

Carlmont
Examiner
Dec. 20 & 21, 2007

TODAY'S TOP STORY » SCHOOLS

Examiner
Dec. 20, 2007

Jury chastises district for packing Carlmont

Report indicates students could have easily been moved to other facilities

By Beth Winegarner
Examiner Staff Writer

The high school district serving students between Belmont and Woodside violated its open-enrollment policies when it allowed nearly 2,300 students to matriculate at Carlmont High School last fall — in excess of the school's 2,100-student capacity — according to the San Mateo County civil grand jury.

Rather than redistribute the additional students to other high schools in the Sequoia High School District, some of which are under capacity, the district spent \$350,000 to hire three new teachers and one new administrator to handle the overload at the Belmont campus, according to a report from the grand jury released Wednesday.

"Everyone, including the principal, feels that Carlmont is overbooked," district Superintendent Pat Gemma said.

Carlmont's reputation as a good school, coupled with its proximity to San Carlos' booming population of families with kids, has contributed to the school's popularity, said Emily Sarver, president of the Carlmont Parent Teacher Student Association.

"Parents want their child to go to a local high school, and it's closer than Sequoia High School," Sarver said. "Kids want to go to the same school as their friends from middle school."

Through open enrollment, the Sequoia High School District allows students to attend any of its four schools. In 2007-08, 200 to 250 students enrolled from outside Carlmont's boundaries, which encompass San Carlos and Belmont.

While district leaders say they do not regret their decision to let Carlmont fill up, they are taking steps to bring the high school's population down to 2,100 within a few years.

"I disagree that we're not following our policy," trustee Olivia Martinez said. "Carlmont is handling the number of students just fine."

A new school-bond measure on the February 2008 ballot would raise money for more classroom space at Carlmont and a new charter high school in East Palo Alto, where many of Carlmont's students live, according to Martinez.

In addition, other high schools — particularly Sequoia High School — are promoting their programs in order to draw the interest of potential students. Next year, Carlmont will only let in 80 students from outside the school's boundaries.

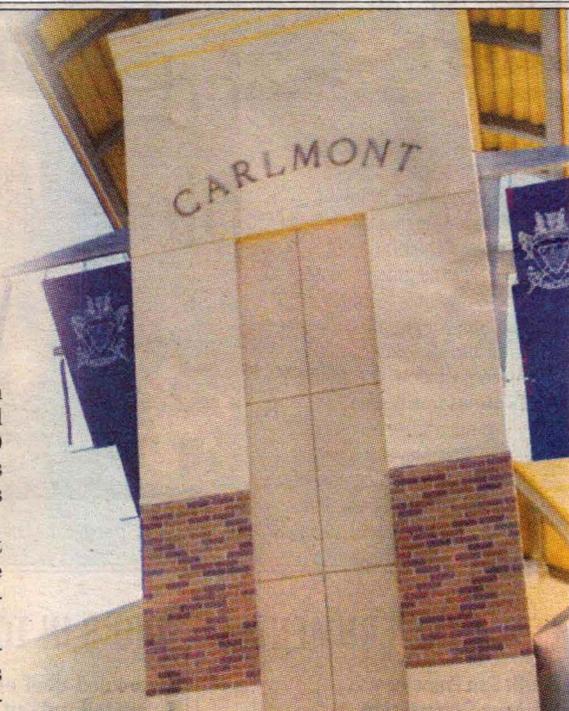
"That way, in two to three years the school will be down to its established capacity," Gemma said.

The grand jury recommended that the district re-examine its open-enrollment practices and make sure its policies are followed. However, such recommendations are not enforced, according to grand jury foreman Gerald Yaffee.

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Gemma



The grand jury's fix

The San Mateo County civil grand jury offered these recommendations to the Sequoia High School District:

1. Establish a policy, addressing such issues as:
 - a. Should there be an open-enrollment policy?
 - b. Should the schools have capacity limits?
 - c. If yes, what are the limits?
 - d. How should limits be implemented?
2. Consider options if it chooses to maintain limits including:
 - a. Changing school boundaries
 - b. Increasing capacity at school site
3. Direct the district superintendent to:
 - a. Improve projected enrollment data for all high schools
 - b. Create more community awareness of open enrollment policy
 - c. Help increase enrollment at Sequoia High School

— Examiner file photo

Why crowding at Carlmont?

Beth Winegarner's article begs the question of what precipitated the Carlmont crowding issue being investigated by the San Mateo County civil grand jury ("Grand jury critiques district for packing Carlmont High," The Examiner, Dec. 20).

An observation: It's no wonder Sequoia High School is "promoting its program." Very few parents in the district are not aware of its poor reputation. And no wonder the school, in contrast to Carlmont's exceptional reputation, has fewer students than its capacity. If justice had been done, the \$350,000 should have been spent on improving education at Sequoia. That would help to balance enrollments in an appropriate and more PC manner.

P.S. My daughter is a junior at Woodside, but if my wife and I had our way, she would have attended Carlmont, crowding and all.

George Sliter
EMERALD HILLS

Examiner
12-21-07

CARLMONT HIGH SCHOOL
OCT. 13-14, 2007
THE EXAMINER

Belmont police: School shooting threat a fabrication

BELMONT — The Belmont Police Department dispelled any rumors Friday that a Carlmont High School student planned a shooting this week at the school, saying that there was never any threat.

“It was somehow a rumor that spread through the school like wildfire,” Belmont police Sgt. Patrick Halleran said.

Halleran said after the school notified police Wednesday morning, officers “talked with enough students to get to the source of the rumor.” The

rumor was put to rest by about noon, he said.

“We determined that there was no crime, no criminal report was taken,” Halleran said. “We couldn’t substantiate anything.”

According to Halleran, the school has been getting inquiries from students and parents, and “has internally tried to get the word out that this is a rumor and there’s nothing to it.”

Carlmont High School Principal Andrea Jenoff said Friday that she did not want to discuss the nature of the shooting rumor and wanted

to protect the privacy of the student who was targeted.

“He did nothing even remotely resembling that,” Jenoff said. “The young man did not make any kind of threats in any way, shape or form.”

“One [student] picked [the rumor] up and then another one exaggerated it,” Jenoff said.

“I think people are really sensitive to this issue ... and rightly so,” Halleran said. “If we hear that there is a concern, we’ll look into it right away.”

Bay City News

Carlmont High School
San Mateo Times
Aug 23, 2007

Carlmont High using IDs in campus safety effort

■ Schools across Peninsula boosting security

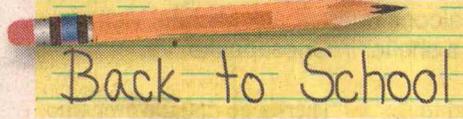
By Neil Gonzales
STAFF WRITER

BELMONT — Incoming Carlmont High School freshman Ashley Scholes wore her ID badge around her neck without complaint — and even with a hint of pride.

"I'm cool with it," the 14-year-old said Wednesday during freshman orientation. "It's a good way to show we belong to Carlmont."

All students must now wear their IDs as classes resume today at the Belmont campus.

SAN MATEO COUNTY GOES



The new requirement at Carlmont High is just part of a larger campaign to boost safety and security there.

Given today's increased concern about the potential for campus violence and other problems, schools across the Peninsula continue to undertake similar efforts.

Please see **IDs**, News 11

THURSDAY, August 23, 2007

Schools beef up security measures

► **IDs**, from News 1

Carlmont High Principal Andrea Jenoff said her school is taking an even more proactive approach to campus safety than others.

Besides the student badges, she said, Carlmont plans to conduct safety drills once a month — far exceeding the state requirement of two per year. The exercises would cover crises ranging from a dangerous intruder to a natural disaster.

Earlier in the week, Jenoff added, staff and faculty participated in an intense emergency-preparedness workshop by Code Red Training Associates, Inc., a campus-safety consulting firm based in San Jose. They went through school-lockdown procedures, evacuation plans and other issues.

"I want everybody to be prepared so it's second nature" to react properly if an emergency strikes the school or surrounding community, Jenoff said.

Despite the deadly shootings at Virginia Tech University in April, at Columbine High School in 1999 and other incidents of campus violence over the years, Code Red Training president Carla Holtzclaw maintains that overall, schools remain safe.

"They are probably the safest places for our kids to be," Holtzclaw said. "They have historically been safe and continue to be."

But, she said, schools these days are taking a conscious approach to enhancing their security.



JOHN GREEN — Staff

BROOKE ZELNIK (left) and Ashley Scholes, both freshmen at Carlmont High School in Belmont, show off their student identification cards Wednesday. The ID badges are a new student requirement meant to bolster school security.

Schools such as Carlmont High and those in the Jefferson Elementary district in Daly City are taking additional steps by preparing for the possibility of both human and environmental troubles as well as partnering with public-safety agencies, she said.

Holtzclaw acknowledged that no amount of preparation will prevent someone who is determined enough from attacking a school.

"Nothing is fail-safe," she said. "But we found out that at the schools that have this training, incidents went down because, we think, students know procedures are in place."

Holtzclaw's company has provided training to schools on the Peninsula, in the South Bay and elsewhere. It formed after the Columbine tragedy.

Holtzclaw added that schools that are proactive in strengthening their safety measures send a message to would-be troublemakers that they will not be able to do the kind of harm they want to do.

Jefferson High in Daly City also is beefing up security on its sprawling, full campus.

District leaders there plan to hire a third campus supervisor to monitor students and potential problems during lunchtime and after school. State and federal grants will fund the hire, costing \$39,000 annually in salary and benefits.

"Jefferson High has multiple buildings that are all over the place, so it's a difficult campus to supervise," said Mike Crilly, superintendent of the Jefferson Union High School District. "It just makes sense to have three supervisors."

But the campus monitoring is just one element in an ongoing safety campaign district-wide, Crilly said.

That effort also includes crisis counselors who work with youngsters on personal issues and students trained in conflict resolution and other related skills who advise fellow youth.

"The intent is to create an environment where people want to support a safe and healthy campus . . . and solve problems before they escalate," Crilly said.

Back at Carlmont High, parent Lisa Frerichs supports having the student badges.

"It gives me an extra level of satisfaction just to know that the staff and faculty can see who is supposed to be on campus and who is not," Frerichs said.

Her 14-year-old son, Colin, agrees.

"You can see who goes to Carlmont," he said. "And you know who not to talk to."

Carl Munt High School
San Francisco Chronicle
8/11/07

Seeking to offer students more than just book smarts, educators skip summer vacation in favor of 8-hour days in the work world



Photos by MICHAEL MALONEY / The Chronicle

Dan Raffa, a high school science teacher in Belmont, has been working in the biotech industry, learning technical and “soft” job skills.

TEACHERS GET REAL

By Jill Tucker
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

If Dan Raffa gave a what-I-did-over-the-summer speech, it would go something like this:

"I took a piece of E. coli plasmid, which is a circular piece of DNA, and transformed it into a bacteria and then it grew in a petri dish, but it's not the dangerous kind of E. coli so it's OK, and then I stored the bacterium in vial and it was all so incredibly cool!"

The Belmont high school teacher spent his summer vacation working at Applied Biosystems in Foster City, learning how to manipulate DNA and creating samples for his students to use in the lab.

Raffa, a San Francisco resident, was among 188 Bay Area teachers who chose to work over the summer break, spending eight-hour days at one of 52 local companies and universities — gaining real-world experience they can take back to their students in the fall.

With a month to go until school starts, Raffa can't wait to tell his

Carlmont High School students what he learned and how they can use DNA to make lifesaving medicines.

The training program, sponsored by the nonprofit Industry Initiatives for Science and Math Education, gives math and science teachers insider knowledge about interesting careers, as well as what companies look for in employees.

Their temporary jobs included educational video game development, DNA analysis and statistical analysis.

► **MATH, SCIENCE:** Page B6



Paul Matsumoto of San Francisco's Galileo High School uses an electronic pipette in a lab at Applied Biosystems in Foster City. The 188 math and science teachers in the program have held summer jobs at 52 Bay Area firms and universities. One lucky math teacher even got to crunch statistics for the San Francisco 49ers.

Teachers skip summer vacation to bring real-world skills

to classroom

MATH, SCIENCE
from Page B1

Raffa, 32, donned a white lab coat and safety goggles each day to learn how to create the DNA samples he will use with his students during the school year.

"I am totally energized," he said, holding up a petri dish with a yellowish goo and a squiggly line of E. coli-streaked bacteria. "I can't wait to see the kids. I can't wait to show them this stuff."

He will teach students how transformed bacteria can produce proteins — an essential process used in the field of biotechnology to develop medicine.

"I wanted to see exactly what the industry was doing and how I could better prepare my students

for industry," he said.

In the past, Raffa required students to create the gel used to identify the presence of DNA — a gel that companies buy in bulk. After seeing the premade packets in a real lab, the teacher considered skipping that part of the instruction and buying the premade stuff, too.

But the scientists at Applied Biosystems told him not to change his curriculum: They said the students should know the science behind the experiments, sort of like learning long division by hand before using a calculator.

Aside from the science, Raffa also wanted to learn the "soft skills" industry bosses want in workers — things like critical thinking, teamwork and office etiquette. For example, earlier this

summer he was told that it's impolite to eavesdrop on conversations in nearby cubicles.

"I teach science, but not all those kids are going to be scientists," he said. "I'm trying to teach them life skills as well."

This is the 23rd year of the teacher-training program. Nearly 2,400 teachers from 561 schools have participated in the Bay Area program over the years.

The fellowship pays each teacher \$7,400 for the eight-week program — about \$20 per hour plus a \$1,000 grant. The fellowship requires each teacher to create a lesson plan incorporating what he or she experienced.

Saratoga community college teacher Alyson Butcher probably had one of the coolest jobs among

the 188 fellows.

A lifelong San Francisco 49ers fan, Butcher has spent her summer crunching numbers at the football team's Santa Clara headquarters, analyzing statistics to give the club a competitive advantage on the playing field.

In the fall she will return to West Valley College, where she will tell her students that statistics can help nudge a team to the Super Bowl.

"As a teacher of math, we have a very hard time convincing the students that math is useful," she said. "Even a professional football team uses math."

Butcher, 32, refused to divulge exactly what she was doing with those statistics, saying it was top-secret stuff. Instead, she gushed

about being at 49ers central every day, with pictures of quarterbacks Steve Young and Joe Montana hanging in the hallways.

"It's hard not to steal everything off the walls," she said.

And then she confessed that she used to deck out her childhood Cabbage Patch Kids in 49ers outfits.

"I'm having a blast," she said. "I can't believe this is my job."

Carlmont High School
San Mateo Co Times
Aug 11, 2007



MATHEW SUMNER — Staff photos

DAN RAFFA (above), a science teacher at Carlmont High School in Belmont, works on a DNA experiment Tuesday at AppliedBiosystems in Foster City. Kristina Doss (below), another science teacher at Carlmont, works on a project testing for diseases in food. They were among 188 Bay Area teachers chosen for a summer professional-development program by the Industry Initiatives for Science and Math Education, a Santa Clara-based nonprofit that partners with companies and universities to improve teaching and learning in those subjects.

Summer teacher program helps expand skill set

By Neil Gonzales

STAFF WRITER

A few days' break following the end of school was more than enough for Carlmont High School teacher Dan Raffa.

"After two weeks of summer vacation, I need to be doing something," said Raffa, who teaches science on the Belmont campus.

So he donned a white laboratory coat, safety goggles and purple gloves for several weeks this summer, doing molecular-biology experiments at the science research and testing company Applied Biosystems in Foster City.

Please see **SKILLS**, News 7

Teachers given opportunity to boost skills

► **SKILLS**, from News 1

He joined about 70 other educators from the Peninsula and South Bay who decided to become students again for a while and intern at a company or university instead of taking the whole season off or teaching summer school.

The teachers will bring what they have learned to their students when classes resume soon.

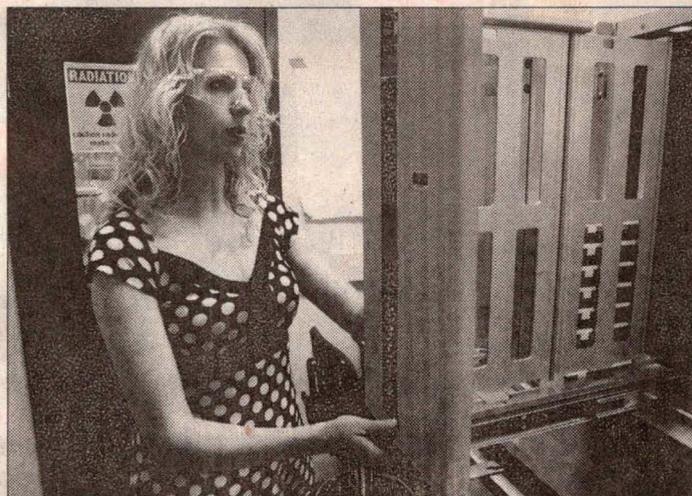
They were among 188 instructors from around the Bay Area chosen for a fellowship program by the Industry Initiatives for Science and Math Education, a Santa Clara-based nonprofit that partners with companies and universities to improve teaching and learning in those subjects.

"We are delighted to be able to provide this invaluable professional-development experience for so many Bay Area local teachers this summer," said Jennifer Bruckner, Industry Initiatives' executive director. "We're confident that their experience will be translated to updated instruction in the classroom."

Part of the fellowship requires participants to develop curricula to be used at their schools.

Raffa learned how to analyze DNA and isolate a gene, using state-of-the-art instruments. That's something he'll apply with his students at Carlmont High.

"I'm going to have my stu-



dents grow a plant and look for a specific gene in that plant by analyzing DNA," Raffa said.

Raffa picked up other techniques and ideas that he plans to incorporate in his teaching. For instance, he wants to show students how to keep a scientific lab notebook and encourage them to be detail-oriented "so you can trace your steps when things go wrong," he said.

Fellow Carlmont High science teacher Kristina Doss also interned at Applied Biosystems. She designed kits that tested for dangerous pathogens in food.

She applied for the fellowship "to get lab experience, stay current and see what the new techniques and equipment are so I can keep my students current," Doss said.

Doss and Raffa's time at Applied Biosystems will also help them make improvements to the biotechnology program they

started at Carlmont High four years ago.

"The next step for us was to prepare ourselves to see what specific skills the biotech industry was looking for in students," Raffa said.

They realized it's important to teach students "leadership and critical thinking — not only science skills," he said.

Janice Yee, another Industry Initiatives fellow, spent the summer at Lockheed Martin Space Systems Co. as a production coordinator.

"At the lab, I discovered a new career area that I could share with my juniors and seniors as they start to explore their career options," said Yee, a math and special-education teacher at Sunnyvale's Homestead High.

Bruckner said the fellowship does not lure teachers permanently into the corporate world.

Rather, it helps "retain teachers by inspiring them and giving them renewed confidence," she said.

Typically, she said, about 10 percent of teachers nationwide leave the field or retire every year. But the attrition rate is about 4 percent for those who have gone through the fellowship, she said.

Manohar Furtado, director of research and development at Applied Biosystems, said the fellowship offers "a great learning tool" for the teachers.

"You get the opportunity to work in a lab and with scientists working with cutting-edge technology," Furtado said.

In turn, the fellows provide companies and universities with skilled professional summer employees and with a way to tap into a future workforce, organizers said.

Most of the fellowship projects focus on science, math or technology, but other work involves fields such as marketing and technical writing.

In its 23rd year, the fellowship pays a teacher \$6,400 for eight weeks and an additional \$1,000 for developing classroom lesson plans. Fellows can also apply for funds of up to \$1,000 for school laboratory supplies.

Raffa acknowledged that the stipend is "good money" but said, "the experience lasts a lifetime."

THE EXAMINER
JUNE 27, 2007

TODAY'S TOP STORY » EDUCATION

Students crowding into Carlmont

Uneven enrollment prompts officials to examine changes at Redwood City schools

By Beth Winegarner
Staff Writer

REDWOOD CITY — So many students currently attend Carlmont High School that there is a waiting list to get into the public school — and leaders could weigh policy changes that would prevent some students living outside the school's boundaries from getting in.

Carlmont's capacity is 2,100 students, but in 2006-07, its enrollment ballooned to 2,161 students, according to the California Department of Education. Of those, 109 attended the school through the Sequoia High School District's open enrollment policy, according to a report from district Business Manager Don Gielow.

Meanwhile, Sequoia High School's enrollment has fallen. While its

capacity is 2,300, 2006-07 enrollment was 1,571, and the school lost 167 students to open enrollment, according to the report. The district board is slated to discuss future directions for its open-enrollment policies tonight.

"Sequoia has the smallest class sizes in the district because of its [enrollment]," said Susan Berghouse, director of student services in the district.

While Carlmont's classrooms face overcrowding, high enrollment has its benefits, Berghouse added. "If you're in a larger school, you can offer more extracurricular classes, such as drama and music, because you have more students to fill those classes."

Neither Carlmont Principal Andrea Jenoff nor Sequoia Principal Morgan Marchbanks returned calls for comment regarding how the imbalance is affecting day-to-day operations, but district leaders have heard plenty from parents who are worried about whether their students will be able to attend Carlmont, according to board member Gordon Lewin.

"Because of the enrollment coming out of Belmont and Redwood Shores, where they're building a whole new elementary school, enrollment is growing at Carlmont," Lewin said.

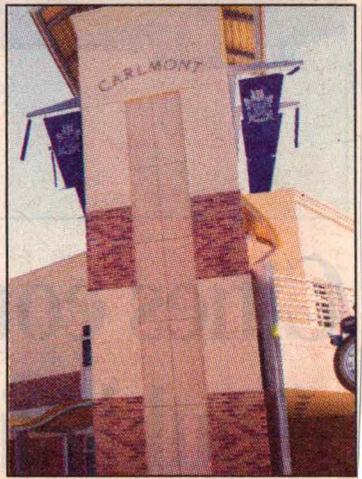
Lewin said that "Carmont has had a very effective marketing program in recent years," which has drawn attention from parents.

Sequoia High School District's open-enrollment policy, created in 1986, states that students who live within the boundaries of one of the district's four high schools will attend that high school. However, it also allows parents to enroll their student in any school they choose — and doesn't place limits on how many intradistrict transfers are allowed.

No changes are recommended for tonight's meeting, but the board may consider whether it's time to place a limit on those transfers, or whether to leave the policy alone, according to Lewin.

The Sequoia High School District Board of Trustees meets at 5:30 p.m. in the district offices, 480 James Ave., Redwood City.

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Carlmont High School's capacity is 2,100 students, but its enrollment jumped to 2,161 students in 2006-07, state officials said. — Examiner file photo

Back to School

Teacher attrition rate seen on rise

■ Some say they'll stay despite challenges

By Neil Gonzales

STAFF WRITER

Laura Robeck looks more like a student with her brown hair tied back, jeans and a T-shirt.

But she's a teacher entering her seventh year in the profession. On Thursday she was arranging desks and making other preparations in her classroom at Carlmont High School in Belmont for the start of another academic year.

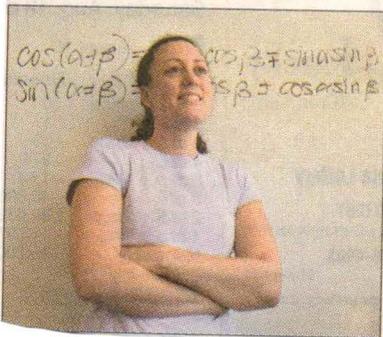
She's excited.

"I'm getting that feeling," said Robeck, 28, of Sunnyvale. "The kids are coming. It's a new beginning and new friends and families."

But many others in her field are not as pumped up and leave after just a few years.

According to the Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit National Commission on Teaching and America's Future, the teacher attrition rate has risen by 50 percent over the past 15 years.

Please see **TEACHER**, News 7



**MATH TEACHER
LAURA ROBECK**

waits for her students to arrive in class at Carlmont High School in Belmont on Thursday.

RON LEWIS — Staff

► **TEACHER**, from News 1

The turnover rate nationwide has grown to 16.8 percent, according to a commission study released in June.

The report also indicated that the increasing turnover is costing the country more than \$7 billion a year.

"It is draining resources, diminishing teaching quality and undermining our ability to close the student achievement gap," the report said.

But the report cites ways to keep teachers in the field, including offering professional-development and mentoring programs.

Schools should also nurture common planning or collaboration time among teachers and good communication between administration and faculty, the report said.

Robeck and some other local teachers acknowledge that they face increasing challenges, especially given the No Child Left Behind Act. The federal education law seeks to raise student achievement in math and English-language arts and requires educators to be "highly qualified" in what they teach.

Redwood City schoolteacher Rich Wallace said he is already credentialed to teach in multiple subjects, which makes him a highly qualified teacher under NCLB.

But his colleagues have had to take on "extra responsibility" to meet the law's requirements, Wallace said.

"I see more scrutiny with the types of credentials teachers need to have," added Wallace, an educator for eight years.

Wallace, though, plans to remain in education for a while.

"For me, having (former) students come back and say hello and check in to talk about what they're doing as far as college or work is extremely rewarding," he said.

Other research suggests many veteran teachers are happy, debunking oft-cited complaints about low teacher pay and lack of administrative support.

Education Week reported that a recent study by the National Center for Education Statistics showed that 93 percent of teachers were satisfied with their jobs 10 years after entering the field.

The study surveyed 9,000 graduates who received their bachelor's degrees in various disciplines in the 1992-93 school year, Education Week reported. Nearly 20 percent of those graduates entered the teaching profession.

Robeck admits she has frustrations about her profession, particularly with how schools have increasingly become overcrowded — which erodes one-on-one instruction for students.

"The class sizes are getting bigger and bigger," she said. "I'll take a smaller class over a pay raise."

But such frustrations go "for any profession," she said.

Robeck said she sees herself teaching for at least several more years. "I feel I can make a difference," she said.

She also said she enjoys those "A-ha! moments" when a student finally understands a subject matter after trying hard for a long period.

Staff writer Neil Gonzales covers education. He can be reached at (650) 348-4338 or ngonzales@sanmateocountytimes.com.

Carlmont High School
San Mateo Times
7-20-07

8/11/07

Cost of Carlmont's new theater rising

Belmont high school expects the price tag on 500-seat facility to jump \$4.6 million

BY SHAUN BISHOP
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

The price tag for a new 500-seat theater at Carlmont High School is going up as the school increases the size of the facility and deals with ever-rising construction costs.

The Sequoia Union High School District board of trustees is expected to approve the price increase, from \$12.3 million to \$16.9 million, at its meeting tonight.

The bulk of the \$4.6 million cost increase stems from revised plans that include an expansion in square-footage, from 15,000 square feet to 21,000 square feet, said district Superintendent Pat Gemma.

After starting work on initial

plans that called for a smaller theater, officials determined that the school required the larger center to meet its needs.

"Our stage does not hold our musical groups. They've had to build an extension over the pit in order to get one of our groups on," said Carlmont Principal Andrea Jenoff.

Funded by \$70 million bond

Increases in the cost of labor and raw materials have also contributed to the rise, said district construction manager Don Gielow. The project is funded by Measure H, a \$70 million bond measure passed by voters in 2004.

Jenoff said the new performing arts center at Carlmont, the last of the four high schools to finalize plans for a new theater, will be fairly "bare-bones" and won't have all the bells and whistles contained in some of the other projects.

However, she said, it will be a significant upgrade in capacity from the school's current theater, which seats fewer than 200 people.

This year, the dance program has had to do six nights of performances at the current theater to meet ticket demand, she said. "It's just very small for what our program is," she said.

Woodside High School's \$16.5 million, 500-seat performing arts

center opened in 2005 and Sequoia High School completed a \$9 million renovation of its existing theater in 2003.

\$26 million theater at M-A

Menlo-Atherton High School has received the district's OK for a new 31,000-square-foot, \$26 million facility that also includes new music rooms and a cafeteria area, but complications arose after the city of Atherton filed a lawsuit against the district, claiming it had not done the proper environmental studies.

Nearby residents expressed concerns about the impacts of the project, including additional traffic and noise.

Gemma said the district has been in talks with Atherton officials and expects to have resolved the city's concerns within another week, in time to break ground on the project in June. He said the district plans to start construction at Carlmont in August.

Jenoff said she doesn't expect the same kind of opposition that the performing arts center project at Menlo-Atherton High School stirred up.

"Our community really is welcoming it," Jenoff said. "This is a very strong performing arts community."

E-mail Shaun Bishop at sbishop@dailynewsgroup.com.

*Carlmont High School
likely receive
May 16, 2007*

CARLMONT HIGH SCHOOL
SAN MATEO COUNTY TIMES
MAY 9, 2007

SOFTBALL ROUNDUP

Carlmont gives Liggett 800 wins

By Simi Lee

CORRESPONDENT

Carlmont didn't just win a softball game when it defeated visiting Aragon 4-0 in a Peninsula Athletic League game Tuesday. It was a milestone victory for the e Carlmont High softball program.

The victory ran Carlmont's record to 27-1-1 overall, 13-0 in the PAL Bay and locked up a fifth consecutive league championship for the Scots, now headed to the Central Coast Section playoffs.

The win was also the 800th career victory for Carlmont coach Jim Liggett. The veteran coach boosted his 32-year record to a lofty 800-160-2.

Carlmont senior Ashley Chinn (21-1-1, 13-0) pitched a two-hitter, struck out 14 and walked one. On offense, Alexa Daines singled in the first run, in the fourth inning, and Lauren Kilburg got a two-run single in the sixth.

(OVER)

CARLMONT HIGH SCHOOL
SAN MATEO COUNTY TIME
MAY 5, 2007

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Scots' sweet sweeper

■ Top defender Harrelson proved she could excel on offense as well

By Scott Campbell
STAFF WRITER

BELMONT — "If I don't score, we're going to lose," thought Maggie Harrelson as she lined up her direct kick.

The Carlmont High girls soccer team had managed just one shot on goal against No. 1 seed Los Altos in the Central Coast Section Division I semifinals. But the Scots miraculously found themselves with a chance to tie the game at 2 and prolong their season when awarded the 80th-minute opportunity.

That responsibility fell squarely on the shoulders of Harrelson, Carlmont's senior sweeper. The County Player of the Year for girls soccer was up for the challenge.

Fighting to remain calm amid the chaos as fans rose to their feet, Harrelson drilled a left-footed shot that sailed over the Los Altos wall and into the top left corner of the net for a stunning, game-tying goal. Bedlam ensued in the stands as the Scots on the field engulfed their co-captain in a heartfelt embrace.

It would have been any player's dream to convert that pressure-packed shot, but especially that of a defensive player.

Heavily favored Los Altos went on to beat Carlmont 3-2 by pushing across the winning goal in the 104th minute, but Harrelson's magical strike was the unforgettable climax to a season in which the Scots defied significant odds. And it was the culmination of a decorated player's career.

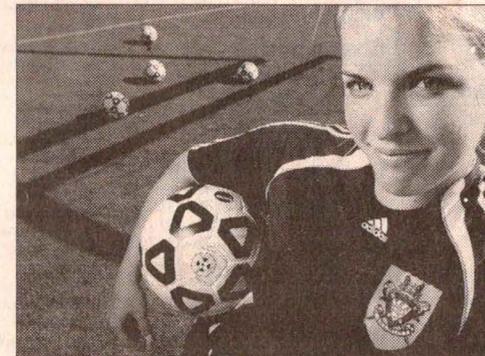
After Carlmont lost six starters from a team that won the program's second straight CCS championship the season before, Harrelson and fellow co-captain Theresa Cornwell stepped up to fill the leadership vacuum and teach their younger teammates the dedication it would take to realize those past successes. Switching from stopper to sweeper, Harrelson rapidly developed into what Scots coach Jim Kelly called "the proverbial coach on the field."

Confidently directing traffic as the Scots' eyes, she became the bedrock and vocal leader of a team widely known for its prolific offense. Lacking the raw speed to outrun cat-quick forwards, Harrelson instead relied on her superior ability to anticipate how a play would unfold.

"She was so smart in reading the game. I contend she had as much soccer knowledge as I did," said Kelly, who has led the Scots to eight straight Peninsula Athletic League Bay Division titles. "She made it look easy."

Beating opposing players to a through ball or breaking up an attack with a hard tackle or a perfectly timed header, she keyed a unit that became the most impenetrable in the County despite being Carlmont's lone returning defender.

Facilitating the growth from that makeover became the focal point of Harrelson's senior campaign, as she ran defensive drills in practice and encouraged and challenged her teammates. Overcoming a pair of early losses in non-league play, Carlmont again put its stamp on the PAL, winning its first five Bay games to finish 10-1-3 and keep the program's division-title streak alive.



MATHEW SUMNER — Staff

MAGGIE HARRELSON uses brains and skills to direct Carlmont.

"She knew what it took back to that level," said Kelly, whose team allowed four goals in 14 Bay games. "She took a team that had a few more challenges than our last two teams and really pushed us, and she had the talent to back it up."

And when the team needed it most, the PAL Bay Defender of the Year delivered, on offense no less.

Fighting to a scoreless regulation against Piedmont Hills in the CCS quarterfinals, Carlmont turned to Harrelson in a dead-ball situation in the first overtime. And the sweeper powered in a direct kick that proved to be the winning goal in the Scots' 2-1 victory.

True to her status as co-captain, Harrelson said her final season, in which Carlmont finished 13-4-5 and No. 1 in the County, was more rewarding on many levels than the previous two that resulted in CCS championships.

"This year we really did grow, which was amazing to watch," she said. "I just felt a greater sense of accomplishment that we were able to get that far and play that well by the end of the season."

OVER

CARLMONT HIGH SCHOOL
SAN MATEO COUNTY TIMES
APRIL 26, 2007

Carlmont aims for a better world

■ Student body members ask community to write their experiences about war, hate or prejudice

By T.S. Mills-Faraudo

STAFF WRITER

BELMONT — Everyone has a story.

Whether they're about experiencing intolerance or witnessing hate, a group of Carlmont High School students hope to collect these tales and put them in their Book of Tolerance.

The Carlmont Associated Student Body members are creating this book as their contribution to making the world a better place.

They are asking for community members and students who have experienced war, hate or prejudice to write their stories for the Book of Tolerance, which will eventually be available in libraries for everyone to read.

"It's a book to show that no one is alone and everyone has a story," sophomore Nathaniel Berger, 16, said. "It's a way to bring ev-

eryone together."

Some examples the students gave for those who could contribute such stories include World War II veterans, Holocaust survivors, someone who has experienced a more recent or even a current war or someone who has witnessed underage prostitution in Cambodia or Thailand.

But the students said they also would like to hear from people who have experienced hate or prejudice in their everyday life — including victims of racial slurs or bullying.

Many students in the group said society in general is very insensitive about treating people of diverse races, sexes and backgrounds with respect.

"Prejudice has no boundaries — everyone is affected by it," freshman Joe Pak, 15, said.

There may not be segregation anymore, but senior Ashleigh Guich, 17, said there are still a lot of problems with race relations.

"We can go to school with different races,

Please see **BOOK**, Local 7

► **BOOK**, from Local 1

but we don't always respect each other," she said.

For example, a lot of people, she said, associate Muslims with terrorists, even though people of other backgrounds, like Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh, have committed terrorism.

In addition to the Book of Tolerance project, the ASB also plans to bring speakers to the school to talk about some of these issues, Guich said.

The idea for a Book of Tolerance started when Carlmont's student activities director, Jim Kelly, encouraged ASB members to take a more active role in encouraging world peace.

He told them about a project at a middle school in the country where the students collected paper clips for every Holocaust death. The Carlmont ASB students wanted to do something similar and they

came up with the Book of Tolerance.

"Personally, it stemmed from the fact that I have two kids and I want them to grow up in a world that's a better place and a safer place," Kelly said.

By collecting these stories, senior Melissa Wong, 18, hopes it will make people realize that you can't judge others by what you see on the outside.

"Don't judge a book by its cover," she said. "Once you hear someone's story, you may change your mind about them."

To submit a story, send an e-mail to bookoftolerance@yahoo.com or mail them to Carlmont High School c/o Book of Tolerance, 1400 Alameda de las Pulgas, Belmont, CA 94002-3585. Authors can remain anonymous in their stories.

Staff writer T.S. Mills-Faraudo covers education. She can be reached at (650) 348-4338 or tmills@sanmateocountytimes.com.

S. F. CHRONICLE
APRIL 11, 2007

TRACK & FIELD

Nation's best 800 puts Carlmont sophomore in spotlight

By Mitch Stephens
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

Justine Fedronic was born in Germany, speaks three languages and her parents are from France and Hungary.

Her coach Jeff Gilkey maintains her running ability is derived from an even more distant land.

"She has talent out of this world," he said. "Now people are beginning to recognize it."

The Carlmont-Belmont sophomore landed smack dab in the middle of track and field stardom with a breakout performance at Saturday's nationally renowned Arcadia Invitational by winning the 800 meters in 2 minutes, 8.08 seconds.

The mark is not only the best in the country this year, but it's also the fastest winning time ever by a Californian or by a sophomore at Arcadia, a meet that celebrated its 40th anniversary.

"I think we all knew she was going to get to this level," Gilkey said. "We just weren't expecting it to happen so soon."

More amazing to Gilkey was that Fedronic ran better than her time. "She got boxed in several times and I was actually upset because she kept having to move in and out," Gilkey said. "She actually ran 800 meters in about 2:06."

At 5-foot-5 and 105 pounds, Fedronic wasn't going to overpower the field, one that included all seven underclassmen from last sea-



MARK SMITH / Dyestatcal.com

Justine Fedronic made it on the national scene Saturday.

son's CIF State finals in Norwalk (Los Angeles County), where Fe-

dronic placed fifth.

"My plan was to stay with the pack for the first quarter-mile, then take the lead with about 150 yards to go," Fedronic said.

That plan went kaput with 300 to go when she got boxed in and her only path was to break outside. "It was now or never," she said.

Fedronic went for broke and with her superb natural speed (her mother was a high jumper and father an ice skater) and much-improved stamina, she held off the field.

Esperanza-Anaheim senior Emily Dunn, who finished sixth at the state meet last year, closed hard but Fedronic out-sprinted her to the line. Dunn finished in 2:08.32, one of six runners inside 2:11.

"I could hear (Dunn) breathing hard and I could see her red jersey out of the corner of my eye," Fedronic said. "But I felt like I had enough left. I guess I did."

Two days after the victory, Fedronic admitted: "It's still kind of hard to believe."

She better believe it, because now there will be a giant target on her back. That's the downside of winning at Arcadia. Gilkey believes she's up for the challenge.

Following an injury-plagued freshman season — Fedronic's first competitive year in running — she was 14th in the D-II state cross country meet, then ran 4:55 in only her second 1,600 race at the Stanford Invitational 10 days ago. Earlier, she ran a 57.04 open 400, though Gilkey timed her at

55.8 in the opening leg of a West Valley Relays relay.

Combine her speed and stamina with a good head (she has a 4.5 grade-point average) and Gilkey thinks Fedronic, a dual citizen, has a good shot to make the next French Olympic trials, which require a 2:04.90 mark to qualify.

"My job is to keep her healthy and not to screw it all up," he said with a laugh.

He pays close attention to Fedronic's shins, which gave her troubles as a freshman.

Said Gilkey: "If she even scratches them, I say, 'That's the end of your day, Justine. See you tomorrow.'"

E-mail Mitch Stephens at mstephens@sfchronicle.com.

Carlmont teacher gets reprieve

■ After public outcry, school district readies immigration papers

By Shaun Bishop

MEDIA NEWS STAFF

BELMONT — A Carlmont High School chemistry teacher's last-ditch efforts to avoid being deported to Guatemala bore fruit Thursday, when the district completed his crucial paperwork and vowed to investigate why the process took until the eleventh hour.

After a week of tension in which students, parents and staff rallied in support of Felix Guzman, a popular teacher at the school,

the Sequoia Union High School District said Thursday it had completed his labor certification papers — the first step in Guzman's efforts to obtain permanent residency.

Had they not been ready by today, Guzman's application could have been terminated, and he could have been deported within months.

Guzman picked up his completed papers from the district Thursday and gave them to his lawyer, who intends to send them to U.S. Department of Labor's office in Dallas by the Sunday deadline.

"I still have a lot of respect for (the district)," Guzman said in a phone message Thursday. "I'm very thankful that everything turned out to be quite good."

Guzman — said to be well-liked by students for his humor and accessibility — and other teachers criticized the district Wednesday for its inaction and seeming delays in certifying Guzman as a specialized worker for whom there are no sufficient replacements, meeting federal requirements. The district interviewed two candidates for his job late Wednesday afternoon, but neither was found suitable.

Despite the outcry, the official in charge of his case defended the process as thorough, and said she never doubted they would meet the deadline.

"This whole thing blew up prior to April 1, and I can't tell you why it blew up as it did," Assistant Superintendent Debbie Moore Washington said Thursday.

"The timeline, as far I was concerned, was to get a letter that was truthful and represented the facts to the Department of Labor by April 1," she said.

Superintendent Pat Gemma said he would investigate the district's procedures and make changes as necessary.

"After the smoke clears, so to speak, then I'm going to be checking in with all the appropriate people to find out why this did seem to come down to the wire," Gemma said.

Gemma said he hadn't heard about Guzman's situation until he had a call from Carlmont Principal Andrea Jenoff on Tuesday, a day after parents began organizing in support of the cause. He said he still knows few details about how the process was conducted and hopes to look into it next week.

Asked if she would have done things differently if she could do it again, Washington said, "What we did was follow the process that's outlined by the Department of Labor, so I'm not certain that there's something to be done differently, because the process is very prescriptive."

Guzman said Wednesday that there was little communication from the district throughout the process, but Washington insisted she was in regular contact with his lawyer.

Throughout it all, Guzman, said he was encouraged by the support of his peers and pupils and has a fondness for the district.

CARL MONT HIGH SCHOOL
SAN MATEO COUNTY TIMES
MARCH 30, 2007

Teacher's future still uncertain

■ Popular Carlmont educator needs paperwork to stay in United States

By Shaun Bishop

MEDIA NEWS STAFF

A popular Carlmont High School chemistry teacher who has been scrambling to obtain permanent U.S. residency could be deported unless the school district delivers on its word Wednesday night to file the necessary paperwork by Friday.

Felix Guzman, a Guatemala native who has taught with a temporary work visa, is facing an uncertain future, because the Sequoia Union High School District has not yet submitted the required papers to the U.S. Department of Labor.

Teachers, parents and students have been rallying to Guzman's cause, criticizing the district for seemingly lagging in its effort to help him. They have been writing letters to district officials urging them to get the papers in on

time. Meanwhile, the district has interviewed two candidates for Guzman's job, said biology teacher Tina Dress.

For Guzman to become a permanent resident, the district must certify him as a specialized worker for whom there are no U.S. workers able, willing, qualified and available to do the same job. Guzman said the effective deadline became Friday, because the papers need to arrive at the agency office in Dallas by April 1.

If the paperwork has not been filed

by then, Guzman said, his residency application could be terminated and he could be deported within months.

Several calls to district Superintendent Pat Gemma for comment went unreturned. Assistant Superintendent Debbie Moore Washington, who Guzman said is the main person dealing with his case, declined to comment Wednesday.

But in the evening, after he and two other teachers were interviewed for this

► **GUZMAN**, from News 1

story, Guzman said he was notified that the papers would be filed on time.

"Our goal is to keep Mr. Guzman as a teacher," school board trustee Gordon Lewin confirmed Wednesday night. "Hopefully this will have a happy ending."

In the afternoon interview before the district announced its intentions, Guzman, 45, said officials' inaction was "very frustrating."

"I have done everything that I could," he said.

Guzman said he and his lawyer received almost no communication from the district until very recently, despite requesting the certification papers in February.

Other teachers who rallied behind Guzman also criticized the district for not moving sooner.

"It feels like it's intentional, or it's an incredibly ineffective and incompetent bureaucracy," said Linda Garvey, a Carlmont social studies teacher. "I think that (students) felt the unfairness of it."



GUZMAN

Guzman drew support even from students who had not taken his classes.

"If he sees you down, he's one of those teachers that's willing to help you," said

Julio Franco, 17, noting that Guzman counseled him when he was in trouble.

The process still has a way to go, even if the district files the papers in time.

But Guzman said he was touched by the school community's reaction to his predicament. Colleagues described him as an energetic educator who is always available to his students.

"I am thoroughly overwhelmed by the support I have gotten," Guzman said.

As for the future, Guzman says, "I just hope."

E-mail Shaun Bishop at sbishop@dailynewsgroup.com.

SAN JOSE

Young engineers put to test

Robotics tourney gives high school 'nerds' chance to compete

By Steve Rubenstein
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

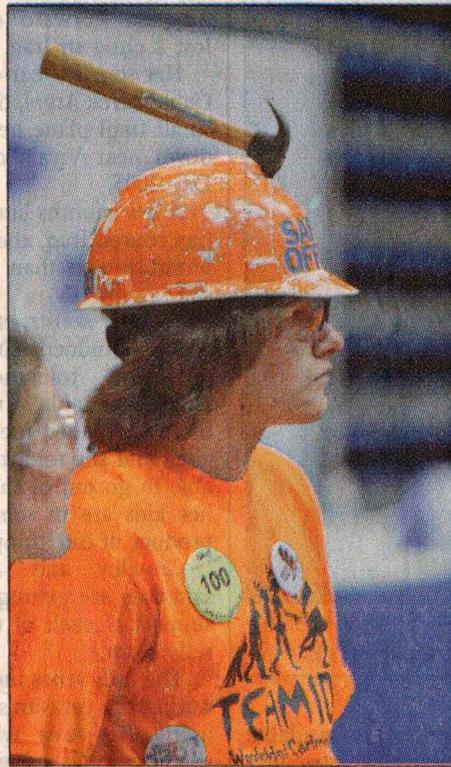
Something important is going on in San Jose involving the brightest young minds in America and 48 remote-control gizmos.

It's loud, complicated, high tech and almost impossible for anyone older than a teenager to figure out.

Inside the gym at San Jose State University, dozens of high school engineering students from across the country have gathered this weekend for a robotics tournament. Robotics is the sport of building a battery-operated device from scratch and then testing its mettle against other robots in a game involving maneuverability, speed and precision.

"I'm trying to calm down right now," said Matt Yu, 17. "It's easier to operate the robot when my hand isn't shaking."

Yu and his teammates from Bellarmine College Preparatory school in San Jose were awaiting their robot's turn in the ring for the opening round on Friday. Like the other participants, they had spent the last two months building a robot designed to play this year's game — a two-minute clash in which students must make their robots pick up plastic life preservers and place them on a giant hat rack in the center of the arena, while preventing opposing robots from doing the



Luke Gray's team from Woodside and Carlmont high schools is the Wildhats.

same.

The Bellarmine robot, named Raptor, was a 5-foot-tall cobbled-together tinker toy containing a pneumatic pump, two pressure gauges, four motors, a regulator, a motorcycle battery, computer, radio receiver, gear boxes and long strands of cable, wire and metal chain.

"People call us nerds, sometimes," said Yu, gazing fondly at Raptor. "I don't care. I guess I take it as a compliment."

For the Bellarmine squad, Yu would drive the robot by remote control while teammate Colin Wilson, 16, would maneuver the robotic arm to pick up the life preservers.

The horn sounded, and the robots began roaming across the floor like possessed baby buggies from some B movie. Cheerleaders screamed, parents waved signs, coaches hollered advice and tournament monitors made sure everyone was wearing safety glasses, in case a wayward bolt or camshaft went flying in the melee.

Exactly what was happening was hard to figure out, but when the two minutes were over, the Bellarmine robot and its two teammate robots had managed to hang six life preservers on the hat rack, while their opponents could manage to hang only one.

"It's more challenging than a computer

(OVER)



Photos by KURT ROGERS / The Chronicle

A robot built by students from two San Mateo County high schools scores a point at a robotics tourney at San Jose State University.

Robotics – engineering meets varsity sports

► **ROBOTS**
From Page B1

game,” said Wilson. “Things break. Things go wrong. You have to fix them. You have to be good, you have to be fast and you have to know what you’re doing.”

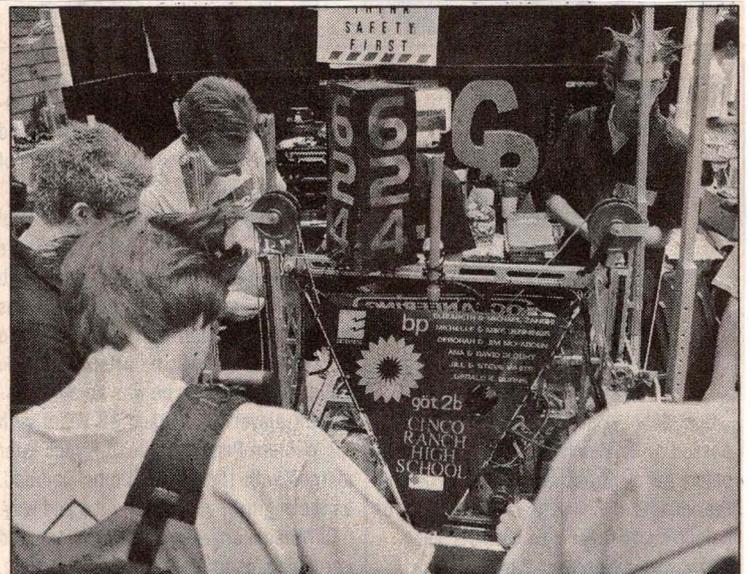
Robotics is catching on, its fans say. More than 1,100 high schools have robotics teams, and its reputation is changing even faster than robots can hang life preservers on hat racks.

“We’ll never be the football team,” said Ryan Epperson, 17, captain of the Pioneer High School squad from San Jose. “That’s OK. Being the best quarterback is probably not going to make the world a better place, but being the best engineer might.”

The best six robots in the San Jose tournament will win the right to hang even more life preservers at the national championships, held in Atlanta in April. The 42 other robots must roll home. The regional and national winners receive trophies and bragging rights.

In the grandstands, Epperson’s grandfather, Robert Montano, was watching the competition and trying to figure out what was going on in the sea of flying life preservers and clickety-clacking machines — and, more importantly, when to cheer. He had come from his home in Hawaii to root for his grandson’s robot, and he did not want to blow it.

“It’s complicated, like baseball,” he said, smiling. “The first time you watch baseball, you



KURT ROGERS / The Chronicle

High school engineers from Katy, Texas, get their robot ready for competition. Six of 48 teams make it to championships in Atlanta.

don’t know what’s going on, either.”

E-mail Steve Rubenstein at rubenstein@sfchronicle.com.

CIVILIZATION
SAN MATEO COUNTY TIMES
MARCH 8, 2007

SPREADING RUMORS



MATHEW SUMNER — Staff

RORY WARD, (from left) Jonathan Werden, Haley Schulz and Melissa Wong play the roles of Ken Gorman, Glenn Cooper, Cookie Cusack, and Chris Gorman in Carlmont High's production of the Niel Simon play, "Rumors." The show runs Thursday, Friday and Saturday. For tickets call (650) 595-0210, ext. 8712.

SAN MATEO COUNTY TIMES
MARCH 4, 2007



JOHN GREEN — Staff

A ROSY FINISH: Alyssa Kato (left) celebrates with Carlmont teammate Melissa Ho after winning the CCS title.

Carlmont leaves no doubt

■ Ho's 21 points help Scots beat Milpitas for CCS Division I title

By Richard Motroni
CORRESPONDENT

SANTA CLARA — The tears Teagan Lazzarotti had while she hugged teammate Kathleen Burrell were the unmistakable tears of joy.

Make that the tears of a Central Coast Section champion.

Lazzarotti and the Carlmont girls basketball squad left no doubt which was the best girls basketball team in CCS Division I Saturday at Santa Clara Uni-

versity's Leavey Center. In a rematch against Milpitas, which had won in last year's semifinals, the Scots forced 31 turnovers, had a historic performance from Melissa Ho and never trailed in a 50-39 victory.

It was the second CCS title in three years for Carlmont (20-8), the only San Mateo County boys or girls team to win a CCS title this weekend.

Lazzarotti, who cried moments after last year's loss to the Trojans, went straight to the championship plaque and hoisted it high during the celebration.

"I just wanted to hold it and make sure it was real," said Lazzarotti, who had seven points and six rebounds. "We started (the season) out as all individuals, and we really came together tonight. I've never been so proud of our team."

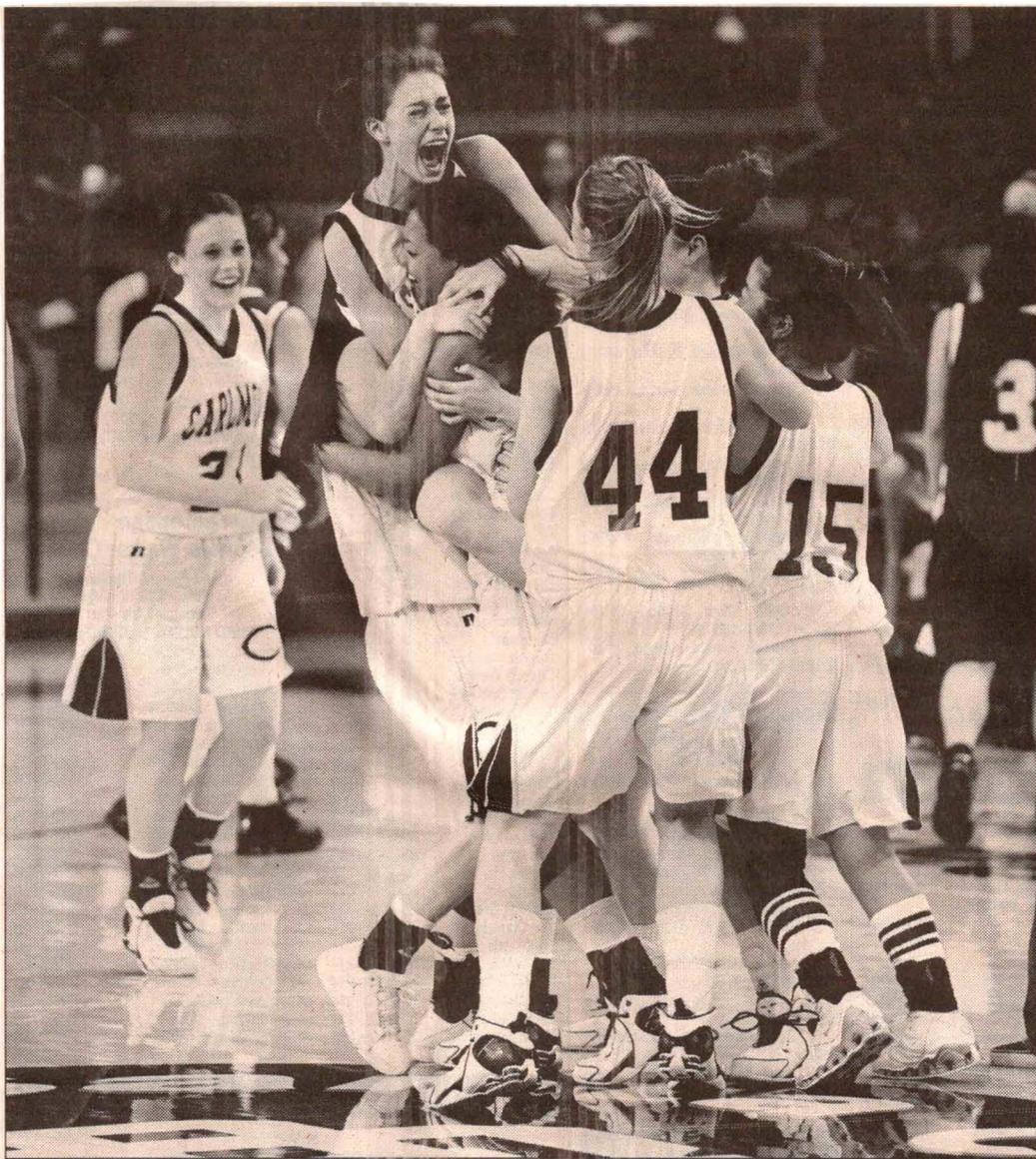
No doubt, the victory was a team effort. Still, the one image Carlmont fans will most likely take away was the sight of Ho launching her 3-point shots into the basket. Scoring a game-high 21 points, Ho connected on six 3-pointers, setting a CCS girls championship game record. Pinewood's Kacey Scheppler (1997) and Anna Tracy (2003)

held the previous record with five.

"The entire day I was prepping for this game, I knew that I had to take care of the ball, play intense defense and take the shots I needed to take," said Ho, who was 6-for-10 from 3-point range. "In warm-ups I was just trying not to let my nervousness get to me and try to relax."

Milpitas (13-15) appeared to be the more nervous team early on. The Trojans did not score until Vanessa Lopez's layup with 56 seconds left in the first period. Carlmont already scored

(OVER)



JOHN GREEN — Staff

THE SCOTS start their celebration at midcourt after Saturday's victory.

Carlmont leaves no doubt

► **PREP**, from Sports 1

10 points by then (Ho had a pair of 3-pointers). But the defending CCS champion Trojans went on a 14-2 run and tied the game 14-14 midway into the second quarter.

Things got worse for Carlmont when starting center Colleen Garrett committed her third foul with 3:04 left in the half and was forced to the bench. Most teams would stress under such circumstances, but the Scots turned adversity into opportunity and quickly took control.

"We had to switch the defense," said Carlmont coach Irene Oliveira. "We went into a different zone press, because (Garrett) was out, and we were able to capitalize on it."

Carlmont's ball-hawking defense forced Milpitas either to mishandle the ball or make an ill-advised pass. Ho had a team-high three steals. Lauren Kilburg and Alyssa Kato both

had two steals as the Scots scored 30 points off turnovers. Even though the Scots committed 29 turnovers, they still passed effectively, such as when Emily Richard at the left corner found Ho open at the right side of the 3-point line for a score. Kato had a game-high five assists.

Garrett finally re-entered the game with 2:31 left in the third period. By then, Carlmont had outscored Milpitas 15-4 and taken a 33-20 lead.

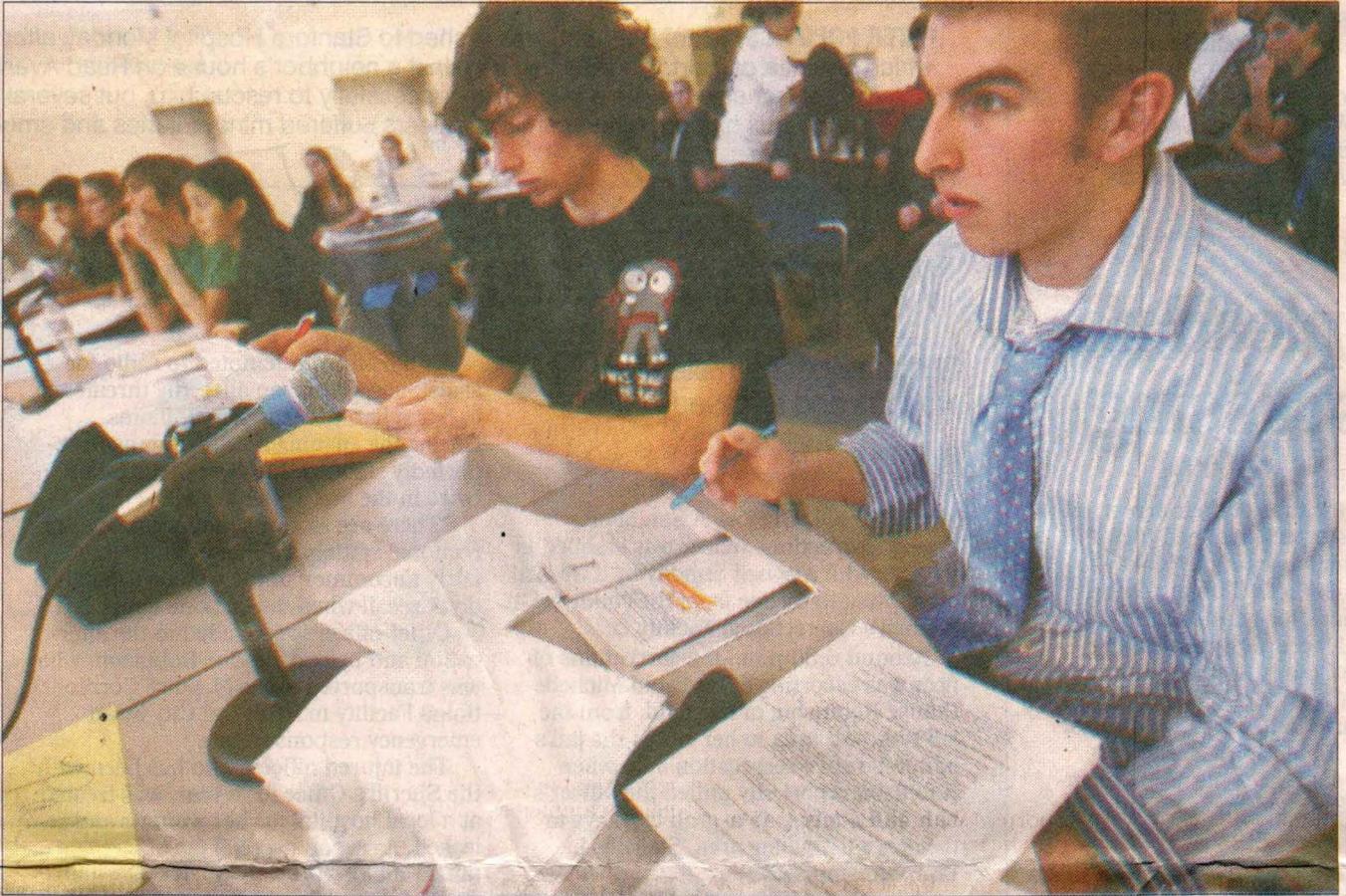
Any doubt that this was to be Carlmont's night was dispelled during the final seconds of the third quarter when Kilburg's near-half-court desperation shot banked in for a 3-pointer.

"That was really lucky, I'm not going to lie," said Kilburg, who had seven points.

But lucky is not how one characterizes the Scots: The best in CCS Division I girls basketball will do.

Carlmont High School
San Mateo Co Times
Feb 6, 2007

TRIVIAL PURSUITS



MATHEW SUMNER Staff photos

CARLMONT READER Taylor Skeels (right) listens intently to a ruling during the Millard Fillmore Trivia Hunt on Monday at Carlmont High in Belmont. Bob Hunter (below), director of the trivia hunt, is amused by a student's argument during the annual event. Hunter founded the event in 1969.

Annual trivia hunt challenges teens

■ Creator of event says he'll retire after next year as huntmaster

By T.S. Mills-Farauto
STAFF WRITER

BELMONT — Bob Hunter missed his calling in life: He could have taken the thousands of trivia questions he's written, put them on little cards and invented one of the most popular board games ever made — Trivial Pursuit.

Instead, he invented the most popular high school trivia hunt on the Peninsula.

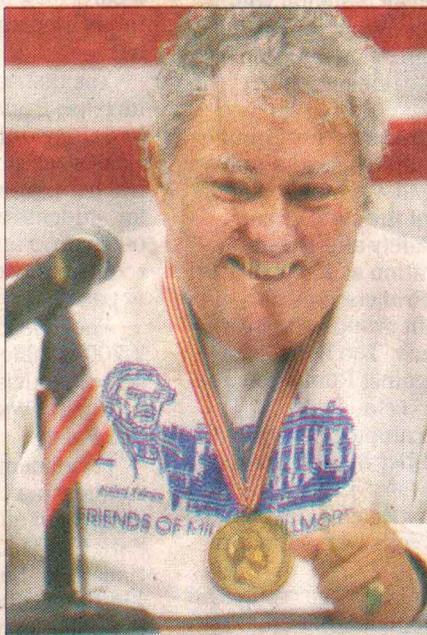
Thirty-nine years ago, Hunter, who was then a history teacher at Carlmont High School, started the Millard Fillmore Trivia Hunt — a weekend-long event that keeps students from Peninsula high schools up into the wee hours searching for answers.

But Monday night, at the judging for this year's hunt, the 73-year-old Menlo Park resident announced that next year will be his last as huntmaster.

"It's about time," said Hunter, who hopes to find someone with the same love of trivia to take over for him. "It really takes a lot of time and effort to come up with all of these questions, but it's been a lot of fun."

He said he's going to miss the kids the most.

"This has given me an opportunity to work with some neat kids who are



going to be newspaper people, doctors and lawyers," he said.

The event, hosted by Carlmont, starts on a Friday, when Hunter presents the teams from each school with a long list of questions, many of which would stump the best of trivia buffs. The students must find the answers as well as proof to back up their answer. They also are given a list of "bring-in" items. For example, one item they were asked to find this year was a ticket stub

from a showing of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show."

Everything must be turned in by Sunday afternoon, and on Monday night, teams assign some of their members to be "lawyers," so they can defend their answers before the "judge."

Hunter usually gets ideas for the questions throughout the year from various places, but he also has hundreds of trivia books that he can pull from as well.

"I could be reading a magazine, and I'll say, 'Oh, there's a good question for Millard' and I tear it out and save it," he said.

When he was a teacher he would ask librarians what part of the reference section students never look at — and search for answers there.

Some questions this year included: Provide the name of the longest running non-musical play in Broadway or off-Broadway history (answer: "Perfect Crime"); and provide the name of the well-known U.S. tabloid that began as a thoroughbred horse-racing tip sheet (answer: The National Enquirer).

Even the name of the hunt, "Millard Fillmore," could be turned into a number of different trivia questions. Hunter said Millard Fillmore became the 13th U.S. president when President Zachary Taylor died after drinking milk and eating cherries. For many years

Please see **TRIVIA**, Local 4

his incident, people would not combine cherries with milk, for fear they would die like Taylor.

On Monday night, Castilleja High School, an all-girls private school in Palo Alto, won for the second year in a row with 487 points out of 500. Carlmont took second place with 473 points. The other schools competing were Woodside High, Palo Alto High and Gunn High, also in Palo Alto.

Castilleja's success was all about being organized, said senior Sol Hilfinger-Pardo, 17.

"We strategize a lot. We try to keep organized. We send teams to all three big libraries in the Bay," she said. "The

communication and organization just keeps us on top of things."

Some of the Carlmont team members were frustrated with some of the questions, because they felt some of Hunter's answers could be wrong.

For example, Hunter asked teams to identify the representative who provided the 218th vote for Nancy Pelosi to become Speaker of the House. The answer he

gave was Nydia Velasquez of New York's 12th district.

On Monday night, Castilleja High School, an all-girls private school in Palo Alto, won for the second year in a row with 487 points out of 500.

But team captain Dawn Ling said she loves competing in the trivia hunt. "It really brings together the school," she said. "It was Woodside High junior Allison McElwee's first year participating in the trivia hunt, and she hopes to do it again next year."

"It was really satisfying to get the answers, and I actually learned what microfilm is," she said. "It's neat that you can skim all of that stuff, but it can be tedious."

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