

# So it goes.

The passing of a literary genius

by jennie matusova  
editor-in-chief

Infusing his often autobiographical novels with dark humor and witty rhymes, Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., wrote in a unique blend of science fiction and satire that came to embody the ideals of the sixties.

His novels present worlds that are light-years away from his own, complete with Kilgore Trout, Vonnegut's

literary alter ego, an imaginary race called Tralfamadorians, and a fictional religion known as Bokonomism.

However, despite their seemingly fantastic nature, all of Vonnegut's characters raise genuine philosophical questions about people's behavior and purpose in life.

In much the same vein as Mark Twain, whom he greatly admired, Vonnegut used historical events and aspects from his own life as his novels' foundation. His critically acclaimed novel *Slaughterhouse-Five* (1969) centers on the firebombing of Dresden, Germany, during World War Two, which he experienced first hand as an American prisoner-of-war.

The novel's protagonist Billy Pilgrim relives Vonnegut's experience in Dresden, and becomes lost in time when he imagines he is captured by aliens from the planet Tralfamadore.

The utter destruction of Dresden and its inhabitants was a recurring motif in much of Vonnegut's fiction.

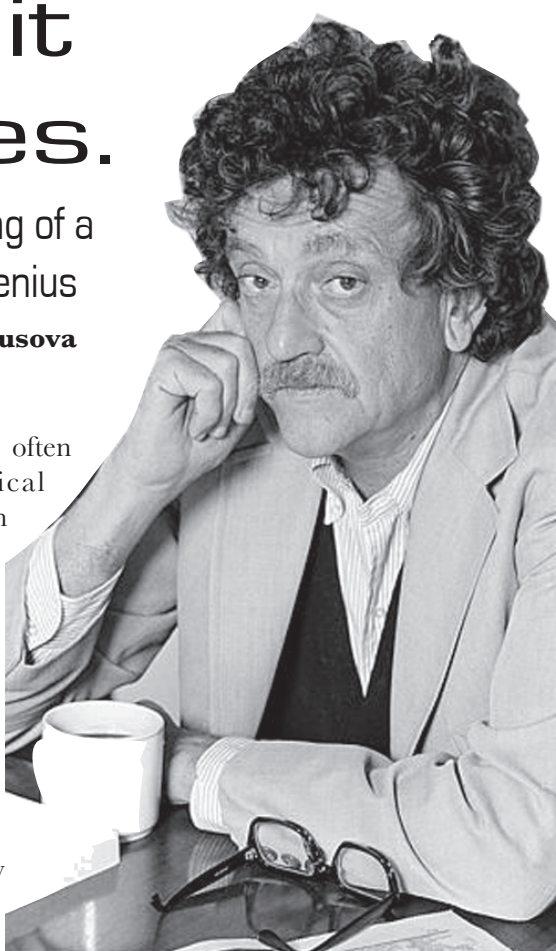
The loss of a concrete idea of time is also the subject of another Vonnegut novel, *Timequake* (1997). Kilgore Trout, a science fiction writer

not unlike the author himself, is caught in a worldwide timequake that takes everyone back ten years. Free will ceases to exist as people are forced to relive their lives and decisions, good and bad, without being able to do anything.

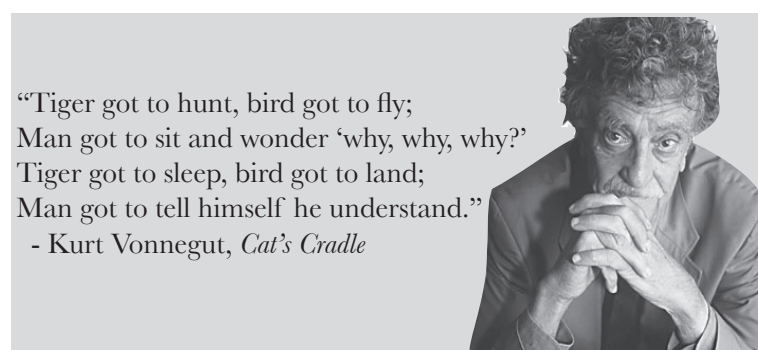
Perhaps his most famous work, Vonnegut's *Cat's Cradle* (1963) deals with the fictional life of the creator of the hydrogen bomb, Felix Hoenikker. The book is a classic Vonnegut novel, full of peculiar new terms, as well as many memorable quotes, including:

"I remembered *The Fourteenth Book of Bokonon*, which I had read in its entirety the night before. *The Fourteenth Book* is entitled, 'What Can a Thoughtful Man Hope for Mankind on Earth, Given the Experience of the Past Million Years?' It doesn't take long to read *The Fourteenth Book*. It consists of one word and a period. This is it: 'Nothing.'"

Vonnegut was an author in a league of his own. His recent death at the age of 84 was a tragedy to his devoted audience, but there is no doubt that his humanist ideas, ironic wit, and dark humor will continue to resonate with every successive generation.



**"It is a very mixed blessing to be brought back from the dead." - Kurt Vonnegut** (above) A famous photograph of Kurt Vonnegut at an interview a few years ago. **Below:** Another photograph of Vonnegut, which was featured in many literary magazines. His characteristic curly hair and deep-set eyes will be greatly missed by his readers.



"Tiger got to hunt, bird got to fly;  
Man got to sit and wonder 'why, why, why?'  
Tiger got to sleep, bird got to land;  
Man got to tell himself he understand."  
- Kurt Vonnegut, *Cat's Cradle*

# Electronic Music

by tatiana soutar  
staff writer

With the ease and availability of music technology today, any person with half a sense of rhythm and tone can become a laptop DJ.

Electronic music began as an academic pursuit, lead by experimental composers who spent years in university basements developing the equipment that is common today.

As technology grew, so did the possibilities. Electronic music is now a huge genre fractured into hundreds of categories that spread from the popular forms of techno and house all the way back to its intellectual and experimental roots, such as what is known as Intelligent Dance Music (IDM).

Until the 80's synthesizers and other equipment used in electronic music was expensive and hard to come by. In the 80's bands such as Depeche Mode and New Order brought the new style to the forefront of popular music.

The term Techno refers to the heavily funk-inspired dance music that originated in Detroit around the late 80's.

House, sometimes known as club music, was born in Chicago around the same time, and drew upon disco traditions.

Both styles found resurgence in popularity during the mid to late nineties with artists from Europe with club favorites such as Daft Punk from France and British duo The Chemical

Brothers.

"I definitely think that electronica is growing. It's much more incorporated into the mainstream now," senior Robert Young said.

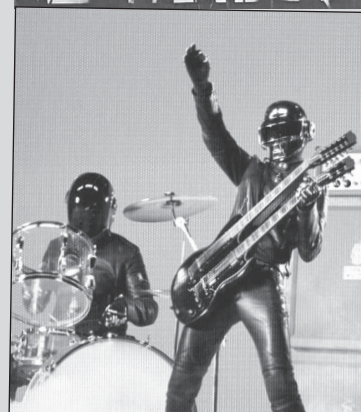
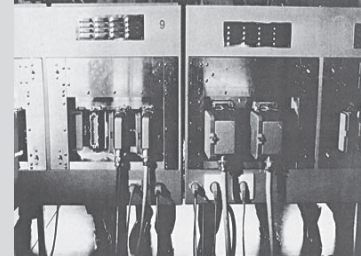
One of the most successful bands from this early era of experimentation and innovation is Kraftwerk, a quartet from Dusseldorf, Germany, who brought electronic music into the public eye with their album, *Autobahn*, which has been parodied and revered ever since its release.

Brian Eno, another early electronic experimenter, who is famous for his time in Roxy Music and work with David Bowie, was one of the pioneers of ambient electronica in the late 70's.

Ambient I, *Music For Airports*, was a concept album designed to calm stressed travelers at airports, and was played over the PA system at La Guardia Airport for several months.

Experimental electronic music still lives on in the bluntly named IDM (Intelligent Dance Music) category that was started in the early 90's by Warp Records, one of the most well known labels of electronica music.

IDM artists such as Aphex Twin and Boards of Canada find novel ways of recording and manipulating organic and computer generated sounds to form entirely new sonic creations. Electronic music is a dynamic genre that changes with each new progression in technology.



**Electronic rock out:** (from top) Some of the most popular electronic music groups Depeche Mode, from Dusseldorf, Germany Kraftwerk, Daft Punk, and Boards Of Canada.

photos courtesy of [kraftwerk.net](http://kraftwerk.net), [eectric-beats.com](http://eectric-beats.com), [www.boardsofcanada.co.uk](http://www.boardsofcanada.co.uk), [www.kraftwerk.de/img8976](http://www.kraftwerk.de/img8976)



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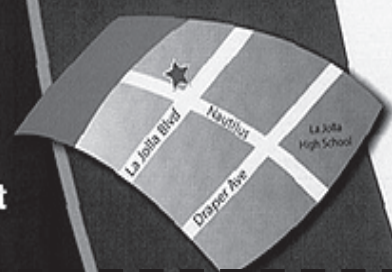
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The La Jolla High School

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# Oil companies

Amidst rising gas prices and record profits,  
Big Oil comes under fire. But should it?

## Capitalism at its best

by jonathan yip

opinions editor

Consumers, activists, and politicians have accused Big Oil (ExxonMobil, Chevron, BP, Royal Dutch Shell, and ConocoPhillips) of raking in gargantuan profits at the expense of consumers. However, oil companies are guilty only of accommodating market demand in a capitalist economy, and should not be expected to apologize for their profits, however excessive.

Watchdog coalitions have charged that Big Oil is somehow responsible for “price gouging” or involved in a conspiracy to choke supplies; others believe that Big Oil have environmental responsibilities to fulfill.

But while oil companies occasionally tighten supplies, rising oil prices are ultimately a consequence of the ever-increasing demand from emerging nations, including China and India, as well as political destabilization in the oil-rich Middle East.

While oil companies have invested billions to research alternative clean fuels, their priority is to deliver a rich bottom line and enhance shareholder value, not to act as environmentalists.

They exist solely to efficiently explore, drill, produce, and distribute oil, feeding the universal oil hunger that exists because of contemporary lifestyles.

And in a laissez-faire economy such as America’s, they are not obliged to entertain environmental concerns that might jeopardize their own financial health in the name of social conscience.

Needless to say, this is not to suggest that ExxonMobil’s 2006 profit of \$40 billion was entirely justifiable. And how about their former Chairman and CEO Lee Raymond’s \$400 million retirement

package? What is responsible for all this?

Blame capitalism!

America (and the U.S. economy) is built on capitalism, and oil companies are the epitome of capitalism.

# PRO

Thus, oil companies are simply reacting to the law of supply and demand, and in the process, are merely taking advantage of the situation, especially knowing that oil reserves could be depleted within the century.

Indeed, extreme activists groups, including Greenpeace and Sierra Club, have dreams of the government confiscating those profits, while realizing that the government has no such authority.

Interference in non-governmental affairs would be communism, and if these leftist groups take issue, they ought to consider moving to an anti-capitalist country and experience their interpretation of “equality” and “fairness”. Miserable images of the Soviet Union and North Korea come to mind.

Are Big Oil’s excessive profits reasonable? Only to a certain extent taken in context. But with little competition, Big Oil has little incentive to bargain, and while they may seem like a virtual monopoly in the industry, oil companies have so far broken no laws.

So until scientists can develop a feasible alternative fuel source that the world can utilize overnight, all the power to them. But for now and the foreseeable future, the reality is that oil companies provide a vital commodity—the world’s black gold—that modern civilization cannot do without.

## Shameless greed

by chris micheletti

news editor

Visit the website of international oil company BP, and one will find a visually appealing page clad in vibrant green and yellow hues. The links describe the company’s investment in alternative energy and what they call “responsible operations.”

One will not see information regarding, perhaps, BP’s 2006 spill of 200,000 gallons

of oil on the North Slope of Alaska, containing the country’s largest parcel of unprotected wilderness. The only trustworthy aspect of an oil company is that money will be the bottom line. The responsibility of confronting environmental problems like global warming has to fall under governments.

Take BP, for example, which recently announced, amidst a large ceremony, that it would give 500 million dollars to University of California, Berkeley over the next 10 years to investigate biofuels. Consider though, that BP’s 2006 profit was 22.2 billion dollars, with profits expected to increase as energy demand rises.

Originally two drill sites, the operation is expanding with five more under development in high density breeding area for shorebirds and waterfowl, which migrate to the location from literally across the globe.

Action on the part of the government is the most realistic way to curb fossil fuel emissions. Laws that force consumers to change habits will force corporations to respond positively. A coalition of western states—Arizona, California, New Mexico, Oregon and Washington—proposed by California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, pan to cut greenhouse gas emissions and agree on mutual targets by September.

This overreaching plan, similar to that of the Kyoto protocol, which the Bush Administration refuses to ratify, would be a way to begin stopping or reversing greenhouse gas buildup. Ultimately, people will have to look to the government because regardless of what they say or how they appear, oil companies care about money, not the environment.

# CON

In addition, BP describes in the Energy Biosciences Institute proposal two labs dedicated to expanding fossil fuel production and that BP will have at least as much control over research as Berkeley. Promoting an environmentally-friendly perception, or what has become as “greenwashing” is what BP is doing by tossing what is, for them, a relatively small amount of money at a well known university with no real intentions of changing.

BP is not the only major



The *Daily Show*’s **Jon Stewart** says:

“The [higher] terror alert means higher oil prices, which oddly enough means higher profits for oil companies giving them more money to give to politicians whose policies may favor the oil companies, such as raising the terror alert level. As Simba once told us — it’s the circle of life.”



# Racism: looking at the bigger picture

by **lena rothstein**

a&e editor

It seems the race card has been used yet again by African-American civil rights activists. Don Imus, a MSNBC ‘shock-jock’ has been fired from his radio show after referring to the Rutgers University girls basketball team as “nappy-headed hoes.” While there is no question that this comment was inappropriate and should be in no way condoned, the nation has blown the incident way out of proportion. It seems that society is blaming one person for America’s issues with racism and unchecked use of racially inappropriate slander.

The only reason the Rutgers comment caused so much controversy was because it was aimed towards a specific group of young women on a team, which happened to be predominantly black.

“The liberal media blew the comment way out of proportion,” junior Gator Halpern said.

If Imus is causing such controversy over this one reference, why is America not doing anything about the racism that society is learning

in rap songs, comedy programs such as Carlos Mencia, and movies like *Borat*? Is it because they don’t involve African-American persons?

Furthermore, why wasn’t Isaiah Washington, star of ABC’s “Grey’s Anatomy” given the same treatment for calling fellow colleague T.R. Knight a “fag”? This is a classic example how media is reluctant to target prominent blacks, but springs to accuse others of “racial discrimination.” This hypocrisy is astounding.

While civil rights activist Reverend Al Sharpton focuses so much of his time on advocating Imus’s elimination, America should notice how quick Sharpton has been to place inappropriate judgments in the past.

In 1987, Sharpton played a leading role in the Tawana Brawley case. Sharpton defended Brawley, a 15 year old African-American girl who had claimed she had been repeatedly raped by two to six white men. The case soon ended when a security guard testified that Brawley’s lawyers, as well as Sharpton, knew Brawley was lying.

To this day Sharpton refuses to apologize for knowingly



cartoon by christine jung

accusing innocent people of an unthinkable crime. It is not to say that Sharpton is not concerned with racism in society, but there comes a time when one must take a step back and acknowledge mistakes, especially when America showed him that same courtesy not too long ago.

It is clear that racist comments are nowhere near their end and the nation is singling out Imus to blame, even though the masses are using this same

kind of slander throughout the media.

On Billboard Music Charts during the week of April 22 on the Billboard hot rap tracks, the top five tracks listed each contained the words “Niggas,” “Bitches,” or “Hoes” in their lyrics.

So long as the black music industry continues to profit from millions of dollars in revenue, there will be no incentive to change.

No matter what color the

mouth that utters these words, they are still hurtful. These racist rap songs and degrading lyrics are teaching the youth of today that such phrases are acceptable.

While the younger generation continues to learn racist culture from such media, the nation is using one man as a scapegoat. Imus has admitted his mistake; his comment was a raindrop in the racist storm flooding today’s media, so he should not be singled out.

## Defending our right to defend ourselves

by **abish simh**

staff writer

The fact that criminals carry out their crimes with the use of guns should not revoke the right of the innocent to bear arms. After a recent shooting at Virginia Tech University, the National Rifle Association (NRA) stated that a gun is merely an item without a choice in pulling the trigger; the shooter is the one responsible.

“A gun can be controlled, but the person using the gun can’t,” sophomore Jacob Walsh said.

America follows the belief that one is innocent until proven guilty; it cannot be a crime to carry a gun as long as one does not use it in a bad way.

The problem with people using guns in a wrong way is primarily related to their upbringing. Parenting sets the stage for the future; if parents ignore their children and raise them in a very strenuous atmosphere it will carve a very dark path for that child.

“It’s not video games, movies, or entertainment in general—people have the choice whether to watch movies, play video games, or shoot guns. Their decision can

be influenced if their parents wish so,” sophomore Dylan Boyce said.

Statistics about gun control prove that the majority of people who possess guns use them to protect themselves and their loved ones more than they use a gun to commit a crime. In a recent estimate firearms only account for 1.5 percent of fatal accidents.

The issue is still at large: more people are blaming guns for shooting incidents. If everyone looked at the facts, they would see that since England banned guns, crimes have gone up almost 30 percent.

Most criminals were not born criminals. They developed from normal young children into evil-hearted people. Banning guns will not make a difference because the black market will remain an option.

In 1987, Florida adopted a right-to-carry law. These changes made homicide go down 36 percent, firearm homicide down 37 percent, and handgun homicide down 24 percent.

Any average criminal can easily get guns at a cheap price. Without proper documentation, this gun is “illegal.” It is not right to

take away guns from those who use them legally. Many people use guns for hunting or self-defense.

If people desire, they could easily set forth a policy that would have a regular screening before each grade to ensure that kids who are not stable are helped in some way.

Even if guns are to blame then why, in 1982, would a survey of imprisoned criminals find that 34 percent of them had been “scared off, shot at, wounded or captured by an armed victim”?

Criminals have been using guns to commit crimes since guns were invented. However, innocent people should still have the option to use a gun for their defense.



cartoon by christine jung



# Guess Who

by **lauren murray**  
features editor

I listen to a lot of alternative music and oldies, but I also have an unnatural obsession with Tupac (RIP) and Dr. Dre. I have the useless talent of knowing the lyrics to most rap songs. You should stop by my math class because my friends and I sound pretty professional when we sing “World’s Greatest” by R. Kelly. I laugh every time someone says “matters” or “YAY Area” even though those are some of the most repeated phrases at La Jolla High.

My favorite author is Kurt Vonnegut (again RIP). I don’t read enough books to be able to quote famous philosophers and authors, so I usually end up embarrassing myself by quoting E-40.

I am partial to chicken salads.

I love watching sports, specifically football, baseball, and basketball. I like following all of the hometown teams. As for basketball, I love the Cavaliers because I have been stalking LeBron James ever since he was in high school. I would also like to take this opportunity to say that the Philadelphia 76ers will make a comeback next year and surprise everyone.

I usually wear dresses to school. People always ask me if I have my Senior

Exhibition or a special place to go (I do not). A dear friend once told me, “Ugly is the new cute.” She inspires me to wear sweaters and shoes that are borderline haggard. I usually get made fun of for wearing a lot of argyle and floral prints. I usually wear semi-impractical

shoes, which makes it difficult for me to run to class in the morning. I am usually forced to run to class in the morning because sophomores get to school at the crack of dawn and take all of the parking within a ten-mile radius of campus.

One of my biggest pet peeves is when people do not pronounce the “h” sound in words like “huge” or “humor.” The “h” is not silent, but people still say “uge” and “umor.”

My biggest phobia of all time is a cluster of small holes or dots. I don’t understand my phobia, but tiny holes gross me out. For example, I am extremely freaked out by honeycomb.

I do not know what I want to major in, but I know that I do not want to study anything related to math or science. I am very sorry Mrs. Tenenbaum. Please do not take it personally. I can see myself working in journalism or business. I would not mind working as Dana Hoolko’s manager at track meets because she is going places.

I think it’s important to remember, “Life is mysterious, don’t take it serious.”

photos by lauren murray

**The Guess Who family from the last issue was... the Peterson Family!**

# AP SURVIVAL

by **ilya altshteyn**  
staff writer

Toward the end of each school year, students in AP classes are pressed to demonstrate what they have learned throughout the year by completing the dreaded AP tests. Although knowing the material is key to receiving a passing grade, there are also other, often overlooked, things to consider:

- ⇒ Practice the test ahead of time – there are always copies of exams from previous years available (these are often distributed by teachers, but can also be found on the internet, or at the library). Knowing the test layout and instructions is also crucial to help avoid surprises and keep you focused on the questions.
- ⇒ Sleep well the night before the test.
- ⇒ Know where you are testing – there is no need for

- added stress in the morning, so if possible, figure out where you need to go ahead of time.
- ⇒ Start the day with a good, healthy breakfast. You don’t want to be distracted by thoughts of lunch halfway through your morning test.
- ⇒ Dress in layers. It is better to have the option to take off a sweater in a room that is too warm for you than to not have one at all in a room that is too cold.
- ⇒ Do several questions which you have done in the past on the morning of the test- this will help to build confidence and refresh your memory.
- ⇒ Come prepared. Bring pencils, pens for the free response section, erasers, and a calculator if necessary.
- ⇒ Answer the easy questions first. Again, this helps with confidence and may refresh your memory for more detailed questions.

# GUIDE

**If taking two AP tests in one day:**

- ⇒ Bring a snack or even lunch for the time between your two tests.
  - ⇒ Do not discuss your first test with anyone – there is no need to worry yourself about the results of the first test. Stay focused, positive, and confident.
  - ⇒ Study ahead of time. Do not plan on covering the last few chapters in the time between your two tests. The only work you should do between tests is on a few previously completed practice problems as a warm-up.
- Student Advice:**
- “Read a review book, they help a lot,” junior Matt Mulvey said. Review books such as those offered by the Princeton Review provide a good summary of the test material, and teach important test-taking strategies.

photo courtesy istockphoto.com

# Pulitzer Prize Remixed

The coveted award is now available to non-classical musicians

by **amy twohig**  
staff writer

Move over, Mozart. The Pulitzer Prize committee has recently announced that it will now consider all genres of music for the prize – not just classical. Pulitzer Prizes have been awarded to Americans who excel in the fields of print journalism and literature since 1917 and of musical composition since

tunes. Contemporary artists who carry the sentiments of the times in their songs now have an opportunity to be rewarded for their ideas as much their songs’ rhythm. Does this mean that Three 6 Mafia’s “It’s Hard Out Here For a Pimp” could be a potential winner? Probably not. Artists whose music includes social and political messages are the most probable candidates.

“The best songs are ones

African Americans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, is another artist who could potentially win a Pulitzer Prize. In “Diamonds from Sierra Leone,” the outspoken artist describes the dangers of diamond mines and the usage of child labor. Immediately after releasing his first album, *College Dropout*, West became a very famous man.

Considering America’s musically diverse and rich



**Kanye West:** His lyrics have changed the way the population perceives hip hop artists.



**Kiss:** The band that entertained as much as it rocked.



**Bob Dylan:** The folk artist that brought a lyrical depth to rock and roll.

that make me think about the world around me. They also have a good beat,” freshman Alicia Finch said.

Bob Dylan wrote “Blowin’ in the Wind” to express his disappointment with the racism that plagued America in the 1960s. His lyrics reflect the agitation people felt towards the lack of ethnic equality in American society. Not only do many of his songs consistently carry political messages, but they also have stood the test of time and continue to enthrall his listeners.

Rapper Kanye West, a man who openly charged President Bush with negligence towards

photos courtesy answers.com, art.com, and casablanca.cocolog-nifty.com



# 2007 ASB Nominees 2008

## ASB President



**Nicki Vithalani**

"I want to make ASB more efficient and representative of the students. I do not want to have any more cancelled dances or low-income fundraisers. I have been on ASB for three years so I know what I am doing."



**Whitney Wing**

"I am very dedicated to La Jolla High. My main goal is to improve our school spirit and to come up with activities that everyone will enjoy. Above all, I want to make La Jolla High a friendly place where people will want to be."



**Sophie Tuttleman**

"I want to be Senior Class President because senior year is the last year of high school and I want to make it as fun and as memorable as possible. I am hard-working and dedicated to spending time making sure that next year is the best."

## Junior President



**Merry Yuen**

"Junior year is the most stressful year, we need to make it the best. One of my goals is to decrease senior dues. Although my opponent has more experience, I am confident that I would be the best choice for Junior Class President."



**Molly Rutgard**

"As Junior Class President I want to lower senior dues with the experience I have and with the future activities I have planned, such as Big Man On Campus. I want to keep my position as President and help our school."

## ASB Rep. at Large



**Gina Schumacher**

### Attention class of 2010!

There are currently no nominees for next year's sophomore class council. See Mrs. Dill if you are interested in volunteering.

## ASB Vice President



**Delaney Maher**



**Kevin Lee**

## Senior Vice President



**Peter Ghramarian**



**Caitlin McCarthy**

## Junior Vice President



**Christi Warren**



**Camelia Mahmoudian**



**Anjali Thota**

## Junior Secretary/Treasurer

**Raquel Saxe**



photos by  
ali cameron  
and brieanna  
bates

# Behind the scenes at LJHS

The High Tide recognizes and thanks those that serve our school

**delaney maher**  
staff writer

Everyday at 2:18 p.m., La Jolla High School students walk out to their cars through hallways littered with Dorito bags, old homework, and half-filled bottles of Powerade. Mysteriously, the next morning when returning to school, this obnoxious mess is gone; the halls are clean, the windows



shine, the grass is cut, and this happens everyday. The La Jolla High School custodial staff needs to get the accolade they deserve.

Everett Seaman has been working at La Jolla High for many years. His official title is Day Custodian, but arriving at school at 4:30 in the morning seems much too early to be considered daytime. Seaman's job consists of cleaning class rooms, restocking restrooms, cleaning the cafeteria, and picking up the lunch court. He can often be seen driving his red custodial cart toward the end of lunch. Everett enjoys this job because La Jolla is his hometown and he loves being so close to the ocean.

"The most difficult part about my job is the trash pick-up," Seaman claimed. "The trash is everywhere. Kids get better at picking up their lunches towards the end of the year."

When not taking care of the school's mess, this custodian enjoys golfing and going to the

desert to ride his dune buggy.

Alan Konecky serves La Jolla High school in a different way. As the Food Services Manager for the past ten years, Konecky strives to keep the food in the cafeteria healthy as well as delicious.

"The most difficult part about my job," Konecky explains "is trying to keep the menu varied so that the students stay interested. We cannot serve the same thing every week."

Konecky's job consists of arriving at 5:30 a.m. and staying until 2:30, feeding La Jolla High and Muirlands students. Konecky also oversees four other schools meal programs within the county. He takes pride in the fact that the La Jolla kitchen currently provides jobs for nine students during the lunch hour. Konecky enjoys his job because he is able to directly interact with the students. When he is not working, Konecky is most often found riding his bike.

La Jolla is undeniably a

beautiful place and at La Jolla High James Testa is the man responsible for maintaining our campus landscape. Testa has been working as our Landscape Tech II for one year, but has worked within the San Diego district for more than twenty years. Testa must maintain the grounds, cut the grass, and mend the plants from 6:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

"My favorite part about my job," Testa explains "is being outside in La Jolla's beautiful weather." When James is not tending to our school, he is working on his drag car for racing, as well as carving wooden toys for children.



**(Above):** Custodian Everett Seaman picks up after lunch.

**(Left):** Gardner James Testa fixes a lawnmower.

all photos on page by brieanna bates



# League Champions

by haley hammershaimb  
sports editor

It has been an exciting couple of months for both the girls and boys of the La Jolla High School track team. They came into the season ready to conquer, and that they did. After senior James Zheng gave an inspiring pep talk at the important, if not decisive, La Jolla versus Cathedral meet, which ended with “We’re undefeated. Lets stay that way!” both the girls and the boys gave it their all in each of the events and left with a victory in hand. They had defeated Cathedral on their own turf.

With spirits high and a sense of confidence instilled in each of the athletes, the track team geared up for another intense competition against rival Scripps Ranch. It was this meet, held on Wednesday, April 25, that would determine who the Western League Championship would go to, either La Jolla or Scripps Ranch.

With hard work and determination, La Jolla came out on top and finished their season undefeated.

“Not injuries, not under-coaching, skilled competition—nothing was going to stop us from winning league. And nothing did,” senior David Cary said.

The girls won 76 to 60, with 69 being a winning score in track. It was an even closer call for the boys’ team, who defeated Scripps Ranch 72 to 64. The girls 4X400 relay team, consisting of sophomores Nihal Kayali, Courtney Avvampato, Christie Richmond, and Tess Plant-Thomas, set a new school record for this event with a time of 4:08.11.

With an unexpected Scripps Ranch fall in the 100 meter hurdles, La Jolla’s Gina Schumacher, a junior, was able to take second place and score three unexpected points for the team. A sweep in the girls 1600 meters, 3200 meters, and pole vault all helped bring the team one step closer to victory.

“Both teams put up a good fight, making it an even sweeter victory,” sophomore Maegan Bautista said.

The boys swept the 1600 meter race, as well as the pole vault in which sophomore Nick Hanoian placed second

by setting a personal record of 13 feet 6 inches. The boys’ team pulled together in this time of strong competition and performed extremely well under the pressure.

With such a great accomplishment in place, many Vikings are heading to the California Interscholastic Federation preliminary and final rounds.

“Winning league this year is something I’ll never forget. We have so many girls with such great athletic talent and motivation, and it makes me really excited for all of us who are advancing to CIF. I’m expecting great things and feeling a big win for us,” junior Ashley Fu said.

This is the second year in a row that the girls track team has won the Western League Championship, and one of many more to come for both the boys and the girls.

**Lean back:** (top) Viking pole vaulter jumps with perfect form to clear the bar. **Over the top:** (middle) Gina Schumacher shows determination as she leaps over the hurdle. **In perfect stride:** (bottom) Junior Brady Miller and other Viking runners lead the way.



# East coast versus West coast

by qing yorkwilliams  
staff writer

For over a century, watching or participating in sports has become a favorite national pastime. Americans love anything from football, to baseball, to basketball.

“My family goes to Padres games all the time; we are big baseball fans,” junior Rosemary Meyerott said.

Yet some other lesser known sports have gained popularity on either coast. On the West coast, sports like water polo and, surfing have blossomed. On the East coast, more international sports have crossed the Atlantic, such as lacrosse, cricket, and rowing.

Another sport that has become very popular is NASCAR, which is based mainly in the southeast. This sport is new, loud and extremely fast.

Water polo is played by both men and women internationally, but has become especially common

in California. Water polo, which consists of seven players altogether, originated as a form of rugby football played in rivers and lakes in England and Scotland with a ball constructed of Indian rubber.

Ever since making its way into American culture, it has become a popular competitive high school sport, one that has been played in the Olympics since the 1900 games.

Surfing has grown tremendously in popularity over the years, since the sport was introduced to the mainland from Hawaii. Americans have

competitions, advertisements, and appearances in magazines such as the popular *Surfer* magazine.

Ever since the first hollow log touched water, rowing has been a worldwide activity. Once it developed into a sport from simply being transportation, it gained recreational appeal.

The first competitive rowing took place in the Thames, but it has now become common on the East coast. Participating in rowing anywhere in the country, wherever there is water, is a plus on the resume on anyone with East Coast collegiate dreams.

Played nationally, lacrosse is mostly concentrated on the East Coast. Originally a native North American sport, lacrosse was given its name by its French observers. It has begun to shed its East Coast elite reputation, but still remains much more common on that side of the country than anywhere else. In 2006, the best teams to be found, according to the United States Club Lacrosse Association, were from New York and Philadelphia. With its air of prestige, lacrosse has become a popular sport to put on college applications, especially as it spreads nationally.

come to adopt the sport on the West coast, where the waves rival those in Hawaii.

Professional surfers make millions of dollars through



**Check mate:** (right) East coast athletes showcase their lacrosse skills while on the field. **Fierce competition:** (bottom left) Athletes on the west coast fight for the ball in one of their many water polo competitions.



“I plan on playing lacrosse for the next four years, I really like it but I think it will help me get into college too,” freshman Michael Colarusso said.

Much less common than lacrosse, but beloved by both its players and followers, is the sport of cricket. This remnant of British occupation is slightly similar to baseball, but involves a flat bat, bowling instead of pitching, and a wicket. Most popular in states such as Philadelphia and Washington D.C, cricket’s popularity seems to be declining. The reason most commonly cited for this decline is the lengthiness of the games, and the tendency of Americans

to prefer “fast-food games”.

Stock car racing, the sport that inspired Will Ferrell’s Ricky Bobby character, is most popular in the South-East. While NASCAR sanctions over 1,500 races at over 100 tracks in the US, Canada, and Mexico, it is still most common in the South Eastern states. Its most famous drivers appear on numerous cereal boxes and other commercial campaigns. This sport garners much support, as well as millions of dollars.

America is a sports-fascinated nation, and will continue to be for many years to come. “Sports are basically my life,” junior Kenny Pulliam said.



# COLLEGE-BOUND ATHLETES

by chelsea zeffiro

staff writer

Most students rely on their hard work in academic subjects and good test scores to get into college. However, some students are talented enough to be recruited and scouted for college sports programs. These students have balanced their academic career with their after-school sport. Not only have they balanced it, they have also mastered their sport while maintaining an above average GPA. Many seniors past at La Jolla High School have gone this route, and many more are about to embark on this route this year.

## Eric Zacharias

**Sport:** Lacrosse

**College Attending:** Claremont McKenna

**How I Was Recruited:** "They didn't recruit me, but I visited and talked to the coach."

**Best moment:** "Joking around in practice and we are going to beat Coronado."

**Last words:** "Play good. Rosenberg's speeches are amazing."



## Taryn Olson

**Sport:** Lacrosse

**College Attending:** UC Berkeley

**How I Was Recruited:** "The Berkeley coach scouted me at a few tournaments my junior year and I was later offered a scholarship and signed."

**Best Moment:** "My best moment was winning CIF my freshman year."

**Last Words:** "I'll be back."



## Dana Hoolko

**Sport:** Track

**College Attending:** UC Berkeley

**How I Was Recruited:** "The track coach was contacted early this year because one of the assistant coaches from Berkeley saw my statistics. He liked what he saw and then the head coach called me."

**Best Moment:** "In track, last year at state finals, I won the tie in a jump off in pole vaulting. I made it up to 11'9."

**Last Words:** "Listen to the coaches and don't skip practice."



## Keller Felt

**Sport:** Water Polo

**College Attending:** University of Michigan

**How I Was Recruited:** "I was scouted by five or six collages. I really liked the coach and athletic program at Michigan. Also, they offered me a scholarship and I signed in November."

**Best Moment:** "It would probably be when we came back in the last quarter against Coronado."

**Last Words:** "Be nice to Dante. I'll be back to visit!"



## Igor Serriba

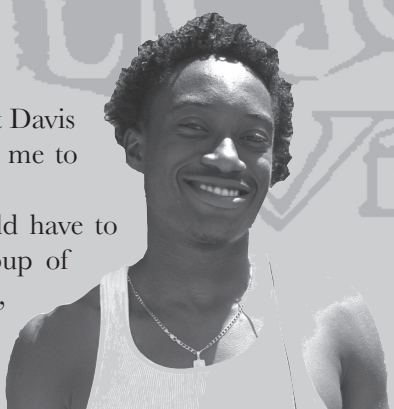
**Sport:** Track

**College Attending:** UC Davis

**How I Was Recruited:** "The coaches at Davis looked at my statistics in track and asked me to join the team."

**Best Moment:** "My best moment would have to be spending sophomore year with a group of talented guys like Nick Montemarano, Zach Kaplan, and Nathan Gwosdz."

**Last Words:** "Keep up the good work track team."



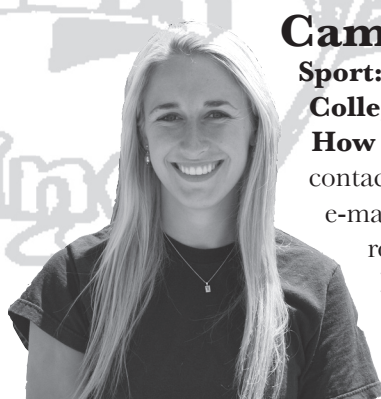
## Cameron Smith

**Sport:** Rowing

**College Attending:** UCLA

**How I Was Recruited:** "I was getting in contact with the coaches for volleyball, and they e-mailed me back asking if I wanted to do rowing."

**Best Moment:** "I don't have a best moment in rowing yet, but I'm sure I will."



# A day at the ballpark



A how-to guide for an enjoyable, stress-free day at Petco Park

by ally marsh and meghan barry

student focus editors

### Transportation

**Option #1:** The quickest way to get to Petco Park is definitely by car. The cost of gas round trip is about eight dollars, and parking downtown ranges from \$8-\$20. This option is best for groups of four to six people because the cost of parking can be split between each person. To avoid the cost of parking all together, people can park in the Barrio for free. The walk to the stadium is slightly longer than the walk from most parking structures, but helps to keep the budget down for a trip to the ballgame.

**Option #2:** A more eco-friendly way of getting to the Padres game is via public transportation. From La Jolla Blvd. take bus #30 for \$2.25 each way, and get off at 6<sup>th</sup> and Broadway, and then walk about six blocks to the stadium. If walking does not appeal to

you, then simply transfer to the #11 bus and it will drop you off right in front of Petco Park. The bus takes about 45 minutes from La Jolla Boulevard. The buses run every 15 minutes on weekdays and every 30 minutes on weekends.

**Option #3:** The third way to get to the stadium combines the best of both worlds-driving and public transportation. Drive or take the bus to the trolley stop (Morena Blvd. or Old Town station) and then take the trolley for \$2.25 each way. This is the fastest and most cost effective way to get to the game.

### Tickets

**Option #1:** On almost every Thursday day game, Petco offers 2-for-1 ticket day. The

games start at 12:35. The upper reserve level seats cost a measly \$12, and are a great choice for the 2-for-1 ticket day. Toyota Terrace is another great place to sit. While the

The tickets are only \$5, and are a great way to save money and have a fun outing with family and friends. It is easier to interact with a group when you are picnicking and lounging on a blanket, rather than sitting on uncomfortable plastic seats. These ticket holders still have the freedom of walking around and exploring the stadium. It is the perfect place to try and catch a glimpse of Trevor Hoffman warming up in the bullpen for TREVOR

four cokes, an \$82 value, for only \$50.

### Food

**Option #1:** It's hard to save money when buying food at the baseball stadium, but on 2-for-1 Thursdays, in addition to receiving tickets for half price, you can also buy 2-for-1 hotdogs.

**Option #2:** Instead of paying \$3.50 for baseball's classic snack, stop by Smart & Final on your way to the game and pick up a box of 24 3oz bags of salted peanuts. The box is only \$9.95 (about 40 cents a bag). Throw a couple bags in your purse or backpack and you will have a cheap snack to munch on all night.

**Option #3:** If your not into classic baseball cuisine, Petco Park has modernized its menu. It offers food from chain restaurants such as Rubios and Ogies Pizza. There is something for everyone to enjoy.

photo courtesy of signonsandiego.com



**Umpires call:** The Padres' Josh Bard reaches towards home base to strike out his opponent.

tickets are usually \$60 each, take advantage of getting them for only \$30. This is a great choice for games during the summer, as well as for second semester seniors.

**Option #2:** Park in the Park.

TIME.

**Option #3:** Coca-Cola family and friends weekends. This package is only available for Saturday and Sunday games. You get four upper reserve level seats, four hotdogs, and



Global Updates

by sean hamilton  
staff writer

Pro-Islamic unrest in Turkey

Marches in Istanbul and Ankara reached upwards of hundreds of thousand in protest of the secular government, which is wavering and attempting a return to a pro-Islamic government. The protesters marched with the support of the military, which has overthrown previous governments that were pro-Islamic.



Conservative president wins

Right-wing Nicolas Sarkozy was elected to be France’s new president. He definitively won over his socialist opponent, Segolene Royal, and there was an impressive 85% voter turnout. Sarkozy has pledged to reform France, especially by creating jobs. He plans on cutting taxes and restricting the power of the major unions, especially the 35 hour work week. Sarkozy will officially replace current president Jacques Chirac next Wednesday.



Sister Schools

participate in this cause. The drive took place from April 15 to May 4 and donations were accepted by teachers or by club members. The deadline for donations was extended to May fourth. The club raised \$5,431 and the three classes that raised the most were Kerry Dill, Kari Tapia, and Robin Visconti. The three classes will get a pizza party for their generous contributions. “You should help other people who really need it,” senior Nebras Mahdi said. “The world is a big place and a lot of people are suffering.” Mahdi donated to the Uganda Education Project.

The Sister Schools Club president, junior Melia Plotkin, will go to Uganda this upcoming summer to make sure that the funds acquired reach the children and make the greatest impact they possibly can. “It would be amazing to get the entire student body to help those less fortunate than them,” Plotkin said. “What

those children are going through is hard to imagine and the smallest things to us is a huge deal to them. Any help is appreciated greatly.” All the children who benefit from the drive have been orphaned by the genocidal mayhem of the LRA. Education provided by this drive is the most important factor in ensuring the future

continued from page 1 kidnapped to serve as soldiers in the LRA and often are murdered in cold blood if they refuse to partake in the army. These children are impoverished, homeless, and greatly in need of aid. The Sister Schools organization is trying to realize the dream of saving some of these innocent Ugandan children’s lives. The website is [www.](http://www.sisterschoolsofsandiego.org)



Sister Schools: The members of Sister Schools met with Walter Lamb.

of the Ugandan children and empowering them to leave the world of violence and oppression that they are forced to try and survive in. Many children have been

[sisterschoolsofsandiego.org](http://sisterschoolsofsandiego.org), where students can learn more about the club’s cause and course of action.



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