

English teacher Mr. Smith goes to London

By Caroline Sun
Staff Writer

A warm smile lights up English teacher Mr. Dale Smith's face as he talks about his unforgettable 14 day trip to London, England. For Mr. Smith, it was a dream come true since not everyone is likely to have the opportunity to visit Shakespeare's grave or gaze in wonder at the castles of this charming city.

He went with his wife, Rebecca, daughter, Page, and son, Alec. Although there were many moments on this trip such as visiting Shakespeare's grave in Stratford, Poet's Corner in Westminster Abbey, and seeing an original folio collection of Shakespeare's plays at the British Library, these are only just a few. There

were also many small places like pubs, museums and the countryside that caught the Smith family's attention.

"There were so many highlights on the trip. The whole thing was amazing," Mr. Smith said. "Everyday we were there, we saw something new that just blew me away."

England has been a magical place for Mr. Smith since he was a child. When he read books or watched movies like "Mary Poppins" or "Oliver," he would imagine what London really looked and felt like. Witnessing the reality of it all was one of the main reasons for traveling to England. Mr. Smith noticed the historic buildings of London despite the fact that new buildings were built next to some of them. The history behind the walls amazed Mr. Smith especially after learning his favorite childhood British authors lived there.

"By being there, in the actual places where they lived and worked and died, I really gained new insight into why their works have such complexity and compassion, and why they wrote about what they wrote about, and how the location itself added depth to their knowledge and wisdom," Mr. Smith said. "So in turn, they were able to create such great works."

Mr. Smith also visited the Globe Theatre and saw a performance of "Macbeth" there.

"Seeing one of Shakespeare's plays performed at the Globe Theatre was the ultimate," Mr. Smith said. "It was like going back in time for a few hours to one of the most exciting times in history."

Mr. Smith was also interested in the thick thatched roof of the theatre, and he saw things that he did not expect to witness. The musicians and the actors interacted with the audience, which made it more interesting. Overall, it was an incredible experience for the Smith family.

"I stood at the front for the second act [because] I wanted to experience it up close," Mr. Smith said. "I saw it from different angles and views [and] the whole thing was authentic and rustic."

When Mr. Smith and his family walked through Kensington Palace, they found a shady area under the trees, a secret haven for the four of them. This became their bonding place where they just relaxed in the shade and grew closer. After all the great sights and breathtaking views of London, family bonding was valuable to them all.

"Just being together and enjoying each other's company...even with all the fantastic sights we saw and all the great things we did," Mr. Smith said. "I think those moments under the trees were my favorite."

This was also a learning experience for Mr. Smith. He found out a lot more information about Shakespeare and Dickens, as well as the British people. The British know so much about Shakespeare's life, what he looked like, as well as exactly where he lived. In addition, they also had a sample of one of his original pieces of writing which they believe is 99% valid. As a teacher, Mr. Smith also discovered that most of the information he knew and was taught about London is accurate.

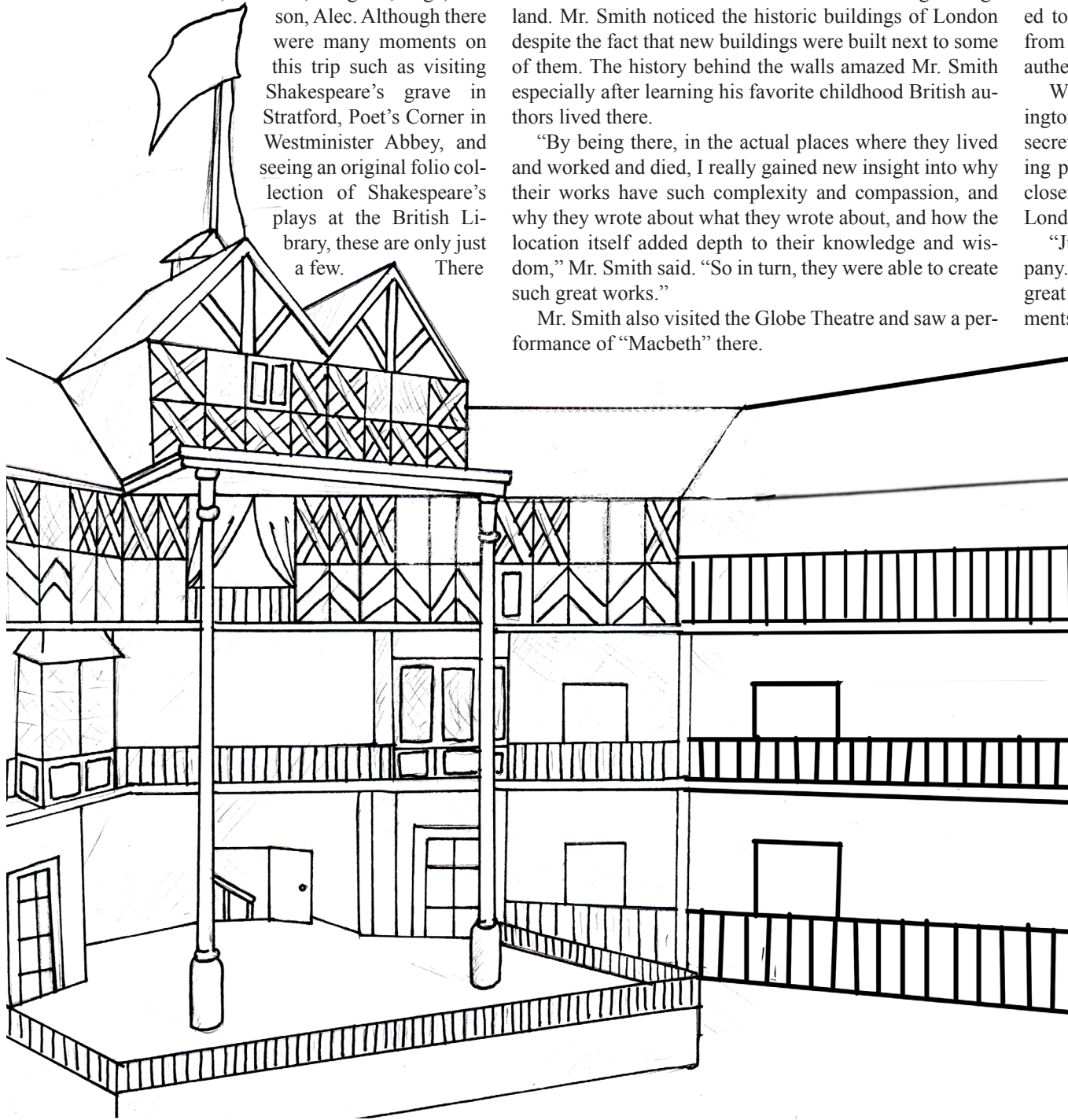
"Instead of saying what I heard about Shakespeare," Mr. Smith said. "I can say this is what I've seen."

He gained more knowledge about Shakespeare overall.

"I'm excited to add what I learned about him to my teaching this year when we get to Shakespeare," Mr. Smith said. "It's great to have new knowledge to share."

Not only did Mr. Smith learn about the famous authors, he also noticed the culture of the London people. He realized that people are more comfortable around each other and are a lot friendlier. On top of that, England is a book friendly country where there are always posters promoting new releases.

"It's so hard to choose a favorite place there," Mr. Smith said. "But if I had to choose a single place to visit on a single day, I would go back to Westminster Abbey [since] it's beautiful."



Senior Li travels to Taiwan for AID Program

By Chloe Lin
Staff Writer

This summer, Senior Shellen Li packed her bags for a month long trip to the other side of the Pacific, prepared to tough it out for two weeks in a Taiwanese village.

Li was part of an elite program, "Assisting Individuals with Disadvantages," that sends English-speaking students to teach underprivileged Taiwanese children in rural towns and villages. Their trip lasted from July 4 to July 31.

Li first heard of the program two years ago when her cousin participated in the program and recommended it to her. Li, a self-professed lover of Taiwanese dramas and traveling, was interested by the aspect of teaching kids and traveling to Taiwan for the first time. To top it off, the month long program, not including airfare to Taiwan, was completely free. Li and 1,500 others filled out applications, wrote personal statements, and filled out recommendation forms in hopes of being chosen for the program.

"There were 300 of us who got accepted [into the program]," Li said. "It was so competitive that it came down to a 3.9

GPA."

The dormitory where they stayed in the mountainous town of Rueigan was small and lacked luxuries like hot water. The town itself was full of weathered buildings, clustered closely together to make use of any available space.

Li and the five other members of her group were stationed at the Rueigan elementary school. They lived in the teacher's dormitory across the road from the school, all sharing one small bedroom. During the process of living and teaching together, Li and her group mates bonded.

"I think a lot of them got to know more about me than my friends here," Li said. "Because we lived and ate together and everything."

The walls of the school were covered with colorful murals. Li and a partner taught a class of 17 incoming third and fourth graders. They taught the children English songs, including "I Believe I Can Fly" and "Ain't No Mountain." In addition, they danced and played "American" games such as duck, duck, goose.

"It was hard teaching them because their English level was so low and my Chinese wasn't that great," Li said. "They'd tease

us and use Taiwanese."

It was easy for Li to grow fond of the children, whom she found curious and naive. One young girl even asked whether or not she was really an American since she thought American had gold hair. When Li was not teaching the inquisitive children, her and her coworkers tried not to have a strict teacher-student relationship.

Outside the classroom, they became more like brothers and sisters. Students would come to the dorm room before and after school to blow bubbles and play around instead of spending time on electronics.

"For them it was more like, 'Oh, come play with us! Let's play basketball,'" Li said. "Or one of their hobbies was to find the biggest cockroaches and put them in boxes."

At the end of the two weeks, it was time to say a tearful goodbye to the students and embark on a final, week long tour of Taiwan with the other students in the AID program. The students toured Taiwan, visiting zoos, night markets, and shopping for Taiwanese food.

Reflecting upon her travel, Li feels that she learned not to take things such as hot

water for granted.

"Being able to live in a remote village in Taiwan really brought that sense of people living in a poorer community that we see on TV to reality, and made us appreciate more of what we have," Li said. "For the students that we taught, it was a chance for them to learn English from a native speaker and in a fun way."

Li has also been planning a reunion with her group mates, with whom she grew close to over the trip.

"It was a really good experience, definitely a really good experience," Li said. "I felt like it was just like a dream."



Living in Rueigan for two weeks made Li (center) appreciate life in the U.S. more.

Rampage seniors say goodbye



Guide to being awesome

I am awesome.

Don't get me wrong, it is far from an immediate conclusion, but one 17 years and counting in the making and I don't plan on stopping my awesome any time soon. Like I said, I'm amazing, dazzling, effervescent – take your pick.

How exactly did I harness these stunning powers? We're not talking about the Fountain of Youth here. The secret is – and you better be clutching your pearls because this last bit is a shocker – high school.

If there's anything I want to say as these final weeks wind down, it's that I sincerely hope everything above was taken with a grain of salt. Just go with the program. Laugh a bit, why don't you? I understand that I should be waxing lyrical about something inspirational, beautiful, and profound, but I'm not that kind of person. I'm not going to sit here and tell you to cherish these four years because they'll be gone before you know it; to not take your friends and family for granted because you most likely won't be seeing them regularly in college; to learn the taste of failure, as I have, and understand that it is not the end of the world, but another step in life's journey; to be awesome, whatever that means to you.

I will be attending Boston University in the fall. BU, say it a few times and it takes on a far greater meaning. Be you. It's a mantra that I've tried to live by for the better part of my life, but I owe it to these past few years for making me the person I am at this very moment.

I entered this school as just another number in a faceless mass of freshmen. But like some phantom sculptor, my high school years kneaded and plucked at my Play-Doh-y persona and made something out of it.

I've made friendships here that will last for a lifetime. I continued being a best friend to my best friend – nine years together! – and though we'll be on opposite coasts come the fall, there's nothing a webcam and obnoxious phone calls can't solve. I discovered a new-found appreciation for Winter Olympic sports that goes far and beyond obsession. I learned the meaning of loss and pain. I learned the meaning of love from the ones who care. I had Haagen Daz ice cream in all flavors imaginable. I met people who touched my life and my simplest hope is that I've returned the favor in some way, great or small. I cried buckets and laughed up a storm. I danced the night away.

You're not reading this for my life story. You just want to know how to be awesome, right? There are no frills, no tricks, no secrets. I realize this will all sound cheesy enough to cover nachos in, but I don't care. The end of

senior year sets sentimentality into overdrive – I just have a lot of feelings, okay? Just be true to yourself and in doing so, be the best person that you can be. I'm not advocating that you think of life as being filled with rainbows or that everyone should start setting up animal sanctuaries in their yards, as wonderful as that would be. Keep an open heart and an open mind. Spread compassion and truth, not the poison of spite and ignorance.

But really, all you need to be awesome is fabulous hair and a pet ferret.

- **Julia Chen**

An adieu to senioritis

Though we've eradicated some of mankind's worst enemies, such as smallpox, bubonic plague, and bell-bottom jeans, there is one adversary that we have not yet bested. Every year, this silent pestilence cuts huge swathes through the country's young adult population, leaving few untouched.

I find it surprising that no one has bothered to alert the public to dangers of this disease, the aptly-named senioritis. It's a strange illness, one that we still don't know a lot about. For no apparent reason, this seasonal disease usually strikes during the months of May and June, or for some unlucky victims, even earlier—in a county-wide senioritis outbreak last December, there were 256 reported cases in Temple City alone.

Its symptoms are indolence, a tendency to procrastinate, parental disapproval, as well as chronic tardiness. Although some researchers have reported the emergence of a "junioritis," scientists have determined that it is instead a mutated form of senioritis prone to appearing freakishly early.

Though as a senior, I'm saying goodbye to senioritis as well as high school, I find myself thinking that we don't have to accept the status quo (which is not quo). How many times have we suffered in silence when teachers blamed us for not completing assignments when it was in reality the fault of this common virus? How many times has senioritis sapped our strength and lulled us to sleep in the face of danger (ie. a lurking teacher)? How many times have we settled for something less than we wanted, when it was really senioritis putting us down?

The answer is to find a cure, or at least a vaccine for it. Since June is Senioritis Awareness Month, this is the ideal time to get the word out. Though herbal concoctions and other folk remedies—such as coffee and parents—for light cases of senioritis have existed for years, there is at the moment no universal cure, no panacea, for this insidious invader.

In order for us to accomplish our big-picture goals, like landing a rover on Venus or significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions, we need to focus on fixing small-picture problems, like the senioritis that plagues beleaguered 12th graders.

I'd like to say that I'd do my best to hunt for a cure while I study architecture during my time at Berkeley. But since senioritis has drained me, I can no longer carry on.

To help fund the search for a cure for senioritis, please send a donation to the Alice Wang Foundation for Senioritis at P.O. Box 444 Temple City, CA 91780. Find a cure now.

- **Alice Wang**

Reflections and goodbyes

From wandering into the wrong classroom and having rows of eyes turn to stare at me, running the hardest eight miles of my life to meeting friends whom I'd like to spend the rest of my life with, high school has truly been an amazing time for me.

I walked onto campus on the first day of school clinging onto my brother Michael's backpack, afraid that I would look like the shrimpy little freshman with glasses and braces that I was. After about a minute of this awkward stumble, he told me nicely that I should go and "make some friends." I knew this translated to: stop clinging onto me and making me look like a retard so even though I was very afraid, I forced myself to look oblivious and just bluff it.

Although it certainly does not seem as if the first day of school was just yesterday, time has really passed by pretty quickly. Wow. In just a couple of weeks, I will be out of Temple City, the place that has been my home for as long as I could remember, and out exploring the world.

Even though I know I still have so much to learn, I am definitely not the same little girl who came into TCHS four years ago. Sure, I still have the glasses. Ugh. I'm still as short as before. Dang it. I still don't like talking in front of crowds though I've gotten used to it. But I feel that through all the classes that I've taken (and fallen asleep in), all the Environmental Club events I've planned, all the Peer lessons I've learned, all the races I've ran and all the articles I've procrastinated on, I have grown as a person.

Much of that is thanks to all the teachers I've had through these years. Mrs. Brannum who is strict but always cares, Mrs. Penalora who saved me when I was freaking over for college apps, Mr. Salazar's "So-o Simple" philosophy which will probably stick with me forever, Coach Tomasulo who only asks us to do our best, and Ms. Van Thiel who snips my articles into shape. Even Mr. Hoague, who compares me to a Chocolate Spinach, has helped me become a better writer and a more responsible person.

The other people who have taught me a lot about how to be a better person, how to live, really, are my friends. The wonderful people who have to deal with my ranting, my insecurities and my laziness on a daily basis. I would list all of them one by one (I actually tried) but I simply don't have enough room to fit all the great things I want to say about them here. All I can say is: I love you all.

Well, big bro. I haven't disappointed you. I've made friends. On top of that, I had the time of my life. I will truly miss everyone here at TC. If we meet again somewhere, sometime from now at our ten year reunion, or wherever and I wave, please wave back.

As Richard Bach says: "Don't be dismayed by the goodbyes. A farewell is necessary before you can meet again. And meeting again, after moments or lifetimes is certain for those who are friends."

- **Veronica Lin**



ILLUSTRATIONS/ Erica Lee

Samuel Lin scores the valedictorian spot

By Jennifer Su
Feature Editor

As he prepares to graduate next week, Senior Samuel Lin has more to do than just signing yearbooks and attending graduation rehearsals. Although this school year is practically over, Lin has one more very important thing to do: prepare a speech. A speech that he will deliver as the 2010 valedictorian in front of his 432 peers, teachers, family, and friends.

"I know there are many other students who deserve this title," Lin said. "I feel extremely grateful and blessed for this honor."

Many might assume that Lin is pure genius considering his 4.7 GPA and the

16 AP and honor classes he took total during his high school career. However, Lin reveals just the opposite. He enjoyed the challenge of taking so many hard courses but it was not easy when it came to passing the class with an A.

"I am definitely not a genius," Lin said. "I procrastinate sometimes and get addicted to small games (like Mob Wars) so I did have to put in the time and effort."

Next fall, Lin will attend the prestigious Rice University located in Houston, Texas. He applied to a good number of colleges and was accepted into many of them but decided to attend Rice because of the opportunities that Rice offers him.

"I had somewhat of a feeling to move

away from California for a bit and try growing up on my own," Lin said. "but the amount of money they offered was also one of the [deciding] factors."

Currently, Lin has not made a final decision on what he will be majoring in college, but he is leaning towards biochemistry and/or physics. Part of going to college for Lin is so that he can explore and decide what he wants to do in life. Switching majors may be difficult but Lin is not worried because another pro for attending Rice is that it will not be too difficult for Lin to switch majors.

"Work hard, play hard, and don't overwork yourselves," Lin said. "Life isn't all about grades and titles. It's about discover-

ing who you are and only you can accomplish that."



PHOTO/ Jason Wu

Senior Samuel Lin receives the Certificate of Acknowledgement at the Awards Breakfast.

Wong connects the dots

By Jacqueline Wong
Staff Writer

The enthusiasm is evident on Freshman Anson Wong's face as he makes a brochure of a bike trail in Santa Monica for The Huntington's Fairchild Challenge.

"I think [The Fairchild Challenge] is difficult, and I'm nervous," Wong said. "But I think it will be a chance to explore the details of what we usually overlook."

As the first of eight activities in the competition, the "People-Powered Interpretive Trail" calls students to choose five natural elements in a selected city or neighborhood, such as a tree or a bird's nest. Each biological factor must be in different locations at least a mile apart. Like connecting the dots, participants must create a safe route that joins the locations together while ensuring the path is easily accessible for walking, jogging, biking, or more. The challenge requires an in-depth research of the site's background, facts about the five natural elements that are chosen, and suggestions of transportation methods to more efficiently travel along the trail.

English teacher Ms. Vanessa Hadikusumah first encouraged Wong to compete in the Fairchild Challenge when she heard of his interest in hiking and running as an avid cross country runner. She also thought that Wong would benefit from the experience of exploring and researching for the project.

"The challenge may require students to research and work outside of class assignments," Ms. Hadikusumah said. "Originality, interest in the subject/content, willingness to explore new ideas

[are important to the challenge]"
Although,

Wong has not gathered all the minute detail about his brochure, yet he plans to explore the scenic route along Santa Monica Beach. Starting with the palm trees along the beach's bike trail, his route extends to several locations that includes elements such as seashells, cliffs, and the sunset. Wong takes learning to a completely new level as he researches and observes the locations for his project.

"There's a huge difference between a school and a beach," Wong said. "Being there is like learning in a fun way."

Besides linking each location to another in his brochure, Wong makes a personal connection when choosing Santa Monica Beach. In fact, this particular site holds many touching memories from his childhood.

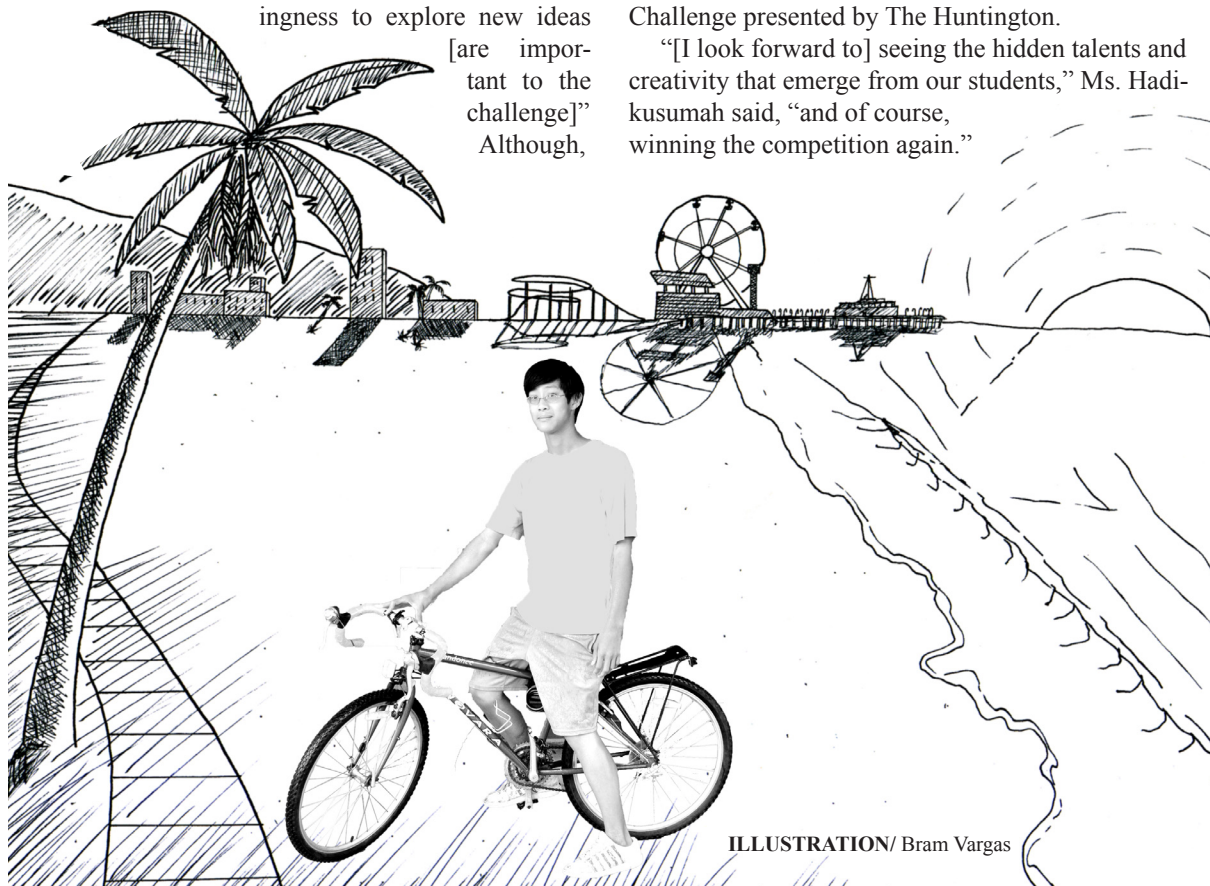
"I haven't really been to other beaches," Wong said. "But I like the Santa Monica beach because I have childhood memories of flying kites there."

Wong decided to fuel his interest in Santa Monica beach by combining it with another topic that intrigued him: the environment. Starting with Santa Monica beach, Wong is ready to put his plan for environmental awareness in action with hopes that his brochure will advertise the significance of saving the environment.

"Some parts of the nature are good and well-preserved, but other parts of nature are being destroyed, like rain forests," Wong said. "The People-Powered Interpretive Trail shows other ways to keep the environment clean and alternative ways of transportation other than cars."

Last year, Temple City managed to defeat the other competing schools during the first annual Fairchild Challenge presented by The Huntington.

"[I look forward to] seeing the hidden talents and creativity that emerge from our students," Ms. Hadikusumah said, "and of course, winning the competition again."



Lamb's student-run business encourages teen empowerment

By Benjamin Chan
Exchange Editor

Owning your own business may seem like a glamorous dream for the future, but for Senior Mark Lamb, the dream starts in a makeshift home office in his bedroom. His laptop is open on his desk next to stacks of business related papers that no doubt need attending to.

Lamb is the founder of Zeltor Technology Solutions, a teen-based multi-service technology consulting firm that offers web-based computing solutions. ZTS provides a variety of services tailored to fit the specific needs of its clients such as technology support, optimization, online marketing, and web design.

He founded the business last June after school ended, after his father told him that he should start a business. After much thought and consideration he eventually decided to create a technology consulting firm.

"Over time the vision shifts and formulates," Lamb said. "Now our company is about web design, graphic design, and internet marketing."

Lamb is a strong supporter of teen empowerment, believing that there should be no limitations on younger people. One of his company's main focuses is its teen power base. He has hired a staff of teenage students from around the San Gabriel Valley including several from Temple City High. Lamb told many people about his business after its creation and approached many friends about working with him.

"I want to help other teens realize they have a value in the world," Lamb said. "That they can do something in the world."

Lamb is also focusing on getting more clients and publicity. He has been going to many local networking events such as Temple City and San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce meetings to discuss his business.

"Half of the work is meeting people," Lamb said. "The other half is at home."

Lamb invests a fair amount of his time and money into his business. The majority of the profit, he puts back into running and investing in the business. However he is hopeful that ZTS will be able to expand and progress in the near future.

"If all our deals go through," Lamb said, "we could make a lot of money."

Running the business is a time consuming job that Lamb devotes three to five hours a day to in addition to his schoolwork and extra-curricular activities. Although he says that there are many ups and downs to running a business, Lamb believes that it is a good learning experience.

"You definitely learn to be more responsible," Lamb said. "You have to face people who are nagging at you."

ZTS is a part time venture that Lamb may or may not continue after he graduates. He is applying to colleges such as Boston University and New York University and is interested in studying business, computer science, or psychology. He is considering the possibility of continuing the business as he goes to college.

"A lot of it depends on how well it goes this year," Lamb said. "If I don't defer, I don't know how far I'll take it."

Student athletic trainer Rose gets head start

By Taylor Evanko
Staff Writer

In the dank, smelly training room, Senior Jeremy Rose rips off another piece of tape preparing the football players for their game. Rose, who plans on pursuing a career in the medical field, has taken the first step toward his goal by becoming the student athletic trainer.

Rose officially became a student trainer during the summer, helping the football team during Hell Week. Currently, he tapes up players before games, makes ice bags, performs ultrasound treatments, and anything else that his trainer asks him to do. The work that he does as a student trainer is closely related to what he may be doing in the future as a professional in the medical field.

"He is basically like an assistant to me, [since] he has taken sports medicine before, he has that anatomy background," Mr. Drzonovic said. "I want to expose him more

to the sports medicine kind of world."

The teacher of the sports medicine ROP course, Mr. Ken "Doc" Martin, emailed several of his former students, all of whom have taken sports medicine, if they would be interested in becoming a student trainer. Three students replied to Mr. Martin's email, but Rose was the only student who was able to assume the responsibilities of being a student trainer without it directly conflicting with other commitments.

"The best thing that made him a good candidate was the fact that he really excelled in the practical aspect, and as an athletic trainer that's really what you have to be able to do," Mr. Martin said. "You may have the book smarts, but you also have to be able to apply it quickly and know what you're doing [to be a trainer]."

Not only is Rose gaining valuable experience and skills, but he also earns CSL hours for the time and effort he devotes to his responsibilities as a student trainer. He

claims that while he enjoys the work and is interested in working with athletes, he actually hopes to become a paramedic in the future.

"At first I wanted to be a psychologist to help people... it's sort of a passion of mine," Rose said. "But then I realized I want to be in a more fast-paced, action-packed setting, [and] paramedics get to drive around in ambulances and be heroes."

He cites his Careers in Medicine instructor, Mr. David "Captain" Lamb, as a considerable influence in his aspiration to become a part of the emergency medical services. Rose took the class last year during the fall semester.

"The class itself gives an overview of many of the medical jobs that are out there, the fields that you can go by, and the career paths you can go down," Mr. Lamb said. "Because I've worked in EMS for close to 20 years, I'm able to give first-hand experiences from emergency medical training,

fire, and paramedic standpoints."

Through his time on the field so far, Rose has learned new techniques on how to tape injuries as well as how to treat concussions.

"[Being an student athletic trainer] has given me experience that I can put on my resume," Rose said. "And it has reassured me that I'm going into the right field."



Rose tapes Senior Luis Lopez's wrist before the football game against South El Monte.

D'Vaz crowned as new Homecoming Queen

By Bram Vargas
Staff Writer

Only her name rang across the football field after the drum roll ceased. The spectators stood and welcomed their new Homecoming Queen, Senior Kirby D'Vaz.

"I thought they called Tina's name," D'Vaz said. "I looked at my dad and he was like 'you won!'"



ILLUSTRATIONS/ Bram Vargas

D'Vaz plays on the Girls Soccer Team and sings in Concert Choir; and, based on the size of those groups, the nomination surprised her.

"I haven't really been in anything besides soccer," D'Vaz said. "And not many people knew me."

Off her throne and away from school, D'Vaz cherishes and collects memories as a hobby.

"I love collecting pictures and making scrapbooks, like my mom," D'Vaz said. "I like to be able to look back and see great memories from the past."

The Homecoming Princesses, who hail from all different corners of the high school, learned more about each other through games. The girls played Simon Says, Musical Chairs, Name-that-Tune, and even a messy take on Twister, using ketchup and mustard. Sharing the nominating process helped the girls bond.

"The other Princesses were so sweet," D'Vaz said. "I had never even talked with most of them before."

But the excitement for D'Vaz began far before her crowning. Girls who accept the nomination must garner votes and present themselves at events like the Spirit Rally. ASB holds the Spirit Rally during lunch the same day as the Homecoming football game. But life as a Homecoming Princess can take both unexpected and hurried turns.

"The most stressful part was the pictures for our bios," D'Vaz said. "They told us the day before the photos were taken that we needed dresses."

Then there was the kidnapping. For legal reasons, ASB refers to the kidnapping as the "surprise breakfast." The kidnapping takes place on a Wednesday morning. ASB breaks into groups of five, and they kidnap the princesses all at once.

ASB ransacks each girl's wardrobe and looks for wierd and wacky clothing. The result of ASB's handiwork is five awkward princesses: knee socks with flip-flops, pigtails with curls, mascara on cheeks, and lipstick eyebrows. The only tools ASB brings to the chaos is makeup.

The girls are whisked to the high school for a simple breakfast; the breakfast includes Orange Juice, donuts, bagels, and cereal--nothing extravagant.

"They [ASB] woke me up and scared me," D'Vaz said. "They went through my closet and made me look like a man with a unibrow. I was wondering why my mom was cleaning all night long!"

Even if D'Vaz had not become Homecoming Queen, her parents were still proud of her nomination. D'Vaz thinks that becoming Homecoming Queen feels strangely like carrying on a family history.

"A lot of my family members have been the Homecoming Queens at their high schools," D'Vaz said. "Even though I'm not the Homecoming type; I'm not very outspoken and I thought that a more social person, like an

ASB member or a cheerleader, would win and not some soccer player."

The Homecoming Queen does not have to represent the school at parades or community events. She must, however, present herself as a role model to the underclassmen. D'Vaz will relinquish her title and crown her successor next year; it's one of the few duties bestowed upon the Queen. It remains important, however, that the Queen does not become arrogant about winning.

Exhilaration did not carry the Queen away. D'Vaz remains grounded; but she still appreciates the congratulations from family and friends.

"I feel like I've accomplished something," D'Vaz said. "I don't have a big head about it, but it's nice to get people's congratulations and it feels great knowing that people cared about you and voted for you."

Only senior girls with a minimum 3.0 GPA, and who are enrolled in at least one graded extra-curricular activity are eligible. Any student at the high school can vote both to nominate a Homecoming Princess and select the Homecoming Queen.

"Homecoming Queen made me stand out to people that really didn't know me," D'Vaz said. "I think that being Homecoming Queen is a huge thing. Looking back on it makes me proud of myself."

D'Vaz is the high school's 54th Homecoming Queen; the Homecoming Queen tradition reaches back to 1956, when the first Homecoming Queen, Gail Dingle, was elected. Back then, the Homecoming Queen was called the Football Queen. The Varsity football team would nominate three Princesses, and then the student body would elect the Queen.

D'Vaz proudly continues the half century year old TC tradition. On a personal level, D'Vaz's crowning will be more photos and memories for filling her scrapbook.



PHOTO/ Jason Wu

GSA President appears on Dr. Phil

By Chloe Lin
Staff Writer

"Be the Ally. Be the Change." "Trans Rights Now!" In the crowded hallways, Junior Claudia Chen is easily recognized by her backpack, brightly decorated with various buttons and pins, most of which promote Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning rights.

Chen is the president of Gay Straight Alliance, a club that promotes acceptance and tolerance of the LGBTQ community as well as provides a place for straight allies to gather.

Chen's association with the GSA program led her to appear as a guest on "Dr. Phil," a daytime talk show, to talk about the recent suicides of teens who were bullied because they were perceived as being gay identified as gay. Daniel Solis, GSA program director for Southern California, forwarded an e-mail about the upcoming show to Claudia.

The application process for the show was rather simple. Chen called the show's associate producer, and sent him an e-mail with her personal information and her opinion on the recent suicides, as well as personal experiences related to LGBTQ

issues. Chen was not sure she would even make it onto the show, as there were many people trying out for only a few spots. Even after being picked to appear on the "Dr. Phil", however, Chen was unfamiliar with the show.

"I don't think I was particularly nervous because I didn't have a clear idea of who Dr. Phil's audience was," Chen said. "I assumed it was more of a local show, and it wasn't until halfway into the drive to the West Hollywood set that my friend Isaiah notified me that we were going to be on national television."

Chen spent Sunday, Oct. 3rd and Monday, Oct. 4th filming for the show and an online exclusive. The show aired on Wednesday, Oct. 6th. Chen, busy with work for GSA, has no current plans to watch the full episode.

Chen first started attending GSA meetings halfway through her freshman year. Her motivation for joining was to support a friend who had been going through difficulties at school because of he was perceived gay. Although Chen is now heavily into activism and attends many GSA network events such as GSA Activist Camp and Statewide Advocacy Council, she

hasn't always been aware of the LGBTQ community.

"Truthfully, I was never aware of anyone's sexual preference prior to participating in GSA advocacy," Chen said. "I was under the very mistaken delusion that everyone was straight, and homophobic and transphobic slurs slid right by me."

The GSA cabinet of last year was comprised solely of seniors, so Chen saw an opportunity to help GSA grow by becoming its president. Joining GSA changed Chen's views on gender and sexuality, and showed her a new way of thinking about the world.

"There are so many other terms to describe sexuality and gender, some of which I probably have never even heard of," Chen said. "The stereotypes and generalizations that I had about the LGBTQ community were definitely broken after I got involved."

Although Chen was originally spurred to get involved to support her friend, her passion for activism has since grown. She enjoys spreading the word about LGBTQ rights and does her part to eliminate offensive phrases like "that's so gay."

"My motivation comes from simply

seeing, hearing, reading, or even meeting someone who has fallen victim to discrimination," Chen said. "Whenever I see a kind act done for someone else, I'm inspired to take action myself."

Hopefully the next person you pass by in the halls will have pins of their own promoting LGBTQ rights.

"GSA isn't a 'gay club' or a club specifically advocating for the rights of LGBTQ people," Chen said. "We're here to support everyone, regardless of ethnicity, gender identity, religious views, sexual preference, or any other attribute that makes you the individual you are."



PHOTO COURTESY/ Dr.Phil.com

Chen (left) appears on Dr. Phil to share her position on the recent gay teen suicides.

Bringing out the Brighter Side

By Cody Luk
Business Manager

Behind the closed doors of Room 905, Brighter Side Singers spend over ten hours a week rehearsing and perfecting musical numbers for their upcoming shows.

"I wanted to be in it since elementary school," Senior Melissa Arellano said. "It's always been my dream."

Brighter Side is Arellano's second home, and she has been in it for the majority of high school. She auditioned her freshmen year and is enjoying every moment of it. BSS has also influenced her to pursue her dreams after high school.

"I'm going to continue theater and drama and major in performing arts in college," Arellano said. "I will definitely come back to all the [BSS] shows after I leave."

Choir director Mr. Matthew Byers also enjoys being in Brighter Side because he was a part of the group from 1974 to 1976. He also enjoys teaching because many of his students are children of his former students.

For newcomer Senior Andrew Zhang, BSS helps him

improve his vocals as well as make his year memorable. Through BSS, Zhang formed bonds with many members.

Brighter Side has many past and future events, including the Performing Arts Booster Show on Oct. 12 and the Homecoming Game on Oct. 15. They performed "Can I Have This Dance?" with the marching band and Choreo.

"I feel like Brighter Side is one of the important parts of Temple City High School because when people see us perform, they say, 'they're Temple City High School,'" Mr. Byers said. "We represent Temple City, and if we are positive and perform well, people walk away saying Temple City High School is a talented and friendly place."

Another major event was the Fall Family Jubilee on Oct. 23 at Temple City Park. The singers performed several numbers, including "Footloose" and "Thriller."

BSS members Senior Sophie Gonzalez, Junior Marielle de la Cruz, Sophomores Maxwell Ozer and Kevin Lazatin also performed at the Music for Life benefit concert on Oct. 23. It was hosted by Temple City FBLA and D10

North Key Club for Pediatric Trauma Prevention.

"I liked [MFL] because I was remembering [the kids] I was performing for," Gonzalez said. "The most fun performances are when we raise money for important issues."

Brighter Side is holding "Music Rocks" in November to reach out to kids who will learn how to sing and dance. Their most anticipated event is the upcoming holiday concert named "Forever Christmas." The singers will perform 11 shows from Dec. 1-16. Rehearsals for the concert started earlier than last year. Their costumes are inspired by Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol."

The singers rehearse everyday during first period and four hours Tuesday evenings. They also rehearse on Wednesday mornings, from about 7:00 to 9:45 a.m. However, Zhang believes all their sweat and energy pays off when they are on stage chasing their dreams of being a performer.

"I want to enjoy the rest of my high school career," Zhang said. "I also want to get the most out of it by meeting new people along the road."



PHOTO/ Jason Wu

Irene Lee takes on Taiwan

By Debra Ma
Staff Writer

With her back straight, a smile on her face, and cameras flashing in every direction, Junior Irene Lee stood in her heels, ready to attend another event as Miss Teen Taiwan.

On what was supposed to be a normal day, Lee received an unexpected call from Mr. Jack Liu, the chairman of the Miss Taiwan Pageants, asking if she was interested in competing in the teen version of the pageant.

Lee went through intense training a month before the competition, taking four hours every Friday and Saturday to learn essentials like posture and self-introductions. Winners get a crown, sash, title, and a trip to Taiwan.

"[The pageant] promotes culture diversity and Taiwanese awareness," Lee said. "As long as we have our crowns and sashes on, we represent Taiwan, its [history], and culture."

Her training paid off, earning her a spot in the top five and sending her to Taiwan to attend the many events, such as the National Day Parade and the Delegate's party. In addition, she also went to a gala show, where she watched an entertaining display of talented people ranging from musicians to cheerleaders. There, she was also able to meet and take a picture with Taiwan's President Ma Ying-jeou. Lee and the other Miss Taiwan contestants were given VIP

access to see a flora exposition that is supposed to open in November. The exposition is held in a different country every four years. This year it was conveniently held in Taiwan.

"My favorite was the Delegate's party because it was so different," Lee said. "It felt like I was in 'The Princess Diaries' [since] all these important people were there."

The Delegate's party was a very formal and elaborate affair, complete with ice sculptures and politicians. Lee was able to get a picture with a congressman from South Carolina and meet the Secretary of State of Taiwan.

Lee learned a lot from her experiences in the pageant and in Taiwan. It has helped her prepare for her possible future career in Asian Foreign Affairs. She will be able to utilize all the social skills and the extra vocabulary she has built from her trip.

"I want to go into foreign affairs, preferably with Asian cultures," Lee said. "I am able to relate [to it] and I

already speak Mandarin and understand Taiwanese."

With constant exposure to the bright flash of cameras and stares, Lee learned how to act with poise and look professional. Even without the paparazzi, there are always fans who want to take pictures with the contestants, so they have to do their utmost to look perfect.

"I'm glad I [competed in the pageant]," Lee said. "While it was pretty tiring and stressful, I placed, and I got to meet so many new people."



PHOTO COURTESY/ Irene Lee
Lee (left) poses with the owner of Din Tai Fung Dumpling House and Miss Taiwanese World.

Club of the Month

By Jennifer Su
Feature Editor

What if you had to carry water containers filled with polluted water weighing over 40 pounds each day? What if your family couldn't afford food because the family's income is mainly spent on medical treatments for water-related diseases? For Senior Tara Loveland, President of the Students for Humanity club, spreading awareness of issues such as slavery and the clean water crisis is a major component of the club.

Just last year, the club raised \$3,000 to build a well in Ghana in Western Africa. The well is a step toward decreasing the number of people around the world who lack access to clean water. These wells, built by digging underground, provide clean and safe drinking water for an entire village for 20 years. In addition, it reduces the chances of catching diseases that kill more people every year than any other form of violence, including war. To date, 3.6 million people die annually from lack of clean water. Although these wells may not seem important to those who have access to clean water regularly, these wells are a break for the villagers who have had to walk miles to get water.

In addition to spreading awareness for certain causes, Students for Humanity is a club based on community service. Loveland plans on volunteering with the club at homeless shelters during Thanksgiving and winter break by serving food for the less fortunate.

Students for Humanity does not require a lot of time commitment since they meet every other Thursday. Their next meeting will be on Nov. 4 where the discussion will be focused on their next charity project.

Brackbill improves lives in Tijuana

By Kyle Evanko
Staff Writer

Early this morning, Sophomore Sarah Brackbill sat in her carpool headed to Tijuana excited and ready to help the less fortunate.

Brackbill is a part of the Hope Christian Fellowship Church and is going with a group of friends and family who will return on Nov. 21. The church holds an annual event which involves going down to Mexico where three teams collaborate to build a house for a family in need. The three teams are construction, prayer, and games and crafts.

Each group has a certain task to do. The construction team helps to build homes, churches, and medical clinics for the areas in desperate need. By doing so, the church works together as a whole to improve the lives of the less fortunate. Volunteers from the prayer group, will be going door to door inviting people to come together and learn about Jesus and God.

"Our passion is to know Jesus and make Him known because He is so good, kind, and loving," Brackbill said. "Baja Christian Ministries has facilitated thousands of houses being built and has seen over 40 thousand people go through a small group series that teaches them the foundations of the Christian faith."

The games and crafts group mainly works with the underprivileged children of the area. This team plays games like soccer and creates crafts with the children. It is a way

for the church to interact with the culture and share time together. They do activities that the boys and girls enjoy. Brackbill thoroughly enjoyed this task last year because she grew closer with her teammates and the children in need.

"There is a special team for [playing] because many of the children in Mexico are not as privileged

as many children in the U.S. are," Brackbill said. "So part of the craft team's job is to play and interact with them."

Last year, Brackbill was a part of all three groups helping out when needed, and this year she will focus on the building and painting duties while assisting the others.

"I personally have served on all of these teams and found all of them very exciting," Brackbill said. "All three teams are extremely fun and satisfying; not one is better than any other."

Last year, the first time Brackbill went, she had lots of fun.

"This will be my second year going down to Mexico to build a house," Brackbill said. "I cannot wait; this is one event that I look forward to every year."

The project is funded by contributions from various donations and fundraisers affiliated with the church. For her part, Brackbill raised money by selling brownies and cookies as a fundraiser. This year, the group raised \$6,800 from rummage sales and donations.

"Every single hour spent baking and selling them was worth it," Brackbill said. "There is no other experience like going to Mexico to build a house for people who really need it."

Around 40 people are going this year, and a good portion of the people are from the youth group. This organization's youth group, FIRE, is very motivated to help out like Brackbill herself.

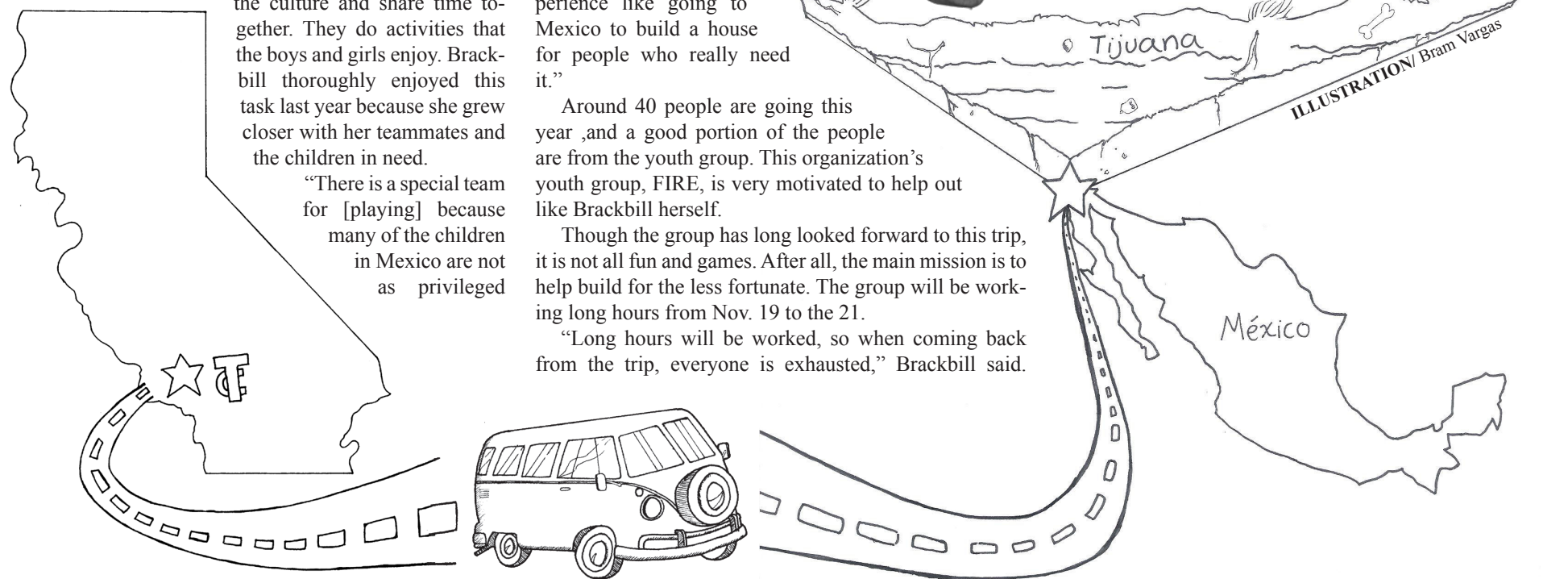
Though the group has long looked forward to this trip, it is not all fun and games. After all, the main mission is to help build for the less fortunate. The group will be working long hours from Nov. 19 to the 21.

"Long hours will be worked, so when coming back from the trip, everyone is exhausted," Brackbill said.

"But everyone feels in their hearts that this trip is definitely one worth while."

Brackbill believes that good deeds are done for the better. She takes much pride and glee in helping people in need. She believes that helping other people is a great thing.

"Helping others without asking or expecting anything in return is something that everyone should do more often," Brackbill said. "The world would be a better place for it."



Senior Chow interns for Congressman Schiff

By Taylor Evanko
Staff Writer

As Senior Heidi Chow begins another day of work for U.S. Congressman Adam Schiff's office as a student intern, phones ring, papers print, and emails flood the office.

Schiff represents California's 29th congressional district in the House of Representatives, which, in addition to Temple City, includes Pasadena, San Gabriel, Alhambra, Burbank, and other surrounding areas. He was reelected to his current position during the midterm elections on Nov. 2 with over 65% of the vote.

Chow learned that Schiff's office is always looking for new interns while she was competing in the Miss Temple City Pageant. She met the district representative from Schiff's office, Ms. Teresa Lamb Simpson, at a Temple City Chamber of Commerce Mixer, who encouraged all the contestants to apply for the internship program.

"As Miss TC, I attended Schiff's Business Expo and Job Opportunity Fair over the summer to represent the Chamber and that's when I met the summer interns at

the time," Chow said. "I decided that this would be a really good and enriching experience, so I decided to apply."

As an intern, Chow performs various tasks in the office, such as making copies, filing paperwork, and answering the phone. Since most calls she receives are from constituents, Chow interacts with local residents on a regular basis, helping them voice their concerns to Schiff or assisting them in another manner.

By working with constituents, Chow is not only learning about the issues people care about in the community, but she is also gaining valuable experience and social skills that will certainly help her as she continues her studies and as she enters the workforce.

While she does not help plan important dates for the calendar, Chow always helps prepare for an upcoming event and will occasionally be invited to attend an event

Schiff will be attending.

"Sometimes when we're doing an event, I help do the little things, but not necessarily plan the events," Chow said. "I've had to make decorations and signs directing people to the event before."

Even if she is performing simple tasks, such as filing event dates in the calendar, Chow is also learning about the things members of Congress can do to serve their constituents on a regular basis.

"This job is an eye-opener," Chow said. "I'm learning so much just from watching the staff members demonstrate their years of experience, to the issues that constituents bring up, how our government works and more."

She admits, however, that she entered the internship with a limited knowledge of government and politics, but now that Chow works in the district office, she is learning more and more everyday.

"I didn't know much, and I'm just try-

ing to figure out where I stand," Chow said. "I'm willing to learn, plus I'm taking government at the same time, so it works well."

Chow plans on studying international affairs in college. She is applying to Georgetown, the University of La Verne, NYU, and George Washington University and hopes to become a diplomat.

"Even if you are really talented at something, if you don't have the experience or practice then it's just raw [talent]," Chow said. "I'm navigating my waters and seeing what I'm good at."

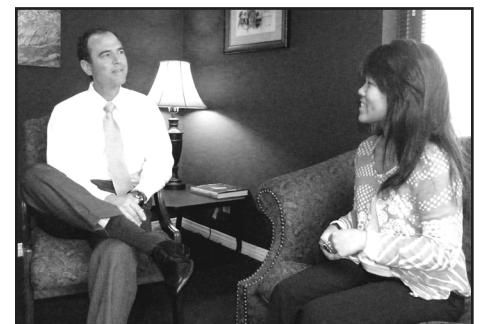


PHOTO COURTESY/Heidi Chow
Chow takes the first step toward her future career by interning for Congressman Schiff.

Café 706 aromas drift through campus

By Elliot Wu
Business Manager

The luscious scent of chocolate and sweets linger, hitting the nose with a sugary wallop. Bright and early in the morning, students from the ROP Small Business diligently hurry around the room to open up Café 706, bringing out trays of fresh, scrumptious baked goods that perfume the air as loyal, hungry customers wait for the door to open.

Principal Ms. Mary Jo Fosselman King got the idea of opening a café from Assistant Principal Mr. Kevin Herington, who saw a student run café at a school in Oregon. ROP Small Business teacher Ms. Kim Allen decided to give it a try because she thought opening the café would give her students some real life experiences from which they could learn.

"It's a really good experience. We meet plenty of new people and get lots of CSL," Senior Isaiah Montoya said. "Ms. Allen is easy to get along with and puts a lot of credit into the café."

Like many other projects, Café 706 began stressfully. The funding to get the café started came from L.A. County.

Ms. Allen helped the students set up some systems and arrangements to regulate themselves.

"It was really stressful to get organized," Ms. Allen said. "But I was just blown away be-

cause the kids saw what needed to be done to make things better, and had practical, doable solutions."

All of the food and beverages are cooked or brewed by the students. Hot chocolate is mixed and tea is steeped by the students. Flyers, business cards, and other forms of advertisement pertaining to Café 706 are all computer designed by the students. Ms. Allen is only there to aid the students in reaching their goal.

"I think that [working in the café] will help me in the real life aspects of the world," Senior Vanessa Elias said. "Like managing and creating a business plan and communication skills."

The café staff are very self-regulated. Students sign up to work by using a piece of paper hanging from a nearby refrigerator whenever they want.

Students also think up of the snacks to sell in the café during class trials, days set aside to brainstorm new recipes and ideas. Students improve items already on the menu and develop new recipes, such as a parfait consisting of vanilla yogurt, homemade granola and seasonal fruit, designed by Junior Nikolas Smalldridge. There is also a bacon and egg cupcake that has been at the drawing board for a couple of weeks.

"We are planning to enlarge the menu and are constantly experimenting," Ms. Allen said. "The students are the ones who come up with the ideas; I try what they want to try."

All of the food is prepared in a very cohesive, orderly manner. Before an item is released on the menu, a coordinated system is put in place to make sure all portions are equal. For some items, there are even pictures to guide the students in order to make the items created uniform.

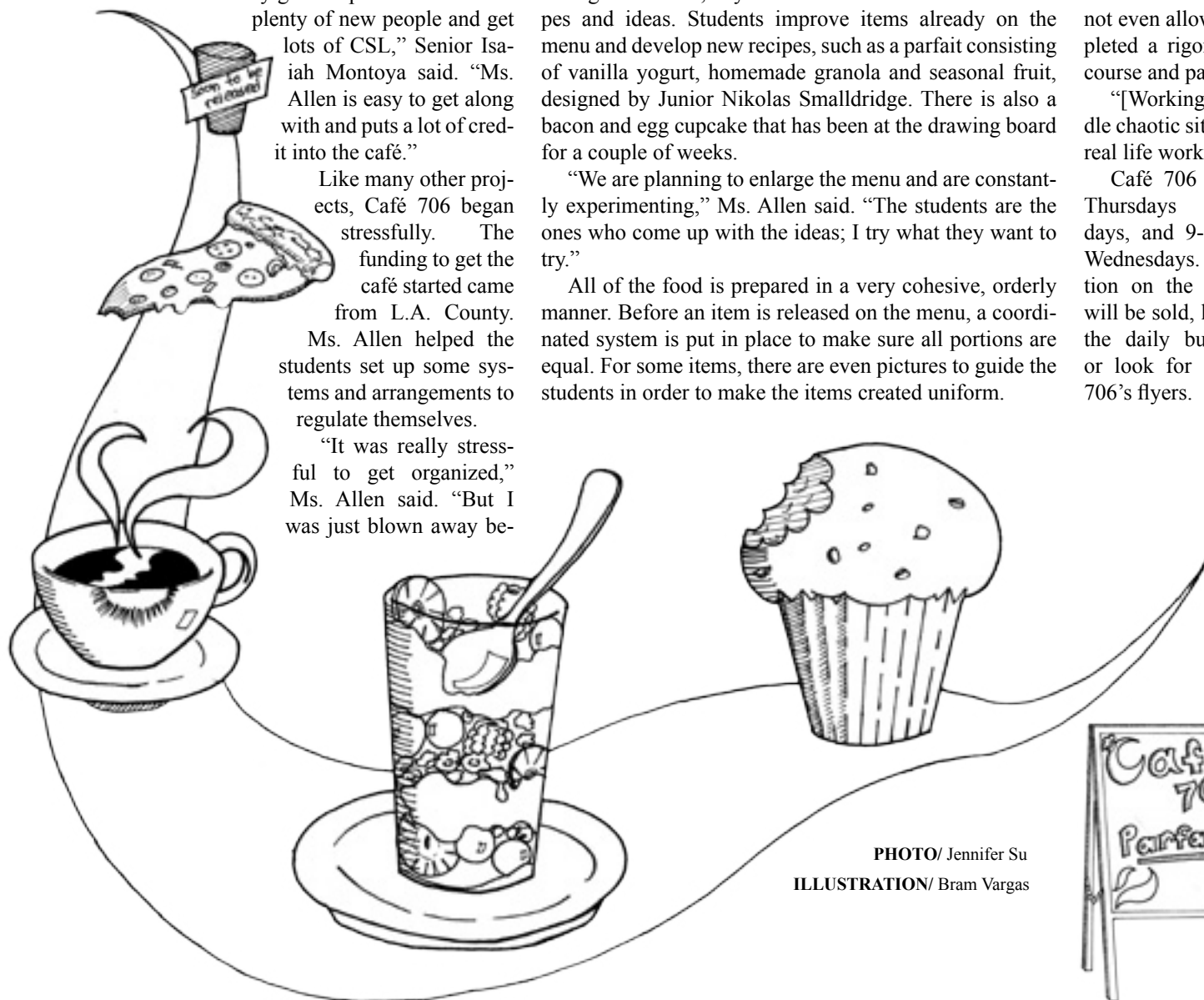
Café 706 is also independently funded. The money it makes goes straight into its ASB account, which is used for the students to further enhance their culinary experience. Besides the various expenses needed to buy ingredients for their wares, the Small Business class has bought new items such as a professional quality drip-coffee maker to improve the café.

"Working here gives you a hands-on experience in the work field," Senior Anthony Medina said. "Like people skills and managing money, mostly around food and drink sales."

Students do not need to worry about the condition of the food. Café 706 uses only high quality ingredients, and everything is made by hand. Ms. Allen makes absolute sure that everything they cook meets the nutritional standards set by the state. She also ensures that the students follow a strict safety and sanitation regimen. Students are not even allowed to work in the café until they have completed a rigorous three-week long safety and sanitation course and pass various tests.

"[Working in the café] really teaches you how to handle chaotic situations," Senior Alyssa Sapia said. "And the real life work environment."

Café 706 is open 7-8 a.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and 9-10 a.m. on Wednesdays. For information on the foods that will be sold, listen to the daily bulletin or look for Café 706's flyers.



Neufeld runs to help find cure for cancer

By Jessica Meza
Opinion Editor

With her heart pounding in her chest and the sounds of other runners breathing heavily beside her, English teacher Ms. Dawn Neufeld completes her latest marathon.

Ms. Neufeld traveled to Honolulu, Hawaii to run a marathon on Dec. 12. She made the trip with other runners from Team in Training, who she trained with for 16 weeks, with a common goal of donating money to charity. The organization raises money for research and patient services, varying from research grants to providing rides for patients to hospitals.

"It's an organization that raises money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society," Ms. Neufeld said. "So basically, I joined their team, and they trained me to run a marathon [to raise] money for their association."

Ms. Neufeld has run around nine and a half marathons for the sake of running, but this particular 26.2 mile marathon has a deeper meaning for her, since she ran in commemoration of a family member.

"My uncle had this really rare disease

that nobody could find a cure for," Ms. Neufeld said. "He just died from it about two weeks before the marathon [so] I wore his picture on my back because Hawaii was his favorite place."

She fondly recalls her uncle, whom she remembers as a very friendly man.

"My Uncle Larry was the most genuine and kindest man I've ever had the pleasure of knowing," Ms. Neufeld said. "Growing up, he was everyone's favorite uncle because he'd be the one to go swimming with us, or play tag, or take a walk."

Even though she was making the trip without him, she had the support of her 35 teammates from Team in Training. Out of all of her teammates, only 10 actually made the trip for the Honolulu marathon.

One of her favorite running memories was at the L.A. Rock 'n' Roll half marathon. There, some familiar students sur-

prised her on the race course.

"I was lagging big time, and I turned a corner and saw the TC cheerleaders on the sidelines," Ms. Neufeld said. "They were at the race to cheer on all the runners, but I felt so happy to see them. Their presence made me finish the rest of the race strong."

"[My uncle] had just died about two weeks before the marathon... I taped [his picture] to my back and ran with it."

Ms. Dawn Neufeld

with ease. But because Ms. Neufeld is diabetic and also gluten-free, she has a special diet that she must abide to.

"Normally, [runners] can eat whatever [they] want," Ms. Neufeld said. "I always have packs of stuff with me because of my diabetes. When your blood sugar runs low, you can't run anymore."

Ms. Neufeld has another marathon in Big Sur, northern California this coming May. For her, running is both a mental and

physical sport: the rush of running long distances keeps her coming back every time.

"What keeps me signing up, is remembering what happens on race days," Ms. Neufeld said. "I'll go home and sign up for my next race; I'm so excited."

Not only has running benefitted Ms. Neufeld's health, but it has also improved her overall well-being.

"A lot of your successes and your failures are in your head," Ms. Neufeld said. "But something running always does is make me feel better about who I am and where I am in life."



PHOTO/ Benjamin Chan

Ms. Neufeld occasionally trains for marathons by running on the track or around the high school.

Manwaring basks in Brazilian culture

By Taylor Evanko
Staff Writer

As her family members welcome her inside with hugs and a dish of bobó de galinha, her favorite Brazilian stew, Senior Lauren Manwaring is thankful to be home from another day of school and away from the blistering sun that continues to beat down on Campo Grande and surrounding cities in Southwestern Brazil where she spent the first half of her senior year.

Manwaring traveled to Brazil through Greenheart Travel, a program under the Center for Cultural Interchange, which helps connect people to all parts of the world.

"Reading about other cultures is fine, but actually experiencing them as everyday life causes change inside of you," Manwaring said. "Traveling is something that textbooks have no way of teaching you."

Although at first it was pretty intimidat-

ing to leave everything she knew behind to live in another culture for five months, her host family helped her adjust to a new country as the experience changed her life.

"[At first] I didn't know what people were saying and couldn't talk to anyone at school," Manwaring said. "It took me three months to get into the culture so that I actually felt like I was a part of it."

The transition was difficult for Manwaring, but the opportunity to increase her knowledge of other cultures, languages, and ways of life kept her motivated. Even though she wants to be able to speak many different languages, Manwaring did not go to Brazil just to learn Portuguese. She attended school in Brazil, but the whole adventure was really about breaking away from the status quo and experiencing a different lifestyle.

"I didn't want to do [the same thing] for my senior year," Manwaring said. "I just wanted to go out and do something; I wanted to go to another country."

Needless to say she came back

empty-handed. Among her best memories abroad are those times spent with host family members and friends at parties, dances, barbecues, and other events.

"The best thing was my [host] family, [because] they took me in and really helped me get into the culture," Manwaring said. "[Their lifestyle] is very family-oriented."

Brazilian entertainment is largely social. The younger crowds usually hang out at techno and country clubs, the latter of which Manwaring preferred. Some prefer to spend their time at churrascos, or barbecues.

"[The parties] last all night long [so] people get back from clubs at like five or six in the morning," Manwaring said. "If your friends are having a party, people will start to leave when it gets light outside."

Still, others enjoy heading out to the surrounding farmland to participate in lassoing competitions, one of Manwaring's favorite parts of the whole trip.

"There were cowboys with horses and lasso ropes, and they would lasso steers," Manwaring said. "I got into it with my [host] brother [and] we would go to ranches and farms to practice."

Manwaring enjoyed it so much that she and her host family would compete in other towns, traveling from city to city in their truck and camping out wherever they could. Perhaps her biggest regret is that she did not start doing this with her host family sooner.

Manwaring's flight back home was on Dec. 13, just as students here were preparing to go on Winter Break, and although she is glad to be back home, she will never forget the time she spent with her [host] family in Brazil.

"Going away from everything that I had ever really known was a little bit unnerving, but it forced me to grow as a person and truly feel alive," Manwaring said. "The memories and the people that helped me make them are forever in my heart."



Club of the Month

By Benjamin Chan
Exchange Editor

Bright grins light up faces in an energetic groups of friends who shuffle into Science teacher Mr. Joe Antonio's room during lunch. A friendly figure steps up to the front of the crowd, silencing the noise as he begins to announce the next activity for the lively band of students.

The jovial group is none other than the Even You Enlighten Souls club. E.Y.E.S. is a community service learning club whose main focus is serving the community through charitable events such as benefit walks and fundraisers. E.Y.E.S. members are a close-knit group consisting of mostly juniors and underclassman. The majority of the club is made up of small groups of close friends who invite others in to build up membership and involvement.

Each month, E.Y.E.S. members gather at a cabinet member's house for the Monthly Sandwich Project where they make sandwiches for the homeless. About 50 members show up regularly to each meeting and service opportunity. An average of three to four service hours are earned per event; however most members do not volunteer for hours.

In addition to serving the local community, E.Y.E.S. has decided to help out the high school.

"This year, we are planning to use the funds from this basketball tournament to help raise money for the school's performing arts department due to the major budget cuts going around," Vice President Brian Chen said. "We don't really have an expectation yet, but we hope to at least raise enough money to make an impact on the performing arts department."

E.Y.E.S. meets every Monday during lunch after Rams in Mr. Antonio's room, Rm. 403.

"We treat each member as individuals. The officers in our club try to get to know everybody who joins. We want to treat everybody as family," Chen said. "This results in our members doing things out of the goodness of their hearts and not out of wanting more CSL. The CSL is just a bonus for them."

Jessica Arredondo receives positive comments at "Valley's Got Talent"

By Caroline Sun
Staff Writer

With a triumphant smile bright on her face and the last measures of the song "No One," made famous by Alicia Keys, slowly fading in the background, Senior Jessica Arredondo finishes performing onstage at the "Valley's Got Talent" competition held at Citrus College on Jan. 30.

Not only did Arredondo impress the judges with her powerful voice, but she also felt content with her cover of the song.

"I felt like I could get into that song, and I enjoyed performing it," Arredondo said. "[The judges] said that I have potential to write my own songs, and it made me feel confident about myself."

Arredondo was introduced to music at a young age.

"I've always liked music," Arredondo said. "When I was a baby, my mom would play music, so I grew up with it."

At 11 years old, Arredondo, inspired by singer Vanessa Carlton's songs, asked her mom for a vocal coach, thus beginning her singing career. Arredondo's first time on stage was at a Christmas performance where she faced an audience of one hundred people.

"The first time I performed, I was so nervous," Arredondo said. "After I was done singing, I just ran off the stage."

Arredondo's confidence improved through time and practice. She sang for recitals, church, and weddings.

"It's all about getting out of your comfort zone," Ar-

redondo said. "With practice and enough motivation, you can do it. Also, it takes hard work and effort to get used to performing."

When Arredondo heard about the "Valley's Got Talent" competition over the school bulletin, she became interested and immediately signed up.

"I never heard about this competition before," Arredondo said. "I never knew there was such a thing."

The competition's setting was similar to that of an "America's Got Talent" episode, including the stage and an audience. To her amazement, she received positive comments from all three judges.

The future of Arredondo's singing career consists of going to Citrus College after graduating from high school to join a performance group called Pop Rock. The group travels around North America to perform covers of current popular songs.

"I always carry my iPod with me wherever I go [because music] is my escape. No matter what happens, it always makes me feel better," Arredondo said. "It's the little thing I can go to. I sing to express myself."

Artists such as Christina Aguilera, Rihanna, and Alicia Keys motivate Arredondo to pursue her dream of becoming a famous singer one day.

"You just have to own your stage," Arredondo said.

"And give it all you got."



PHOTO/ Caroline Sun

Arredondo competed against 20 other performers on Jan. 30.

Students capture Cane Quest victory

By Bram Vargas
Staff Writer

Cane drawn, dressed in highlighter green, head bent in concentration, a student strolls down the sidewalk. While shadowing the student, a blue-shirted man scribbles scores on his clipboard. Such was the Cane Quest Challenge, held on April 10 in Anaheim,

California, in which visually impaired students demonstrated their ability to navigate unfamiliar locales. Among the competitors were Freshmen Tiffany Zhao and Philbert Tjong who won first place in their divisions.

The Cane Quest Challenge separated the students into two categories based on visual acuity and grade. Visual acuity refers to a person's ability to see.

"I was in the group with no sight," Zhao said. "Philbert was in the group with partial sight, which is why we were both able to win."

Organizers divided the course into three distinct, suburban routes: a residential block, a

business district, and a shopping mall. The competitors followed Braille instructions explaining the routes. Zhao and Tjong knew nothing prior to registering; 2011 marked the Challenge's inaugural race.

"When I first found out [about the Challenge], I actually did not want to go—not at all," Zhao said. "I thought they would leave us at one point and expect us to meet them at another."

Besides instructions, Cane Quest provided a "shadow" for competitors. The "shadows" were Orientation and Mobility Specialists who tailed the contestants, scoring each finessed footstep.

"The [Challenge] wasn't about speed—it was technique," Tjong said. "You know, 'slow and steady wins the race.'"

At the end of each route, questionnaires documented the students' suggestions to improve the courses.

"We should have crossed more major streets," Zhao said. "And they should make sure the elevators and the escalators in the mall are in working order before sending the students on the course."

For competitor and judge alike, the Challenge was a constant learning process.

"Well, [the organizers] told us we were the starters, the pioneers," Tjong said. "We were learning, and they were learning. It will get better."

The Challenge fostered students' confidence in their ability to travel unattended.

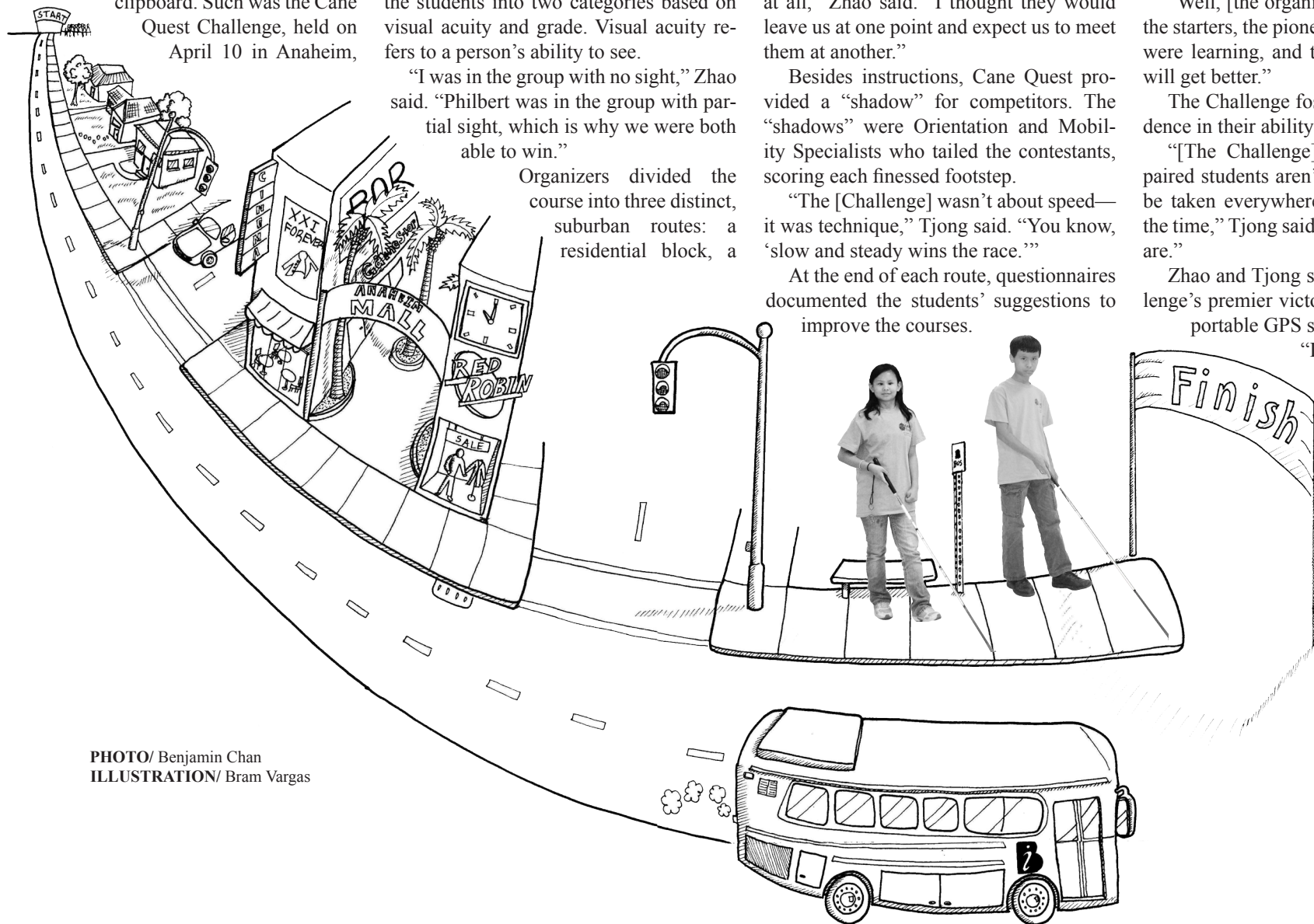
"[The Challenge] shows visually impaired students aren't people who need to be taken everywhere or stay at home all the time," Tjong said. "We know where we are."

Zhao and Tjong stand among the Challenge's premier victors, and they received portable GPS systems as prizes.

"I wasn't so sure I was going to win, and when they announced my name, I almost fell out my chair," Zhao said. "I was actually shaking when I went up to receive my prize."

Pioneers in their own right, Zhao and Tjong still required the right directions.

"Don't make a wrong turn, and safely cross the streets," Zhao said. "Make sure you read your Braille instructions."



PHOTO/ Benjamin Chan
ILLUSTRATION/ Bram Vargas

Club of the Month

By Jennifer Su
Feature Editor

Key Club

Over the span of three days, Key Club Division 10 North acquired numerous awards and garnered recognition at the 65th annual California-Nevada-Hawaii District Convention on April 15-17. The awards range from Outstanding President and Vice President to Distinguished Club, Membership Retention, Club of the Year, and more.

Recently, the club raised approximately \$92 at Relay for Life from a game booth which required players to toss a ping pong ball into a bowl of water to win a goldfish. The club donated the money raised to Relay for Life, which helps raise money to fight cancer.

Club Spotlight

By Chloe Lin
Staff Writer

Rubik's Cube Club

A group of students are gathered in a room, focused on solving their Rubik's Cubes at top speed. This is the Rubik's Cube Club in action, and club members are participating in an assembling and disassembling tournament.

The club has been occupied with future challenges, both within the club and in coordination with neighboring schools.

This chapter has begun one-on-one cube solving competitions. The club has also started preparing for an annual tournament against San Marino, Arcadia, Alhambra, and other local schools.

Rubik's Cube Club meets in Room 106 every Monday.

Juniors Gloria Fu and Timothy Halim delve into Korean culture

By Jacqueline Wong
Staff Writer

Not many people can say that they have walked along the scenic shores of Busan beach, slept in a temple, or participated in a mock "Amazing Race" challenge in the urban jungle of Seoul. However, for Juniors Timothy Halim and Gloria Fu, these events are just snippets of their recent trip to South Korea through the program Project Bridge.

The two immersed themselves in South Korean culture from April 14-24. Project Bridge chose Halim and Fu out of 800 applicants from Los Angeles and New York, with eight students from each region.

The students partook in this tour to gain a better understanding of South Korea.

"We learned different skills together such as cooking Bibimbap and learning the Crane Dance, had amazing adventures, and, of course, ate lots of Kimchi and Korean food," Fu said. "It felt like we experienced Korea like no one had ever experienced it before."

Although South Korea lies halfway around the world, a South Korean's lifestyle is very similar to that of an American's. Traditional culture and mannerisms in South Korea still differ from American customs. The ideals of respect and obedience are still intact within the South Korean social order, which one can observe in everyday acts such as simple bows or greetings.

"The biggest difference between the U.S. and Korea would be respect," Fu said. "In America, you don't really bow to your teachers, your elders, or seniors, but in Korea, whenever you see a senior or your teacher, you bow to them as a sign of respect."

The Project Bridge students boarded at two high schools, a South Korean home, a temple, a youth hostel, and two hotels. While at the high schools, the students received an inside look at the average South Korean student-life.

"I feel like Korea's education system is really effective because all the students are self-motivated and diligent," Halim said. "Compared to America, I feel like we take things really lightly and everything is lax. I wouldn't have the diligence to do what they do, but that's how they grew up."

The organization The Korea Society designed Project Bridge in 1993 to ease tensions between Americans and South Koreans after the L.A. Riots. The program's aim is to build bridges across racial, cultural, and ethnic gaps and to encourage tolerance and understanding between Americans and South Koreans.

"The best lesson I have taken out of the trip to Korea itself is that everyone's human," Halim said. "People are just people, interacting with everyone should be the same, regardless of their background, status, race, religion, or culture."



PHOTO COURTESY/ Gloria Fu

South Korea values cleanliness not only in the home, but also in public areas, such as business districts.