

THE NORTHWOOD HOWLER

A Northwood High School Publication

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WELCOME BACK, NORTHWOOD!

By ANGELA LUH
Managing Editor

Sweet summer may be over, but a year full of new beginnings awaits.

The 2010-2011 school year marks a number of new beginnings for Northwood High. Among the numerous changes that have been made in the past 12 years since Northwood's founding in 1999, new facul-

ty, new students, new clubs and new classes are all components to look forward to. Get ready for a dynamic new school year!

So seniors, get those college applications ready; juniors, keep your No. 2 pencils sharpened; sophomores, enjoy schedules void of AP's; and freshmen, hold on tight to your schedules. On behalf of *The Northwood Howler*, welcome back!

In numbers...

There are **1,954** students enrolled this year, **down from the 2,022** enrollment last year. There are **518** seniors, **490** juniors, **470** sophomores and **476** freshmen.

Class sizes range from **30 to 35** students, said Vice Principal Mike Tague. Performing groups have close to **100** students while the size of athletic teams are **as large as 150**.

There are **77** teachers, **down from 91** last year. Northwood has **four** administrators, **five** counselors and **one** psychologist.



Photo provided by ALEX CUEVAS

SAVING ENERGY: Solar panels were installed over the summer at the District Office and the Maintenance and Operations facility to reduce electricity consumption.



JEREMY CHEN *The Northwood Howler*

NEW STAFF: New Vice Principal Saul Gleaser will take the place of former vice principal Matthew Pate.

Fresh new faculty

By JEREMY CHEN AND CATHERINE DONG
Editor-in-Chief and Copy Editor

Summer marks the time when graduating seniors pack their bags and say their final goodbyes before they make their way to new roads and opportunities. However, the summer means departures not only for students but for some faculty as well.

Northwood High School has had to say some unexpected goodbyes to staff members this summer. Luckily, their shoes will be filled by some experienced newcomers.

One of these new faces will be Saul Gleaser, Northwood's new assistant principal. He will be taking the place of former assistant principal Matthew Pate.

Gleaser, formerly University High School's assistant principal for four years, swapped positions with Pate under instruction from the Irvine

Unified School District to "see how different schools operate and expand [their] abilities," said Gleaser. Before his career at University High, Gleaser was an assistant principal in Northern California for two years and a biology and anatomy teacher for eight years.

"Northwood is a great school, and my main goal is to immerse myself in the culture and practices that are in place," said Gleaser. "I will work with the students and staff and try to improve wherever possible."

According to Pate, Gleaser's experience will help him make positive changes for Northwood.

"I would describe him as progressive and creative," said Pate. "I think he will bring a new perspective to [Northwood] and have some new ideas that will make the school that much better."

Pate, who has been an assistant principal at Northwood for four years, finds the students and staff at

By TINA XU
Photo Editor

The district-wide solar project currently underway demonstrates that energy conservation has become a priority for the Irvine Unified School District (IUSD).

Rooftop solar panels are marked for installation across the district in 15 locations, one of which is Northwood.

Along with new vehicle shade structures at the District Office and Maintenance and Operations facility, these green initiatives represent phase one of the district's solar plan

marked for completion before the end of 2010. Seventeen more sites are currently being evaluated for phase two.

"Students and staff have done a magnificent job helping us reduce our electrical consumption during the past two years. The installation of solar panels is the next logical step in reducing our energy footprint," said Mark Sontag, co-coordinator of IUSD's Solar Project.

Due to the complexity and high cost of trenching (removing concrete to lay wires between buildings and the central solar power panel), only a few buildings will receive solar panels at Northwood. As a result, the installa-

tion is relatively small compared to other district sites, though it is projected to save Northwood \$53,000 over the next 20 years.

In addition, phase one installations across the district are projected to save \$8 million over the next 20 years as well as offset 63 million pounds of carbon dioxide – the equivalent of removing 6,000 cars from the roads for one year.

"I think [installing solar panels] is a fantastic idea because it will harness electricity more efficiently and end up saving schools much needed money over time," said Northwood junior Tarika Soni.

University "awesome," but he also misses Northwood.

"[Northwood] is a wonderful place," he said. "I will miss the students, and I developed quite a few strong relationships with many faculty and staff there. I will miss seeing them on a day-to-day basis."

Northwood also has a new U.S. History teacher in Kristine Nethers. Nethers, who has taught history in schools as far away as Australia, is excited to teach at Northwood after moving back to Southern California.

Her love of teaching and "fascination by the past and its many lessons" offers a lot to Northwood students, and her hope is that "students see what they are learning as interesting, rigorous and relevant," said Nethers.

English teacher Jason Mize was just hired on Monday to replace English teacher Sheryl Sloate, who

made a last-minute decision to accept Irvine High's offer to be a dance teacher, and English teacher Hilary Motsinger, who is teaching English at Lakeside Middle School this year.

Meanwhile, counselor Nichole Lipman, who has been a counselor at Buena High School for four years, is coming in to fill the hole left by counselor Kevin Sweeney.

As announced previously, math teacher Michael Kassarian will leave to focus on getting his Ph.D in Educational Statistics and UCI, while science teacher Matthew Brown will be moving with his fam-

ily to Oregon.

Northwood psychologist Ann Marie Simmons is also leaving Northwood after announcing last week that she will be the new interim principal at Westpark Elementary.

"It has been my honor to work with such an outstanding group of professionals for the past seven years," said Simmons.

Principal Leslie Roach was upbeat about the new staff.

"Although these faculty members will be missed, there is a promising future for Northwood with the arrival of these new faculty members," said Roach.

"It has been my honor to work with such an outstanding group of professionals."

Ann Marie Simmons on leaving

Furlough: friend or foe?

By MONSOON PABRAI
Staff Writer

District Superintendent Gwen Gross announced in an email on March 16 that the Irvine Unified School District (IUSD) will be working hard to resolve a projected budget deficit caused by California's budget crisis.

To cope with California's economic issues, the IUSD Board of Education approved a number of cost-saving measures including furlough days, days which faculty are required to take off without pay. Northwood High has experienced a taste of furlough, taking four days off last year. This year, Northwood will require even more furlough days on the following dates:

Sept. 1: Although in previous years teachers and administrators have come to school the day before school starts, this will no longer be a workday for the IUSD staff.

Nov. 22, 23 and 24: All IUSD schools will be closed for the entire week of Thanksgiving rather than just the Thursday and Friday of the holiday week.

Jan. 3 and 4: All IUSD students

are scheduled to return from winter recess on Wednesday, Jan. 5, rather than Monday, Jan. 3.

June 16 and 17: These two furlough days will end the school year two days earlier than usual.

"Furlough days are going to be great, especially for us juniors," said junior Addie Pak. "Occasional days off during the school year are going to allow us to refuel and spend more time with our family and friends ... and catch up on AP homework."

Though some students are excited for these eight days off school, IUSD must meet the state requirement of 175 instructional days. Therefore, two previously staff-only days have been converted to regular school days.

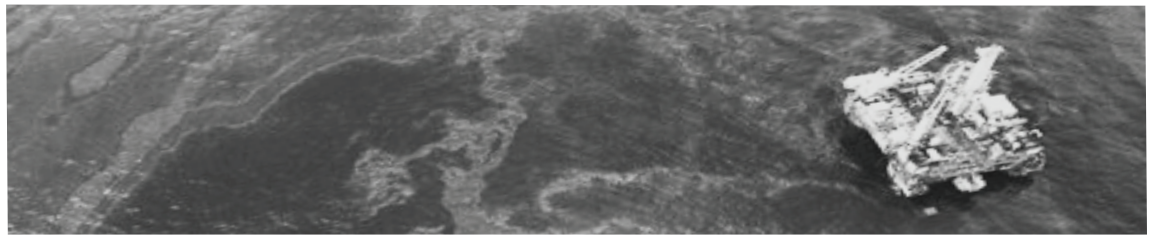
IUSD is not the only school district in California that has had to create furlough days. In fact, many districts in the state have cut more days of school than IUSD has.

"California's budget crisis is hurting the entire state, and the entire state is facing the same situation as us," said sophomore Varuska Patni. "I honestly cannot imagine 6 million students losing 10 to 12 days of their 200 days of education every year."



NORTHWOOD IN FURLOUGH MODE: The Oak Tree, normally a hub of school activity, stands empty as students and staff stay home.

BP oil spill has far-reaching consequences



AMIDST THE WRECKAGE: Oil leaks out of the rig and throughout the Gulf of Mexico, soaking the gulf and its surrounding beaches.

By TINA XU
Photo Editor

The oil has stopped flowing, but the national conversation certainly has not. America is still reeling from the effects of what President Obama calls "the worst environmental disaster America has ever faced," and the debate rages on about the implications of the spill and what it could mean for the future.

After the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig leased to British Petroleum (BP) exploded on April 20, a total of 4.9 million barrels (2 billion gallons) of oil poured into the Gulf of Mexico by the time the leak was capped on July 15, making it the biggest oil spill in history.

Since then, 74% of the leaked oil has reportedly disappeared due to both cleanup efforts and natural processes, and a final relief well is currently being installed to permanently contain the leak. However, the repercussions of the spill are predicted to last decades, if not longer.

"[The ecosystem] is an ecological echo chamber, and I think we'll be hearing the echoes of this ecologically for the rest of my life," said Ian R. MacDonald, a professor of oceanography at Florida State University.

Both the oil and the main chemical dispersant used to clean it up — which contains known animal carcinogens — are taking their toll on the gulf and shoreline ecosystems. As of Aug. 13, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has collected 4,080 dead birds, 525 dead sea turtles and 72 dead mammals, and those are only the ones that have been found. Scientists have counted 8,332 total species of plants and animals threatened by their proximity to the spill.

With the crab, shrimp, oyster and fish populations threatened and the shoreline covered in oil, those who once depended on the Gulf of Mexico for their livelihoods are left with empty pockets. BP has spent nearly \$308 million so far in compensation to fishermen, boat captains, beachfront condo owners and other businesses. However, simple checks in the mail have been insufficient in placating local anger.

"What's so upsetting is the inability to know exactly what your future holds. Will we be another six months? Will we be a year?" said Rep. Charlie Melancon of Louisiana.

To help save BP's reputation, CEO Tony Hayward stepped down in late July after telling the press that he "would like his life back." He was replaced by Managing Director

Robert Dudley from Mississippi.

"In this change of roles, I particularly want the people of the Gulf Coast to know that my commitment to remediation and restitution in the region is not lessened," said Dudley. "I gave a promise to make it right, and I will keep that promise."

To prevent a similar catastrophe in the future, President Barack Obama has issued a deep-water drilling moratorium until Nov. 30 to investigate workplace safety and oil spill responses despite the blow to the economy. The moratorium is estimated to cost 12,000 jobs and \$2.1 billion over the first six months.

Obama sees the spill as a call for energy reform. In a speech to the nation, he reminds us that the driving force for oil companies to drill so dangerously can be traced right back to ourselves — to satisfy the nation's unquenchable thirst for oil.

"For decades, we have known the days of cheap and easily accessible oil were numbered. For decades, we've talked and talked about the need to end America's century-long addiction to fossil fuels," said Obama. "The consequences of our inaction are now in plain sight. Today, as we look into the Gulf, we see an entire way of life being threatened by a menacing cloud of black crude."

Kagan confirmed as Supreme Court Justice

By ASHLEY YONAMINE
Staff Writer

Supreme Court Associate Justice Elena Kagan was sworn in by Chief Justice John Roberts on Aug. 7.

Before the 2008 presidential election, Kagan was the favored Supreme Court Justice nominee if a Democrat entered the Oval Office. With her experience as solicitor-general, many felt that she was a likely candidate, since many former Justice candidates were also solicitors-general.

In 2009, Kagan was reported as being considered, among others, for

Supreme Court Justice nominee by President Obama. However, Obama announced in late May of 2009 that he was instead nominating Sonia Sotomayor, but it was believed that Kagan would be nominated next.

Following Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens's retirement, President Obama nominated Kagan on May 10. The confirmation hearings for Kagan began on June 28 in Washington, D.C.

The hearings were open to the public, and, because of their popularity, the biggest overflow room on Capitol Hill's Senate Walk was reserved for watching the hearings on

a large television.

The Senate Judiciary Committee voted 13-6 to recommend Kagan's confirmation to the whole Senate. Kagan was confirmed with a vote of 63-37 on Aug. 5.

Kagan is the first justice in over 40 years without previous judicial experience, the eighth Jewish justice, the fourth female justice and part of the first-ever three-woman Supreme Court.

When asked what she would be like as a justice, Kagan responded, as a true individual: "If you confirm me, you'll be getting Justice Kagan. You won't get Justice Marshall."



TAKING THE OATH: Former U.S. Solicitor-General Elena Kagan is sworn as the Supreme Court's newest member by Chief Justice John Roberts.

Prop. 8 unconstitutional

But gays still not allowed to marry



EQUALITY FOR ALL: Protesters against Proposition 8, a long-debated measure banning gay marriage in California, gather at a rally.

By ASHLEY YONAMINE
Staff Writer

Despite the Aug. 4 decision that ruled Proposition 8, the voter-approved measure that banned same-sex marriages in California, unconstitutional, same-sex couples may not yet marry while the ruling awaits a final appeal.

The Court of Appeals' decision to extend the ban on gay marriages as it makes a final ruling on Prop. 8 modifies the initial declaration by U.S. District Chief Justice Vaughn R. Walker that Proposition 8 violates parts of the 14th Amendment.

Walker had ruled that Prop. 8 is "unconstitutional under both the due process and equal protection clauses

[of the 14th Amendment]."

"Proposition 8 fails to advance any rational basis in singling out gay men and lesbians for denial of a marriage license," said Walker in his 136-page ruling. "Indeed, the evidence shows Proposition 8 does nothing more than enshrine in the California Constitution the notion that opposite sex couples are superior to same sex couples."

It is expected that this case will make its way to the Supreme Court.

Prop. 8 continues to be scrutinized, and until it reaches the Supreme Court and an official ruling is passed, there will only be more uncertainty regarding the fate of homosexual couples seeking legal marriages.

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Signed Letters to the Editor are welcomed and encouraged. They can be placed in Adviser Tim Horrigan's mailbox or delivered to Room 1102. *The Northwood Howler* reserves the right to edit letters for length, grammar and clarity. Advertisements do not necessarily represent the opinion of the newspaper.

Mission Statement: To serve as a medium for school news and the expression of student ideas while adhering to the highest standards of journalistic integrity.

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SLEEP IN, CAMP OUT

By Rini Sampath
Viewpoint Editor

While you may have been sipping your chilled beverage aside the pool this summer, several students flocked to attend school-related camps in preparation for a busy year. Among the plethora of camps were NTV, ASB, Speech, and Marching Band.

NTV

This two-week camp was held at University High School and hosted by the Film Ed Academy. In this hands-on workshop, students familiarized themselves with the features of expensive cameras, such as the Panasonic HVX500, and learned the details of software like Apple's Final Cut Pro.

With newcomers and veterans continuing to improve upon their film-making skills through this workshop each summer, Northwood students can expect to tune into exciting shows every Friday.



ASB

Every year, Northwood's Associated Student Body (ASB) has the responsibility of making your school day not just about books and classes. To train for throwing school events, dances and socials, Northwood's ASB attended the four-day, three-night Core Camp at Occidental College in Los Angeles.

ASB's first big school event is Homecoming Week, which will take place from Monday, Sept. 27 to Friday, Oct. 1. They have already started laying the groundwork for this event by applying the skills they learned at camp.



SPEECH

Before the newcomers to Northwood's Speech and Debate team are allowed to stuff briefcases with debate notes and put on snazzy suits, they must attend a week-long camp in either July or August to familiarize themselves with the Speech and Debate world.

This day-camp, run by the Speech and Debate team's board, introduces novices to the basics of public speaking by holding mock debate rounds and showcasing performances.



MARCHING BAND

During football season, members of the Northwood Marching Band don prestigious uniforms and play popular tunes for football fans and crowds galore. To make sure their shows run smoothly, band students attend a two-week camp during the summer where sweat, music and laughter mix in the air. The camp is run by Instrumental Music conductor Ben Case and English teacher and Jazz band conductor Erik Emery.

With practice, members' skills are strengthened and will bring rousing music to every Northwood student's ears.



The sunshine in student summers

By MONSOON PABRAI
Staff Writer

Summer is over and the school year has officially begun. While some Northwood students preferred to stay in the bubble, others left Irvine over the break and visited countries around the world.

From June 28 to July 13, 25 students from Northwood High and 15 students from Trabuco Hills High left California for two weeks to experience Europe with Northwood history teacher Eric Keith and Spanish teacher Nancy Kirkpatrick.

This year, the students began in Zurich and then traveled to Paris, Normandy and more.

The Europe trip isn't just about sightseeing and making new friends; it is a chance for Northwood students to put their foreign language skills to use.

"I've taken Spanish for the past three years and it helped me. Some words were similar and I could pick up some French, but one of my friends was in AP French so she had my back during the trip," said senior Parveen Kasraee.

Furthermore, this trip helped students establish their independence.

"Although I missed my family a lot while on the trip, it feels good knowing that I came back in one piece," said senior Kendra Rickard. "It didn't seem like a lot at the time, but this trip gave me confidence that I can be successful when I go to college."

The Europe trip was not the only thing that students did over the summer. Some students traveled all

over the globe, while others stayed in Irvine and found fun ways to spend their summers at home.

"Even though my brother had to pack for college, we still had time to make spontaneous adventures to Disneyland, the beach and Sprinkles Cupcakes." (Addie Pak, 11).

"I mostly hung out with my friends and played at the pool. My cousins came over, and I went on a USC tour, which was fun." (Derek Chiu, 12).

"Alaska was such a beautiful place. My family and I were there for a week, and we had such an amazing time. The tours, hikes, wildlife and glaciers were absolutely magnificent." (Serena Chan, 11).

"China has the best food! I love Chinese food, Shanghai dumplings, peking duck and the spicy Sichuan cuisine!" (Franklin Zhang, 10).

"I visited my cousins in London. I was there for a month, and I was able to experience their way of life. And, I love the English accents." (Ishaani Saha, 10).

"[I visited] Pakistan. It's hot, humid, polluted and not so picturesque, and the conditions of third-world countries is a real eye-opener. But it's not all bad. I get to visit my family, and I love the culture of the people." (Emaan Baqai, 10).

School has begun, but our summers have become memories that we can relive next June.

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EMPEROR'S EDIFICE: Students pose in front of Napoleon's Tomb, a building dedicated to the military history of France.



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SWEET SWISS: Northwood students visit the famous Lake Lucerne in Switzerland.

Top 10 "Oh, no!" moments

By JOHNNY CHANG
Junk Editor and Photographer

10. Oh, no! Babies are so dumb.
9. Oh, no! I used to undress all the Barbies when I was younger.
8. Oh, no! "StarCraft 2" robbed me of my summer and kicked me in the face.
7. Oh, no! A dead cat.
6. Oh, no! I got inside my ride's car only to find out it wasn't my ride.
5. Oh, no! Someone tried to scare me during Halloween, and I accidentally punched them in the face.
4. Oh, no! I butt-dialed my mom.
3. Oh, no! There was something very vulgar here, and Mr. Horrigan cut it out.
2. Oh, no! Sometimes I randomly wake up screaming, "Demons!"
1. Oh, no! Emma Watson!



Graphic by SHANE HUGHES The Northwood Howler

The Decision: LeBron is atrocious

By SUNNY SINGH
Contributing Writer

It's not often that conceited, arrogant and egocentric men are lauded.

Pardon, allow me to rephrase: It's not often that conceited, arrogant and egocentric men are lauded by sensible people.

Of course, not everyone watching the NBA is sensible. That's obvious by the enormous number of clowns who think LeBron James is the best player in the NBA or by the gigantic number of idiots who think Kobe is the best ever. But that's a discussion for another time.

Getting back to LeBron ... What has he done to be able to proclaim himself "King James, ruler of the NBA?"

Have any of his teams broken Jordan's single-season win record? No. Has he won six championships? No. Has he won even one championship? No. Has he done anything of value other than the occasional highlight reel? No.

It's one thing if Kobe nicknames himself "Black Mamba." The man wins championships, whatever. But LeBron nicknaming himself "King James" is as sensible as Sasha declaring himself "The Machine" and then quickly becoming the second best player on the Lakers, right behind Luke Walton.

I guess the same is true for LeBron. If you shoot an atrocious 21.4% in huge games in the playoffs (Game 5 vs. Boston), turn the ball over more times than the box score can report, and then tell reporters after the game, "Nah, I didn't even think about [how I was playing]." I

guess you can call yourself the best player in the NBA.

So after a showing like that, what do you do as a pick-me-up? What any egotistic, self-centered maniac would do: You get "Chosen 1" tattooed on your back.

And then you create a firestorm around your decision to abandon the

team that gave you an opportunity to win and dismiss them as illegitimate and go crawling to a superior player in Miami.

That's what LeBron "Winless" James does, at least.

You can hate him or love him. If you have any sense, you'll hate him.



Graphic by ALLEN CHIU The Northwood Howler

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