

# News

## AROUND CAMPUS

Each late start Wednesday, teachers throughout the school participate in Lights-off Day, a statewide competition promoted by Virtual Business. January's tally resulted in 462 hours and 20 minutes without lights. February's tally is incomplete, but calculated at 116 and 7 minutes so far. A total of 76 hours and 30 minutes have been spent with lights out in March to this date. ~Samantha Harrison

### NOW YOU KNOW

**New York** – David Paterson became the governor of New York City after the governor in office, Eliot Spitzer, admitted to being involved in a prostitution ring. After many accusations, Spitzer made his resignation on March 12 with his wife beside him.

**China** – Chinese police shot Tibetan protesters marching for more independence. Tibetan rioters killed thirteen Chinese civilians in the midst of the protests.

**Pakistan** – Pakistan's parliament nominated and elected Fehmida Mirza as the first woman speaker. She received 249 out of 324 votes in the election.

**South Pasadena** – Senior Maria Haras made it to the finalist level of the 20th annual Music Spotlight Awards in their Visual arts competition.

## Prostitution accusation at local clinic

By Emily Saltz  
Staff Writer

The face of urban scandal has peeked out from South Pasadena's seemingly innocuous streets. After receiving complaints from nearby residents and discovering ads that linked the address to prostitution, the South Pasadena Police Department sent an undercover officer into the Uti Chinese Acupuncture Clinic on Feb. 22, 2008.

The officer entered the building at 640 Mission Street at 11:42 a.m. and requested a routine massage. At the officer's suggestion, the female soon agreed to participate in sexual activity in exchange for the officer's money. Immediately after the masseuse agreed, the backup police force entered the clinic to make arrests. The female suspect and her coworker proceeded to take flight out of the rear door and were consequently arrested.

Both suspects are female Asians in their mid-forties, from San Gabriel and Alhambra respectively. The incident was recorded in the weekly one-page police blotter, which typically lists nothing more serious in nature than reports of stolen cell phones and car break-ins.

Needless to say, prostitution is not a common problem in South Pasadena. Nevertheless, the city was prepared to deal with the issue. Chief of Police Dan Watson describes the nature of the crime: "The elements of prostitution are simple—sex for money."

After the two arrests, the Clinic's parlor and massage



Riley Mirangi

The clinic is located on mission next to the Health Center.

permits were revoked. The Finance Department will soon determine whether their business license will be revoked as well.

"It's disturbing that something like this would take place in South Pasadena," comments sophomore South Pasadena High School student Priscilla Sigala. "I mean imagine going in for some therapeutic eastern medicine and ending up getting solicited for sex." A disturbing thought indeed.



Robin Laird

Sophomore Sashko Stubailo takes a break from dancing

## Backwards dance

A 'Summer Anticipation' in early spring

By Sabrina Ketel  
Staff Writer

Each year, the Key Club hosts the Backwards Dance to raise money for their club. This year's theme was "Summer Anticipation," and the auditorium found itself appropriately decorated with bright, floral beach balls and balloons.

But it seems that most SPHS students are not actually anticipating summer. Said senior Casey Feldmeth, "There are two police men and twenty teachers—that's more than the number of kids out there."

Although most students agreed attendance was low, the Key Club still managed to make an estimated profit of 600 dollars.

This might be attributed to the fact that although tickets were advertised as four dollars with SAC and six without, this price only applied to students conscientious enough to buy their tickets early. For those who waited to buy their tickets at the door, the price was 8 dollars—SAC or no SAC.

Unfortunately, the Key Club spent a reported 280 dollars on a D.J. who more often than not chose to play techno over the usual rap or hip hop.

That isn't to say there weren't several redeeming tracks—Rihanna's "Don't Stop the Music" and Usher & Young Jeezy's "Love In This Club" both made an appearance.

Still, students complained that it was difficult to dance to the music and that the mixed beats provided an awkward rhythm.

Whether it was the "un-danceable" music or the sheer lack of people in the gym—everyone in there could've lain down on their backs quite comfortably—most students simply avoided the darkened gym entirely. They preferred sitting in the new gym to braving the actual dance floor, which was filled with couples, awkward dance-offs and wallflowers.

"I'm just waiting for my friend to finish eating dinner so she can come pick me up," said sophomore Alex Walker as she sat talking with a circle of friends in the new gym.

It seems that this year SPHS students will just have to wait until June to start anticipating summer and hope next year's Backwards Dance isn't so "backwards."

## Fullerton festival a success

By Elaine Ejigu  
Staff Writer

SPHS's drama company geared up once again for their annual trip to the Fullerton drama festival on Friday, March 7 and Saturday, March 8. Sarah Siegel received second place for costume design and Meg Dadourian received third place for graphic design. Finalists included Sergio Klementich, Acacia Arnold, Andrew Molina, Ian Patterson, Jade Roman, Davis Turner, Cassandra Chacon, April Jackson, Hannah Kan, Brendan Perry, and Ben Steele.

On Thursday, February 28, the drama company presented the public with a showcase of all of their Fullerton performances. Sophomore Sergio Klementich performed a serious Shakespearean monologue dressed in a ruffled shirt, cargo pants, and boots. Sophomore Megan Henderson wore a navy blue medieval-style gown as Juliet in a monologue from Romeo and Juliet. Sophomore Janet Pascual performed a monologue from "The Soul of Ch'ien-Nu Leaves Her Body." Then "The Concrete Jungle

Men," sophomores Ramon Acosta, Jacques Colimon, Jesse Gonzalez, Ajani Tatum, and Jim Wood performed in theatre games. In the second and third rounds of theatre games "Les Petites Choux," sophomores Erica Heath, Mallory Nelson, Emma Plomgren, Cristina Rodriguez, and Susannah Snowden-Ifft made their appearances.

Next, a ten-minute play called "New Year's Resolutions" debuted. It was about four people who wanted to improve their physical appearances for the New Year. Soon after, sophomore Shane Berger performed a monologue called "The Breaking of Bread" wearing a blue old-school police hat and carrying a rifle for a prop. Sophomore Genesis Valdivia performed in a monologue called "Shadow of a Man," wearing blue pajamas. After that, sophomore Lily Dorn performed a monologue as well.

The night was rounded off with one last theatre game "The Concrete Jungle Men" vs. "Les Petites Choux", and varsity scenes starring the ladies of Varsity drama: Sarah Bellman, Meg Dadourian, Carly Curiel, Sarah Siegel, Shana Skelton, Kat Ventress.

## Drug assembly

Former meth addict, Nick Sheff, visits school to speak of his addiction

By Krystal Tung  
Copy Editor

SPHS students filed into the auditorium on March 11 to listen to a presentation about the journey of a father, David Scheff, and his son, Nic Sheff, as they fought Nic's severe addiction to drugs.

David Scheff began by speaking about his experiences coping with Nic's addiction and frequent stays in various rehab centers. Scheff, who has penned several books and written for periodicals such as the New York Times, Wired, Fortune, and Rolling Stone, explained that he had taken drugs in high school and throughout college. Scheff explained that drugs were easily accessible and that his experience with a drug-addicted college roommate who constantly relapsed led him to witness the far-reaching effects of drugs. Though he swore that he would not allow his children to follow his footsteps into the world of drugs, Nic tragically took

the same path to a further degree.

Scheff stated that he found a bag of pot in Nic's backpack when Nic was only twelve years old. Though Scheff took the matter seriously and contacted the school's administrators and counselors, Nic continued to take drugs. At this point, Scheff introduced Nic, who began to speak about his experience as a drug addict.

Nic described his "feeling of emptiness" in high school that led him to take drugs. He criticized his elementary school drug education, which he said probed him to explore the effects of drugs for himself. Thus, when Nic entered high school and felt increasingly more hopeless and more scared of life, he began to load up on drugs, stating, "Smoking pot was a buffer against the harshness of reality."

However, as senior year rolled around, Nic realized that pot did not help him escape his troubles as much as it used to, and he felt

compelled to take more potent drugs, such as acid, mushrooms, ecstasy, and speed. This relentless addiction led his family to oust him from the house. Nic spent his days on the street until he was willing to try rehab.

Due to many effective treatments, Nic was eventually able to pull his life together and mend his torn relationships with his family, though he had come close to death many times. During this time, David Scheff wrote an article in the New York Times about his experience with his drug-addicted son. The article elicited many responses from parents dealing with a similar situation, as well as a letter from an editor asking if Nic would like to write about his experience.

Today, David and Nic Scheff have both written about the incident, penning Beautiful Boy and Tweak, respectively. Both agree that the first step to rectifying drug addictions is to admit the problem and seek help.