

Robotics team gears up for first CalGames

BY ALLISON HSIA

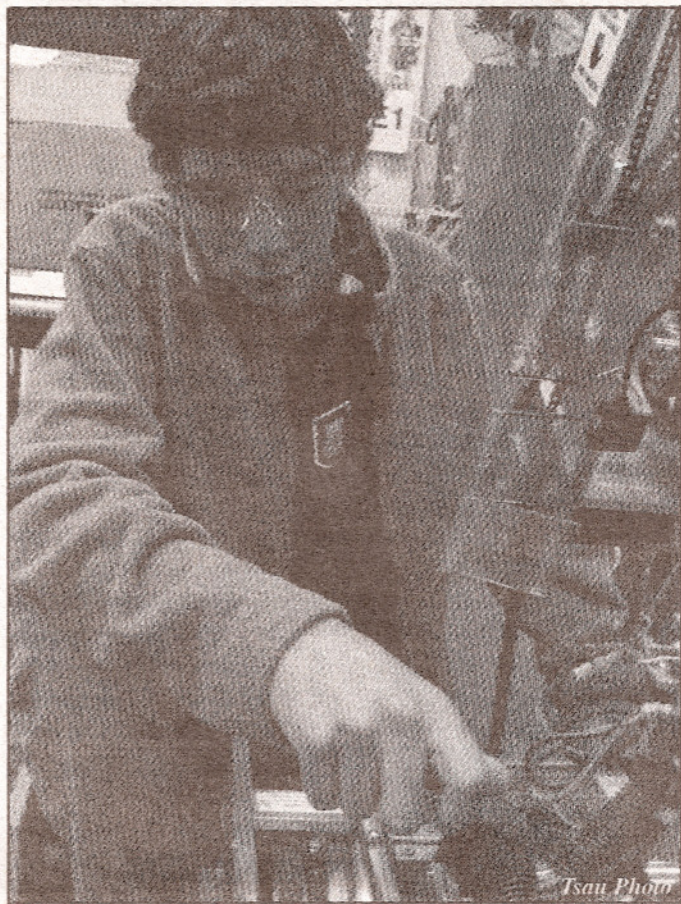
Staff Writer

The Robotics team will be attending the CalGames at Pioneer High School on Saturday with this year's robot.

The Robotics Club has never before attended the CalGames, at least to Senior **Amy Qian**'s knowledge. "The club wasn't active in 2004 and most of the previous team members graduated, so we don't know too much about what they did," said Qian, president of the club. The team will make their first appearance at CalGames with their aluminum and polycarbonate plastic robot. It stands approximately 5 feet tall and weighs almost 120 pounds without its battery. Protruding from its sturdy base is a large plastic tube which holds several 7-inch-diameter Poof balls.

Last spring's For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) Competition's challenge, entitled 'Aim High,' was a basket shooting competition. Robots attempted to shoot a ball into either a tall or short hoop. Tall hoops were 10.5 feet high and baskets made in them were valued more than those that were made in short hoops. After reaching the quarterfinals, the Robotics team received the Industrial Safety Award for using innovative methods to protect against safety hazards and then the Judge's Award 'complete package,' in recognition of their many nominations for other awards. Last year, the team placed first in the Pacific Northwest Regional Competition.

Although the team has not attended CalGames before, Qian is confident. "This year's team is very capable. We have a nice balance of experienced members who will help guide the team and new members who are eager to learn," said Qian. Senior **Caitlin Reyda**, beginning her third year on the team, says she enjoys the club because "it gives students the opportunities they don't get in the regular classroom. There's no course at Leland that will teach you the kinds of things Robotics does."



Tsau Photo

Junior Alejandro Arambula checks the 2006 robot for loose screws.