

News

AROUND CAMPUS

This Friday, May 21: The dance company will present their final recital of the year, "Breaking Free Through Dance," in the auditorium beginning at 7:00 pm. Students will perform individual dances that they have choreographed themselves, and the jazz band will play during several acts. /Cole Rainey

NOW YOU KNOW

London - Following the resignation of Gordon Brown on May 11, David Cameron became Prime Minister after accepting Queen Elizabeth II's invitation to form a government. Cameron formed a coalition government with the Liberal Democrats after his Conservative Party won the most seats in the House of Commons but failed to acquire a majority.

Kabul - An passenger airplane carrying 44 people, including six foreigners crashed in the Afghan mountains en route to the capital. Rescuers have been hindered by dense fog that stretched across the mountainous terrain as they search for the wreckage. There have been no reports of casualties as of yet.

Washington, D.C. - According to a White House official, President Barack Obama will announce that he is appointing an independent panel to investigate the Gulf Coast oil spill. The panel will study oil industry practices, rig safety, regulation and governmental oversight.

Bangkok - A leader of the Thai Red Shirts protest group is in contact with an aide to the prime minister of the country and has proposed a cease-fire between demonstrators and troops in a conflict that is responsible for the deaths of thirty-seven people in the city.

Fun Fair brings the party for the 13th year

By Harry Yadav
Staff Writer

The parking lot behind the school district offices is usually a desolate, empty mass of pavement. For one weekend every year, however, this lot becomes the place to be in South Pasadena.

Kids rushed onto the parking lot last Saturday morning for the 13th annual Fun Fair, where they found many of last year's most popular rides waiting for them. The Super Slide and the Scrambler were busy, and so was the Silly String station, a staple of the Fun Fair.

There were also some new attractions, including the Bungee Run and Laser Tag. The latter, which was more popular with the older audience, was held in an inflatable tube-like structure where temperatures became unbearable. Roy Vargas, one of the men in charge of the attraction, felt the uncomfortable conditions affected participation.

"I believe that Laser Tag would be much better inside," he said.

Aside from the rides, there were parent-run tents that included the Book Nook and the ticket stand. Games such as



Oliver Sutro

A little girl dances her Croqs off at the Fun Fair, where having fun is a serious business.

Shuffleboard, Speedway, Duck Race, and Coconut Roll which were mostly run by

elementary school classrooms and were popular as well.

The people who ran the tents commented that sodas weren't selling very well and said that lollipops were the most popular picked prizes.

Of course, the Fun Fair wouldn't be the same without great food stands. This year, great tacos and Korean BBQ were available. And of course there was pizza.

The Fun Fair also featured musical performances. South Pasadena High School's own Cole and Libby Rainey, AKA "The Rainey Twins," performed five songs, including "Halo," by Beyonce. Senior Taylor Plenn also performed a jazz piece.

There were those, mostly high school freshman, who were disappointed by the event. According to freshman Daniel Patterson, the Fun Fair has become far too strict. "All the rules take the fun out of it. It's way too strict now; it makes it boring," he said. Classmate Khalil Kareem had similar sentiments. "I almost got arrested for having a good time," he said.

Tucker to pursue graduate degree in Applied Theater at USC

By Jake Folsom
Staff Writer

Many students are aware that Drama instructor Ms Donna Tucker will turn-over the drama company to Mr. Daniel Enright next year. However, the details of her decision to leave had not been made entirely clear—until now. Next year, Ms Tucker is going to attend a new, program at USC called the Applied Theatre Arts program. "This program focuses on theater and show business and how it can be a transformative force in society," said Tucker. She said that theater is a way for people to tell stories and hear stories being told, while this specific class focuses

on world issues. The director of the program, Brent Blair, has worked in many Third World countries, working with people to help them tell their stories.

During the long application process, Tucker needed letters of recommendation from several of her peers. She had to complete numerous applications and had several calls back and forth—all to get into this selective program.

As for the SPSHS drama program, Tucker says she is letting go completely for the year. "This program is very intense and I need to direct my full attention to it," says Tucker. She also believes that she needs to be "breathing down nobody's neck"—in other words, that

she wants Mr. Enright to enjoy his year and make it what he wants. Her full support is extended to Enright, as she offers him her congratulations on his appointment to the position.

Tucker knows that she will be missed by her students, but they understand that she is pursuing her dreams with this program. Despite the sadness they feel, they offer her their complete support. After completing her degree, Tucker can return to teach in the district, but not necessarily in her current position. Enright is looking forward to being involved with the drama program and the drama students are likewise looking forward to working with him.

Enright plans a new format for next year's performing arts

By Libby Rainey
Assoc. Opinion Editor

When Donna Tucker, SPSHS' Drama teacher for over 15 years, announced she would be taking a yearlong leave of absence to pursue a Master's Degree in Applied Theater Arts at USC, Principal Janet Anderson's first step was to find a replacement among the current staff. English teacher Daniel Enright, who has a strong background in theater, offered to fill the position. "It's exciting and scary at the same time" Enright said of the task ahead.

Enright, who has a Bachelors degrees in Theater Arts, has many new ideas for the Drama program next year. He will be teaching two beginning drama courses, as well as one advanced class. His beginning class will be an introduction to theater and acting, while he hopes his advanced group will be able to pursue directing in order to see a different viewpoint of the artistic process.

Beginning classes will work with scenes and dialect, as well as more specialized focuses such as commercials and voiceover work. Mr. Enright also anticipates professional actors coming into class to give insights on their experiences. Anyone who wishes can apply for these classes, and Enright hopes to expose his students to all aspects of theater and the dramatic arts.

Outside of class, the Drama program will be sticking to its regular production schedule of a fall play and spring musical, although there are hopes of adding a third play in the Little Theater to the list. A big change in the program will be the introduction of open auditions, a process in which any

member of the student body can try out for any production. Mr. Enright wants this new audition process to incorporate as many students as possible in the program.

Not only does Enright want to incorporate more drama students into the performances, but he is also going to reach out to the band, music, and dance programs at SPSHS for contributions to the spring musical. "I can't do this alone," says Enright. He especially looks forward to collaborating with vocal music instructor Michael Gray and dance instructor Maria DelBagno for choreography and musical work.

There will be an emphasis on student dedication to support the cost of all possible projects the Drama program is interested in, such as working bingo and participating in fundraisers. Along with this, Enright is excited to focus on getting the program noticed, mainly by increasing publicity throughout the community. Another possibility Enright is considering is opening the Little Theater once a week during lunch to give students in the drama class a chance to present the work they have been doing in class. However, he unsure of the details of this idea.

Anticipation of the coming changes is brimming even among middle schoolers. To see what to expect from this incoming talent, Enright saw the South Pasadena Middle School play and has been reaching out to prospective drama students by visiting the middle school to speak to the classes there. There is much excitement about the drama program for the coming year, and it is clear Enright is enthusiastic about the drama teaching position.



Oliver Sutro

Donna Tucker will study at USC in the Master of Arts Applied Theatre Arts Program.