

# Sophomore Student Accepted Early to Stanford

By **Kaitlin Sharpe**  
Editor-In-Chief

April 1st is the decision deadline for most schools, the day that will either make or break the next four years of a senior's life. But for talented sophomore Wilson Mokiao, that day has come two years early. Able to fit in all of his necessary credits during an intense summer school session between freshman and sophomore year, Mokiao decided to take a chance, and applied early for college.

"I mean, I figured I would get in wherever I wanted because of my 2400 on the SAT and 36 on the ACT. I guess I just didn't anticipate full ride scholarships everywhere," Mokiao said.

At the age of 16, Mokiao will be the youngest graduate of La Jolla High School, and his stellar academic record at the school will undoubtedly carry on throughout his collegiate career. Schools started recruiting Mokiao the beginning of his freshman year after he scored so well on his standardized tests, and his list of acceptances would make any senior jealous.

"I got into Harvard, Princeton, Yale, UPenn, Brown, Cornell, and Stanford,"

Mokiao said.

Money was no issue in Mokiao's decision due to the fact that he was rewarded full ride academic scholarships to every school he was accepted at, so location was ultimately the decision-maker.

Stanford was the closest to home, and Mokiao liked the fact that he

will be able to experience the East Coast in a couple of years anyways," Mokiao said.

Mokiao is planning on a tri-major, which, up until this point, is unheard of. He is majoring in Computer Science, Business Administration, and Anthropological Underwater Basket-Weaving studies.

"The combination of majors that I am taking is really fantastic. The Computer

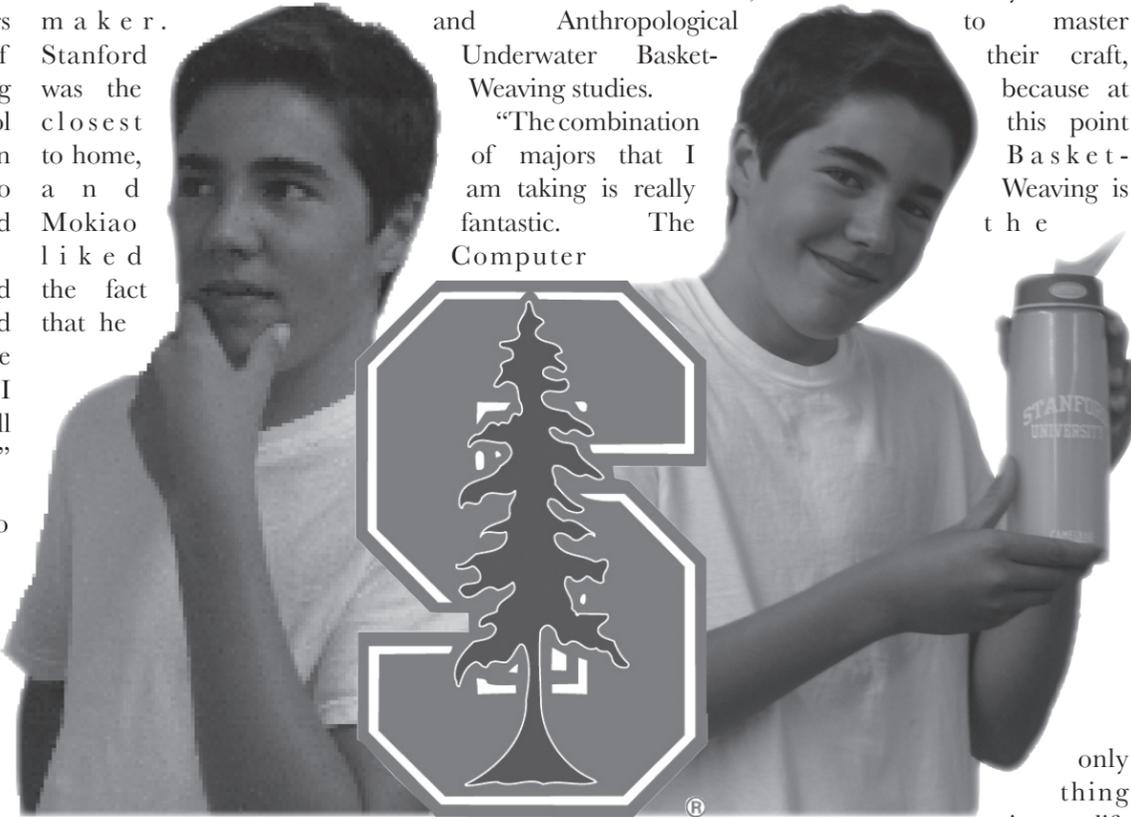
will come in handy when I am leading the country as President of the United States. And finally, Anthropological Basket Weaving studies will teach me the history of basket weavers. Hopefully, I will someday be able to master their craft, because at this point Basket-Weaving is the

Men's Basketball and Football team.

"I didn't play basketball or football during high school because I was afraid of getting injured. I wanted to make sure that I could play in college, and my goal is to someday play in the NBA and the NFL simultaneously. It can't be too hard. And by that time I will probably be good at basket-weaving as well, so I plan on competing in the UWBWA (The Under Water Basket Weaving Association), all while preparing my super computer," Mokiao said.

It is clear that Mokiao has big expectations for his future, and there is no doubt in the minds of those around him that he can achieve them. However, many students wonder how Mokiao was able to graduate two years early while excelling in all scholarly pursuits, and the key to his success is very surprising.

"I credit all of my success to popcorn. I eat it everyday," Mokiao said, "In fact, I even wrote all of my application essays about popcorn. You know, the joys of listening to it pop, eating it, and all of that good stuff. I guess the college admission workers just saw eye to eye with me."



photos courtesy of Mackenzie Merkel

could stay on the West Coast while pursuing his academic career.

"Plus, Harvard already offered me admission into their graduate school, so I

Science will allow me to create a new super-computer that will eventually cure cancer. The Business Administration will help me to understand how to lead a company, which

amazing at," Mokiao said.

But Mokiao is not only exceptionally smart; he will be helping Stanford athletically as well. He has already solidified his spot as a starter on both the

only thing in my life I am not

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# MR. LAWRENCE

## TEACHER BY DAY, PANCAKE FLIPPER BY NIGHT

By Brooks Newberry  
News Editor

Jack Lawrence has taught in the San Diego Unified School District for over 10 years, leading students through the tangled landscape of AP testing. He has inspired his students to make the most of themselves, so long as they never wander off life's path to become history teachers.

However, La Jolla High's beloved fountain of sarcasm and caffeine induced delirium is more than just a dreary fixture of the school, aimlessly wandering the halls like a poltergeist whose soul is trapped on campus. On nights and weekends, Mr. Lawrence's usually cold, lifeless eyes come alive as he dons an apron to moonlight at the source of his hidden inner passion — IHOP.

As a young boy, Jack-Jack (one of the nicer names his peers had for him) was not well-liked by the other kids his age, and was barely tolerated by his parents. Rather than partici-

pate in sports or play with his Transformers™ action figure, he found solace through his Easy-Bake play oven. He spent years of his childhood creating breakfast confections like pancakes and waffles. His talent did not go unrecognized, and when he reached age 12, he was scouted and became the youngest competitor in the National Pancake League, where his chocolate chip mickey mouse pancakes with gumdrop eyes stunned the judging panel with winning regularity. But

one day, tragedy struck, when he burned his right hand on his griddle during a competition, losing him valuable time that ultimately lost him a national championship. The event traumatized him, rendering him unable to compete without submitting to complete psychotic breakdowns (he learned the hard way; an entire panel of judges saw him

wet his Thundercats tighties). Bad decisions plagued Lawrence through his later years. He spent years in and out of jail as the police put him away for running betting rackets and

selling illegal baking flour on the black market. His glory days were over, and he knew it, withdrawing from society almost completely.

Instead of wallowing in his failure with no direction, he decided to wallow in his failure and earn a teaching degree. Mr. Lawrence finally found work at La Jolla High School,

teaching History. But he soon found that he was still unhappy, realizing that he never lost his love for pancake artistry and breakfast cuisine. Luckily, the IHOP near his home (the carcass of a beached whale which, he insists, cuts down on living expenses) was hiring cooks, and he took a job. He now spends his days singing happy birthday to little kids and making whipped cream smiley faces on Rooty Tooty pancake stacks. And although he knows he will never return to the competitive pancake confection circuit, he still waits for the day that a worthy apprentice appears to him for culinary guidance, so that he may train his true heir.

While he may just seem like a mild mannered history teacher, take note that this man led an extraordinary life with a passion that few truly experience. And if you ever have a chance, ask him about his former career in pancakes — he loves that.



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# STATE FINALISTS

**By Vu Tran**  
Staff Writer

With six returning seniors, the La Jolla High's girls varsity soccer team finished the season with an amazing record of 17 wins, four losses, and two ties. Led by Nihal Kayali, Nicole

played between La Jolla and Harvard-Westlake on March 14, was an adrenaline pumping, back and forth game that had a score of 0 to 0 as it was going into the final minutes of the game. Unfortunately, the game was decided by one point from a Harvard-

in the end," senior Maddy Sharp said.

Despite their loss in the State Championships, the Girls soccer team boasts an amazing list of accomplishments during the regular and post season.

During the regular

team advanced to the playoffs where they repeated last years feat of making it to the CIF finals. However, unlike last year, this year the team won the CIF title.

"Winning league and CIF was very exciting, last year we went to the CIF finals but lost.

finals.

"[Despite the loss] It was still really cool to go to state. It was a great experience. This was by far the best season of our careers. Everything worked well, we had great fan support, we had a cohesive team," senior Nihal Kayali said.

Finishing the season as



Bakke, and Callan Para, the girls soccer team won Western League and CIF and advanced their way through the playoffs, earning them the opportunity to compete for the Division II state title.

The championship game,

Westlake goal that resulted from a questionable free kick call by the referee.

"The bad call was a really disappointing way to end the season. But overall our season was very impressive. Our team was very close

season, the girls soccer team defeated league rival and defending division III state champion Cathedral Catholic, which helped them secure their Western League championship.

After winning league, the

This year we won," Sharp said.

After winning CIF, the second seeded Vikings sliced through the competition as they worked their way up the State playoff bracket where they found themselves competing in the

League Champs, CIF Champs, and State Runner-up, the girls soccer team had one of the most celebrated La Jolla Girls Soccer seasons ever.

"I'm really proud of my teammates. I'm really gonna miss them," Sharp said.

## Freshman Basketball Goes Big

**By Cassie Brazier**  
Staff Writer

Although Freshman are commonly looked down upon, booed at pep rallies, and thought of as the bottom of the food chain, this year's Freshman Basketball team has done something no other La Jolla High basketball team has done. The girl's finished their season off strong with an undefeated record of 18-0. This makes them the only La Jolla High Basketball team to finish with an undefeated season. To accomplish this, the team made demanding sacrifices and put in a lot of hard work and dedication.

"Our practices were fun, most of the time. We learned a lot of new plays to beat our upcoming competitors. It really helped us improve," freshman Aubrey Sloan said.

Not only were Freshman participating on this team, but eighth graders from Muirlands Middle School as well. Some of these included family members of varsity stars

Natallia Cravens, and Valerie Nawahenic. These girls were a core part of the Freshman Team.

"We were baller. The season was baller. It was really good and a great experience. But what really made us baller were the baller eighth graders we had to assist us. They really kept the team together and focused. Coach Renyolds was the best coach we could have asked for and Coach Bush really helped us all improve our shots. I have high hopes for our JV team next year," freshman Julia Neri said.

"It was a fun season getting to know all these great athletes and girls. They put a lot of work into practices and it paid off" Coach Renyolds said.

Overall the freshman girls had a very memorable season. They should feel very proud to have finished with such an amazing season, an accomplishment that no other La Jolla basketball team has achieved.

## CIF CHAMPS

### Underdogs Win Championship

**By Cassie Brazier**  
Staff Writer

Last year, Viking fans were ecstatic when the La Jolla High men's basketball team won CIF. This year, the team did not disappoint. Seeded tenth going into the playoffs, the underdog Vikings pulled off a series of upsets that led them to another championship season. Once again, the team had an outstanding season and represented La Jolla in a positive light.

"What made our team so good besides talent, was our unity and teamwork," senior Henry Nawahenic said.

The basketball team grew together like a family. They were constantly with each other due to practices and

often had team dinners.

The basketball team put a remarkable amount of effort into perfecting their skills. They practiced for at least two hours a day and often had weekend practices. Although their regular season record was only 13-14, the team really



bring the team together," junior John Walsh said

Not only was it fun for the team to go so far but also fans loved being along for the ride.

"It was a great season and the way the team pulled together at the end was a true testament to the will-power and determination of both the players and the fans," sophomore Dylan Hallman said. Hallman was a true fan who attended every basketball game.

But one of the best things about the season was the fact that the Vikings were not expected to go the championship round at all, let alone win the championship.

"The best thing about winning was doing what everyone thought we couldn't do. We were the least likely to win," senior Alex Giusti said.

pushed through and showed their true colors when it came to CIF.

"During practices our coach was always pushing us. We had a team dinner every Sunday and we would hang out and mess around. It really helped

# KISS MY ACE

By **Jessica Silvers**  
Staff Writer

Watch out competitors, because this season's varsity boys tennis team is strong and vigorous. Compared to last year's undefeated team, this year has even more potential, with only one missing player.

Coach Tom Andrews has great confidence in this year's team. He gives superb technical advice and knows exactly how to guide the team in the right direction.

"The team has so many good players that no one is going to be sitting out," said Coach Tom Andrews. "I don't want to sound overconfident, but I have a really good feeling about this season's team. Not only is everyone playing well so far, but I honestly think that our team will be top this year."

The boys have great potential this year. They have consistently demonstrated a winning combination of determination, skill, and enthusiasm.

"My job is to keep their field of focus open. This way all they have to do is win and concentrate on their match. My

advice for the team is to have patience and follow the five C's: Confidence, Consideration, Commitment, Concentration, and Contentment," said Coach Tom Andrews.

This year's team is determined to give their opponents quite a challenge. There are many players returning this year with more power and



strength than ever before. They are ready and anxious to hit the courts. This season's players are smart, quick, and committed to the end.

"Everyone this season has become so much better since last season," said sophomore, Michael Rabinovich.

"Our team looks as strong as ever and no school is going

to get in our way," said senior, Max Einhorn.

The boys' first game was held on March 4, 2009 against a school from Missouri. La Jolla High School destroyed them. Their serves were top-notch and their hits soared inches above the net. It is no wonder that everyone is so confident about winning CIF's and beat-

ing other teams; they are so well trained.

"I normally find tennis so boring to watch and games usually drag on forever. But when I watch my friends play, it honestly goes by so fast. I get so caught up with their match and their emotions; I really enjoy it," said sophomore, Liore Barzilai, while watching the

singles tennis matches.

Two hours flew by just as fast as the serves, and in no time La Jolla High claimed victory. Every La Jolla tennis member competed so well that the parents for the opposing team were impressed!

"Wow, that serve was probably the best serve I have ever seen a high school student do," said one of the mothers from the opposing team. "They are just so consistent and thorough with their serves and hits; it shocks me."

The past few years La Jolla High School has done extremely well. Although they have lost a few times over the past few years, this year they plan on going undefeated and playing in the CIFs.

"Our biggest competition is going to be Francis Parker because they didn't lose to anyone this year and they were the ones who beat us by a hair in the finals two years ago," senior Max Einhorn said.

The team always plays their matches with full strength and relentless determination. With these amazing qualities, they are sure to have an absolutely outstanding season.

## TENNIS SCHEDULE

**April 2nd:**  
University City 3:00 PM

**April 14**  
Scripps Ranch 3:00 PM

**April 16**  
St. Augustine 3:00 PM

**April 21**  
Cathedral 3:00 PM

**April 23**  
Coronado 3:00 PM

**April 28**  
University City 3:00 PM

**April 30**  
Scripps Ranch 3:00 PM

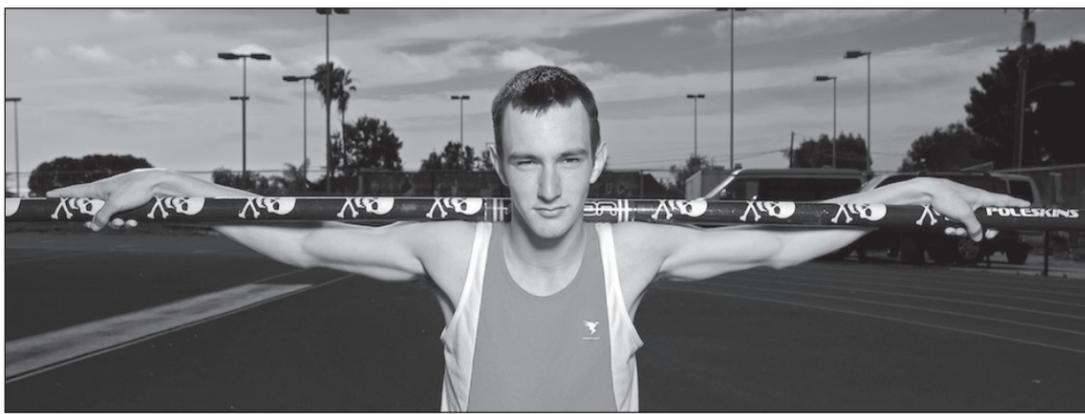
**May 5**  
St. Augustine 3:00 PM

**May 12-15**  
CIF Team Finals

**May 19-22**  
League Finals

**May 26-29/June 1**  
CIF Individual Finals

# Standout Athlete



By **Jacqueline Berracasa**  
Staff Writer

Spring is in the air and so is Jeremy McGrath. This amazing pole-vaulter gives The Hi Tide an inside look on everything from how he preps for a game to how this season is going so far. Watch out for McGrath; he is jumping high into the sky.

**Hi Tide:** When did you start pole-vaulting?

**Jeremy McGrath:** I started freshman year. Before I started pole-vaulting I raced BMX from the time I was three years old to age thirteen. My dad is the coach so it's kind of a family tradition.

**HT:** Were you a natural at the sport?

**JM:** I guess so. I took me three fourths of the season to get good then I just worked on improving minor details to get even better.

**HT:** How do you still focused before you are about to pole vault?

**JM:** I sit by myself listen to music to get in the zone.

**HT:** Do you have any lucky charms?

**JM:** No, I'm not really superstitious.

**HT:** Are you thinking about going to college for athletics?

**JM:** I hope to. I would like to go to the University of Southern Alabama.

**HT:** What are your great achievements sports wise?

**JM:** Last year, I was second in the state. So far, for this season, I am first in the county.

**HT:** Who are your inspirations?

**JM:** Toby Stevenson is an inspiration to me. He is an Olympic silver medalist. My dad is also my inspiration.

**HT:** What is your off season and on season training like?

**JM:** I need a lot of upper body strength so I lift weights and run everyday all year around.

**HT:** How do you bond with your team mates?

**JM:** I just try to make practice as fun as possible so we all end up having a good time

together.

**HT:** It is hard to maintain a good balance between school work and sports?

**JM:** It is hard but I can do it. I have learned good time managing skills in the process.

**HT:** Do you practice out side of school practices?

**JM:** Yeah I practice with my dad. I usually end up pole-vaulting 15 hours a week.

**HT:** What are your goals for this season?

**JM:** I hope to set the record for highest pole-vault at La Jolla High. I am only a foot and a

half away.

**HT:** Where do you see yourself ten years from now?

**JM:** Hopefully in the Olympics.

Jeremy McGrath knows how to aim high. With a great future ahead, be sure to keep at look out for this impressive pole-vaulter. The La Jolla Track team will surely dominate the pole vaulting events with Jeremy on the team. Don't miss the track meet versus Scripps Ranch at Edwards Stadium on April 2nd, 2009.



# Mr. Rush: Remembered

## Teacher, Mentor, Friend

By **Antonia Cerejido**  
Staff Writer

Hanging on the inside of Mrs. Rodriguez's door is the poem "Vuelve a Empezar" by Pablo Neruda. Vuelve a Empezar means "begin again" in Spanish. The message of the poem could not ring truer to the seniors who are experiencing their last semester as La Jolla High students. The class of 2009 will soon leave their high school bubble and go off to college or the work force; however, before receiving their diplomas and throwing their caps into the air, they will undoubtedly be look back at their four years on Nautilus Street.

April 25th is the anniversary of one the most important and impacting events for many graduating seniors. As freshmen, the class of 2009 endured the death of a beloved Spanish teacher, Tim Rush. Tim Rush wrote the poem hanging on Mrs. Rodriguez's door himself. So now, as many seniors "begin again" they will do so knowing that Mr. Rush would have liked them to face obstacles head on and demand the most they could from themselves.

Mr. Rush had a particularly strong connection with La Jolla's Mexican community. He taught the Spanish for Spanish Speakers class and connected with his students in a way many teachers had been

unable to.

"He was the Mexicanist white person you'd ever meet," senior Joanna Garay said.

Mr. Rush was not afraid to poke fun at his students, yet at the same time make them feel comfortable in his classroom. Joanna Garay remembers warmly how Mr. Rush would tease her about her infatuation with the Mexican pop group R.B.D.

To engage his students in lessons Mr. Rush would use humor and games.

"We would play Huevitos or Jeopardy games. We learned a lot through those funny games," senior Pedro Ruiz said.

Under Mr. Rush, the MEChA club flourished. 2006, the year of his death was one of the most active MEChA years because it was the year of the immigration reform strikes. There were so many members, they barely fit in the room.

"The whole class would be packed," senior Samantha Esparza said.

It was Mr. Rush's teaching style and easy-going nature that made him such a popular teacher. His death came as a real shock and tragedy for his students. He died on April 25th, 2006, yet he was found several days after he died in his apartment. The exact cause for his death is not certain but it is believed that he died from

a form of non-contagious meningitis.

His death came very abruptly. During the days in which no one knew the cause of his absence, many rumors circulated the school; some students even claimed he had been fired. So when the real news was announced to his classes, many students broke down crying.

Every year since his death, students who remember him fondly wear something to commemorate his life on the anniversary of his death. This year students plan on wearing white, the color of peace and justice, a cause which Mr. Rush continuously encouraged his students to fight for.

"He would fight for us to be known as better people more than we did... He didn't want people to think of us as the stereotypical Mexicans who didn't do anything" said senior Samantha Esparza.

This year, MEChA dedicated their airband performance to Mr. Rush, are sad that with their graduation, the memory of Mr. Rush will be dissipated from the school, where none of the remaining student body knew him. Nevertheless they consider themselves the lucky ones for being the last class to be taught by him and they hope to come back in the future to tell new LJHS students about the teacher who that helped shape their lives.

### Obama Reverses Stem Cell Research Policy

President Barack Obama paved the way for new avenues for embryonic stem cell research by signing an executive bill, which allocates significant amounts of federal funds towards the controversial research. The research is

believed to possibly uncover cures for many serious ailments such as diabetes and Parkinson's disease.

President Obama's signing of the bill reverses the Bush-era stem cell policy by basically voiding Bush's 2001 bill mandating that no federal funding would be given for research into embryonic stem cells.



By **Vu Tran**  
Staff Writer

# LJHS Recycling Movement Conservation We Can Believe In

By **Christina Kirby**  
Staff Writer

Students at La Jolla have always wondered what our school does to recycle. Rumors have flown around that the few recycle bins in a couple of teachers rooms are actually thrown in the dumpsters with the rest of the trash.

Juniors Tali Gires, Vince Gumina, and sophomore Sara Ashcraft have decided to meet this problem head on by devising a recycling program that will be called the "LJHS Recycling Movement" to help La Jolla High "go green."

Currently, there is no school-wide recycling program, although some teachers recycle in their own classrooms. When asked what the La Jolla High recycling program is, the head custodian Pete Shaw said "We don't really have one." However, he did specify that recycling objects in bins were put into recycling dumpsters, and not trash cans.

While the current recycling situation is not as bad as rumors have made it out to be, it is still unsatisfactory to many environmentally conscious students.

"As of right now, our school is not doing enough to help the environment. It is up to all of us, the students and the teachers, to do our part with simple tasks such as recycling. We are really excited to start up this program and we hope everyone can get involved," junior Vince Gumina said.

What exactly does this program entail? For starters, the program will try to introduce recycling bins in to all classrooms. Tali, Vince, and Sara are planning on having fundraisers to gain money for new bins and any other needed

tools.

By working with a nonprofit organization called "Green Up Today," they will not only be able to raise money for recycling bins, but also for biodegradable cafeteria utensils, all-natural cleaning supplies for our campus, and other eco-friendly items.

The next step will be to get students to volunteer and be a part of the "LJHS Recycling Movement." In doing so, the volunteers would receive a t-shirt for visiting rooms to collect the recycling on a weekly basis.

"We really want La Jolla students to get involved with this program. Hopefully, people will become more aware of environmental issues and will learn some of the many simple ways to do their part and help out," sophomore Sara Ashcraft said.

In the meantime, ASB will be helping to advertise and inform students about the incoming recycling program and will be holding a few activities about it throughout the course of the year.

Although this program is still in the early stages of development, Tali, Vince, and Sarah have been working hard to ensure its success. This is exactly the type of program that many students have believed is necessary for La Jolla High.

"It's so important, especially in these times to respect the environment and we should be doing whatever we can to make our community a more eco-friendly place. The new recycling program will be the building blocks to do so," junior Tali Gires said.

With this program, students finally have the opportunity get involved and help the environment.

# Lunch & Order: How the student body saved our lunch period

By **Stephanie Fong**  
Staff Writer

Before winter break, the San Diego Council of ASB Presidents discovered that the SDUSD Board had voted in favor of a multiple period lunch plan to be implemented in all district high schools. The proposal estimated \$1.2 million in savings a year. The council strongly disapproved for various reasons, for example, the multi-period lunch arrangement would severely get in the way of high school students' extra-curricular activities.

Clubs would also be affected because it would eliminate the opportunity to meet during lunch with their advisors. Many of these clubs are academic and build up social and leadership skills, while others provide chances for students to explore non-academic interests. Clubs such as NOSB allow both students and teachers to interact with one another to gain more knowledge and boost the team.

With two lunches, club meetings become very difficult to schedule. It would be complicated to hold meetings after

school due to extracurricular activities and sports practices. At the meeting, the ASB presidents expressed their beliefs that most students would be less inclined to participate or attend school if there were no other outlets for them to release their energy outside of the classroom, which would affect their educational performance and the school's reputation as a whole. Club participation is crucial on college applications, and can help students get into their choice schools.

A survey was held at La Jolla High and the results helped

the ASB presidents show the board that the problem was not the single lunch period or long lines, but rather the food options available. They presented these statistics from schools across the district along with cafeteria worker surveys and other research, to help strengthen their argument.

After Raquel Saxe, along with the ASB presidents of Kearny, Lincoln, and Patrick Henry High Schools, met with the Superintendent, Chief of Staff, and Food Services Director for the district, the board re-voted on the issues and the

vote was 4-1 against multiple period lunches. Now, they are looking to extend lunch periods, but have agreed to address each campus individually. Our school has formed food committees to find out what students really want to eat in order to generate greater revenue without increasing our resources.

Thanks to the ASB committee, we no longer have to worry about juggling two different lunch periods next year.

The High Tide thanks Raquel Saxe for her help with this article.

# MEMPHIS: The Birth of Rock n' Roll

## From LJP to NYC

By Molly Salas  
A&E Editor

A taste of Memphis will be gracing the stages of Broadway this fall. "Memphis: The Birth of Rock and Roll" is scheduled to head to the Big Apple. The show debuted at the La Jolla Playhouse in August of 2008. Since then, the show had a brief run at the 5th Avenue Theatre in Seattle, where other Broadway shows like "Shrek: the Musical" and "Hairspray!" got their starts.

Directed by Christopher Ashley, "Memphis" follows Huey Calhoun, the upbeat and egocentric white DJ in 1960s Memphis, enamored with the distinctive "colored music" of Beale Street. Huey meets controversy when he starts to play the music he loves on the radio and falls in love with the beautiful Felicia. Huey has to defy the restraints of Memphis society to be with the girl he loves and to play the music he loves.

"Memphis", with its upbeat and energy-packed production numbers, powerful vocals, and

all-too talented cast, is joining shows such as "Big River", "Thoroughly Modern Millie", and "Jersey Boys", other big name productions that also



**Down Underground:** La Jolla Playhouse's recent production is one to look out for as it hits Broadway this fall.

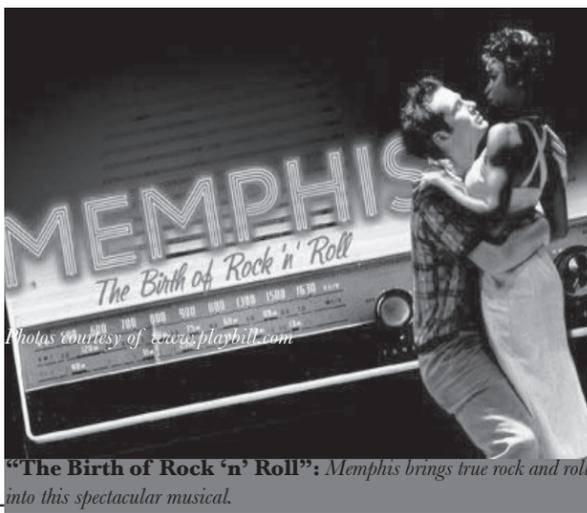
originated at the La Jolla Playhouse.

Especially in such a dire economy, it is a real accomplishment that the play has made it so far. Although local actors from the show have an opportunity to continue on to Broadway, pro-

ducers still have to hold auditions in New York City.

"The show has money from investors and the producers are excited. All they need is a theatre space to put the show up in. Then there will be auditions, so I don't know if I'm in yet! I'm keeping my fingers crossed!" local actress and Memphis cast member Cashae Monya said.

Although the exact opening dates, theatre, and cast have not yet been confirmed, keep an eye out for Memphis hitting the New York scene this fall, and feel proud that another show has originated right in our backyard.



**"The Birth of Rock 'n' Roll":** Memphis brings true rock and roll into this spectacular musical.

# SOS: Rihanna Needs Help

By Tania Mashkoory  
Staff Writer

Rihanna gave Chris Brown herpes? Rihanna has been flirting with other women? Rihanna was trying to get with rapper T.I.? Rumors continue to spread as to what happened between Chris Brown and Rihanna.

On February 7th, the world thought for sure that Chris Brown had lost it all when he beat, bit and left his girlfriend on the side of the road. Family and friends all worried about whether or not Rihanna is making the right decision in getting back together with Brown.

Students at La Jolla seem to have mixed opinions on the Rihanna and Chris Brown controversy.

"What is Rihanna thinking? Chris Brown hit her, she shouldn't get back with him. She should be with someone who treats her right" junior Brooke Hugus said.

"I heard that Rihanna hit Chris Brown first, not that is justifying anything, but he might be able to get away with

what he did in court" junior Colburn Mowry said.

"I heard Rihanna gave Chris Brown herpes, if that's the case she deserves the punch" senior Molly Rutgard said.

"I don't think Rihanna is setting a good example by getting with Chris Brown, I mean



what is this say about women in abusive relationships, that they should stay in them?" senior Madison Pelky said.

Other notable figures in the music industry have opinions of their own.

"Jay knows that this is Ri's life, but he doesn't want her to become another Whitney Houston" Jay Z said.

Rihanna doesn't seem to be listening to anyone, and is making the choice to be with

Brown on her own. After two weeks of ignoring his calls, she finally started to talk to him on her 21st birthday where he showered her with multiple gifts, and flowers. According to *US Weekly*, a disgusted friend stated that Brown tried to "woo her with a diamond bracelet" as to say sorry, when everyone knows that Rihanna is worth much more than that. After the call, Rihanna agreed to see Brown in person, so days later she checked into Miami Beach's Setai Hotel. After the assault Chris Brown's usually overplayed music stopped

being played on most radio stations. Wrigley's double mint gum stopped airing the commercial, which featured Chris Brown and his song "Forever". Nickelodeon took back Chris Brown invitation to appear on the Kid's Choice Awards. A Got Milk ad which was planned to appear in April, has also been canceled. Clearly, the media and his fans have viewed Chris Brown's actions as negative and unacceptable.

# The 909s Rock LJ

By Jessica Silvers  
Staff Writer

The local band named the 909s consists of six students at La Jolla High School. Daniel Diercks, Mona Maruyama, Alec de Kervor, Declan Halloran, Taiki Kim, and Umi Hoshijima are the talented musicians.

The type of music they play is described as classic rock, with a modern day feel to it. They add hard rock of the 60s and 70s together with a more contemporary edge.

Daniel Diercks, a senior at La Jolla High School is the founder of The 909s. He is also one of the two guitarists. Daniel plays a variety of genres and prefers not to stick to anyone in particular. On guitar he enjoys playing rock, folk, metal, country, jazz, and older forms of pop.

"I honestly do not understand how any musicians can limit themselves when there is so much music to appreciate out there," Diercks said.

Mona Maruyama is the lead vocalist and normally sings in the acoustic/indie genre. She has some formal training and adds liveliness and power to the band while adding the key ingredient of vocals.

"I really enjoy singing with the band because I usually sing acoustic songs, so singing in this genre is new to me; I've never screamed in a song before," Maruyama said.

Alec de Kervor, a senior, is the second guitarist. He is classically trained in clarinet and has been taking guitar lessons for years. He adds a strong classic rock and metal influence to the band. He will be going to Berklee College of music in the fall.

Declan Halloran, a freshman, is the band's drummer. He is influenced by almost anything with a strong beat, and adds a lot of punk flavor to the band. Halloran's biggest influences in music are John Bonham, the drummer for Led Zeppelin, and his biggest inspiration is his father, Michael Halloran, who works for FM 94/9.

Taiki Kim, a junior, plays both the piano and the saxophone. He took years of piano lessons, has taught himself how to play

jazz saxophone, and has been teaching himself as much jazz theory as he can find. His unique style has contributed tremendously to the band's overall sound and feel. He likes to incorporate many aspects of jazz piano into the music he plays with The 909s.

Umi Hoshijima, a senior, serves as the bass player for the band. In the future, Umi hopes to pursue music as a hobby or perhaps a minor, but he is mainly focused on becoming a geologist later in life. Outside of the band Umi plays in a rock quartet named The Eclectics, and he also plays in the school jazz band.

The band's future seems bright; they have plenty of shows coming up. The two most recent performances were at SOMA on March 6, 2009 and at Lestats on March 22, 2009. At SOMA the 909s were the opening band and had the crowd begging for more. Half the crowd was made up of La Jolla students ready to cheer on their peers.

Since there are a variety of grades in the band, it makes one wonder what will be happening to the 909s next year. When three members graduate at the end of this year, how will they be able to continue playing music with their band?

"I don't know if this band will take me places in life. With 3 of the members graduating this year, it may be too difficult to continue next year. Yet if it is possible, I would love to continue playing music with this group of people," Hoshijima said.

"Where the band takes me is a moot point. I don't really think of where the band is going in the long run, but more about how we can play better as a whole. Even if the band never really gets anywhere I feel that it has been, and will continue to be a great place for us to learn more about music and working with other people," Diercks said.

Each of the band members would appreciate seeing friends and classmates at performances, because everyone likes to be supported through cheers and ovations.

"Please come to our shows because we are really entertaining. We would love to see people we know rooting for us." Maruyama said.

All the band members would love to see any familiar faces at gigs and performances they get. Keep an eye out for these upcoming musicians.



**100% 909's:** Straight out of La Jolla High, the 909s are a band you want to watch out for in the future.

## Udderly Artistic

It's Moo Time here in La Jolla. These artistically decorated cows add a spice of life and a splash of color to the Village and can be appreciated by locals, Zonies, and everyone in between.



Photos courtesy of Amy Lieu

## A STROKE OF GENIUS

By Kelly Lin  
Editorial Intern

Life would not be complete without music. One of the reasons why music is so timeless is because it is the perfect mood enhancer. Music is man's best friend. It can energize him when he wants to rock out and comfort him when he is feeling down. For two La Jolla High School teachers, when grading papers or belting karaoke, these are the songs that are a part of their lives.

### DJ MRS. DILL



from Bon Jovi, like "Livin on a Prayer." Nothing breaks the ice like bad 80s hair bands!"

#### First Concert Experience

"The Beastie Boys!" I was in the 10th grade and the played an all-ages show at the Hollywood Palladium."

#### Dance Party

"Any song with Maggie and AJ! But if I had to pick one, it would be "Shake it to the Ground" by Blaq Starr."

#### Favorite Childhood Tune

"I Wanna be Like You" -The Jungle Book

"It's a catchy little song that I still like today. In fact, the whole soundtrack from the Jungle Book is still something I enjoy."

#### It's Karaoke Time and I'm Belting

"Both "Ring of Fire" by Johnny Cash and "Crazy" by Patsy Cline are fun ones because both Cash and Cline have amazing voices."

#### Song That's Always Stuck in My Head

"The "Nanarpuss" song. The "Nanarpuss" song is from a really neat commercial."

#### Favorite Childhood Tune

"When I was a kid, I loved "Tusk" by Fleetwood Mac and the USC Marching Band. My mom would put the record on and I would spaz out dancing in the living room."

### DJ MR. BANKERT



#### Song That Energizes Me

"Da Rockwilder" by Method Man & Redman "It's a pretty short song, but it instantly puts me in a good mood."

#### Favorite Sappy Love Song

"At Last" by Etta James, because it reminds me of my husband and our wedding day. I get teary-eyed every time I hear it!"

#### Favorite Karaoke Jam

"I NEVER sing Karaoke because my voice is awful. But if I ever had to do it, I'd go super-cheesy and sing something

#### Song that Energizes Me

"I really like "Hostile" by Pantera . The way the song starts off as well as the positive lyrics make this song great.

#### Song to Grade Papers To

"I love to listen to Ranchera music on 860 AM, 'La Poderosa' while grading papers."

#### Dance Party

"Groove is in the Heart" by Dee-lite is a great one. It's an old song that reminds me of dancing with my girlfriend at a party."

#### Favorite Sappy Love Song

"I have a soft spot for "Walking after Midnight" by Patsy Cline. It makes me feel that 'crush' like feeling of liking and wanting to be with someone."

#### Rap Song I Know All the Lyrics To

"Too many to name! I have a very eclectic collection of music, but old hip-hop is my favorite So I can probably sing along to anything from Biggie, Jay-Z, Gang Starr, Outkast, the Roots, Kanye, Dre..."

#### Song That's Always Stuck in My Head

"Today, its the theme song from "Wow Wow Wubbsy" and "Wonder Pets." My daughter watches them while I cook dinner and they are impossible to get out of my head."

#### Favorite 80's Jam

"This is an easy one- 'Where is My Mind?' by the Pixies. It's another old favorite that I still love today!"

#### Rap Song I Know all the Lyrics To

"I Left My Wallet in El Segundo" - A Tribe Called Quest. "The lyrics tell a really cool story about a road trip."

#### First Concert Experience

"When I was nine, my mom took me to see Adam Ant. My mom bought me a shirt from the concert and I was so happy. To this day, I still love ADAM ANT!"

## COACHELLA

## A GUIDE TO 2009

By Freda Spencer  
Staff Writer

Since October 1999, Empire Polo Fields in Indio, California has become home to the annual Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival. The three day festival is a music and art lover's dream.

The lineup for this year's festival is impressive, with Paul McCartney, The Killers, and The Cure headlining. Other celebrated artists performing are Morrissey, Lupe Fiasco, Atmosphere, Fleet Foxes, The Ting Tings, The Black Keys and many, many others.

Shepard Fairey, the creator of Obey Clothing, will be one of

the artists showing their work at Coachella. A successful artist, Fairey's painting of Barack Obama became the official logo and symbol of Obama's presidential campaign. Fairey will be showing off his artwork on Sunday.

Maybe she is not yet a household name, but Jenny Lewis' unique style and beautiful voice prove that she has got what it takes. Jenny is the lead singer of the band Rilo Kiley. Her music is described as indie folk, and you can see her perform on Saturday, April 18.

If you like Atmosphere, DMC, or anything hip hop, you will like People Under the

Stairs. People Under the Stairs is based in Los Angeles, and will be performing on Friday, the first day of Coachella.

#### How much are tickets?

Tickets go for around \$300 for a three day pass, or about \$100 a day for single day pass.

If they are not sold out the day of the event, single day tickets will be sold at the box office on show dates.

#### What should I bring?

The festival is sprawled across a massive field, with different stages and performances throughout the property. Because of the large crowds and heat, the less you bring the better.

"You really don't want to

be carrying a lot there, all you really need is a few bucks for food, your cell phone and your ticket... no backpack," junior Kenji Blouin-Ito said.

#### Do not bring:

Instruments, Knives, Weapons, Chains, or Blankets. Outside Food & Drink, Tents, Flags, Chairs, Video Cameras/Audio Recording Devices, Professional Cameras, Stuffed Animals, Pets.

#### Okay to bring:

Backpacks, Hats, Sun Block, Cell Phones, Sunglasses, Small Beach Towel, Fanny Packs, Digital Cameras (Non-Pro), Disposable Cameras, Film Cameras (Non-Pro).

#### Where to stay?

Although the festival is open to all ages, onsite camping or lodging is for concertgoers 18 years and older only, so most students from La Jolla High will have to stay offsite. There are hotels in the area, and campgrounds and RV parks are available for stay also.

#### What to Wear?

During the day, the temperature in Indio can rise above 100 degrees. Although there are shaded tents, the majority of the festival is directly in the sun. Dress for comfort and prepare for the heat. Shorts, t-shirts, tank tops, and even bathing suits are ideal clothing for the weather.