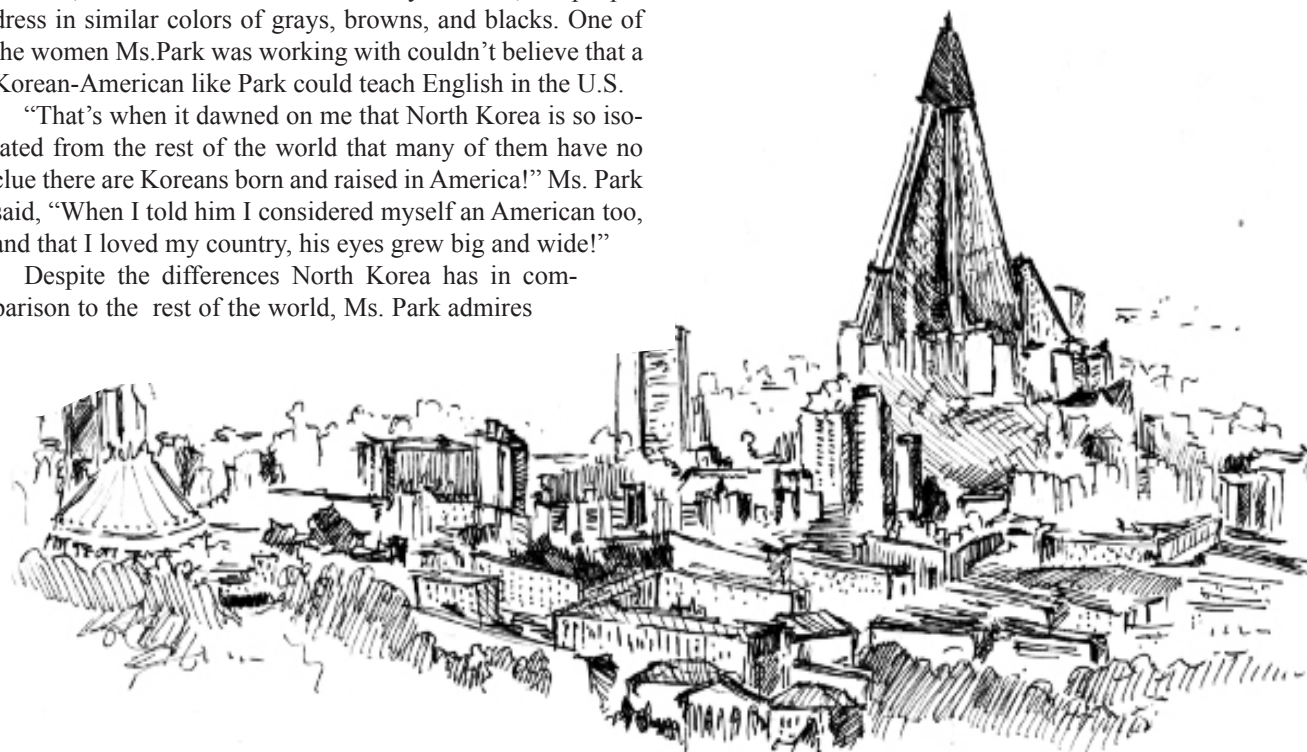
Unlike other people who blog for fun, Randy has a bigger dream. During his sophomore year, he had a thought of writing to make a difference. He wanted his voice to be heard, and for people be inspired by his articles.

"But I realized that not all writings are meant to be read. If you write it with the only intention of having five thousand people read it, then you can't express yourself honestly," Shun said. "So now I just really write for the sake of writing."

Online readers and students from our school often leave feedback on his articles. While Randy enjoys most of the positive comments, he also welcomes opposition and critiques about his writing.

"I think it's great that people leave their response," Shun said. "And it's even better when they disagree with me because it means that they are actually thinking."

Randy also tried to encourage some of his friends to join him in blogging. He wants a group of friends who can write with him and publish their articles in a collective effort, but it ended up he's the only staff writer. So if you enjoy writing and wish to make a difference by blogging, you may consider joining and to make your voice heard. You can find his blogs at www.accordingtoaccordians.com



Illustration/ Erica Lee

Senior Bassette brings a splash of color to This Blank World

By Raymond Tran
Staff Writer

Returning from the fierce, intense competition at Junior Olympics, the towering Senior Jeffrey Bassette spent his summer playing competitive water polo and starting his new band, This Blank World.

In the summer, Bassette dedicated his time to playing water polo, a sport that he has played on the varsity team for years. He also had the opportunity to work as a lifeguard at the Rosemead Pool.

Bassette returned as a member of the Rose Bowl Water Polo Club (RBWPC) this summer. The club allows its members to practice water polo at the Rose Bowl Aquatic Center, and the teams compete annually in national and international competitions against countries like Hungary, Germany, and Israel. One of the renowned tournaments the RBWPC participates in is the Junior Olympics. Going into the competition, Bassette describes the experience as intense and unforgiving.

"It [Junior Olympics] was intensely competitive," Senior Bassette said. "For four days our lives became game, eat,

sleep, game, eat, sleep."

The four day event was held at Stanford University's campus, and the team took 11th place, beating opponents from cities such as Chino Hills and San Diego. The RBWPC played against eight of forty-eight teams at the Junior Olympics, and lost the qualifying round to proceed further. Although Bassette's four days at the tournament were immersed in heavy competition, he thought the challenges presented opportunities to bond with his fellow teammates.

"It [Junior Olympics] was intensely competitive...for four days our lives became game, eat sleep."

Senior Jeffrey Bassette

"It was great playing with my best friends," Senior Bassette said. "When you're with people that long, you get really close."

Despite the massive amounts of time Bassette devotes to water polo, he also

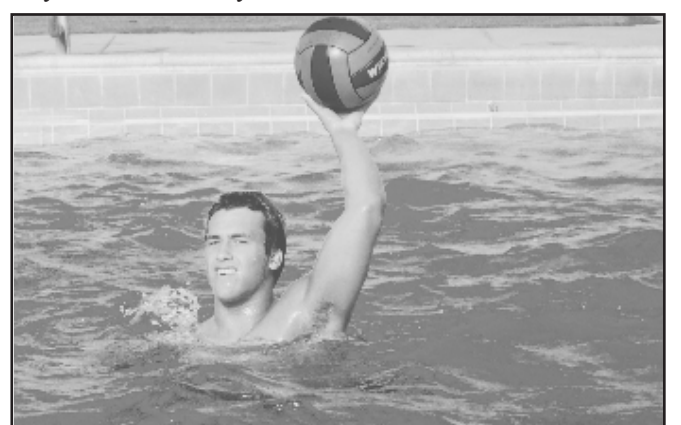
takes time to pursue his other passion: music. Although Bassette is active in the school's performing arts program, he strives to improve his band This Blank World, during his spare time. The band was founded two months ago, and Bassette is the pianist and manager for the group. As manager, Bassette schedules performances and organizes the band's website. Bassette also composes and arranges the music for This Blank World. He recently wrote and produced the band's first self-titled album, and described one of the band's recent performances in Hollywood exhilarating.

"It was one of the best nights of my life," Bassette said. "The group was a dream come true for me."

Bassette plans on improving his sports and music throughout the course of this year. Next month Bassette will take

the first steps towards his dream of starting a nation-wide recording studio franchise by taking an internship at a local recording studio. He plans to lead his water polo team to success, and with college applications around the corner Bassette eagerly anticipates his future. He wants to attend Stanford and pursue a career in music as an entrepreneur.

"The future looks bright," Senior Jeffrey Bassette said.



PHOTO/ Raymond Tran

This summer Senior Jeffrey Bassette competed in the Junior Olympics' Water Polo games and plays for the Rams this season.

The Rams enter season with high hopes

By Jennifer Su
Staff Writer

Currently 1-2-1 in the preseason, the football team didn't have a strong start. With new coaches along and a new team, the players first have to get accustomed to each other and the new plays.

"Everyone's new for the most part on the varsity staff," Head Coach Mr. Anthony White said. "We're trying to get the best people to come and coach at Temple City."

In addition to the new coaching staff, Senior Justin Smith is playing the quarterback position for the first time. Although Smith did not play during his junior year, he was able to contribute to their first victory.

At their first home game against Alhambra, the team was defeated, 17-14. Then at the much anticipated game against Arcadia the week after, the game ended with a tie, 28-28, as the crowd shouted for overtime.

This past Friday, the team played against Rosemead High School at Rosemead and brought home the first win of the preseason. 27-13, this victory gave a boost to many of the players.

"This win was big for us because now we have confidence," Center, Senior Ruben Jara said. "League is just around the corner, we need some momentum if we want to achieve our goal of winning league and advancing far into C.I.F."

The game at Rosemead wasn't just any other game. Although it wasn't as hyped up as the game against Arcadia, the team was just as excited to play because Coach White's brother, Runningback Matt Fregoso, was starting on the Rosemead team.

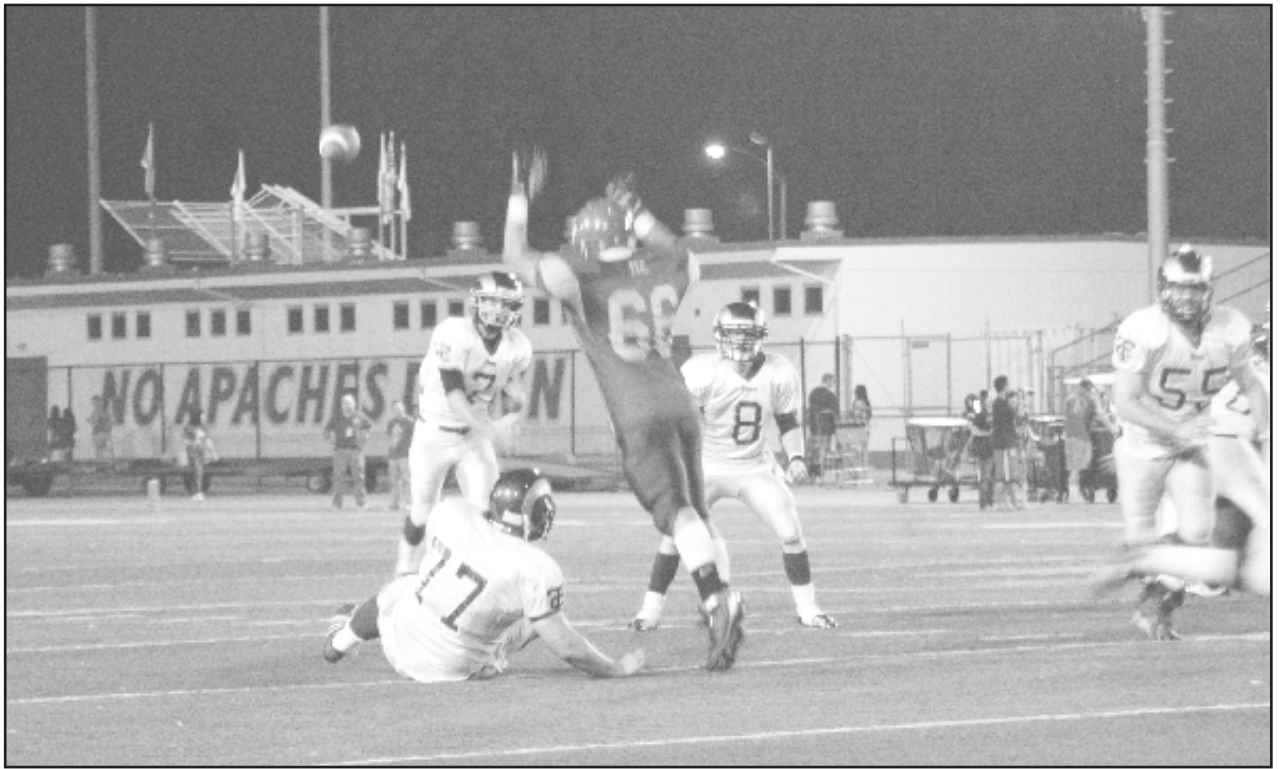
"I knew he was on the team before [the game] and I think it motivated us a little bit," Wide receiver, Senior Branden Pultz said. "Just knowing it was Coach White's little brother, we wanted to go after him."

This year, the Rams defense may be viewed as a threat to other schools.

"Our defensive line is pretty good," Defensive end, Senior Victor Dominguez said. "We're probably one of the fastest d-line in the league."

However, with an advantage comes a disadvantage.

"We're kind of rushed and we got a late start," White



PHOTO/ Jennifer Su

Quarterback Senior Justin Smith throws the football past the hands of a flying Apache defender as the crowd looks on in nervous anticipation. Much of the first yard conversions were due to accurate passing plays as well as penetrating rushes.

said. "Most of the teams we play, their coaches have been there for years. I've been here for six months."

To overcome this disadvantage, the players have devoted a lot of time to practicing. Starting from seventh period all the way until six o'clock, the players are on the field running through offensive and defensive plays along with their individual position techniques.

"Some teams don't improve and they're stuck in a rut," White said. "But we keep improving and becoming better football players every week."

Although the preseason started off rough for the Rams, they do not forget what they're known for.

"In recent history, Temple City has always been the comeback team," Kicker, Senior Andrew Tinsley said. "We just have to overcome this obstacle in our path to

achieve victory."

If there was anything the players have to agree on, it would be the fact that they are one big family.

"We definitely have a great bond between all of us," Pultz said. "It doesn't matter if you're a freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior, we're all friends and I think that bond is a huge advantage."

How the team ranks at the end of this season and their performance against tough schools such as La Canada, San Marino, and Monrovia will determine whether or not they will be able to continue on into C.I.F.

"I'm looking forward to playing La Canada," Sophomore Carlos Mota said. "That's our first league game."

Come watch the Rams tonight as they take on LaSalle at home.

Girls volleyball shows promise

By Richard Kim
Sports Editor

The girls volleyball team started preseason with excited nerves, because many of its players were fresh from the JV level. The majority the starting players on the last year's team were comprised of seniors, including the libero, the defensive specialist, and key hitters and blockers.

"We only have five returning Varsity players," Senior Elizabeth Shehee said. "But we are going to do the best we can with the experience we have."

The Rams started preseason off strong, winning 3-0 over Pasadena High School. Although it was the first game of preseason, the Rams were able to execute cleanly due to extra time spent practicing during the summer. However, some of the players are still very new to their team positions, and their inexperience showed in their game versus Pasadena Poly. In addition to the fact that the Poly team was bigger and stacked with seniors, the Rams' cooperation was very uncoordinated. There were too many unforced errors that contributed to their 3-0 loss against Poly.

In their match against Schurr, they were able to keep up the high energy and fluid cooperation, and easily took the match 3-0. Many of the games during preseason either ended in a 3-0 win or loss for the Rams, and the outcome of the game basically depended on the momentum and communication the team created. The preseason record was 3-4. The first game of the season was this past Tuesday against San Marino. "We had a lack of communication in the game," Sophomore Samantha Jakeway said. "A lot of the points we gave away were unforced, and we basically won the game for the Titans."

Their game yesterday versus the Monrovia Wildcats ended in a 3-2 loss. During the 4th and 5th set, the Rams had a chance to take the win, but fell inches short. The Rams were able to shut down Monrovia's key hitter during the second and third set but could not hold up against the team onslaught. Senior Brooke Becher had over 30 kills by the fifth set, and it was clear that she had not much energy left. But hopes are still high.

"We work well together," Senior Sahar Baharestani said. "It's the beginning and we see so much potential in each other."

Come cheer on the girls volleyball team as they play next Tuesday against the South Pasadena Tigers.

Water Polo: Victories Come With Sacrifices

By Ashlee Nguyen
Staff Writer

Accomplishments seem to be unlimited for the Boys Varsity Water Polo team as it began season strong, winning both Poly RS Tournaments, as well as most of its games with the record of 8-1 wins, however, these wins did not come easily.



PHOTO/ Ashlee Nguyen

Junior Ian Simons egg-beats the ball above the Walnut defender as he attempts a shot.

They competed against Burbank, Burbroughs, and Walnut at home during the early days of October all of which they won. The most recent home games include October sixth's game against San Marino which they defeated 22-8.

Facing challenges from different high school games only builds more enthusiasm and competitiveness for these players; especially when they know each and everyone is putting in their best effort. Pushing one another gives incentives for the team members to work even harder. Self-motiva-

tion as well as team support is important.

"No single player is more important than the other," Junior Varsity Water Polo Coach Mr. Joe Antonio said. "We really just play to our best ability and know that we are playing to our best ability."

With daily, intense routine of practices from 3:30 to 6:00 pm, these teammates understand that their dedication, strong communication, as well as support for each other pays off.

"We understand each other; more like a family rather than a team," Varsity Water Polo Goalie Junior Steven Baroldi, junior, said, "Each of us are strong individually so working together makes us even better, plus, we have faster teams in our league and we know where to move and when to drive shifts and splits."

Still with more competitions and tournaments to come, team players are still trying to strengthen their weaknesses and advance their skills.

"We're a stronger team than we've ever been. We've had lots of players play in clubs or done swim teams throughout their high school career," Senior Matt McPhillips said. "Everyone one of us is looking forward to La Cañada because we've never beaten La Cañada for the past estimated fifteen years, but I'm confident this year."

Keep up with these athletes as they play Thursday on Oct. 15 against their arch rival, La Cañada.

Come out and support them because in the past decade the Rams have never won against the Spartans. However, this year is different, because this time, the Rams are ready to take home the league title.

Sports Schedule

Football

TC vs. La Salle
HOME
TONIGHT @ 7 p.m.

Volleyball

TC vs. South Pasadena
AWAY
October 13

Waterpolo

TC vs. La Cañada
HOME
October 15