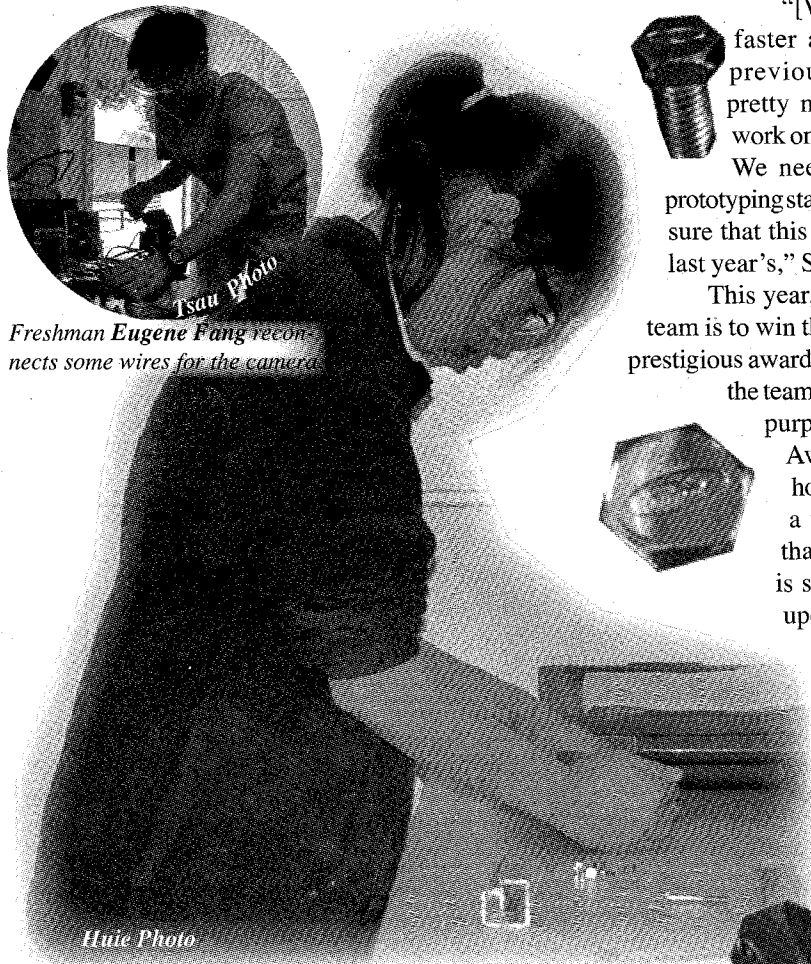


Robotics team gears up to take 'FIRST' place

MEMBERS PREPARE FOR UPCOMING COMPETITION AT SJSU



Freshman Eugene Fang reconnects some wires for the camera.



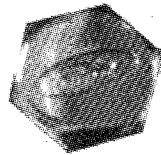
Huie Photo

Hard at work, Senior Amy Qian sorts through bolts for an arm prototype.



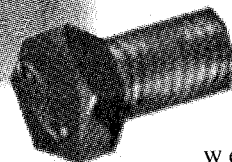
"[We wanted] to make the robot faster and more maneuverable than previous years. The drive train is pretty much done, but we have to work on the ramp and arm. We need to get past the prototyping stage for those and make sure that this year's arm will be lighter than last year's," Senior **Gabriel Arambula** said.

This year, one of the major goals for the team is to win the Chairman's Award, the most prestigious award in FIRST Robotics. Awarded to the team that best embodies the goals and purpose of FIRST, the Chairman's Award represents the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a team and is even more prized than the championship. The team is striving to win the award at the upcoming Silicon Valley Regional on March 15-17 at San Jose



State University, and, hopefully, at the FIRST Championships in Atlanta, Ga.

"I think we have a good chance compared to the other teams. All the positive comments we've gotten



from judges in the past show us that we have recognition in FIRST. The officials know our name – and that's always a good sign," said Arambula.

Besides preparing for competition, the team is also focusing heavily on community relations in order to demonstrate the impact it has on the Almaden Valley community.

"We've been helping out at the Camden Community Center with [FIRST Lego League] teams about once a week. I really enjoy watching the kids put together their robots and seeing their progress throughout the season," Lay said.

In addition to this, Quixilver 604 has helped establish a FIRST Robotics team at Presentation High School. Sharing their knowledge and experience, they have been working closely with the Presentation members on designing and building.

In hopes of increasing awareness about the FIRST program, the team will be holding a demonstration at 10 a.m. at the Smythe Volvo dealership, 740 Capitol Expwy.

Financial support is still a large problem for the team and any donations are readily appreciated.

If you are interested in supporting or learning more about FIRST Robotics, please contact Helen Arrington

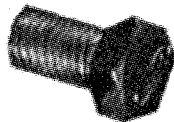
BY JENNIFER TSAU
Editor In Chief

The robotics team (Quixilver 604) is gearing up for another successful season of For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) Robotics Competition.

This year's competition, revealed to Bay Area teams at the kick-off at San Jose State University on Jan. 6, is called "Rack n' Roll." Teams have six weeks to build, design and test a fully-functioning robot capable of hanging inner tubing game pieces (ringers) on to the 'spider,' a large goal situated in the middle of the field. The goal has five rows of eight aluminum tubing 'legs' protruding out of a circular base, with 'feet' attached at the end of each leg – hence the nickname "spider."

"I think this year's game is much more interesting because last year, the field was flat and gameplay was mostly focused on aiming and shooting the balls into the goals. This year, with the ringers, there is a lot more strategizing," Senior **Jennifer Lay** said.

With only three weeks left until all teams must ship off their robots on Feb. 20, Team 604 has completed



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With only three weeks left until all teams must ship off their robots on Feb. 20, Team 604 has completed the robot base and is currently focusing on designing the arm and the ramp.