

HIGH TIDE

Volume LXXV Issue 3 - December 18, 2007

Improvements to Muirlands and La Jolla High

By Mackenzie Merkel
News Editor

Renovations to both Muirlands Middle School's and La Jolla High School's campuses will not only benefit students, but also the surrounding community of La Jolla.

Turf It! is the main project whose goal it is to resurface Muirlands' baseball field.

The other projects are on La Jolla High's campus and will renovate the boys' locker room, construct concrete away bleachers, and build a new tennis pavilion.

Currently, Muirlands has a worn out field used by more than 1,000 students daily. In addition to Muirlands' students, sports teams, and after school programs, our high school's sports teams and other La Jolla community sports teams use the grassless, unsafe field.

"Last year alone, there were more than twelve injuries, including twisted ankles and knees and broken bones," Mr.

Howard Frank, chair of the Turf It! committee, said.

For these reasons, the Turf It! committee plans on installing a new, level, decomposed granite track surface, and resurfacing

deadline for the project.

"In a perfect world, funds will be raised within the next two months, and construction would begin at the end of the school year," Mr. Frank said.



Photo courtesy of Daniel Jaffe

New and improved:Plans have been developed for new away bleachers and a boy's locker room.

the field with synthetic turf, which would eliminate holes, weeds, and a need for irrigational upkeep.

The Turf It! project also includes plans for a fitness center.

As of now, there is no formal

Before the Turf It! project can be put into action, a total of \$1.2 million in funds must be raised.

About \$180,000 has already been supplied in the form of private donations and grants from individuals, companies, and family trusts.

Holiday economy boom

By Charles Zhou
Staff writer

It's holiday season once again and shoppers are frantically searching stores, attempting to find the perfect gift.

The start of the holiday shopping season traditionally begins the day after Thanksgiving, known as Black Friday. This year Americans spent about 20 billion dollars on Black Friday alone.

During the holidays the economy has a history of improving, but this does not necessarily mean the economy will get better this year. Housing markets are plummeting, the stock markets have only recently improved, and oil is expected to hit over \$100 a barrel.

There is hope that the economy will improve during the holiday season, as it usually does. However, the real question is how much will it actually improve.

"The Christmas retail boom is expected to be lower this year," says history teacher Mr. Lawrence.

Unfortunately, there are red flags that point to poor economic growth. Current turmoil in financial markets could possibly cause a reduction in investments and consumer purchases, which will slow economic growth.



Photo courtesy of www.images.jupiterimages.com

However, much more is needed before Muirlands will get a new field.

To donate to Turf It!, send a donation to Turf It!, c/o Muirlands Foundation, 1056 Nautilus Street, La Jolla, CA 92037.

Or, pick up an informational packet in the office.

Principal Dana Shelbourne has big plans for LJHS' campus, such as a new boys' locker room, the creation of a tennis pavilion, and the reconstruction of our away bleachers.

The architectural style of Irving Gill will inspire the new features of our campus.

"Archways, columns, trellises, wood rafters, and other leafy and wooden features are characteristic of Irving Gill," Shelbourne said.

Plans have been made to raze the standing boys' locker room and build a two story building.

The new site will include a locker room, coaches' offices, and perhaps a Heritage Hall.

Continued on page 10

Alcohol ban on San Diego beaches

By Kaitlin Sharpe
Staff writer

An alcohol ban on all San Diego public beaches has left many local beach-goers angry and ready to protest.

This one year ban on all alcoholic beverages was passed on November 5 after the San Diego City Council voted five to two in favor of the law.

The vote came about from problems police encountered this past Labor Day when a riot left 16 people arrested at Pacific Beach.

Councilman Kevin Faulconer was the main advocate behind

the passing of the one year trial law.

Those in opposition to the ban call it an infringement on rights and an unfair solution.

Councilman Madaffer, who voted against the alcohol ban, believes that the ban punishes the majority for the misbehavior of the minority.

"If we want to ban something, we ought to ban the beer bongs and those beer luge things. What we really ought to ban are drunk people at the beach," Madaffer said according to an interview with the San Diego Union Tribune.

Madaffer is not the only one

against the newly passed law, many are joining in protest.

Edgardo Reynoso, a San Diego resident, and one of the many people helping to coordinate a group of citizens in opposition to the ban, is ready to take action.

"We will not permit this. Too many people enjoy the beaches and enjoy the consumption of a drink of their choice," Reynoso said according to an interview with the San Diego Union Tribune.

Some fellow La Jolla High School classmates are not certain about whether or not the ban will produce positive

results.

"I think obnoxious drunks on the beach are annoying," junior Jenny Russell said. "But I don't know if a ban on alcohol is going to stop them from doing what they want. They can just find new ways to hide their alcohol."

Opponents to the ban have thirty days to collect over thirty thousand petition signatures.

If they do so, the ban will either be rescinded or voted on by the public. If protests are unsuccessful, the ban will come into practice as early as January 1.

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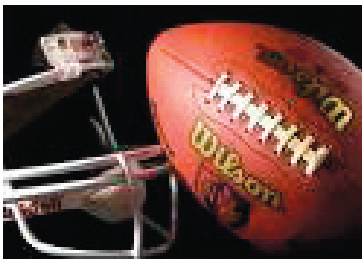
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Green Club Peace Garden

By Kelsey Pouk
Staff writer

Funds raised from Blast Off's "Sponsor the Garden" sale, where parents and students donated towards the creation of a garden and mural on the LJHS campus, as well as contributions from Green Garden's Nursery, Green Club is introducing a new garden to the La Jolla High quad.

Located at the top of the quad near the lunch courts is a small plot of land previously inhabited by a stump and dead plants. Now, the garden consists of freshly turned soil and it is Green

Club's goal, with the help of Green Garden's Nursery, to provide the school with a beautiful and healthy Peace Garden.

"We are thankful for all the donations we've received and look forward to a green harvest," Green Club Secretary Zac Tobias said.

In the next two weeks the project should be progressing. The peaceful connotations of a garden are what Green Club hopes to bring to the lunch court.

With the manpower of Green Club as well as a few other volunteers, the beautification of the quad will be complete.



Peace for all: Green Club officers Anton Swain-Gil, Tristan Hiatt, Zac Tobias, Delaney Maher and President Ally Marsh in front of the future site of a Peace Garden

National Ocean Science Bowl Helping to improve our campus

By Erika Ostroff
By Features Editorial Intern

La Jolla High School's very own National Ocean Science Bowl team, known as NOSB, has dry docked their benevolent efforts by planting numerous baby trees all over campus to create a greener school.

This eco-friendly event is primarily led by senior Lauren Shwisberg, and supervised by Mr. Decker. The tree planting began just before the week of Thanksgiving, and will continue throughout the year.

The student volunteers are continuing to plant trees until all the trees have been planted. The decision to plant each tree is based upon each trees maturity and development.

NOSB's primary goal is to beautify the campus' natural landscape, with the hopes of having a positive impact on



Baby Trees: NOSB members Zac Wescoe and president, Lauren Shwisberg, recline next to their freshly planted vegetation

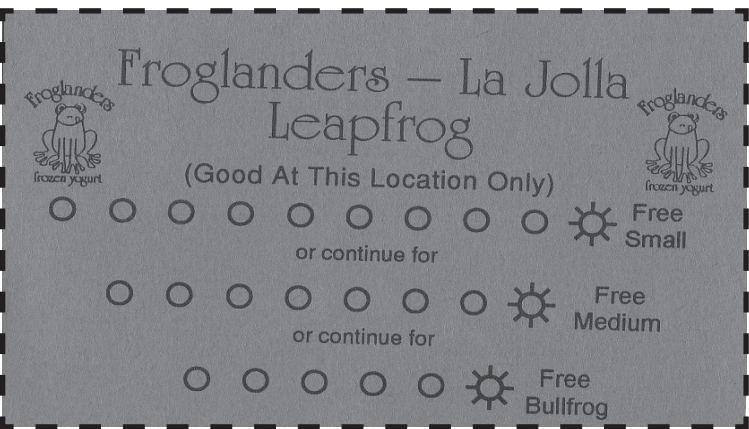
global warming issues.

"Even though the trees will aid global warming only slightly, we want to show that every little effort counts," said senior NOSB team member Daniel Perez.

La Jolla Birch Aquarium generously gave out the trees at an open house event, and

at the end of the event, they found themselves with extra trees.

To help the Aquarium rid itself of excess trees, the NOSB members volunteered to put them in a nurturing environment where they can grow alongside the growing minds at La Jolla High.



Cut out and Save!

Global updates

By Natalie Barringer
Staff writer

On November 27, President Bush hosted an Arab-Israeli peace summit in Annapolis, Maryland.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert were brought together to discuss issues such as disputed borders between the two states, the contested city of Jerusalem, and the fate of refugees forced from their lands when the state of Israel was created.

Both delegations approved a 437-word declaration of joint understanding which President Bush read at the summit, expressing both countries' "...determination to bring an end to bloodshed, suffering and decades of conflict between [their] peoples" (<http://www.state.gov>).

Peace in the Middle East

Abbas and Olmert agreed to hold bi-weekly meetings throughout the coming year to discuss key issues.

Hopefully, these talks will pave the way for more substantive steps toward peace in the near future.

"At least signs of hope are emanating from that corner of the world," senior Fletcher Huntley said.

Others are less optimistic.

"Peace is only going to happen when people are willing to engage in real discussions," La Jolla High political science teacher Edward Newton said, "when delegates refuse to



Friendly?: The delegates shake hands with one another because of the repercussions back home, it indicates a lack of real desire to put an end to the conflict."

The prevailing opinion is that peace between Israel and Palestine is needed now more than ever.



Hope for the future: Middle Eastern kids eagerly await peace

Renovations

cont'd. from page 1

The bottom story would hold the locker rooms and the Heritage Hall, a hall of fame for star La Jolla High athletes; the second story would hold coaches offices, and would have a balcony over looking the football field.

The creation of a tennis pavilion, about thirty feet off the track, would increase the aesthetics and functionality of the area between the tennis courts and the field.

This structure would include new bleachers, to watch tennis matches, and an overhang, bathrooms, and an additional snack shack.

Brand-new concrete away bleachers would add pride and pleasure to home sporting games.

Not only would the bleachers provide our rivals with a place to watch the game, but the hollow area beneath the bleachers would serve as a

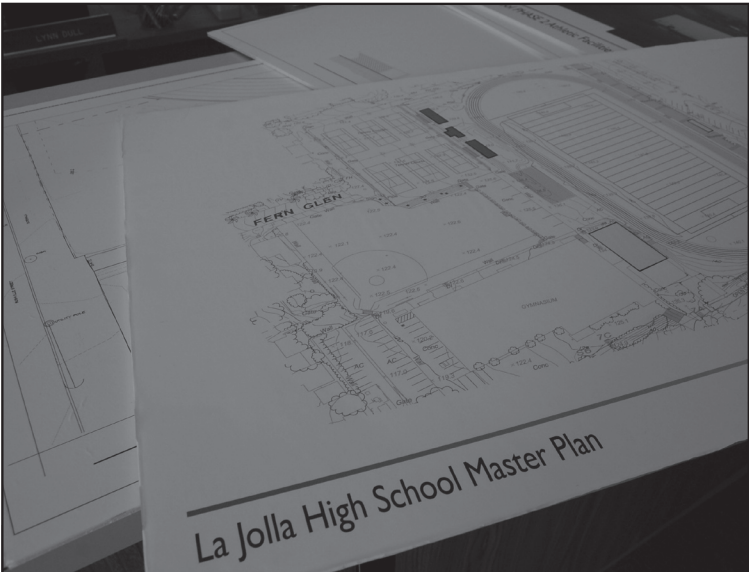
place for a new weight room, restrooms, and maybe even an away snack shack.

In addition to the new plans, there are blueprints for renovating the current snack shack and wooden bathrooms in the corner of the field.

The outdated bathrooms would be turned into a brick plaza, and a brick, handicapped-accessible path will also be paved, running from the snack shack down and around to the new brick plaza.

These improvements to our school take second priority to the momentous Turf It! project.

Just like the undertaking at Muirlands Middle School, renovations to La Jolla High School are contingent upon donations, and will not begin until sufficient funds have been raised.



Out with the old in with the new: plans for our campus

The La Jolla High School

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Schwarzenegger promotes equality

Amy Twohig
Opinions Editor

Thankfully, Americans are rarely disturbed when Jim and Tim raise a family together or when Joan and Lisa promise to love each other until death do them part. Americans are slowly but surely waking up to the fact that condemning an individual because of his or her biologically determined sexual orientation is just as wrong as castigating an individual because of skin color.

Fair-minded Californians rejoiced when Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger recently passed the California Student Civil Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination against homosexuals, bisexuals, and transgender students in public schools.

This new bill prevents educators from promoting the idea that a family should consist only of a mother and father parenting team, and allows transgendered youths to use restrooms and locker rooms that coincide with their sexual identity. This means that a transgender boy could use the girls restroom if he identifies himself as a female.

“I think that transgender kids have the same rights as

everyone else and if they are really serious about it, they should be able to use any bathroom they want,” freshman Will Yasher said.

This important bill will require

reported suffering some form of harassment, hopefully the California Student Civil Rights Act could lead to greater social acceptance for an unfairly scorned minority.



Let freedom ring and two grooms sing: Photo courtesy of gayweddings.com

the State Board of Education to increase the education of public school employees and the need for greater sensitivity to homosexual and transgender individuals in the public school system.

Considering that a survey done by Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youth Issues found that sixty nine percent of gay, bi, or transgender teens

“Students should be free to express themselves without getting harrassed,” senior Sarah Wright said.

It should not shock anyone that religious extremists and close-minded Americans are outraged at this equality-promoting bill. What is shocking, however, is how the conservative leaders of America are using the rules

of an antiquated religion to condemn and shame those who are trying to protect the well-being of gay and transgender teens and children.

“I shudder to think how millions of California children will be led astray, how marriage will be destroyed, and how immorality will step on the neck of morality when Governor Schwarzenegger signs anti-family bills into law,” president of Campaign for Children and Families Randy Thomasson said to censure the California Student Civil Rights Act.

That Thomasson should call Schwarzenegger’s new bill “anti-family” is utterly ridiculous. This bill was passed in order to help ensure that children of gay parents never feel inferior to those of traditional parents.

The California Student Civil Rights Act was created with the emotional well-being of all children and teens in mind; thus, it is anything but immoral. Instead, it is commendable and stands as a beacon of hope that America’s leaders will someday adhere to the tenets of equality and justice that America was built on and treat all people – gay and straight, transgender and not – fairly and with integrity.

Smoke shops go up in flames

By Jason Haire
Staff writer

The smoke shops in the greater San Diego area are having a fire sale of sorts. El Cajon law enforcement have given smoke shops a limited amount of time to remove water pipes (or bongs) from shops before confiscating them.

Fearing this ordinance will soon affect their own stores, smoke shop owners in Pacific Beach have begun selling their water pipes at greatly reduced prices.

This comes as a major blow to the glass workers and purveyors in the smoke shop industry, yet as a victory for city lawmakers, due to water pipes’ notorious reputation for going hand in hand with drug abuse.

This new ordinance is truly unfair. First, it will put many innocent San Diegans out of work. A seemingly endless number of smoke shops reside on Garnet Street, a street which many La Jolla High students frequent.

The people who run the shops, who supply the shops

with hand blown glass work, becomes “paraphernalia” or and who blow the glass what people are ‘allowed’ to themselves, will soon be out buy for that matter.



Cartoon by Christine Jung

of a job. San Diego’s local economy will undoubtedly and unnecessarily take a hit.

“This will put a lot of people out of business,” Ghada, an employee of Andy’s Smoke Shop said. “Further more, what people do in their own homes is their own business.”

Perhaps more importantly, the United States government should not say when a “pipe”

The threat of seizure of the inventories of hundreds of smoke shops in San Diego is based on the assumption that water pipes will be used for drugs.

While the seizure of water pipes has recently occurred only in businesses, it is not impossible that law enforcers could move their searches and seizures into private homes.

The search and seizure of water pipes in private homes is undeniably illegal as the fourth amendment clearly states:

“The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause.”

“The current authorities are not allowed to take property from citizens for any reason other than the probability that there is a crime being committed,” freshman Dylon McGinley said. “It is an invasion of our privacy”

In theory this ordinance is supposed to help curb the drug problem in San Diego. But in reality, banning water pipes will not cure anyone’s drug addiction. Water pipes should not be prohibited from the masses simply because some might use them to smoke crack or other amphetamines.

A person addicted to hard drugs will do anything to get high; bongs are not the only way to feel the effects of drugs. Ultimately addicts will find another way.

Letter to the Editor: Student dispirited by LJHS’s lack of school spirit

Dear Editor:

I started writing this letter to rebuke an article that proclaimed La Jolla High students had no school spirit. I thought that the administration was at fault for trying to restrain students’ efforts (by not allowing us to take off our shirts). But I was wrong. The administration is not stopping us; we students simply have no school pride.

After attending the football game between Valley Center and La Jolla, I realized that no one really cares about our school. Why do we get a smaller crowd at a varsity football semifinal game than a regular season game? I am sure the majority of people did not come because they were too busy doing college applications or working on homework on a Friday night - or not.

Nope, the real reason students did not show up at this important game is because they did not want to get wet from the rain.

The game got underway with the cheering section sounding like they were in a

library. It is a sad day when the opposing fans can be heard louder than those of the home team. Our football team did not start well. We fell behind 21-0 after the first quarter. At halftime, the score dropped to 42-0. Before I continue this story, I want to tell a similar tale.

In 2005, Liverpool played A.C. Milan in the finals of the most prestigious club soccer tournament in the world. After the first half, Liverpool was losing 3-0, an embarrassing performance to say the least.

However, the Liverpool fans did not care that their team was not winning. They stood beside their team, proudly singing their famous “You’ll Never Walk Alone” anthem as Liverpool walked onto the field. Something amazing happened to the Liverpool players: They were no longer playing to win a trophy; they were playing for their fans.

Liverpool immediately responded with an inspired comeback, tying within ten minutes and winning the match in penalty kicks. Back to

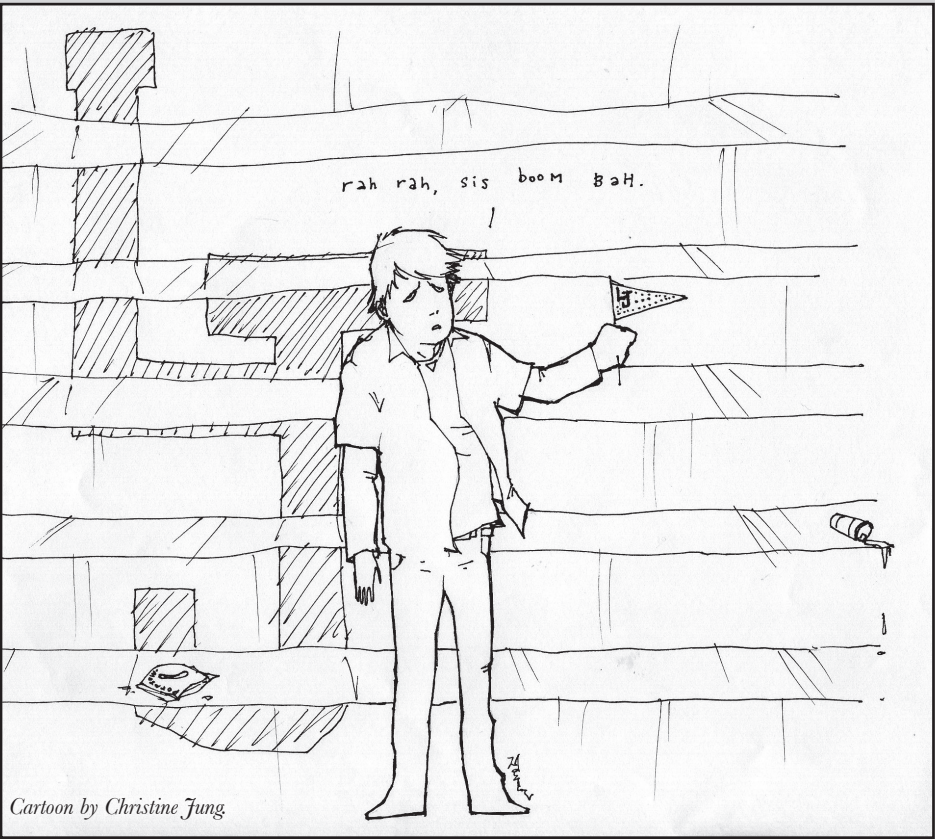
La Jolla.

I wish I could say the LJHS fans motivated our football team to come back and beat Valley Center, but, unfortunately, I cannot. Instead of rallying behind our players, most fans left before the opening whistle of the third quarter. La Jolla ended up losing 42-0.

If we cannot support our football team in the semifinals, when they need us most, what does that show?

It shows La Jolla is filled with a bunch of fair-weather fans who only care when our school wins.

Obviously students do not take pride in our school. If we did, we would have stayed and cheered for our football team



Cartoon by Christine Jung

to fight until the end.

The sad fact is that La Jolla students do not care about their school. Too many take a nonchalant approach to LJHS events. We had a chance to show our true colors at the biggest football game in the past four years and we

did; we showed no pride and abandoned our classmates and friends on the team.

Sincerely yours,
M.U.F.C.

P.S. I would like to thank those loyal fans who supported our Viking football team, showing true loyalty in the rain.

Greed is the reason for the season

By **Kaitlin Sharpe**
Staff writer

Walking through Fashion Valley mall, the sights and sounds of Christmastime are everywhere. Artificial Christmas trees are laden with ornaments and cut out paper snowflakes line the walls as ‘Jingle Bells’ plays softly in the background. Problem is, this happens as early as the end of October

Each year large corporations attempt to start the holiday season earlier and earlier, pushing the date of ‘Before Christmas Sales’ and holiday decorations to the brink of November, all in a selfish attempt to increase profits.

In fact, Americans spend more money at Christmastime than at any other time of the year, and there is no doubt that companies take advantage of this.

In an attempt to increase profits, companies spend billions of dollars each year in advertising to ingrain in the minds of Americans that Christmas is all about the presents.

Sadly, Americans happily comply and consider presents a necessary and fundamental

aspect of Christmas.

“Whenever anyone thinks of Christmas, they think of presents,” senior Samantha Knock said. “Christmas is like everyone’s birthday, not just

begins early in November, the true start of Christmas shopping has notoriously been the Friday after Thanksgiving, known as “Black Friday.”

Every “Black Friday,”

religion and the birth of Jesus, but somewhere along the way, this sentiment has been swept away along with the discarded wrappings of opened Christmas gifts.

through first.

“They pushed everybody and, oh, it was bad- people were fighting over each other,” witness to the mayhem Christiana Doroteo said in an interview with Orlando News.

So much for the Christmas spirit.

But large corporations could not care less about the true meaning of Christmas as long as they are making money.

And sadly, because of all of the commercialization, people have lost sight of what the holiday truly means.

“Christmas has just become a celebration. It has no religious affiliation anymore,” junior Lauren Gay said. “It’s like, lets get a tree, throw stuff on it, and open presents.”

It is time that Christians reevaluate what is important to them.

Christmas should not be an excuse for people to celebrate presents, but to spend time with family and feel grateful for the good in life.

“We focus too much on the superficial and material aspects and not enough time reflecting on our greatest gift, Jesus,” junior Nick Hanoian said.

After all, it is called *Christmas* for a reason.



Holy Night: Picture shows Mary and Joseph in the manger holding baby Jesus on Christmas day. Photo courtesy of *newyorktimes.com*

Jesus’.”

Large corporations revel in the idea that there is a holiday they can so easily exploit in order to gain a majority of their annual revenue.

Even though the exploiting

hundreds of thousands of eager shoppers line up in front of their favorite stores as early as 12 am, in search of the biggest fad on sale.

Christmas was created for Christians to celebrate their

This year, ‘Black Friday’ shoppers in Florida lined up in front of Altamonte Mall where the doors opened at one in the morning. Frenzied shoppers charged the doors as fights broke out over who would get

PECULIAR PETS

Zookeepers have nothing on LJHS students

By Haley Cottrell

Editorial Intern

Dogs are dandy and cats are cool, but some students at La Jolla High School are not satisfied with an average pet. From strange to downright absurd, the collection of pets at our school is bizarre enough to have even the zoo feeling inferior.

Polly want a cracker? Sophomore Katie Wahl, the owner of a twenty-year-old cockatoo, has heard that once or twice. Booboo, her female cockatoo, eats tons of fruit and vegetables and hates men. She is very friendly towards women; however if a man is

to approach her she acts violent and angry.

"One time my parents went out of town and somehow Booboo got out. She cannot fly, but she went through the whole kitchen and basically trashed it," Wahl said.

What is small, furry, and adorable? A ferret. Junior Caitlin Turner owned a ferret named Rocky. He loved to eat Cheerios and Captain Crunch, and he was also trained to use a litter box. Rocky loved to explore and run around the house biting people's ankles. He was a very cuddly ferret; he would lick anyone just like a cat or dog. Rocky slept in a stuffed animal caterpillar, which the

Turners named Rocky's Rock Bottom. It is very difficult to obtain a ferret in California; the Turners purchased Rocky in North Dakota.

"He was wild, but really cute," Turner said, "he was the best ferret in the world."

Sophomore Connor Robbins has a very unusual pet indeed. Robbins owns a tarantula that he bought at a pet store four years ago. The tarantula does not have a name, but it does have a set of fangs scary enough to ward off even the bravest contenders.

"One time it escaped into the house. We could not find it for several hours, but we

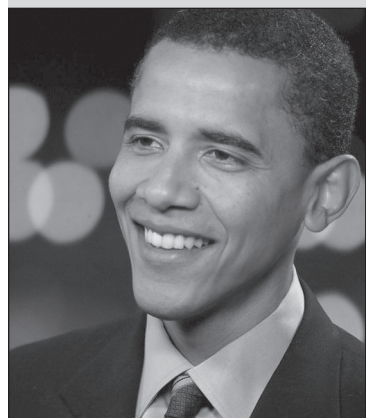
eventually caught it and put it back into its tank," Robbins said.

Why did the turtle go to the therapist? He wanted to come out of his shell. Sophomore Anthony Correia knows a thing or two about turtles. Correia has owned Delfino, his turtle, for about a year. Correia's mother works at a school where a student intended to sell the turtle to one of his classmates. The administration caught wind of this and decided that the sale of turtles on school campus was prohibited. Correia's mother took the turtle home with her, and it has been a part of the family ever since.



Photos courtesy of Katie Wahl, Caitlin Turner, Connor Robbins, Anthony Correia

CORDELL'S Candidate Corner: Barack Obama



"We need to internalize this idea of excellence. Not many folks spend a lot of time trying to be excellent."

-Barack Obama

By Matt Cordell

Staff writer

Barack Hussein Obama is the junior United States Senator from Illinois and a democratic presidential candidate for the 2008 election.

Obama was born on August 4th, 1961 to a Kenyan father and an American mother. He attended Columbia University and Harvard Law School where he had the distinction of being the first African American president of the Harvard Law Review. Obama worked as a civil rights lawyer

and community organizer before running for a seat in the Illinois State Senate. He served as a state senator from 1997 to 2004 and primarily pushed for motions governing education and statewide tax cuts.

In 2004, Obama was elected as a U.S Senator, making him the only African American currently serving in the Senate.

After announcing his candidacy for 2008, Obama has launched a campaign platform primarily built upon ending the war in Iraq and implementing universal healthcare.

In addition, Obama is pro-choice, favors renewable energy, and seeks to deal with outside threats through "sustained and aggressive diplomacy combined with tough sanctions." Obama has developed a strong reputation for being "untainted" by Washington politics due to his short time in office.

On the same note, Obama is criticized for being inexperienced in comparison to the other candidates. Political observers have noted that as an unconventional underdog, Obama has embodied many of the hopes and aspirations of the American people. It will be interesting to see if his everyman persona will be enough to win him the Democratic Primary.

photo courtesy of www.msamadison.org

Guess Who

would be a great Christmas gift.

Speaking of Christmas, you might have heard of my holiday themed nickname. Lots of people call me Santa. I got the nickname in P.E. freshmen year.

Apparently I laugh like Santa Claus so the name stuck. Although I am neither fat nor bearded, I am a gentle soul and I love to laugh so my nickname suits me.

I love the holiday season and it is a great time to be with family. Also, the time off from school is a plus.

When I am at school I can be seen hanging out with my good friend 'mbacho'. We always cruise together.

When I am not at school you can find me working at Albertson's. It is a great job and we all have fun working there.

I play the trumpet in the school band. We are quite possibly the best band in the nation. The band, with the help of my trumpet, always gets the crowd pumped at football games and pep rallies.

I used to play competitive

tennis but now I play just for fun.

When I leave high school I would love to become a sports announcer, especially for baseball. I am going to stay in San Diego and I will probably end up at SDSU.

I drive a really sweet Prius. It is a great car and it gets excellent gas mileage. My hero is the singer Neil

Diamond because he is so amazing. Overall I am a happy and fun guy.

Merry Christmas and happy holidays from me, Santa.

Photos by Ali Cameron

The Guess Who from last issue was Yanira Alatorre and Armando Valdez.

Countdown Calendar

The new year is almost here so there is no need to fear.

It may seem that school will never end. Let this countdown calendar be your best friend.

With so many days left to go, holidays and dates this calendar will let you know.

days until winter break

days until Christmas

days until New Years

days until the end of the first semester

days until spring break

days until summer

Cartoons by Christine Jung

Holiday Gift Ideas

FOR EVERY BUDGET

This holiday season, a gift for someone near and dear can really take a chunk out of the wallet. Whether saving, spending, or splurging, an array of solutions is readily available. Budget or no budget, shop until you drop.

Save



Goldfish

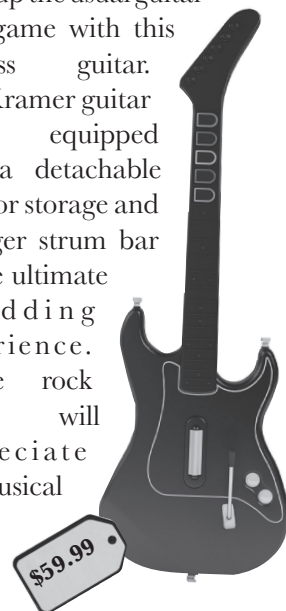
They might not be the smartest fish in the sea but goldfish make a great gift. As the first type of fish to be domesticated, goldfish remain popular in household aquariums. Give a gift with gills this holiday season and purchase this aquatic companion.

Spend

Guitar Hero™

Kramer Wireless Guitar

Spice up the usual guitar hero game with this wireless guitar. The Kramer guitar comes equipped with a detachable neck for storage and a longer strum bar for the ultimate shredding experience. Future rock stars will appreciate this musical gift.



Splurge

Virgin Galactic Space Flight

Want to give a gift that is out of this world? A flight on Virgin Galactic's SpaceShipTwo gives anyone the chance to be an astronaut. Passengers experience a weightless sensation at about 63 miles above sea level. Once back on land each astronaut will enjoy a stay on Sir Richard Branson's private Necker Island. This gift is sure to please any lucky recipient.

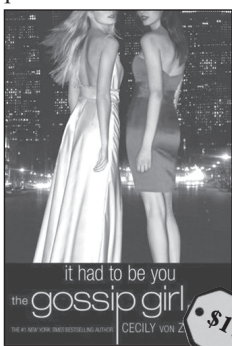


Photos courtesy of www.reynard.com, www.wordpress.com, www.chanel.com, www.money.cnn.com, www.nexus404.com, www.usoutdoorstore.com, www.nordstroms.com, www.ultimatetransformers-store.com, www.fantasticfiction.co.uk, www.acegamez.co.uk

Gossip Girl: It had to be you: The Gossip Girl Prequel

The hardcover edition of this long awaited novel is sure to thrill any loyal Gossip Girl fan.

This novel is rumored to undo some of the myths in the past books and explain some of the previous uncertainties. This



present is so hot right now it just might burn the wrapping paper off.

The Game of Life: Twists and Turns

Shake up family game night with Hasbro's new and improved



The Game of Life. In this game players can make choices and experience the twists of real life without suffering the consequences. There are thousands of ways to play, so no game will ever be played the same way.

T3 Wet-or-Dry Professional Iron

Keep hair straight this winter with this wet-or-dry iron. Built to both dry and straighten hair in one step this flat iron will transform a n y recipient's hair into super-shiny locks. No longer will anyone have to blow dry and straighten his or her hair.



Apple iPod Touch

What has a multi-touch interface, a 3.5-inch widescreen display, and Wi-Fi web browsing? The iPod Touch of course. Complete with almost the same technology as the iPhone, the Touch is the latest in iPod fashion. Never before has one been able to search the Internet and listen to music on one convenient device, the Touch is capable of this and more. Give loved ones the chance to experience music at their fingertips.



GMT J12 Automatic CHANEL Watch

The GMT J12 Automatic CHANEL watch is the ultimate gift for any globetrotter. This



This watch has numerous capabilities including being able to display two time zones at once. Made in La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland, this watch is the perfect present for world travelers and those who love luxury.

Andy Warhol Burton Snowboard

With an extremely high sellout risk, this snowboard is the perfect gift for anyone who loves



snow and being caught up on the latest trends. This snowboard comes equipped with all the normal features of a Burton board but with an Andy Warhol touch.

Causes for Concern

'Tis the Season to Give Back

By Erika Ostroff

Editorial Intern

This holiday season, there is a plethora of gifts that give and keep on giving. Increase the joy of giving and receiving by helping those less fortunate both here and around the world. Avoid long lines, wrapping dilemmas, and the worry of getting the proverbial "right gift" by giving to any one of many charitable organizations in honor of a family member or friend during the holidays.

Donate to Heifer International

Take a unique approach to gift giving this holiday season through Heifer International. This charity helps families in Third World countries rise above abject poverty by gifting them food and income-producing animals like cows, sheep, chicken, goats, and bees. With a variety of different packages, the possibilities are endless. Gift recipients receive a card in their honor, explaining the good deed extended on their behalf. This truly puts a new twist on giving mom a "cow"! If interested, go to www.heifer.org where more information and details are available.



Help the Street Angels



The Street Angels charity program, anchored here in San Diego, is a great way to give back to the community over this holiday season. sponsored by the Mission gathering Christian Church, Street Angels is an organization aimed to lend a hand to the homeless youth of Downtown San Diego. The organization meets every first and third Saturday of each month, where Street Angels members put together backpacks and fill them with supplies that are crucial for ones survival. This act of loving-kindness assures each individual that they are cared for and loved no matter what situation they are in. By helping those who are struggling to meet their basic needs on the streets, it gives the donor a sense of good conscience and satisfaction. Find the gift of well-being and self-fulfillment by taking part in Street Angels. To get involved in this great cause, go to www.missiongathering.com.

Bring Jeans to Jep Boutique

Around the corner from school, located on La Jolla Boulevard, trendy Jep Boutique presents a great way to give a little and get a little for a good cause. For those who find denim to be dear, this jean drive is a perfect way to contribute this holiday season. Bring an old pair of jeans to the La Jolla store and receive 10 percent off of Jep's line of designer jeans, or, bring in two pairs of jeans and receive 20 percent off. Donated jeans will go to Homeless Advocates.



Volunteer at a Retirement Community



To obtain a priceless smile and the twinkle in an elderly person's eyes, visit the members of a retirement community, and brighten up their holiday. Whether challenging them to a game of chess, serenading them with holiday tunes by singing or playing a musical instrument, or simply engaging in conversation, hearts can be warmed. Embrace the true spirit of the season by giving something that cannot be touched, felt, or even returned.

Photos courtesy of heiferinternational.org, onlineathens.com, and Daniel Jaffe

Tutor: Harvard graduate with several years of experience teaching and tutoring middle and high school math and science. **Areas of emphasis:** Pre-Algebra, Algebra, Algebra 2, Precalculus, Chemistry. References available upon request, including ones from current LJHS families. **Phone Cam:** 858-488-8874 **E-mail:** cnaimi@post.harvard.edu



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