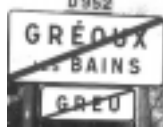




We Know What They Did Last Summer...

Take a peek at what some AHS faculty did over their Summer vacations.

See Pages 4 & 5



Get Up Close and Personal with Albany's new

Superintendent, Administrators and Teachers.

See Pages 6 & 7



Albany High

School

The COUGAR

Albany, California

October 8, 1999

Volume 1, Issue 1

Campus Connection

by Andrew Hara

* Days of the Albany High Times have come to an end as a new school newspaper, The COUGAR, makes its debut.

Along with its old name, The COUGAR leaves behind the four-column format and now features five columns to allow for more layout options.

This year's newspaper is put together by the ROP-funded Advanced Journalism class.

Staff includes Editor-in-Chief Amy Chen, Managing Editor Kathryn Booth, Opinion Editor Matt Haney, Features Editor Kathryn Robinson, Arts & Entertainment Editor Tamara Failor, Sports Editor Abdul Jandali and Co-sports Editor Adam Phillips.

The COUGAR also displays a new logo. Sophomore Adan Gonzalez won the "Design the Cougar Masthead" competition, which earned him a deluxe Yearbook 2000 package.

* Today marks a bittersweet farewell for Counselor Nancy Harrington who is moving on to a new counseling position at Oakland's Santa Fe Elementary.

"I will miss the students here at Albany," she says sadly, "but I need to follow my heart and that's working with young children."

Campus, see Page 6

Ceremony Breaks New Ground

by Amy Chen

With the dig of a shovel and the responsive cheers from the crowd, a new era has begun at Albany High.

"This is a momentous occasion," Principal Gloria Galindo declared at the Sept. 23 groundbreaking ceremony. "A long-awaited dream is here. What you're seeing is a reality."

The event, well-attended by students and community members, not only jumpstarts the construction of the new high school building but also paves the road ahead for AHS.

Ms. Galindo presided over the landmark affair that included speeches by Superintendent Gary Mills and other members of the Albany Board of Education.

"These kind of things are symbolic," Assistant Superintendent Constance Hubbard says of the ceremony. "The point was to give the kids a clear message that we're starting and will have a new building for them as soon as possible."

Since current Juniors and Seniors will not see the completion of the new building in Fall 2001, the Administration wanted to give them a choice

as to whether they wanted to attend the ceremony or not.

"We voted [as a class] that we should come," said Junior Isaac Chan. "It's good for the other grades. It was also neat to see the Superintendent talking about the new school, even though we won't get to see it," he added.

The groundbreaking ceremony was originally scheduled for the weekend but was officially changed to a school day so students could participate more conveniently in the celebration.

"Let's make it for the kids," suggested Mr. David De Hart, AHS Social Studies teacher and President of the Albany Teachers Association (ATA), at last month's school board meeting. "We need some morale boosters. I think it's our opportunity to get involved."

After the ceremony, Mr. Mills noted, "We're all really happy that the students could be a part of this."

In regard to construction noise interfering with classroom instruction, Ms. Galindo points out, "That remains to be seen and heard. We're working on it."

Prior to the ceremony, a pre-construction meeting was held with the city of Albany to examine noise abatement ordinances.

"Most of us educators are not



Photo by Amy Chen

DIRT FLIES as (from left) Principal Gloria Galindo, Junior Oscar Whelan and Superintendent Gary Mills kick off groundbreaking ceremonies for Albany's new high school.

construction workers and yet we're talking about it right now," says Mr. Mills. "Every week we have a facilities committee meeting. We track the construction carefully so we can try to make sure it's done right."

As to why building did not begin over the summer, he admits: "I wasn't here when it was happening. But it is my understanding that the funding for the Middle School was approved before the request for the high school was put through."

According to The Journal, the Albany Service Center (formerly known as AUSD) faced

a financial obstacle when the state Allocation Board voted to withhold \$1.4 million of the original requested amount of \$22 million.

As reported by The Journal, the state said it will only fund school reconstruction to cover current student needs but not for projected student growth.

"The high school was just about to get funded when the state bond was passed," Mr. Mills says. "We were in line to get funding when the model changed."

Mrs. Hubbard explains that after the state bond measure SB-50 passed on the Nov. '98 bal

School, see Page 7

Changes Rejuvenate School

by Erin Danielson and Colleen Smallfield

Low-security women's prison? Internment facility? Cardboard kingdom? Perhaps these are some of the colorful adjectives students used to describe Albany High School in previous years.

While the physical setting remains the same, positive changes are happening all over.

First are the many new faces: students, teachers and Administration alike, the latter having already set forth a positive tone.

Ms. Julie Salas, the school bookkeeper, refers to the Administration as "really easy to communicate with, really positive and outgoing."

Senior Priscilla Tang adds, "I think the Administration is trying to make it better. I can tell they're trying to recapture school spirit."

The new centralized location of the Main Office also contributes to the unification of Administration and students.

Principal Gloria Galindo has only positive remarks about the new location: "It was part of

building community, part of having a school site, a gathering point, like a town square."

This year, a myriad of classes were added. They include ROP Screenwriting, Theater Study and Advanced Choir. A third period of Advanced Art was also added and Yearbook became ROP Desktop Publishing.

Another positive change this year is having Spirit Fridays when students sport their red and white to show school spirit.

With the new Administration, revised policies regarding discipline and conduct are in abundance.

The school-wide, uniform tardy policy was abolished and now, according to a memo in the faculty handbook, "every teacher is required to have and enforce a tardy policy...which must be clearly presented to students."

The school also implemented two uniform classroom policies, one that prohibits eating and drinking in class and another that states that no Walkmans should be in sight



WALKMANS no more learns Sophomore Dylan Royson.

or in use in the classroom.

Perhaps the most positive change is having the quarterly grade level assemblies in the Little Theater.

In the past, these assemblies occurred only once at the beginning of the year and often left students with a sour aftertaste.

This year student representatives and Administration have the chance to inform and unify their classes.

Sophomore Cecy Plaza comments, "I like having separate class assemblies because then everyone is more sure of what's going on. No one has the chance of being misinformed."

AMS Cobras To Share Gym With

Cougars

by Adam Phillips

When the volleyball team recently walked into the new Albany Middle School gym, it marked the first time in over two years that the Lady Cougars had a homecourt advantage.

Ever since the fateful decision that Albany High School wasn't earthquake-safe, the volleyball and basketball teams have been shipped out via bus to the Alameda Naval Base, where both teams conducted all practices and games.

"It was the worst thing," says Senior volleyball player Laura Jensen. "It (the bus trip) cuts into everyone's schedule. And if you have a full schedule you can't afford to lose two hours."

Every Fall it was the same old scenario: the volleyball team would have to trek out to Alameda in order to have a gym. Then every Winter, the

basketball team would have to trek to Alameda to have a gym.

There is even a short period — depending on how far the volleyball team advanced in the playoffs — where both teams had to use the gym at the same time.

Despite the loss of pride and homecourt advantage that not having a gym created, the travel time to Alameda also severely cut into the homework time of student-athletes.

With a round-trip time of 90 minutes, players usually arrived back at the school at around 7:30. After all is said and done, most of the players didn't get to fall down on their couches until 8.

At 8, the athletes transform into students, students who haven't showered, eaten dinner, or changed out of their sweaty

AMS Gym, see Page 8

AHS Spirit Reaches New High

Was it just us, or was anyone else unsure whether we were at the right address when they arrived at school on the first day?

Okay, we're embellishing a little here. We knew we were at 603 Key Route Blvd. — it just didn't feel like we were at the same school we'd been going to for the last three years.

New faces at every turn. New turns at every turn. We just didn't know what to think of this new, improved school.

Some of us accidentally showed up at school 20 minutes early and used every second of the extra time to soak up the new atmosphere. Banners had been hung on fences, new trees had been planted on the grounds, classrooms and offices had been completely relocated.

Some of us also heard Mr. Doug Kagawa talk about his impression of the upcoming year at Freshmen Orientation. Although we knew this year was going to be awesome anyway (hey, it's our Senior year), we were only beginning to understand why.

"There's something new in the air that's unlike anything at Albany High," claims Mr. Kagawa. "In the 23 years that I've worked here I've never seen this much school spirit."

We can hardly believe we're thinking this, but there is actually a lot of school spirit present this year. Sure,



COUGAR MASCOT shows new spirit.

we're only a month into the year, but already we've seen Administration taking initiative like never before.

We're actually looking forward to seeing what new ideas they have in store for us. How often do you hear a student say that?

We are becoming more and more like

a real high school with each of these new improvements.

This is the first time in several years that we have a mascot costume. It has been at most of the recent assemblies and will be involved in providing sideline entertainment with the cheerleaders at football and basketball games.

Another good sign for the year is that the sports program in general is getting much more support. The volleyball and basketball teams can now practice and have all of their home games at the new Middle School's gym instead of the Alameda Naval Base, which they've used the past two years.

By using this gym it allows the players to have more spare time because they don't have to commit an hour or more to busing to and from practice every day. Also, it is almost assured that more people will go to their games.

It's finally sinking into our heads, and we hope into yours as well, that this year is going to be great for everyone who wants it to be. The leaders of AHS are doing everything they can to make the 1999-2000 year "as good as it gets."

All we have left to say is major props to everyone on campus who's making the effort, and good luck to everyone else.

Time To Stub Out Cigarette Tax?

by Matt Haney

There is a trend developing in California, a trend to levy new sales taxes in order to fund special programs for our state's youth.

Although many similar proposals are being developed, one that has already gone into action is Proposition 10 or the California Families and Children First Act,

a new tax levied on all cigarette purchases.

The money from this tax will be used to fund special programs in all 58 counties

in California for children up to age five, the age group which has been proven to be the most important period for brain development.

No one can deny that the motives of this bill are great. The bill aims to reduce the increasing amount of teen smokers by nearly doubling the price of cigarettes as well as fund new special programs for California's youth.

But the reason Prop. 10 and other taxes of this type are unjust is not because its intentions or motives are unjust. Instead, it's the way it's being executed.

We do need special programs for kids and teens, but taxing specific items is not the right way to go, no matter how tempting it might be at first glance.

The problem with these new taxes is that they are regressive taxes which unlike income tax, are not geared to the ability to pay. As a result, it falls most heavily on those with lower incomes.

Because poor people by defi-

nition have less money than the rich, they will be paying a higher percentage of their income when paying these regressive taxes.

These taxes take the same amount of money from the rich as from the poor, when the rich have way more money to give.

Today, the gap between the rich and poor continues to grow as the rich get richer and the poor simply don't.

Yet our government wishes to levy regressive taxes which will take a higher yield from the poor, and lower the income tax which takes more from the rich.

Is there anyone in California that would argue that the rich need more money and the poor need even less than they already have?

Although it is tough for many to accept this argument considering it will result in even more money being taken out of their paycheck, the way to obtain money needed to solve many of our state's problems without punishing our state's poor is by raising the income tax.

Income tax is a progressive tax which means the higher the income, the higher the tax rate.

So let's help our needy California teens and children, but at the same time let's watch out for where and how we obtain our funding.

Instead of stealing from the poor to fund these much needed programs, why not steal from the rich? There is no denying that they have a lot more to give.

After all, Robin Hood was the good guy, wasn't he?

"We do need special programs for kids and teens, but taxing specific items is not the right way to go, no matter how tempting it might be at first glance."

The COUGAR Staff

Albany High School
603 Key Route Blvd.
Albany, CA 94706
ahscougar@juno.com

Editor-in-Chief:	Amy Chen	Waylon Bacon	Andrew Hara
		Ashwini Bhardwaj	Sanam Jorjani
Managing Editor:	Kathryn Booth	Nick Bhardwaj	Nellie Lommen
Opinion Editor:	Matt Haney	Margaret Chan	Margaret Manson
Features Editor:	Kathryn Robinson	Chris Colvin	Tim Onweller
A&E Editor:	Tamara Failor	Erin Danielson	Colleen Smallfield
Sports Editor:	Abdul Jandali	Johnny Din	Jesse Sung
Co-sports Editor:	Adam Phillips	Farnoor Foroutan	Linda Zhou
Technical Adviser:	Adan Gonzalez	Adviser:	Mr. Michael Pardridge

The COUGAR is the student newspaper of Albany High School. The COUGAR reserves the right to hold or edit all submitted material. Views expressed in the COUGAR are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of

all staff members. Opinion pieces without bylines are Staff Editorials and those opinions reflect those of the Editorial Board.

Students Need Guidance, Not Cops On Campus

by Matt Haney

Recently, the San Francisco Unified School District received one of 54 U.S. school district grants for \$2.7 million that must be used by the district to prevent youth violence in its schools.

Ever since the Columbine incident, there has been a huge push for "preventing youth violence" in schools, which is illustrated by this new bill.

In no way do I advocate against preventing youth violence, but there is a very real fear of the way the schools which receive these grants implement them.

With this money, many schools are going to invest in metal detectors, security guards, chained doors, blocked access roads.

These anti-violence measures, unless the school is incredibly violent, which SF schools are not, instead work adversely against solving violence in schools.

Last year when the Albany

School District proposed having a Resource Officer (aka "cop") who would supposedly end Albany High's "violence" problems, School Board Members obviously did not examine the true consequences of this proposal.

"What they don't need is to be made to feel more like a criminal and an outcast by being profiled and followed around by a cop."

Students will not just stop the "violent" or "disruptive" behaviors. Incidents might even increase because it has been proven that when you make students feel like outcasts or criminals, they are much quicker to act like one.

Politicians continue to use Columbine as an example for why they enforce such measures. But do you really think that the gunmen would have stopped and turned around, al-

ready packed with their automatic weapons, because they realized that Columbine just got a new metal detector?

What the gunmen in the Columbine incident needed was some guidance and help. This is what most troubled students need.

What they don't need is to be made to feel more like a criminal and an outcast by being profiled and followed around by a cop, who in the opinion of many, has no place in the school environment.

San Francisco and the other cities who were blessed to receive this grant should use it on violence prevention, but they need to make sure that what they do with the money actually prevents violence.

The money must be used to create different after-school programs, create counseling for troubled students, conflict resolution and other measures that make the school a nurturing and fun environment instead of a constricting and harassing one.

Concert Dubbed 'Emotion-

by Viva Soffian

Many of you have probably never even heard of the student band Walpurgis Night or know why they were holding a farewell concert.

But on the evening of the first Friday of this school year, over 100 friends, family members and newcomers gathered at the Little Theater.

They enjoyed original songs written by lead singer, guitarist and composer Amanda Mehl and bass guitarist and lyricist Tamara Failor, both Seniors at AHS.

A song written and sung by Casey Jackson, their drummer and a 1999 graduate of Albany High, was also featured.

The band will no longer be able to stay together since the band's back-up singer Leah Steadman (also a grad of AHS), violinist Anton Patzner and Jackson are all going away to UC Santa Cruz.

Having been together since November of 1998, and just at the peak of their performing status, Walpurgis Night thought it best to say goodbye one last time at what was said to be their very best performance.

Ms. Gloria Sims, Mehl and Failor's Sophomore English

teacher, recalls when the idea of a band probably sparked.

The two students sat next to each other in class and started admiring each other's poetry.

Ms. Sims remembers Mehl bringing her guitar to class one day and singing a song. The song happened to be the first song that she and Failor had written together, "Last First Kiss."

Framed by branches hung above the stage and drenched with soft lights, Walpurgis Night's two musical sets mainly consisted of highly emotional songs recollecting times of depression and confusion, but they were by no means of the cliché variety.

The band possessed a soft Celtic sound with folk-like harmonies brought to life by Steadman and Patzner.

The voices of Mehl and Steadman harmonized superbly with one another and were accented eloquently by Patzner's magnificent violin. They perfectly captured the emotion of the profound lyrics and composition.

At times the emotion was so high that you could see the effect in the moist eyes of the audience members.

"It was an emotion-fest,"

says Junior Natalie Spautz. "It was more than good-bye, I don't know how to explain it. The energy was so high. I don't know any of the performers but I feel that now I'm emotionally tied. It was so raw."

The songs, such as "Desert Rain," "Disconnected," "Everything But Regret" and "Graveyard" were great examples of how love can affect a person and remind him or her that living is just as painful and baffling as it is exciting.

But the mood wasn't just somber and depressing.

Their songs also bared the oppressive ways of society by being ironic and at times cynical, like in "Last First Kiss," "String of Confusion" and "War Chant."

The last song ended and the performers exited the stage, but the concert wasn't over just yet.

They walked on stage again and played a reprise of "War Chant," a well-known favorite amongst Walpurgis fans.

Half of the audience stood up, began clapping, sang along and started to dance in the aisles. A few were even compelled to come up on stage to dance and sing, showing their bonds with the band members.

By the end of their final con-



Photo courtesy of Marion Adams

CELTIC-FOLK-ROCK BAND Walpurgis Night consists of (from left) back-up vocalist/Albany High '99 grad Leah Steadman, lead guitarist and vocalist Amanda Mehl, bass guitarist Tamara Failor, violinist Anton Patzner and drummer/Albany High '99 grad Casey Jackson (not pictured).

cert, the members of Walpurgis Night were obviously very thrilled at the reaction of the audience but also saddened by knowing that moment would soon be over and Walpurgis Night would no longer be.

Roses were dispensed to all the band members by 1999 AHS graduate Anne Cox, and the audience gave them a standing ovation.

Afterwards, everyone flocked into the lobby, waiting for a chance to praise the band and show them just how affecting their performance was with

their teary eyes.

There is no doubt in my mind that all the members of Walpurgis Night can make a career out of their immense skills and love for music.

We will all cherish the chances we got to see and hear such incredible performers come together. We will long for the beauty that they gave us.

Those of you who missed the concert missed more than an evening with friends. You missed a chance to open your soul and find out what really lies there.

Piano Fund For

by Tamara Failor

Let's have a new piano as well as a maintenance fund.

Thanks to the Albany Education Foundation, AHS might be receiving a new piano for the Little Theater, the site of many productions including the musicals for both AHS and the Middle School.

The piano would benefit the students as well as the community, since the Little Theater is also available to the city population.

The Foundation has already donated \$5,000 to start the fund, which needs to hit \$125,000 to

Ms. Joan Sextro, AHS choir director, adds, "We have many students here who are excellent pianists but don't have a piano to play on."

This piano, which would probably be a small grand piano headquartered in the choir room, could serve this purpose.

To make a tax-deductible donation to the fund, contact the Albany Education Foundation at 1320 Solano Avenue, Suite 1902, Albany, 94706, or call 524-7797.

Horror Is Back... Boo!

Hollywood is notorious for not getting it until someone takes a fresh idea and slaps them HARD across the face with it a couple of times.

The fresh idea, unfortunately, is usually from an independent movie. A cliché idea, I know, but there has to be some truth to it or else it wouldn't be a cliché.

That is why I was delighted and surprised while viewing *The Sixth Sense* and *Stir Of Echoes*, both mainstream, and easily two of the most absolutely haunting films I have seen in my many years worth of gobbling up every horror movie I could find.

The Sixth Sense was the first of these two movies I saw. Everything in the film screams "craftsmanship!"

The opening scene sets the tone, from slightly unsettling camera angles — a dialogue shot looking at the reflection off of an award from the city given to Dr. Malcom Crow (Bruce Willis) for his years spent counseling children — to the fact that most of the film is shot with a handheld camera.

The camera shakes ever so slightly, even in somber moments, giving you the implication of something horrible about to happen.

And then it does, as a disgruntled patient, Vincent Gravy, confronts Dr. Crow about his failure to help him. Vincent's last words to Dr. Crow haunt us,

and set the premise for the rest of the movie: "Do you know why it's scary to be alone?!"

In the ensuing months, Dr. Malcolm Crow takes on the case of Cole, a disturbed kid who reminds Crow of the tragic Vincent. Cole's secret, kicking off a string of terrifying sequences, is simply that he sees dead people.

At this point, the film goes from unsettling to just plain scary.

The worst moments are when the kid is alone, and we see the world through his eyes.

By the end of the movie, you are left with a new perspective on ghosts.

As I sat alone in the theater, I looked to the only other person present, and wondered to myself: is she really there, or can only I see her?

Next came *Stir Of Echoes*, a film with a similar plot, but executed entirely differently.

The difference here is that while *The Sixth Sense* concentrates on many different ghosts, *Stir Of Echoes* focuses on one singular ghost.

Also, the impending sense of terror present in *The Sixth Sense* has been replaced by an omnipresent feeling of creepiness.

Here the plot concerns a man—whose son communicates with the ghost of a murdered mentally retarded girl—and when he undergoes hypnosis, shares his son's visions.

The problem with this film is

that the ending never pays off. It's a bit like someone telling a joke that's great until the punch line.

However, what's good about these films is that they are the first horror movies in a decade to evoke a feeling of fear that lasts beyond the theater door.

For the first time since such classics as *Frankenstein* or

"The echo of my own feet...sent chills down my spine."

Night Of The Living Dead, the horror genre is being twisted and remade.

New images have been created to lurk in the dark corners of our minds, reminding us we do not know everything, reminding us of all there is to fear.

These films tap into what it feels like to be five years old again, and not know what is under the bed, what is hiding in the closet, or what may get you when you take a short trip to the bathroom.

Walking home from my night out at the movies, I felt more vulnerable than I had in years.

The echo of my own feet thudding dully against the floor of the BART station sent chills down my spine, and as I walked home, I couldn't look to my side for fear of seeing the ghost from *Stir Of Echoes*, seething with rage at her murder.

Sitting here, typing this story with all the lights on, I'm jumping at every creak my house makes, and too scared to even breathe for fear of something out there hearing me.

Music Review: SoLe Goes Deeper

by Jesse Sung

Who that? Who that you heard on JT Money's "Who Dat?"

Who that you heard on the R&B trio Before Dark's single "Baby?"

It was SoLe (pronounced SoLay) who brought that fierce verse that aligned perfectly with JT Money's own.

The single hit No. 5 on the Billboard's top 100 chart and had the whole hip-hop nation at some point chanting the hook.

Remember now? You better, because SoLe's debut album "Skin Deep" (DreamWorks Records) will definitely make you recognize.

Her first single "4, 5, 6" fea-

turing male counterpart JT Money is an explicit club banger as the two exchange verses, each trying to emphasize who gets the leash/collar and who gets to hold it.

The track "Ain't Nobody," featuring chi-town (Chicago) veteran speed mouth Tech9, is just ridiculously tight.

The songs "Who Dat" and "Baby" will both be thrown on as bonus tracks.

Though "Skin Deep" recycles the over-used topics of sex, violence and money on a few tracks, SoLe's delivery, harsh voice, grand guest list and overall good production places "Skin Deep" as one of the most blazing hip-hop albums of the 1999 Fall session.

Lohman

For 10 luxurious days, Science teacher Mr. Rich Lohman soaked in Hawaiian sunshine while attending a conference with 24 other teachers. Held in Oahu's enviable locale, the conference centered around Hands On Universe, a computer program used in the classroom to illustrate what real astronomers do.

"The conference was five days. And then I spent three days on Maui followed by two days on the Big Island," says Mr. Lohman of his first visit to the islands.

After the conference, Mr. Lohman and his colleagues traveled as a group and explored the wonders of the other Hawaiian islands.

On the 14,000-foot-tall Mauna Kea, he saw the world's two largest reflector telescopes, the Keck twins, "but didn't get to look through them because it was during the day," he recalls.

As it turned out, he didn't need a telescope to peer into the heavens: "We just looked at the stars with our eyes. The skies were clear and the stars were so beautiful."

Having tried skydiving not too long ago, Mr. Lohman doubled his adventures in the sky when he went parasailing.

"That was a lot of fun," he says with a grin. "I loved that."

Other adventures included snorkeling and hiking up an active volcano. "We saw where the lava flows down into the ocean," he says.



MR. LOHMAN versus the volcano.



WATERY SPLENDOR greets Mr. Lohman in Hawaii.

Besides going to Hawaii, Mr. Lohman continued his 14-year-old family tradition of going to Ashland, Ore., where he saw *Othello* and *Much Ado about Nothing*.

To top off the summer, Mr. Lohman bought a second home in the Sierras "as a place to have family retreats and gatherings."

Situated in Arnold, near Calaveras Big Tree State Park, its location is ideal.

"It's been a favorite place for my family," Mr. Lohman says, noting its proximity to skiing in Bear Valley and fishing in Lake Alpine. "My son-in-law and I have gone fishing there for six years in a row."

Harrington

After spending a month in France and Italy, departing AHS Counselor Nancy Harrington not only saw a childhood friend get married in a beautiful chapel in Provence but also ran into a colleague from AHS.

"I was only in Paris for two days," she says. "I had just arrived that morning. I was walking out of the Musee Dorsay when I heard someone call my name. I was thinking, 'Who in the world knew me here?'"

That someone turned out to be Albany High School's very own French teacher Mrs. Wendy Ruebman, who is currently taking a year off from the classroom.

"We went to a cafe," says Ms. Harrington. "She was meeting some friends later that day but wasn't sure what she was going to do that night. So she went out to dinner with us! It was great."

Peterson

In her 15th year at UC Berkeley as an Academic Talent Development Program (ATDP) instructor, Ms. Lois Peterson spent her summer teaching AP Biology to "20 super motivated students in six weeks, an impossible task!" she recalls.

Although she calls her summer a "working vacation," Ms. Peterson continues to be enthralled by the people she meets.

"Even if it's working, I get excited by all the people I come in contact with," she says. "I had a student who was my Teaching Assistant. He said to me one day, 'My dad (Gary Sims) testified about DNA at the OJ Simpson trial.'"

It didn't take long for Ms. Peterson to ask Mr. Sims to give her class a lecture about DNA fingerprinting. "His job is to testify," Ms. Peterson explains, noting how he showed them slides of evidence from different murder trials. "There's a whole branch of science involved in freeing people with DNA evidence. It's fascinating."

Ms. Peterson also ran into Mr. David Farrell of the Albany Board of Education while on a field trip with her class. He was in charge of a biotech exhibit at Bancroft Library.

While giving a seminar at UC Riverside, she also met Neil Campbell, the author of Albany High's new AP Biology textbooks.

In between lectures, Ms. Peterson revisited the Monterey Bay Aquarium and managed to see a performance of the musical *Jekyll and Hyde* in San Francisco. "It's not as good as *Les Miserables* or *Phantom*," she says with the air of a seasoned critic.

Despite her academically-themed summer, Ms. Peterson remains philosophical about her role. "In many ways, I grow from the experience of teaching all day," she says. "I get to work with students who really want to be there."

Ritchie

Special Education teacher Mrs. Alexia Ritchie learned about the "aloha" spirit when she vacationed in Maui, attended a luau and went boating. The proud mother of an eight-month-old daughter, Mrs. Ritchie also celebrated her 10th wedding anniversary in August.

Kajiwara

Ms. Shirley Kajiwara of the Vice Principals' Office spent her summer shuttling back and forth between the comforts of home and San Francisco International Airport. Entertaining visitors from Scotland and Japan, Ms. Kajiwara had to keep up "with the comings and goings of a summer full of company."

Atkinson

Spanish teacher Ms. Marge Atkinson used her vacation to attend a family reunion in Wisconsin. In July, she was the proud mother-of-the-groom when she saw her son get married "in a storybook wedding" in Solvang.

Text by Amy Chen

Miranda

Spanish teacher Mr. Mike Miranda attended two language institutes and took solitary walks through cloud forests, he recalls, it was "a great way to r

It's been said that the three best perks about being a teacher are June, July, and August when they are not grading papers. So before you start pulling out the Fall sweaters and scarves, relive the wonderful memories you did to fill their days. You might be surprised.

Hill and Lilienthal

Music and art came together in the ocean when band director Mr. Tom Lilienthal and art teacher Mr. Ed Hill rented a 51-foot French-built sailboat and cruised around the British Virgin Islands for 13 days.

"It was so relaxing," Mr. Lilienthal says of the trip which included his girlfriend, Mr. Hill and his fiancée and another couple. "It was the place, the boat, the food and the people."

With 19 years of experience with the Cal Sailing Club, Mr. Lilienthal captained while Mr. Hill, an avid sailor since high school, fulfilled his duties as dinghy captain.

"I was in charge of making sure the motor was on to prevent drag," Mr. Hill says in mock seriousness. "And that the swim ladder was down when we went swimming or up when we were ready to go."

"He was the best dinghy captain I've ever sailed with," Mr. Lilienthal says with a smile. "Of six people, (Mr. Hill) was the last to get up in the mornings. He would come up the stairs and yell at the top of his lungs, 'I'm in paradise!'"

"Actually what I said was 'Another day in paradise!'" Mr. Hill corrects, laughing in remembrance. "The weather was spectacular. The water was perfect. In some places the water was coral-green."

Adds Mr. Lilienthal: "We snorkeled in the caves where Blackbeard (the pirate) used to hide after plundering ships."

"The islands were beauti-

ful," agrees Mr. Hill. "The pictures were so picturesque places."

Over the course of the trip, Mr. Hill painted. In return, Mr. Lilienthal gave him a canvas.

Although they usually sail together, the group occasionally splits up.

"They were the last to get up in the mornings. His hands held a foot of canvas."

At the end of the trip, Mr. Hill said, "We were going to have a great memory."

After parting ways, Mr. Hill and his girlfriend sailed for a few days. En route to La Paz, Mr. Hill saw a pod of dolphins near Cortez.

But by both their agreement, it will not be their last trip together. The previous owner of a 36-foot sailboat, Mr. Lilienthal recently acquired a new boat whose prowess is evident over Spring Break.

"His bags are packed and ready to go," Mr. Lilienthal says with enthusiasm to climb aboard.

"I'm ready," echoes Mr. Hill. "I don't care if I have to go. I'm going."



SETTING SAIL are Mr. Tom Lilienthal (left) and Mr. Ed Hill.

The De Harts

After learning to bodysurf when he was five, Mr. David De Hart has spent virtually every summer since then reliving the adrenaline rush of riding the waves.

"My family used to vacation at the beach every summer," says Mr. De Hart. Continuing the tradition with his own family, the Social Studies teaching-duo stayed at a friend's place for a week and relaxed under the Southern California sunshine in front of Dennis Rodman's house in Newport Beach. "The kids love it," he says. "They're starting to enjoy the water."

"Sarah and Kylie are into boogie-boarding," Mrs. Karen De Hart says of her twin daughters. "I don't like cold water but I'll run on the beach or take walks."

Besides the beach, the De Harts also spent four days camping east of Fresno in Dinkey Creek.

"It's a place to relax and enjoy the Sierras," he says. "There's a great view from the campsite. We relaxed. We read. We swam, hiked. Every day it was sort of the same routine."

Adds his wife: "It was (eight-month-old) Lucas's first camping trip."

Over the summer, Mr. De Hart also attended his 30th high school reunion in Woodland Hills near Burbank: "There were 200 people from a class of 700. Fewer people seem to show up as the years pass. But I saw a lot of friends that I haven't seen since the 20th."

He also spent part of the summer gardening and digging two-foot-deep fence post holes. In the process of installing a 90-foot-wall along the side of his house, the fence "is still a long way from being finished but it felt good to do some physical labor," he says. "The summer was too short, as it always is."

Barker

Mr. Loring Barker of the Math and Science Departments camped in the Sierras for a couple of weeks and also re-roofed a house over the summer.

Bonecutter

Science teacher Mr. Darrin Bonecutter vacationed in Mt. Wittenburg, Mt. Tam, Muir Woods and Ohio. During the summer, he also showed 10 high school students how to teach eight Science courses to middle school students.

Claeys

Ms. Julia Claeys of the Science Department kicked up a sand storm when she competed in four beach volleyball tournaments over the summer. She placed 2nd in an unrated coed seconds division and took home 1st place in a Lake Tahoe golf and volleyball tournament. Besides playing volleyball and going to Mexico, Ms. Claeys also "spent a whole day making a painting with Mr. Hill during one of his landscape art classes."

Sextro

A presentation on indoor air quality took choir teacher Mrs. Joan Sextro to Scotland for two weeks, or rather, took the Sextros to Scotland.

"Mr. Sextro had to do a talk at a seminar there on PowerPoint," says Mrs. Sextro. "I was on vacation and on a quest — to find unspun wool."

She didn't come back with unspun wool (apparently individual farmers are prohibited from marketing the wool to tourists) but she still has plenty of stories to tell about her Scottish travels.

"College students were assisting the scientists at the conference," she remembers. "And one of them came up to Mr. Sextro and asked, 'Are you Greg Sextro's father?'"

The boy turned out to be Matt Hall, an AHS graduate who is currently a Senior at UC Santa Cruz.

"I keep thinking, can't I just go somewhere without having Albany people follow me?" she says with a laugh.

After Mr. Sextro's presentation at the international conference, the next few weeks lent themselves to exploring Edinburgh and its festival called The Tattoo. Held atop the Edinburgh Castle,



MRS. SEXTRO amidst the Scots.



THE SEXTROS pose at the base of a tower.

the outdoor festival boasted 300 music and dance performers.

In addition to a chorus and soloists, she said there was "a band mounted on horses and a billion bagpipes. The quality of the singing and playing was so fantastic, it would make you cry. It was so beautiful."

The Sextros also hiked around the base of the tallest mountain in Scotland, the 4500-foot-tall Bennevis. "It's where parts of *Braveheart* were filmed," Mrs. Sextro says. "They have these hairy, shaggy reddish-brown cows with big horns. They're funny-looking."

Of the cuisine, Mrs. Sextro had this to say: "We did not eat some of the Scottish delights because they looked awful." An example is haggis, sheep stomach stuffed with entrails and other delicacies. "We don't eat like that," she says matter-of-factly.

But "the people of Scotland were so friendly," she says. "We stayed in several bed and breakfast inns and it was like going into your own home. I would definitely go back."

Moller

Trains, planes and automobiles — Mr. Jerry Moller of the Business Education Department did it all this summer.

With his college days behind him, Mr. Moller has given up using the Eurorail pass to cover 11 countries in three months. Instead, he has discovered a more leisurely method of exploring Europe.

"We (my wife and I) find a home base and explore from there," says Mr. Moller. "We don't push to do as much sightseeing as we used to. We take a slower pace and enjoy ourselves much more now."

During their month-long trek through the backroads of France, Germany and Italy, the Mollers stayed in Paris for two nights before moving on to Provence where they engaged in a walking tour of the Haute Provence region.

"It's in an area with not a lot of tourists," he says. "We did day trips to the nearby villages. They were historic and beautiful."

The Mollers also spent two nights in the university town of Aix en Provence. "It's a very lively place at night," he recalls. "A lot of people were out. We were out."

From there, the Mollers met up with their old friends, the Rieckes, who live outside of Munich, Germany. In 1983, the Mollers arranged a house exchange with them and despite the distance they have maintained the friendship over the years.

"The weather had been great but when we got to Munich, it rained virtually every day," laughs Mr. Moller.

In Italy, the beauty of the lush green hills and valleys took Mr. Moller's breath away.

"I've been to Italy a number of times but that was a good find," he says of the Marche, located just east of Tuscany. "Not many Americans go there. We stayed a little inland but you could see the Adriatic Sea from the hilltop."

Avid hikers, the Mollers also explored the mountainous Berchtesgaden region in Germany while visiting a former UC Berkeley exchange student who once lived with them.

"We were clear on top of the peaks," Mr. Moller remembers. "And we literally looked straight down into the valley. It was amazing."



MR. MOLLER at the exit sign of Haute Provence.

Summer
travels

Layout by Kathryn Booth

bell

bell went to Costa Rica where he spent much needed time on soliforests and animal reserves." As rediscover your center."

ily and August. Here's your chance to see what AHS faculty really do

opers or making killer tests.

rmth of Summer by checking out just exactly what some of your teachers

surprised at what you'll discover.

I did a painting on the beach. It was one of those

two weeks, Mr. Hill taught Mr. Lilienthal how to

lilienthal showed Mr. Hill how to conduct.

ally cooked their own meals aboard the sailboat,

dined in restaurants with delicious cuisine.

gest lobsters I've ever seen," said Mr. Lilienthal,

part to demonstrate. "They were unbelievable."

two weeks, Mr. Hill found it hard to go home.

o kidnap the boat and go," he smiled wistfully at

't want to leave."

s with Mr. Hill and his fiance, Mr. Lilienthal and

an additional six

az, Mexico they

s in the Sea of

accounts, it will

gether. The pre-

-foot boat, Mr.

quired a 41-foot

yet to be tested

ked and ready to

of Mr. Hill's end

nd with him again.

es Mr. Hill. "I

sell my car. I'm



ARTIST at work, Mr. Hill.

Superintendent Gary Mills Is An 'Okay Guy'

by Kathryn Robinson

There's a new man on campus and it's Mr. Gary Mills, Superintendent of the Albany Service Center (formerly known as Albany Unified School District).

But don't let the title intimidate you. In this case, "Superintendent" doesn't mean "super-intimidating." Mr. Mills has a knack for talking to people and is very approachable.

"I get along with people, and I like people," he says proudly.

This is Mr. Mills' 20th year as a Superintendent in California. It was in his hometown of Georgetown, Ohio, however, that he determined to gain that title.

"That's where I decided I wanted to be a Superintendent because I wanted to be like my Dad," Mr. Mills recalls.

Having been involved in the educational system for more than 40 years, Mr. Mills has plenty of experience in teaching and supervising as well as interacting with students.

His career began in 1965 in Cincinnati, Ohio, as a teacher at the New Richmond School District, where he taught English at the junior high school in the morning, and in the afternoon advanced writing at the high school.

However, his relationship with students didn't stop there. Mr. Mills also coached varsity football and track as he remembers fondly:

"That was a wonderful teaching experience. Both coaching and teaching...they were really fulfilling."

Mr. Mills seems to have already established a rap-



GARY MILLS joins the Albany educational community as Superintendent, relocating to the East Bay from a similar position in Calaveras County.

Photo by Amy Chen

port with the students of Albany High. The first week of school, he visited the student government class.

ASG Treasurer Kelly Proper says, "He was telling everyone 'Come up to me at lunch and tell me your names.' He seemed so eager to get to know us. We were all really excited about his visit."

Senior Emily Jackson, who has been the student representative on the School Board for the past year, has considerable confidence in the new Superintendent.

"He seems to be genuinely interested in matters about which students are concerned," Jackson says. "And I am confident that his willingness to listen will encourage more students to voice our opinions."

After treading rough waters over the past year with previous district administration, the Albany community has been in search of a life raft and is ready to give Mr. Gary Mills a try.

He speaks optimistically of his hopes for future harmony within the community: "I hope we can improve communication between people. I think that's the most important thing. And helping people to pull together and work better together and maybe do a little bit better job of listening to each other."

Eager to connect with the students, Mr. Mills hopes to get to know Albany High School and its scholars by frequenting the campus.

"I'll get to know a lot of you," he guarantees. "I'll go on the campus a lot. I'm going to come to ball games and volleyball games."

"I like that sort of stuff. I'm not a coach anymore, but just think about it. I mean, I coached, so I have that in my blood. That's a part of who I am. I'm still an athlete today."

Enthusiastic and motivated, Mr. Mills anticipates friendly relations with the community and high school. He doesn't expect immediate results but does have hope for the future.

"As you get to know me," he smiles and nods confidently, "I think you'll say, 'Mr. Mills is an okay guy. He's got high expectations, but he's an okay guy.'"

Okay to that!

20 Years Ago Today: Instant Replay

by Amy Chen

It was clearly a night of renewing old friendships and reminiscing about the past.

Faces lit up in recognition as former classmates mingled, martini glasses and photo albums in hand. People pored over yearbooks as cameras flashed, another moment of their lives captured for eternity.

Twenty years after they donned a cap and gown, walked the stage and received a high school diploma, members of the AHS Class of 1979 recently reunited in Moraga for an evening of fond memories and plenty of nostalgia.

"It's really funny because some people haven't changed," says Lori Marquis, assistant director for the PetSmart chain. "You can still tell who is who."

Ulysee Maurice echoed this sentiment: "Everybody still has the basic demeanor and the same smiles."



NOW AND THEN is what three former Cougars showed the camera at their recent Class of '79 reunion. Left to right: Edna Yee Shipley, Lori Marquis and Sandy Clark Burlando.

Financial manager Chris Pansoy who flew in from Palm Springs agreed, saying "I remember him [Maurice] basically from his laugh."

Bob Held, voted Most Shy by his peers, is still a quiet presence 20 years later: "It's sort of un-

usual to see people after all these years. But I like it."

Albany residents Edna Yee Shipley and June Dejong remain best friends even after so long, perhaps because they live a block away from each other.

"I was involved in sports and

government as a student," says Yee Shipley, mother of two kids in Albany schools. "Now I'm on the PTA. I'm the treasurer again."

The reunion was hosted in Moraga at Bogey's Bar and Grill, a restaurant managed by former lettergirl Aurea Fonseca

"It's been so long that I've forgotten my extracurricular activities," Fonseca admits.

"But I remember cheerleading. Who could forget that?"

Fonseca was the 'A' in 'Cougar' while classmate Joann Keane Rosano had the letter 'U' embroidered on the front of her red and white cheerleading sweater.

"I was nervous about coming," Keane Rosano says. Fulfilling her dreams of becoming a dental hygienist, she has a seven-year-old son with her high school sweetheart Brian Rosano. "But I'm glad I came.

I would do it again."

Of the 100 attendees, almost half of them made a cameo at the 10-year reunion as well, says reunion coordinator Liz Tellefsen.

Mark Ayers, now a Chevron Safety and Emergency Response director in Houston explains how the 10-year and 20-year reunions differ.

"At 10 years, you're still trying to go where you want to go," Ayers says. "You pretty much knew what you wanted to be. You hadn't really left the area yet. And now tonight, you find out everybody's dreams and aspirations, what they really wanted to be."

"Some people are doing what they wanted; other people are doing something totally different than what you'd expect and still doing great."

He paused and grinned. "And everybody's got a bunch of kids and photo albums now."

ADVICE

Although she majored in Economics while at UC Davis, Sandy Clark Burlando is now a plant nematologist, someone who processes soil samples for farmers by checking for plant parasites. "You never know what path life will lead you," she says. "Be flexible."

Lori Marquis advises today's Albany students to "try to focus really hard on your goals. Do what you can do to meet those goals. It's really important to get a head start, like with education."

"You've got to have some dreams to reach high," says reunion coordinator Liz Tellefsen. "When you're in high school, you don't really know how much the people are a part of you. As you get older, you want to go back, even if it's just for a night."

Ulysee Maurice says, "First thing you learn out of high school is you can never recapture what you didn't get out of high school. And that'll be something that you regret."

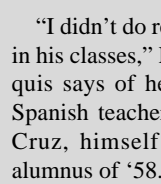
"When you get older," David Zupo says, "you can't bring high school back. Enjoy it while it's there. Don't take it for granted."

RECOLLECTIONS



Mr. Lohman, 1979

"I remember him being very patient," Ulysee Maurice says of his Science teacher Mr. Rich Lohman.



Mr. Cruz, 1979

"I didn't do really well in his classes," Lori Marquis says of her former Spanish teacher Mr. Joe Cruz, himself an AHS alumnus of '58.



Mr. Hill, 1979

"He was a sweetheart," Joann Keane Rosano says of longtime AHS faculty member Mr. Ed Hill. "I had him for an art teacher. I still love art."

Campus Connection

► Campus, from Page 1

* College Night will be Oct. 20 in the Little Theater. Bring a notebook and prepare for your future.

* Mrs. Joan Sextro's Advanced Choir will be having a free Renaissance concert on Oct. 23 in the Little Theater. The evening will feature madrigals, poetry recitations and other courtly entertainment with help from Ms. Sara Samonsky's Theater Study Class.

* Target will donate 1% of a Target charge card purchase to Albany High. Call 1-800-316-6142.

* Speech and Debate is a new club now being offered to Albany High students, thanks to the efforts of Junior Peter Hsu (president) and UC Berkeley student Chris Klimmek (instructor).

Students involved in this new organization will have the opportunity to develop communication and leadership skills, as well as compete against other schools.

Members of the club will meet several times a week in Room 38.

Anyone interested in joining should e-mail Hsu (pch58@yahoo.com).

Spotlight on AHS Administration

by Chris Colvin

You've probably heard their names and their voices before. Maybe you've even seen them walking around campus with their walkie-talkies looking really busy.

But there's a good chance you don't know them very well.

The truth is they *are* busy, and it's tough to get some time to have a conversation with them.

One of them is Vice Principal Randall Booker who taught here at AHS for one year (English, Leadership, Journalism and PE) and then went back to his own high school, Cardinal Newman, an all-boys school in Santa Rosa, for one year.

During his own years in high school, Mr. Booker says he was involved in "student government, soccer, baseball, pep band and plays too. We did *West Side Story*. I was Riff, leader of the Jets!"

When not at school, Mr. Booker likes to do some of the same things as the rest of us: "Spend time with friends, just doing whatever."

This summer was pretty busy for the Vice Principal: "We did a lot of moving, back here to Albany. I also got to spend some time with my wife."

Another new Vice Principal, Ms. Amy Hansen, came here from Berkeley High, where she taught for 15 years.

Asked why she left, she thought for a moment and said, "I was only a part-time administrator there, so I wanted to see the full effect of being an administrator. I think administrators make a big difference in how schools operate."

When she's not dedicating her time to making the school "feel like a good place to be," Ms. Hansen enjoys the outdoors.

"This summer I went to Alaska. We took a cruise and then went inland. We spent three weeks there. We didn't take a helicopter tour though, ours was pretty tame compared to those people who crashed!"

Leading the administrative trio is Principal Gloria Galindo. Last year she was hired as a Vice Principal, until the Principal's spot opened up and she applied and was awarded the position.

Ms. Galindo went to Presentation High School, an all-girls school in San Francisco: "I went to St. Agnes Elementary School too, so I had 12 years of nuns!"

Ms. Galindo feels that the most important part of being



Mr. Randall Booker

Principal is "to spend time with people, not just writing messages, letters and memos. But to spend time with students, parents and teachers, face to face."

She predicts that "at the end of the year, people will say, 'This was the best year we've had in a long time.'"

One teacher has already told her that in his "16 years here, this has been the smoothest beginning he's seen."

In high school Ms. Galindo was the class mascot: "We were the hornets. So I used to dress up as a bumble bee for all the volleyball games."

Ms. Galindo still likes to run around but she's traded in the hornet costume for the classic AHS PE uniform: red sweats and a white T-shirt.

"Last year I joined one of Mr.



Ms. Gloria Galindo

(Kermit) Bankson's Wednesday 'Gotta run the mile' classes and I ran with the kids. I hope to do it again this year, every period! Last year I ran the mile for his class in 8:45. That was pretty fast, and I mean I was *really* tired."

To get herself going in the morning, Ms. Galindo has a cup of tea and a bowl of health cereal with bananas and peaches on it.

Mr. Booker thinks he also starts the day off in a healthy way: "I always have two cups of coffee and four pieces of toast, lightly buttered sourdough."

Ms. Hansen has the kind of breakfast we can all relate to: "Nothing. I eat lunch at 10:30. I eat anything in front of me!"

The three administrators also have different tastes when



Ms. Amy Hansen

it comes to their favorite types of music.

"No, it's not Rap," Ms. Hansen says. "I don't get it but I don't mind it. It's Country/Rock."

Mr. Booker prefers "Motown, especially the Temptations."

And Ms. Galindo likes going to the San Francisco Opera and Symphony.

As for Y2K, Mr. Booker has "better things to do than worry about it."

"Nothing horrible or traumatic will happen," says Ms. Galindo. "Life will go on."

"But I'm not going on any planes!" Ms. Hansen adds.

They also predict that this year our football team will, as Mr. Booker says, "Surprise everyone."

Wouldn't it be great if they were right?

Fresh Faces In Our Classrooms

by Johnny Din

Ms. Atkinson



"Life is all about choices. Make as good ones as you can THE FIRST TIME. Happiness is not a destination. It's a state of mind that involves giving yourself to others."

Department: Foreign Language/Spanish

Favorite movie: *Predator*

World Travels: Guatemala

Sport: Jazzercise

Hobbies: Visit family, listen to music, professional duties

Thoughts on AHS: "The kids are special and bungalows do not bother me."

Mr. Bonecutter



"Your stomach is a bag of vomit you carry around inside you everywhere you go."

Department: Science

Favorite movie:

Dr. Strangelove

World Travels: Nepal

Sport: Martial Arts

Hobbies: Backpacking

Thoughts on AHS: "It's a great school!"

Mr. Dewey



Department: Math
Favorite movie: *The Mouse That Roared*

World Travels: Austria

Sport: Distance running

Hobbies: Run, dance

Thoughts on AHS: "They're honest students."

Ms. Haschemi



Department: Foreign Language/French
Favorite movie: *King of Hearts*

World Travels: Paris, Munich, Caspian Sea and St. Malo

Sport: Horseback riding,

dance, tennis

Hobbies: Play piano, dance, read, visit and talk to friends

Thoughts on AHS: "It is a privilege to be part of this environment."

Ms. Kline



"I feel like a Freshman again but it feels good."

Department: Foreign Language/Spanish

Favorite movie:

Casablanca

World Travels: Europe

Sport: Swimming

Hobbies: Play in symphony orchestra

Thoughts on AHS: "It seems like a nice place."

Ms. Mansourian



Department: Social Studies
Favorite movie: Too many, love foreign films

Sport: Ski

Hobbies: Play music (she traveled and performed in 17 states this summer)

Thoughts on AHS: "I enjoy this job!"

Ms. Watts



"Remember everyone and everything has a purpose, no matter how mysterious at the time. Trust."

Department: Library

Favorite movie: *The Mummy, Mystery Men, Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me*

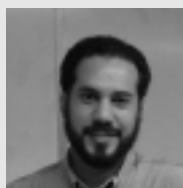
World Travels: Grand Canyon

Sport: Gardening

Hobbies: Read, hike, go shopping for groceries

Thoughts on AHS: "Impressive, reasonable, pleasant student and staff."

Mr. Maynor



"There is a divinity that shapes our ends, Rough-hew them how we feel."

— Shakespeare

Department: English

Favorite movie: *Apocalypse Now, Chariots of Fire*

World Travels: Robeson Country and Polk Country

Sport: Baseball

Hobbies: Read, write, time with family

Thoughts on AHS: "I've found people here to be genuine, warm and embracing, which has made my transition into this position a lot more smooth and pleasant than it might have otherwise been."

Mr. Rudiak



"We can muddle through this somehow."

Department: Math, Computer Science/ROP

Favorite movie: *2001, My Dinner with Andre*

World Travels: Pompeii, Venice

Sport: Biking

Hobbies: What is "free time?"

Thoughts on AHS: "Lots of good students and teachers."

Future High School Under Way

► *School, from Page 1*

lot, "we were operating under a whole new set of rules. What we had to do was go through the approval process again in order to qualify for hardship funding."

The process included having 37 students write letters over the summer.

Even so, state approval was not obtained until Aug. 25.

"Between the state money and district bonds, we're okay with funding. I sure hope we are or I'm leading the way with my hard hat, shovel and pick," Mr. Mills jokes good-naturedly.

"But I think we've got the money to build a school that fits our standards. It'll be surprising how quickly it [the new school] will be ready in two years."

Describing AMS as a warm-up for the new high school, Ms. Galindo recently met with Middle School Principal Marla Stephenson to evaluate the construction process with her new school.

"We're hoping to hear what didn't work so well in the new Middle School," says Ms. Galindo.

"In some ways, the new Middle School building is a test-run for the new high school."

Resurgence of Albany Football

by Tim Onweller

Last time Albany had a winning football season was 1995, before this year's Seniors were even in high school.

Since then, the team experienced a gradual decline, culminating during the 1996 and 1997 seasons when Albany was winless.

The 1999 team, however, has aroused much attention as the team that will restore the winning tradition Albany once held claim to.

So what makes this year so promising for Albany football?

The answer can be summed up in three words: talent, unity and determination.

Talent lies in the team's athletes, over 70% of whom are returning from last year. Unity lies in the team's sense of family and camaraderie. Determination lies in the newfound dedication this year's players have found for the game.

When the team played its opener Sept. 11 against St. Patrick's, it enjoyed the first victory of the season, 20-14.

This winning trend is expected to continue, as Coach Anthony Freeman predicts:

"I expect us to have a successful season. Every team has its ups and downs but from this year on you can expect a higher standard for Albany football."



Photo courtesy of Mike Tootle

PUTTING THE BIG HIT on De Anza is Albany All-League linebacker, Senior Keenan Moore.

Talent-wise, the team is stronger than it has been in years. It is perhaps the best Albany team in the past decade, and packs some of the hardest-hitting players in the ACCAL.

In the past two games, ambulances had to be called for opposing team members.

Albany's talent lies in its veteran players. Most of the Seniors on the team have been playing together on Varsity since their Sophomore years.

The same is true of many of the Juniors, making for a truly experienced team. This is a

squad that has aged together and knows its collective as well as individual strengths.

The team received the opportunity to attend two football camps this summer, which were an essential part of the new hope given to the players.

The camps not only united the team and fine-tuned its skills, but also delivered a rare surprise to the players.

At both camps Albany performed well, and this inspired team members by showing them they could compete with much bigger schools. It was the

revelation the players needed to have a successful season.

The unity of the team is stronger than it has been in years, and has instilled a new sense of family into the squad.

The main focus this year is the acronym T.E.A.M.: Together Everyone Achieves More.

As part of the focus on teamwork, this year's uniforms don't have player names. There is less pressure on the individual to perform and more on the team as a whole.

However, when you go to

games, be sure to watch Billy Bennett, who can ignite a game with a line-splitting run or a bone-crushing hit.

With their quickness and agility, Jon Ball and Ashante Dell will keep you in awe with explosive first steps and break-your-ankle cuts.

In its second game, Albany was trounced 56-6 by a talented De Anza squad.

However, the team bounced back to beat Encinal by one touchdown in double overtime, 12-6, and then last week stumbled in a night game at Piedmont, 33-6.

This afternoon at 3:30 Albany will host ACCAL powerhouse and perennial rival St. Mary's at Cougar Field.

Support the team at the following games:

Varsity

10/8: vs. St. Mary's, 3:30 pm
10/15: vs. Alameda, 3:30 pm
10/22: @ El Cerrito, 7 pm
10/29: vs. Kennedy, 3:30 pm
(Homecoming game)
11/5: @ Richmond, 7 pm
11/13: @ Monte Vista
Christian, 7 pm

Junior Varsity

10/14: vs. Alameda, 3:30 pm
10/22: @ El Cerrito, 4:30 pm
10/28: vs. Kennedy, 3:30 pm
11/5: @ Richmond, 4:30 pm

Volleyball Continues Reign

by Margaret Manson

After a four-hour drive and a sleepless night at University Inn, Albany High's Varsity volleyball team arrived at the Reno Community YMCA ready for battle.

The first match against Moapa Valley was a quick two-game victory: 15-9, 15-4. Enterprise, next up to bat, couldn't stop Albany from winning easily in two games, 15-13, 15-11.

Next, Reed put up a fair fight, but eventually gave the win to Albany in three games, 13-15, 15-3 and 15-11.

The last match of the day against Sacred Heart was a quick victory in two games, 15-8 and 15-7.

Albany's undefeated record placed the team in the Gold Division and set high expectations for the following day.

Exhausted from matches in extreme heat and high elevation, the players returned to their hotel at 10:30 at night.

Saturday morning at 9:30, Albany walked into the Reno High Gym along with the eight other teams that had made it to the Gold Division.

The system was double elimination, lose two and go home.

The first match of the day was a bit too close for comfort, as Albany battled it out with Gunn.

Game one was a slugfest as Albany held on to win, 16-14. However, the team got down to business in the second game,

slaughtering Gunn, 15-0.

Reo Americana, the next opponent, was too strong for Albany and won in three close games. Despite the loss, first place was still in reach.

At the North Coast Championships last year, Albany's Varsity team took a hard loss against Campolindo High. Fortunately, the team would get another shot at Campo in its third match of the day.

Albany was ready to show them who was boss.

The first game went to Campo, 11-15, which fired up Albany even more. The team dominated the court for the next two games, earning Albany a sweet victory and a place above Campolindo.

Moving on to its next victim, Albany ignored the fact that Fallon's outside hitter was 6'1" and a potential player on the Junior National Team, winning the match with two quick wins.

Unfortunately, the final match against Elmolino was lost in two games, ending the tournament for Albany.

Out of the 36 teams that competed, Albany placed third. The weekend was a great success for the players, and it was impressive that the team placed so high in its first tournament.

"I was expecting to win," says Laura Jensen, a Senior on the Varsity team. "But I still think we did very well. Later on in the season, I think we'll overcome some of the mistakes we made in this tournament."

That is exactly how all of the players feel, as does Varsity Coach Konrad Ott, saying, "This year's team has just as much potential as any other previous team. I'm hopeful that we'll win every tournament. We have the talent and experience to do so, but it is up to the 12 members of the team to obtain those goals."

Albany looks to follow up on its tournament performance by doing well in its competitive league matches.

As in past years, the Cougar Volleyball team expects to continue its reign as one of the area's top performers.



Photo by Andrew Hara

COUGARS will fill the bleachers at the Middle School Gym.

New Hardwood For AHS Athletes

► *AMS Gym, from Page 1*

clothes. After completing these tasks, the student is tired from a hard practice but ready to start homework around 9.

During the week, the average Senior probably has three hours of homework on a typical night. The average Junior probably has about the same amount, the average Sophomore a little less, while the average Freshman is still trying to figure out *how* to do homework.

So assuming three hours of homework started at 9, the student-athlete who has to travel to Alameda finishes homework at midnight and is ready to sleep at 12:30 a.m.

Consider that in order to go to sleep by 12:30, homework must be done non-stop from 9-12. Most people can't do three hours of homework without taking a break to talk with friends, watch TV or get a snack. Asleep at 12:30, awake at 6:30, the grind amounts to red-eyes and naps in class.

But when asked about the new gym Jensen says, "It's going to be great. We're going to have our own sound system, and our own fans. Hopefully the community support will return now that we play in Albany."

Senior basketball player Jon Ball agrees: "Back when we had a gym, there would be at least 100 people at the volleyball and basketball games. Now that we play in Alameda, very few people besides parents show up. I think that we're at a big disadvantage when all our games are basically away."

Although the basketball team may not be the powerhouse that the volleyball team is, its players also yearn for a homecourt advantage. Maybe with home wood, the basketball team could flirt with .500.

So when the volleyball and basketball teams play at the new Middle School, watch Cougars flood the stands to cheer for another "W." Maybe we might even instill some pride back in Albany sports.

VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
OCT. 12	ST. MARY'S	ALBANY	5:30*/7 pm
OCT. 14	SALESIAN	SALESIAN	4*/5 pm
OCT. 21	DEANZA	ALBANY	5:30*/7 pm
OCT. 26	ST. JOSEPH	ST. JOSEPH	4*/5 pm
OCT. 28	ALAMEDA	ALAMEDA	4*/5 pm
NOV. 2	RICHMOND	ALBANY	5:30*/7 pm
NOV. 4	PIEDMONT	PIEDMONT	4*/5 pm
NOV. 9-13	ACCAL Playoffs	TBA	TBA

* Junior Varsity