

## Just take the keys

By Taylor Brusky  
Features Editor

Austin Whitney, 19, grew up in Orange County, graduated from Saint Margaret's in June of 2007, and had dreams to go to college. Soon those dreams will be a reality, but now there is one big difference: Whitney is permanently paralyzed from the waist down due to drunk driving.

"My accident was completely, one hundred percent avoidable in every way, and that's the case with all drunk driving cases," said Whitney as he spoke to Laguna Beach High School seniors on Dec. 20.

Based on statistics, somebody in the United States will die from drunk driving every 31 minutes. Whitney hopes that the students of Laguna Beach High School will learn from his mistakes.

"If you see a girl or a guy that shouldn't be driving, take their keys [...] and throw them. It sounds stupid, but [would you rather have a] car accident or lost keys for a night?" said Whitney.

Whitney spent 41 days in the hospital recovering from his shattered spine, broken ribs, blood-filled lungs and other injuries.

"The mental just starts kicking in. Quickly your mind becomes your worst enemy."

Whitney believes he can accomplish anything with a good attitude.

"You're all going to fight adversity, and you're all going to have problems. It is inevitable. Many of you face it already," said Whitney. "Easy times aren't what shape your character. It is how you choose to react to the bad and the sad and the harder times that does that."

Whitney believes that conversations with people in wheelchairs do not have to be awkward. Just shake the person's hand and keep eye contact instead of staring where their head would be if they could stand.

"I'm just a normal 19-year-old. I just happened to break my backbone," said Whitney.

## Cheering for friendship

By Kendall Kleinberg  
Entertainment Editor

### The Laguna Beach High School Cheer Team volunteers at local Friendship Shelter.

Do you wonder what cheerleaders do when they're not cheering at games or practicing their cheers?

The Laguna Beach High School Cheer Team has gone

to the Friendship Shelter once a month since the beginning of the year. They make and serve dinner to the homeless and plan to continue doing so throughout the year.

"We feel like it's a good thing to do for the community, and it's fun," said Nancy Snyder, junior.

The homeless have 60 days to find jobs while they are staying at the Friendship Shelter.

"We decided to do this because the girls wanted to do something that would have a positive impact on our community as well as unify the team by working together on the project," said Miss Sarah

Ray, cheerleading coach and English teacher. "I am very proud of the cheerleaders for their dedication to this project and their excitement to get involved."

A group of Laguna Beach residents started the "Care Program" at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Laguna Beach, which provided temporary shelter and meals for the homeless. That program led to the opening of the Friendship Shelter in 1988. The shelter can hold up to 29 residents at a time.

"We talk to them and we eat dinner with the homeless people," said Snyder.

## Lend a Helping Hand

### Laguna Beach High School students volunteer at the Vista Aliso Residential Community.



Students play bingo with residents. (Vy Quan Nguyen)

By Kellie Benson  
Reporter

On Nov. 6, students from Laguna Beach High School began volunteering Tuesday afternoons to play games with the residents at the Vista Aliso Residential Community.

"It's wonderful—it makes me feel young, but I have three children, eight grandchildren, and ten great grandchildren—I'm not that old," said Lillian Kaufman, a resident of twenty-five years.

Other residents, like Margaret Butt from South Wales, like to share their wisdom with the younger generations.

"If everybody learned to have an anchor to their soul, they wouldn't be complaining. They would be joyful and rejoicing, and be thankful for what we have," said Butt.

Some residents even have old connections with some of the teachers at Laguna Beach High School.

"Gary Shapiro's parents and my parents have been friends for over fifty years, and Gary grew up with my youngest daughter. He came to visit me almost twenty years ago because he wanted to see what Laguna Beach was like," said Kaufman.

Not only do the residents welcome the company of the students, but the students also enjoy working with the residents.

"It's fun playing bingo with them and seeing them have fun as well," said sophomore volunteer, Vyquan Nyguen.

The residents at Vista Aliso

love the company of Laguna Beach High School students but would like more entertainment and assistance.

"I wish they could do more for us. Some of them have come in the past and helped us. The past couple of years they've come to help me with the gardening, and one girl even helped me clean out my closet," said Kaufman.

So far, six students have volunteered and more are welcome. Anyone can play games and entertain the residents for community service; the more the merrier.

"Even though I've only been working for a week so far, I like seeing them have fun, and [I enjoy] playing bingo with them," said senior James Montgomery.

## Writers on Strike

By Val Biscarrat  
Reporter

You might want to stick to re-runs for awhile or just a show like American Idol that runs without scripts. As the Writers' Guild strike continues, more and more of America's favorite TV shows are running out of fresh scripts.

The WGA (Writer's Guild Association) went on strike on Friday, Nov. 2, after the contract between the WGA and the AMPTP (Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers) reached an impasse.

"I don't want to have to watch re-runs all year. I miss you Stephen Colbert," said junior Dane Wright.

The WGA is demanding a residual increase (a profit made from subsequent airings or purchases of a program) on DVDs, which is currently 4 cents commission on every DVD sold.

Furthermore, the other major area of dissent between WGA and the AMPTP has been over the New Media. As years go by, more and more consumers are purchasing and downloading shows and movies off the internet. Writers have not been receiving any commission or residual from purchases or downloads.

"The material that the production companies sell on the internet represents a billion dollar industry that would not sustain itself without the help of the writers. The writers deserve their fair share of the profits," said junior Kyle Jenkins.

From now on, if America's most creative minds do not cease their strike, then shows such as 24, Lost, Heroes, The Colbert Report, the Daily Show, Family Guy, and many others will either have to employ new young writers or play re-runs until the strike ends.

"We will miss you Family Guy and Scrubs...mostly Zach Braff," said junior Jonathan Anderson.



(Left to right) Freshmen Ren Slater and Brooke Davis prepare dinner for the homeless. (Sarah Ray)