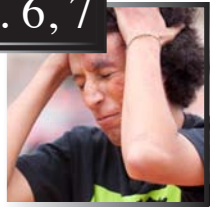


Don't
drink and
drive!

Pg. 6, 7



Every 15 Minutes crashes at CVHS



Pg. 8, 9

Don't
text and
drive!

Tips, advice for new drivers

Running,
jumping,
throwing

Pg. 12



Track teams compete in BAAAs



THE

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TIM PAK / PHOTO EDITOR

Junior Caleb Kim pretends to be injured in a drunken car crash during the Every 15 Minutes assembly on April 26. See page 6 and 7 for Every 15 Minutes spread.

Every 15 Minutes impacts students



By Jane Hong
STAFF WRITER

The familiar beep of the public announcement system went off and all that I could hear was a voice saying, "Rest in peace, Jane Hong."

When the Every 15 Minutes program began, someone died or was seriously injured due to a motor vehicle accident involving an intoxicated driver every quarter hour in the United States. On April 26, I became an example of this statistic.

The renowned and accredited Every 15 Minutes program, organized by Eden Medical, is undoubtedly one of the best student activities CVHS offers. Two years ago, the video made for this activity went viral and even won an Emmy award. To be a participant this year was a true privilege and it's an

experience I'll keep with me wherever I go.

Before the simulated crash portion of the program, the rest of the "living dead" cast and I got our faces painted a ghostly white with black, sunken eyes and gray lips. I could actually feel my energy drain while we acted as spectators during the mock crash scene. When it was over and done, we walked off the field, wiped off our makeup, and got ready to completely separate ourselves from reality.

I immediately received text

► **HONG:** Page 7

Brown supports new tax plan for schools

By Rachel Crary
STAFF WRITER

Governor Jerry Brown is once again proposing a tax plan that could potentially end cuts, layoffs, and budget cuts to schools. The Protect Schools and Public Safety Act could will be included in this year's ballot if enough signatures are collected in its favor.

Brown's new plan consists of a few minor changes from his previous proposal. The old plan was one that lasted for five years, with a 1 percent tax increase for those earning \$500,000 or more a year, a 1.5 percent tax increase for those earning \$600,000 or more a year, a 2 percent tax increase for those earning \$1 million or more a year, and an overall half-cent sales tax increase for everyone. This plan was expected to raise a total of \$7 billion each year.

As teachers argued for an even bigger tax hike, Brown rethought his plan and created a compromise. This new plan included a 1 percent tax increase for those making \$500,000 a year, a 2 percent tax increase for those making \$600,000 a year, and a 3 percent tax increase for those making \$1 million a year or more. There would also be a quarter-cent sales tax increase for everyone. The sales tax increase would last for a total of four years, and the income tax hike would last for seven years. This compromise plan would be expected to raise \$9 billion each year.

CVHS staff members were busy over the spring break collecting signatures for a petition that would qualify the Protect

Schools and Public Safety Act for the ballot this year.

An enthusiastic CVHS P.E. teacher, Marie Gray, actively encouraged the petition by collecting signatures from staff members and parents.

"I think it's great," said Gray. She is all for the plan, as it promises to reduce budget cuts and layoffs, which are causing all kinds of problems for schools. Cuts affect the P.E. department greatly as money for equipment is a big part of sports. With greater and greater budget cuts, P.E. classes would only be able to offer their students sports options that require fewer materials.

"The plan gives us, as educators, the tools we need to teach our students with new and innovative ideas," said Gray. She believes that the plan would be able to solve most of our problems given time.

However, sophomore Kevin Brum views the tax plan in a different light.

"I do not believe that you should punish people who are successful in our state. We need to stop spending, not raise taxes," said Brum.

According to Brum, California already has high taxes, and raising them even more would not make anything better. In fact, he believes it would have just the opposite effect. Many people have already left the state of California due to its high taxes, and passing Brown's new tax plan would only cause more

► **TAXES:** Page 10

Students doing time for no-ID crime

By Lily Carrell
STAFF WRITER

The CVHS Student/Parent Handbook clearly states that student ID cards must be presented to check out books from the school library or the book room. It does not, however, explain that students who attempt to do so without their ID cards will be administered a warning, and possibly a detention.

According to Sue Hale, the book room supervisor, at least 200 students have come to the book room without their ID cards, and have therefore been refused the ability to check out any book. Those students have then had their names put on a list

and have been given a warning. So far, 100 students have been assigned 45-minute detentions after first receiving a warning.

"I would expect at this point in the year that students would know," Principal Mary Ann Valles said in regards to students bringing their ID cards to check out books.

When students do not have their ID cards to check out books, the process is much slower and tedious. Even if students recite their ID card numbers, it must be entered by hand into the computer rather than automatically when the barcode of an ID card is scanned.

Sophomore Alexa Ludke shared her thoughts about the

school's new approach to checking out books.

"I think the system is fair because students are already required to carry their ID cards at all times," Ludke said.

Other students, however, are not as compliant and believe that assigning book detentions is too severe of a punishment, as well as "unnecessary."

"The punishment for not bringing your ID card is too harsh because a student can just go on their own time to get a book," said junior Ryan Brown, one of the many students who have been issued a warning for not having their ID card when checking out a book.

Gimme that!



TIM PAK / PHOTO EDITOR

A student and a teacher fight for the ball in the three-on-three basketball tournament. See page 11.



NONSENSICAL DETENTIONS FOR STUDENTS WITHOUT IDS

Olympian opposes outlandish ostracism

Editorial:

Detentions have been issued to students without their ID cards when their classes go to check out books. Those students are first given warnings. If they forget their ID cards again, they are assigned detentions. Although some students find this fair, others disagree and think that it is too harsh. The majority of us at *The Olympian* are opposed to this new controversial rule.

We find this rule pointless and unnecessary. Teachers can simply send the students to the back of the line and check out their books after everybody who brought their ID card has already done so. They can say their ID numbers, check out their books, and be on their merry ways. Although this does take more time than simply scanning a card, it does not take that much longer.

People are also opposed to the new rule because of the short notice that students receive before going to the book room.



LILY CARRELL / STAFF WRITER

Sometimes, students are not told that their class is going to the book room until the day that they actually do so, leaving students without their ID cards if they have been left at home.

Some people may point to the possibility that students may use another student's ID number to check out a book and then not return it, resulting in the other student needing to pay fines. However, teachers

can verify if that student is really the one with that number.

Those who support the rule also say that students need to carry their ID cards around because of safety reasons. This way, those who are students can be identified, and there wouldn't be strange people walking around campus. However, students keep their ID cards in their backpacks and wallets. It is not possible to distinguish whether an individual

is a CVHS student just by looking at him or her, regardless of that person is carrying an ID card.

People that are in favor of this new rule say that it is a good way to make sure that students are bringing their ID cards to school. By assigning detention as punishment, it pushes students to remember to follow the rules. However, those who are opposed argue that some kids won't go back

on their own time to get the books. They wouldn't be able to keep up with the reading or do the homework assigned. This would not benefit them at all academically.

“We find this rule to be pointless and unnecessary. Teachers can simply send the students to the back of the line.”

Although this rule was initiated out of good intentions, many students, including the majority of us here at *The Olympian*, disagree with it.

THE CASTRO VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL OLYMPIAN

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PHOTOPIINIONS

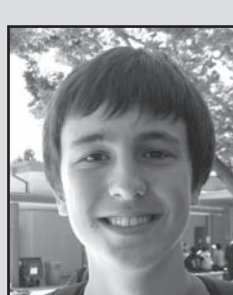
How about detentions for students without ID cards at the book room?




“I’m sure the administration has legitimate reasons for the rule, but I can’t think of what they are.”
 Kayla Turney, senior



“Students should be able to check out books no matter what. Is it really that bad to type six numbers?”
 Ryan Miller, junior



“It’s stupid and there are other ways to get the books anyway.”
 Chris Baker, freshman



“It’s dumb and it does not seem very efficient.”
 Jackie Panganiban, sophomore

Letters to the Editor



The *Olympian* encourages letters from our readers. Please note that letters must be signed and no longer than 200 words. They can be e-mailed to cvhsolympian@gmail.com, delivered to Mr. Johanson’s box in the office, or dropped off at our *Olympian* office in room 113.

A new experience in nature



By Amber Yang
FEATURE EDITOR

Recently I had the honor to be chosen as one of the counselors for the Exploring New Horizons program at Camp Loma Mar, where I would be in charge of and living with eight to ten sixth graders for five days in a beautiful place out in the natural wilderness called Pescadero. You could imagine the tender nostalgia I felt when I stepped onto the soft soil and looked around to a place where I was so familiar with five years ago when I was a sixth grader.

Let's just say outdoor school was awe-inspiring. Just five days made me feel so different. I've never gotten first-hand experience with nature, dealing with kids, or being a leader but those several days have really found a place in my heart. The week I went had weather opposite of sunny and clear. There was non-stop, pouring rain and cold wind throughout the week, which, naturally, had its downs. There were times when I silently thought to myself, "I can't wait until I can shower in my own shower and sleep in my own bed," or "Oh, my



Gosh, it's so wet and I can't feel my hands and my clothing is drenched and my backpack is soaking." Let me tell you, it was definitely tough feeling my soaking socks cling to my numb feet that squished in my muddy hiking shoes with every step I took while simultaneously having to cheer up sixth graders who would refuse to see past the dreary weather.

Now, as I sit in front of the computer typing my feelings out, I want that feeling again. What I experienced was something deeper than just the plea-

sure of chatting with friends on Facebook and texting on my phone. I hope this feeling lasts because I really do need to be more aware of the outside world than just sitting in front of the computer all day.

As a sixth grader, I wasn't aware of all the beauty and I didn't really care and I didn't take a chance and open myself up to this new world. And honestly, I could understand. As a person so young, just out of elementary school, it's hard to. But now, as I came back as a junior with a faded memory

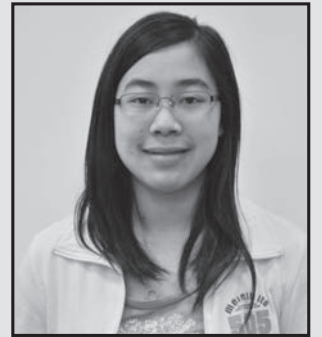
of outdoor school, I was able to relive the joys of being away from home and into a great experience of bonding and the outdoor spectacle.

People add people on Facebook and say that's a "friendship." But within five days, the people I have never even seen in my life before and never talked to until that week, became closest to me than some people I'm friends with on Facebook. As technology changes, it still cannot deny the power of bonding through real connections in real life. Come to think about it, I've bonded more with some of the people I just had met more than the people whom I would say I'm close to!

Furthermore, being exposed to what the naturalists do for a living really asserted the point that you don't have to be a successful man or woman making a lot of money to be happy. The pure joy of teaching the youth about nature through songs or hikes reflected off their shining faces every single time. And you know it's genuine when you realize they've been doing this for years and they don't get tired of it. The gorgeous thing about them was that they all possessed talent, wisdom, depth and confidence that I admired greatly.

Hopefully, I will be returning to Camp Loma Mar again as a counselor next year. To whom-ever reading this: definitely apply to be a counselor at this magical place because of the fun experience and perspective you will get out of it. It's pretty rad.

Bieber believes that only Bozos bully



By Victoria Liang
STAFF WRITER

Around a week ago, I was on my computer checking my email. My sister was on the computer next to mine and she was on YouTube searching for a video to watch that related to Justin Bieber.

After a while, she finally decided on a video to watch. It started out with Bieber at a concert. But towards the middle of the video, a boy named Casey Heynes comes onto the screen.

My first thought was "Why was this boy in a video with Justin Bieber?"

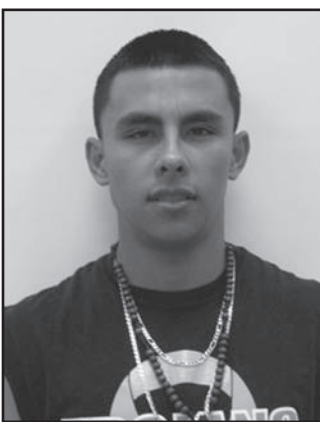
As I continued to watch the video, I learned that Heynes was a victim of bullying. A flashback got me all worked up because Heynes was being punched over and over again and no one was helping this poor kid. Not only was I angry with the fact that no one was helping him out, but people were standing around and video-taping the scene. But suddenly Heynes stood up for himself and he punched the kid that was attacking him. At that point, I was cheering on Heynes and I was telling my sister that the bully deserved the beating that Heynes gave him. But I still didn't know why Heynes was in a video that Bieber was in.

Towards the middle of the video, I got my answer. Justin Bieber wanted to spread the message that you have to stand up for yourself and never say never. Also in the video he implied that bullying happens everywhere and everyone can make a difference if they choose to help the cause.

Before I watched this video, I knew that bullying was wrong, but I always thought that the victim didn't need my help. I thought that if you didn't like it, you had the power to stop it. But after watching this video, I realized that not many people stand up for themselves, and some of these people need a friend to help them out at times.

The video also made me realize that the phrase "Even one can make a difference" is very true. Because one million starts with one. Therefore, when I see someone being bullied or just need help in general, I'll be there to help. And you should, too.

Writer disillusioned with U.S. military



By Camilo Riveros
STAFF WRITER

Every time I turn on the news, I find myself forced to watch some of the saddest and most unnecessary tragedies and "accidents" I've had to witness in my young 18 years of life. The news stations barely ever talk about natural disasters killing innocent people anymore. Unfortunately it tends to always be something that somebody in our military has done to cause grief and pain to people in countries that we currently occupy, primarily Afghanistan.

I understand why people may take offense to me criticizing the military. It may strike some as

un-patriotic or disloyal to our nation but quite frankly, that's not the case. Yes, the Taliban used to rule Afghanistan. Yes, that's where Osama bin Laden used to live. But those are no longer the case. Many changes have come about in the last ten years although one thing hasn't changed. American soldiers still roam the streets of Afghanistan, killing civilians and sometimes rebels but these last few months we have done little but unnecessarily harm the people of that country.

We've occupied Afghanistan for over a decade, and I'm supposed to believe that in all those years we never learned about their customs or religion? That NATO officials had no idea the disrespect they were committing when they burned those Qu'rans? I understand that there may have been a reason as to why the holy books had been confiscated but to burn them in front of the people who worship that religion is just uncalled for. Yet we still ask ourselves why countries and people from all over the world hate our country.

What about the soldiers who

took a photo posing next to a Nazi symbol? The government issued an apology, but I didn't find any comfort in a public comment made as a PR move. Had the military officials issued a sincere apology maybe I wouldn't be typing this sentence. After those two events I began to lose faith in what our military stood for. All my life I had been told that we fought for freedom and justice. Where's the justice in any of the last two situations? Where is this fight for freedom? Burning the Qu'rans, in my opinion, was a statement that was meant to let the Afghans know that we were above them. What we basically told them was that we could totally disrespect their religion because we are American and they are Afghan.

Is that the same message of equality that we have been taught all throughout our lives? Or is equality something that only applies when we want to go into another country for resources?

I'm not saying that I encourage or understand the killing of American soldiers in anyway

whatsoever. I don't condone the actions that Afghan rebels have committed but I only pose one question. When an American walks into a village and kills 17 civilians, nine of them being children, is it totally wrong to use violence against us? Treat others the way you want to be treated, right?

We have such an uproar whenever we see people in other countries burning our flag, but when we burn holy books that are sacred to another culture, are we right to believe they have to just accept it? I'm not so sure. When we kill 17 innocent civilians, are we right to demand justice when one of our soldiers is shot down? If we take pictures that show us happily standing by Nazi symbols, is the world wrong for comparing us to them?

I think it's time for a change of culture starting from the head of our military and trickling down to the bottom and most basic forces. It's time for us to become a country with a military that promotes peace throughout the world, not violence and destruction.



DISCOVER YOUR INNER HERO AT DUNGEONS & DRAGONS CLUB

Legends come alive Thursdays after school

By Michael Castillo
ONLINE EDITOR

At a meeting for the Dungeons & Dragons club, members exchanged witty banter while waiting for the next person to roll the die.

The movement of the goblins, wizards, orcs and warriors that make up the game relies on a set of polyhedral dice that each player must roll at the beginning of a turn. The die rolled, clattering around the gridded game board until it finally came to a halt. It was a "1." Jasper Lee -- the die roller -- had already fallen behind in the game; rolling a "1" was a huge disappointment. He moved his character a space and rolled the die again. Another "1." The room erupted into laughter.

This type of friendly joking is typical of the Dungeons & Dragons club, which meets in room 304 every Thursday after school. The club welcomes players both new and old, and has a simple objective: to play Dungeons & Dragons as much as possible.



MICHAEL CASTILLO / ONLINE EDITOR

Ben "Dr. M" Miller, Maddy Heisler, Julien Farbarik, Jasper Lee play D&D with laughter and fun.

The game, often abbreviated "D&D," is a fantasy role-playing game -- or RPG -- played on a grid-like board with an assortment of dice and figurines.

The club's website says, "Dungeons and Dragons is an adventure, an exciting role playing game, one where you're in control of your hero's destiny. Every-

thing is as you create it to be."

"It's probably the nerdiest thing in the universe," said club member Julien Farbarik. "We're all just here to have fun."

Indeed, the game requires a fair bit of concentration to keep up with. Player characters (PCs) make their ways across a board filled with deadly monsters and

traps, making extensive use of magic, physical combat and social interactions along the way. Each PC's individual ability score determines how well he will react to these challenges. If a PC takes too much physical damage and his hit points (HP) run out, the character dies.

The rulebooks for D&D can be

quite intimidating. At one of the meetings, Maddy Heisler, while pointing to a massive hardcover book, said, "That's one of three, and we only have one." However, the game itself is actually remarkably easy to play, requiring only a rulebook, a character sheet for each player, and a set of polyhedral dice.

The D&D club prefers to keep it simple; club member Ben "Dr. M" Miller said that they bend the rules quite a bit, preferring to have fun rather than play by the books. Indeed, the club's atmosphere is laid back and fun, with players keeping up a steady stream of jokes while others take their turns.

"It's just an excuse to have fun with friends," said Cameron Richey.

Since its inception in January, the club has gained a devoted following of D&D enthusiasts. The games have a fair amount of structure, but ultimately the club exists so its members can share a common interest and have fun together.

"It's just as nerdy as people think it is, but a lot more fun," said Miller.

The club is hosted by social studies teacher Jason Marlis and meets in room 304 every Thursday after school. Anyone interested can visit the club's website (<http://cv-dungeons-and-dragons.webs.com/>) or Facebook group for updates.

Sutton shines in art instruction

Teacher tried private school and math before CVHS

By Matt Talajkowski
STAFF WRITER

Jo Sutton has traveled across the country to make it to Castro Valley High School. She has been teaching at CVHS for 14 years, and has seen a big turnaround in attitudes of CVHS students and teachers towards gay rights.

Sutton is the beginning studio art teacher and AP art history teacher, but she started at CVHS as a math teacher.

"Math is the language of the universe," said Sutton.

However, Sutton also had a strong art background, so she decided to try teaching art instead. She had already taught one year of art in both private and public schools. She found that art was right for her and taught a variety of different art classes.

This year, she is bringing the animation class back after several students persuaded her

to do it.

"We have never had enough people sign up for the class, but this year we will start it again," said Sutton.

She has also been working on her new style of art, combining gold leaf and contemporary art.

"The stuff shines like you can't believe," said Sutton. You

**"I wanted
to be an art
teacher, and
I can't
believe I
made it."**

Jo Sutton
Art Teacher

can see more of her art on the CVHS homepage under the staff directory.

Sutton was raised in Iowa, but when she got older she decided that she did not want to live there. She left her home with her car and \$500, and set off for California.

"I had one dream when I was coming here," said Sutton. "I

wanted to be an art teacher, and I can't believe I made it."

While she stayed with friends in California she cooked food and performed other odd jobs.

"My first teaching jobs were at Sylvan Learning Center," said Sutton.

When Sutton finally made it to CVHS, she met her future wife, Melissa Kindelspire, a science teacher at CVHS. They first met during Days of Diversity, when Sutton was having a drum circle in her room. Kindelspire brought both drums and students to help out Sutton.

After that, Sutton and Kindelspire began a relationship, but could not get married because of the gay marriage ban in California. But in 2008 the ban was lifted.

"I was looking on the computer, and I got an email that told me that we could marry," said Sutton. She told her sixth period class to stay put, and then walked into Kindelspire's room and proposed.

"I am really happy how CVHS has changed," said Sutton. She described her first year at CVHS as tough.

"People used to be really mean to me, and shout at me from cars, and call me names, but now the people have changed."

Tackling the stinky smoking problem

By Alex Gao
STAFF WRITER

At CVHS, students usually don't hear about any form of substance abuse. Sure, there are rumors that go around, but students are mostly ignorant to the various forms of drug abuse that happen on campus.

Counselors Karena Doan and Natalie Mathrole are working together with students to create a tobacco prevention program that will help students at CVHS as well as other schools get over the use of tobacco or other drugs.

This program started this year due to a new grant that required the implementation of the program at CVHS. The program provides informational education groups that help educate students about the dangers of using tobacco, marijuana, and other drugs. There are also counseling groups that help those who have already used drugs and require help. Earlier this year, the program hosted a Tobacco Fair that all freshmen attended, as well as the Great American Smokeout.

The program here at CVHS focuses on bringing the rate of drug abusers down, and so far, it seems to be working. Though the program is relatively new,

it has had modest success with a small number of students. The program mainly focuses on providing help for students who have used drugs, and educating others to prevent them from doing so to begin with.

The program is small right now, but Doan and other participants have high hopes for the program next year. They hope to expand this tobacco prevention group in order to help more people in need.

Sophomore Juliet Fong is one of the peer educators currently working with Doan in this tobacco prevention program. As an educator, she attends meetings with the Alameda County Youth Advisory Board for Tobacco Use Prevention Education to learn more about tobacco and discuss ideas for upcoming projects.

"Being able to participate in this program has been such a gratifying experience, and knowing that what I've had a chance to be a part of has made even the smallest difference in someone's life really gives me a great sense of fulfillment," said Fong.

The members of this program hope that, in the future, the program will be able to help even more people and become even more widely known in the community.

Castro Valley activists target Uganda war criminal Joseph Kony

Teens post wanted signs to raise awareness

By Melody Moteabbed
STAFF WRITER

A swarm of teenagers ran down Castro Valley Boulevard and Redwood Road on the night of April 20 with a single message in their hands: Stop Joseph Kony.

Kony 2012 was recently brought to light by the organization Invisible Children, Inc. According to the group's findings, Kony is a Ugandan war criminal who kidnaps children from their homes in Central Africa and forces them to fight with him in his rebel group, Lord's Resistance Army. Among the objectives of the militant group, one of the biggest goals is to fight against the centralized government in Uganda and instead enforce a competitive multi-party democracy.

April 20 was the date chosen by Jason Russell, director of the Kony 2012 video and co-founder of Invisible Children, to bring awareness about the issue and put up posters with Kony's name on it, saying that he had to be stopped. Ideally, this night was



MELODY MOTEABBED / STAFF WRITER

An advertisement in the Safeway parking lot was just one of the flyers put up on Castro Valley Boulevard.

supposed to be participated in worldwide, yet many major international news networks have called it "disappointing" in terms of its participation.

Regardless, freshman Amanda Bailey was the one who coordinated the Castro Valley event, and she is pleased. Bailey organized the night to run from 8-11 p.m. The group of about 20

started from the Safeway parking lot on Castro Valley Boulevard and made its way through it and Redwood Road, putting up posters and grabbing attention from passersby.

"It was in the works for a month," Bailey said. "The word was spreading around at school. Two hundred people joined on Facebook, so there was a good

amount of people there."

While there has been a lot of praise for the video and the cause, there has also been a lot of criticism and skepticism towards both. The negative reactions fired even further after Russell was arrested for public indecency, leaving many to question whether or not he was "stable" enough to create and lead such a following.

Bailey has said that she has acknowledged all of the accusations, yet it is not enough to keep her from believing that what she and her fellow classmates did is not worthwhile.

"This whole thing isn't about whether or not you agree with Invisible Children or not. It's about opposing and defeating the awful horrors occurring in

"A lot of us have become desensitized to everything."

Amanda Bailey

Freshman

Africa." Defiantly, she added, "To those who won't stand up to this for whatever negative reason: I couldn't care less! I am a very sensitive person, but I believe that a lot of us have become desensitized to everything else happening in the world."

Bailey only hopes to inspire more people throughout the year. She's considering making an Invisible Children club on campus next year.

Urbanize jams out to cool beats and vibes

By Natalie Chin
NEWS EDITOR

Music blasting, the feel of bass throbbing in your chest, loud cheers from the encircling crowd, two people twisting in the air, it can only be breakdancing.

On May 12, CVHS Urbanize hosted its first ever Urbanize Jam, "The Urban Games," in the gym. The Urbanize Jam was a friendly competition between several crews from different schools organized

by juniors Joey Toor and Thien Huynh. Northgate High, Skyline High (Skyline Breakers), Ygnacio Valley High (Supreme Kings) and James Logan High (Kamakazee Tyrants) were just some of the schools whose crews came to CVHS to participate.

"We found participants through Facebook since we had mutual friends. This will help people gain more experience in jams," said Toor.

In addition to unifying the

breakdancing groups in the Bay Area, the Urbanize Jam also strived to help feed the needy. Canned food donations going to the Alameda County Food Bank were accepted and appreciated.

"We decided to participate in donating food to the Alameda County Food Bank because of the purpose of this event, which was to bring everyone together," said Huynh. "We figured that if this event was to bring people together, we might as well take another step by having this fun, yet beneficial event for all."

About 40 break dancers participated in the Urbanize Jam plus a 15-minute exhibition battle between Many 2 One Crew and the Next Step Crew. From the CVHS Urbanize club, Taji "KidTek" Mekki, Jackson "Lethal Interjack" Guo, Michael "Moksee" Nguyen, and Tim "A.X.L." Hooker competed.

"I started dancing freshman year when my friends did it and asked me to learn and I kept going even after they stopped," said Nguyen, a senior.

"Dancing is a fun way to show talent and the Jam is a healthy competition," said senior Mekki.

Participants could compete alone or in groups of three. The first place prize for the three-on-three battle was \$75 and the first place prize for the solo battle was \$50. The three judges were Caleb "The Damager" Soon from The Next Step, B-boy Power Serge from All the Way Live, and Jeff Marzan.

"I think there's a lot of talent, a



NATALIE CHIN / NEWS EDITOR

Taji "KidTek" Mekki, one of the members of the CVHS Urbanize club, is all focus as he dances on the gym floor.

lot of kids who put their heart into dancing," said Soon. "It takes a lot of work to prepare and train for a battle."

At the end, however, Ygnacio Valley High's Supreme Kings won the three-on-three and Kevin "K-Vu" Vu from Many 2 One Crew of Mt. Diablo High won the one-on-one.

"It feels great," said Vu when

asked how it felt to win. "I didn't expect to win, but why not try out and test your luck?"

Urbanize hopes that the Jam will become an annual event and would like to host another one next year.

"B-boying is about having fun and showing your inner musicality and expression while also providing entertainment," said senior Guo.

LATINOS CELEBRATE ACADEMIC SUCCESS

By Matt Talajkowski
STAFF WRITER

The names of Latino and Latina CVHS students rang through the cafeteria on May 3 during the celebration of Latino Achievement night.

Students from all grades who have a Latino background and a 3.0 GPA or higher were awarded with a certificate of recognition. The ceremony started with Principal Mary Ann Valles making an announcement.

"We are excellent examples of our vibrant culture," Valles said.

This vibrant culture was celebrated with food, drinks and dances from different cultures. As people milled around the cafeteria, several speakers shared their feelings on their graduation from CVHS and their experiences through col-

lege.

Near the end of the night, students from their separate classes were called out and brought to the stage to receive their award.

"It gives us confidence to succeed in our goals," said sophomore Astrid Mancada.

"It encourages me for my later years," said her younger sister Estephany Mancada.

The awards night recognized students who work hard in school, and hopes to push the students farther along in their education.

"It makes me want to continue in school," said sophomore Luis Tapia.

As each student left the cafeteria every family had someone to be proud of.

"Hold on tight to our culture," said Valles. "We are one family."

EVERY 15 MINUTES: “

PHOTOS BY TIM PAK



Anti-drunk driving program brings tragedy close to home

By Amber Yang
FEATURE EDITOR

The deafening crash-sound of two cars colliding, the whirring noise of helicopters, and the seemingly endless wail of the sirens blistering out from ambulances, fire trucks and police cars were all part of the gruesomely unvarnished simulation of a car accident at the Trojan Stadium on Thursday, April 26.

Sniffles, sobs and the mourning cries of losing a loved one filled the Center for the Arts at a follow-up assembly on Friday, April 27.

On those two days, CVHS presented its own biennial event of “Every 15 Minutes.” With a name that refers to the average rate at which Americans die in drunk driving accidents, “Every 15 Minutes” is a worldwide educational program. At CVHS, this program targets juniors and seniors.

Selected students participated in this dramatic event; most of them represented the “Living

Dead,” and had their faces painted ghostly white and their eyes rimmed with black. Every 15 minutes during first and second periods on Thursday, a police officer entered the classrooms of Living Dead students as their names were announced over the loudspeaker. The police officers then commenced to read off loving obituaries about the students and placed roses on their desks.

Seniors Jeremy Lawrence, Holly Talmadge, Celeste Martore, Erin Sullivan, and Matt Lindberg, and juniors Grace Cho and Caleb Kim were directly involved in the reenactment of an actual car accident. Seniors and juniors who watched from the bleachers of the stadium experienced firsthand the process of the whole incident. Firefighters and paramedics dealt with getting the injured students out of the smashed cars, onto gurneys, and into an ambulance or a helicopter to be taken to the hospital (Kim, Cho, and Martore). The coroner had the role of dealing with the fatality (Talmadge), and the police officers investigated and

arrested the “drunk driver” (Lawrence).

“Overall, I was excited and anticipated the event in the weeks to come. But when I stepped onto the field, I felt numb. Because I was a participant in the crash scene, I witnessed it like a real event. Everything was improvised so I didn’t know what to expect even though I knew who was going to ‘die’ and what was going to happen. After the ‘crash,’ I felt as though I had just watched an actual crash,” Lindberg stated.

That night, those selected students went on a life-changing, overnight retreat in Danville so that their families and friends could feel their absence. They participated in team building activities, story sharing, and listened to guest speakers. They also wrote letters to their loved ones and explored the retreat center.

“The retreat center was very relaxing and peaceful and it was a great setting for such an intense experience,” said

junior Brooke Costello, one of the students participating.

The next day, CVHS students paraded up to the Center for the Arts with tissues in hand, knowing it would be a sentimental experience. There, an emotional video was shown of the crash incident leading up to the hospital emergency centers, the morgue, the police department jail, and the courthouse. The victims’ parents of the car accident were introduced in the video and, after being informed by police or medics that their son or daughter was involved in a car accident, acted out the sorrow of their losses.

The assembly was hosted by Chris Graham, the program coordinator and retired police officer. He proceeded to tell students about a motorcycle accident that occurred due to the consumption of alcohol.

Kassandra Kearns, the only survivor from a traumatizing car accident, shared her inspiring story by reading off a paper—a result of brain damage from the calamity that affected her ability to remember things. The Living

Dead students were given the opportunity to read their letters to their parents, and the parents were given the opportunity to do the same for their children.

Many students who did not participate in Every 15 Minutes were greatly affected vicariously through this whole experience.

“It had one of the biggest impacts of my life. I always knew not to drink and drive but just seeing the reality of it is painstakingly real. I wish people would make better choices not only for themselves, but for those at risk with a drunk driver on the road,” commented senior Juan Barrera.

The Every 15 Minutes program pushes students to realize that they should make mature, responsible decisions, regardless if it is drinking, texting, or not paying attention while driving.

“Every 15 Minutes is not a scare tactic to freak kids into submission but a simulation that allows us to see what would happen if we would get in a car with a drunk driver. Worst of all, it shows us who we would hurt,” said Lindberg.

PAINSTAKINGLY REAL”

& REBECCA FONG



► **HONG:** *from Page 1*

messages from friends afterwards reminding me how much I meant to them but I turned off my phone; it was too late to know any of that now. I also acknowledged it was important that my family and friends felt my absence so that they could get the full effect of the program as well. I disconnected from the “real world” and put forth all of my remaining energy into the student retreat we attended.

The moment we arrived in Danville, I appreciated the calmness and placidity of the atmosphere. Even though we were just a few towns over, it truly felt as if I was forever away from home.

During the retreat, the parents of Livermore’s David Goddard came to speak to us about the recent loss in their family. Just six months ago, Goddard crashed while driving intoxicated and did not survive. We watched his father struggle to find the words to describe his son’s personality and fight back his overwhelming emotions. By his side, his wife was noticeably crying, and he continued to say that their

son’s death is still a reality they haven’t come to terms with. Just a few weeks ago, they had called him down to join them for breakfast only to slowly realize he would never be joining them again.

Later, we were asked to write letters to our families or friends as if we had just passed away. In my head, I thought of a million things I wanted to say and leave behind; but when the time came to sit down and actually jot them down, I realized I didn’t quite know how to articulate my thoughts. How could I even put into words what my family and friends mean to me? How could I ever explain my regrets, sorrows, and even my joys in life? Did they know how much I appreciated them and that I was sorry my actions didn’t always reflect my love? Needless to say, I rewrote my letter at least five times before concluding one. But that one letter still wasn’t and isn’t enough. I have yet to find my last words and to be frank, I’m not quite sure I’ll

ever find them.

We then entered the most emotional part of the retreat as we sat down and shared what part of the program impacted us most thus far. We stumbled

“I may not have died but a part of me sure did: the part that’s irresponsible, ungrateful, and selfish.”

upon the things that made us so human that it hurt. I realized we were all mindless teenagers living with a misconception: we believed we were invincible, incapable of destruction, and we foolishly believed we had

obtained immortality. We even believed we were damaged and unfixable. We were afraid of what was and what would become. We were vulnerable and weak.

That vulnerability stayed with us throughout the next day while we sat and listened to the stories, watched the videos, and heard the student and parent letters.

There are many skeptics who believe that the effect of this program is merely temporary, that the feelings of self-worth and gratefulness wither away with time. I hope to prove them wrong. Regardless of the fact that the crash is simulated and the fates of the students are predetermined, the emotions that are evoked due to this program are completely genuine. Tears weren’t shed that day because we believed the crash was real; we cried as much as we did because we felt the potential pain of a real accident as we related to the student letters and felt the sadness of parents losing their children.

But this program is about

much more than drinking and driving; it’s about making smart decisions. It’s about recognizing your responsibilities. In a generation where we celebrate mottos such as “You only live once” to a point where the meaning almost becomes a mockery, we often make the mistake of living as if life is forever. Every 15 Minutes is just one of the necessary reminders that life is precious and fleeting; it’s up to us to make it count.

The crash scene wasn’t real and the deaths of the crash victims and living dead cast weren’t either. But presently, every 51 minutes, someone dies or is seriously injured in a drunk-driving accident. If you were to drink and drive or even text and drive, how could you ever think that you were the exception?

I may not have really died but a part of me sure did: the part of me that’s irresponsible, ungrateful, and selfish. I’ve learned that I am not invincible, and I’m sorry I ever thought I could survive what most people couldn’t.

8 DRIVING SAFETY



Eyes on the road, not on the phone, LOL

By Dana Lin
CITY EDITOR

After Every 15 Minutes at CVHS, many students are suddenly aware of the dangers of drinking and driving, but what about the other forms of impairment that may land them in unfortunate accidents? In July of 2008, the state of California restricted drivers from making calls on cell phones. Six months later, another law followed, banning drivers from texting behind the wheel.

Despite the newly enacted laws designed to protect Californians, many drivers continue to use their cell phones while they drive.

"This last April, we had about 60 citations issued for just texting, and 430 for just talking, just in our office," said Officer Daniel Jacowitz from the California Highway Patrol's Castro Valley office. During a special enforcement period in April, the agency wrote about ten times as many tickets for cell phone use as usual, but only two of



REBECCA FONG / PHOTO EDITOR

Senior Petra Martins chooses to text while in a parking lot, so as not to endanger her life by texting while driving.

the month's citations went to those under 18. "The 18 to 25-year-old range made up the majority," Jacowitz said.

Under the cell phone use

law, adults 18 and older may use a hands-free device when using their cell phones, while minors cannot use cell phones at all, not even with a hands-

free device, while driving on public roads. Exceptions apply to commercial drivers and emergency calls.

Jacowitz continued to tell

about how people these days increasingly lie to law enforcement officers to get out of citations. He said some insist they're driving to the hospital for emergencies, but Jacowitz cautioned that officers may follow the drivers to make sure.

"Some people say they're talking to God," said Jacowitz.

Driving while using a cell phone is an infraction and can be charged a base fine of \$20, and \$50 for each following violation. However, due to court-imposed administrative fees, the cost of fines is likely much greater than that.

Overall, CVHS students seem to be in agreement with senior Victoria Liang.

"Texting while driving is almost like a person drunk driving because only a portion of the person's attention is focused on the road," she said. "Texting can wait!"

"It's your decision, and if you die from it, well, it's just natural selection. As for the innocent driver, that's just a pity," said senior Kyle Kole.

Don't take life for granted, writer learns



By Fassa Sar
STAFF WRITER

Someone in the country loses a loved one, family member, friend, classmate or significant other to car accidents many times every day. But never in a million years do you think that it would be you who loses that person.

I lost a friend and former classmate to a car accident in April. His name was Jonas Tayong "Tay" Tabeson. During the night of April 19, Tay was the driver of a car that rolled over on an off-ramp of Highway 101 in King City. The two other teenagers inside were injured and Tay died because of severe impact.

Tay was a former Bishop O'Dowd student who later

transferred to Skyline High School for his senior year. He was 17 and on his way to graduate. Tay was a genuine, kind-hearted person who constantly had a smile on his face. I never saw him mad or angry and even when he did something stupid he took full responsibility for it. He also always had positive energy even if he was in a bad situation.

Family and friends will not remember Tay for being gone but they will remember him for all the memories he had with each and every one of them. He was one of the friendliest people I'd ever met and it is a tragedy to know that I'm never going to have another memory with him. We all love and miss Tay, and it sucks that it had to be him but as Assistant Principal Jason Whiteman said, "The one thing that we know for certain is that everyone dies."

From this horrible accident, I learned two big things: I learned to pay attention more than usual when driving at night because accidents happen and I learned that life isn't guaranteed tomorrow so don't take it for granted.

Insurance: expensive but needed

Follow these tips to decrease your cost

By Reyna Garcia
SPORTS EDITOR

Driving can be scary; there are so many things to worry about. You have to get your permit, go to driving school, pass your driver's test and get a car. Something that is often overlooked is the insurance: by law, you need it to legally drive. Most drivers at CVHS don't know anything about their own insurance.

"I believe it's about \$2,000 a year. I don't really know," said junior Sara Crispin.

"I have no idea, my parents take care of it," said senior Aria Alokzai. Insurance is pricey. Mercury Insurance Group, Geico, Progressive and AAA all had average insurance premiums of about \$700-800 for a teen driver. Certain variables will factor into how much more or less a teenager pays for a premium.

It used to be that female drivers paid less for their insurance than males because it was believed that females were safer and less reckless

than their male counterparts. However, these days insurance prices are about the same for female and male drivers.

Getting good grades will not only help you out in your quest for college, but it will get you (and your parents) spending less money on insurance. Major and most minor insurance companies offer up to 25 percent off for a B average. Teens can pay even less for an A average.

Money can be saved by adding on to the students' parents' policy rather than being insured separately. Just make sure parents inform the insurance agent that their child is in fact driving. Deliberate concealment can impact how much is paid for coverage.

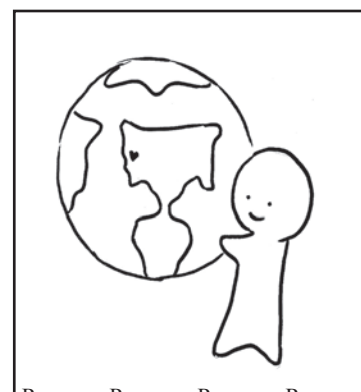
Driver experience is important. By getting educated and taking a formal training course, most insurance companies will lower their prices for teen drivers.

As CVHS students learned during Every 15 Minutes, drinking and driving will cost big time. Getting pulled over while driving with a blood alcohol content (BAC) of even 0.01 a person could lose his or her license, and insurance prices will undoubtedly skyrocket. If a driver's BAC is 0.05 or higher, teenagers will be required to attend a reha-

habilitation program for young offenders and may receive DUI charges. For a BAC of 0.08 or higher, the same rules for an adult DUI apply with underage drinking charges tacked on. The insurance company might drop an underage driver with a BAC at such a high level.

Accidents, tickets and citations will affect the cost of insurance negatively. Receiving more than three of these you will face cancellation or non-renewal for an insurance plan. Finally, the type of car being driven also affects the cost of a premium. Safer cars also lower the rate of the premium.

When shopping for insurance make sure to ask about discounts for grades and driver experience. Don't drive under the influence and get a safe car. That way, the cost of insurance is guaranteed to be less expensive.



How to pass your driver's test with flying colors

By *Cheyenne Donatello*
STAFF WRITER

Taking your test to get your driver's license is very nerve-racking. It is the only thing separating you from the open road. To help you pass your behind-the-wheel test, here are a few tips.

"Get the most recent driver education manual and read it front to back. It really does help," said California Highway Patrol Officer Daniel Jacowitz.

When making your appointment for the test, try to set it for the non-commute hours. Most driving instructors suggest, a few weeks before your actual test, to go out to the location of your driving test with an adult and have a practice test to get familiar with the roads.

When the big day comes and it's time to take the test, arrive at your appointment early to check in. When you get onto the road, don't panic! Most people who fail do so because they get nervous and make trivial errors. Be aware of yourself and other vehicles, listen to directions, and keep calm.

Although the test seems intimidating, there are still Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) employees who make mistakes when giving the



TIM PAK / PHOTO EDITOR

Signs of the road guide drivers in times of their forgetfulness.

tests. Camilo Riveros went to take the written test two years ago. After the normal procedure and fees he began his test.

"I took it but I didn't know what was on it," said Riveros.

The first time he missed 11 problems but was allowed a retake, on which he missed

nine problems. When grading the test the second time the test administrator realized she had given him the wrong test. She had given Riveros

the truck permit test.

Realizing her own mistake, she gave him the option to retake the test another time, but at that point he did not want to take another test. Getting a driver's license can be extremely stressful so always be prepared for everything.

"Some people pass the test but still don't know things," said Jacowitz.

Take into consideration everything that you have learned and need to learn when getting your driver's license because being a good driver is a skill you need for the rest of your life.

Tips for passing your driving test:

- Read the drivers manual front to back
- Practice the driving test with an adult before actual test
- Be able to locate devices in your test-taking car
- Make sure the car is in good condition (drivers window can roll down, brake lights and horn work, etc)
- Always look before changing lanes
- Make a full and complete stop before all pedestrian crosswalks
- Do your best!

Cops offer "slew of vital information" about road safety

By *Rebecca Fong*
PHOTO EDITOR

The Every 15 Minutes program enforces what every driver should know: don't drink and drive. But what other rules exist that beginning - or experienced - drivers may be neglecting?

Sheriff's Deputy Tim Vales, Castro Valley High's school resource officer, and CHP Officer Daniel Jacowitz offered a slew of vital information that could help drivers avoid expensive tickets and save lives.

- "It doesn't matter if you've just started driving; if you're behind the wheel as a licensed driver, you are responsible for the rules of the road."

- Claiming to have not known that you were going too fast, or that you couldn't make a U-turn at that intersection, etc., is not a valid excuse.
- "Crying will not get you out of a ticket. Neither will being a good-looking girl."
- DUIs will still be issued to drivers impaired by legal substances.
- Over-the-counter drugs, such as Nyquil, Benadryl, or Sudafed, and prescription drugs like Vicodin can be just as dangerous as marijuana or alcohol when driving. One in five drivers on the road are impaired in some way.

- Be familiar with your vehicle's anti-lock braking system. Right before the wheels lock up to prevent skidding, these will automatically engage to enable the driver to steer while the car stops. When the anti-lock brakes do engage, the brake pedal will pulse quickly, and you should "push down, not pump" like you would regularly.
- Keep a high visual horizon (monitor the traffic ahead), to anticipate when to slow down.
- "Look at the big picture," not just what's in front of you.
- Check for back-up lights

on cars in parking lots because they may not bother to look before they pull out.

- Keep an eye out for people exiting from cars on the side of the road.
- Yield to all pedestrians.
- "Speeding is what kills kids, [so] go slow, and go slow, and go slow."

- Sheriff's Deputy Tim Vales

- If it is absolutely crucial that you take a phone call, pull off the freeway, park in a safe location and talk there.
- Most drivers believe following one to three car lengths away from the

car ahead on a freeway is an acceptable cushion of space. However, at 65 mph, a vehicle on average requires 220 feet to come to a complete stop. Maintain a safer cushion of ten car lengths, or about one hundred feet, when trailing the car in front of you instead.

- When changing lanes, wait three to five seconds, check your rearview and sideview mirrors, and look over your shoulder. Avoid moving at the same time as other cars that are changing lanes adjacent to or into yours.

-CHP Officer Daniel Jacowitz

Just in case: what if you do get in a traffic accident?

By *Anya Keller*
STAFF WRITER

Many have heard about how to drive safely to avoid accidents, but all too often people are unaware that the choices they make after an accident actually occurs can have an enormous impact on their future safety and financial well-being.

There are many ways in which drivers can put themselves in danger after having an accident, but most of these hazards are

easily avoidable. For one, it is important to never get out of the car on the freeway unless absolutely necessary.

About a year ago, my mother was in a car accident on the freeway and decided to get out of the car. Another car then hit the car that initially had hit her, pushing it into her body.

"I got out of the car on the freeway, and another driver lost control of his car and it crashed into the first car that hit me," she said. "The first car then crashed into me again. I was fully aware

that I was being pushed by the car while it was happening. It was horrible."

Luckily, she turned out to be okay, but the event could have been avoided altogether had she had remained in the car.

After an accident, it is important to exchange insurance information. If the accident occurred in the freeway and there are no injuries, many police officers recommend that drivers find the nearest exit and exchange information away from the freeway.

"Many people get hit and

killed while standing on the shoulder. Never think that this can't happen to you," said CHP Officer Daniel Jacowitz.

The law requires that drivers exchange insurance information after an accident, but sometimes motorists can be unwilling to do so because they want to avoid paying for any damage.

If the other driver refuses to disclose information, the safest thing to do is to copy down the license plate number and contact the police. It is not recommended that you follow the other

driver if he or she drives away, as you don't know if he or she is a dangerous person.

Also important to know is that sometimes drivers give out false information. If this happens, go to the police with the other driver's license plate number.

If the other driver has no insurance, the police will administer a correctable ticket so that the driver can obtain insurance.

While it is unfortunate to get into an accident, making smart choices after the fact can greatly minimize damage.

600 hall gate locked during school

By Camilo Riveros
STAFF WRITER

Since April 30, the 600 Hall gate near the Senior Lot has been closed starting at 8:20 a.m. every day. It is only reopened for upperclassman lunch, and closed immediately after school. CVHS officials came to the decision to close the gate during these times due to various police agencies' suggestions to do so after they came in during the lockdown drill that took place on Thursday, April 19.

"They identified the entrance as a huge security and liability risk by having it wide open during the day," said Assistant Principal Matt Steinecke.

Due to the fact that the gate is technically considered a back entrance into campus and that so many people enter the school through it, there is no real way to make sure that all visitors to the school can be monitored if they enter through the back door. Many students walk through campus expecting it to be a safe and secure place, rid of possibilities for danger, but many never really notice the amount of people that come on campus

without needing to be there.

"Through that doorway, a lot of non-students come into campus, for good and bad reasons. Some are even invited onto campus by other CVHS students," said Steinecke.

It really is impossible to keep track of who is on campus at all times during the day and, as much of an inconvenience as it might be to some people to walk or drive to the other side of campus to get in, CVHS is making sure that all of its "borders" are secure. But what happens to the students who take a class in the Center for the Arts who use that door regularly in their daily schedule to get to and from class? According to CVHS officials, they have no need to worry.

"During passing periods we will have campus patrolers standing by the gate to let students in and out. Anyone who wishes to enter the school through that gate after those times will have to go around to the main entrance," said Steinecke.

Not many students besides those going up to the CFA ever really use that gate during the school day; therefore, it doesn't seem like the change will affect a lot of people in a major way. It

might, however, pose a problem for some who struggle making it to class on time.

"I won't notice much because I don't usually use that gate anyways, but it might make some students late to class," said senior Luis Rodriguez.

There is no way to predict what effect the change will have immediately on campus life but many can agree that it is a necessary step to ensure our safety. Just like any new rule, however, there will be students who wish to break and violate it, and plans have already been set in place to punish those who wish to do so.

"We've gone as far as to propose assigning some sort of consequence for students who knowingly invite or allow non-students onto campus," said Steinecke. Students can expect to receive Saturday school for their first offenses but if the problem continues they can also expect to receive a suspension for putting the safety of other students at risk.

Closing the gate might not be the biggest change to student life on campus, but at least there has been some more security added to the school.



BETTY CHEN / STAFF WRITER

New CVHS solar panels in the senior parking lot are almost finished being installed. Students were able to park in the junior lot as of Monday, May 14.

CVHS solar panels almost completed

By Betty Chen
STAFF WRITER

With the main bulk of the solar panel construction already wrapped up, students with permits are now allowed to park in the Redwood Road parking lot on a first-come, first-served basis while remaining cautious about the coned zones. In addition, standard parking restrictions on neighborhood streets have now returned.

The installation of solar panels has been happening on the CVHS campus for several months now. At the beginning, students were definitely complaining and frustrated with the parking situation. But as time went on, it became something everyone had to get used to.

When standing near the parking lot right now, it is evident that the solar panels are en route to being completed. Currently, the district is also looking into having video cameras installed.

All of the panels and lights were installed by May 8. According to Assistant Principal Matt Steinecke, "Illumination under the canopies will be sometime in June."

While many students are anxious for the reopening of the parking lots, many are also excited for the environmentally friendly aspect of the project.

"With the lower costs from the energy bills, it's also a great investment!"

Yusef Abouremeleh
Senior

"I'm glad that CVHS is taking initiative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in our community with the solar panels. With the lower costs from the energy bills it's also a great investment!" said senior Yusef Abouremeleh.

Graduation status hangs on contracts

By Lillian Xie
STAFF WRITER

Before caps and gowns or Senior Ball bids can be picked up, the graduation contracts that seniors have received in the mail must be signed and turned in. The contract explains the behavior expected of seniors during their last few weeks of high school.

The contract dictates that seniors must maintain good attendance and behavior in order to participate in senior activities such as Senior Ball, Senior Sunset, and the graduation ceremony. However, despite the fact that the contract puts senior privileges on the line, many seniors seem indifferent about the contract's effect on them.

"It doesn't change anything

because you still have to sign a prom contract that requires good attendance anyways," said senior Darren Liu.

The graduation contract has been effective in deterring seniors from engaging in inappropriate conduct since its implementation in 1997, according to Lorrie Barrera, one of CVHS's assistant principals.

"The goal here is to remind the seniors that it is important to do well up until the very end," said Barrera.

The contract specifies that students may be put on probationary status if they are referred to an assistant principal for behavior or attendance problems. Any further infractions that occur while on probationary status will result in the suspension of senior

privileges.

Fortunately, not all hope is lost for those at risk of the revocation of their senior privileges due to poor attendance. Students may choose to attend Saturday School to clear up their attendance issues.

More serious infractions of school rules or the law can lead to removal from the graduation ceremony. Any student removed from the ceremony will have his or her diploma withheld, and community service hours will be assigned and must be completed before it is issued. However, in the past few years, there have not been any cases that were serious enough to warrant such drastic measures.

Seniors can turn in their contracts in Room 607.

► TAXES: from Page 1

people to move out of the state, leaving its problems unsolved, the sophomore said.

"The plan gives us...the tools to teach our students..."

Marie Gray
PE Teacher

CVHS teacher Eric Bahm thinks differently on this issue. As the plan is only temporary, Bahm worries that the problem

may not be fixed in the seven years proposed by the plan. However, he points out that if the plan were to be passed, and if it were working, it could be made permanent.

"The fact that it's temporary makes it easier for people to swallow," said Bahm. Perhaps those that are against the Protect Schools and Public Safety Act could look at the plan and accept it because it would not last forever. As long as it fixes the problem, a few years of tax increases may be worth it, the teacher thinks.

Bahm feels that the compromise is a good idea because it would stop layoffs, which would, in turn, stop classes sizes from going up to crazy levels. The large class sizes greatly frustrate teachers and provide a poor learning environment for the students themselves.

Snaps for Poetry and Art Show!

By Jane Hong
STAFF WRITER

CVEF and CVUSD hosted a Poetry and Art Show at the Castro Valley Library on Saturday, April 28. Several middle and high school students participated by submitting original poems and matching artwork.

The event was held in one of the exhibition rooms of the library. Welcoming remarks were made by MCs Daren Wilkerson and Anne Parris. Poetry awards were given and then the audience listened intently to the creative words of each submission and observed the minute details of all artwork during the poetry readings.

CVEF's chairperson, Winda Shimizu, was delighted at what

a success the show became. "The Poetry and Art show is a collaboration of teachers and students," she explained. "The main idea is that students will write and express themselves through writing and illustration."

First place winner Noelle Leong was one of the many students who showed her passion for expression through writing and art. When asked what she loved most about writing poetry, she said, "I feel like I express myself best through written words. It's more of a creative process than expository writing." Leong won \$100 for her poem, "Let It Be," which discussed the beauty of simplicity.

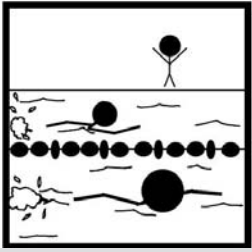
The Olympian's own sophomore Lily Carrell won second

place for her submission entitled, "Blank" followed by senior Di Tran's "Clutter Mind." Honorable mention was given to Thien Nguyen for "Country."

"Art and poetry are such powerful forms of expression," Tran explained. "I love how art embodies emotions that cannot be expressed in words while poetry does the opposite. By combining both elements, a unique and even more compelling message is created."

"The artwork and poetry were exceptional," Shimizu said. "The judges had a big challenge selecting the top students because of the array of amazing work. CVEF is proud to sponsor activities like this that promote the art and creative writing of our students."

Record-breaking swim teams win at HAAL by landslide



By Joyce Liang
STAFF WRITER

Trojan swim teams dominated the HAAL championships and came in first place on Saturday, May 12 at Chabot College.

After the grueling sets of practice that led up to HAAL, the swimmers showed no

mercy as they crushed other schools in the league and claimed the title of being undefeated once again.

The varsity girls and boys squads and both JV teams won first in their division by a landslide and beat each second place division winners by 100 points or more.

The varsity boys won for the ninth year in a row and defeated Bishop O'Dowd with a score of 638-449. Frank Horpel and Patrick Brown each won all four of their events and achieved record-breaking times. Brown broke his own records from last year in the

200 IM and 100 breaststroke while Horpel broke a 20 year old record in the 200 freestyle.

The varsity girls marked their fifth HAAL triumph and scored 607 to Bishop O'Dowd's 525. Sophomore Kate Miller was victorious and broke the 500 freestyle record from 1999. In addition, Miller, Luciana Balica, Laura Macchiavello, Lauren Wirdzek broke the 400 freestyle relay record from 1999.

Optimistic and confident, senior Bright Zhou believed in his teammates throughout Saturday's HAAL meet.

"We're going against really

good swimmers from other teams, but I feel like overall our team worked really hard, and I really have high hopes that we're going to win today," said Zhou.

Enthusiasm filled the whole swimming arena as spectators and swimmers cheered on their own team.

"Without my team supporting me, I don't know if I'd have the motivation to try as hard as I did in practice," said senior Eshed Margalit.

Freshman Austin Lew described his first year on the team as rewarding.

"Everyone here is nice. They

appreciated and welcomed me," said Lew.

As for those who always wondered what the experience is like being in the CVHS swim team, Miller summed it up in one word.

"Fabulous," exclaimed Miller.

Everyone on the swim team this season did great and many achieved their personal bests, explained coach Brian Berry.

As the season winds down, Berry reminds his team to, "Keep swimming fast, believe in yourself, stay in the shade, and drink water."

Students school teachers in basketball tournament



TIM PAK / PHOTO EDITOR

Teammates Eli Davis and Matt Murphy look on in anticipation as the ball goes in the net.

By Lily Carrell
STAFF WRITER

The main gym was filled with a loud, enthusiastic crowd at the three-on-three basketball tournament finale on Wednesday, May 9.

The student team, consisting of seniors Eli Davis, Matt Murphy and Ronny Marasigan, went head-to-head against staff members Nic McMaster, Glenn Mitchell and Michael Kentris in an intense battle. In the end, the students defeated the teachers with a winning score of 23-20.

The student team started off with the ball, the first nine points scored by the teachers. At 4:30 left in the game, the

students broke the streak, setting the final score of the first half at 9-8, with the teachers remaining in the lead.

In the second half, Murphy placed the students in the lead at 10-9, followed by Marasigan who set the score at 13-9. After two points gained by Kentris, opponent Davis scored two points as well, raising the bar to 15-11. Mitchell then brought the score to 15-13, leaving the students still in the lead.

With a mere 1:00 left in the game, the teachers were back on top with a score of 18-15. After two more points gained by the staff, Davis set the score at 20-18, the students behind by two. In the last few seconds of the game, Murphy made the

winning shot, bringing the final score to 23-20.

"I think it's nice the students won..."

Michael Kentris
History Teacher

Reflecting on his team's performance, staff player Mitchell said their size proved useful in the game.

"Mr. McMaster and Mr. Ken-

tris did a good job at boxing people out and rebounding," Mitchell added.

In regards to how the opposing team played, Mitchell offered praise.

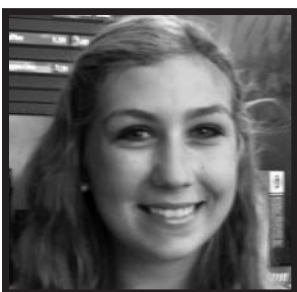
"They were very fast. They could drive to the basket well and shoot well from outside," Mitchell said.

Staff player Kentris, on the other hand, was slightly disappointed with the outcome of the game.

"I think it's nice the students won because it seems the staff wins everything. It was only fair. But the officiating down the stretch was very questionable and the refs had no idea what to do when time ran out and we were tied."

Bounding Brilliant Ballers

Natalie Fazeli / STAFF WRITER



Alyssa DuPuis, Freshman

Since she was seven years old, Alyssa DuPuis knew that she wanted to be a famous sports star when she grew up. Currently she is on the JV softball team at CVHS.

Everyday, when she doesn't have games, DuPuis and her softball team train after school. She usually either pitches or plays first baseman, but her favorite thing is batting. At home, DuPuis has a batting cage where she and her dad practice multiple times a week.

"I get to have a chance to be around my friends, while getting to do something I love," said DuPuis. Her softball team is just like an extension of her family.



Danielle Vargas, Sophomore

Standing in the outfield, sweating from the burning heat of the sun was Danielle Vargas. The team playing against CVHS just needed one more run to win the game. The score was tied and the bases were loaded in the ninth inning. The batter swung her bat and the ball flew to outfield. At the last second, Vargas caught the ball.

Vargas plays center field on the varsity softball team. She has been playing for eight years, and loves every minute of it.

"I practice at home whenever I get the chance," said Vargas. "I don't think softball will ever be my career, but I would love to play it in college."



Bronson Brown, Junior

Although he is only 17 years old, Bronson Brown has accomplished a lot in swimming. For more than 11 years Brown has been working on getting to be a better swimmer.

Brown won the 100 yard butterfly at the HAAL championships this year. He swims for the USA team and continues to swim in other competitions.

"I like being able to practice with friends," said Brown.

Brown and his teammates push each other to keep advancing.

"I want to keep improving my goals," declared Brown. For his next goal, Brown wants to win Junior Nationals.



Anthony Viveiros, Senior

As a star athlete in two sports at CVHS, Anthony Viveiros is going to have a hard time leaving CVHS this year. He has played football for all four years in high school, and been in track for three years. He even played basketball as a freshman.

Viveiros is a shot put and a discus thrower on the track team.

Once, at a track meet in Hayward, a player from the Hayward team matched Viveiros's throw. When they both threw again to break the tie, Viveiros won.

"It was amazing," said Viveiros.



MATTHEW BARNEY / BUSINESS MANAGER

Senior Aurora Bailey jumps 4 feet 2 inches to finish second in the high jump.

Girls squad claims second place

By Matthew Barney
BUSINESS MANAGER

The Trojans' girls varsity track and field team claimed second place at the HAAL championships on Saturday, May 12.

Bishop'O'Dowd was first with 145 points, followed by Castro Valley in second with 110 points, and San Leandro with 72 points.

"What I like about track is all the cool people, the coaches, and the hard work," said distance runner Alex Embody.

The heat failed to stop Castro Valley from gaining points in the various field events. Aurora Bailey jumped four feet two inches to get second in the girls varsity high jump. Jessica Ferraris vaulted seven feet six inches to place second in the girls varsity pole vault along with Monica Gamez who also vaulted seven feet six inches.

Kennedy Jones jumped 17 feet

for second place in the girls varsity long jump, along with Kaori Nguyen who jumped 16 feet one inch for third place.

Jones also jumped 35 feet in the girls varsity triple jump for second place, along with Jazmine Edwards who jumped 32 feet eight inches for third place.

The first event of the day was the 4x100 meter relay. In the girls varsity division Castro Valley took second with a time of 50.20 seconds and runners Maya Chissell, Tatiana Misco, Jones, and Kristin Elam.

Nicole Anthony placed third in the 1,600 meter race with a time of five minutes and 27 seconds.

Jones placed second in the 100 meter hurdle race with a time of 15.13 seconds.

Miranda Nild placed third in the 400 meter race with a time of 60.26 seconds and won the 300 meter hurdle race with 47.56 seconds.



MATTHEW BARNEY / BUSINESS MANAGER

Junior Alyssa Granados is all business as she sprints around the track during her event.



MATTHEW BARNEY / BUSINESS MANAGER

Junior Brandon Arias sprints around the track ahead of his competitor.

Boys team stumbles

By Emily Courchaine
STAFF WRITER

The dedicated and hardworking track and field boys were undeterred by the baking heat on Saturday May 12, and they brought fierce competition to the Hayward Area Athletic League championship meet at Trojan Stadium.

The boys varsity finished fourth in the league, the team's lowest finish since taking sixth place in 1962. The frosh-soph boys took second.

In the 4x100 relay frosh-soph runners Gundi Pranay, Cameron Edwards, Matthew Williams, and Valdis Birznieks took second with a time of 48.28 seconds.

Sophomore Kendrick Calkins left competitors in the dust in the 100 meter hurdles with a winning time of 18.57 seconds.

In the high jump freshman Dane Clemson showed off his skills and won the event with a best jump of 5'4".

Antonio Aquilar, Matthew Wil-

liams, Pranay Gundi, and Ben Nakaya raced to first place in the 4x400 relay with a time of 3:46.7.

It's been a tough season for the varsity boys, with tough competition from Bishop O'Dowd and Hayward High School. Although they took fourth in league, the boys are looking forward to coming back and winning league next year.

Myles Speegle took third in the varsity 100 meter race with a time of 11.16 seconds and will be one of few to continue on to NCS.

Freshman Carter Mackey took fourth place in the 1,600 meter race with a personal record time of 4:43.08.

Evan Locke will also continue on to NCS after taking first place in the pole vault with best jump of 11 feet.

Also excelling on the field, junior Jake Mitchell won the triple jump with a best jump of 42'11¾.

Steven Gissentanner took second place in the varsity high jump with a best jump of 6 feet, and Anthony Viveiros took second in the shotput.

Underclass(wo)men defeat upperclass(wo)men, 12-6

By Melody Moteabbed
STAFF WRITER

Rows of sophomores and seniors, along with their opponents, the juniors and freshmen, faced each other underneath the warm sun on May 11, for the annual Powderpuff girls football game.

Assistant Principal Jason Whiteman said that this year's game is the fifth he's seen. "Over the years, you definitely see the teams becoming closer. There's less rivalry and violence," explained Whiteman. "Years ago, the competition would get so bad that there were even a few suspensions." Whiteman has observed that recently there have been more active displays of sportsmanship.

The game started off with a bang, with junior Kaeani Abilar immediately scoring a touchdown for her team. The sophomores and seniors fought back. It was clear that the teams were very experienced.

Kelsey Donovan, one of Leadership's coordinators for the Powderpuff game, said that the coach selection process is intensive. "Interested football players send in applications. There were a lot this year," Donovan explained.

Derek Chan, coach for the juniors and freshmen, said the experience was very rewarding



MATTHEW BARNEY / BUSINESS MANAGER

Senior Kelly Brown reaches for junior Monica Barrios' flag to prevent her from advancing.

and he wants to coach again next year. "We basically teach the girls everything we learned from being in the football team," said Chan. "It's my first year doing it, and I really want to do it again."

According to junior Erika Arens, practices were all week and were two hours each day. "I've been in Powderpuff since freshman year, and I love it. It's something unique that you can't find at a lot of other schools."

Junior Lexie Arens called the event "the best activity at CVHS."

As the game carried on, the competition grew more intense. There were even a few injuries; both teams were obviously determined to win. Freshman Suhani Abdullah scored another touchdown for her team, making the score 12-0 right before halftime.

In the third quarter, the sophomores and seniors upped their game, scoring a touchdown and altering the score to 12-6. After an exchange from defense to offense, the juniors and freshmen attained victory, with a final score of 12-6.



MATTHEW BARNEY / BUSINESS MANAGER

Junior Kaeani Abilar sprints down the field to score the first six points for the Freshman/Junior team.