

SPORTS

By Sean Lyon
Staff Writer

The baseball world was shocked to see the Colorado Rockies in the World Series. Their Cinderella story ended and the Boston Red Sox swept them in four games. It was Boston's second World Series title in four years.

In Basketball, the San Antonio Spurs defeated Le Bron James and the surging Cleveland Cavaliers for their fifteenth title. With superstar Le Bron James at the helm, Cleveland could not pull out the upset and they were swept in four games.

On July 1, 2007, David Beckham moved to the Los Angeles Galaxy Soccer Club from Spain's Real Madrid. He became the highest paid U.S. Major League Soccer player in history.

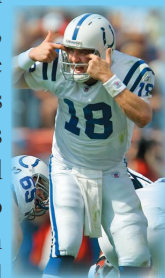


Washington Redskins free safety Sean Taylor, was shot in his home in Miami and died the next day. He was 24 years old.

On November 15, San Francisco Giants baseball star, Barry Bonds was indicted on federal grand jury charges of perjury and obstruction of justice. These charges dated back to December of 2003 when he allegedly lied about using a cream that had a steroid substance in it.



In Super Bowl XLI, held in Miami, Florida, the Indianapolis Colts defeated the Chicago Bears in Super Bowl XLI, with a score of 29-17. This was the first Super Bowl victory for Indianapolis since 1970.



In April, the Anaheim Ducks defeated the Ottawa Senators to claim their first Stanley Cup in franchise history. Also, a new rule was in effect for hockey. If at the end of the game, two teams were tied, they would go to a sudden death shootout. This new rule cut back on numerous draws in the teams records.

International soccer powerhouse, England, failed to qualify for the Euro 2008 soccer tournament. It was the first time in the tournaments existence that they did not qualify.

Tour de France cyclist winner, Floyd Landis, tested positive for taking steroids. Before being stripped of his title, he forfeited his first place medal to the second place rider, German Andreas Kloden.

On October 5, Marion Jones of the 2000 summer Olympic track and field team, admitted to using steroids. She was stripped of her medals.



ENVIRONMENT

By Daniel Jaffe
Photographer

The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issued its most adamant report on global warming this year. The Panel made explicit and specific suggestions regarding melting ice sheets and the possibility of the extinction of many species. It is stated by the panel that if governments fail to respond to this impending problem, there will be dire consequences.

Despite today's environmental pessimism, there are still ways people can contribute to Mother Earth. This year's 37th Annual Earth Day was a success as it educated individuals about ecological conservation. The event, started by Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson in 1970, had over 20 million participants and has grown ever since.



This year, Mr. Internet himself, Al Gore, won the Nobel Peace Prize for his work towards the awareness of global warming. His film, "An Inconvenient Truth," won an Academy Award this year for the realistic portrayal of the dangers of drastic climate changes.



As China's economy booms, the environment suffers from massive pollution. China has generated large clouds of a brownish mixture due to their expanding market. These clouds have diffused throughout Europe, and through particle analysis, scientists declared that the clouds are composed primarily of China's pollution.

Microsoft, has created the computer software as Windows Vista has such strict hardware requirements that it will force computer users to upgrade to new PCs and throw away their perfectly functioning machines. Unfortunately, legislation to mandate environmental disposal of these computers will not take effect until July, leaving time for damage.



Microsoft, has created the computer software as Windows Vista has such strict hardware requirements that it will force computer users to upgrade to new PCs and throw away their perfectly functioning machines. Unfortunately, legislation to mandate environmental disposal of these computers will not take effect until July, leaving time for damage.

The fires of San Diego County affected the region's air quality increasing the amount of carcinogens. Not only were the fires aversive towards people and animals, but the fires increased the carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere. The fires were related to shifts in our climate and poor preventative measures towards controlling fires.



An oil spill wreaked havoc recently along the Kerch Strait in Russia, which will take approximately 5 to 10 years to resolve. This 2000-ton spill greatly harmed the areas wildlife, including its fish and endangered bird populations. Despite the efforts of select clean-up organizations, the Strait's ecosystem remains in state of mayhem.

ECONOMY

By Carrie Lowe
Staff Writer

By releasing the iPhone, Apple revolutionized the technological world by combining a phone, an iPod, a camera and a web browser all into one. Apple also releases a new generation of iPods, including the iPod touch, the iPod classic and the iPod nano video.

Employment rates go up 8.4 % and minimum wage rises 6.7%

Carmakers are developing alternative methods to power cars, such as organic fuel and water. Because diesel engines have excellent fuel efficiency, scientists are using diesel technology to create fuel that meets clean air standards while producing exceptional mileage.



Before the Iraq war began, the government estimated the cost at \$100 to \$200 billion. Recently, the cost has been close to \$300 billion, and annual costs are still rising.



Over 2,000 homes were destroyed in the Southern California fires. This resulted in over 100,000 people being left homeless and seven reported deaths. Also, over 300,000 acres were burned.

The next installment in the wildly popular video game series for the Xbox360, is released on September 25th, and rakes in over \$170 million on the first day. The game quickly became the largest selling video game ever.



On August 4th, the U.S. House of Representatives passed an energy bill, 241-172, included a renewable energy standard (RES) by 15% and ways to protect sensitive public lands from oil and gas drilling

There has been a significant slowing in the US gross domestic production growth, from 2006's 3.5% to 2007's 2.1%. The weakening housing market is a probable cause for the declension of the economy.

Due to a decrease in the amount of oil in the United States can buy from other states, gas prices rose almost a dollar per gallon since January.

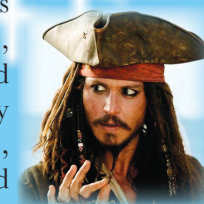


ENTERTAINMENT

By Sarah Wright
Staff Writer

One of the most successful video games, Guitar Hero, has changed the world of video games. This year a third version, Guitar Hero 3 was released. It has been one of the biggest and most played games of the year. This success led to the release of the much anticipated game, Rockband.

The 'Pirates of the Caribbean's third sequel, At Worlds End', released in May 2007, created a huge rush at the box office. 'At Worlds End' has been declared the highest grossing movie of 2007, collecting \$961,001,327.



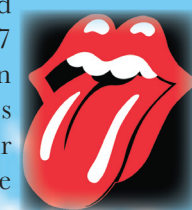
The Dixie Chicks had a defiant comeback at the Grammy Awards winning all five awards that they were nominated for, including record and song of the year, "Not Ready to Make Nice".

Balls of Fury did not come close to enjoying the success of *At World's End*. It only brought in \$11,352,123 in its opening weekend.

Actress and model Anna Nicole Smith's mysterious death shocked millions on February 8, 2007. At the age of thirty-nine, the actress was found unconscious shortly after she checked into the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Hollywood, Florida, and died at a South Florida hospital.

The science-fiction drama, 'Heroes', has become the most popular show of 2007. It premiered in September of 2006 with characters who are trying to deal with their new-found supernatural powers.

The Rolling Stones' 'A Bigger Band Tour', which ran from August 2005 through August 2007, topped Guinness Book of World Records list of most successful music tours. The band made 437 million dollars on their worldwide tour.



O.J. Simpson pleaded guilty for kidnapping and armed robbery on November 14 2007. He will be on trial next year, April 2008, in Las Vegas.

Britney Spears' comeback on September 10, 2007 at the MTV Video Music Awards backfired with horrible slip-ups in her routine. Her first major performance in three years will be remembered as one of the ugliest moments in performance history.



Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick was charged with competitive dog fighting on July 17, 2007. It was said that he attended the fights and bet on the dogs. It was also proved that he was involved in the execution of his dogs when they did not compete or fight well.

THE GOOD

THE BAD

THE UGLY

NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS

By Carey Kennedy
Staff Writer

Becoming a vegetarian is a big commitment; one that

freshman Charlotte Towner has decided to do. "I'd like to be a vegetarian because animals have just as many rights as people," Towner said. She believes that there are other alternatives to receive protein. "My dad inspired me because he accomplished being a vegetarian for thirty years," Towner said.



Many teachers complain that students are

not putting full effort into their work. "I want to write neater because one of my teachers didn't give me full credit on an assignment," freshman Natalie Russell said. "To change the way I write I'm going to slow down and pay more attention."



There is much more information regarding

food and nutrition. "For my new year's resolution I want to eat healthier," Mr. Fairley said. "I'm probably a bit overweight, maybe ten to fifteen pounds." As an additional resolution, "I would like to spend time on my new boat to go fishing," Fairley said.



Normally guys will be surfing down at a beach in La Jolla, but do

you ever see any female surfers? Sophomore Anna Degooey plans to change that in La Jolla. "I would like to learn how to surf better," Degooey said. "My friends surf, and because we live in La Jolla it's a good thing to know how to do."



"I want to make people smile...every-

day!" senior John Wu said. His theory is that when more people are happy, the world is a better place. "I will tell them funny jokes or stories to make them laugh," Wu said. "If they smile, I myself will be happy and hopefully they will be happy too."



QUIZ: RATE YOUR YEAR

Find out if you know what has been going on this year, or if you've been living under a rock!

① Check movies you saw:

- ☐ Superbad
- ☐ Harry Potter 5
- ☐ American Gangster
- ☐ Into The Wild

② Who won the Rap Battle?

- a) 50 Cent
- b) Kanye West

③ Anna Nicole Smith was:

- a) a politician
- b) Broadway starlette
- c) infamous goldigger
- d) news anchorwoman

④ Global warming has immensely decreased since Gore's environmental campaign.

- a) True
- b) False

⑤ The Apple iPhone was first retailed at:

- a) \$299
- b) \$699
- c) FREE!
- d) \$599

⑥ Who won the Heisman Trophy?

- a) Tim Tebow
- b) Darren McFadden
- c) Colt Brennan
- d) Denis Dixon

⑦ Which state, if made into its own country, would be the 5th richest in the world?

- a) Alaska
- b) New York
- c) Rhode Island
- d) California

Tally up your points!
One per correct answer.

1-3: Cave Dweller: You need to get out WAY more often. And grab a newspaper...quick!

4-6: No Cigar: You got some of the facts down, but you could sharpen up your trivia.

7-10: Walking Encyclopedia: You know everything about 2007, from movies to sports!

KEY: ① b, ② c, ③ d, ④ b, ⑤ c, ⑥ a, ⑦ d



WWW.MYSFACE.COM/SUSPENCEPHOTOGRAPHY

College Admission Essay Advisor

You.
(in 500 words or less)

The essay is *your voice* in the college admission process.
So, what are YOU going to say?

It is not too late to write outstanding essays that are
going to stand out to college admissions officers.

I CAN HELP YOU:

- Clearly define your essay topic
- Use creative writing tools to make your writing leap from the page
- Polish existing essays
- Meet all deadlines

Christie Ryan 858-459-0280 • noble.creations.cr@gmail.com



LF Stores

Come fill out a
Holiday Wish List...
the best way to let
everyone know exactly
what you want!

LF La Jolla
7864 Girard Ave
La Jolla, CA 92037
858.866.4220


be unique, be yourself

Sean Taylor: Redskins Hero

By Kyle Loomis

Staff writer

Early morning on Monday, November 26, 2007, Sean Taylor was nursing an injury that kept him off the football field that weekend in his Miami home. Ironically and quite tragically, Taylor became the victim of what seemed to be an ordinary burglary while he was working his way to becoming healthier. Taylor suffered from a bullet wound in the groin area, and was immediately hospitalized. At 3:30 am early Tuesday morning, Sean Taylor died from his wound at the young age of 24.

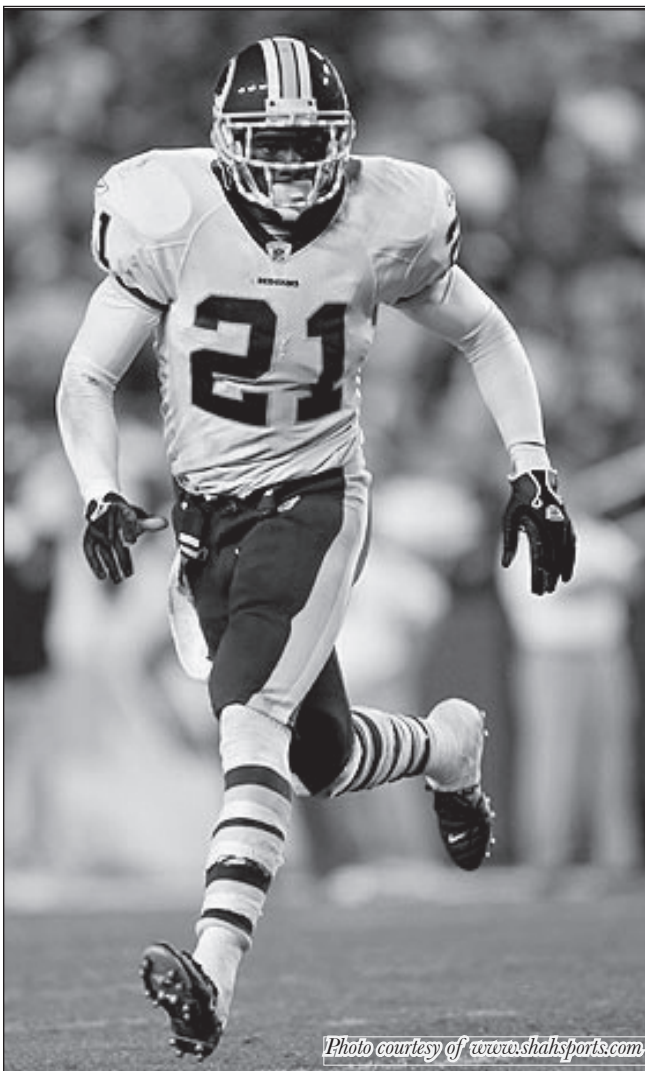
The shock of this sudden death was felt most by Taylor's family, friends, teammates, and the rest of the Washington Redskins organization.

"This is the worst imaginable tragedy. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sean's family," Redskins owner Daniel Snyder said in a statement to the press. The impact of the loss off Sean Taylor's life will be felt immediately from a football perspective, but more

importantly, Taylor's sudden murder raises many questions.

Taylor had a questionable past, having been in violent situations during his early National Football League (NFL) career. After leaving the University of Miami, Taylor was drafted by the Washington Redskins, and in his first year he was plagued by controversy. Throughout his entire career, Taylor had been fined multiple times, for both on and off-field NFL infractions, including late hits, NFL dress code violations, and spitting in a player's face.

"Taylor was a great player, but I'll always remember him for



Rest in Peace: Redskin's beloved Sean Taylor in his greatest days.

Photo courtesy of www.shahsports.com

his tough and relentless playing style," sophomore Cameron Ravenbach said.

He has also been arrested for allegedly driving under the influence of alcohol, aggravated assault with a firearm, battery, and for allegedly pointing a gun at a person.

Despite his troubled past, teammates and family members had said that after the birth of his first daughter, Taylor began to stay out of trouble and improve his lifestyle.

"It's a shame that such a talented football player like Taylor died at a young age, especially since he had just begun to improve immensely not only as a football player, but as a person too," senior Kevin Miller said.

It was later revealed that the break-in on November 27 was the

second intrusion at Taylor's home. On November 18, Taylor's house was burglarized, but no valuable items were taken thankfully. Taylor and his family were absent. The Miami police have arrested four suspects, but, thus far, there is no apparent motive.

The death of Sean Taylor was truly horrific, but it certainly causes contemplation about how often professional athletes are targeted by burglars, and even more so it raises speculation about Taylor's death. Many seem to think that the death of Sean Taylor was not a burglary and was an intentional murder, which could be entirely possible in light of Taylor's troubled past.

Obviously speculation will remain only speculation until there is a major break in the case.

No matter what your opinion may have been of Sean Taylor, anytime a young man of 24 years passes away, it is a heartbreaking and appalling event. Taylor's family and friends deserve our thoughts and prayers.



By Dario Aharpour

Staff writer

Trying to drown out the deafening cheer of thousands of Croatian fans, England was faced with a dilemma as they sat on the muddy field of Wembley Stadium after realizing that they had lost their chance at qualifying for the 2008 UEFA European Football Championship. The most acclaimed soccer games in Europe will commence this coming summer in Austria and Switzerland, while England's "golden generation of soccer players" miss out.

For those who may be unfamiliar with the 2008 UEFA European Football Championship, commonly known as "Euro '08," it is a soccer championship held every four years since 1960.

"I can't wait for Euro '08, it's going to be one of the biggest soccer championships in Europe and the world," freshman Levi Aleman said.

The championship is a widespread soccer tournament between various European nations. Europe's best will play this summer in Austria and Switzerland. The teams are from the host nations Austria and Switzerland, Poland, Por-

tugal, Italy, France, Greece, Turkey, Czech Republic, Germany, Croatia, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Romania, and the Netherlands. Those who pass the qualifying rounds will go on to the final tournament in the hopes of winning Euro '08. However, the unthinkable happened on November 21, 2007, England, the nation that had modernized soccer, failed to qualify for next summer's Euro '08.

The world stood still when news of England's loss to Croatia was understood. Needing only a draw to qualify for the European Championship, it seemed unfathomable to watch two quick goals fly by England's goalkeeper, Scott Carson, in the first half of the match. Quickly retaliating, England bounced back with a penalty goal by midfielder Frank Lampard in the 56th

minute after a foul by Croatia's defender, Josip Simunic, in the penalty area. Then after an equalizer by right winger David Beckham's cross to striker

Peter Crouch, the tension was strained all across the globe. England needed to maintain the score in order to qualify. However, in the 77th minute, after receiving a pass, Croatia's striker, Mladen Petric scored the win with a 30-meter far corner shot.

"I can't believe England was kicked out. They are one of the best soccer teams in the world," varsity soccer player, Alex Abbott said.

One of the most elite soccer teams in all of Europe was beaten and kicked out of the 2008 UEFA European Football Championship. England will not go on to play in Austria and Switzerland in 2008, and after losing to Russia a month before, England let two chances pass by them. "You have to take them when they're given to you," England player David Beckham said.



Photos courtesy of www.sportsmania.com

Goal: England's Ham West getting ready to score a goal.

PIN TO WIN



Photos by Haley Cottrell

By Brooks Newberry

Editorial Intern

Weeks of training and weight cutting yielded a win for La Jolla High's wrestling team's first dual meet against San Diego High School this month. On Wednesday, December 5, La Jolla earned nine pins and two technical victories (wins by highest point score after six minutes; both by 135 lbs. wrestlers), giving the team an overall high score to win.

Standout matches included sophomore Joey Bruder's (119 lbs) pin, made in under a minute, and senior Daniel Gloven's (135 lbs) spectacular tech win,

highlighted by a tricky "granby" roll, freeing him from the bottom position by rolling over his own shoulders. His match was punctuated by time taken out to clean up blood from the mat and wrestlers.

"I'd say the standout match was Daniel Gloven's bloody victory," said junior wrestler Diego Alayza. Shortly after watching Gloven's match, Alayza won with a pin against his 189 lbs opponent.

"The match was really intense; I couldn't believe how much physical exertion the sport required," she said after watching a wrestling meet for the first time.

HOOP- THERE IT IS!

By Kaitlin Sharpe

Staff writer

It was a tough loss for the La Jolla High Men's Basketball team on Friday, December 7. Starters Jerrell Agnew, Spencer Moyer, Peter Sefton, Matt Jones, and Taylor Davis took on Poway in what was to become a heated battle.

The game started out quickly, as Poway put the first points on the board with an early three-

pointer. But Agnew, who had a total of 12 points during the game, quickly answered with a three-pointer of his own. Soon after, the Vikings increased their lead to a strong 14 to 5, forcing Poway to take their



first timeout with two minutes left in the first quarter.

Fresh off their timeout, Poway came out ready to play, scoring two consecutive baskets to bring the score to a much closer 14 to 9. But the Vikings were not going to let them get away with it. Jones, who made ten points for the Vikings, scored right before the buzzer to make the first quarter score 16 to 9.

During the second quarter, the Vikings kept a steady lead with Poway never getting within five points. At one point, the Vikings led by nine points, but their team fouls began to add up, which made it harder for them to strengthen their lead. Nevertheless, the Vikings were

able to stay strong, and they went into halftime with a lead of 26 to 21.

The third quarter was an exciting one, as the point spread decreased and the game became more intense.

"The third quarter was crazy," junior Molly Rutgard said. "I was literally standing on the edge of my seat. You could tell how much each team wanted the win. It was great basketball."

The first lead change came when Poway surpassed the Vikings near the end of the quarter, but La Jolla was able to gain it right back in the final minute, leaving the score at a close 43 to 42.

The fourth and final quarter proved to be the most intense, as both teams battled it out for

Viking Defense: (left) Senior Peter Sefton sets a screen for a clear shot. (center) Senior Matthew Jones is up for the pass. (right) Poway goes up for the rebound.



the win. The lead switched back and forth between teams until Poway began to pull away from La Jolla, taking the lead with a score of 51 to 47. Things began to quiet down in the gym until Moyer, La Jolla's scoring leader with a total of fifteen points, made an impressive shot which boosted the morale and brought the Vikings back in the game.

"The best part of the game came when we had our late comeback," senior forward Peter Sefton said. "We really competed well near the end of the game and gave it our all."

La Jolla worked hard to get the lead back from a score of 59 to 51 and three minutes left until the buzzer sounded. They stepped up their game by applying full court press, and in what was the most

exciting part, eventually came within three points of Poway. No doubt, the La Jolla Vikings played a great and competitive game, with a final score of 57 to 60, and they are only going to get better.

"We are going to work and improve on our defense," senior guard Matt Jones said. "Then we will start getting better and winning in league."

Be sure to support your Vikings Basketball team Tuesday, January 8, as they take on Cathedral Catholic at home in what is sure to be a great game.



Photos courtesy of Kaitlin Sharpe.

POWDER PUFF

By Molly Salas

Staff writer

More than half of the La Jolla High students and faculty filled Edwards Stadium last week to watch the Second Annual Powder Puff football tournament. Put on last year for the first time by ASB, the officers of the junior class kept the tradition alive.

The tournament was an opportunity for girls to show their vicious athleticism, as well as a chance for boys to show their support as cheerleaders. In addition, those who watched the game were able to show enthusiasm and class spirit.

"PowderPuff is one of the best school spirit opportunities all year. Everyone can get into it and have fun, whether you're watching or playing," sophomore player Nathaly Moungvong said.

With the class of 2008 taking the title, and the reputation of last year's victory, the seniors were eager to annihilate again, with key players such as Gina, Meghan, and Ashley Fu, as well as coaches Matt Mulvey, Jason Haire and Michael Gartman.

Taking on the sophomores, the seniors backed a strong defense to keep the sophomores from scoring. The seniors and sophomores played an intense game, which was scoreless until the last few minutes of the game. The sophomores were close to scoring, but an interception by senior Gina

Schumacher wouldn't allow the sophomores to get any closer to scoring. Despite an impressive sophomore defense led by Nathaly Moungvong, Senior quarterback Meghan Barry triumphed and led the seniors to a victory of 7-0 with



a pass to Ashley Fu, who scored the winning touchdown.

The sophomore team's coaches, seniors Kevin Miller, John Jackson and Charlie Klene, were happy, overall, with their team's performance.

"Our team came a long way. They improved a lot, and I'm proud of them and of

how close the game was. We had a pretty good chance of winning if it weren't for Gina's interception," Charlie Klene said.

That left the freshmen to take on the juniors. The



Powder Power:

Coaches, players, and teams worked together to put together a Powder Puff performance that will be remembered forever. Teammates got their game faces on and ran smooth plays. The Seniors showed the underclassman who's boss in their stellar performances on the field. The whole school rallied behind the girls



Photos by Lena Rothstein

freshmen were coached by Garrett Anderson, Alex Abbott and John Wu. With junior quarterback Kelly Satterlee leading her team to a victory of 21-0, it was the combined efforts of the speedy Meghan Forrey, Nihal Kayali, and Tess Plant-Thomas that helped the juniors annihilate the freshmen, who were led by quarterback Alex Abbott.

Not only did cheerleaders get a chance to play and be cheered on, but football players were enthusiastic about showing their class support. Especially spirited were the boy cheerleaders of the sophomore class.

"Our cutoff shirts and ripped abs brought smiles to many faces," Adam Lautanen remarked about the sophomore boys' wardrobe.

After two intense games between seniors and sophomores, and juniors and freshmen, the seniors and juniors



went head to head to determine the tournament winner. The game was tight, with some impressive running plays made by Tess Plant-Thomas, Amanda Gordon, and Meghan Forrey. The seniors went ahead due to a completion to Gina Schumacher, who scored the touchdown that led the class of 2008 to their second consecutive victory.

TEAM TERMINOLOGY: WRESTLING

By Brooks Newberry

Staff writer

Mat -Each six minute wrestling match takes place on a rubber mat, within a boundary circle of at least 28 feet.

Referee's position -The starting position where one wrestler kneels on "bottom" and the other holds on "top". Used to begin after an out-of-bounds, or to begin the 2nd or 3rd period.

Points -Matches can be won by earning points performing take-downs (from neutral, or standing, down to mat), reversals (moving from bottom to top), and escapes (from being controlled).

Shot -When a wrestler drops to a knee and grabs his opponent's leg(s) to take him down.

Sprawling -A defensive move, done by kicking back one's legs to avoid a shot.

Snap down -Another kind of take down, done by holding the opponent's neck and shoulders and forcing him down to the mat.

Pin -The match is won whenever a wrestler can hold both of his opponent's shoulders to the mat for two seconds.

Denny's - After days of weight cutting and dieting before a tournament, teams come here to fill up after they "weigh-in" early in the morning.

THE DEARLY DEPARTED

By Kyle Loomis
Staff writer

Luciano Pavarotti (October 12, 1935 - September 6, 2007)

Known as one of the most famous opera singers of the twentieth century, Luciano Pavarotti died on September 6, 2007. He was born in Modena, Italy, and began his opera career in 1961 as a tenor. Early in his career, Pavarotti focused on serious opera, quickly becoming known for his pure voice, he was nicknamed “King of the High C’s.” In the 1980s, he began an extremely successful project named “The Three Tenors,” in which he periodically toured with fellow

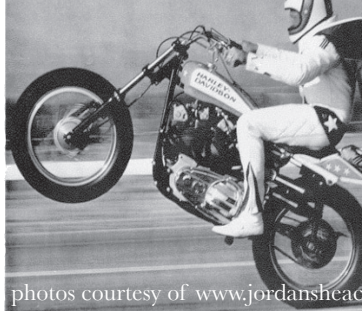
tenors Placido Domingo and Jose Carreras. Pavarotti stayed in the public spotlight through media appearances and charity work. Pavarotti frequently performed at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City, and his final performance in 2004 was received by a fifteen minute standing ovation and ten curtain calls. Pavarotti ultimately succumbed to pancreatic cancer at the age of 71. His acclaimed on-stage charisma will be missed.



photo courtesy of www.martinlawrence.com
Take a Bow: A genial and gracious Luciano Pavarotti. His contributions will never be forgotten.

Evel Knievel (October 17, 1938 - November 30, 2007)

The world’s most famous daredevil and stunt performer, Robert Craig Jr. “Evel Knievel”, died on November 30. His ride to fame began in the late 1960s, and his nationally



photos courtesy of www.jordansheacom
Who’s the greatest?: (top) Evel Knievel before a stunt and (bottom) Evel Knievel showing how it is done.

televised motorcycle jumps were among the most watched sports events to date. He set several world records from his achievements and failures, including a world record forty broken bones. Among his most famous stunts were his attempt to jump Snake River Canyon at Twin Falls, Idaho, and Caesar’s Palace in Las Vegas, Nevada. He was born

in Butte, Massachusetts, and grew up with his grandparents. At the age of eight, Knievel attended a Joie Chitwood Auto Daredevil Show, which he claimed inspired him to become a motorcycle daredevil. He dropped out of high school after his sophomore year, and lived a crime-filled early adulthood, being arrested on a few occasions including reckless driving. In the late 1950s, he joined the army and then played minor pro hockey before his career as a daredevil. He had been suffering from diabetes and idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, and died at 69. The memories of his stunts will live forever.

The World Without Us

By Kyle Loomis
Staff writer

The World Without Us is a brilliant and terrifying look at what would happen on Planet Earth if humanity were to completely vanish tomorrow. In the book, the author, Alan Weisman, takes us through the various stages of nature’s reclamation of everything humans have ever constructed – from Houston’s oil refineries to New York’s subways. The book doesn’t just look at what happens when we disappear – it also examines exactly how we are fundamentally altering our environment, almost to the point of no return. At its current level, it will take 100,000 years for the levels of carbon dioxide in the Earth’s atmosphere to return to pre-industrial levels. At the moment, the number of “nurdles” (microscopic pieces of plastic) outweighs the number of plankton in the world’s oceans by six times. And the faces of the presidents on Mount Rushmore will last for just over 7 million years. While these facts may seem uninspiring, they prove to be extremely potent when used

to demonstrate how long humanity will cast a shadow over this planet, even after our civilization is long gone. Alan Weisman’s intellectual foray into a world devoid of humans helps us to understand where we fit in the Planet’s ecosystem. When you consider that there aren’t enough humans in the world to fill the Grand Canyon, it seems that the effects we have on the planet are disproportionate to our population size. *The World*



photos courtesy of www.blogs.salon.com
A Different World: A visual insight into what Planet Earth looks like in the book.*
Without Us shows us that humans started dramatically changing our environment from the first moment we stepped foot on the North American continent. Just before Homo Sapiens colonized what is now the

United States, Canada, and Mexico, it was home to some of the strangest, and largest mammals ever to inhabit the Earth. Giant sloths the size of bears, wooly mammoths, armadillos the size of cars, super-sized lions and panthers, and many more were all residents on North America. That is, until man showed up. At least 70 different species of large mammals died off within 1,000 years of the introduction of humans. This massive wave of extinction vested on the native North American animals was accomplished by humans using only sharpened stones and spears. *The World Without Us* serves as a poignant, resounding, and terrifying reminder that what we do can permanently scar our planet, and that our mistakes carry with them a terrible price. What we pump into the ecosystem will undoubtedly affect Earth for millions of years, and some of our creations will survive until the very end of our planet. Alan Weisman weaves together present day actions and the long term effects of those actions in a new and compelling way.

The Golden Compass

By Matthew Cordell
Staff writer

Philip Pullman’s *The Golden Compass* was made into a movie starring Nicole Kidman and Daniel Craig. It grossed \$25.7 million in its first weekend. The books are widely acclaimed and often lauded as a modern literary classic. The adaptation, written and directed by Chris Wietz, apparently omits a great deal of original material that has recently become the subject of intense controversy. The setting of the novel is in a world that closely mirrors our own, not withstanding witches, armored polar bears, and a mysterious substance called ‘Dust’. It is, however, the depiction of the fictional Church in the novel that has raised protest. Pullman, an outspoken atheist, has created a Church that ultimately intends to keep humanity ignorant and remove free will. Many religious leaders fear that the novel denigrates Catholicism and acts primarily as a vehicle for Pullman’s religious outlook. In truth, many of these concerns are directly related to readers not understanding the book and making judgments without actually reading the

content. In fact, many of the events and values of the books seem to coincide with ideals of the Catholic Church. Importance is placed on the preservation of free will, and the ultimate



goal of the protagonists is to dethrone a false god. In fact, the two main characters are based on the biblical figures of Adam and Eve and their choices are pure and self-sacrificing. The main complaint against the fictional Church is not the presence of a higher power, but rather its repeated attempts to turn knowledge into a sin. “I don’t care about religious controversy, I would just like to enjoy a well-made movie,” senior Sarah Bales said. Pullman’s work is brilliantly done, readers will be pleased with its mystical feel and will ultimately be moved by the joys and tragedy found within the story. Regardless of beliefs, or lack thereof, these books deserve to be read and the movie should be given a chance. “Why am I going to see the movie? One word... polar bear fight,” senior Nick Christenson said.



photo courtesy of www.empireonline.com
Classic Movie Scene: *The Polar Bears fight until the death (above) and Nicole Kidman allures all (top).*

SUDOKU

5	3			7				
6			1	9	5			
	9	8					6	
8				6				3
4			8		3			1
7				2				6
	6					2	8	
			4	1	9			5
				8			7	9

photo courtesy of www.sudoku.com



By Molly Salas
Staff writer

Disney's Top Five



PRECIOUS PRINCESS

HANDSOME HERO

BANGING BEATS

VINDICTIVE VILLAINS

STEADFAST SIDEKICK



Jasmine from *Aladdin*

Confined to her palace walls, Jasmine longed for something more than only talking to her pet tiger Raja. In an attempt to experience a land she never knew, Jasmine ventures to the streets. There she meets the young street rat Aladdin, and experiences “a whole new world”. Even though Jasmine can only marry a prince, she stands up for her right to choose who to marry. Jasmine shows what it means to fight the power and fly on carpets, while keeping her hair almost as ridiculously voluminous as her pants. Jasmine’s father eventually lets her marry Aladdin out of love. Jasmine’s keen persuasion and pet tiger make her the leading lady of Disney lovers everywhere.

2. **Mulan** from *Mulan*
3. **Meg** from *Hercules*
4. **Ariel** from *The Little Mermaid*
5. **Pocahontas** from *Pocahontas*

Shang Li from *Mulan*

When it comes to attractive Disney characters, Shang wins our hearts with his skill and precision with an arrow, constant look of contemplation, and uncanny ability to go shirtless. Mysterious as the dark side of the moon, Shang’s enigmatic personality leaves viewers wanting more. His dedication and determination to his army and his country make him the kind of guy to bring home to grandma (who would readily approve). Compared to Shan-Yu, the creepy looking leader of the Huns, Shang’s striking features and expertly drawn Disney-animated muscles make him a crowd favorite. With the strength of a blazing fire, Shang battled his way to the top of Disney’s handsome hunks.

2. **Hercules** from *Hercules*
3. **Aladdin** from *Aladdin*
4. **Prince Eric** from *The Little Mermaid*
5. **Prince Philip** from *Sleeping Beauty*

1. *Under the Sea* – The Little Mermaid
2. *Zero to Hero* – Hercules
3. *Bibbidi-Bobbidi-Boo* – Cinderella
4. *I’ll Make a Man Out of You* – Mulan
5. *Be our Guest* – Beauty and the Beast
6. *A Whole New World* – Aladdin
7. *Once Upon a Dream* – Sleeping Beauty
8. *I Just Can’t Wait to Be King* – The Lion King
9. *Some Day My Prince Will Come* – Snow White and the Seven Dwarves
10. *That’s How You Know* – Enchanted



“Shang is like Kung Pao chicken: hot and Asian,” sophomore Brittany Crowe said.

Scar from *The Lion King*

Next in line to being king of the jungle, this favorite malicious lion takes top villain. With his brother Mufasa in the way, Scar does everything in his power to make Mufasa no longer an obstacle. The gash that gives Scar his name adds to his overall villainous appeal, as well as his maliciousness in killing his brother and convincing his nephew Simba that it was entirely his fault. After he was sure both Simba and Mufasa were dead, Scar took the throne and, like every good villain, made things miserable for the kingdom.

With the help of his three hyena sidekicks, his irony and sheer wickedness make Scar the character you love to hate. With these characteristics, Scar wins the title of top Disney villain.

2. **Ursula** from *The Little Mermaid*
3. **Malificent** from *Sleeping Beauty*
4. **Jafar** from *Aladdin*
5. **The Queen** from *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves*

Sebastian from *The Little Mermaid*

Horatio Thelonious Ignacious Crustaceous Sebastian is a crazy little crab whose sole purpose is to keep Ariel out of trouble, while trying to compose underwater symphonies.

Since Ariel is stubborn and everyone’s favorite nautical invertebrate is a pushover, it doesn’t work for Sebastian to keep Ariel from going to the surface. Soon, after Sebastian learns about Ariel’s deal with Ursula, he does all he can to make sure Ariel stays out of harm’s way.

It is Sebastian’s wisdom, caring nature and endearing charisma that make him the best Disney animal sidekick ever. Seriously, who needs a noble steed when there’s a noble crab like the ever-faithful Sebastian?

2. **Pegasus** from *Hercules*
3. **Mushu** from *Mulan*
4. **Abu** from *Aladdin*
5. **Meeko and Flit** from *Pocahontas*

No Writing, More Striking! By Dario Aharpour Staff writer

Last month, the world of entertainment television was put on hold as nearly 3,000 Hollywood writers left their desks and took to the streets in Los Angeles. The Writers Guild of America (WGA) sparked conflict with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP). During a conference in Los Angeles on November 1, 2007, arguments arose between the WGA and the AMPTP. This caused a widespread media blackout across the nation.

The WGA’s contract with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers expired on October 31, 2007. During the conference to renew the MBA (Minimum Basic Agreement), an impasse was reached while trying to negotiate contract settlements. The negotiation regarded the percentage of profit that the WGA gains of

DVD residuals. The WGA has requested an increase of their current 0.3% profit. The AMPTP stated the current formula compensates the

business of media, and the entire entertainment world.

The WGA strike has caused a halt of numerous television shows on nearly

are being written by the television station without the permission of the creator. For instance Seth MacFarlane, creator and voice-actor of the hit-television show *Family Guy*, halted the progress of the show on November 11, 2007. However, the station that MacFarlane’s show airs on, Fox, made a sly decision to complete the last episodes without MacFarlane’s permission. Fox’s decision was described by MacFarlane as, “A colossal d**k move.” Seth MacFarlane said.

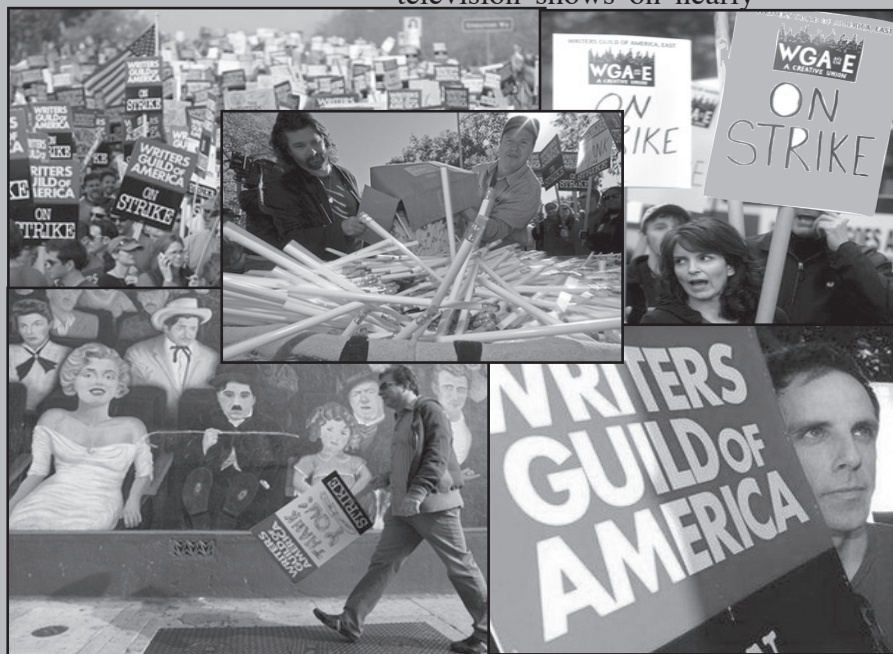
As a result of the strike, companies such as 20th Century and Paramount

have halted the production of their television shows and fired writers’ assistants, production assistants, and staffers from various programs. This assault on the lower-level staffers was described by the *Los Angeles Times* as the attack on the “little people”.

“It’s not fair to fire the assistants. They have nothing to do with the strike.” Sophomore Brandon Farnam said.

With yet another strike, television will face another drastic change. Viewers will suffer endless reruns of shows. Expect to see hit-television shows halt production entirely in mid-January, and stockpile television movies. The WGA strike is not a joke and the writers hope that in the words of Stewie Griffin...

“VICTORY WILL BE OURS!”



Fight the Power: Ben Stiller and Tina Fey support their writers and (right) a man walks alone past a Hollywood mural and piles of writers strike together (left) and writers toss boxes of pencils away. (center).

writers. The conflict not only affected television viewers across the nation, but it also affected the economy, the

every station. Although some shows stopped midseason, some episodes

Student Book Reviews

***Into Thin Air*, John Krakauer**

“When I wobbled back to Camp Four around 7:30 Saturday morning, May 11, the actuality of what had happened-of what was still happening-began to sink in with paralyzing force.” Written by Jon Krakauer, *Into Thin Air* is a heart-wrenching novel about a man pushing his limits. Krakauer takes us through his personal account of climbing Mount Everest. We recommend this book to someone who is outgoing and would like a little adventure in his or her life.

review by Dylan Jackson, and Jose Corona

***Into the Wild*, John Krakauer**

“In April 1992, a young man from a well-to-do East Coast family hitchhiked to Alaska. Four months later, his decomposed body was found by a moose hunter.” *Into the Wild*, by John Krakauer follows the journey of Chris McCandless from Washington D.C., across America, down to San Diego, and up into Alaska...alone. If you enjoy the outdoors, or a real life adventure, you will enjoy this true story of a man on a journey. In order to find out who he really is Chris discarded all modern luxuries and went into the wild. Every chapter of this action-packed story will leave you on the edge of your seat. Do yourself a favor and pick up *Into the Wild*.

review by Gary Frankhauser, David Ferker, McCall Penn, Cody Chapple

***Friday Night Lights*, H.G. Bissinger**

In the small town of Odessa, Texas, there is only one thing on everyone’s mind: football. If you are a Permian Panther varsity football player, you are a celebrity. *Friday Night Lights* is a novel by H.G. Bissinger about the struggle and triumph of one of the top high school football teams in the state of Texas. It depicts the compassion and dedication that not only the football players have towards their team, but that the whole community has as well. “Athletics lasts for such a short period of time. It ends for

review by Amanda Gordon, Honorio Cervantes, Gracie Silverman and Veronica Romero

***Slaughterhouse Five*, Kurt Vonnegut**

“Billy is spastic in time, has no control over where he is going next, and his trips aren’t necessarily fun.” *Slaughterhouse Five*, expresses the emotions that Billy Pilgrim experiences as he time travels through time, as he is entrapped as a POW.

review by Alex Weinbaum and Ana Karen Robles

***The Da Vinci Code*, Dan Brown**

In Paris, a mysterious murder leads to a secret that has not been revealed since the time of Christ. Dan Brown uncovers the true meaning of the Holy Grail in *The Da Vinci Code*. The murder takes Robert Longdon, an American symbologist, and Sophie Neveu, a French cryptologist, on a quest for the Holy Grail, while running from the police and escaping countless dangerous situations. The secret is solved by using numerous clues, some of which involve famous paintings. Do not let the size of this book discourage you. It is a page-turner that you will not be able to put down, especially if you love suspense.

review by Juan Dominguez, Claire Mittermiller, Guadalupe Rosno, Diego Alayza, Tina Zhang

***Eat, Pray, Love*, Elizabeth Gilbert**

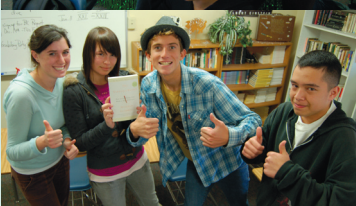
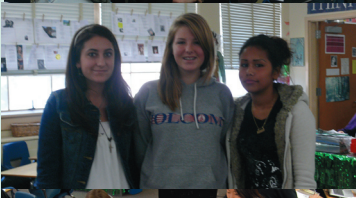
“God never slams a door in your face without opening a box of Girl Scout cookies (or however the old adage goes).” *Eat, Pray, Love*, by Elizabeth Gilbert, is the diary of a woman’s journey around the world. Desperate for happiness after her excruciating divorce, she ventures to Italy, India, and Indonesia in search of balance and healing. Divided into short chapters, *Eat, Pray, Love* is a perfect travel companion or bedtime read. It’s an ideal novel for women of any age, because it is so easy to relate to Elizabeth’s life.

review by Jenna Nelson, Vanessa Bryce, Alexis Sanchez- Ramirez, Audrey Willett

***The Kite Runner*, Khaled Hosseini**

“I could step into that alley, stand up for Hassan- the way he’d stood up for me all those times in the past- and accept whatever would happen to me. Or I could run.” Sometimes, the bond between friends is stronger than you think. The *Kite Runner* tells the powerful story of the relationships between two friends and their fathers in war-torn Afghanistan. This gripping book is a tale of forgiveness and courage, while helping readers understand the tragic downfall of a beautiful country.

review by Amanda Clausen, Raza Taj, Kelly Satterlee, Grisha Misele-wicz



***The Tipping Point*, Malcolm Gladwell**

Have you ever wondered how public interest can decline so fast? Or how one day a pair of shoes can go from a thrift shop to the top of the list for this season’s “it” item? *The Tipping Point* explains phenomena that occur everyday – from the smallest details to the most obvious changes. Malcolm Gladwell dives into the possibilities that alter the popularity of a style or concept. A great read for all ages, *The Tipping Point* will have you mesmerized from start to finish.

review by Jeremiah Fauver, Paola Martinez, Brendan Nyhan, Ariel Weinshanker

***The Joy Luck Club*, Amy Tan**

“Over the years, she told me the same story, except for the ending, which grew darker, casting long shadows, into her life, and eventually into mine.” *The Joy Luck Club* written by Amy Tan, expresses differences between mothers and daughters through a series of personal vignettes. This book not only illustrates the divide between the modern American and traditional Chinese cultures, but also allows all the stories to be intertwined into one.

review by Anna Ly, Carl Gordon, Monica Beran, Pilar Albert

***The Lovely Bones*, Alice Sebold**

“I was fourteen when I was murdered on December 6, 1973,” *The Lovely Bones* by Alice Sebold is a book that starts with a sad event and turns it into an incredible journey. The story is told by a fourteen-year-old girl named Susie Salmon who has been raped and murdered. From Heaven, Susie looks down on Earth at everything that is going on with her friends and family, and how they deal with her death. The book is intense and makes you feel like you are there experiencing what the characters are going through.

review by Nadia Graily, Damaris Rosales

***My Sister’s Keeper*, Jodi Picoult**

Anna was born for the sole purpose of being a bone marrow and liver donor for her older sister who is dying of leukemia. *My Sister’s Keeper*, by Jodi Picoult, is a controversial novel dealing with two sisters, Anna and Kate, fighting for their lives. “It’s not God. Just my parents...I want to sue them for the rights to my own body.” Picoult shows the desperation of Anna while she deals with her heartbreaking decision: become her sister’s keeper or have a chance to live a normal life. How far is too far when it comes to the love of a child?

review by Brenda Torvala, Savannah Stiles, Erika Poynter, Jackie Paslawsky

***The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, Stephen Chbosky**

“I am writing to you because she said you listen and understand.” Told through a series of letters, it is an intriguing story about a young man trying to survive high school, while experiencing all of the regular problems teenagers face. Many readers will relate to Charlie, which is what makes this a great book.

review by Nikki Farhondi, Jackie Walters, Deepti Kingra, Joanna Garay

***Lucky*, Alice Sebold**

Intense, honest, and gripping, *Lucky* depicts the freshman year in college of author Alice Seabold when she was raped, and details her path toward justice and wholeness. “I had seen how Jonathan looked at me and was now convinced: no nice boy would ever want me.” This book shows the trials Sebold went through, both in court and out, and the way her family, friends, and peers treated her after she was raped. We do not recommend this book for anyone under the age of 17, as there is a very graphic and shocking section. However, after reading this book, you will change the way you look at life.

review by Brenda Toralva, Savannah Stiles, Erika Poynter, Jackie Paslawsky

***The Notebook*, Nicholas Sparks**

The classic, romantic tale, *The Notebook*, is the sensual story of two lovers whose fortune was filled with unexpected twists and turns. This page-turner will keep teenagers captivated by its beautifully written storyline and heartwarming characters. Noah and Allie will capture your heart as their love survives every hardship they face.

review by Tomi-Rae Busby, Nate Tyler, Jessica Bykowski, Marvin Garcia