

Carlmont High School
San Mateo Co Times
Oct 29, 2006

Sequoia District's academies get grants

S EQUOIA Union High School District's four high schools received \$324,000 in grants from the state for their academies.

Each school received \$81,000 and the money will go toward Carlmont and Woodside's business technology academies, Menlo-Atherton's computer academy and Sequoia's Electronic Arts Academy. The California Department of Education awarded \$22.4 million statewide for school academies.

Students in academies learn through cross-curricula projects and mentors in hands-on, real-world experiences. Academy components include rigorous academies with a career focus, a team of teachers and business involvement.

Philippine scholar

Skyline College is hosting a Fulbright Scholar from the Philippines who is working with the Kababayan Program, a learning



community, which focuses on the Filipino and Filipino-American experience.

Robin De Los Reyes, who is an English faculty member at Ateneo de Zamboanga University in the Philippines, will be at Skyline for a year on a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistantship grant.

His work in the Kababayan program includes teaching, tutoring, assisting in the classroom, serving as a resource person in language sharing groups and organizing extra-curricular activities.

More grants

Local collaborative Redwood City 2020 received a \$39,000 grant from the Peninsula Community Foundation for its teen resource center at Sequoia High School.

The center provides a variety of health and youth develop-

ment opportunities to Sequoia High School students.

Ceremony

The Jefferson School District, in partnership with Colma and Daly City, will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Nov. 4 for the new artificial turf athletic field next to Susan B. Anthony in Daly City.

The field is a joint project between the school district and the two cities. It will be used by two schools located next to field as well as the community.

The ceremony will be at 11:30 a.m.

Award

Carlmont High School senior Jennifer Rodriguez has been recognized as a scholar by the College Board's National Hispanic Recognition Program.

The program was established in 1983 to provide national recognition of exceptional academic achievement of Hispanic high school seniors and to identify them for post-sec-

ondary institutions.

Students enter the program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test as high school juniors and by identifying themselves as Hispanic.

College fair

The Serramonte Center will host the San Francisco and Northern Peninsula College Fair from 5 to 7 p.m. on Nov. 1.

The fair will include representatives from the University of California and California State Universities, community colleges and private and out-of-state universities.

The Serramonte Center is located at Serramonte and Gellert Boulevard in Daly City.

Chalk Talk is a regular feature with items about schools, students, teachers and administrators in San Mateo County. To submit an item, write to Chalk Talk, The San Mateo County Times, 1080 South Amphlett Blvd., San Mateo, CA 94402 or send a fax to (650) 348-4446.

China Stogner brought smiles to Scots

By Simi Lee

CORRESPONDENT

BELMONT — China E. Stogner, a former Carlmont High softball player, died Monday at the age of 23 of cervical cancer.

A celebration of her life was conducted Saturday at one of the places she loved the best — Carlmont's softball field, now known as Jim Liggett Field, named for the Scots' longtime and illustrious softball coach.

China Stogner, the niece of Peninsula Athletic League Commissioner Terry Stogner, played softball at Carlmont between 1996-2000. Free-spirited and fun-loving, China was in the Carlmont program for four years but had to battle to make the starting lineup in one of the most

high-powered prep programs in the County. She was a part-time starter her junior year and finally landed the first-base job as a senior.

Her best season came in 1999 when Carlmont amassed a team- and County-record 35 wins in a single season. "China was a fun-loving person who added to the lighter side of the team," said Liggett at the standing-room only celebration attended by about 700 people. "There were many times she helped us all relax and enjoy softball. She wasn't the greatest athlete, but she loved the game and learned to be a team player."

Coincidentally, Liggett was diagnosed with prostate cancer at the same time China Stogner was undergoing treatment for cervical cancer. They

had the same oncologist and radiologist and found time to share notes and thoughts on their experience of treatment and fight for recovery. Jim Liggett is making progress in his fight.

After Carlmont, China went to Chico State and recently graduated. She had started her own home-staging business before embarking on a 10-month struggle with her illness. In honor of her life, a scholarship fund is being established in her name. The China E. Stogner Memorial Softball Scholarship Fund will be awarding a yearly scholarship to a deserving Carlmont senior softball player. Donations can be sent c/o Barbara Stogner, Remax Today, 1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos, CA 94070.

Oct 29,
2006

ANNUAL TRIVIA HUNT



TONY AVELAR

CARLMONT SENIOR Evgenia Shnayder (right) shows a back-up document to Castilleja junior Jessie Carr during the 38th annual Millard Fillmore Trivia Hunt at Carlmont High. The competition brings together students from different high schools to aid their research skills. Below, the Millard Fillmore Trivia Hunt trophy sits on the desk of last year's winner, Palo Alto High.

(OVER)

Schools' brightest tangle in yearly event



■ Palo Alto's Castilleja High declared winner

By **T.S. Mills-Faraudo**
STAFF WRITER

BELMONT

WHILE football fans were busy watching the Pittsburgh Steelers beat the Seattle Seahawks, area students were experiencing a Super Bowl of their own.

"This is the Super Bowl of knowledge," said Carlmont High School senior Chris Smith, of the 38th annual Millard Fillmore Trivia Hunt.

During the weekend-long hunt, students combed libraries throughout the Bay Area for answers — plus back-up documentation — to

questions on everything from TV history to music to U.S. presidents. The teams were challenged to find such items as a ticket stub to a Broadway musical and 50-year-old Disneyland ride tickets. They were given the questions Friday and had to turn in the answers with documentation by 7 p.m. Sunday. The end result was a lot of exhausted teenagers wired on caffeine.

On Monday night, students from Carlmont, Woodside, Castilleja, Palo Alto, Gunn, Mercy and Harker high school spent four and a half hours defending their answers to moderator Mark Simon, a former San Francisco

Chronicle reporter, and Bob Hunter, the founder of the trivia hunt.

The event started in Hunter's classes when he was a history teacher at Carlmont. It turned into a popular annual event that attracted other schools from around the Bay Area, and even Oregon.

In Carlmont High's student-union building Monday night, teams came equipped with plenty of pizza and stacks of files.

Each team had a "lawyer" to defend their answers and a speaker who had to read other teams' answers.

It was close, but at the end of the night, Palo Alto's Castilleja High won with 486 points and Carlmont came in second at 470.

But Carlmont put up a good fight. For example, for

the Broadway musical question, students brought in a ticket stub from the Shubert Theater in New York City, but Hunter said they needed to provide documentation that showed it has 500 seats or more. The teammates argued that it's clear the Shubert is a major Broadway theater — but they didn't win the points.

Hunter gets creative every year with his list of questions. Some examples from this year:

► Provide the name of the middle school attended by the children in the TV sitcom "The Brady Bunch." Answer: Fillmore Junior High.

► Provide the price on the tag attached to the straw hat of country comedienne Minnie Pearl. Answer: \$1.98.

► Provide the name of the cookies introduced in 2000 that create blue swirls of milk when dunked. Answer: Oreo

Magic Dunkers.

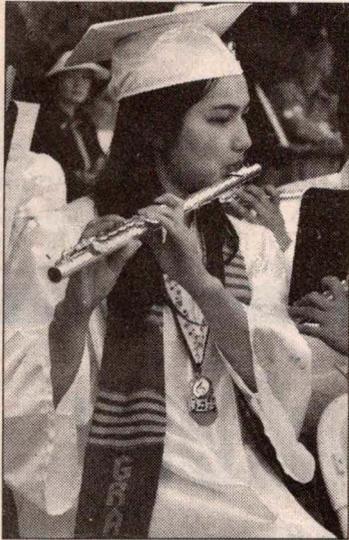
"He finds the coolest questions," said Carlmont senior Lauren Berger, 17, who was office captain on her team. "You can't stop thinking about them until you find the answers."

For Berger, the hard part wasn't necessarily finding the answers, it was finding the documentation to support them.

Teams were not allowed to check books out of libraries because that could put other teams at a disadvantage. They had to photocopy the information from the books.

"This is a lot about sportsmanship," said Marcy Sanchez, Webmaster for Carlmont, who helped coordinate the event. "They learn a lot of research skills and they learn a lot of problem-solving."

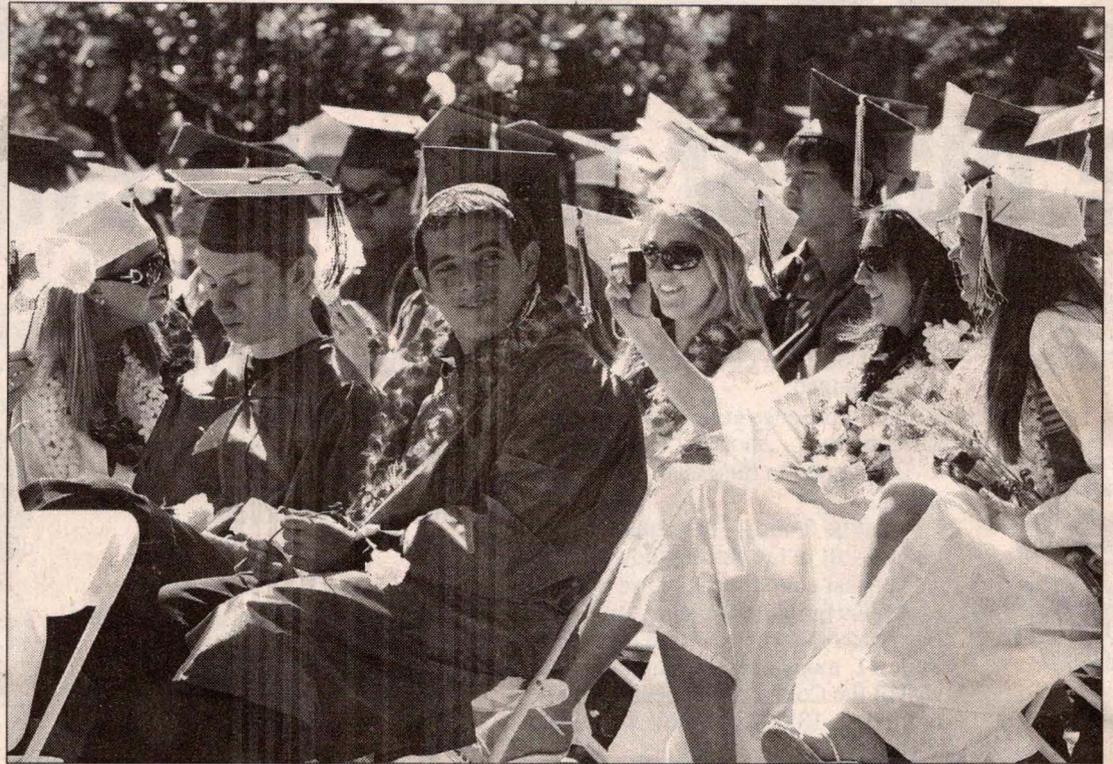
Carlmont High School
San Mateo Co. Times
June 10, 2006



CARLMONT HIGH SCHOOL graduates (right) use their cellular phones to photograph each other as they sit during commencement ceremonies on campus Friday. Graduate Yvette Tse (above) plays the flute with the band during the program as fellow senior Julian Sera (top right) shares a laugh with his classmates during the Friday graduation rites.

RON LEWIS — Staff photos

START of a NEW BEGINNING



Ashley Chinn - Carlmont
San Mateo Co Times
July-06

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Chinn, Scots sizzled all spring

■ Pitcher is the best for second straight year

By Simi Lee

CORRESPONDENT

Ashley Chinn had a truly outstanding season in 2005. She played so well that she was the San Mateo County Times softball Player of the Year.

So what does she do for an encore?

How about having an even better season and dominating the County prep softball scene like no other player. As a pitcher, the right-hander increased the speed on all her pitches and dramatically improved her strikeout totals. Even though she doesn't work on her batting as much as her pitching, Chinn improved in her discipline at the plate and clutch-hitting ability.

She led Carlmont to a 29-2 season, a Peninsula Athletic League Bay Division championship and brought the Scots to the Central Coast Section Division I semifinal game.

So how about winning County Times softball Player of the Year honors for the second consecutive season? A pretty good encore.

To prepare for the season, Chinn lifted weights, worked with pitching coach Sara Cottle and wore out her father, Doug Chinn, who catches her during practice. The junior year is the key year for pitchers who would like to pitch in college, since collegiate coaches can offer scholarships in the summer between their junior and senior years.

"Since I'm 5-foot-6, which is small for a pitcher, I had to get more muscle this year," said Chinn. "Last summer, I improved my mechanics and worked on details in my windup



JOHN GREEN — Staff

ASHLEY CHINN also contributed mightily at the plate.

and delivery. But I think the most important thing was that I improved mentally. My approach to games and softball

was better."

Chinn's goal was to improve her strikeout total from the 269 in 2005 to at least 300. She

more than met her mark, fanning 316 batters in 170 innings and averaging almost two strikeouts per inning.

At bat, Chinn worked to tone down her free-swinging style.

"If there's anything close, I like to swing at it," said Chinn, who batted .341 this year. "I tried to be more disciplined this year and not swing at everything. I like hitting, but when you get right down to it, there isn't anything more I love in softball than getting strikeouts. That is the best."

This summer, Chinn is on the Amateur Softball Association summer circuit playing Gold-level tournaments and pitching at the college distance of 43 feet. She'll come back to pitch at 40 feet next spring in her senior year at Carlmont and doesn't think making the switch back and forth in pitching distances will be a problem.

She will be working on improving spin on her pitches, adding speed and trying to hit spots more consistently. She would like to cut down her walks, increase her strikeout total even more and lower her ERA.

She's looking ahead to her senior year at Carlmont. For Chinn and her Scots teammates, the opportunity to play for Carlmont again can't come any sooner.

"We still remember our last game (an extra-inning 7-0 loss to eventual Division I champion San Benito in the CCS semifinals)," Chinn said. "It really affected us. I couldn't ... we all couldn't sleep for a week after that game."

"I can't wait for next season and hope we get back to the playoffs again."

Carlmont High School
Ray McDonald
San Mateo Co Times

COACH OF THE YEAR

McDonald helped young Tigers thrive

By Simi Lee

CORRESPONDENT

Even though he's relatively new to varsity coaching, long, dusty days on the diamond are familiar experiences for second-year Notre Dame of Belmont softball coach Ray McDonald.

He played baseball for Serra High, College of San Mateo and in the Toronto Blue Jays organization. He also learned from quality coaches, including this year's County baseball Coach of the Year, Pete Jensen, and former CSM mentor John Noce.

His father, Ray McDonald Sr., is also a longtime high school baseball coach. And at Serra, the younger McDonald was named to the San Mateo Times All-County team as a third baseman in 1982.

"So I grew up playing with the round ball on the diamond," McDonald said. "I got taught fundamentals from the very best and learned a lot about coaching from people in this area."

Now McDonald is All-County again, as the County Times softball Coach of the Year.

This past spring, he took a young Notre Dame squad to a 21-9 record and an appearance in the Central Coast Section Division II championship game.

During his first year, Notre Dame went 17-11 and posted its first winning



MCDONALD

he knew how to coach youngsters. That served him well this year, because Notre Dame did not have a senior on its 12-player roster and started five freshmen.

"I love coaching girls and coaching softball," McDonald said. "Girls in general tend to listen better and are not corrupted by what they see on ESPN. The girls want to be fundamentally sound and will work hard to do things the right, correct way and not the flashy way."

"All I ask is that we focus for 90 minutes at practice each day ... that's all."

McDonald said he had a great time watching his young team take shape, learn to play at the high school level and eventually succeed.

"This year's team was absolutely fun to coach," he declared. "Nothing they did surprised me. It was fun to watch them make the adjustment to playing at the tough level of our league (West Catholic Athletic League)."

"They all played so well together," he added. "That was the key for our season."

season in several years.

McDonald got his coaching start in the local youth baseball and softball leagues, so

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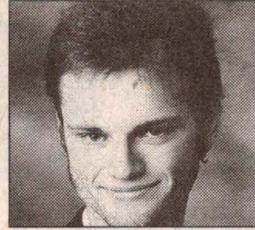
Student tells what he saw in Lebanon

Carlmont High School graduate Tynan Kelly, 19, of Belmont was studying Arabic for a summer program at the Lebanese American University in Beirut when violence started there more than two weeks ago. Currently in Europe, he will return to the U.S., but plans to go back to the Middle East next summer to continue his studies. Through e-mail, he recently corresponded with staff writer T.S. Mills-Farquado about his experiences in Beirut.

Q. You were in Beirut on the first day violence started. Tell me what it was like.

THE MONDAY Q&A

A. Beirut was fairly peaceful Wednesday. Of course everyone, including myself, was checking the news every couple of minutes or so. We decided that the best course of action was to go out and get smashed — fighting anxiety in the best way we — Americans, Lebanese, Syrians, Iraqis, all of us — knew how to. The city went on in its normal fashion, though there was an air of caution. We returned from the bar (which was giving out free drinks and



KELLY

absinthe) quite smashed. The next morning things got tough in Beirut when they bombed the airport.

Q. Was there ever a point at which you feared for your life?

A. No, never. I was fortunate to be on an American

campus, and be from a country that paid for a large portion of the bombs that were falling around us and killing civilians.

Q. How did you get out of Beirut? What was that experience like?

A. I hopped in a taxi and paid him to take me to the (Syrian) border. Besides a couple of detours around bombed sections of the highway, it went without incident. I crossed the border on foot and then boarded a bus bound for Aleppo.

Q. Did you see this coming?

A. Nobody did. Though Please see **Q&A**, Local 3

Student talks about what he saw

► Q&A, from Local 1

Israel has been overreacting recently (i.e. Gaza), it had been calm enough that no one expected anything. Even when the two soldiers were taken, this wasn't expected. The Lebanese government cannot just dismantle Hezbollah. They experienced a 25-year terrible civil war. To do something like that is like playing with fire.

Q. What did you know

about the tensions in that region before you moved there and what did you learn?

A. I knew the history, though I understood the details to a far greater extent when I was taught by the Lebanese.

Q. How do you think this will end?

A. Terribly. Hezbollah is stronger than the world thinks. They have a fleet of drone bombs that people don't really

hear about. They don't have a center of operation. Contrary to what the news says, the buildings in Beirut are not, I must stress that, Hezbollah office buildings but residential buildings that Hezbollah occasionally occupies and vacates when something like this happens. Hezbollah can move around the country easily and aren't going to be pinned down easily or stop their attacks. Israel isn't going to loosen up enough to stop any-

while in Lebanon

time soon. Both sides are stuck and causing a lot of harm to Lebanon.

Q. Do you think other countries should intervene?

A. Yes.

Q. Why did you decide to go there to study?

A. To have as much fun as possible. I'm young, and I enjoy myself. Also, Lebanon is a wonderful country with wonderful people and wonderful food.

Q. What did you like about living in Beirut?

A. Everything. The food, people, beaches, culture, city are all beautiful.

Q. What did you dislike?

A. The disgusting stray cats. But then again, it's better than having pigeons.

Q. What do you miss most about the United States?

A. Unofficially, I won't say. Officially, friends.

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SMOKE RISES AND DEBRIS FLIES from a bridge as it is targeted by an Israeli air raid in southern Lebanon on Friday. Israel tightened its seal on Lebanon, blasting its air and road links to the outside world and bringing its offensive to the capital for the first time.

MOHAMMED ZAATARI — Associated Press

Deadly attacks in Mideast hit close to home

By **Todd R. Brown**
STAFF WRITER

Halfway around the world, Israeli missiles are falling on Lebanon, but the emotional impact of those blasts is hitting close to home for some in San Mateo County.

"I'm generally an optimistic person, but I'm nervous," said Colleen Kelly, 52, of Belmont, whose 19-year-old son Tynan is studying Arabic at Lebanese American University in Beirut. "I'm afraid for my kid."

Colleen said Friday that her son, a Carlmont High School graduate, seemed more cavalier about the assault on his host country, which in the past few days has seen its airport and major roads bombed

Please see **FAMILY**, News 7



BELMONT RESIDENT

Colleen Kelly holds a photo of her son Tynan, 19, who is a student at the Lebanese-American University in Beirut.

RON LEWIS — Staff

Deadly attacks in Mideast hit close to home

► **FAMILY**, from News 1

and its coast blockaded.

Tynan has "that feeling of invulnerability" that is such a part of youth, Colleen said after speaking with her son by phone earlier in the day. She added, "I think it's also going to be a life-changing event in his life."

She said the university planned to evacuate in the morning to a Mediterranean coast town about 50 miles to the north, and she was keeping an eye on CNN Europe, the BBC and Al-Jazeera news for updates on the siege.

"I'm sort of wandering around, trying to keep myself busy," she said. "The bombs were a lot closer tonight."

On Wednesday, Israel began the assault after militants with the Hezbollah terrorist group in Lebanon crossed the border and abducted two of its soldiers.

Tynan, communicating by e-mail from the Al-Hamra district of Beirut, said Friday afternoon: "I can hear Israeli jets flying by every five minutes or so. Anti-aircraft gunfire, along with other assorted gunfire produced in our district, can be heard.

"We still have power, though we have been informed that it is limited. It is nearly impossible to sleep. The bomb blasts are close enough to capture all attention."

Leila Armush, 24, of San Bruno, a

former copy editor for The Times now studying graphic design, has dual Syrian and U.S. citizenship. Her father Ma'aAmun, 65, has a home in Damascus, and most of her extended family lives in nearby Jdaida; a few relatives live in Beirut.

With saber-rattling about Lebanon's Hezbollah-backing neighbor coming from Israel and the United States, Leila worried about her family there.

"I start to think about all my cousins, all 80 of them. If something were to happen in Damascus and a lot of civilians would be killed," she said, "someone in my family would be injured or killed. They all commute there to work."

Of the entrenched conflict between Israel and its Muslim neighbors, she said, "It's a cycle of hatred. How's anything going to get better for anyone's life over there if the cycle just keeps continuing?"

"They need to come up with a resolution and not look back at the past, and play the blame game and figure revenge is necessary. Nobody likes to live with bombs going off all around them."

Elias Botto, 73, of San Mateo, is a Palestinian refugee who came to the United States after Israel was established and his



ARMUSH

family fled Jerusalem. A member of the Jewish-Palestinian Living Room Dialogue, Botto said he was hopeful for peace in 1994, when he returned to Israel as it worked out a treaty with Jordan.

"That was a very promising time," he said. "Unfortunately it's going from bad to worse."

Botto said he joined the local discussion group about 12 years ago to see something positive come out of the conflict.

"I don't know if this is a mirage I'm hoping for, or a miracle I'm hoping for," he said. "But yes, I have to keep reminding myself, I have to keep on fighting for peace. I don't need to use a gun, I can use my tongue."

"Of course any human life — Jewish or Christian or Muslim or Palestinian — it's a sacred life."

And whether it is praying to one God or sharing the stories of the Old Testament, Botto said Jews and Muslims have much more in common than the recent history that separates them.

"We complement each other," he said. "We are all one."

Reach staff writer Todd R. Brown at (650) 348-4473 or tbrown@sanmateocountytimes.com.

San Carlos vision scholarship winner

Carlmont High School 2006 graduate Heather Nelson, 18, is one of 10 winners of the first annual Bay Area Family of Funds scholarship awards. The San Carlos resident's \$6,000 scholarship will help her get started this month at the University of California, Berkeley, where she plans to study history and political science toward a goal of joining the U.S. State Department or working for a non-profit organization.

"My grade-point average was 4.22," Nelson said. "These days you get extra points for advanced placement courses, so some seniors actually graduated with 5.0 averages."

Bay Area Family of Funds is a business-sponsored consortium that seeks to funnel private market-rate investments into lower- and middle-income communities. Their \$75,000 annual scholarship fund will grant awards to students showing high academic achievement and passionate commitment to community service, and who will be attending one of the Bay

Area's top universities.

"I found out about this scholarship in a targeted online search for what might be out there to apply for," Nelson said. "They seemed to be especially interested in what was my vision to improve the area."

She was one of two scholarship winners selected to speak at last month's awards reception at the Bank of America building in San Francisco and is working this summer as a counselor at a day camp in Belmont.

"I'm glad I got the day camp job this summer," Nelson said. "Playing with kids is a lot more fun than working behind a counter someplace."

Her primary community service was tutoring two dyslexic elementary school students for five years.

"These kids are not lazy, they have to work harder than anybody else and sometimes they get frustrated," Nelson said. "I tried to help them feel better about themselves by showing them how they learn in a different way."

— Nat Friedland



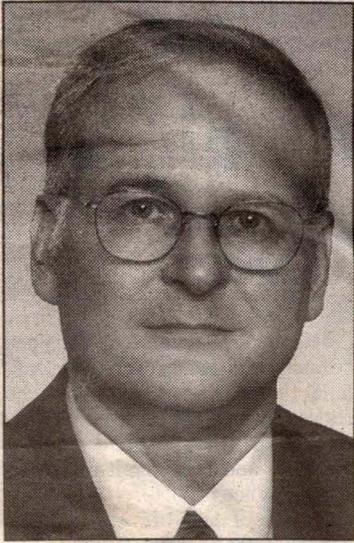
Due to her community service work helping students develop an organic garden at Charles Armstrong School in Belmont, Heather Nelson has received a scholarship from the Bay Area Council of Work to attend UC Berkeley in the fall.

— Sarah Sewell/Special to the Examiner

Heather Nelson
Spammer - Duke Perdue
Aug. 11, 2006

Notre Dame de Namur University
Chamener - Independent
Aug 1, 2006

New deans at Notre Dame



George Klemic was named dean of the School of Business. — Courtesy Photo

Two longtime professors have been promoted to deans at Notre Dame de Namur University in Belmont.

George Klemic was named dean of the School of Business and Joanne Rossi will be dean of the School of Education and Leadership.

"The university appreciates George Klemic's future-looking attitude, his real world experience and his diligence in getting the right people involved in projects," NDNU Provost Judith Greig said. "Joan Rossi brings a wealth of academic, administrative and professional experience and has demonstrated her ability to use

that experience to enrich the education of students.

Among Klemic's top priorities are to create an MBA degree specializing in the biotech industry and to provide more targeted teaching in public administration specializations.

"We want to offer a program in disaster preparation," Klemic said. "We will put in a course on using the geographic systems information laboratory as a tool for market research." He was a long-time administrator at the Internal Revenue Service and has been teaching since 1995.

Rossi began as an elementary

school teacher on the East Coast before becoming a principal and college instructor. She has been at NDNU for 10 years.

"Expanding our collaboration with local school districts is crucial to our primary goal of providing teachers who are caring, supremely competent and equipped with the latest research-based methods," Rossi said. "Only the local districts can give us the critical feedback on whether we're meeting that goal. And we'd like to expand the seminars for early childhood and Montessori education.

— Nat Friedland



Joanne Rossi will be dean of the School of Education and Leadership. — Courtesy Photo

Belmont

Notre Dame de Namur University this September will begin a Saturday business degree program for working students who find it difficult to attend weekday evening classes. For registration information call (650) 508-3599.

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July 31, 2006

CHALLENGE GRANT —

Notre Dame de Namur University received a \$350,000 chal-



lenge grant for a new athletic field from the Koret Foundation Funds of San Francisco.

The terms of the challenge are that Koret will match all gifts pledged by year-end toward the project, up to \$350,000.

The new field, which university officials hope will be completed by January 2007, will feature artificial synthetic turf. It will allow the university to host 22 home soccer games and 12 home lacrosse games, as well as offer summer soccer and lacrosse camps to the community.

SOFTBALL >> ASHLEY CHINN

Summertime is softball time

Carlmont star completes another stellar season with San Jose Strikers, looks ahead to senior year with Scots

It's a grueling test for the serious athlete to take on the commitment of a traveling summer team. One must forego carefree days of sleeping in, or hitting the beach, or working a summer job to put money toward a new set of wheels or prom.

Ashley Chinn instead spends her summers traveling the States, facing the height of softball competition as a pitcher for the San Jose Strikers traveling team. It's a sacrifice she is happy to make for various reasons. She gets to travel the Nation, having seen Washington, Arizona, Colorado, Missouri, Nevada, and Oklahoma, to name a few places. She gets to perform for Division I scouts every time she takes the field.

Mainly though, Chinn makes the sacrifice for the most quintessential reason. She loves to compete.

"[Athletes] live for the competition," Chinn wrote in a recent blog, "they live for the friends, the practices, the memories, the pain. It's who they are. It's who we are."

As she returns to Carlmont for her senior year, the two-time Peninsula Athletic League Pitcher Of Year has little left to prove on the varsity circuit. Like most competitors, she has her sights set on a Central Coast Section title.

And like most great competitors, she maintains her edge via the belief that she isn't quite as good as she should be. She holds herself accountable to the likes of her role model Tori Nyberg, who lead Carlmont to a pair of CCS crowns, and in the process pitched her way to an athletic scholarship at Stanford.

"I'm going to college in a year, and I need to be up to that level," Chinn said.

Chinn still has another year to go at the prep level, though, where she is considered one of the elite. With the Strikers this season she pitched in rotation with Jamie Lettire (Presentation, West Catholic League MVP), Megan Wirth (Mitty, First team all-CCS) and Penn State-bound Jackie Hill (Leigh High, CCS Senior Of The Year).

Yet, it was Chinn who got the starting nod at a showcase in Boulder, Colorado to face the defending No. 1 team in the nation, the Virginia Shamrocks. The game ended in a 2-2 tie, with Chinn battling for six innings, allowing just one earned run while striking out six.

"She pitched the game of her life," Strikers head coach Tom Sorci said. "She was hitting the outside corner just perfect. Her location that day was something to see."

Chinn has many a notable win to her resume though. In 2004 as a member of another summer traveling team, the San Jose Sting 14-and-unders, she won three games at ASA Hall Of Fame Stadium in Oklahoma, the same location where the Women's College World Series is played.

Not too bad for a kid who began playing at the age of nine for the most basic reason. Said Chinn: "All my friends were playing ... but they all went and played soccer that year. I loved it so I just kept playing and got pretty good."

Chinn played shortstop in her first summer with the Sting behind her future mentor, pitcher Danielle Maglioni. The experience had a profound effect on the then rookie shortstop.

“ [Athletes] live for the competition, they live for the friends, the practices, the memories, the pain. It's who they are. It's who we are.”

— Ashley Chinn wrote in a recent blog

for Ashley Chinn

Aug. 26, 2006
San Mateo Times

► BELMONT

Traffic changes near Carlmont High School

Expect traffic congestion near Carlmont High School on 1400 Alameda De Las Pulgas.

Belmont Public Works reduced Alameda de las Pulgas to one lane and added diagonal parking just before it turns onto San Carlos Avenue. The change caused confusion and near accidents on Wednesday.

On Thursday, the intersection was re-stripped and Belmont police placed signs telling people that the traffic pattern changed.

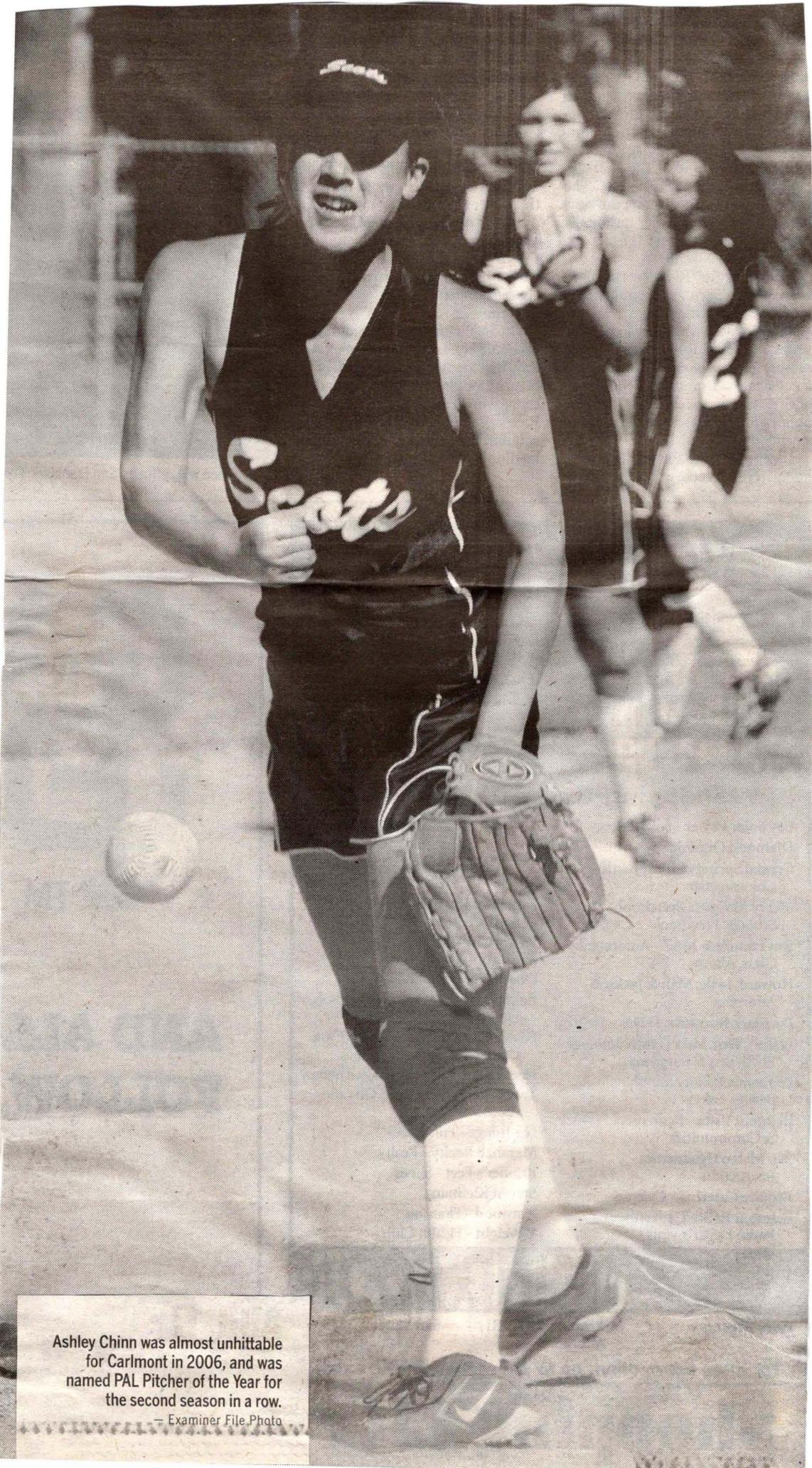
"[Maglioni] was the best out of everyone there was, not doubt about it," said Chinn. "So I was like: 'I want to do that.'"

"People wouldn't call [the team by name]. They called it Danielle's team ... so I decided: 'It's going to be Ashley's team next year.'"

It's still up in the air as to which college team is going to be "Ashley's team" in 2008, but rest assured it will be a prominent Division I program.

Said Sorci: "There is a lot of interest for her talent from a lot of schools throughout the country."

— Special to the Examiner



Ashley Chinn was almost unhittable for Carlmont in 2006, and was named PAL Pitcher of the Year for the second season in a row.

— Examiner File Photo

CARLMONT HIGH SCHOOL
SAN MATEO COUNTY TIMES
OCTOBER 2, 2006

Carlmont gets grant for Mandarin class

CARLMONT High School in Belmont will receive a \$70,444 grant for the creation of a Mandarin-language studies program.

The funds were awarded competitively by the United States Department of Education's Foreign Language Assistance program, which provides grants for schools to establish, improve or expand innovative foreign language programs in elementary and secondary schools.

The grant may be renewed for up to three years. Carlmont officials anticipate that 70 students will participate in the program for the first two years, and more than 160 will be in the program by its third year.

Three years of Mandarin will be offered, topped off by an advanced placement-level Mandarin class, approved for University of California entrance requirements.



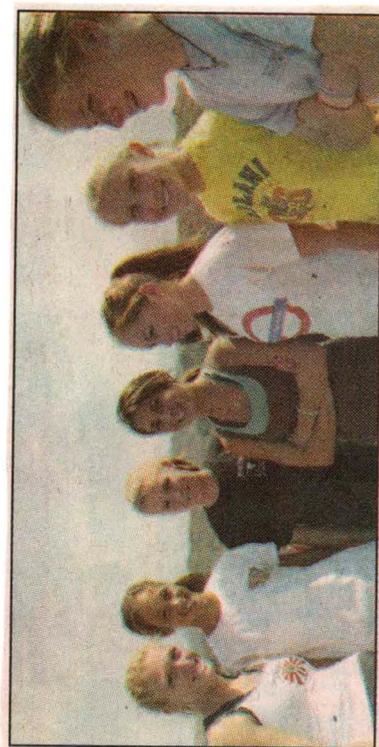
CARL MONT HIGH SCHOOL
EXAMINER/INDEPENDENT
SEPTEMBER 30, 2006

Belmont



Carlmont High School has received a federal grant of \$70,444 to establish a Mandarin Chinese language studies program, it was announced by Congressman Tom Lantos. The grant can be renewed for up to three years and the new program is expected to graduate more than 60 students.

CARL MONT HIGH SCHOOL
EXAMINER/INDEPENDENT
OCT. 10, 2006



Carlmont runners (left to right) Mary Rhoades, Justine Fedronic, Nicole Boothe, Tamara Abinadar, Shanelle Furner, Ali Cottong, Kaitlynn Yandell.

— Richard Batman/Special to The Examiner

Carlmont runners not slowing down

Both boys' and girls' teams looking to leg out CCS crowns

By Amanda Stupi
Special to the Examiner

BELMONT — When asked to name its toughest competition, the Carlmont girls' cross country team fell silent.

"Do you mean at State?" someone finally responded. The girls' reaction makes sense given their speed.

Both Carlmont's boys' and girls' teams are favored to win Central Coast Section titles.

The girls are on the brink of joining their male counterparts as one of California's top-ten ranked teams.

What makes the Scots so good? To start with, sophomores Hayley Pascale and Justine Fedronic. Pascale holds last year's CCS Individual Division I Cross Country title and had a stellar track season. She posted the third best time for a California freshman in the 3200 meters at 10 minutes, 42 seconds.

Fedronic sat out the majority of the 2005 season due to a stress fracture in her shin. Though she captured the attention of many college scouts when she ran the 800 meters in 2:10.76, the second best freshman time in the country, many people are waiting to see what a healthy Fedronic will produce in cross country, including Fedronic herself. "I've never run a race feeling completely prepared," she said.

Currently battling an inflamed IT band, Fedronic is approaching this season differently. "I'm training on softer surfaces," she said. "Some days I just go to the pool."

Fedronic admits that there is more pressure on her this season, but says she has adjusted her mental game, focusing on thinking positively and the team aspect of the sport.

"If you go into a race thinking, 'This is going to be hard', it will be," Fedronic said. "If you approach it like a team, it's easier."

The team element is one that Carlmont embraces.

"In cross country, no matter if you have the one and two runners up there, it is not going to mean anything if the three-four-five runners are back in 100th place," Carlmont coach Jeff Gilkey said.

Carlmont's depth is a large part of what makes the Scots almost impossible to beat.

At the Sept. 23 Iolani, Hawaii Invitational, Fedronic finished first and junior Tamara Abinadar took third at 19:47. Mary Rhoades, who Gilkey credits with providing leadership, ran the course in 20:20 and Nicole Booth ran 20:55. According to Gilkey, the Hawaii course runs about a minute longer than Crystal Springs.

The players describe a team that camps and carbo loads together, but perhaps the most unifying element for is their love of running fast.

"When you run six days a week, all year long together, there is going to be a bond," Gilkey said. "These kids are putting in 400-500 miles over the summer."

Among them are the Surh brothers, Brad and Greg. Brad, the younger of the two, narrowly beat out Greg for first place at Iolani.

The boys' squad is a soft spoken bunch with the exception of Greg Surh, whose enthusiasm can't be contained. "We like to speak more with our legs than with our mouths," Surh said.

The boys' team did a lot of speaking last year when they won the CCS team title. They return all their runners from the 2005 season, including senior Nick Palladino, who was the fastest 800 meter runner in CCS last year. Junior Austin Logie and sophomore Chris Pedro round out Carlmont's top five runners.

The Scots seem to be learning from their coach's philosophy that speed begets speed. "You don't slow your top runners down as much as your younger kids learn to run faster," Gilkey said. "We don't slow down for anyone."

"I've always been a coach who liked to pass to set up the run. But with David, I run to set up the pass. He's such a weapon, you've got to keep going back to him. He changes the game plans for both teams every time he plays." — Will Jacobs, Carlmont coach



Carlmont running back David Akin rarely goes down after the first hit. The senior has 1,528 yards and 23 touchdowns for the PAL Ocean-leading Scots. — Richard Batman/Special to The Examiner

SPORTS

Carlmont High School
Examiner - Indep.

Aknin speaks louder

Affable Carlmont running back makes an even bigger impression on the field

By Will Reisman
Special to the Examiner

It was one of those plays where everyone knew where the ball was going.

With first place in the Peninsula Athletic League Ocean Division on the line, the visiting Carlmont football team had the ball on the Capuchino three-yard line, trailing 35-34 with less than a minute remaining in the contest.

All eyes were fixated on David Aknin, Carlmont's star running back.

who had already piled up 233 yards rushing and a pair of touchdowns in a dominating effort for the Scots.

And Aknin would not be denied, taking a handoff from quarterback Michael Turner off the right tackle, breaking one tackle, then another, and yet another, before dragging two defenders into the end zone, giving Carlmont (6-2, 5-0) a 40-35 lead with 42 seconds left, and propelling it to an eventual 47-35 win.

"I would definitely say that was the highlight reel of the season," said Aknin, who also had two sacks playing linebacker for Carlmont. "It was all about desire and focus for us. We are a hard working team, and we showed that we could overcome adversity against a good team."

Aknin was at it again Friday at El

Camino, running for 173 yards and three touchdowns to lead the Scots to a 28-7 win. The senior has shown the speed to outrun defenders, the strength to fight through tacklers and the balance to shrug off hits and keep his feet moving.

"I've always been a coach who liked to pass to set up the run," Carlmont coach Will Jacobs said. "But with David, I run to set up the pass. He's such a weapon, you've got to keep going back to him. He changes the game plans for both teams every time he plays."

Aknin, a 5-foot-11, 225-pound back, has amassed 1,528 yards rushing and 23 touchdowns to help Carlmont stay atop the PAL Ocean standings.

On his three touchdown runs against Capuchino, Aknin exhibited three distinctively different manners

than words

in which he could find his way into the end zone.

His first scoring dash was a 68-yard sprint up the middle in a display of his remarkable speed for a back of his size. His second touchdown run may have been his most impressive, as he shed off a series of serious hits from Capuchino defenders, somehow staying on his feet, as he sped off into the end zone from 45 yards out. And the final score, although his shortest on the night, was certainly the most important and most anticipated.

"He's a really big, bruising back, but he also shows he has got speed," Jacobs said. "He's definitely our workhorse back, he'll be there for us all game. He's very tough to bring down, and he plays hard on every play."

So far, Aknin has attracted modest attention from prospective college scouts, but he is enlisted in a Northern California football recruiting service for high school seniors, and Jacobs believes that more colleges will come calling by the end of the year.

"He's having a great season," Jacobs said. "I think the schools will begin to notice him more the more he plays and continues to put up big numbers. He has a great future in football."

One thing is certain about Aknin—he certainly has the right attitude to succeed.

"I just love playing football," said Aknin after the Scots' dramatic win over Capuchino. "Whether it's on offense or defense I just love being out on the field competing."