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Junior Sophie Gonzalez sings as a form of self-expression. pages 4-5

TEMPLE CITY HIGH SCHOOL

RAMPAGE

Volume 55 Issue 09

FRIDAY, MARCH 05, 2010

tchsrampage.wordpress.com

GAINING HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE



PHOTO/ Elise Luc

Freshman Rebecca Kwon spreads bacteria onto a petri dish. This part of the lab is called the transformation process and took place on Thursday, Feb. 25. Almost all of the students successfully transformed the bacteria.

By Elise Luc  
 Production Editor

Ms. Khin Nu Thein's biology classes conducted a series of microbiology lab experiments last week starting Monday, Feb. 22 using equipment that the Amgen-Bruce Wallace Biotechnology Lab Program provided.

Ms. Thein performed part of this lab last year with her students, but this year's students got the entire lab experience because they were able to work with special equipment. Ms. Thein signed up for the program in the summer, where she learned how to teach this lab and received all the equipment necessary on loan.

Equipment included micropipettes, gel electrophoresis apparatus, specialized UV cameras, and more, amounting to at least \$30,000 worth. The program also gave materials such as competent bacteria, restriction enzymes, and buffer solutions. Students only had tiny drops to work with because the chemicals are really expensive.

The lab spanned a total of four days. The first day, the students performed gel electrophoresis with dye so they could practice using the micropipettes and loading the

solution into the wells. The next three days, they wore lab coats, goggles, and gloves so they could get the full experience even though the materials weren't harmful.

"The lab was a new experience, and it was really interesting," Freshman Shurooq Abu-hajar said. "I learned what it was like to be in a scientist's position."

On Tuesday, they cut the plasmids (DNA) into two pieces using restriction enzymes. On Wednesday, the students used gel electrophoresis—this time using plasmid pieces along with the dye—to test if the plasmids digested. On the last day, they did the transformation process, which means they put the cut plasmid pieces into bacteria. Then, the bacteria was spread onto petri dishes.

After the students finished the lab, Ms. Thein put all the petri dishes into the incubator, and after a couple of days, the bacteria colonies that showed pink were the ones that were successfully transformed.

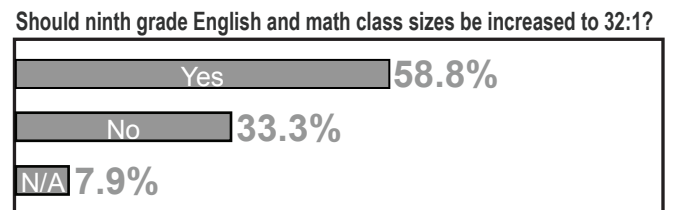
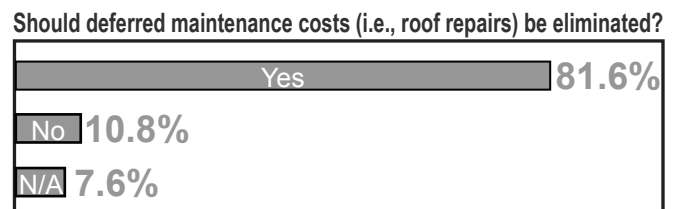
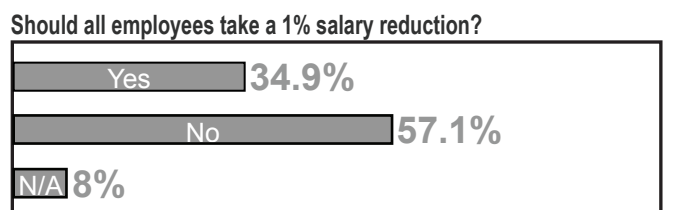
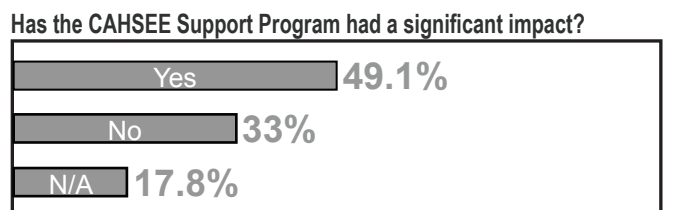
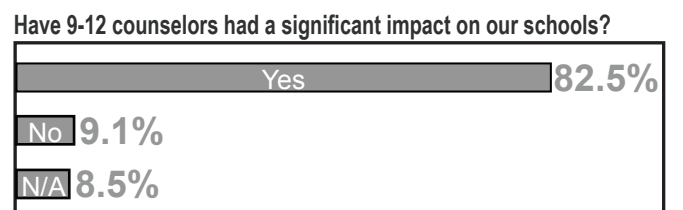
"The students were really excited to see the pink bacteria," Ms. Thein said. "This means the whole week's work was successful."

Although Ms. Thein returned the equipment this week, she plans to sign up every year so she can give her students a fun and more advanced experience.

TC superintendent's office conducts survey

By Alice Wang  
 Co-Business Manager

Using a new method in deciding budget matters for the school year, the superintendent's office surveyed parents, staff, and other members of the community about budget allocations for each department. A total of 401 people, almost half of them parents, answered 45 questions about issues such as maintenance costs, teacher furlough days, and class sizes.



March/April Ram Calendar						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	S
7	8	9	10	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

**March 12-14:** "The Wizard of Oz" Musical  
**March 15:** Staff Development Day, No School  
**March 16:** CAHSEE, English Language, 10<sup>th</sup> grade  
**March 17:** CAHSEE, Math, 10<sup>th</sup> grade  
**March 18:** Fall Registration Assemblies  
**March 23:** Festival Concert  
**March 26:** Adv. Drama Interviews, Sadies Dance

By Elaine Wu  
 Opinion Editor



PHOTO/ Erica Lee

Senior Julia Quach demonstrates how to use a potter's wheel at the Art Show on Feb. 18.

**Art Show**  
 Students from all the art classes showcased their work during the annual Art Show at the Media Center on Thursday, Feb. 18. There were ceramic animals, boxes, and bowls, as

NEWS BRIEFS

well as pencil art, portraits, and oil paintings of landscapes. Art students also demonstrated techniques used in creating ceramics, digital art, and paintings. The Art Show lasted until Tuesday, Feb. 23.

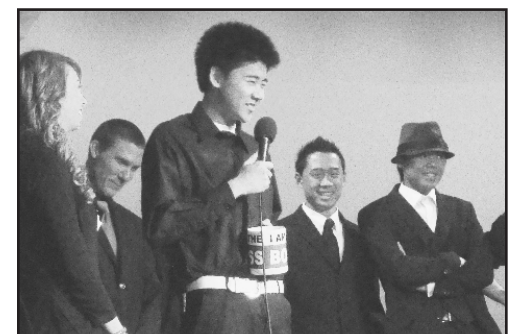
**Musical Road Show**

The Musical Road Show took place on Friday, Feb. 26 and Monday, March 1. Brighter Side Singers and selected students from the cast performed in the preview of the musical "The Wizard of Oz." The performance included "Merry Old Land of Oz," "Jitterbug," and a tap dancing number.

**Mr. Temple City**

Senior Dusty Sanderson won first place with his beatboxing and dance performance at the Mr. Temple City pageant on Tuesday, Feb. 23 in Theater 601. Senior Nicholas Der was first

runner-up and Senior Max Ruckle was second runner-up. English teachers Mr. Ryan Hoague and Ms. Elena Li, Economics teacher Mr. Ryan Lauterbach, and seniors girls from ASB and Pep, judged the 15 contestants, who are all senior boys.



PHOTO/ Michelle Shen

Senior Jack Ng answers a question on stage at the Mr. Temple City Pageant on Feb. 23.

# Mr. TC displays humor

By Charlene Choo  
Entertainment Editor

The curtains of the Mr. TC pageant opened with James Bond music, according to the theme “007,” as each participant danced across the stage with their unique moves and grooves.

The entire night was filled with fun and laughter that at times I even felt like I was watching a comedy instead of a pageant, especially since some of the guys were comfortable with going over the top with their display of fashion. At the end of the program, the judges announced Senior Dusty Sanderson as the winner, Senior Nicholas Der as the first runner-up, and Senior Max Ruckle as the second runner-up.

The program started off with swimwear. That was when I realized sitting in the front could be burdensome. It was funny to see some guys walk around with colorful boxers and tubes around their waist, but I was often subjected to butt cracks (I won't mention whose.) Ladies, if you enjoy water polo games for reasons other than the sport itself, you missed out because Mr. TC was definitely scandalous.

Next was the talent show, which was the highlight of the night. Being Korean, I was thrilled to see Seniors Andy Luu and Timothy Huynh perform to Korean music, but it was not very relatable to others who do not know about K-pop. Ruckle's performance to “Best I Ever Had” was impressive. At first, he pretended like he was doing karate, which was entertaining in its own way, but then he turned the tables with his rapping and singing. I felt like I was at a concert, especially because he engaged with the audience and pumped up the atmosphere.



PHOTO/ Michelle Shen

Eleven seniors participated in the Mr. TC pageant. Prior to the show, they rehearsed for two weeks in order to put together the performance.

My personal favorite was Sanderson's beatboxing, which was impressive and entertaining at the same time. Although I've heard from people that he could beatbox, this was my first time hearing him, and it totally blew me away. There were also other unique talents, such as Senior Jason Tran's how-to-gel-your-hair demonstration, and Senior Allen Chen's interpretative dance to a dialogue from the movie “Up.”

Then, there was more scandal. Der's performance to “Single Ladies” was unforgettable for various reasons—one, for his promiscuous outfit: black boots and tight spandex-y top which revealed a significant amount of cleavage, and two, for his ability to fully execute a body wave. As I said earlier, sitting in the front was a bit burdensome. But whether or not his talent was Rated R, it definitely worked the crowd.

Many of the guys went out of their way to entertain the audience. Ruckle surprised us by wearing Christmas lingerie for his sleepwear. Then Der wore his belated Halloween outfit, which made the audience burst out in

uncomfortable laughter.

The formal wear was a nice break from all of the scandalous outfits. Sanderson had an appealing outfit—a fancy suit, a hat, a red tie and a cane, and he definitely entertained the crowd with his jazzy steps and turns.

At the end of the show, I was once again amused by the question and answer portion. Many of the guys displayed humor, especially Senior Matthew O'Malley, who with his grand, football player build, claimed his biggest fear was not having world peace. Also, Der said that he was five percent woman and 95 percent man, jokingly.

For the most part, the crowd had fun because the participants enjoyed performing on stage and were comfortable enough to show off their personalities.

While the judges were tallying up the scores, contestants did James Bond impersonations, showed off their cat walks and sang to Senior Jeffrey Bassette's impromptu piano playing. And just like what one of the hosts Senior Cassy Yang said at the end, everyone was a winner.

## Dusty Sanderson sweeps away audience at pageant

By C. Choo & C. Keung  
Entertainment Editor & News Editor

Senior Dusty Sanderson is known for his big, friendly grin and amazing baseball abilities on the field. On the night of the pageant, he replaced his baseball cap with a crown and the title of Mr. Temple City. He stepped out of his normal attire as well as his comfort zone, with his chic black suit and hat, a red tie, and a cane. Sanderson also won the hearts of the audience and judges with his beatboxing and dancing skills and left the pageant as the uncontested James Bond of Temple City.

“I wanted to do Mr. TC because I like to perform and it looked fun,” Sanderson said. “The outfit I chose for that night was not something I normally wear but I wanted something extravagant.”



At the pageant's talent show, Sanderson beatboxed “Day and Night,” “Drop It Like It's Hot,” “Yeah,” and other popular songs. After an explosive reaction, he brought more heat to the stage with original dance moves.

Surprisingly, he has never taken beatboxing or dancing lessons. He started beatboxing about a year ago after watching an inspiring YouTube video.

He started rapping shortly after, and has written original raps for class projects in Bible as in Literature and Anatomy classes.

Here is one of his original raps about himself.

I wake up in the morning,  
and I'm feelin' *alright*.  
But then I look outside  
and dang, it's *bright*.  
Just the thought of the  
sun gave me a *fright*.  
Because the sun isn't  
good when you're  
so freaking *white*.

PHOTO/ Erica Lee

# New action games achieve “Mass Effect”

By Raymond Tran  
Staff Writer

Whether you're dedicated to your Xbox 360's advanced online features or captivated by the seemingly endless capabilities of your PlayStation 3, you've probably been playing the same first person shooter for months. If it's that time to make a switch to a different game, here are a variety of games that will satisfy players from all gaming platforms—even you Wii Sports fans.

## Bioshock 2

This game is the sequel to the critically acclaimed first person shooter, Bioshock. In this dismal alternate universe, you play as a mechanical being known as a Big Daddy, and you are engaged in a unique storyline. From dodging plasma-exploding bullets in story mode to fending off rival Big Daddys online, players will find this game different from the average first person shooter. The experiences in Bioshock stray from the typical shoot 'em up games, as they focus more on creating a story with twists and turns rather than spilling action every turn. Bioshock 2's online play is overshadowed by its storyline because it gives players more health and less ammunition. In short, if you love a great story and you're less concerned with online features, this 60 dollar game is a must.

## MAG (Massive Action Game)

This PlayStation 3 exclusive has a feature that no other gaming system has ever come close to reaching—the capacity to support up to 256 players on one online server.



PHOTOS/ Erica Lee

MAG takes gamers to the frontlines of war and sabotage against other factions in this online shooter. Players are divided into eight-man squadrons and work together to beat out other factions in strategic gameplay, utilizing assault weapons and vehicles to their tactical advantage. Whether you're the squad leader or simply a squad member, MAG is the only 256 player online first person shooter out there; it definitely deserves a shot.

## Mass Effect 2

Mass Effect 2 offers players a balance of action and role-playing gameplay. The storyline takes place in the year 2185, two years after the events in Mass Effect. This game has the unique feature of carrying on from a player's previous actions in the past Mass Effect, as the same save file can be used throughout the series. What really sticks out in this game is its realistic graphics. Characters look significantly more realistic and detailed than in the previous installment, and cut scenes during the campaign mode appear cinematic. Another notable feature of the game is

its expanded game mode, which offers a lengthier storyline along more custom weapons and outfits to choose from.

## No More Heroes 2

Finally, a game for the Wii that doesn't have a Nintendo character popping out in every corner. In No More Heroes 2, players take on the persona of Travis Touchdown, a low morale, katana-wielding “antihero” based on Johnny Knoxville. If you're looking for a cartoon version of Grand Theft Auto and a game where you can swing your Wii remote as a laser beam sword, No More Heroes 2 is probably your best bet. A player is engaged in a more active role, because the person has to keep the Wii remote at hand, ready to strike down any opponents and assassins lurking in the shadows. This game is more fun and lighthearted than most action games, as you get to wield a diverse amount of blades. But be warned, this is not a game for the average elementary school Wii gamer. The story features mature content such as substance abuse, and fight scenes at strip clubs.

# Underground newspaper underwhelms readers



By Jessica Meza  
Staff Writer

The first issue of the anonymous publication Opinion Inquirer asks the question, “Can you find the fail?” Oh yes, yes I can; it’s all over your attempt at a newspaper. The newspaper surfaced on campus on Feb. 17, seeking a way to freely express opinions amidst false claims of censorship.

The font Comic Sans MS doesn’t exactly give readers the impression of a formal newspaper. However, the writers desperately try to convince the reader that their anonymous publication is the only way for their serious opinions to be heard.

The Opinion Inquirer is the size of regular printer paper, covered on both sides with rants on irrelevant matters, one unfortunate attempt at a news column, and two

graphics that aren’t funny. The closest they get to stimulating readers is their Thought Provoking Questions/Quotes column, which falls flat because it’s only a quote. The writers should have gotten their act together instead of starting a newspaper if they wanted to get a letter published in *Rampage*.

As a public forum for student expression, *Rampage* respects the First Amendment and we are open to hear students’ opinions. California law allows us to have stronger free expression laws than in other states, so we are in no way censored by the administration or teachers. The only people who see our articles prior to publication are our staff members and adviser.

A writer from the Opinion Inquirer said that the reason why his or her letter to the editor at *Rampage* was not published was because it was censored by the administration. Letters can be blunt, yet thought-provoking. I can safely say that censorship

wasn’t what kept the letter from being published. *Rampage* only received one letter we didn’t publish and it was the editor’s decision; the letter wasn’t up to *Rampage*’s writing standards and was anonymous. If a name was included with the letter, we would have considered publishing it. Our reasoning was that if the writer didn’t provide his or her name, the writer wasn’t serious enough about their letter anyway.

The fact that the publication is anonymous gives the impression that writers can’t own up to their opinions. If they don’t provide their names, it makes it seem as if they don’t want to associate themselves with their own views. The writers might as well just start a blog to rant and see how many people don’t pay attention. The only things that might catch someone’s eye are the grammatical errors and obnoxious font.

First impressions are critical, and with poor writing quality and the words “stuff” and “blah” used repeatedly within the first

paragraph, it makes me cringe to think that some poor English teacher has to grade his or her essays. It doesn’t help that there is profanity spewed across the page. No, it doesn’t look hardcore—it just shows that the writers don’t know how to make their points clear without resorting to vulgar language. Not only that, but I don’t see how anyone can take the Opinion Inquirer seriously when they don’t have fact checks—they mislabeled Babe Ruth as an African American.

To be honest, my mind is teetering back and forth on whether this is a truly serious paper, an attempt at a joke, or a shot at trying to stir up some controversy. As a staff writer, I look forward to any competition the Opinion Inquirer has to offer in the two more years I’ll have in *Rampage*. As soon as they clean up their act by proofreading, fact checking, and using another font, then I can start to consider the Opinion Inquirer as a serious publication.

# Corporations have too much freedom



By Maggie Liu  
Staff Writer

Seven score and seven years after President Abraham Lincoln ended his Gettysburg Address with the words “...and that government: of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth,” five justices of the Supreme Court managed to swoop in and undo our 16<sup>th</sup> president’s words and decades of law that limited corporate political spending.

Ending with a bitter conclusion on Jan. 21 of five votes to four, the majority of the judicial branch made the wrong decision by declaring that corporations are entitled to their right to free speech just like every other American, as stated

“Now that businesses and organizations are allowed to spend as much as they want...an unnecessary flow of money will be polluting our government.”

in the First Amendment. Reality check please—the Bill of Rights was drafted in order to protect the rights of each individual citizen. Last time I looked, businesses weren’t able to eat, drink, or sleep like we can.

However, ignoring that little fact, the majority of the Supreme Court does make a valid argument. I’m all for free speech. It allows me to speak my mind without authority figures breathing down my neck. Yet when it comes down between the right to free speech and an uncorrupt democracy, a line has to be drawn somewhere. Now that businesses and organizations are allowed to spend as much as they want on political advertisements, an unnecessary flow of money will be polluting our gov-

ernment.

Recently, Ticketmaster, the world’s largest ticket seller, and Live Nation, the world’s largest concert promoter, merged to form a new corporation, Live Nation Entertainment. This merge allows LNE to gain control over the entire ticket market because of lack of competition. Customers of Ticketmaster have cried “Monopoly!” over their ridiculously expensive ticket fees, sometimes making buyers pay for two tickets at the price of three. And now that LNE can tap into its treasuries (no doubt amassed by unreasonable fee pricings) and fund potential senators and presidents through political advertising, they can spend millions on the candidate who is willing to overlook LNE’s absurd prices. In the end, this spells out trouble for fans who just want to see their favorite band at a reasonable cost.

Currently President Barack Obama, who called this Supreme Court decision in a statement a “major victory for big oil, Wall Street banks, health insurance companies and other powerful interests that marshal their power every day in Washington to drown out the voices of everyday Americans,” is having his administration work with Congress to address the problem.

In less than three years, most of us will be voting in the 2012 presidential and senate elections for the first time, which will be a major landmark in our lives. If we cannot fix this current problem we now have, instead of the voters choosing who will lead this country, corporate America will make the choice for us.



## Shenanigans

By Michelle Shen  
Editor-in-Chief

As high school students, our parents like to give us lectures about making smart decisions in college. They also find the need to remind us once, twice, maybe ten more times, just to make sure their wisdom is so hardwired into our brains that it makes it nearly impossible to do something incredibly stupid, like making fun of Black History Month and landing ourselves on national TV.

Over the last three weeks, four incidents at UC San Diego have the administration believing that there is escalating racial tension happening on campus. First, a couple of boys from a fraternity decided to host an off-campus party named the “Compton Cookout” that mocked Black History Month by telling students to dress as ghetto stereotypes, with guys wearing baggy clothes and chains, and girls donning gold teeth and cheap clothes. When the party received protests from the school’s Black Student Union, the campus television station, The Koala, called the protesting students ungrateful and used racial slurs to mock them. As if that weren’t enough controversy in itself, last Thursday, school officials also found a noose hanging from a light in the school library, and shortly after that, students found a white pillowcase fashioned to look like the Ku Klux Klan hood that was placed on top of a Dr. Seuss statue outside of a library.

The truth is, I wouldn’t be surprised if these students did what they did to get a couple of cheap laughs. A couple students tried to defend The Koala when the school administration froze funding for the station by saying that the show was known for being humorous, and when officials discovered who hung the noose in the library, the student said that she did it as a joke, and that it wasn’t intended to scare or intimidate anyone. This just goes to show that these incidents don’t necessarily reflect growing racial tension among students; what it does show is a group of immature, insensitive students who have been outplayed by their own pranks and ruined the school’s reputation in the process.

It seems that in the past couple decades, we have grown progressively more apathetic towards commemorating holidays such as Martin Luther King, Jr. Day or Black History Month. For many people, these nationally-noted days have simply become no more than a title with little meaning. Unfortunately, apathy can easily translate into mockery; in fact, the students at UCSD are possibly the perfect example of apathy gone wrong. The students acknowledge the month for what it is, but of course, some smart alecks decide to make a joke of it.

The school administration are taking measures to combat racial intolerance by making greater attempts to recruit minority faculty, create an African American Resource Center, establish a commission to address campus climate, and hold quarterly meetings between the administration and the Black Student Union. While I commend the administration for being so proactive in trying to fix this problem on campus, I would say that what some of these students need is a wake-up call from reality. And that’s just what they got.

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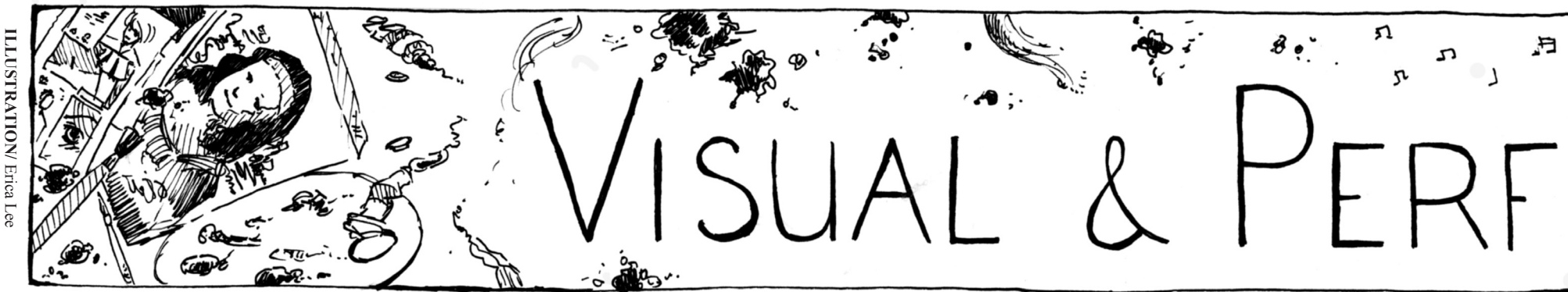
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## Junior Sophie Gonzalez Flutist paves way for soars "Over the Rainbow" a professional career

By Jennifer Su  
Staff Writer

Dressed in a blue and white checkered dress paired with glittery red heels and pigtails, Junior Sophie Gonzalez will play Dorothy Gale on March 12, 13, and 14 at the San Gabriel Civic Auditorium.

As the star of this year's musical, "The Wizard of Oz," Gonzalez is no ordinary girl. Since the seventh grade, Gonzalez has been involved in the drama program with Ms. Michele Zovak-Gaffney. Although many might think that playing a starring role as a female character will be easy for Gonzalez, it is not so.

"Most of the roles I have played are male characters," Gonzalez said. "So playing Dorothy is something completely new to me."

Do not let Gonzalez's small frame deceive you. Her strong and powerful voice, very similar to her musical inspirations, Ella Fitzgerald and Zootie Deschanel, will leave you speechless.

"I have never taken a singing lesson in my life," Gonzalez said. "But my sister plays instruments along with my dad, and my dad is an amazing singer so it is possible that it might be in my genes."



PHOTO/ Jennifer Su

Junior Sophie Gonzalez and Senior Samantha Russell give spectators a preview of the musical.

As Dorothy in the musical, the audition process for Gonzalez was nerve-racking. She prepared by watching the movie continually and listening to "Over the Rainbow" by Judy Garland so that she can best match her style of singing and acting.

"A lot of girls tried out for Dorothy," Gonzalez said. "I was super nervous because all the girls at callbacks for Dorothy were from Brighter Side."

After the musical, Gonzalez does not plan on letting her talents go to waste. As an ambitious and very driven individual, Gonzalez already knows what she wants to pursue in the future.

"I want to major in Musical Theater at UCLA," Gonzalez said. "In the future I would really love to be on Broadway."

Come March, Gonzalez's clear and powerful voice will be heard through her solos, "Over the Rainbow" and "The Jitterbug."

This year, the audience should expect a lot from this production since it is the most expensive musical the school has ever put on. With the tapping of her glittery red heels and chanting of "There's no place like home," Gonzalez's performance will no doubt earn her many standing ovations.

By Angela Li  
Staff Writer

With a pair of thin-framed glasses and a peaceful demeanor, Junior Bernard Lee appears to be somewhat shy and quiet. However, he is a talented flute player with a dream of becoming a professional musician.

Lee's flute career began by accident. At a demonstration of musical instruments when he was in elementary school, Lee became interested in playing music for the very first time. He originally wanted to play the oboe, but he got it confused with the flute.

"I've been playing flute since sixth grade in Longden," Lee said. "I've been taking private lessons, one and a half hours per week for four years."

Lee practices everyday and rarely breaks this habit. He believes that "if you don't practice for a day, you'll know it; if you don't practice for two days, the critics will know it; and if you don't practice for three days, the listener will notice."

For Lee, the hardest part about playing flute is breathing because he does not have a great lung capacity.

Even though Lee is not taking band as a class this semester, he is still involved in other musical groups outside of school. He is currently the principal flutist at the Claremont Young Musicians Orchestra, and was a part of the Pasadena Young Musicians Orchestra. Lee balances his orchestra practices in and outside of school because their rehearsal times do not overlap.

"I would say that I have a slim chance at best, but [playing the flute] is something that I just have to thrive for so that I do not regret it when I'm 40 and work in a cubicle," Lee said. "Music is one of the things that gives me great joy, but it is the only one that I could possibly earn a living on."

Lee plans to attend a conservatory after graduating from high school, finishing with a master degree, and finally earning a spot at a well-known orchestra with a seven-digit salary. With much effort, Lee is getting closer to his dream everyday.



PHOTO/ Angela Li

Junior Bernard Lee shows his passion for playing the flute despite not being in band this semester.

## Digital artist Liang has epic aspirations

By Jason Wu  
Staff Writer

Many artists dream about selling their artwork, but for Freshman Karen Liang, this dream is a reality.

Although most of Liang's art illustrates her customer's online avatars or Korean pop celebrities, when she's not drawing and painting for money, she draws influence from what she finds on Google and Deviant Art, a popular artist social networking website. Her art style comes from anime and manga, most notably Full Moon Sagashite.



COURTESY/ Karen Liang

"My biggest goal right now is to get even more popular and to draw even more epic art," Liang said. "I'm trying to copy the style of other artists to understand how they work."

Liang started drawing at a young age, so her parents decided to send her to the art school, Mission: Renaissance, when she was six years old. There, she learned how to paint and draw still life. Her specialty is CG, computer-generated art, which she has done

since the seventh grade.

"I started doing CG art once I watched anime on the computer and decided I wanted to do that, too," Liang said. "I started to color lineart because I was really bored one day."

Using the art programs Paint Tool SAI and Adobe Photoshop, along with a graphics tablet, a pen that functions just like a mouse, she can create art just like how she would in real life.

"Digital art is better because you can do so many things that you can't do with traditional art," Liang said. "You can make really cool effects like making your art really shiny or if you mess up, you can always press 'ctrl' and 'z.'"

Liang's art is characterized by a surreal background splashed with vibrant colors, usually with a young girl as the focus. Recurring themes include mysticism and celestial figures, such as stars, clouds, and the moon.

Most of Liang's customers come from anime-based social networking



websites such as Tinier Me and Gaia Online. Her initial rise to recognition came when she opened up a YouTube account displaying sped-up videos of her drawing process. Since then she receives three to five orders per week, only one of which she actually completes on a weekly basis.

Liang sells her art on her personal website and her Deviant Art page via PayPal. She prices sketches at three dollars, lineart for four dollars, and colored art for five dollars. She does commissions, where she gets paid to draw art that other people request, in order to pay for art supplies, such as copic markers, colored pencils, and grade pencils.

"I listen to a lot of different music for inspiration," Liang said. "You can find ideas in anything if you just look around."

To see more of Liang's art, visit her personal website, [karenmex3.co.nr](http://karenmex3.co.nr), or her Deviant Art at [wiishonastarr.deviantart.com](http://wiishonastarr.deviantart.com).

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## Getting into the One2Swing of things

By Julia Chen  
Staff Writer

The One2Swing Jitterbugs, aka One2Swing's The California Rolls—no, those aren't the names of exotic insects or the latest sushi craze—is a Los Angeles-based swing dance team whose mission is to spread the spirit of swing by entertaining the community, inspiring others, and having a ball while they're at it.

The One2Swing Jitterbugs was officially formed in 2008 to participate in Kollaboration, an organization and movement that strives to showcase and empower entertainers of Asian and Pacific Islander heritage and to positively influence their respective communities. Kollaboration had mainly focused on rappers, musicians, and hip hop dancers before One2Swing introduced to the stage a new genre of entertainment—social and partner dancing.

One2Swing's routines revolve largely around Lindy Hop, arguably the granddaddy of the swing dance family. The dance evolved in the 1920s and '30s in New York City and incorporates elements of its lively predecessor, the Charleston, and smoother stylings.

The One2Swing Jitterbugs take the material they're given, whether the music is traditional big band or alternative jazz, mixes in some intricate footwork, flashes of showstopping flips, dips, and tricks, and executes it all superbly in performances that are both fun to watch and

capture the essence of a dance that was not so long ago at risk of being lost to history.

International dance champions and instructors Ben and Sheri Yau, who direct the team, did not intend to continue with the group after its Kollaboration performance. The group, however, had very different plans in mind. With deliberation, a fair share of coin tossing, and an overhaul of



COURTESY/ Kollaboration

The One2Swing Jitterbugs, in nautical outfits and tropical skirts, strike a dynamic pose in their Kollaboration routine.

the status quo, the One2Swing Jitterbugs decided to stick around.

"We didn't go into this with any sort of five-year plan," Ben Yau said. "But now, after two years, this team has become a fun and fulfilling part of our lives so I am sure we will continue it in some way, shape, or form."

The team took their winning Kollaboration routine to the National Jitterbug Championships, where they won first place with no shortage of pizzazz. They travel extensively and have since placed in competitions nationwide, including the American Lindy Hop Championships and the U.S. Open Swing Dance Championships.

The team began as all-Asian for Kollaboration, but has grown in the past years to encompass dancers with a variety of ethnic backgrounds, including Nicaraguan and French.

Though their stage presence and sharpness as a team suggests that the group spends every waking hour on the dance floor, all of the members are committed to full-time careers or academic studies and swing dance as a pastime. Granted, it's a hobby that they invest their hearts, wallets, and many hours into.

In their manner of rhythm, music, and motion, the One2Swing Jitterbugs have contributed to revitalizing a dance scene that we've come to associate with grainy history documentaries and bobbed and jeweled flappers.

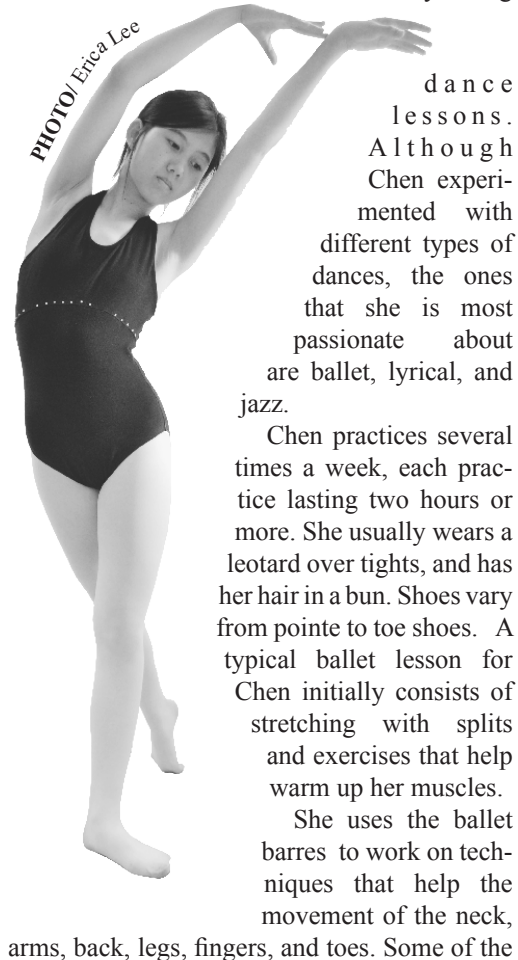
## Performer pirouettes with passion

By Ashlee Nguyen  
Staff Writer

Though she wows many audiences, Sophomore Irene Chen knew from the beginning that she dances to entertain herself.

"My mom said as a little girl, before every ballet lesson I was filled with energy, always jumping around," Chen said. "So she thought right away that I would be a good dancer."

Chen's dance career began 10 years ago when her mom sent her to Li's Dance after learning that Chen's cousin also took dance lessons there. After a couple of years, she transitioned to Du's Art Co. Inc. where she is still currently taking



PHOTO/ Erica Lee

warmups include pliés, tendues, jetés, ront de jambes, and fondues to help the dancers warm up.

"I've learned skills that practice makes perfect," Chen said. "I know it's a cliché but you really have to work to make something happen, you can't conjure things up but actually work your absolute hardest until you finally get it."

Behind those soft leaps, elegant gestures, and exhilarating costumes, ballet is an intense form of art. To Chen it isn't just about looking graceful and leaping in the air doing pirouettes.

"I don't see dancing as a part of my schedule, I see it as part of my life," Chen said. "It's something I constantly want to do and I might have to sacrifice attending other events, but in the end, it's worth it."

Chen started when she was barely six years old and at the time, she fell in love with how she could express her feelings and be able to display the energy inside of her. She tried all forms of dancing, even the ones she found funny and strange. As she began to mature, she realized she can do all that and consistently practice really hard to keep up with the competition.

"You improve substantially as each year goes by," Chen said. "I don't think I can critique myself in means of my progress, but I can say that I'm better now than I was back then. Plus, it didn't stop me from remembering that there are always things to improve on for the future."

Each day, whether it be warming up in front of the dance studio's colossal mirror or stepping into the spotlight on stage in front of the audience, Chen is still thankful that dance has given her the opportunity to convey her feelings. Her great memories aren't the only things that have spurred from ballet class but also the opportunity of meeting new people.

"I've made and known some of my best friends by dancing," Chen said. "Plus, dancing allowed me to get into Choreo which is a joy to be a part of. Put simply, I love everything about dance."

## Samuel Thorne strives for success on the stage

By Humphrey Lin  
Staff Writer

To some students, the performing arts are a passion, but for Senior Samuel Thorne, it's a way of life.

It is not hard to spot Thorne's presence in many of the school's performing arts programs. He is a three-year member of Brighter Side Singers and ComedySportz, and a two-year member of Advanced Drama. He has also played major roles in our school musicals since his sophomore year.

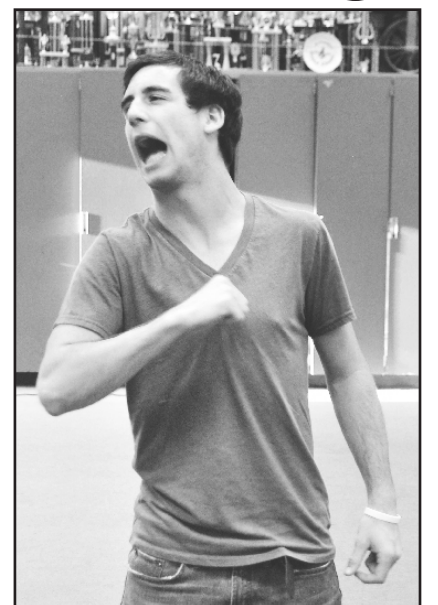
Unlike most actors, Thorne was not exposed to theater from an early age. No one in his family are performers, and having been an athlete for most of his childhood, he did not express particular interest in performing.

"I was actually suckered into joining choir in the sixth grade," Thorne said. "At first, I was a little unsure, but I fell in love with it at once."

Ever since then, Thorne has devoted his time into this newfound passion. He landed the lead role in an Oak drama production when he was in eighth grade despite having no prior experience, and he brought his talent along with him to high school. He did not receive any formal training, but raw talent proved to be enough to help him shine through.

"I learn a lot from going to shows and watching choir competitions," Thorne said. "It really teaches you to appreciate what you do, and that's the most important part of anything."

Although Thorne is graduating this year, it does not mean his performing days are over. So far, his performances



PHOTO/ Maggie Liu

Senior Samuel Thorne rehearses his part as the Lion in "The Wizard of Oz."

have been limited to school productions, but after he graduates, he aspires to study performing arts at New York University, and perform on Broadway as a full-time actor.

However, Thorne acknowledges that being a performer is not easy.

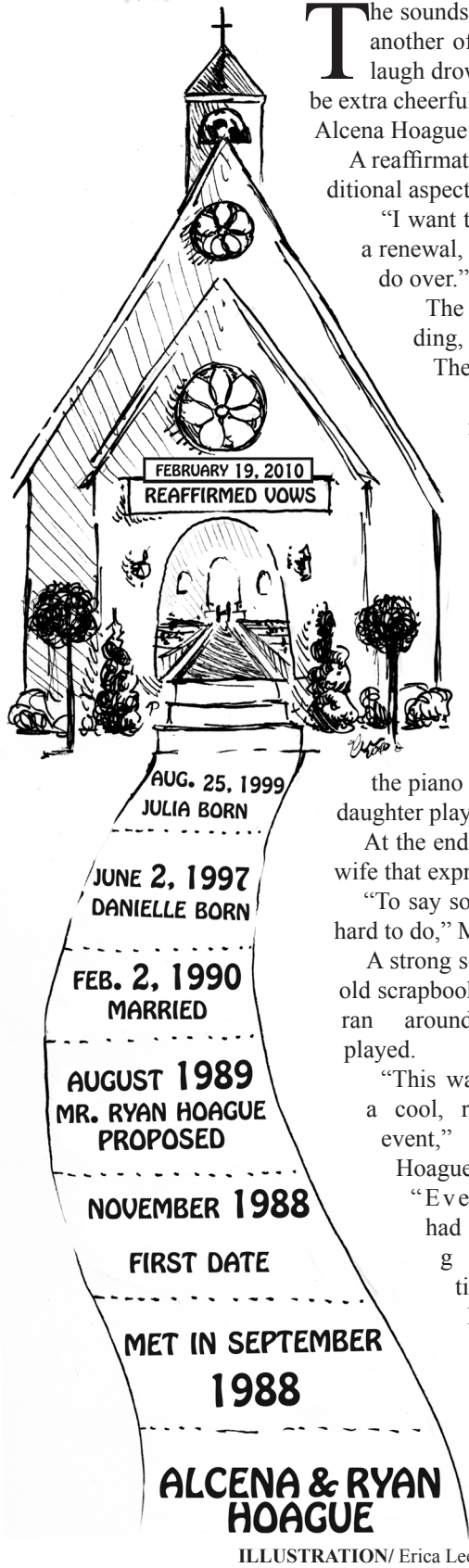
"I'm the only one in my family to ever do this," Thorne said. "But I believe hard work and experience will eventually bring success."

Thorne lives by his motto: Things that you do, do with all your might, for things done by halves are never done right.

"Music is my passion, performing is my passion," Thorne said. "This is what I want to do in life and I have no regrets."

# Answer to the question: "I do" Freshman training to be man in blue

By Aaron Chua  
Staff Writer



ILLUSTRATION/ Erica Lee

The sounds of his laughter echo off of the classroom's walls as Mr. Ryan Hoague tells another of his many corny jokes to his English classes, the volume of his cackling laugh drowning out any response from his students. Mr. Hoague has a good reason to be extra cheerful because, this year, he celebrated his 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with his wife Alcena Hoague and reaffirmed his wedding vows to her on Feb. 19.

A reaffirmation is a ceremony similar to a regular wedding, but without many of its traditional aspects. There is no best man, bridesmaids, ring bearers, or an exchange of rings.

"I want to make something clear here," Mr. Hoague said. "It is a reaffirmation, not a renewal, because a renewal makes it sound like our vows went bad and we needed a do over."

The couple wanted a Christian reaffirmation because at the time of their wedding, they were not especially religious and did not have a Christian wedding. They also wanted the whole affair to be more casual and relaxed.

The end result was a low key, friends and family event hosted in a chapel in their church with a cool, homey, and light atmosphere. A minister stood at the altar with Mr. Hoague and his wife, Alcena, as they said the same vows they said to each other during their first wedding.

"My wife did most of the work," Mr. Hoague said. "She handmade the invitations and for the reception we had homemade cupcakes, in place of a wedding cake, and soup; nothing was catered."

Physics teacher, Mr. Kevin Slattery, attended their reaffirmation especially liked the setting.

"The ceremony was very light and happy," Mr. Slattery said. "The minister was cracking jokes, Ryan and Alcena wore tie-dyed shirts and jeans to the ceremony, and children were running around all over the place."

Ms. Christy Lee, the former Yearbook advisor, also attended and played the piano and sang as Mr. Hoague and his wife walked down the aisle. Mr. Hoague's daughter played the guitar, giving the reception a very personalized feel.

At the end of the ceremony, Mr. Hoague read a self composed poem he wrote for his wife that expressed his love for her and touched many hearts.

"To say something so personal in front of a hundred people I'm guessing was really hard to do," Mr. Slattery said. "It was very special and very personable."

A strong sense of warmth hung in the air after the reception as guests peered through old scrapbooks and wedding photos and the adults socialized and chatted while the kids ran around and played.

"This was such a cool, relaxed, event," Mr. Hoague said.

"Everyone had a very good time. I know I did."



COURTESY/ Mr. Ryan Hoague

Mr. Ryan Hoague and his wife, Alcena, celebrate their twentieth wedding anniversary by reaffirming their vows.

By Serena Smalley  
Feature Editor

At first, Freshman Dylan Warner may not seem that intimidating with his warm smile and casual demeanor but behind those brown eyes is someone who is being trained to be a strong man in blue with a gun at his waist.

Becoming a police officer is something that Warner has wanted to do since he was in the seventh grade and is now a dream that he is actively chasing.

"My sister's boyfriend inspired me," Warner said. "He was in the Explorer Program when he was younger too."

Warner participates in the Explorer Program, which teaches adolescents the fundamentals of being a police officer. Becoming a police officer is something that Warner has wanted to do since he was in the seventh grade. He has been involved with the program for three months and plans to be in it until he is 21, since the program is offered to those that are between ages 14 and 21.

"We do competitions, they train us in marching, and we study radio codes, along with other things," Warner said. "The competitions are usually held at Oxnard College."

The competitions that the program offers the young, aspiring students greatly help in their journey in becoming an officer since they practice things that they will actually use in the future.

"After the Explorer Program I plan on going on to be a police cadet and then going to the police academy," Warner said. "The police academy lasts from somewhere between six to eight months."

Warner plans on becoming a police cadet in the near future as he continues to pursue his dream and then eventually he will become a certified police officer.

"What I specifically want to do is be apart of the canine unit," Warner said. "This is the unit that has the trained dogs in the car with you. I think that it sounds cool."

Warner has been fortunate enough to accompany a police officer for a ride along. It was a good experience because he got to see how a police officer really works on a day to day basis and he gave Warner pointers and advice.

After completing the police academy in the future, Warner will have to take a test to become a certified police officer. You are allowed to fail the test one time and are allowed to retake it, but if you fail again the second time than you have to start all over.

"[As a police officer] you're putting yourself out there," Warner said. "It's an admirable job."

## Aspiring Eagle Scout cultivates community project

By Christine Keung  
News Editor

Most people associate Boys Scouts with camping, tying knots, and helping old ladies cross the street. They are known for wearing a signature beige uniform with a sash displaying color merit badges that reflect their accomplishments. Eventually, every scout's goal is to evolve, or should I say hatch, into an Eagle Scout.

In order to become an Eagle Scout, Boy Scouts must lead a community service project. These projects usually take several months to plan and execute, and they involve the effort of the entire troop. The purpose of these tasks is to teach scouts responsibility, teamwork, and character. Eagle Scout projects vary from beautifying cemeteries to fixing playground equipment.

Junior Jonathan Ting decided to work with AP Environmental Science teacher Mr. Scott Randles on his Eagle Scout project. He plans to renovate the garden between the 400 building and Temple City Boulevard. Ting's plans include cleaning it up constructing compost piles, and planting more native plants. Ting wants the garden to be accessible to students and teachers who can use it for lab experiments. He first stumbled upon the idea during a class discussion.

"Mr. Randles was talking about how he wants to grow potatoes in the garden and I jokingly said, 'I'm a Boy Scout, I can do it for you,'" Ting said. "After that, the idea

that the garden can be an Eagle Scout project entered our minds."

Ting has performed community service on other Eagle Scout projects in the past. However, this time, he will be serving as the leader. His responsibilities now include buying all the necessary equipment, gathering a group of volunteers, and planning work days.

"Instead of just listening to what other people want me to do, I'm the one telling other people what to do," Ting said. "I would have to buy food and water for volunteers and possibly fundraise."

Ting had his first work day on Saturday, Feb. 13. Students, Environmental Club members, and scouts from his troops worked for four hours and finished weeding out a third of the garden. The work day set on Feb. 27 was cancelled due to the rain. His initial goal was to finish the garden by March 23, but he realizes that it still has a long way to go especially with his lack of gardening experience. However, Ting's Boy Scout training has taught him patience, which will serve him well on his Eagle Scout project.

"I think he's done really well," Mr. Randles said. "As far as the gardening goes, hopefully the garden reaches its original intent which is to educate."

Finishing the garden, however, is not the end of the journey for Ting. In order to reach the Eagle rank, scouts must have 21 required merit badges, put together a book in

which they must enclose proof of accomplishments, and meet with the Eagle Board. During the interview, he will have to talk about his scout experiences and what he has gained from them.

"Boy Scouts has taught me outdoor skills as well as integrity and independence," Ting said. "I'm more outgoing than I would've been without Boy Scouts."

Only about two percent of Boy Scouts achieve the Eagle rank and Ting wants to prove that he can be a part of that two percent. However, he admits that Boys Scouts is not all about becoming an Eagle Scout. It is about developing character and being well-rounded in all aspects of life.

"My view on it is it's not about so much getting the Eagle Scout award," Ting said. "It's about the journey."



ILLUSTRATION/ Veronica Lin

# Rams soccer makes school history

By Humphrey Lin  
Staff Writer

With a 4-4-0 finish, the Boys Soccer team finished their season strong, landing comfortably in second place after winning a coin toss against South Pasadena. This qualified the team to go on and compete in C.I.F., a feat that has not been accomplished by Temple City since 1989. However, the Boys Soccer team has managed to do this for the second year in a row.

"We played a great season," Sophomore Benjamin Sanderson said. "It was a pretty even league and we managed to rise above."

Last year, the team also managed to advance into C.I.F., but their dreams were cut short when they lost their first round in the competition. This year, after playing out a solid season, the team entered their first C.I.F. match against St. Genevieve with more confidence than before.

"We pretty much knew we were going to win," Senior Andrew Tinsley said. "We were very confident going into the match."

The team was right to be confident because they secured an easy victory against their opponent by a comfortable margin of 4-1. With their newfound rhythm, the boys entered the second round against Animo Leadership with the same attitude.

"We had heard some mixed things about this next school, so we were unsure what to expect," Tinsley said. "But our last victory gave us a lot of confidence."

This time, however, the boys did not see the results they had expected. With the



PHOTO/ Humphrey Lin

Senior David Spratt dodges the pursuit of three St. Genevieve players. The Rams controlled the field throughout the game and claimed a decisive victory with a final score of 4-1. This was the school's first C.I.F. victory in many years and marks a new beginning for the team.

head players absent for the first 15 minutes, the opposing team managed to score three straight goals on the Rams. In the end, despite letting in no goals for the remainder of the game and scoring one themselves, the Rams lost 3-1.

Despite this defeat, the team has reasons to be optimistic. They outdid their previous record yet another time, and because only three seniors are leaving next year, the Rams have high hopes for the upcoming year.

"I wasn't at all disappointed in our accomplishments this year," Tinsley said. "Our team is growing, and we will keep on going further and further."

The team's last couple of successes during these last years is due to the more relaxed mentality.

"If we lose, then we lost," Sanderson said. "We weren't really concerned with the outcome; we just played our own game."

By making it into the second round of C.I.F., the Boys Soccer team has written a new page in the history of Temple City Soccer. However, there is still greater room for improvement.

"I definitely look forward to playing next year," Sanderson said. "I know that we will continue to improve."

With the pattern of improvement right now, we can expect great things out of the Rams next year.

## Star prospects: Yeh and Deuby *Queen Yuna: Korea's hope and shining star*

By Veronica Lin  
Exchange Editor

### Lestter Yeh

Practice doesn't always make perfect, but it sure brings people closer to their goals. Although Sophomore Lestter Yeh is still far from perfect, long hours of playing tennis ever since he was eight years old has given him considerable skill.

Currently ranked 13<sup>th</sup> place in the 16 years and under category in California, Yeh practices for an average of three hours each day, stretching, running and playing. On Wednesdays and Fridays, he trains in Claremont with his private coach who teaches him new techniques as well as stamina training.

This is the first year that Yeh will play in the Temple City team after transferring back from San Marino High School. There, he was their second best player, so it will be interesting to see the effect his addition will have on this year's turnout. Temple City has not beaten San Marino in the past three decades, and with Yeh leading the singles players, anything is possible.

Yeh hopes to earn a scholarship to college based on his skills in tennis and move on to the top 15 in the nation for his age category. His immediate goals are just to improve and continue trying his best and contribute all that he can to help the team make history this year.



PHOTO/ Erica Lee

Sophomore Lestter Yeh, who recently transferred, is ranked 13th in the 16 and under category in California.



PHOTO/ Erica Lee

Senior Natalie Deuby is the school record holder for the 400-meter race with a time of 59 seconds.

### Natalie Deuby

With a flowing ponytail, a clear laugh and a light build, at first glance Senior Natalie Deuby seems like any other normal high school girl, albeit a little more fit. Few people would guess that she is the first girl in over twenty years to break the school's 400 meter record with a lightning time of 59 seconds.

Deuby runs the 400, 200 and 100-meter distances in Track, but she specializes in the 400. Her personal record in the event is 58.3 seconds, and her goal for the upcoming and last season of Track is to break the Rio Hondo League Record of 58.4 seconds.

To do so, she would have to run a quicker time on the day of League Finals. With the immense pressure of being a captain as well as the school record holder, Deuby finds different ways to cope with the stress and perform her best.

Before races, Deuby likes to eat jellybeans because they help give her more spring. She also drinks lemon-flavored Gatorade to keep herself hydrated. The song "See You Again" by Miley Cyrus pumps her up and prepares her for races. On the racetrack, her family's presence provides a huge motivational boost that pushes her to win.

She placed seventh last year in C.I.F. Finals that was held at Mt. San Antonio College, and hopes to surpass that this year.

By Richard Kim  
Sports Editor

Kim Yuna took figure skating to a whole new level after her brilliant and record-breaking performance last Thursday during the Winter Olympics held in Vancouver.

What Kim earned for her country was much more than the gold medal that hung around her neck; she raised hopes of a new peace with North Korea, boosted sales forecasts for her sponsor companies Hyundai Motor Co. and Samsung Electronics Co., and made the city of PyeongChang a front runner to host the 2018 winter games.

Prior to the games, Kim had suffered a left ankle injury due to exhaustive training, and due to the swolleness was unable to fit into her skates. Luckily, a few days before the short program, her swollen ankle was able to squeeze into the skates, and Kim dug in deep to give South Korea its first medal, and a gold at that, in figure skating.

But Kim did more than just win. She broke her own world record in the short program with her James Bond routine, and made another record during the free skate. Dubbed Queen Yuna by the Korean masses, Kim skated a perfect program. She nailed her triple axel and executed her triple lutz-triple toe loop combination perfectly to give her a 20-point lead over her rival, Mao Asada of Japan.

With her jaw dropping performance in Vancouver, I couldn't help but to ask my mom if I was related to Kim Yuna somehow. Sadly I'm not, but watching her win the gold was enough.

### Sports Update

<p><b>Track</b> Paramount Invitational March 6 @ 6:45 a.m. @ Paramount</p>	<p><b>Boys Volleyball</b> TC vs. Flintridge Prep March 9 @ 3:15 p.m. @ Flintridge Prep</p>
<p><b>Boys Tennis</b> TC vs. Glendale March 8 @ 3:15 p.m. @ Home</p>	<p><b>Baseball</b> TC vs. Arcadia Today @ 3:15 p.m. @ Home</p>