Samo Community Responds to Vandalism

By Eliza Smith
Feature Editor

Adocumentary about Ugandan children affected by Uganda’s civil war entitled Invisible Children will show in the Humanities Center on Feb. 17 to promote awareness about the issue. The film follows the paths of several Ugandan adolescents and preteens as their lives are uplifted during a recent civil war. In Uganda, rebel soldiers kidnap children during the night. To avoid this, they become “invisible children,” or children who are taken away from their families, the Ugandan non-mosaic irrefutably demonstrates that invisible children are affected by the war.

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The documentary focuses on tragic themes, yet touches on the children’s interests and personal dreams. Said Snyder, “I have never seen such pure hope that they will remain in Uganda, they will feel moved, touched and impassioned.”

Another Ugandan documentary, Invisible Children, will show in Room E217 and are due by Friday, March 3. Attendees will get breakfast, lunch, and dinner for free and all participants will get a response to hate crimes at Samo.

Samo Community Responds to Vandalism

By Nicholas Barlow
Staff Writer

Administration is taking comprehensive measures to erase the racial tension at Samo exacerbated by the offensive graffiti found around campus on Feb. 6.

Some parents even recommended student parental counseling, the consequences of their actions should be dealt with clearly. This brings up another relevant issue: society treats straight but effeminate men with the same bias as gay men. The issue of sexism and homophobia affects all of us, so we need to avoid perpetuating these stereotypes.

The Los Angeles District Attorney’s Office arrested two suspects on Feb. 7 with two counts of attempted murder, two counts of premeditated murder, two counts of assault with a deadly weapon, and one count of shooting at an occupied motor vehicle and one count of unlawful possession of a firearm.

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Orators found Espindola and DeLa Cruz in an apartment building on the 100 block of DeAngelo St. Both men are enrolled at Santa Monica College and took the incident.

On Friday, March 31, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., students from Samo’s diverse community will meet for 12 hours of intense dialogue. The aim is to add an active voice to the 5th Annual Project Safe Zone (PSZ). At the workshop, students will talk about two of the most pressing issues in the world today: sexism and homophobia. Participants will be excused from classes on that date.

As a facilitator, I believe everyone on campus should be part of this process, because we have all been affected by stereotyping. Who, society calls “a fag,” a Geek, Emo kid, or a Stoner, being boxed in sucks. Whether a woman or a man, being boxed in sucks. It’s a valid question, but sexism can target anyone. For example, if a man makes a joke about women, takes a knitting, or contradicts the “tough girl” image, he is automatically labeled a “fag.”

This brings us to the next question: What do we do when we see situations like this? That is where the Freshman Seminar comes in. We will have discussions on topics such as hate crimes and their effects.

Photo by Samantha Walters
A Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Custodian paints over the hateful graffiti after vandals tagged a wall on campus on Feb. 7.

Come to Project Satezone!

By Allyse Fonda-Bonardi
Contributing Writer

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Let's Clean Up Our Act
By Annie Danis
Editor-in-Chief

Samo is a dump. Everyone who sets foot on campus knows it. We also know that the school isn’t littered with trash after lunch because kids are worried about being late for class and leave their trash out of sheer panic. Sure, the seagulls might love our laziness, but let’s face it: it’s disgusting.

There is no excuse for piles of trash in every nook and cranny on campus. Yes, Samo has an under-staffed, over-extended group of janitors who can only sweep monthly (at best). Yes, Samo is too small, houses too many students and runs out of toilet paper by third period every day. But we can’t wait for the District to magically decide to hire more janitors. We need to take action ourselves. All it would take is the little effort of finding a trash can.

Every day I see something that shocks me. Perfectly nice-looking people stand around eating, for example. Flaming Hot Cheetos. When they finish, instead of walking the three to four steps to the nearby trash can, they drop the bag on the ground. Just like that. BAM. You just dumped it and continue on your nice stroll person’s way without a passing glance.

We can’t blame anyone but ourselves for this. Not the school, our parents or “the man” and especially not Samo’s janitors. Janitors are not waiters and you are not an entitled customer at a fancy restaurant (for God’s sake this is public school). No one reams the quads at lunch waiting for you to take your last sip of Diet Coke, before sliding in and asking, arm outstretched, “Are you done with that?” Janitors should only have to deal with the trash that actually makes it into the trash cans.

You’re not going to get a Saturday school for littering – though you probably should – and Samo will never be 100 percent trash free. We all should, however, be thoroughly embarrassed by our piggish-nest. Our own beloved M-House secretary Leslie McGuire actually picked up half a trash can of debris from the History Building hallway before giving a tour for prospective parents because she was so ashamed of our school’s condition.

Even if you have zero school pride, and can’t wait until that faithful stage-walking day, taking those few extra moments to aim for a trash can is hardly a bigger waste of your time than English classes. And seriously, knowing you can sit down at a table and not have one elbow in an old Caesar salad and the other in a bunch of tater-tots is worth the peace of mind.

We reserve the right to edit submissions of up to 800 words or a “Letter to the Editor” of 500 words or fewer on any topic, including a response to published material. Please include references for any facts you use. We reserve the right to edit submissions for length and clarity.

Letter to the Editor

In response to Evan Perkins’ article, “Bad Movie Madness,” which appeared in the previous issue of The Samohi.

Dear Evan,

I always enjoy your newspaper, and I was thumbing through the pages of the last issue when I came across your article. To my horror, Underworld: Evolution was on your list of “terrible movies.” The movie came out the same day the newspaper was published, so you couldn’t possibly have seen the movie.

I’d never seen the concept of werewolves vs. vampires until the first Underworld (which got 6.5 stars out of 10 after 21,536 votes at imdb.com) came out. I think when you called the war between lycons and vampires “a stupid idea,” you were really looking for the word “original.”

Next time you review a movie, do yourself a favor and go see the movie. You can avoid making a fool of yourself if you have some evidence to support your opinion.

Kristof Igoi, senior

Politics in School Spark Discussion, Not Danger

By Cara Safon
News Editor

Nothing infuriates me more than teachers refusing to participate in political discussions, especially when an election is just around the corner. Some hold back for fear of indoctrinating students with their own political beliefs, and others don’t want the classroom environment to get uncomfortable, still others wouldn’t be able to express their political views as freely as students do.

Teachers can stimulate intellectual discussions by sharing their political views. Their views are never better than discussions about current events than at school, a place of growth and learning. In fact, when teachers talk about their political beliefs in class, it becomes a learning experience for everyone. Government Teacher Don Hedrick informs his students of his Democratic viewpoint on the first day of class. “A teacher’s political beliefs come out at some point,” said Hedrick. “Everyone is biased. Pretending that you’re not is lying to yourself and to your class.”

Economics Teacher Jaime Jimenez chooses not to share his personal politics with his students, but does believe that teachers can and should bring politics into the classroom. “Being informed about current news events is the most important aspect to class political discussions,” he said. “However, I try to stay neutral during political discussions.” Jimenez once surveyed his classes, asking them to admit whether they had voted for a Republican or a Democrat. The class responded 36/90. Says Jimenez, “The role of a teacher in a political discussion is to look at both sides and determine how the particular situation will affect youth today.”

Sometimes it’s difficult for teachers to hold back their own political beliefs. When the classroom environment gets heated, they can blurt out politically charged remarks, giving students the wrong idea. Since misunderstandings happen frequently, teachers need to explain their political beliefs to their students. This would not only create an environment of open discussion, it would encourage students to formulate their own ideas about politics, rather than be influenced by the opinions of others.

The First Amendment to the Constitution guarantees freedom of speech for students and teachers alike. If a teacher feels compelled by a legitimate reason (such as a current news event or a bigoted remark in the classroom) to express his or her beliefs, he or she has the right to do so. School should be a place where everyone, including teachers, feels safe to express their political beliefs.

In general, students do not feel offended when their teachers talk about politics. “Most students don’t care what the teacher’s point of view is,” said freshman Juan Gutierrez. Still, students take politics seriously, and some could become emotional. It’s also possible that discussions could sway students’ opinions or influence the way they think about the other “wing” since teachers, being older and supposedly wiser, have a certain authority over students.

Students need to learn to be more tolerant of those who disagree with them. According to statistics from a survey featured in Daniel Galdee’s article, “In Defense of Samo’s Republican Students” seen in the last issue of The Samohi, “6 percent of Samo Democrats characterized Samo as ‘politically intolerant,’ while 86 percent of Republicans reported Samo as being either ‘somewhat intolerant’ or ‘very intolerant.’” Although this statistic is astounding, we should recognize that the minority often feels like the victim. In Santa Monica, a very liberal community, Republicans1 naturally feel outnumbered, and thus persecuted. Teachers should be aware of the political intolerance on campus and use their influence to create a safe discussion environment instead of another verbal battleground. As long as teachers respect every perspective, students have no reason to overreact. Teachers’ expressions of their political beliefs enhance students’ knowledge, encourage student activism in politics and promote an open, honest atmosphere in the classroom.
**The SAT: Testing Wealth, Not Wisdom**

By Daniel Galdije

Staff Writer

True, the college application process is arduous for students. However, university admissions officers face an equally large dilemma: to decide which applicants to accept. With grade inflation common and extra curricular activities sometimes meaningless, one way to verify the SAT is one of the few standardized and uniform means of gauging students' academic accomplishments. Because of this, the SAT is among the most important university admission factors. But while students often criticize the SAT for superfluous reasons, they fail to see the real flaws of the test.

First, experts allege that the SAT is biased in favor of bourgeoisie and American and Hispanic students. For example, the 1995 SAT had an artificially low score for students who select the pair of words with a relationship similar to that between "runner" and "marathon." The answer was "oarsman to paddle," but most test takers turned to humble, I felt as though barbarians were at the gates.

Alas, since the destruction of that island we have seen more graffiti in the girls' restroom. I recently reinstated the book give away program on campus. Among other things, it beats rubbing out lipstick smears on bathroom walls. Forgive me if I needed a little time to grieve my loss of innocence. The Business Building bathroom, shelves with their free books demonstrated that reading for pleasure isn't white, questions are often culturally biased. This artificially lowered the scores of African American and Hispanic students. In 1995 SAT had an artificially low score for students who select the pair of words with a relationship similar to that between "runner" and "marathon." The answer was "oarsman to paddle," but most test takers turned to humble, I felt as though barbarians were at the gates.

The Socialite: Upon catching sight of friends, the socialite (who herself often affords all visitors free books for the taking), I am always happy to accept donations of used books in B20.

The Personal Space Invader: Apparently these people were not paying attention when the phrase "you're in my bubble" was coined. Many of these people, a few centimeters away, banging into your shoulder or kicking you uphill, probably had no idea to whom you staggered into class with. The Bystander: Normally I don't like to point fingers at inanimate objects, but one thing that was especially annoying when it now includes the Reading, Writing, and Math sections of the test, it no longer requires a writing section that is "causing anxiety, particularly among low income minorities and immi grant students in schools that haven't taught them how to write." It is also difficult to score well without taking a class.

College Board looks at very specific ele ments and structure in these essays. To solve the unfair access to college, all public high schools should Standardized tests, author Susan Ohanian claims that because the makers use standardized tests are white, questions are often culturally biased. This artificially lowered the scores of African American and Hispanic students. In 1995 SAT had an artificially low score for students who select the pair of words with a relationship similar to that between "runner" and "marathon." The answer was "oarsman to paddle," but most test takers turned to humble, I felt as though barbarians were at the gates.

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Two Women, Both Alike in Dignity

By Alice Olstein

Opinion Editor

Two countries, thousands of miles apart and each with unique problems, have recently elected female presidents. Impoverished, war-torn Liberia and relatively successful and advanced Chile both decided, for the first time in their histories, that their country needed a woman’s touch. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the first president to be elected in an African country, was inaugurated on Jan. 16, and Michelle Bachelet will be inaugurated on March 11. Meet these two amazing women.

Sirleaf

Called both “Iron Lady” and “Ma Ellen,” Sirleaf traveled a difficult road to the presidency. When Sergeant Samuel Doe rioted as military dictator of Liberia, shejail her twice for speaking out against his regime. Sheleft prison, narrowly escaping rape and execution, for exile in Nairobi, then returned to Liberia to work as an economist and political activist. In November of 2005, Sirleaf beat former soccer star George Weah by 10 percent in a difficult road to the presidency.

Bachelet

Michelle Bachelet has broken every taboo. Not only is she Chile’s first female president, she is a fierce feminist, a Socialist, an Agnostic, a single mother of three, and an ex-political prisoner. Despite these untraditional qualities, Chile sees her as the “mother they have been seeking” (newyorktimes.com). Like Sirleaf, Bachelet ran her election on the platform that she could “heal” her country from the problems men-like military dictator Augusto Pinochet-inflicted on it. Also like Sirleaf, Bachelet suffered for her political beliefs, surviving jail, torture and exile under Pinochet. But this pain has only given her a clear vision of the Chilean workplace, “Chilenas.” To the delight of the crowd, Bacheletproclaimed it, Oprah “Chilenas.” To the delight of the women in the crowd, Bachelet reversed the order, putting the females first as she called out, “Chilenas y Chilenos.” As former Chilean president Ricardo Lagos noted, “It is a historic triumph. We are a new Chile.”

Are We Next?

A 2005 poll sponsored by the Sierra College Research Institute showed that six in 10 American voters believe the United States is ready for a female president, despite worries over lingering prejudice and negative media coverage of female candidates. Liberia and Chile are ready for a woman in charge. Are we?

Teens and Oral Sex: How Close is too Close?

By Hannah Bernstein and Sophia Young

Staff Writers

It’s everywhere; The Atlantic proclaims it, Oprah’s preaching about it, and parents across the nation are worried out of their minds. However, many teens informed of what is called “Oral Sex Epidemic” laugh in disbelief. The media insists that girls in this country; century preteeners, are performing oral sex on boys everywhere from the bars to the backs of school buses.

Despite the media’s insistence that oral sex is on the rise, real information from teenagers painted a slightly different picture. In a study conducted by Newsweek, results showed that only 12% of 13 to 16 year-olds and four percent of 13 to 14 year-olds have performed oral sex. Most of our peers acknowledge that fellatio is not as popular as their guardians may believe. Said Michael Mann, freshman, “It doesn’t seem like it’s an epidemic. It’s not unheard of, but calling it an epidemic would be blowing it out of proportion—it happens.”

Added Nita Contreras, junior, “It’s not really something that’s apparent in my everyday life.” This doesn’t mean that all of the media’s claims about oral sex are false or exaggerated. Many acknowledge that people are becoming sexually active at much younger ages and without regard for the consequences. Sexual relationships.

Daniele Nemzer, sophomore, said, “I think people are really rushing into oral sex before they actually make a connection with the person... kids are rushing into things a lot faster.”

In an article in The Atlantic, Caitlin Flannigan discusses the lack of intimacy now associated with oral sex. More panic-inspiring information on this “craze” is available, substantiating parents fears that oral sex has become something more associated with boredom than a fulfilling relationship. In a parental guide on Oprah.com, entitled “A New Kind of Spin-the-Bottle,” Oprah informs her viewers: “At some oral sex parties, boys line up in ‘trains,’ with each boy being serviced by a girl.”

With such scandalous stories, it’s no wonder parents are up in arms.

Nonetheless, parents’ worries should be not be considered completely pointless. Perhaps with the publicity will come a bit of healthy dialogue between parents and children. As Oprah’s guide states, “It’s no longer enough to have the ‘birds and the bees’ discussion.”
What Ever Happened to Privacy?

By Carl Nunziato

When President George W. Bush directed the National Security Agency (NSA) to secretly eavesdrop on American citizens, he transmitted an authoritarian message about the reach of the Justice Department to the Defense Department and beyon. He placed them in such a place to protect Americans against widespread government eavesdropping. Instead of admitting his mistake, Bush said his authority to approve what he called a "vital tool in our war against the terrorists" was an example of the executive privilege guaranteed to every president by the Constitution of the United States. "The American people expect me to do everything in my power to ensure the Constitution to protect them and their civil liberties," Bush said. "And I will. And I will continue to do so, as long as I'm the President of the United States." The All-Seeing-Eye program passed the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) to protect Americans from the government by regulating government eavesdropping. The law established a secret court, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISC), and empowered it to approve national-security-related eavesdropping warrants, which the Justice Department could request, to monitor foreign and domestic communications.

Though the FISA warrants are carried out by the FBI, in the days prior to September 11, the Bush administration relied on the NSA to deal with terrorist threats. It's obvious that the NSA is essentially the "ear" of the nation's intelligence system. Since 1992, the NSA has been a world expert on electronic communication systems. It uses a network of satellites to listen in on people across the nation, translating voice, fax, and data communications and reporting the results to government officials, such as the President and chief executives at the Pentagon.

Bush declared that the government had to be able to listen to phone conversations to quickly detect potential terrorists. He claims that this security adjustment has been in effect prior to September 11, the government could have identified that bin Laden was a terrorist and put an end to the attacks. He told The New York Times, "I see a program that is in my judgment necessary to win this war and to protect the American people." Bush's opposition says his surveillance program has done little or nothing to improve American security and has gone beyond the Constitution's strict laws. Bush's actions gave rise to new paranoia among the American populace, particularly after the surveillance program formed a government spy ring. In December, Russell Tice announced that, while working for the government, he had witnessed an unauthorized wiretapping program. Tice also admitted to giving orders for a small number of Americans to be monitored without warrants.

At this time, many US citizens are unaware that their constitutional rights are being violated and that they could be under surveillance. If, Tice claims the range of those being observed is in the millions and that with high quality technology it has become easier and cheaper for the government to access the homes of US citizens. Said senior Rosanne Bongiorno, "I had no idea that Bush was doing this." When questioned if she believed this to be the case, senior freshmen Kenna Alemania said "I don't really think we say anything to the government in error, but it is still scary knowing they can listen to my conversations at any given time." In current congressional hearings Congress is debating the legality of Bush's Terrorist Surveillance Program.

Be Careful What You Google

By Carl Nunziato

Americans who are concerned about President George W. Bush's unauthorized wiretapping program are in reality distracted from a much greater threat to their personal privacy: the Internet. In today's online age most Americans practically use all of their information on a platter for the world to see. Whether it be information as benign as a name or email address or as sensitive as a Social Security or bank account number, it is important that Americans are more careful when it comes to handling out information about themselves or their assets.

Let's start with the simplest and most common type of information that companies collect about Americans. There is search results. Every time a keyword is typed into a search engine, be it MSN, Google, Yahoo! or AOL (for searched term) is recorded and added to a vast database of user information. On some sites, engines such as Google, it is even possible for a user to view all of his queries made during the past year. All search engines swear that this data will never be released, but when federal agents subpoena major search engines for all search records in a certain period, only Google refused to comply.

Another common piece of information is the online registration forms that require our email address. By simply providing an email address and paying a small service fee, someone can use information collection forms such as ReuseMyInfo.org and can find out if someone has ever been arrested, filed a lawsuit, or had a credit card debt, and can even view detailed printouts of their cell phone bill.

Other information that online forms sometimes ask for can result in the worst form of privacy invasion, identity theft. Using information gleaned from hacked online merchant or credit card databases, identity thieves can essentially take over someone's credit card or bank account number. Many Americans have also fallen victim to "phishing" scams, where an email that looks like it comes from a popular online merchant such as Ebay or Amazon asks them to "verify" their credit card information because it can be stolen and used to make purchases at their expense. Is there any way for Americans to completely protect their privacy while using the Internet? The unfortunate answer is no. Search results will continue to be recorded and registration forms will always require potentially sensitive information.

However, Google has found ways to control how much of private communication goes to whom. The best thing Americans can do to protect themselves is to read the privacy policies of all online merchants or search engines we use. As an extra precaution, another good option is to only provide the minimum amount of information required by only filling out the fields on forms that are marked with asterisks.

most online merchants will ask about personal information such as telephone numbers and/ or personal hobbies without mandating that that information is provided. Frequent internet users should also consider creating an email address specifically to give to companies in order to keep their personal emails private and uncluttered. Sometimes simple such as Sendjunkhere1984@yahoo.com will suit most online merchants just fine, and it can greatly reduce the amount of garbage that reaches the inbox everyday.

Your Space Is MySpace

By Nicola Persky, Special Report Editor and Molly Strausz, Opinion Editor

Mention MySpace, and almost every teen as well as some adults, thinks of pictures of weekend parties or commenting on a friend's latest hair-do, kids stay in touch and strengthen relationships through online communication sites. However, many don't consider that as we enter an uncharted technological age, our privacy no longer exists. As a result, what seems like harmless virtual fun may pose serious problems.

MySpace and The Facebook users often show pictures of themselves and friends drinking alcohol, using drugs and posing provocatively. Teens don't seem to realize that these websites are public domain, and therefore university admissions officers, parents, employers, child predators and police can access them as easily as a best friend can. Whether or not you believe, like freshman Lindsay Howard, that this practice is "an invasion of privacy," it's a reality that must be considered. According to its website, MySpace allows university members using first and last name, email address and school or company name. What's to stop unwanted visitors from using this tool to obtain your personal information?

Though users have full control over what is posted on their personal homepage, teens cannot delete incriminating photos of themselves once they appear on a friend's site. With the capabilities of technology ever increasing, what once was a single Polaroid is now a digital photo that can be viewed on an infinite number of computer screens, printed, replicated and saved at the Web surfer's will. Once an image appears on the Internet, there's no real way to get rid of it.

If teens still insist on using MySpace, The Facebook, they should take steps to protect themselves. Samo senior Michelle Maldonado goes so far as to keep her personal life private, "I don't [post] anything that I wouldn't want my mom or my teachers to see." And make sure to be careful when you plan to party. Next time you say "cheese," be conscious of what you're doing and what you're holding.

Watch Out for the Promenade

By Evan Perkins

The next time you are at the Promenade or Pier, someone may be watching you!

On Feb. 14, the Santa Monica City Council voted on a measure that would appropriate approximately 1.1 million dollars to install a network of more than 100 security cameras around the Third Street Promenade and surrounding areas and the Santa Monica Pier. These cameras would connect to a central network where live operators would monitor the cameras 24/7. This new camera system is a response to last summer's terrorism scare when police detained a trio of Middle Eastern men, including two who possessed a MySpace page. Only James "Jim" James, Chief James "Jim" James "they were videotaping in a way that was inconsistent with tourists." This event prompted the surveillance camera proposal, which Buntz describes as a "security measure against the rise of terrorists and other crime which has gone around the Constitution's protective powers."

The next time you are at the Promenade or Pier, someone may be watching you! This new camera system has gone around the Constitution's protective powers. The next time you are at the Promenade or Pier, someone may be watching you! This new camera system has gone around the Constitution's protective powers.
AcaDeca: Simply Ridiculously Good
By Nora Casey
Staff Writer

They were simply, ridiculously good. The officials read “toss up” questions for either team to answer, a formality because Samo almost always wins these four point questions. After the toss up Samo would confer amongst themselves to win at a point bonus. After this the toss-up bonus question continued. With little exception, no matter how specific or obscure the question, Samo knew the answer.

In fact, it seemed that the only competition Samo had was...Samo. In their second match the Samo A Team played the Samo B Team, with its closest game of the day; 152 to 108. The B Team is sophomores Captain Jak Koring, Troy Sandberg, and Sasha Bouglaouk, and seniors Cara Safer and Sarah Orgel, accompanied by their Coach Fioretti O’Connor. Sandberg played especially well, beating Lucas to a few Astronomy questions, prompting Lucas to make obscene gestures across the room.

At the end of the day awards were given. The third place team, West, too, was stage dressed in collared shirts, ties, pleated skirts and pea coats, to accept third place medals. Arcadia came forward, five Asian boys in mancon collared uniforms, to accept second. Finally Samo came up, all dressed casually; from boy’s blue and gold, bouq- uet and an engraved glass paperweight shaped like an apple. After the ceremony, the four girls were modest and lighthearted about their awards. “I heard that only four people voted for me. I was really surprised,” said Keke Lopez. As Keke left on the arm of his wife, John Adams Middle School Science teacher Linda Cady, he said: “I’m still just the second best teacher in my household.”

Five Decades Of Tradition Tested Next Year
By Jennifer Galdam
Staff Writer

Since its creation in the 1940s the Vike’s Inn has been a convenient store for Samo, providing everything from Pop Tarts and ramen to paper to pink lemonade. The business is partnered with the Vike’s Café, together the two have overcome many barriers and achieved financial success. The program’s continual success will be challenged in the coming years.

The SAMMUSD Board of Education recognized Samo’s four in the BUll Den on Feb. 2, congratulating and thanking them for their “skills, talent, creativity and hard work.” Matthew Matthews, the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, read a short statement introducing each teacher before handing them from their fans: a blue and gold bouquet and an engraved glass paperweight shaped like an apple. After the ceremony, the four girls were modest and lighthearted about their awards. “I heard that only four people voted for me. I was really surprised,” said Keke Lopez. As Keke left on the arm of his wife, John Adams Middle School Science teacher Linda Cady, he said: “I’m still just the second best teacher in my household.”

Paige Maeda shows off her Freshman Seminar Final Project in the Arts. Photo by Ashley Osberg

The Samoii would like to congratulate the following four teachers on receiving their National Board Certification: Steve Rupprecht, O- House Math Teacher Mary Hendra, A- House History Teacher Amy House, I- House Art Teacher Christopher Rhodes, I- House Choir Director (on leave)

By Alice Ollstein
Opinion Editor

Few students know that a Teacher of the Year process even exists. Most confuse it with the “Best Teacher” category in the yearbook’s senior poll, where only seniors vote and where, as yearbook advisor Carol Jagielski says, “Everyone puts the first teacher they can think of, who they don’t hate and moves on to the first three that come to mind.”

The true Teachers of 2006, Pat Cady , to the Best Hair section.” The Staff Writer

Staff Writer

By Nora Casey

By Alice Ollstein

By Jackie Berkman

By Nora Casey

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Cafe Samo Rocks the House
By Nora Casey

Cafe Samo, a talent showcase of Samo choir students, arrived on Feb. 10 and 11 with a bang. Enthusiastic audiences laughed clapped, and waved fluorescent cell phones to emulate a candlelit atmosphere for some of the softer songs. Choir students were as thrilled with the talent show as their fans: “It is an opportunity for Samo students to perform music other than classical. Everyone does there best to sing in order to stand out.” said senior Ian Keighley, whose performance included an incredible rendition of The White Stripes’, “The Denial Twist.”

Cafe Samo students performed a variety of original songs to choir ensemble acts (including the infamous Anchorman-inspired “Afternoon Delight”) to opera, to a hilarious skit about opting out of college called “Security Girls From Hell,” there was definitely something for everyone.

“You have no idea that some of these kids can sing like that because choral music is so different from popular music,” said sophomore Julia Seelholzer, whose performances included a duet on both nights. “It’s been a lot of fun.”

In the end, the message was clear, a little quality entertainment can go a long way. As Junior Graham Heacock, who opened the show in full stage make-up with a song from the musical Cabaret called “Wilkommen,” said: “People who don’t like people can do and that can inspire them.” With all the recent tension on campus, perhaps this is exactly what our school needs.

Love Is In The Air at Samo
Compiled By Analee Abbott
Campus Life Editor

The Samoii surveyed 180 students in grades 9-12 on love and Valentine’s Day. Here are the results.

95% feel that it is maybe, probably definitely possible to fall in love in high school.
69% like kisses more than hugs.
76% received their first kiss before their 15th birthday.
48% of females admitted to kissing someone of the same sex, compared to 5% of males.
37% of upperclassmen have a girlfriend/boyfriend and 23% of lowerclassmen have one.
61% of senior females are virgins, compared to 50% of senior males.
53% of females think that, in a mate, nice facial features are more important than a good body or an attractive style. 47% of males favor a good body.
77% of females value personality over physical attraction, wealth and education in a marriage, and 65% of males agree with them.
56% of females prefer flowers over chocolate.
Girls Soccer Wins Third Consecutive Ocean League Title

By Sam Cotten
Staff Writer

The girls concluded Ocean League play with only one loss, earning the championship outright by sounding-off against La Habra on Sat., Feb. 18 at 2 p.m. A strong success in league competition was determined largely by their play against Beverly Hills, the second place team in the Ocean League. At the first meeting, between the two teams on Jan. 18, the girls created the two goals on their own field. Junior Michelle Fitten scored three of the six goals.

Two days later, the girls faced Culver City at home where they dominated, winning 3-0. Playing on her birthday, Fitten scored two goals and "really stepped up her game," according to Samo Director of Soccer Frank Gatell.

Next, the girls crushed Hawthorne 10-1 and then faced Morningside on Jan. 27 on the road. The game remained tied until freshman Yanneth Guzman pulled through with a goal after a brief scramble in front of the net late in the game to give Samo the 1-0 win.

"On Feb. 1, the girls played here at Samo against Inglewood, another not-so-competitive team. The girls blew them away with the whole blow for the start of the second half; they got eight goals in three times in a quick succession and ended up winning 5-0. Beverly suffered their second league loss at the hands of Samo," Gatell said.

The girls then played at Culver City on Feb. 7. This game, however, had a much different outcome than the previous game. The girls suffered their first league loss after they were unable to make up an early defect, a goal that was scored in within the first minute of the game. Said Gatell, "They played a smart game, and we didn't play to our strengths. We beat ourselves."

The girls smashed Hawthorne 10-0 on Feb. 9. In their final league game to win their third Ocean League Championsh in a row. Junior Sam Greene, Fitten, and sophomore Allison Gourvioux each scored two goals, and goalkeeper Danny Coll shutout the competition 14-0 of the season.

"Come up to play our strengths. We beat ourselves."

Girls Soccer Wins Third Consecutive Ocean League Title

By Sam Cotten
Staff Writer

Overall: 13-10  League: 6-4

Boys Basketball


Girls Water Polo

Overall: 17-9 League: 6-4

Boys Basketball Puts Up Tough Fight Against League Champs

By By Sam Cotten
Staff Writer

Boys Basketball

Overall: 20-2  League: 9-1

Girls Basketball

Overall: 17-9 League: 6-4

Boys Basketball vs. Hawthorne

Overall: 14-4 League: 9-0

Girls Water Polo


Junior Varsity

Boys Basketball

Overall: 23-3  League: 7-2

Girls Basketball

Overall: 9-0

Boys Soccer

Overall: 7-4 League: 10-0-4

Girls Soccer

Overall: 16-3-3 League: 8-0-1

Freshman/Sophomore

Boys Basketball (Freshman)

Overall: 14-3  League: 10-0

Boys Basketball (Varsity)

Overall: 13-10  League: 6-4

Girls Basketball

Overall: 11-6  League: 9-0

Boys Soccer

Overall: 10-1  League: 6-0

Girls Soccer

Overall: 6-6-2  League: 2-0

Freshman Water Polo

Overall: 12-5  League: 7-1

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Athenic Booster Club Works on New Facilities

By Analee Abbott
Campus Life Editor

This year, the Samo Athleti CS Program, headed off by Athletic Director Doug Kim, is on a mission to boost the sense of tradition and spirit that comes from being proud of what you do.

The Athletic Booster Club, alongside Dean of Students George Brands, has undertaken renovations to the North Gym earlier this year. The North Gym is Samo's competition gym, and is easier to shine positive light on all its athletic accomplishments.

"Go Vikings" was painted on the basketball south wall and a large picture of a Viking was painted on the exterior west wall. The American Flag was started on the west wall and played during the opening of the gym to continue to grow. In the near future Kim hopes to get sets of banners hanging on the walls. "I want our students to know what a rich tradition we have here at Samo," said Kim. "We are champions."

Kim added that the athletic program is helping students reach new levels after high school by helping them build resumes needed for college or to go pro.

According to McGrew, the major problem in future plans is their lack of money. So far the only real fundraising we've been doing is through direct sales of sports gear and custom sweatshirts. We want to expand our donor base so we get some money, which is what we really need. Once money is available, object plans include building the snackbar/bathroom complex between the baseball field and the track, re-lighting different fields and re-doing the track. After it all, it's not just Samo Students who use this facility, lots of community members see the mural and run the track," said McGrew.

This year, the Samo Athletic program wants to bring good name to the program and to the school. Through sports, improvements are continued connection with the student body, hopefully this will happen.

For more information, e-mail McGrew at csj2124@uol.com.

Boys Basketball Puts Up Tough Fight Against League Champs

By By Sam Cotten
Staff Writer

Boys Basketball

Overall: 17-8 (6-3 in league) and bad won nine of her last 12 games.

That night, Fitten scored one last goal, the blank to complete her hat trick. The Vikings also hope to build off of the momentum from their 5-0 victory.

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Wrestling Sends Nine to CIF

By Zahir Alibhai

Copy Editor

When the wrestling season started, few expected to jump to the 160 lb. division at Ocean League Finals on Feb. 8, but one by one they did. The team expected to return with top dominances. Syed, along with junior Levi Darkhovsky and senior Abe Goldenberg, took first place at Ocean League Finals. Juniors Jazzy Green and Justin Williams, sophomore Jace Dougherty, and seniors Philip Rubinstein and Matthew Riordan made it out of regionals to CIF Dual meet to Santa Ana on Feb. 11. "They're a highly ranked team so we didn't go in with high expectations. We're still proud because this is the first time we've made it to the CIF Dual," said Coach Black.

Now, the nine first and second place wrestlers real challenge has just begun with the poised season. Syed and Mims are expected to take first at the state level. Syed commented: "We'll be happy if we get two, but my goal is three. The most seasoned and conditioned wrestler of our program," said Added Varsity Coach Brent Wright, "The team has dramatically improved. They've exceeded our expectations and we're proud of how far they've come.

Senior Philip Rubinstein prepares to bridge out of a pin against El Segundo.

"Greens" success at Ocean League Finals came after she recently returned from the Girls State Champion. The team was the title for the second year in a row. She also is Samo's only state champion. From individual accomplishments, the team as a whole has made good progress throughout the season of the year. They have maintained an almost perfect record with only a loss to Compton. On Jan. 28 and a commanding win over Culver City, the Greens qualified for CIF Division V.

The entire team agreed that the competition at regionals was the toughest they'd seen, and noticed that the judging was much stricter than they were used to. "We learned a lot about ourselves in the game," said senior Co-Captain Jessica Wildemuth. "We need to get more technical and perfect the harder moves like our back-flip pyramid."

The team encountered some self-doubt, but the team got sick. Last week's practices were the first where the entire team was well enough to attend. Still, "We've been really confident we're going to 'work it at nationals."

In addition to practicing every day during six week period, they practice after school four days a week and spend countless hours outside of school at the gym. Devon Blitz, sophomore, explained the secret to the team's success: "practice makes perfect," she said with a smile. "We're consistently adding elements ... hard elements." With dedication like that, we can expect great things from the team in Anaheim on March 17. The competition will be televised on ESPN, but Wildermuth hopes Samo athletic support will go that extra mile and show-up in the flesh. "We'd love to have fans, bribe them to support us through the seasons come support us.

Greenies Lose League

By Emily Fosheg

Sports Editor

After a second place finish in the Ocean League, the Lady Greenies will host Pacifica in the first round of the CIF Division VI playoffs this afternoon. According to head coach Matthew Flanders, the team has the talent necessary to make a run in the playoffs provided that the girls start being more aggressive overall.

Another tool that will play to the Greenies advantage is the fact that they have been exposed to a number of tough opponents competing in every competition that is out there.

Junior Iyana Contreras is stormed by a Milken defender while looking for an open teammate on Feb.6.

Photo by Samantha Walters

Playing against those teams made us aware of the kind of competition that is out there and gave us more experience," said co-captain senior Irma Hernandez. Because of the tournaments, the girls have learned to "play on your own in our [13-15] record doesn't accurately reflect that talent we have added fickled Flanders.

Currently ranked fifth in CIF Division VI, the Lady Greenies toughest opponent in the Ocean League was the second ranked team in their division, El Segundo. The two teams met on Feb. 9, the last day of the regular season. However, the girls' success continued the following day against Beverly Hills. Although Beverly Hills was able to remain close in the game, Samo pulled away to win 10-4.

Ari Marken: Adding School Spirit

By Charlie Paris

Staff Writer

Marken's biggest sports fans, Ari Marken, stands tall in the bleachers at most home games. At 5'6", he has attended roughly 86 games over the past two school year tenure as a math teacher.

After merely one game, Marken went to the game hall to study his students outside of the classroom. It was a totally new experience. He had not read about or seen a different appreciation for them in class- an appreciation not just for their athletic ability, but for getting their time and their priorities around sports practices, games and homework.

Marken likes all sports, however, soccer is his hands down favorite to watch, with basketball a close second. He's also attended water polo matches, baseball, softball and football games. He tries to go to all of the games because "They're fun to watch. I appreciate the athleticism, and I like watching people succeed, show confidence and do what they love."

Sophomore Allie Courvira, a Soccer player and one of Marken's students said that Marken's attention to games makes him more approachable as a teacher. "He is my only teacher that comes, and we're really proud of how far they've come."

It shows that he really cares about his students. "Clearly the coaches appreciate his attention as well, giving Marken free attire advertising the various Samo teams. For example, Marken wears a shirt with "tips in recognition of his support of our soccer program," according to Samo head soccer coach. "Incredibly all these games has also helped Marken become friends with many coaches and most seasoned and conditioned wrestler of our program," said Added Varsity Coach Brent Wright, "The team has dramatically improved. They've exceeded our expectations and we're proud of how far they've come.

Senior Philip Rubinstein prepares to bridge out of a pin against El Segundo.

Photo by Ashley Osberg

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