

# The Mustang

Volume LII, No. 1

San Dieguito High School

September 8, 1987

## Strawberry Court gets a facelift



Photo by Elizabeth Jones

The "new" Strawberry Court—A majority of the landscaping costs were supplied by the school's Deferred Maintenance Program and the Class of '85 Cash for Caps.

By ROMAN KOENIG

San Dieguito High School students will notice many changes this year.

Over the summer, construction and landscaping crews were working full-time to complete several projects.

The most noticeable change is the re-landscaping of what is called Putnam Court, located between the 90s and 100s buildings, which Principal Sal Ramirez refers to as Strawberry Court.

Most students refer to this court as Putnam Court. It was named after a popular math teacher here in the 1960s, Vern Putnam, who died of a heart attack on campus.

Ramirez refers to it as Strawberry Court, "I've called it that ever since I've been here," he said. "When I came that's what people called it, so that's what I've called it."

According to Ramirez, most of the old concrete sidewalk was taken out and replaced with new sidewalk which

resembles grey cobblestone. Also, hundreds of yards of topsoil was placed in the planters, and was landscaped with grass, trees, shrubs and flowers. All of the existing trees were cut back and trimmed.

"It (Strawberry Court) was a very difficult place to determine what to put there," says Ramirez, who said that Head Groundsman Gayle Cole and his staff did a nice job at determining what to plant. Last year, the court was hard-packed dirt, a few bushes, low-lying trees, cement benches and a metal art sculpture. The sculpture was removed and placed in a grassy area behind the 90s building overlooking the pep-rally court.

"The only thing missing now," says Ramirez, "is seating. We hope to have that in soon."

Besides the landscaping, sprinkling systems were installed in both Strawberry Court and the lawns located

where the 10s and 40s buildings are.

"I've been lobbying for the re-landscaping of Strawberry Court for six years," said Ramirez, "this year we finally had the money to do it."

In other projects, the renovation of science rooms 27 and 29 is expected to be completed sometime in September. Ramirez hopes for them to be occupied by that time.

"The rooms were taken down to the bare walls," according to Ramirez, who said that the rooms have "new everything," which includes new electrical wiring, plumbing, etc. The renovation of these two rooms will complete the total renovation of the science building.

The cafeteria's outside eating area has also been refurbished with a brand new roof.

By mid-October, six portable classrooms will be placed behind the 30s building. According to Ramirez, this will replace the remaining white trailers behind the 150s

building.

One other big change will be the addition of new shelving in the library, a \$48,000 addition.

"Both Librarian Cathy Straitiff and I went to the School Site Council, they supported the concept," said Ramirez, adding that, "when we went to the School Board, they approved it as well."

Ramirez said that the library wanted to expand its selection of books from the current 15,000 volumes to 40,000 volumes, so

Straitiff spent the summer selecting the shelving which will be installed later this fall.

By mid-Winter, Ramirez says that new carpet will be installed in some of the classrooms.

Ramirez says that he hopes to have the entire campus totally renovated by having the 30s building done over next summer.

"That way," he says, "when students come next year they'll have a campus that's as good as new."

## Tedious times for better tunes



Photo by Roman Koenig

Band director Doug Campbell leads the SDHS band during a practice session last week.

By Susie Park

For most students, summer was essential, especially during the last weeks of vacation.

But those who are members of the band were less fortunate and began their daily visits to school at an earlier date than the rest of us.

Just as many sport teams have their "hell week" to shape up, the band had its own. For about 50 students, mostly freshmen from the local junior high schools, practice began early morning on Monday.

It continued throughout each weekday until

Friday, September 4, each practice lasting from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Practice began in the bandroom as director Doug Campbell led the band in an hour music session. Then the band would begin marching practice out on the football field for three long hours.

"We are hoping for a good year," said Jennifer Haley, a senior at SDHS and fourth year band member. "Practice is long and tedious but in the long run it should be worth it." The band will perform at the first football home game of the season on Sept. 11.

## Knapp's knack pays off

By John Steckert

Jennifer Knapp was among the many competitors who attended the National Speech and Debate Tournament held in Cincinnati, Ohio during the week of June 14th.

Knapp, a San Dieguito senior who began speaking competitively just a year ago, survived nine out of 13 rounds in her event before being eliminated.

"I didn't want to take English," said Knapp. "I didn't

want to do all the required reading, so I decided to take speech instead and I am now glad that I did."

Before achieving national level, Knapp had to compete in a National Qualifying Tournament encompassing a portion of Southern California. She received first place and an invitation to the nationals.

"Luck was with me this year," commented Knapp.

Attending with her coach, Sandra Boldway, Knapp

delivered a ten minute prepared speech from memory. Her division was Oratory (persuasive) speaking and her topic dealt with the ill effects of war toys and games on young children.

"I wanted to show how children grow up more aggressively by playing with G.I. Joe or He-Man and the Masters of the Universe.

As for the future, Knapp is looking forward to the upcoming season.

# 'La Bamba': A desire to make a statement

By Christie Photinos

Each of us hopes to realize our dreams of fame and success. For a young rock singer from California, these fantasies became reality when Richard Valenzuela became rock star Ritchie Valens in 1958. "La Bamba" is the story of his life, which tragically ended in the 1959 plane crash that also took the lives of Buddy Holly and the Big Bopper. Valens was only 17-years-old.

Producers Taylor Hackford and Daniel Valdez began the project 14 years ago, but immediately encountered difficulties. The amount of material available on Valens was extremely limited. After hearing rumors that the singer hailed from Texas, Mexico, and even Latin America, they discovered that his real name was Richard Valenzuela and that he had grown up in the San Fernando Valley area of Los



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Angeles. For two and a half years, Danny Valdez searched for the Valenzuelas, only to find that they lived over the hill just 16 miles away.

Initially, the family was

suspicious of the filmmakers, having had some previous bad experiences. It was only after Valdez brought the family a copy of "Come On Let's Go," Ritchie's only appearance on film, which they had never seen, that the barriers broke down.

However, when the script was completed the producers were a bit nervous about how Connie Valenzuela and her family would react to the dramatized version of their beloved Ritchie. Valdez sat down and read the script to the family in one sitting. "It was an incredible experience as we watched while the family laughed and cried," Valdez said. "They loved what we'd done."

Filming of "La Bamba" took place throughout Los Angeles and Northern California in the summer of 1986. The Valen-

zuela family was intimately involved with the shooting of the picture. They were often present on the set and participated as extras in the filming.

The final Clear Lake airport scenes were emotionally charged for everyone present. According to Phillips, "There was an eeriness to the night. When I climbed into the plane and it taxied down the runway, I just kept thinking, 'Get me out of here, I don't want to be here.' I felt a great relief when the plane didn't take off the ground and I could get out."

The project was marked from beginning to end by a genuine desire to make a statement to a world that was touched and changed by the life of a gentle, talented Chicano boy who one day picked up a guitar, and the next, became a musical legend.

S.D. LIVE!!



## Acting on the cutting edge of video

By Chris Lieber

A new team works out on the San Dieguito High School campus.

It achieves success through hard work, and the desire to be creative.

It is going to be the heartbeat of the campus and it is the one thing that most of the campus does together — watch "San Dieguito Live."

"S.D. Live, under the new supervision of Coach Dewey Warner, is a whole new team.

"S.D. Live is the type of program that is a team you try out for, not a class that you sign up for," said Warner.

Many students that signed up for the class had to be screened so that the staff would be com-

posed of students with the right attitude.

"All the kids had to be interviewed, trained, and selected. I looked for kids who were creative, hard workers, and the type of people who would pull the extra weight," said Warner.

This year "S.D. Live" intends to use all the facilities available to them so that the shows will be as professional as possible.

"We're going to be a more organized, unified group, socially. Technically, we're going to do studio work that is different from last year. We are going to clean up and use the studio in the library. There will be better editing also," said

Rich Oesterheld, class member.

"We are going to have guest speakers and we're going to cover issues on and off campus," said Oesterheld. "The segments will have time spent in forethought, planning, quality, filming, and editing. There will be more sound tracks, and special effects. All of these extras are readily available for us to use although they weren't utilized last year," he said.

"S.D. Live" plans to use several shows as models of theirs.

"We're trying to combine ideas from different shows. We want to have a campus news like the evening news, a 'Sixty

Minutes' approach with a look on issues that affect kids in the community. Thirdly, some good creative comics like 'Saturday Night Live' and also like 'San Diego At Large,'" said Warner.

Timeliness is important to the new crew.

"Every Saturday before the show is going to be aired, the final taping will be done at school. That is when all of the sports tapes will be edited because we're not going to have two-week old sports like last year," said Warner. "As far as I'm concerned, old news is no news."

The goal that they have set for themselves is big but they

think it isn't out of their reach.

"We want to have the best school video show in the country. Mira Mesa High School puts out one that is ranked really high, but they produce it only once a month. Our facilities are just as good and our crew is better. We're also going to put out a show every week," said the advisor. "We're very excited about this."

To keep the show moving upward the cast has decided to listen to student output on how well or how bad the show is doing.

"Our only request of the students," said Warner, "is that they tell us what we are doing right or wrong."

## Hemingway captures essence of bullfighting

By Chris Lieber

"Death in the Afternoon" captures the essence of bullfighting in this realistic novel by Ernest Hemingway.

Hemingway's excellent detail provides the reader with information from behind the scenes and explains about the fighting scenes and when it's most appropriate to see these duels between man and animal.

"The ideal weather to visit Spain and to see bullfights and the time when there are most bullfights to see is the month of September," said Hemingway at the beginning of a long detailed orientation of Spain.

Hemingway explains now the

bull is tired to be easier controlled. He tells of how the tenaciousness of the bull breaks down completely.

"If they had been accomplished properly, (referring to the first couple of phases of the fight) the bull arrives at the final stage of the fight with his great neck muscles fatigued so that he holds his head neither too high nor too low, his speed is less than half what it was at the start of the fight, his attention fixed on the object that is presented to him, and any tendency to hooking to one side or the other, but especially with his right horn corrected."

The matador is now ready to attack the bull.

Hemingway, author of such classics as "The Old Man and the Sea," and "The Sun Also Rises," sheds a new light on what is a very grey subject because most people have never seen a bullfight. Since Mexico is so close to us, it seems that people who are interested in this sport, could easily obtain the knowledge from this book, and go south to experience it.

This book is informative, exciting, destructive, picturesque, imaginative, yet very real.

If one would like to learn more about bullfighting I highly recommend this book, if you just like good reading this is also something you might consider.



Social Studies teacher Michael Mangin (front left) and a group of San Dieguito High School students took a three-week tour of Europe over the Summer. Some of the students who went include Tom Drake, Kurt Newport, Eric Schmitt, Dan Lindstrom, Dennis Harold, Kevin McClave, Kerrie Conklin and Martin Brown. Some of the travelers were in Mangin's A.P. European History Classes last year.

## Football season opens Sept. 11

By Matthew Lehman

On Friday, Sept. 11 at 7:30 p.m. Head Coach Ed Burke will lead his Blue and White giants to the San Dieguito playing field to tackle the Granite Hills varsity football team. The J.V. team will play at 5:00 p.m. on the same day.

Since this will be the first game of the 1988 season, S.D. fans are encouraged to show up wearing traditional Blue and White rooting their team to victory.

Burke has high hopes for the team. "We're a really experienced team and success will depend on pre-season games."

This year San Dieguito has two returning all league players. Jr. Nose Guard, Tom Pellegrino and Senior Line Backer, Kelly Hockey, who was S.D. Player of the Year, last year. Two returning for offense are Mike McCune, offensive line and Quarterback Brett Ward.

Last year San Dieguito went to C.I.F. playoffs for the first time in seven years.

This year the team has worked hard for most of the summer so come out and show your school spirit by giving them your support.



Photo courtesy of Cheerleading Squad

The 1987-88 San Dieguito High School Varsity and Junior Varsity Cheerleading squads show off their awards received during an evaluation at the camp they attended at the University of Santa Barbara.

## Cheerleading sparks spirit

By Susie Park

Summer vacation is over and school is starting once again. Some of us are returning from a summer job, a long trip, or just from "bumming around" at the beach.

However, the cheerleaders of SDHS spent the end of their summer working on making this school year a more spirited one.

From Monday, August 17 thru Thursday, August 20, cheerleading camp took place at the University of Santa Barbara. Twenty-one girls from the Varsity and Junior Varsity squad, also including mascots Linda Chin and Kristie Butler, attended this camp.

A total of about 1200 girls from 100 different squads attended. These squads represented many schools located throughout California. Some were even out of state.

The cheerleading squad

received three superior ribbons (first place ribbons) on the three days of evaluation. One was for their home cheer brought from SDHS, the second for a cheer taught to them by camp supervisors, and the third was for their chants.

The squad also received two spirit sticks.

"The spirit stick was given for the most united and spirited squad," said Shawn Snow, a senior at SDHS and Varsity cheerleader.

The squad received the spirit sticks the first and last day of camp.

"Getting the spirit stick on the last day was really saying that we deserved it," said Robin Snow, another Varsity cheerleader and sister to Shawn. "It's the only one you get to take home."

For overall performance the squad was given a superior trophy. "It was one of the

trophies given to the squad that had done the best throughout the three days of evaluation," said Shawn Snow.

The advisors who led the camp were made up of "screened" (interviewed) college cheerleaders from universities all over such as UCLA, BYU, and others, including some east coast colleges.

Cheerleading camp cost each girl \$155 and was not mandatory. However this did not stop any of the girls on the squad from attending.

"Everyone wants to be the best we can be in competitions, unity, and involvement," said Robin Snow. "The emphasis is on involvement. We really want to get people involved."

"After all, what is the real meaning of cheer-leading anyway? We don't want to be little bee bops trying to show off. We want to lead the students with their cheers."



Photo by Roman Koenig  
Two SDHS juniors sell Class of '89 bumper stickers during registration.

## Who are these people?



Photo by Roman Koenig

Sal Ramirez, SDHS Principal, keeps SDHS running effectively. He can be found in the main office.

Dave LaBorde, Athletic Director is available for any information regarding athletics. His office is located in the Administrative Service Center.



Photo by Roman Koenig

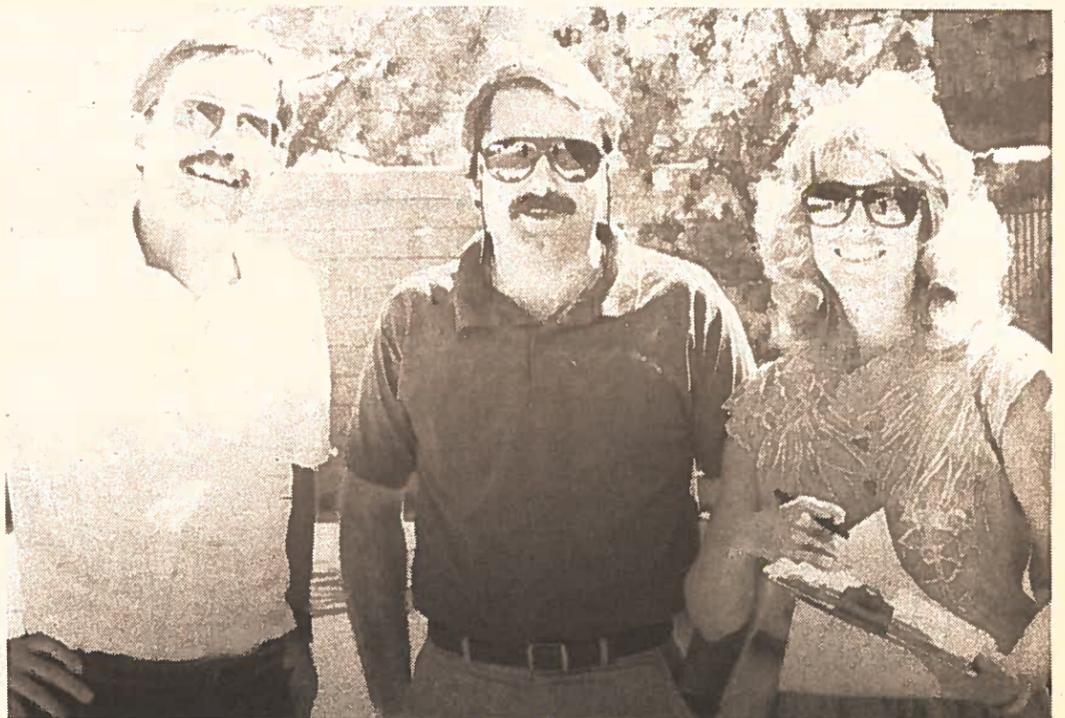


Photo by Roman Koenig

(Left to right) Rich Kelso, ASB Director; Ken James, Vice-Principal; and Julie Rich, Vice-Principal. Their offices are located in the Administrative Service Center.

## Mustang sets editorial policy

Welcome! Every school newspaper has an editorial page. In The Mustang, it will be the last page of every issue.

The school newspaper is not meant to be a scandal sheet or an eight page compilation of worthless drivel. Instead, it should give the true picture of what goes on in and around the school.

Our goal is to report news fairly, truthfully, and completely; yet there are ways in which we can fail.

We are human beings with human feelings, and sometimes we allow our own ideas to creep into our reporting. Many newspaper readers welcome opinion, when it is directly identified, because it helps them form their own views, but their problem - and the reporter's - is to keep clear the difference between fact and opinion.

Other times the news we present is distorted by the limits of our skills, a source's reluctance to share all they know, and the pressures of time and space.

The responsibility, however, is not all on the side of the newspaper. If you disagree with something that is stated or implied in The Mustang, you have the right to state your case. However, your letters must adhere to the proper standards of ethics. Letters containing either of the following will

not be considered for publication:

- material that exposes someone to hatred, makes him seem ridiculous, or damages his reputation in any way
- material that offends reader's morals - anything vulgar or obscene

(School newspapers are not exempt from libel action)

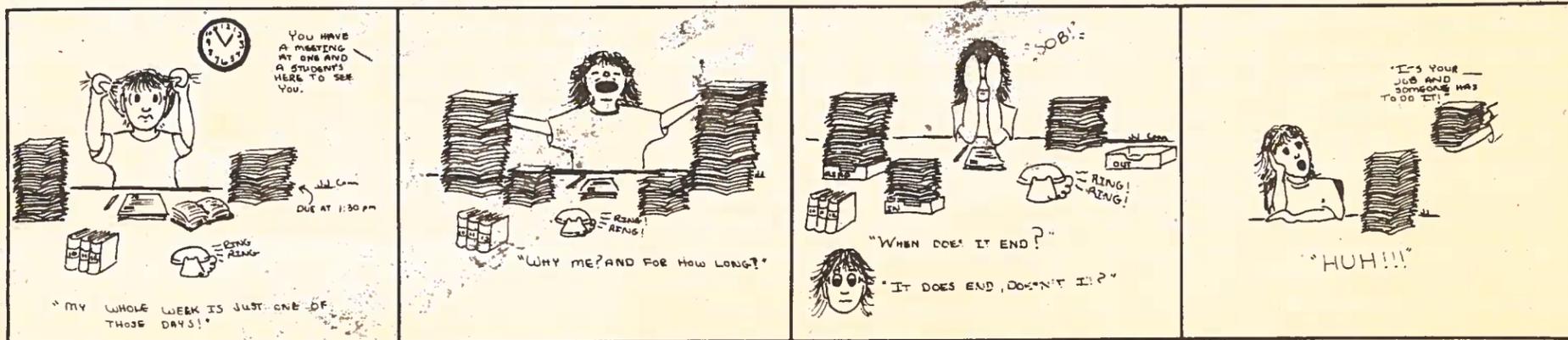
We also must ask that all letters be signed by the author. In the case of an extremely sensitive issue, you may request that your name be withheld.

Mustang editorials will be signed, except when they contain the opinion of the entire staff.

This said, we look forward to your input through the coming school year. According to Pulitzer Prize winning reporter David S. Broder, "At its best, a newspaper is in constant conversation with its readers."

We hope that you will hold up your end of the dialogue.

Put letters to the editor in Mrs. Grear's mailbox or drop them off in room 70.



## Sun and surf give way to hitting the books

By John Steckert & Rikki Org

"No more pencils,  
No more books,  
No more teachers' dirty looks!"

Guess again! It's time to go back, to relive the nightmare of yesteryear. All the headaches, the hand cramps, the pain and the agony have returned to haunt you once again. No more late mornings with Oprah and Vanna, now its physics and geometry at the crack of dawn. It's that time of year again to

"return" to the hallowed halls of San Dieguito High School.

But before the anguish of school settles in, let us return to those fond lazy days of summer for one last look. Who could forget the comedy team of "Fawn and Ollie" in the summer time classic soap opera "All My Testimonies" a.k.a. The Iran-Contra Hearings.

And how about the neighbors "pussy wussy," Bruno, the playful pit bull. As you are getting your mail, Bruno has

made plans to digest your leg. And all the while his owner says, "Oh, isn't that cute?"

Perhaps the most enjoyable highlight of any summer vacation is the family trip. That is unless your path was through Los Angeles. Then the traditional "over the river and through the woods" trip has been given a new meaning. Not only must you swerve to avoid reckless drivers, you must be VERY polite, or else DODGE reckless bullets.

Obviously you have survived

that "delightful" summer, here are a few tips to help you survive the school year:

1. **THE ATTENDANCE POLICY** — alias "The Big Bad Guy" — actually it's not so bad if you think about it. Just get to class on time. And if you are sick, tell your mother to call the school (between 6:45-2:30 at 753-1705).

2. **TARDIES** — Again, just get to class on time. Instead of staying with your friend right up to the bell, leave about a minute earlier. Then you will refrain from acquiring a pink slip that says in big bold letters **DETENTION**. If you plan to go off campus, make sure that there is adequate time to return.

3. **BLOCK SCHEDULE** — If you're confused as to which books to bring to which class on which day, lay out your books the night before. This way, you will be set.

4. **DETENTIONS** — If you don't want to spend afternoons with your friend and ours, Leo, you will avoid detention at all costs. To do this, don't be tardy and remember your admit slip.

If you remember these things, your school year should go pretty smoothly. School is a place where you can become reacquainted with old friends, make new friends, increase your knowledge, and even have some fun. Besides, it's only nine months until summer. What could possibly happen?

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### SCHEDULE CHANGES

