

Donor meets recipient

by **Brian Schunk**
Sports Editor

When Matt Szczur registered to be a bone marrow donor in his freshman year of college, he never expected that his donation would save another person's life. He was a star athlete at Villanova University, and amidst the incredible success he was having playing both football and baseball on scholarship for the school, his registration to be a donor was far from his mind.

In his junior year, he received a call to donate during football season, despite a one in eighty thousand chance that his bone marrow would be needed. He was on his way to being named Conference Player of the Year when he got word from a representative of the National Bone Marrow Registry.

Five thousand miles away in the city of Donetsk, Ukraine, a little girl had been struggling for her life. Her name was Anastasia, and at three months old, she developed a fever and was sent to the hospital. After four weeks of care, doctors diagnosed her with leukemia, cancer of the blood cells and the bone marrow. She needed a transplant to survive, but no such operation was available in the Ukraine. Her parents were told that her future was hopeless, and that they might as well have another child because she will surely be lost. Desperate, Anastasia's parents found a clinic in Israel that would provide a transplant if a donor was found.

Szczur would turn out to be a perfect match for her. When he was asked whether or not he would donate he did not hesitate, responding to the representative of the National Bone Marrow Registry, "just tell me what I need to do."

Szczur had to do is take a powerful drug, neupogen, to increase the amount of blood stem cells in his blood stream for the transplant. The drug would also enlarge his spleen and put him at risk for a rupture. The drug kept Szczur out of sports indefinitely.

When he would start to take the drug would depend on the condition of Anastasia. Szczur continued to play football knowing that one phone call could end his season. He finished the season before he was asked to donate, and to end the season he was named Most Outstanding Player of the FCS National Championship game.

Near the end of baseball season, when scouts were trying to get their last looks at players before the draft, Szczur finally got the call. Anastasia's condition had worsened, and the procedure needed to happen immediately.

Doctors removed Szczur's healthy bone marrow during the three-hour long procedure. Just hours later, it was injected into baby Anastasia. With the transplant, Anastasia's chances of survival improved to sixty percent.

Three weeks after the surgery, doctors cleared Szczur to resume baseball activities, but his body was not exactly up to the task. Szczur said "my body just felt terrible, my bones would hurt, and I felt like every move I made I felt like I would tear a muscle, I was just that weak."

The weakness did not show. In his first at-bat since the operation, he hit an inside-the-park home run, to which his teammates said, "Are you serious?"

As for Anastasia, she would survive. Szczur exchanged emails with her parents using google translate, and a few months later, he was able to talk to Anastasia and her family with the help of a real translator. They communicated using skype, and through the translator, Szczur learned that Anastasia's parents considered him part of the family.

To this Szczur replied, "thank you so much for giving me this opportunity." Szczur is and was a great athlete; however, nothing he has done on the field could compare to how he saved the life of a little girl who lived five thousand miles away. (Sources: ESPN, Huffington Post, New York Times)

Country of the month: Territories

by **Anna Esslinger**
Culture Editor

This issue's Country of the Month is the United States of America. As patriotic as that sounds, we are not talking about the fifty states, but rather the US territories Guam and Puerto Rico.

Located in the Western Pacific, Guam is the largest and southernmost island in the Marianas Archipelago. The United States took control of Guam in 1898 and it is still on the United Nations' list of non-self-independent US territories. The capital of Guam is Hagatna, formerly called Agana. The largest and most populated city is Dededo, which has a population is 45,000 people. The largest ethnic group consists of the native Chamorros who compose over 37% of the population. Other ethnicities on the island consist of Filipinos, Whites, Japanese, Korean, and Chinese ancestry. Because of Guam's prominent Chamorro culture, the official language of Guam is Chamorro, as well as English. Eighty-five percent of the population follow Roman-Catholicism., and the current governor is Eddie Calvom.

Puerto Rico is probably the most well-known and popular U.S. territory. On November 19, 1493, Christopher Columbus discovered the island on his second voyage. The National holiday of Puerto Rico is Nov. 19 because it's day of Columbus's discovery. It is located in the Caribbean to the east of the Dominican Republic. The capital and largest city is San Juan. The population of the territory is 3,978,702. The primary ethnicity is Hispanic and the two main languages are Spanish and English.



PUERTO RICAN FLAG: The flag shows off the country's affiliation to its mother-country, the United States.

Puerto Rico is known for its "colorful" culture. The people of Puerto Rico represent a mix of many cultures and races. There is a heavy caribbean influence on Puerto Rican music; they use interesting instruments such as güiros and requintos.

Although Puerto Rican cooking is somewhat similar to both Spanish, Cuban and Mexican cuisine, it is a unique tasty blend of Spanish, African, Taíno, and American influences, using such indigenous seasonings and ingredients as coriander, papaya, cacao, nispero, apio, plantains, and yampee. Locals call their cuisine "cocina criolla."

Famous people from Puerto Rico include Broadway legend Chita Rivera and Spanish-teacher Sandra Plyler. There is a lot of talk about Puerto Rico becoming the 51st states, yet there is a strong-probability that it won't happen in the near future. (Sources: topuertorico.com, mapsofworld.com)

Korea constructs vanishing tower

by **Hyuntae Byun**
News Editor

A driving concept in modern architecture is minimalism, or the idea that less is more. Recently, the US-based GDS Architects group took this concept to a whole new level, proposing a building that will be invisible. This project was recently approved by the South Korean government, and will be built in Seoul, South Korea. When completed, the building will have the sixth highest observation deck in the world. Despite its monumental height, the building's most unique characteristic will be its invisibility.

To accomplish this invisibility the tower will feature 18 high definition cameras. These cameras, positioned throughout the building, will record a constant real-time image. Then software will merge the images together to form a continuous and unbroken panorama. This panorama will be projected onto the front of the building. In short, the building will be a giant television screen displaying what is on the other side of the building to create an illusion of transparency.

Other innovative features of this tower will include an elevator with panoramic screens that will display real-time images of historic landmarks around the world, based on

the height of the elevator. For example, when the elevator reaches the height of the Statue of Liberty, a video feed of New York City appears.

According to the GDS Architects group, the tower symbolizes both the technological and social advances of Korea. The tower will be built to showcase Korean technological ingenuity, but will also exhibit a multitude of other cultures. These exhibits will show Korea's capacity to recognize and celebrate other countries and to symbolically unify global cultures.

While parts of the tower will be dedicated to cultural exhibits, the structure will mainly be used to house recreational facilities, such as a movie theaters, roller coasters, water parks, and food centers.

Some concerns have been expressed over the location of the tower, which is near the Incheon International Airport. However, the tower will not be in the way of any flight paths, and will feature an always-on set of flashing red lights. The placement of the tower's LED displays will make it visible to planes and birds. Construction for the tower is expected to begin in one year, and construction is estimated to take about 3-4 years. (Sources: CNN, Forbes)

Voyager leaves galaxy

by **Montana Fowler**
Center Editor

On Sept. 12, NASA officially confirmed that the Voyager 1 probe was the first human-made object to leave our solar system. Scientists recorded this event as a major historic moment in the history of space exploration.

In 1977 the Voyager left planet Earth, and it is now approximately 11.7 billion miles from Earth. The probe travels at an approximate 38,000 miles per hour; it is expected to fly near a star 40,000 years from now.

Though scientists have claimed that the Voyager 1 has left our solar system several times, new evidence of plasma density has now confirmed the spacecraft is in interstellar space.

Scientists received new data showing the density of the plasma outside the spacecraft to be forty times denser than the density within our heliosphere. With this information, scientists have concluded that the Voyager 1 is now traveling through interstellar medium. Scientists estimate that the probe left our solar system on Aug. 25, 2012.

The spacecraft carries on board a phonograph record, referred to as "the golden record," carrying natural sounds, music, voice greetings in 56 languages, photographs, and diagrams of life on earth, so extraterrestrials who stumble upon the spacecraft can learn about us.

During its thirty six year long journey through our solar system, the "little spacecraft that could," in the words of project manager Suzanne Dodd, has discovered twenty three moons and visited all of our planets.

Ed Stone stated, "In leaving the heliosphere and setting sail on the cosmic seas between the stars, Voyager has joined other historic journeys of exploration: the first circumnavigation of the Earth, the first steps on the moon. That's the kind of event this is, as we leave our solar bubble."

Be sure to keep updated on Voyager's new discoveries! (Sources: CNN, NBC News, Scientific American)

START YOUR BEAUTIFUL CAREER

COSMETOLOGY & ESTHETICS

FULL & PART TIME COURSES AVAILABLE

For upcoming schedule of classes, visit:
tspaSanJose.com | Call 1.877.493.TSPA (8772)

WESTGATE MALL, 1600 Saratoga Ave, Suite 103

Part of a network of 25 franchise nationwide schools. First and only campus in California offering courses in Cosmetology and Esthetics.

Great Services, Amazing Prices

Appointments 408.579.9111

