



### 1999 Homecoming Photo Spectacular

Glimpse back at the week and activities.

See Pages 4 and 5



### Tom Jones Fall Theatrical Preview

Check out Albany High's latest drama production.

See Page 7



## Albany High School

# The COUGAR

Albany, California

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Volume 1, Issue 3

## Is Learning Hazardous To Your Health?

by Andrew Hara

As Albany High students stroll into Room 36 each day, the potent smell of a skunk may not be the only bothersome substance they're inhaling.

How do formaldehyde, benzene, toluene, arsenic and toxic mold sit with you?

According to an October article printed in the San Francisco Chronicle, health experts worry that portable classrooms expose students and teachers to high levels of these and other harmful chemicals.

These chemicals are known to cause cancer, birth defects, brain and nerve damage, nausea, nosebleeds, asthma and other illnesses.

Spanish teacher Mr. Mike Mirabella knows too well of the harmful effects of portables.

Within a week of moving into temporary classrooms in the Fall of '97, Mr. Mirabella began feeling nauseous and irritable. He didn't sleep well and found it hard to concentrate.

"I felt spun out, almost like I was on the wrong medication," he says.



Photo by Abdul Jandali

**TOXIC SITUATION or absolutely nothing to worry about with Albany High's portable classrooms?**

After a week off, Mr. Mirabella returned to school and moved his classes to Room 132 in the Fine Arts Building.

Since most of old Albany High School was torn down in the Summer of '97, this structure was the only portion of AHS left with adequate ventilation.

Mr. Mirabella remained in Room 132 until work was done on the ventilation system of his temporary classroom.

After returning to a portable with improved ventilation, he did not suffer any more reactions.

A bill signed recently by Gov.

Gray Davis requires the state to study problems with air quality in portable classrooms and look for solutions.

AB-1207 will also provide funds for school personnel to be trained in environmental health standards. This bill was passed as a result of hazardous incidents involving toxic portable classrooms.

Last May at Rio Vista Elementary School located in Southern California, portable classrooms were linked to a string of illnesses.

One student was diagnosed with chemically induced immune system dysfunction.

Another classmate's flu-like symptoms were found to be the result of a poisonous mold growing on her lungs. Furthermore, high levels of formaldehyde, arsenic and other toxic chemicals were detected in the blood of a teacher and six children.

A report by the Environmental Working Group says that "tighter construction, fewer windows and inadequate ventilation in portables can lead to a greater buildup of toxic chemicals."

The Rio Vista incident exemplifies a severe and unlikely case of this buildup.

Nevertheless, there is concern with the portables at Albany High School.

How safe are the temporary classrooms AHS students have been occupying for the past three years?

District Administration's investigation into the portable air quality problem is unavailable, but according to the Albany Service Center, efforts are being made.

Ms. Beverly Feusier, Administrative Assistant to Superintendent Gary Mills, says that there is a December '97 report on the safety of our portables.

However, they are holding back on releasing this information to The COUGAR because it is not up to date.

"The Superintendent is awaiting a more updated report and he will get that to The COUGAR as soon as it's available," promises Ms. Feusier.

Until such a report can assure AHS students that the portables are non-toxic, many of them will question whether tearing down the school in '97 has made things any safer.

### Campus Connection

\* Congratulations to Sophomore Jae Hoon Lee, Junior James Liao and Seniors Victor Tsai, Yaniv Plan and Howard Zhao. These students took tests in Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Math and Physics and have advanced to the semifinals for the UCSB Undergraduate Fellowship and Prize Competition.

\* New School Construction Update: A wood panel fence has been erected to separate the main campus from the project. Key Route Blvd. will be closed to northbound traffic from 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily. This closure will last about a month.

\* Tom Jones, the Fall Play, has performances Nov. 12-14, 19-21 in the Little Theater. Show times are 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, 5 p.m. on Sundays. See a cast member for ticket information or contact Ms. Sarah Samonsky, 559-6550, ext. 6588. Tickets are \$5 for students and senior citizens, \$7 for adults.

\* In the Oct. 8 issue of The COUGAR ("Piano Fund For LT") we incorrectly reported that the Albany Education Foundation is trying to raise \$125,000 for a new AHS piano. The correct amount is \$25,000.

## District To Decide On SRO Position

by Amy Chen

Hot on the heels of Homecoming, the decision to accept a federal grant for a School Resource Officer (SRO) will be addressed this month by the Albany Board of Education.

The perceived need for additional campus security at AHS initially raised concerns at an Oct. 19 special School Board meeting.

A follow-up SRO meeting was held Nov. 2 during which community members took the microphone once again to publicly speak on behalf of students.

But other than student Board representatives Emily Jackson and Oscar Whelan, there were no students in the audience that night to hear their ideas or pleas.

Of those in attendance, whether or not the SRO will carry a gun seems to be the primary concern.

"The uniform is going to be very casual," Superintendent Gary Mills told the AHS Leadership class last month. "It's very, in my opinion, unobtrusive. The gun can be exposed with a flap over it. But the officer is willing to wear a calf gun. He is going to have a gun because if he's going to be caught in an incident, he may be called into duty."

Although Mr. Phil Wanlin, a 24-year AHS teaching veteran, accepts that a trained police officer will carry a gun, he verbalizes the worst case scenario of "someone discharging

the gun and an innocent bystander, student or faculty member, possibly getting hurt."

Nevertheless, he supports the prospect of having an officer on campus if "the purpose is to ensure the safety of students. If it's to make the safety of students and faculty better, it's a good thing."

Principal Gloria Galindo sees the SRO as a possible deterrent "to the people out there who think they can come on campus and sell drugs."

Citing an incident last year when there was a fight among two non-AHS students, Principal Galindo feels a need to "protect the school from what's around it.

**"As I see it, that person (the SRO) is really a confidante, mentor, supporter, friend, advocate..."**

— Superintendent Gary Mills to the AHS Leadership class

"That's the only reason for a gun."

She also says that although the issue was informally raised at a faculty meeting, she does not know of any major teacher opposition since "no one has come to me saying otherwise."

The general feeling about the SRO seems to be mixed at best.

While French teacher Ms. Johnny Selvin supports the idea of having a SRO as a counselor-figure, she opposes having an armed officer on campus.

"I think teenagers are faced too much with negative messages," Ms. Selvin says. "To have an officer with a gun bothers me symbolically. It says there is something criminal with being a teenager."

Ms. Selvin herself has a teenage son enrolled at Berkeley High School "where they practically have a police force on campus. If we have that level of crime [at AHS], I'm just not aware of it.

"I could be naive but it seems to me the Police Department is close enough to be here in a flash if and when we need it."

Supporters of the federal grant called Cops in Schools describe a broad range of duties that the officer could assume. Providing anger management and counseling in conflict resolution top the wish list.

Although Vice Principal Randall Booker recognizes that mixing counseling with supervision may be difficult for students to accept, he

says, "The point is not to make this person a disciplinarian."

The fact that an official job description has yet to be formalized is an issue which has some concerned that there is pressure to make a decision based on a Dec. 1 deadline in which the federal government must know whether the Albany Service Center and Police Department decide to accept the grant.

District, see Page 3

Staff Editorial

# It's Time To Rethink AHS Homecoming

Most of us used to think that Homecoming was supposed to be the best during Senior year. After experiencing Albany's Homecoming '99, we can honestly say that we were wrong.

As Seniors, it was particularly difficult to deal with all the cancellations of our Homecoming traditions.

It was supposed to be the year when we were to win everything. Finally, we thought, the Class of 2000 was going to come out on top. For once, our float would win first place!

But we were wrong. We didn't even have a chance to win because it was canceled.

Before the theme was publicized, Administration canceled the weeklong event because Juniors and Seniors failed to find floathouses by the Oct. 15 deadline.

Immediately following their decision, the Administration was bombarded with objections and complaints by the student body.

It was soon made clear that they

did not oppose floatbuilding altogether but how we went about it.

They didn't like the fact that floatbuilding took place at students' homes or that there was so much vandalism and malicious behavior that was associated with the floathouses.

Because this time-honored tradition was called off, tension between the students, teachers, administrators and police officers grew at an alarming rate.

As usual, students covered each other in condiments and painted the town with egg yolks and whites, shaving cream and toilet paper.

But this year the mischief included damage to the Middle School Gym's interior and facade, the repair of which cost the district thousands of dollars.

Because of this, we were revoked of our privilege to use the facility for the Homecoming Dance.

Members of the Administration were under pressure from the community to put a stop to that destructive behavior, so they had to ask themselves a question: Should they



**SOPHOMORE Vice President David Song perfectly sums up the general feeling of disappointment in this year's Homecoming events.**

punish everyone for the misconduct of a few by canceling activities? Or should they reward bad behavior by not canceling anything?

Well, they did a little of both. The Administration knew that

we were already suffering without floats, so instead of canceling our dance when we could no longer use the Middle School, they allowed us to have it at Oceanview Elementary School.

Oceanview was also supposed to have been the location of the Powder Puff game but no one could turn on the field lights and the Administration didn't want anyone to play in the dark, so the games were rescheduled for Friday afternoon in lieu of the parade.

It was originally rumored that the Administration purposely didn't turn on the lights so they could cancel Powder Puff.

But that allegation was quickly refuted by a former employee of Albany's Parks and Recreation Department who stated that the lights were known to malfunction from time to time throughout the duration of her employment.

Homecoming is supposed to be about raising school spirit for the Varsity football game at the end of the week.

Over time it has turned into a

free-for-all based on class rivalry. This year it resulted in significant injuries to many students, and in one case, an administrator.

Is this really what Homecoming has come to mean, a full week of violence and vandalism?

It's no wonder members of the AHS staff, police department and community want to cancel it.

This Homecoming was a disappointment, but hopefully everyone can learn from mistakes and keep the powers that be from canceling it outright next year.

Our advice to the underclassmen is to participate in the entire process, plan ahead and provide for alternatives.

You are the fortunate ones who have an example of what can happen if you just sit back and let others make all the decisions.

When it comes to Homecoming at Albany High, it has become apparent that everyone has to make an effort to work with instead of against each other.

Otherwise, Homecoming as we know it will be a thing of the past.

## Writing Off Our Generation

by Matt Haney

As a result of a recent juvenile justice bill signed by Governor Gray Davis, more and more juvenile offenders will now be tried as adults.

Among other things, the new law requires that minors 16 and older who have been convicted of one previous felony be prosecuted in adult criminal court.

Just when you think our nation - let alone our state - is moving in the right direction, a law like this is signed into action.

All members of our society recognize that juveniles and adults are different, and therefore should be treated differently.

Because of the disparity, ratings for minors come with movies, parental advisory stickers on our music and an 18 years old voting and tobacco age.

Such measures are understandable. Juveniles are immersed in an often unstable period of great maturation and development, even a biology textbook will tell you that.

For this reason, we do not treat juveniles in the same way that we treat adults. We are given limited privileges and we accept these limits. Consequently, we have always been given and must continue to be given limited consequences.

Teens often rebel against society. This is true throughout the world, none more so than here at AHS.

Rebelling can be defined as anything from not cleaning up one's room to stealing a car.

But such acts of rebellion do not indicate that these individuals will never be able to adequately function as adults.

Charging juveniles as adults takes away nearly all chances these offenders will have at rebounding and becoming law-abiding citizens.

Treating young rebels, or "criminals" as adults is tantamount to simply writing them off.

Adult prisons do not differentiate between young offenders and much older, often very violent men.

Any instruction a juvenile gets in prison is more likely to turn him into a hardened criminal than a candidate for "productive" citizenship.

By throwing kids in adult prisons, the government is complacently creating a "monster" who our society will have to either deal with or pay for, for the rest of the individual's life.

This does not mean that we should allow juveniles to run rampant, committing crimes freely with no consequences.

But we need to focus on helping these early offenders, providing counseling and other programs that may be conducive of diligent, law-abiding citizens in the future.

Cleansing society of juvenile crime can never be achieved by throwing teens into an adult prison where their chance is nearly 10 times greater to be sexually assaulted, beaten or attacked with a knife than if kept at a juvenile detention center.

Every day we find out how little our government cares for our generation and how little help they are going to give us.

Because of this, we must all start looking out for not only ourselves but each other as well.

## 99 Things To Be Thankful For In 1999

by Kathryn Booth

Thanksgiving is a time when we should take a moment to think of everything that we're thankful for. But if you're like most of people it's hard to think of very many off the top of your head. Here's 99 ideas to get you going.

- |  |                                   |   |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Cars  | 31. Jeans                         | 72. Friendship  |
| 2. Health  | 32. Water                         | 73. Firefighters  |
| 3. Diversity   | 33. Light bulbs                   | 74. Sunshine  |
| 4. Bacteria  | 34. Airplanes                     | 75. Stars   |
| 5. Electricity   | 35. Space shuttles                | 76. Fresh air   |
| 6. Television  | 36. Glass                         | 77. Sight   |
| 7. The Internet  | 37. MTV                           | 78. Birthday parties  |
| 8. Microwaves  | 38. Newspapers                    | 79. The First Amendment   |
| 9. Ice cream cakes   | 39. Bunny rabbits                 | 80. Family  |
| 10. Cotton   | 40. Pencils                       | 81. Popsicles   |
| 11. The fact that we're not at war                                   | 41. Erasers                       | 82. Holidays  |
| 12. Puppies  | 42. Computers                     | 83. Swimming pools  |
| 13. Waste management employees                                       | 43. Alarm systems                 | 84. Poetry  |
| 14. Freshly baked cookies  | 44. Birth control                 | 85. Beaches   |
| 15. Air traffic controllers  | 45. Telephones                    | 86. Geraldo has grown past his days of "Rico Suave"             |
| 16. New shoes  | 46. The "Macarena" is history     | 87. Paved roads   |
| 17. We'll never have to hear Roseanne sing the National Anthem again | 47. Fax machines                  | 88. Alanis Morissette's "Ironic" is no longer in heavy rotation |
| 18. Free education   | 48. Ink                           | 89. Candles   |
| 19. That one teacher that gives you the opportunity of a lifetime    | 49. Smoothies                     | 90. Fire  |
| 20. Radio  | 50. Burritos                      | 91. Carbonated sodas  |
| 21. Books  | 51. Churros                       | 92. Angel finally has his own show                              |
| 22. Toothbrushes   | 52. Cotton candy                  | 93. Trees   |
| 23. Scissors   | 53. Amusement parks               | 94. Refrigerators   |
| 24. Contact lenses   | 54. Curling irons                 | 95. Cameras   |
| 25. Chocolate  | 55. Heaters                       | 96. Opposable thumbs  |
| 26. Theater  | 56. Air conditioning              | 97. Winter break  |
| 27. Fireworks  | 57. Surround sound                | 98. Summer vacation   |
| 28. Bridges  | 58. Clocks                        | 99. Life  |
| 29. Flowers  | 59. Diamonds                      |   |
| 30. Monica Lewinsky is out of the news... for the most part          | 60. Massages                      |   |
|  | 61. Melrose Place" is off the air |   |
|  | 62. Love                          |   |
|  | 63. Staplers                      |   |
|  | 64. Football                      |   |
|  | 65. A home                        |   |
|  | 66. Religion                      |   |
|  | 67. Teeth                         |   |
|  | 68. Clothes                       |   |
|  | 69. Star 69                       |   |
|  | 70. Smoke detectors               |   |
|  | 71. Dances                        |   |

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## Bathroom Horror

Three Toilets, 400 Boys:  
What's Wrong With This Picture?

by Waylon Bacon

You know by first period that you have to micturate.

But you can't, there is no time, you need to get to class and turn in that homework assignment. You think, "It's alright, I can hold it until break."

But by third period, you're nearly in pain. Your bladder is filling to the brim, and any second it's going to erupt inside of you.

When the sacred time of release is finally upon you, you are met with a horrible sight: A line of boys, starting from inside the bathroom and continuing all the way around to the girl's bathroom.

Fleeing in panic, you run to the next bathroom. But it's locked! It's like some sort of nightmare.

Upon reaching the third and final bathroom you give yet another unsatisfying tug at a tightly locked door. You then realize that a horrible injustice is being dealt to Albany High.

This has been my daily ordeal for the past two years.

Out of all of the annoying things a high school student must put up with — homework, pop quizzes, class rivalry, physics — the bathroom problem is the only one that has ever made me angry enough to scream.

Although we may not like



school work, it does seem somewhat necessary.

But an ordeal such as preventing a person from going to the bathroom? That is simply denying a natural urge.

To tell us to "just hold it" or "you should have gone at break" is unfair and illogical.

As I just said, you can't always "go at break" and you shouldn't have to "hold it."

It is nearly impossible to concentrate on school work when all you can think about is having a comforting urinal at your disposal.

It's hard to understand: it seems to be an abuse of power rather than a justified rule.

Add this one to the large pile of complaints I hold with Albany High.

American society is a controlling yet quite bizarre entity.

We, as a part of this entity, often allow ourselves to get completely caught up in its blueprint for how one's life should be lived.

We frequently, without question, accept all of society's guidelines for what is right and wrong, pretty and ugly, cool and un-cool and even what one can and cannot say.

We accept such guidelines so quickly and mechanically that in the process we often lose what is most important: our own morals, feelings, and opinions.

The acceptance and even protection of such social morals has become so mechanized that most of us have become unable to break free from them.

Ever since we were born, this blueprint for life is consistently yet subliminally imprinted into our brains.

School, a place we spend a large portion of our young lives in, is a conformist's haven.

Even Kindergarten trains us that being different is wrong. A child is taught not to color outside of the lines, not to sit sideways in his/her chair.

At Albany High, the pattern continues. What if a student wants to sit on the floor instead of his/her desk in AP Calculus? Or write their assignments on blue paper

with green ink in English 3? Do you really think this would be permitted? Of course not. And why is that?

Even less obvious things such as expressing your opinion in class or on tests show conformity. One must express opinions or ideas that will please the teacher and therefore earn them a good grade or letter of recommendation.

The pressure to conform does not only occur from authority figures but peers as well. Some of us here at Albany High feel that we must wear Nikes, Tommy Hilfiger, Gap, Old Navy and Reebok to fit in. Could I walk around the school with XJ-900s and ripped up, neon clothes and still fit in? Still feel like I belong? Impossible.

One must question the very essence of our society to understand why we function in such a manner.

We live in a society dependent on the mass production of consumer products. To be a "good" employee in a factory or even an office, you must not question but rather, conform.

This is something that society prepares us to do throughout our entire lives.

Although lifelong conformity may result in better workers, the true question is what it does to the soul.

The human being is not an ant, it is not an organism created to conform. We are all inherently differ-

ent and these differences that we hold are important.

When we conform we lose part of our souls. We lose a large chunk of our individuality.

For years and years we have been willingly handing over this individuality. This must stop.

In the words of Mario Savio: "There is a time when the operation of the machine becomes so odious, makes you so sick at heart that you can't even tacitly take part... and you've got to put your bodies upon the gear, the levers and all the apparatus and you've got to indicate to the people who run it and own it that unless you're free, the machine will be prevented from working at all."

This time is now.

The pressure to conform and to become part of this machine is one of the greatest pressures prevalent in our society.

It is a pressure that has made hanging on to one's individuality an extremely difficult task.

We must realize that trying to create a uniform person of similar ideas, morals and feelings will never be the solution.

The only way to create a more progressive, understanding society is to tear apart this machine and stop the conformity.

Only when we recognize and respect everyone's individual differences can we live together in peace.

## Living on Shaky Ground

by Matt Haney

Scientists monitoring the dangerous web of seismic faults beneath the densely populated SF Bay region now calculate that there is a 70% chance that a major earthquake will strike somewhere in the area before 2030.

This earthquake will most likely be a tremor large enough to kill and injure thousands.

It is supposed to cut a wide path of destruction throughout an increasingly dense urban area.

Widespread death and destruction, sounds pretty scary right?

Yet one must realize that earthquakes are just one of those things in this crazy world that we cannot do a thing about.

We can prevent disease, war, fire and other things that have the capacity for mass destruction.

But there are still some things the earth unleashes upon us, such as earthquakes, hurricanes and tornadoes, that truly remind us how weak and small we are in comparison to the earth.

Despite our inability to prevent them, we are already more prepared for an earthquake than any other area in the entire world.

We reinforce our houses and store water and canned foods in the basement.

We keep flashlights in drawers and replace cherished schools with seemingly "safe" portables.

Where else in the world can you find Earthquake supply stores?

Such preparations are intelligent.



LOMA PRIETA QUAKE reminds Bay Area who's boss.

But as the threat of an earthquake continues to be echoed, let's make sure we don't go overboard.

Selling your house and moving away or even keeping a mini-grocery store in the basement is a little too much.

Dangers are everywhere in this world. The world is an unstable place.

It just happens that our area is literally unstable.

You could always move to Florida and get swept up by a hurricane. Or move to North Dakota and freeze to death. Or flock to South Carolina and face floods.

Or you could move to New York City in the summer and have a heat stroke.

There comes a time when you have to pick your poison. And personally, I'll take my chances

with a two-minute earthquake.

There is no denying that the world is a scary place.

But if you spend your entire life, which is not that long to begin with, worrying about what might happen in the next 30 years, you'll never live your life to the fullest.

The benefits of living in the Bay Area will always outweigh any threat of an earthquake.

We live in the best region in the entire world.

Don't let shaky ground send you packing just yet.

So the next time someone tries to scare you with talk of an upcoming earthquake, just remember this old adage.

"A coward dies a thousand deaths, a brave man dies but once."

## AHS To Get Campus Resource Cop?

► District, from Page 1

Alluding to "grant lust," PTA President Carolie Sly wonders if having an SRO would be a "quick fix, giving a false sense of security... I urge you [the Board] to take it slow."

In his recent visit to the Leadership class, Mr. Mills openly supported the proposal but maintains he has not made his final decision.

"As I see it, that person (the SRO) is really a confidante, mentor, supporter, friend, advocate," he tells ASG. "That's the way I see it and that's the way the Albany Police Department wants it framed. And I want it framed that way."

According to Mr. Mills, the APD "gets the equivalent of a full officer's salary they can pay an additional officer. We have to pay \$12-15,000 a year. In turn they pay the rest of the cop's salary. There are a lot of school districts around the state and nation that utilize School Resource Officers."

However, student reaction runs the gamut from apathy to confusion about what a SRO is and what he can bring to AHS.

While Senior Marion Adams feels that "it's more important to teach kids than police them," Senior Class Secretary Scott Kagawa thinks it's too soon to make a firm decision either way.

"I think it's too vague right now," Kagawa says.

Mr. Booker says the Albany Police Department (APD) will let the district "mold the SRO to fit our

needs, whatever they might be."

With 40 to 50 hours of training in anger management and other counseling methods, Mr. Michael Ayers is the primary SRO candidate

He feels that the controversial gun resting on his hip "is to keep me alive. I hardly think about it. If it's a problem, they can talk to me. We can resolve it."

If the Board accepts the grant, a SRO could be on campus as early as January, says Mr. Booker.

"Let's try it out," urges Ms. Galindo. "I think it is an opportunity. We don't have to keep it. We really have no way of knowing [its effectiveness] until this person gets here."

With the addition of Mr. Josh Freeman as a second campus security aide, Mr. Booker says "the more campus supervision we can get, the better. I think AHS needs as much support as it can get.

"I hope this kind of fervor does not die off, regardless of the approval or disapproval of this program."

"We need to keep up the pressure of needing and wanting more supervision, counseling and programs," he urges.

But Mr. Freeman took the floor at the Oct. 19 meeting to say: "Morale has jumped up so much at AHS. I would hate to see that take a step down. They [students] feel enclosed enough. I think it [the SRO decision] has to be meticulous. Kids have to be the focus. It's their campus."

# Boys' Volleyball Rallies Spirit

There was a sense of excitement in the air as hundreds of AHS students filed into the Middle School Gym Monday night to watch the long anticipated Boys' Volleyball game.

The evening began with a Junior win against the Freshmen who, despite their efforts, could not keep their heads above water.

In the Seniors vs. Sophomores game, the Class of 2000 dominated with a 15-1 victory, putting them into position for the finals.

After a short intermission featuring a pep rally introducing Albany's Boys' Football and Girls' Volleyball teams, the Juniors and Seniors faced off for the championship title.

From the first serve, the Juniors controlled the game. Both classes had the potential to win, but in the end the Seniors were no match for the Class of 2001.



MEMBERS of the Junior Boys' Volleyball team show lots of spirit after winning this year's tournament over the Seniors.

Photo by Johnny Din

The evening's events ended as an enthusiastic roar erupted from the Junior section of the gym, announcing to the entire surrounding neighborhood that the Juniors had defeated the Seniors, 2-0.

Immediately following the Junior upset, members from all

classes took part in an egg bath that damaged the gym to such an extent that AHS students were no longer allowed to use the facility for Homecoming events.

So much for "all's well that ends well."

— Kathryn Booth

# Administration Ev

As Homecoming hysteria winds down, the AHS Administration and community has already brainstormed ways to revamp the tradition for next year's festivities.

"All of us need to get together to help this be successful," Principal Gloria Galindo says. "We need to reevaluate it."

"It's going to look different next year," she promises.

To many, Homecoming at Albany High has turned into a twisted ritual in which class division and chaos seem to overshadow the original intent of gaining school spirit.

"I think the kids have to decide that enough is enough," says Vice Principal Randall Booker.

"I'm pro-Homecoming but I think it needs to be reworked to focus more on the community."

"We need to try to incorporate activities that allow us to do that," he says, citing the success of the night rally's donation to charity as an example of how

to reach out to the community.

"There's nothing positive about eg the front of a building," agrees Galindo, alluding to the egged exterior of the Albany Middle School Gym which resulted in the relocation of the Homecoming Dance to Oceanview Elementary.

"It was our hope that if students somewhere to go at night, they would be out doing this," she says.

"My feeling is we need to change whole culture, meaning and purpose seems to have become a mean-spirited week. Rivalry between grade levels is spirit building."

"Having rivalry creates division. I want to create spirit across the whole school want to look at competition across grade levels. There's a battle mentality [with the present Homecoming] that's spirit building."

As a result of these divisions, Galindo foresees a Homecoming with contests will pit two classes against each other, rest, if at all.

Mr. Booker wants to "make strides

# Students, Teachers, Staff Sound Off On The V

"The first year that we get to have Homecoming, we don't get to experience anything."

— Steve Band, Freshman



ALL SUZSED UP for Pajama Day is Sophomore Marius Enachescu with toothbrush, toothpaste and nightcap.

"It sucked! They took away our floats, which was a big tradition and the egging was so not necessary."

— Cassandra Coutant, Junior

"It was unfortunate that some of the activities had to be canceled. Hopefully we'll be able to work around those obstacles for next year. It was exciting that the football team won its game."

— Ms. Cheryl Rodden, Main Office



HOMECOMING QUEEN Senior Tali Weininger flashes back to the '80s.



VICTIMS OF '01 SPIRIT are Juniors Eunji Kim, Sixiao Guo and Amy Jin on Monday's Twin Day.

"It's sad that the Seniors this year really lost out on their last year of Homecoming. Homecoming used to be a time when everyone participated and everyone had fun. Now it's just a battle between students and Administration. It's sad that even Homecoming wasn't immune to this type of confrontation."

— Laura Jensen, Senior

"Maybe they ought to call it (in a sarcastic reference to eggs) Dairy Week."

— Mr. David De Hart, Social Studies Teacher

# Powder Puff

Getting ready to play a postponed and less-hyped Powder Puff football tournament, the Freshmen and the Juniors took to the field with lower morale than from past years.

Having no coach, the Freshmen put up very little defense in the first game. Junior Elizabeth Carey took over and scored the only touchdown and the final score was 7-0.

After that, action didn't come until the Senior vs. Junior game.

The reigning Seniors did not foresee any competition in facing the Sophomores.

This attitude led to a triple overtime victory for the Seniors, marred by several changes of possession. The last play of the game was a touchdown pass from Leifa Mayers to Chane'l Samuel.

When the game of the day

started, the smell of fierce competition pervaded the air.

The game between the cocky Juniors and the dominating Seniors looked more like tackle than flag football.

Standout Mayers took a hard hit which injured her knee, taking her out of the game immediately before halftime.

Without Mayers at quarterback, the Seniors' performance became lackluster. Eventually, the Juniors scored on a run by quarterback Kyle Kemp.

As the seconds ticked down, hopes of overcoming a seven-point deficit faded for the Seniors, and the Juniors rejoiced over the failure of last year's champions to reach the end zone on their last possession.

— Tim Onweller

# Lunchtime Activities



Left: Stephanie Campbell and the rest of '00 placed first in the Lip Sync contest with their version of "Baby Got Back." Bottom left: Freshman Class of 2003 sings to Britney Spears' "Baby One More Time." Below: The Senior Class took first in the annual Tug-o-War. Bottom right: Junior Spencer K'burg gobbled his way through watermelon in the eating contest. Right: Eric McClain slid the Seniors into first place in the watery obstacle portion of the Relay Race.



# Evaluates Homecoming

including more kids in lunch activities.” Other tentative changes for next year include eliminating nighttime activities in favor of those held in broad daylight.

“Powder Puff on Friday afternoon was a huge success,” Ms. Galindo says. “We had more teachers, parents and students attend than if it had been at night. Four Board members showed up. I say have activities after school so we don’t depend on getting a building or lights to work.”

Describing how he was hit by an apple or egg in the spine while asking students to disperse from Wednesday night’s canceled Powder Puff game, Mr. Booker spoke directly:

“Until the violence and vandalism stops, I don’t feel comfortable having those events at night. And until the egg-ing stops, I don’t see how we can have floathouses or floats.”

In spite of the obstacles of this year’s Homecoming, certain traditions like having Theme Days will remain.

Along with members of the Main Office, Attendance Office and Counseling

Office, Ms. Galindo coordinated her outfit for Twin Day and was “a septuplet or something,” she says with a smile. “We definitely will continue Theme Days.”

In a letter sent home to parents the week after Homecoming, Ms. Galindo stresses that “as we build the Albany High School community, I will continue to rely on everyone’s input and support. This week has made it clearer than ever that we need everyone’s participation. No one can afford to stand by and not take an active role — it certainly does take a village.”

As Mr. Booker says, “I’m not in the habit of just canceling things without looking at alternatives. We can work on it together.”

To this end, Ms. Galindo intends to place a suggestion box in the Main Office where anonymous and signed comments from students and faculty alike may be dropped.

“I do welcome their opinions,” she says. “I want them to know that.”

— Amy Chen

# AHS Varsity Football Slams Kennedy

Amidst a tumultuous Homecoming week marred by numerous cancellations, at least there was still a football game.

As the Cougars got off to a shaky start against the Kennedy Eagles, many who were coming from the Powder Puff tournament began filling the stands.

Senior Drum Major Caitlin Fischer and the Albany High School Marching Band led the spirited game, carousing the crowd despite an early 0-6 deficit.

Kennedy’s touchdown, a 30-yard bomb to an open receiver, would be its last score of the game.

The Cougars then rallied back, holding Kennedy’s offense

at midfield for the rest of the first half and scoring twice on two Billy Bennett rushes.

No field goals were made by either team, however, and the score at halftime was 12-6.

By the end of the first half, the Albany High “Cougar” mascot had crept in front of the cheerleaders, casually dancing to the band’s music and exciting the crowd.

Furthermore, during the halftime show, the “Cougar” joined the cheerleading squad’s Homecoming routine move-for-move, making for an especially impressive and comic display of spirit.

Even more impressive, however, was that for the first time,

the person wearing the costume was actually tall enough to fit into it and have some degree of coordination.

Meanwhile, Kennedy’s own Eagle had managed to sneak in front of the Home bleachers and began bending over backwards, an open gesture of the thorough and relentless butt-kicking his team was receiving at the feet of the Cougars.

The last score of Albany’s lopsided (as usual) victory was burgeoning quarterback Yaw Yiadom’s punch into the endzone on a quarterback sneak. The final score was Albany, 18-6.

— Abdul Jandali

# Week That Was: The Good, The Bad, The Ugly



GET INTO THE HOMECOMING SPIRIT with Juniors Ryan Takemiya and Pat Nakano-Glenn as “two wild and crazy guys.”

“This year’s Homecoming had both positives and negatives. I think for future Homecomings we need to build on the positives and try to make the negatives into positives. And the student body has to not dwell on the negatives in order to make them into positives. Instead of pointing fingers about what is wrong with Homecoming, take that energy and try to make it better.”

— Mr. Josh Freeman

“This Homecoming sucked. Two important things got canceled. The school should make sure everything is going to be good for the Homecoming week, before saying to all students what is planned for that week. They should all work together so that all students are happy with Homecoming. I really hope next year is so much better.”

— Yeimi Free, Sophomore

“I’ve got two words for Homecoming: It sucked! No floats and no Powder Puff at night was a big disappointment.”

— Jenny Ho, Junior

“I would have liked to have floats because the main thing about Homecoming is the floats. They shouldn’t cut out activities that students feel are a big part of Homecoming.”

— Maria Heath, Senior



CHAINED BACK on Twin Day are Seniors Smadar Rubinsky, Sarah Meister and Logann Gavey as jailbird triplets on the prowl.

# es



# Friday Night Dances on Water

For students at Albany High, the Homecoming Dance was a great way to conclude the week of festivities.

Although many were disappointed with the number of canceled events throughout the week, the jubilant atmosphere of the dance seemed to compensate for the feelings of disappointment.

The dance was held in the gym of the new Oceanview Elementary School.

It was originally supposed to be at the new Albany Middle School Gym but the District would not let us use it after the front of the campus had been egged on the night of the Boys’ Volleyball game.

Apparently, the school adminis-

trators were afraid of possible damages that might be inflicted upon the new school.

Another reason why the site was changed was because in order to preserve the flawless surface of the AMS Gym floor, students would have had to boogie without any shoes on.

Many students were opposed to the idea of dancing in socks, so it was only reasonable to change the location.

Security guards kept a watchful eye on the side entrances as ASG ushered the dance-goers in through the front entrance. Once inside the gym, the party commenced.

The DJ, hired from Club 5, played an eclectic mix of jams,

dishing out everything from Nirvana (turning the gym into sweaty mosh pit paradise), to Shania Twain (quixotic and romantic, providing a slow groove for the lovebirds), to Master P (igniting hype amongst the ‘homies’).

The night was hot and sticky due to all the partying so Vice Principal Randall Booker asked a PTA member to get bottled water for the students who was passed out at the door. This was very much appreciated.

Free bottled water was definitely something everyone could use (drinking it, spraying it, and utilizing it as a water gun).

A photographer went about taking pictures of students getting

their groove on and a professional photo shoot was set up outside for buddy pictures.

Each class was represented in Homecoming Royalty. Chris Gaeta and Tali Weininger were elected as Homecoming King and Queen.

Junior royalty were David Collister and Helen Lau.

The Sophomore class royalty were Miguel Irazabal-Ordon and Liliana Goldschmidt.

Last but not least, Freshman royalty were Danny Ho and Winnie Li.

The night concluded the crazy week of Homecoming festivities, leaving everyone in a spirited mood.

— Linda Zhou

# Cheating Off the Internet

by Margaret Chan

Stumped on that Physics problem? Don't have a clue what the author of your English book is rambling about?

Don't stress—answers to agonizing homework problems are just a click away.

The Internet solves many of today's academic-related problems by providing us with access to an information archive which, if used correctly, can be a valuable research tool.

Unfortunately, a myriad of students are taking advantage of the Web by using it for more than just homework help.

Cheating online is on the rise these days. With websites offering a variety of cheating aids including Cliffs notes, plot summaries and gadgets like math and physics solvers, more and more students are taking the easy way out and are getting away with it.

Sure, Calculus is simple when it involves no thought at all.

One of the most controversial issues involving Internet use is plagiarism.

It's surprising to see the num-

ber of websites that advertise essays.

With just the click of a mouse, hundreds of matches lead to book reports, personal statements and research papers. All are readily available and ranked in order of quality on any subject ranging from Anatomy to Zoology.

Websites advertise high quality, easy access, A+ papers at a low price.

One site was even bold enough to say "Guaranteed an A or your money back!"

Several sites offer an archive of 2,000 to 5,000 essays on different topics if their cheaters pay a membership fee ranging from \$9.95 to \$30 a year.

One outrageous site wants cheaters to shell out \$4.95 per page. A six-page term paper for \$30 is hardly a bargain!

For your money, you'll get the essay of your choice formatted and delivered to your screen or via e-mail in about 30 seconds.

Print it out and you've just saved endless hours of work. Who can resist this temptation?

Though many sites require that you pay for your essays, some sites

offer free sample essays to students who can easily copy and turn them in as their own.

As tempting as taking the credit for someone else's paper sounds, plagiarism is illegal and the consequences are harsh.

Everyone knows that stealing another person's work is morally wrong, even those who manage the webpage.

Many sites advertise "free essays" in their titles but in their disclaimer, they say that they are not associated with plagiarism in any way.

Some sites warn students against copying one of their papers but advocate that editing it before turning it in is okay.

Should sites that offer essays for sale or for free be available to the public?

In some cases, individuals are just trying to get publicity for their literary works.

Should these people suffer because a few websites are promoting plagiarism? There are two sides to every issue.

Currently Albany High School does not enforce a school wide policy concerning plagiarizing



**ALTHOUGH CHEATING off the Internet may sound like an easy alternative to real work, it can have severe consequences.**

from the Internet, though that does not mean copying will be tolerated.

Mrs. Jody Schroeder, who teaches Sophomore, Junior and Senior English classes, says, "I generally give students no credit for a paper that I definitely know is plagiarized. But I usually allow the student to rewrite the paper on their own for a reduced grade."

Since each teacher has his or

her own policies concerning plagiarism, punishments may vary from teacher to teacher.

Mr. Robert Lent comments that "when words are not your own, your inability to explain them will give you away."

So the next time you're surfing the Internet, try to resist the temptation to cheat.

It may be hard but it's just not worth the academic or moral consequences.



## Something Stinks Below Albany High

by Kathryn Robinson

Once upon a time, there lived two little skunks. One was named In and the other was named Out. One day In and Out went out and, a little while later, Out came in while In stayed out. Mama Skunk asked, "Out, where's In at?"

Out replied, "Sorry Mama, when I came in, In wanted to stay out." At this, Mama Skunk ordered "Out, you go right out and find In and bring him back in!" So, Out went out, and, in a little while later, came back in with In. Mama Skunk was so impressed she asked, "Out, how ever did you find In?" Out replied, "Easy Mama, In stink!"

... He certainly did, and still does. In fact so does his whole family.

They have all taken up residence under Room 36. If you still haven't figured out where this room is located, just follow your nose and ears. If the stench of skunk doesn't reveal their hideout, then the sounds of groaning students and a perturbed Mr. Phil Wanlin should.

"My classroom environment is tainted by the strange smell of skunk," says a frustrated Mr. Wanlin.

Mr. Wanlin and his students have been forced to share a habitat with these irk-

some skunks since the first day of school. Fed up with the off-putting essence of skunk, the students and Mr. Wanlin both agree that it's time for skunk eviction.

Mr. Wanlin's 3rd period student Senior Colleen Smallfield complains: "That room smells so bad. I wonder how Mr. Wanlin keeps from getting physically ill everyday. It must affect the learning process. No wonder we're all getting bad grades."

Mr. Wanlin himself can't help but agree and has gone to great lengths to rid his room of this problem. "I went to the custodians. They put ammonia out but it didn't work. So, I went to Vice Principal Hansen who went to Maintenance but they didn't feel like they could do anything about it."

After talking to his union representative and then to Superintendent Gary Mills, Mr. Wanlin has finally been given a trap which has been set underneath Room 36. To date, the skunk has not yet been caught. Once it is, it will be humanely released in Tilden Park.

In the interim, Mr. Wanlin and students wait in endless anticipation for that day to arrive when their classroom is not pervaded with the toxic odor of skunk.

## AHS Gets Digital

by Amy Chen

Thanks to wonders of the state Digital High School (DHS) grant, students may soon have individual network passwords and personal storage space on the school server.

"The long-term plan is to establish e-mail accounts," says Mr. Bob Allegrotti. "But we want to work out some concerns with the existing network first. Ultimately, we want to incorporate student e-mail into the plan."

Teachers currently have e-mail accounts through gaggle.net where students and parents can contact them through the first letter of the first name with the last name.

For example, math teacher and DHS Staff Development Chair Elisabeth Klein can be reached at eklein@gaggle.net. Although Mrs. Klein checks her e-mail virtually every day, not every teacher does.

"E-mail is new to some teachers," she explains. "We're older. We weren't raised this way."

According to a memo delineating the breakdown of departmental responsibilities, the Foreign Language Department will be "responsible for pen pal communication on the Web and other world-wide, culturally relevant Internet research."

To avoid repetition in later grades, introductory material will be taught to Freshmen classes. For instance, the English Department will introduce the Web and the Math Department will teach students how to make and use spreadsheets.

Mr. Allegrotti says the library also has four digital cameras and scanners "that are available to classes that plan projects in the library."

"The Gateways in the library are fast," Senior Marion Adams says of the latest technological additions to the library. "It's nice to be able to go on the Internet."

Current curriculum uses have already sent students to the library with their Science, History and English classes. Classes rotate through the library every two and a half weeks based on a faculty sign-up procedure, says Mrs. Klein.

A shipment delay of Geometer Sketchpad software has temporarily halted hi-tech lesson plans for the Math Dept. but Mrs. Klein has al-

ready used the software to graph functions for her AP Calculus class.

"We're hoping with the development to use students to input data and keep the school Web Page current," he says. "Our focus to date has been more around the installation of the grant, network and Internet."

Since the grant was approved last December, AHS faculty has participated in daylong in-service training seminars.

"We're still trying to be networked properly," Mrs. Klein says. "But I think we're working very fast when dealing with so much change."

In response to the number of substitutes replacing teachers absent from the classroom for training, she says, "You can't expect someone to teach something that they don't know. On the flip side, it's a small price to pay for a better education."

Mr. Allegrotti also stresses that "we're not teaching technology for technology's sake but to enhance the existing core curriculum."

While there have been few problems with hackers, Mrs. Klein is quick to point out "the emphasis should be that most students are grateful for the opportunity. Unfortunately, it only takes one student to bring the whole thing crashing down."

Students using school computers have signed an acceptable use policy form in accordance with issues regarding district liability.

Once passwords are assigned, students who abuse or misuse their computer privileges will have their passwords deleted from the network, rendering them unable to use a school computer indefinitely.

After the DHS grant committee successfully makes its report to the state, Albany High can qualify for an additional \$40,000 to be spent solely on technical support and staff development.

When the new high school facility is finished, "we'll be able to relocate much of the old equipment," says Mr. Allegrotti. "The new classrooms will be wired to provide for Internet access anyway."

"Every high school in California is eventually going to be a Digital High School," he says. "We were lucky enough to be picked for the first round."

# Student Film *The Killer Chihuahua* Premieres

by Tamara Failor

Halloween night is meant to be startling, scary and often humorous. It is also a night for friends to come together and celebrate.

So Halloween was an appropriate night to show Senior Chris Hoku'ala Uchiyama's 33-minute horror-spoof, *The Killer Chihuahua* on a theater screen for the first time.

The showing, which was part of the East Bay Media Center's Berkeley Video Festival at the Fine Arts Theatre on Shattuck, was attended by students and friends of the director as well as locals interested in the festival.

The movie won the Young Producer's Award from the East Bay Media Center.

The *Killer Chihuahua*, which is

set in Albany, also features teenage actors from the area.

It hilariously chronicles the Ahab-ish attempts of Maxwell (played by an adult, Larry LePaul) an "APD" detective, to catch the murderous canine that he has been chasing for years (long beyond the expected life-span of a chihuahua) and that took his left arm during their last encounter.

The audience also gets a glimpse into the dysfunctional family life of Jamie (Jon Butcher), whose family, which includes his alarmingly politically incorrect little sister ZZ, (Anne Cox) ends up harboring the furry fugitive.

The movie has the rampant gore and irony typical of most horror flicks. But overall it is very enjoyable and surprisingly professional at times, including the al-

most poignant shot of Jamie sitting and reading alone in the garage on a crate.

The movie also pokes fun at itself with a blatantly obvious and humorously fake acrobatic stunt chihuahua.

Though enjoyable for all ages, it would not be recommended for young children, elderly conservatives or other sensitive viewers.

An ability to appreciate pointless violence, casual vulgarity and unusual social commentary is a requirement.

Also notable are Waylon Bacon, for Special Effects, Viva Soffian for Costumes and Cameron Adams as Techie and all-around good guy.

Interested in *The Killer Chihuahua* now? Visit Oddball Productions for more details at [www.oddballproductions.web.com](http://www.oddballproductions.web.com).

**A WANTED POSTER is faxed to the local veterinarian's office for the assistant, played by Max Livingstone. This will lead ZZ, played by Anne Cox, to go out on a limb for her lost Chihuahua, Beady.**

## Finding "The Truth" About Beanie Sigel

by Jesse Sung

Rumor has it, Mr. HardKnock Life, Jay-Hovah (Jigga), was shopping for some more of his gray shaded jewelry and ice one day when he stumbled upon a much more valuable gem.

It was one Beanie "Sigel" Mack who dropped lines off the thinkpad (head) right on the spot for Jay and was supposedly so off the link (impressive) that Jay had to sign him on the spot.

That's what Jay-Z said in a *Vibe* interview months back.

He has been red carpet entranced on mix tapes, featured on Jay-Z's *Reservoir Dogs*, the remix of *Money, Cash, H\*\*z*, Puffy's new album and many others.

Jay-Z boldly stated in *Rolling Stone* magazine that Beanie Sigel would be on the list, shoulder to shoulder with himself, Nas, Biggie and 2Pac.

Well, now the whisper of a street legend has the chance to surface right to the top and live up to that hype.

"The Truth" offers some 26 tracks.

A few nanny (nice) freestyles put on, just windex and wipes anybody who couldn't see Sigel's abilities before.

"Roll on your corner runnin'/ screamin it's over/ all you saw was the arm and hammer like baking



soda." "Showdown" features Memphis Bleek.

He hosts Gina Thompson, Hott Boys, Memphis, Jay-Z, Murda Mill, Rubix and others.

Some may find his arrogant tone annoying after awhile, but listen to the lyrics, that's one aspect of B you won't get enough of.

"...Cop a couple cars/ drop a couple bars/ whip double R's (rolls royce)/ and blaze my wrist/ I like bubble baths yo, so I bath in crys/ (crystal)" - "1000 Bars."

That is just gruesome.

"The Truth" should be dropping sometime before the millennium.

After Beanie Sigel, Roc-a-Fella Record's slogan won't be "You are about to witness..." anymore.

It will be "You have just witnessed a dynasty like no other."

## Good Outlook For *Tom Jones*

by Margaret Manson

"Tradition" is not a word commonly used in association with Albany High School. Our campus is ever changing and new policies seem to spring up overnight.

However, one thing that has stayed the same is the production of fabulous theatrical plays performed by our own classmates.

Every year Theater Ensemble puts on two plays, one being the Fall performance and the other a student production. This year's club, headed by Presidents Iliana Carter and Kathryn Robinson, is keeping the tradition alive with the rendition of *Tom Jones*.

Stuck somewhere between a comedy and a love story, *Tom Jones* has something for everyone. The play takes place in England during the 1750s, which sets the scene for some very entertaining costumes.

"We don't have much of a costume crew this year," says Natalie Spautz, head of publicity. "We'll probably end up making a lot of our own costumes, like we usually do. That's what makes it fun, though."

Tom Jones, played by Ryan Takemiya, was born a bastard

child. With no link to his real parents, Tom Jones is raised by Squire Allworthy (Nicolas Brenni), also the guardian of Blifil (Brent Hecht).

Jones falls madly in love with his childhood playmate, Sophia Western, played by Kathryn Robinson.

However, Sophia's boisterous father, Mr. Western (Nathan Rynerson), has very different expectations for his daughter's hubby.

Fighting off women with a stick, handsome Jones continues to pursue his one true love. The play intertwines comedy and romance, making it a perfect combination for those who love to laugh, but can also take a little lovey dovey.

The cast, which should be recognized for its hard work and talent, includes William Hutson, Daphna Klugman, Mary Reagan, Patrick Glenn, Anna Moore, Zachary Ricards, Emily Fiss-Hobart, Natalie Spautz and Iliana Carter.

Others include Alethea Danby, Olivia Pisano, Ariel Sigal, Alexandra Spautz, Viva Soffian, Daniel Gottlieb, Kevin Gamba, Tamara Failor and Amanda Mehl.

Although *Tom Jones* constitutes

this year's Fall play, it can easily be mistaken for a student production. The entire set, including some stage furniture and all scenery, is being constructed and organized by students.

Lila Keene and Bill Hutson are expected to do an excellent job at heading set construction.

Helping behind the scenes will also be Tamara Failor and Viva Soffian—Failor working as deck manager, where she heads the set crew and other stage duties, while Soffian stays busy setting the mood in the light booth.

The members of Theater Ensemble hired their own director, Jeff Beck, who has proved to be a very happenin' guy. Emily Fiss-Hobart will also assistant direct.

Because *Tom Jones* is too great to be shown in only one go, the play will be presented for two weekends.

Friday, Saturday, Sunday and the following weekend (Nov. 19-21), the Little Theater will come alive with laughter and drama.

Evening shows on Fridays and Saturdays will begin at 8 p.m. and the Sunday cocktail performances will start at 5 p.m.

As for tickets for *Tom Jones*, students get in for \$5, adults for \$7.

## Dr. Dre's Got A "Chronic" Case of Rhythm for "2001"

by Jesse Sung

Eight years ago, his debut solo album "The Chronic" sold four million copies in the U.S. alone.

He's recognized as being one of the fathers of "gangsta" rap and the West Coast's most venerable producer.

He was the first brick of Death Row Record's empire and the first brick to be knocked out as well.

Dr. Dre, aka Andre Young, is known to have an eye for talent.

He has introduced to the world mega rap artists like Ice Cube, Eazy E, Snoop Dogg, DPG, Warren G and Eminem. Each have gone multi-platinum and their success came under the guidance of Dre.

Eminem was introduced to the public last year and now his debut

album, "Slim Shady," has gone three times platinum under Dre's own label, Aftermath Records.

Dre now seeks to reclaim his reputation as an artist with his album "Dre 2001."

Despite "2001" being only his sophomore album, Dre is still hailed as a veteran and the tracks on this album prove his skill.

The first single, "Still D.R.E.," featuring long time counterpart and protege Snoop Dogg, has a similar impact as the 1992 hit "Nothing But A G Thang."

Over another track, Snoop flexes a tight hook with his nonchalant tone, while Dre flows as if this were his 10th album.

Sean Carter, aka Jay-Z, ghost writes for Dre, and it's a combination of a great producer, lyricist and emcee. That is hard to beat.

But this is just one of the many gems you'll find on 2001.

Just press play and let the first five tracks chain play. Even the intro is worth a listen.

Track 10, "Forgot about Dre," which features Mr. Slim Shady himself, has a bangin' beat and syncopated quick flows which make the track the definition of tight.

The guest list for Dre 2001 has seats reserved for many of his associates, as well as Kurupt, Devin the Dude, Xzibit, Tray D, Defari, Kokane, Mary J. Blige, Mc Ren and many more.

Based on the hype and success of the first few singles on heavy rotation nation-wide, the Doc should have lines of patients waiting to pick up the remedy their ears have been hungering for.

### Film Preview: *The Insider*

*The Insider*, distributed by Buena Vista Pictures and premiering Nov. 5, is based on the news story by Marie Brenner, "The Man Who Knew Too Much."

It chronicles the media's focus on Dr. Jeffrey Wigand (Russell Crowe) when he blows the whistle on the tobacco industry and exposes its deepest secrets on the television news magazine "60 Minutes."

—Tamara Failor



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**HOT ON THE TRAIL of a corporate insider with dirt on the tobacco industry is producer Lowell Bergman (Al Pacino).**

## SIDELINE JARGON

by Abdul Jandali

Honestly, the Sports Staff here at The Cougar could not think of a unique headline for a volleyball article this issue.

Every single word that could possibly be used in a volleyball headline — “reign,” “domination,” “command,” “dynasty” — has been used in past issues.

So in a fit of desperation, we designated this issue’s article an editorial column on sports.

It seems as though we have a problem here, and for it to be resolved the volleyball team has to start losing.

Volleyball success at Albany High has become a tradition, as ingrained as Shaquille O’Neal missing free throws.

It’s become so extreme that students have stopped inquiring who won yesterday’s volleyball game, only curious as to how big of a landslide it was.

Not to say that the team’s winning is in any way a bad thing — absolutely not. But it’s gotten to the point that any display of fallibility by the team causes shock, not surprise or disappointment.

A loss to an ACCAL team by Albany would prove detrimental to the Lady Cougar image, which by now is approaching invincibility.

Imagine the student reaction to Albany placing second in league.

I, for one, predict a sort of Armageddon at Albany High, an event to be interpreted as the coming of the Apocalypse, followed by school-wide riots.

Okay, maybe not. But the simple response is that Albany will not stop losing.

It is not the recruiting power of the volleyball department or the efforts of marquee players such as past Lindsay Kagawas or today’s present stars that yields Albany

W’s. It is the entire volleyball department that has established itself as a prime center of winning. It’s a dynasty, an absolute dynasty that passes talent down with each successive generation.

The play of standout players is at best, a complement to the overwhelming effort of the Albany team. As post-season play began last year, Laura Jensen — ranked among the top 50 athletes in the East Bay — was lost to a season-ending ankle injury. That, however, did not thwart the team’s success in the North Coast Section.

Simply put, Albany will not stop winning. We should not, however, take this for granted. Amidst many other sub-par sports at Albany High, the volleyball squad is a rare, refreshing taste of successful teamwork and yes, wins.

Oh, and just for the record, the Lady Cougars are undefeated in league play.

## Intramural Football

by Adam Phillips

With the cancellation of the Intramural basketball season, only one good Intramural sport remains: football.

With 12 teams of at least six players, this year’s turnout was strong and provided an entertaining and lengthy season.

Teams were split into two division of six teams and played out the regular season round-robin style within their division.

After each team had completed playing all of the other teams in its division, it was time for playoffs which was expanded from last season’s four teams to eight this season.

After the first round games were decided, semifinal action — Pink Ponies versus Lemon Drops and Outlaws versus Guaranteed Victory — commenced.

Both of these games turned out to be nail-biters as each contest

ended in a tie.

However, due to time constraints, the games were decided by tie-breaker.

The Ponies advanced on first downs while the Guaranteed Victory versus Outlaws had to be decided by a coin toss because even the tie-breaker was a draw.

The Outlaws moved on to the championships by correctly predicting “heads.”

The championship was equally exciting as the Pink Ponies and the Outlaws exchanged leads, argued calls and almost started a fist-fight.

After all was said and done, however, the Outlaws emerged victorious, 28-21.

With the cancellation of Intramural basketball due to the lack of facilities, a gaping hole is left in the Intramural season.

If you would like to see football return for another season, plead your case to either Mr. Phil Wanlin or Mrs. Debbie Wanlin.

## Mr. Brown: Classroom To The Tennis Courts

by Nellie Lommen

Last Fall, Mr. Frank Brown was a history teacher.

After a one year hiatus, Mr. Frank Brown turned Coach Brown, returns to head the resurgent tennis team.

During the 1997-98 season Coach Brown led the team to a third place ACCAL finish. He hopes to repeat this feat again.

“I coached for a long time — 10 years. I retired last year, that of course was the year the team fell apart,” reminisced Coach Brown.

This season began as a rebuilding year for the tennis team.

Some of the players on the team hadn’t even played tennis before.

“Considering that the majority of our players are new to the game — some only picking up a racket for the first time — they [the neophyte players] are all showing an abundance of talent,” said the only returning player from the 1997-98 team, Isobel Mills.

Coach Brown agrees: “Of all the sports at Albany High, tennis was probably the most affected by the

school being turned down — there were no more tennis courts. This year was for rebuilding.”

One of the rookie players who had a big impact on the team is Miya Kitahara.

Together, Kitahara and Mills won the ACCAL league championship in doubles.

Kitahara has emerged as one of the future stars of the team. She attributes her success to the support and encouragement of her teammates.

“Even though this was my first year on the team, I really felt like a star. With Mr. Brown’s fabulous coaching, all the help I received from Isobel, and the support of the rest of my team, I strived to become the best tennis player I could be.”

Regardless of the separate individual efforts of the players, the team itself performed well considering the circumstances surrounding the season.

Hopefully the team will be able to repeat its late season success and make for an excellent 2000-01 season.

## The Spark That Lights Fires

by Kamran Javandel

Screaming until he can no longer make a sound, Warren Middleton makes clear his role as a leader of the Albany High School football team every Friday.

Although you probably haven’t read about the 5’ 11”, 165-pound strong safety in The COUGAR, Middleton is definitely one of the stars of the team.

Sure, he may not rack up 100 plus yards rushing per game like the highly touted William Bennett.

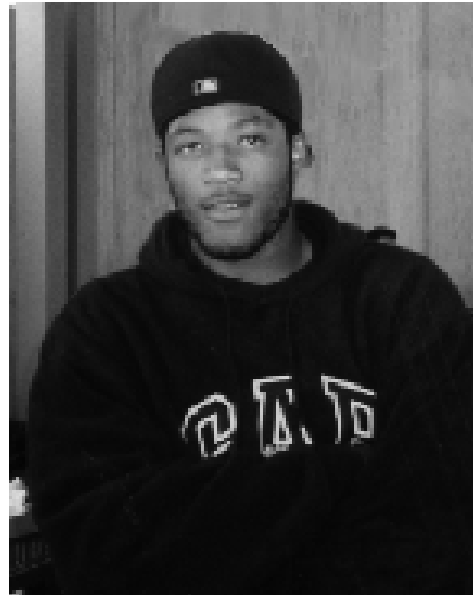
Or pass for nearly 200 yards like emerging quarterback Yaw Yiado.

But the effect Middleton has on an Albany football game is huge.

Often you can’t measure his contributions in yards or receptions.

Those who aren’t very into the game may not even notice his presence on the field.

You can be sure, however, that the opposing team feels the pres-



MULTI-TALENTED Warren Middleton

ence of number 33 from the moment they step on the field until the moment they limp off, and most likely when they are laying in bed at night still feeling the pain of a big Middleton hit.

On the opening offensive play in the Albany-Alameda game on Oct. 15, the Hornet’s running back

was leveled by Middleton and held high in the air, parallel to the ground, for about two seconds before being slammed down in the midst of a sea of red jerseys.

With opponent-maiming hits such as this, Middleton has put four opposing players out for the game and two for the season.

Middleton himself has not been immune to being hurt.

Over the course of the season he has sustained severe hip and shoulder injuries, yet he has not allowed that to keep him out of games.

It is the internal fire Middleton shares with the rest of the team and crushing blows that he lays on opponents that inspire his teammates.

He gets taped-up from nearly head-to-toe prior to each contest, then goes out and puts his adversaries in far more pain.

Warren Middleton is the essence of everything Cougar football would like to be.

Just ask his opponents.

## Cross Country Runs To Tournament Success

by Johnny Din

With the majority of the season behind them, members of the Albany High Cougar Cross Country team look forward to their last two meets: the league championships at Crab Cove tomorrow November 11 and the North-Coast Section Playoffs at NC Newhall on November 21.

The Varsity team consists of 12 runners ranging from Freshmen to Seniors.

Key runners include Sophomore Justin Samudio and Juniors Aaron Johnson, Spencer K’burg and David Hernandez, until he was called away for basketball.

Munyonyi Kiungua, a new addition to the team since joining early October played an important role

in the team’s success, earning a medal in the Mariner Invitational and performing well in meets and invitationals.

Unfortunately, many runners have missed meets because of various injuries and sicknesses.

Among those who were affected include Junior Dylan Cheasty and Seniors Chris Schweitzer (knee), Anthony Camargo (knee) and Ryland Knight (hip).

However, the injured runners will still participate in North-Coast Playoffs.

Moreover, schoolwork is keeping runners from appearing in meets and making them miss practices.

Though this is not a major problem for most runners, it is apparent that when runners are forced

to miss meets and practices because of school, the team cannot perform to their full capability.

The team performed impressively in the league meets and invitationals, despite its setbacks.

The team took part in five invitationals and four league meets this year.

One meet that stands out in runners’ minds is the Frogtown Invitational, where three of Albany’s runners placed in the top 10 out of 50 runners.

Matt Fujikawa placed eighth, Samudio placed sixth, while K’burg took second overall.

This year’s team is currently fifth in league but looks forward to a better season next year because of the team’s returnees.

“We’re looking forward to next



JUNIOR DYLAN CHEASTY splits time stretching and running.

season because we have a strong group of veteran runners,” says Fujikawa.

The team will only be losing four runners to graduation and is hoping to carry on the success from this year.

Though the core of next year’s roster seems to be set, a few spots on next year’s Cross Country team at Albany High still remains in

question.

There are only three underclassmen on this current roster, a number that the team hopes to increase in the next few years.

The team also hopes that more girls will come out to run cross country, since currently only two members of the team, Senior Marion Adams and Freshman Liz Nutt, are girls.