

# CLASS!

January, 1995

A monthly publication  
for and about  
high school  
students



**Cover Story:**  
Breaking the ice  
with bladerunner  
(page 4)

Silverado writer  
ponders tattoos  
(page 8)

Cheyenne takes  
art to special kids  
(page 15)

Teen parents  
too soon?  
(page 18)

## FUTURES EXPO:

### Connecting students and careers

Approximately 140 local businesses are expected to take part in this year's *FUTURES EXPO*, sponsored by First Interstate Bank, Nevada Power Company and the Clark County School District.

*EXPO* is scheduled for Jan. 24 and 25, 4 to 8 p.m. at Cashman Field. The businesses will provide information about the working world so that students can learn how their required classes of today have an impact on jobs or careers they want tomorrow.

This program for students and parents will "bridge the gap between young people and future employers by encouraging students to stay in school and obtain necessary skills," says Joyce Woodhouse, Director of the School-Community Partnership Program. For more information, call Woodhouse at 799-5312.

## Scholarship Fair

A program to present information on scholarships, financial aid and college success techniques for high school seniors will be presented Saturday, Jan. 28 at the Community College of Southern Nevada (CCSN), Cheyenne campus.

*The Multicultural College/University Orientation and Scholarship Fair* is sponsored by CCSN, UNLV, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority (Las Vegas Alumnae Chapter) and the Clark County School District.

The program starts with a panel discussion from 9:30 to 10:45 am. Then participants are invited to the exhibit hall in the Nicholas Horn Auditorium lobby, which will be open until 12:30 pm.

Exhibitors include local community agencies who will have information, brochures and financial aid and scholarship applications

## Need help with college costs?

A handbook of scholarships, grants, work-study and loans for high school students has been published by the Clark County School District and is available from your school counselor.

The *Student Scholarship Handbook* will help you identify these sources and provide information about application deadlines and eligibility. Also, the handbook will give you a suggested timeline of what you should do before applying for any financial aid.

### Pell Grants

(Tight deadline for this fall!)

These are direct awards of money based on a student's financial need. Pell grants need not be repaid. If you are a senior planning to start college this fall, you should apply no later than **Feb. 15!** For details, call 1-800-4FED AID.

### SEOG Grants

These grants (Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants) are also for students with exceptional financial need, and priority is given to those eligible for a Pell Grant. SEOGs, too, will help with undergrad study and do not have to be paid back.

### Loans

These are also based on need, but they must be repaid. There are several types, most of them at low interest, and some are paid off after you graduate.

### Employment Programs

One kind is college work-study: on-campus and off-campus jobs enable you to earn money while you're a student. The college financial aid office determines how much you can earn in a given year. Apply early!

Another is Cooperative Education that combines your academic work with an off-campus job that relates to your major. Several arrangements are possible, including (1) alternating semesters of work and study; (2) working days and taking classes evenings; and (3) working half-time and studying half-time each day.

A third type is an Internship that alternates between formal studies and work in your field -- usually only for one semester or a summer.

### Scholarships

These non-repayable awards are given on the basis of student achievement in the areas of academic excellence, special talents, leadership, community service, and financial need. There are many scholarships, for large schools and small, but YOU are responsible for going after them! Talk to your counsellor soon -- many deadlines are near and the application process is often time-consuming.

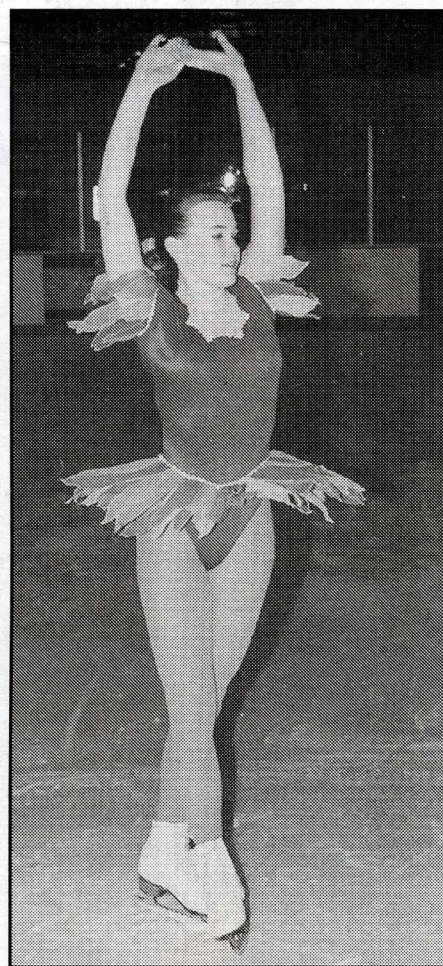
## COVER PHOTO

Lea Gambarana, a freshman at the Las Vegas Academy is working - and working hard -- for a chance at the Olympics followed by a career in professional ice skating.

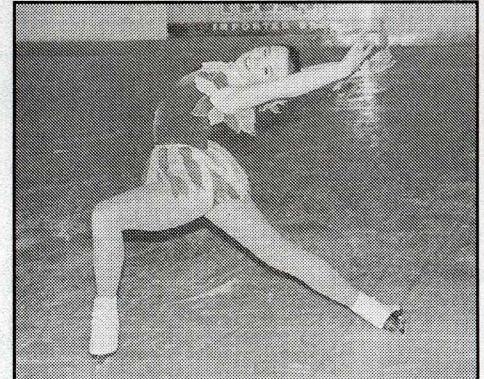
In the cover photo, Lea gives pointers to Andrew Fischer, 5, who has been taking ice skating lessons for just a month. Andrew is the son of John Fischer.

See the feature story on page 4.

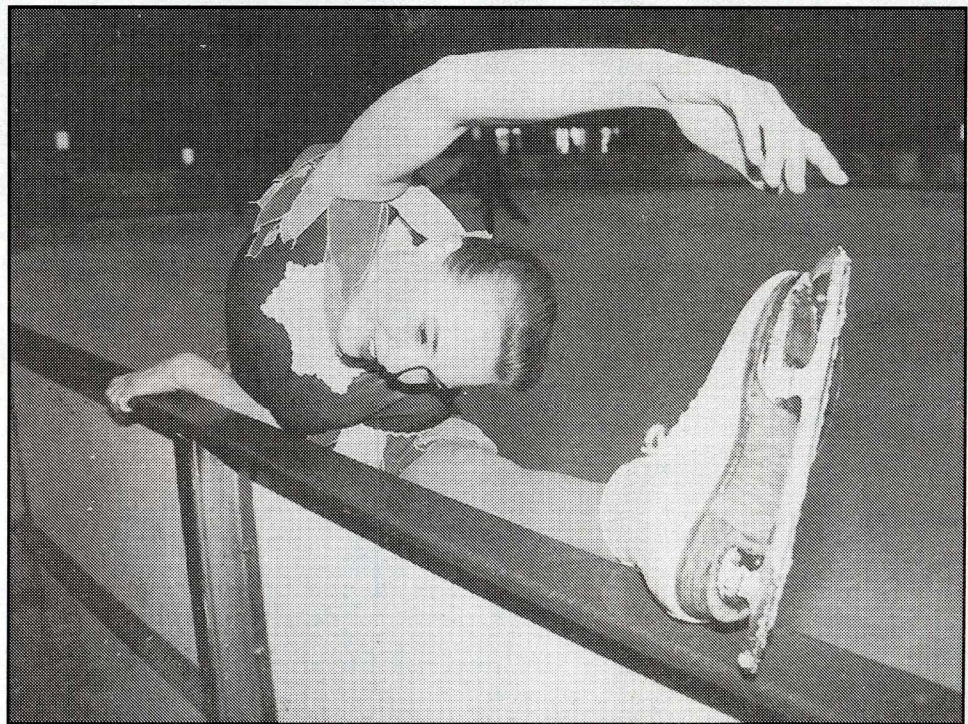
[Photos on this page and on the cover are by David Phillips, photographer and publisher of this newspaper.]



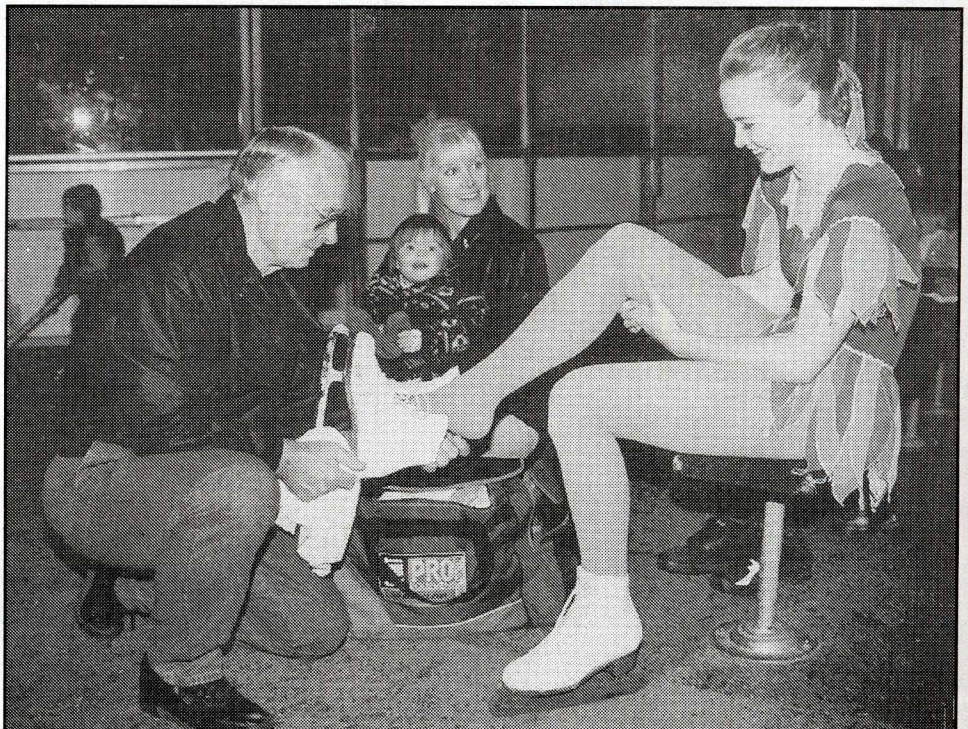
**PIROUETTE ON ICE** -- Lea executes a graceful scratch-spin during a practice session at the Sante Fe Hotel ice rink.



**BENDING OVER BACKWARDS** -- Lea demonstrates the Ina Bower position, named for the champion who created this move.



**A STRETCH IN TIME** -- Lea warms up at the hockey players' penalty box.



**WITH A LITTLE HELP** -- Shown here are Lea's mother, Julie Grosso; little sister, Johnna; and grandfather Ivan Van Reenan, who is her #1 Chauffeur.

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### CLASS! Publications

A monthly newspaper for and about high school students

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## Scholar-by-the-Sea University

### Journalism Camp seeks applicants

Wrap up an editorial, lay out a sports page, then race for the breakers on Malibu Beach. It's Journalism Camp!

The annual Journalism Camp sponsored by Pepperdine University is open to any high school student — and is especially wonderful for those interested in their school newspapers.

The next Journalism Camp is scheduled for July 5-9, 1995, on the beautiful Pepperdine campus overlooking the Pacific Ocean and the beaches of Southern California.

Campers improve their writing and reporting skills and get training on Macintosh computers and Pagemaker layout. The program includes press conferences, discussions of ethics, role-playing, page design — all the skills that lead to an exciting career in journalism. Students publish a camp newspaper (which is evaluated by media professionals) and compete for trophies in a variety of skill areas.

Journalism camp pays attention to the fun-side of summer, too. For five days, students live in college dorms, eat in the cafeteria, and join in softball games, barbecues, beach-bumming or just hanging out with new friends.

Students get intense personal attention by a staff of journalism and photography professionals. The staff was amazed at how much computer knowledge the kids brought with them — and how much energy they had.

Last summer, two of the 83 campers were from Nevada: Raechel Grimblot and Holley Alford, both from Rancho High and both active with the school paper, *The Rampage*.

Deadline to register is May 1, 1995. But if you register by March 15, your fee will be only \$300 instead of the \$350 you'd pay after that date. If several students attend from your school, the fee is \$275 each.

For more information, see your journalism advisor, or write to Mike Jordan, Journalism Department, Pepperdine University, Malibu, CA 90263.

## Anytown USA: Ban prejudice, build leadership

The people who live in Anytown, USA are pretty unusual. They only live there for a few days, they meet all their neighbors the first day, and they use bug repellent a lot.

The residents of Anytown are high school students from all over Southern Nevada — and the town laws are easy: get rid of your prejudices, appreciate your own heritage, and respect the cultures of other people.

Seventy students, ages 15-18, moved into Anytown this year to take part in workshops, discussion groups and social events. (The classrooms of Bonanza High became their "cabins" for a weekend.) The kids represented many ethnic backgrounds and focused their discussions on community problems.

The social events at a typical Anytown include mixer games, campfire sings and a talent show. Other activities help students experience the negative impact of racism and discrimination — and better understand their own personal prejudices.

There is no cost to the students. The program is sponsored by The National Conference, a human relations organization. The \$18,000 pricetag for the 1994 Anytown retreat was covered by public donations, grants and a major gift from Tom Saitta of Las Vegas Chrysler-Plymouth.

Some comments from the students:

"A weekend is too short...we were all from different backgrounds but we clicked."

"Stereotyping is B.S....know the person before making assumptions. I cried during discussions...because the topics were so emotional."

"I learned about my Hispanic side and my culture."

"I learned a lot about the feelings of other people...I will try my hardest to make a difference."

"Those floors were really hard to sleep on!"

The next Anytown project will be March 31-April 2, 1995 at Potosi Pines Retreat in Mountain Springs, NV. If you are interested, call the National Conference at 387-6225. They will send you an application form, which must be returned to the National Conference by March 1, 1995.

And we were just kidding about the bug-repellent.

## Talk about embarrassing!

Last month's **CLASS!** contained errors on Pages 3 and 4.

1. Page 3: Nicole Ellingwood, the Air Force Academy pilot instructor who was featured on the cover, is a graduate of Western (not Rancho) High School.

2. Page 3: The garbled paragraph in the editorial *Does the press bad-rap kids?* should have read: "Only four percent of front-page news stories were about young people. Of some 2,000 articles in the business section, only 10 related directly to this age group -- and most of those were about young, white males."

3. Page 4: In the photo captioned *Doorway of Champions*, the new wrestling coach, Lon Gwyn, is shown standing in front of the Jimmy May Wrestling Room. Sorry, Coach; we'll have to grapple with our technical problems.

### ATTENTION -- STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHERS!

You could win a \$25 award for Photo of the Month. Send your favorite photo (4x5 or larger) to **CLASS!** 6290 Harrison Drive, Suite 10

Las Vegas 89120

The only requirement: be a Clark County high school student

# KDWN

## REBEL BASKETBALL

If you can't *be* there, *hear* there --

720 AM

Pre-game and post-game shows, too.

## calendar

- Jan. 17-31 Foreign Film Festival (Cafeteria, 2:30-5pm)
- Jan. 20 Carnival of Animals (Auditorium, 12 & 7pm)
- Jan. 24 Percussion Ensemble (Black Box, 7pm)
- Jan. 27-28 Theatre: "Godspell" (Black Box, 7pm)
- Jan. 24-Feb. 4 Gallery Art Show: "Godspell" (Black Box, 5pm)
- Feb. 1 Chamber Music/Opera Workshop Concert  
(Black Box Theatre, 7pm)
- Feb. 11 CCSD Solo Ensemble (Time, place TBA)
- Feb. 16 International Art (LVA Gallery, 5pm)
- Feb. 17-18 Variety Show (Auditorium, 7pm)
- Feb. 17-18 Gallery Opening: Variety Show  
(Auditorium lobby, 5pm)
- Feb. 24 The Unspoken Language Dance (Auditorium, 7pm)

## Techies build, polish, scrub for the love of theatre (and grades)

By Heather Sprout

Tech Theatre majors at Las Vegas Academy have many responsibilities. They build sets for plays such as "A Christmas Carol," which meant many weeks of hard work and after-school hours. The play the music for the songs that performers sing when there is no live orchestra for the play.

Techies also operate the fly-line that raises and lowers the curtains, and they are responsible for moving sets and props on and off stage during shows and storing them afterward. These students clean the theatre, from the glass doors of the auditorium lobby to the bathrooms. And they usher and sell tickets.

Sometimes the tech majors are paid for the work they do, but their greatest reward is to see a set, onstage, that they have built. Next time you attend a play at the Academy, look closely at the sets and props and you can be sure that a techie built it.

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*Y'gotta get up early*

## Eye on the prize -- an Olympic medal

Lea Gambarana's school day starts at four in the morning. She rolls out of bed and heads for the ice rink at the Santa Fe hotel, where she puts in two hours of figure skating practice before her 8 a.m. classes.

Talent at the Academy goes well beyond foreign languages, dancing and theatre. Athletes at our school prove this to be true. Gambarana is a perfect example.

A freshman at the Academy, Lea started skating in the sixth grade when she went to the Santa Fe Hotel one day "just for fun." Since then, she has sketched her plan for the future: first become an Olympic skater, then go professional.

After training with several coaches for two years, Gambarana was accepted by the well-known skating coach Karin Doherty, who also coaches Olympic champion Viktor Petrenko.

"I've learned many new moves and jumps with Karin," she says. "Karin makes me want to skate and learn."

In addition to the daily morning practices, Gambarana goes to the Santa Fe one or two days a week after school because the rink is available then for 45 minutes.

"Hockey players rule the rink," she says, noting that they have the ice whenever they want it. "The only time left over is the early morning and afternoons from two-fifteen to three."

"My parents don't push me," she says, "but they do support me." Gambarana points out that her grandfather, Ivan VanReenan, "is a very important person in my life." He picks her up every morning, takes her to the ice arena, then delivers her to the Academy -- she says he makes it possible for her to pursue her dream of a future in ice skating.

She designs her own costumes then works with a seamstress who makes the pattern and sews the costume. And she chooses her own music for her program -- currently it's the music from the show "Mystere."

Asked what she thinks about the current state of Olympic and professional skating, Gambarana's answer is quick: "It's all political."

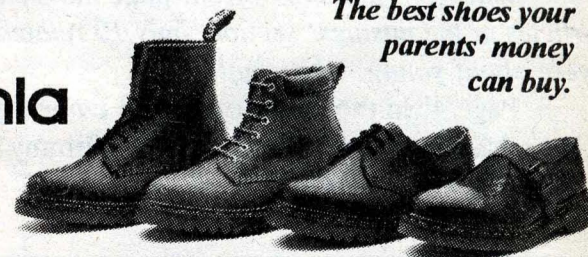
[Thanks to contributing reporters Arlevia Bell and Gloria Lyle.]



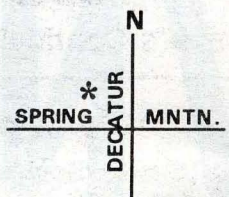
of California



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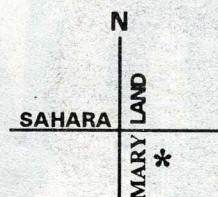


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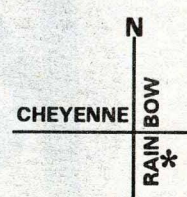
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735-8267

**far-out location**  
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658-8267

## Valley student gives developers civic-minded idea

[The following letter was recently printed by the Las Vegas Sun; the author gave permission for its appearance in CLASS!]

To the editor:

I have lived in Las Vegas for 17 years, which is my entire life, and I have watched Las Vegas grow and grow. Almost everywhere you see housing projects popping up, and it seems that everything is getting too crowded.

I think that a solution to this problem might be building more communities like Summerlin or Green Valley to give some of the older residents of Las Vegas some breathing space.

The problem that concerns me the most, partly because I am a student myself, is the overcrowding of the schools. In my three years at Valley High School, I have seen considerable growth in the student population and most of my classes barely have enough seats for all the students.

A solution to this problem might be a requirement for all developers to build a school along with the houses they build.

This overcrowding may ease if some type of requirement was set for these developers. It is only fair.

*Natalie Wisner*

*Hi-ho, hi-ho, it's off  
to work ~~class~~ I go!*

## Cut some slack for wage-earners

By Karla Culberson

More than half of Valley High School's students have some kind of after-school job. Unfortunately, many teachers feel that our students lack the sleep and time that is needed to pursue their studies.

In most cases, the jobs students have are for family reasons: the students have the extra responsibility of helping their families while continuing their education.

We all know this is extremely hard; it makes students tired at times as well as tardy for morning classes. What can we do to help students please both themselves and their families?

Why don't we cut these students some slack? All our hard-working juniors and seniors deserve respect and understanding. Don't be so quick to judge how students are achieving in class. Only a few actually fall behind because of an after-school job.

Take time to understand how hard it is for us to survive in this world. Let us worry about the future because we are the only ones who can change ours for the better.

## ON MY MIND

### In safe directions

By Aimee Henkel

"As hall monitors, we feel we are very important to this school," says Bobby Bolden.

Robert Norris, Lily Ramirez, Steve Berkemeyer and Bolden help to protect our school's good qualities. They are constantly directing us where to go and how long we have. Sometimes they do much more than their job, but always with a good attitude and a friendly smile.

The hall monitors are also involved in other things. Bolden, for example, coached the freshman girls' basketball team. Ramirez helps teachers translate from English to Spanish and vice-versa. And Berkemeyer was the assistant coach for the girls' varsity basketball.

With the help of the staff, we can and will keep Valley a safe and friendly place to learn.

By Julie Montague

The annual visit to Washington, DC by Close Up Club is scheduled for March 26-April 1.

Close Up is a government studies program that allows students to gain insights into how public policy affects them. Students discuss issues facing the nation and develop skills such as critical thinking, decision making and effective communication.

In addition to making new friends, the students will prepare themselves for a lifetime of active citizenship - and have lots of fun.

## Surprise! Your license is revoked!

When you apply for your Nevada driver's license, you agree to the "implied consent law." This means if you are driving, you agree to take a blood, breath or urine test upon request of an officer. Refusing to do so can result in the revoking of your driver's license.

You are legally under the influence when your blood alcohol content (BAC) is at .10. But you can also be arrested for having a BAC as low as .059. The BAC is the level of alcohol in your bloodstream, figured by weight and volume of your body.

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## Debating the Issues

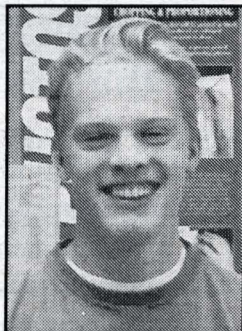
### Proposition 187: Good move or grave error?

Californians approved the controversial Proposition 187 during the last election. Among other provisions, the law prohibits illegal immigrants from receiving free public services, health care and education. Two students come here in thoughtful debate.

Soccer — ja!  
Country music  
—nein!

By Monett Haley

When 17-year-old Philipp Aye found out he would spend a year in Las Vegas, he couldn't believe it because many of his friends were sent to small towns.



Philipp Aye

He says, "Everybody in Germany knows [about] Las Vegas!"

This is not his first visit here. Philipp, who comes from Stuttgart, spent two days at a language and culture camp held on the Yale University campus for exchange students learning about American customs before joining their host families. He was amazed at how receptive and friendly Americans are compared to German people.

When not out with friends, Philipp likes to ski and play tennis and soccer...which he did for LVHS last fall. "An American father teaches his son how to play baseball; a German father teaches his son how to play soccer," he says.

Teens in Germany like to dress casually although "baggy pants and skaters" aren't as common, Philipp says. They listen to most of the same music with the exception of British bands and "NO country music!" In Germany the legal drinking age is 16.

There is one thing he doesn't like about America -- the food. In Germany people eat healthy diets and rarely eat fast food. "But now," he says after getting used to junk foods, "I mostly eat ice cream and cereal."

**PRO**

By Rebecca Bates

(Shortened by editor to fit space)

Illegal immigrants are a problem. Some states, such as California and Florida, are suing the federal government for the money they must spend on illegal immigrants.

California recently passed Proposition 187 which prevents illegal immigrants from receiving free public services and education. [Riots and demonstrations followed, in this country and others.]

In the past decade, the number of illegal immigrants in California has doubled to 2.1 million. According to [California's] State Treasurer...there are 14,000 illegal immigrants in California prisons and another 10-15,000 in county jails. It costs the state...over \$400 million a year to keep them imprisoned and, because the jails are so overcrowded, California is having to release criminals who haven't served their full time.

There are jobs in the United States, but not enough for everyone. And to get a good job you need an education. Under federal law, penalties for knowingly hiring undocumented workers are as low as \$250.

Many illegal immigrants are abusing the system...they know that if they can't find jobs, they will get welfare and a place to live. Their medical bills will be taken care of, and their children will receive a free education. Many U.S. citizens who work but do not make enough money for medical insurance do not receive the benefits afforded to illegal immigrants.

Most immigrants say they come here for the American Dream, but what dream are they talking about? The one where everything is free? U.S. citizens pay hard-earned [money for] taxes so they can have a piece of the American Dream.

They do not want to pay for the upkeep of illegal immigrants.

The government and the taxpayers are spending too much money on illegal immigrants and not enough on its own citizens.

**CON**

By Raul Daniels

(Shortened by editor to fit space)

November 7 will be remembered as a black day for illegal immigrants, as Proposition 187, a law classified as racist and xenophobic (fear felt toward immigrants) was passed in California. Pete Wilson...reelected as governor of California...said he will go to any extent to get illegal immigrants out of the US and..."reduce California's unemployment and poverty."

Illegal immigrants are blamed for unemployment and abusing welfare services. But this is not true, according to [a University of Maryland professor of business administration]. He says illegal immigrants do not cause native unemployment, even among low-paid minority groups. New entrants take jobs, but they also make jobs...with their purchasing power and the new businesses they start are at least as numerous as the jobs illegal immigrants fill.

Immigrants typically arrive when they are young and healthy...use fewer welfare services than do average native families because immigrants do not receive expensive social security and other aid for the elderly. Illegal immigrant families pay more taxes than do average native families...Every year, the average immigrant family puts about \$2,500 into pockets of natives from this excess of taxes over public costs.

Illegal immigrants are typically [at least] as well-educated and skilled as natives. New arrivals bring valuable technical knowledge with them. An increase in immigration is the best way to boost the crucial stock of talented scientists, inventors, engineers and managers who will improve US competitiveness. [A study shows that] immigrants save more, apply more effort during working hours and [are twice as likely] to be self-employed.

Important issues are lost in a country when citizens look to blame others for their problems. We live in times when many people are scared...of losing their jobs, their health care, about personal safety. Illegal immigration is wrongly seen as the cause.

Denying health care to illegal immigrants would contribute to the spread of...diseases. It should be obvious that if one denies schooling to children...this contributes to a cycle of illiteracy, hopelessness...crime...thereby costing taxpayers more than they will save with [Prop 187]. Schools should devote their scarce resources to education, not to the nearly impossible task of determining the residency status of students.

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**REBEL BASKETBALL  
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**KDWN**

**720 AM**

Pre-game and post-game shows, too.

## Don't mess with a guy whose girlfriend wins Tae Kwon Do honors

By Heather Farmer

The two tough guys walked away from their fight with gashed foreheads, broken ribs and busted lips. They would never again mess with a younger guy who has his girlfriend with him.

When these 30-year-old bullies attempted to beat up her boyfriend after leaving a convenience store, Vanessa Handschue would not stand for it. Using her five years of experience in Tae Kwon Do, Handschue taught the men a lesson they would never forget about picking on people.

Handschue's Tai Kwon Do talents have been useful in places other than AM/PMs. In Michoacan, Mexico, at the 12th annual Mexican championships, she stook first in fighting and third in form.

She is now preparing for the Junior Nationals which precedes the Tai Kwon Do Olympics. Following that is the American Tae Kwon Do team that tours all over the world.

Handschue is a first-degree blackbelt and works continuously at her art with a 23-hour practice week. This Korean martial art uses 80 percent feet and 20 percent hands -- differing from Karate in which the percentages of hands and feet are reversed.

Handschue became involved with Tae Kwon Do through her mother:

"In sixth and seventh grades, I got beat up a lot," she says. Her mother introduced her to Tae Kwon Do to teach her self defense. And it has blossomed into so much more. Her boyfriend is lucky to have such a bodyguard.

### LITTLE BITS

**1** The students in a Chaparral High Spanish class have collected many used children's books to deliver to the kids at Bracken Elementary. Third-year students visited the school and read some of the books to the children.

**2** Computer club is recycling aluminum cans to raise money for software and hardware upgrades.

**3** The CHS men's soccer team travelled to San Jose, CA and won the Northern California CIF Soccer Tournament. They beat the #1-ranked team in Northern California, Leland High School.

**4** Channel 10 broadcast the Chaparral Choir Holiday Concert.

## Faculty guy of the '90s

By Paul Morelli

When you think of a cool, hip '90s teacher, you think of Jeff Hobbs, a science teacher at Chaparral and teacher of freshman biology at UNLV.

Hobbs is also an advisor of the low-rider club and was the head wrestling coach last year.

"I still support the wrestling program and coach Johnson is a great coach," Hobbs says, "I would like to coach again."

He has enjoyed the new block scheduling. "I'm very excited for the block," Hobbs says. "It leaves endless opportunities for teachers to enrich the students' minds."

Hobbs has a good track record as coach at many schools -- so look for him to be coaching somewhere in the future.

## Pearl Jam lashes out at hypocrites

By James Conway

Long gone are the days when Pearl Jam depends on the monster killer guitar riffs and technical effects that first got everyone on the bandwagon.

The latest Pearl Jam album, *Vitalogy*, starts with fury and fire on "Last Exit." Eddie Vedder screams about a person on the brink of death and how he copes with it. This passion of raw sound and energy continues on "Spin the Black Circle," a song dealing with nothing more than the feeling of "viva la vinyl."

Lucifer rears his (not) ugly head on a few occasions -- the first time on "Tremor Christ." It chronicles a day at sea by Jesus Christ, where he is tempted by the Devil but overcomes adversity with the help of angels. Next is the soon-to-be-classic "Nothingman"...a man with not much left to go on in life who realizes there is nothing he can do about it, so he moves on.

Being as political as any band around, the lyrics to "Whipping" were written on a petition the band started in order to show their outrage at the killing of a doctor who performed abortions [and to show] support of any type of birth control.

"Corduroy," a mellow rocker for Pearl Jam, is about the search for a heart of gold. Then zaniness abounds with "Bugs," which you'll have to hear to know what it's about. Satan shows up again on "Satan's Bed"...about being yourself. After the emotional "Betterman," the morbid "Aye Davanita," and the unimpressive "Immortality," the final song, "heyfoxyomophandlemama, that's me," is not conventional by any means.

Overall, the album is great [but] the drumming is boring and unimaginative which may explain why the band has once again fired the drummer. We're used to bass player Jeff Ament's great bass lines, but it's extremely hard to hear or even pay attention to his rather bland playing.

But aside from that, hey...it's a cool album.

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## Tattoos! What possesses people to be permanently disfigured?

By Crissy Moore

### Athletes of the month not the forgotten bunch

By Josh Barnard

Once a month the SHS faculty centers its attention on Students of the Month. Sometimes we forget the faculty also choose Athletes of the Month.

This prestigious award is a special honor considering how many athletes compete in so many different sports.

For football, junior Jung Yi wins his second award of the month. Recently, Yi was honored at the varsity football banquet with the highest award bestowed on a player. Yi took the first-ever MVP of the first year program.

Freshman Destiny Ruesch captured the award for her outstanding defensive play on the Womens Varsity Volleyball team. "I didn't expect to win because there are so many good athletes on the team," she says.

### Strike everything/spare some

#### Tips for better bowling

By Benjamin Fields

##### Choosing the right ball

- Weight: heaviest you can handle without strain
- Pitch: holes drilled into the ball at a comfortable angle
- Span: thumb and forefinger spread over ball but not stretched

##### Targeting Techniques

- Pin bowling: imaginary line from foul line to pin
- Spot bowling: aim at arrow down the lane
- Line bowling: focus on a spot near the the foul line and lift head to aim at pin at same time

**Delivering the ball** -Relaxed stance, knees bent, eyes on target -- then a smooth transfer from top of backswing to follow-through

**Releasing the ball** -Below level of left knee in front of ankle -- Thumb comes out first, fingers follow.

Have you ever wondered what possesses people to get tattoos? We went on a mission to find the answer.

We asked Mrs. Aldeane Ries, our principal what she thought about tattoos, her reply was "Ugh ick, I hate tattoos!" I wondered if she thought tattoos make a person look tacky. "Yes, but I'm not one to judge."

We went down to Studio Tattoo in Henderson to get some answers. Studio Tattoo is owned by a husband and wife team. Dante' and Chuck work together to create many masterpieces, not on canvas, but on the human body.

When we first walked in the shop we were amazed at how clean and neat it looked, and how good it smelled. It wasn't at all what we expected. It wasn't like those biker movies where the shop is dingy and the artists are huge smelly men that just got out of jail for murder.

Dante' has to be the coolest adult ever. She has a full-body tattoo that she got when she was 27 years old. Covering her from neck to knee cap, the tattoo is an oriental scene, which she says represents strength and fertility. We wondered if it hurt to get a tattoo. She says, "It doesn't hurt as much as it would if you got it home made, with a needle and Indian ink."

Dante' says tattoos are not hard, just complex. It could take three days just to finish one. She didn't always want to do tattoos for a living. She started out in Graphic Arts at Vo Tech, worked in a floral shop, did some sculpting, and now she's doing tattoos.

The art in the shop is all done by Dante' -- everything from cute little bunnies and fairies to dragons and nude layouts of women. She draws it and tattoos it. Dante' says that women feel more comfortable with a woman artist.

Her advice to teens is to wait until they're of age, to make sure that they really want to be stuck with something permanent on their bodies. She adds, "The age limit should be more than 18 for a tattoo."

### Mary Shelley's Frankenstein

#### Weak stomach? It's not for you

By Devon Jean

Unlike the typical perception of that corny green monster with bolts protruding from its neck, this movie was definitely not your ordinary horror flick.

Not-so-newcomer director Kenneth Branagh gave his own twist to the film by leaving the director's chair and playing the part of the leading mad scientist, Victor Frankenstein.

The film opens during a journey in the North Pole when a ship crashes on an iceberg. The almost mutinous crew hears a deep bellow from the depths of the snow and a man, half-frozen Victor Frankenstein, appears and tells his wicked tale.

Based on the novel by Mary Shelley, the film follows the text fairly well except for the gruesomely twisted ending.

Supported by a cast that includes Robert de Niro as the monster and Helena Bonham Carter as the distraught and neglected wife of Victor Frankenstein, Branagh portrays a bloody tale that ranks at the top of the charts.

**The Final Verdict:** Four and a half stars. Definitely not for the weak of stomach but surpassed only by "Interview."

### This story isn't what you think!

#### Ditching: a dirty deed or a dandy day off?

By Robyn Portnoff and Chris Bigelow

Ditching is a fine art. Every so often people need a break and parents say "GO TO SCHOOL." Here is the solution: First, find someone with a car. (Don't try to walk across the desert -- it's too obvious.)

Second, a place to go -- preferably a place where your parents and cops aren't. Once you have a place, don't attract attention. (That's like asking to go back to school -- and never mind if you're at home.) Also find something to do. There is no use in ditching if you're going to be bored.

Ditching also has its downside. There is always the chance of getting caught, especially if it is your first time. This happened to me last year, when seven of us decided to ditch school one day and go to Red Rock Canyon. While we were driving there, I had a bad feeling we were going to get caught. When we got there, a nice park ranger was waiting for us. To make a long story short, the park ranger escorted us back to school, where the Dean called everyone's parents.

The consequences of ditching for the first time is a call home; the second time is an RPC; and the third time you get *another* genuine RPC -- but, even worse, you can get a criminal citation!

"People get crazy when they are with their friends by doing stuff that they wouldn't do alone," comments Monte Bay, Dean of Students.

I asked three of the seven what they thought was bad about ditching. They said it was listening to me *cry* about ditching. (Don't forget this was my first time). But they also said getting caught and going to the dean's office was the worst.

"The fact that I got caught ditching my first time makes me feel that I will get caught again, so I won't do it again." says one of the anonymous seven. The moral of this lesson is don't ditch.

All in all it was fun for the 45 minutes it lasted -- and I'll probably look back at this and say, "Those were the good old days."

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# KAPLAN



## IN MY OPINION

## 'Beeper Rule' inconvenient

An Editorial by Devon Jean

In one of my classes the other day, a fellow student was pulled from the room by our teacher. No one had any idea why this happened -- that is, until the student returned from the hallway where he had been taken.

It so happens that this student was wearing a beeper, which is against Clark County School District policy. The pager had not gone off nor was it even especially visible, yet the clip protruding from the pocket of his jeans busted him on the spot.

(The "beeper rule"...no student is allowed to bring any portable communication device to school. This includes pagers, cellular phones, and two-way radios.)

I not only feel this rule is absurd, but for some, an inconvenience. Not everyone who carries a beeper is a drug dealer, as many thought in the past. For most students, it's just a convenience used for work, by parents or both.

I could understand how the ringing of a telephone could disrupt a classroom but most pagers have a vibrate setting so they don't make any noise. As long as students aren't leaving class to make phone calls, what's the problem.

Another inconvenience is to parents who may not only pay the bill for the pager but have to come to school to retrieve the device -- and even go to a parent conference to allow the student to return to class.

Today, our lives revolve around communication and being reachable by others at all times. Many adults walk around with some sort of portable communication and the teens of the nineties feel they deserve the same communicational freedom.

I just feel that the problem here is not the students abusing the right to own a beeper, but the school district making a big deal out of a situation that can be handled in a completely different manner.

Just like any other policy the district has, the rules they set are always going to be broken by at least one student. Beside dress code violations, having their beepers confiscated seems to be the students' biggest gripe.

Countless protruding clips are visible in the halls, yet few are ever really noticed by the faculty, proving that pagers are not quite the menace they are made out to be.

Interview with the Vampire

## Tom Cruise the star? Au contraire!

by Lori Parcels

Just the previews alone were proof that this would be one of the all-time great movies! Brad Pitt plays a skin-tingling role as a young, freshly-inducted immortal, Louie. Then there is Tom Cruise, the older and more experienced vampire, Lestat.

People were led to believe that Cruise was the lead actor or *big cahuna* in this flick. Au contraire, mon frere! Pitt was much more of a cahuna than Cruise -- and so darn sexy!

This story, based on the novel by Anne Rice, was about a newly-married man (Pitt) who had just lost his wife and new baby in a tragic accident. Lestat, already an immortal, was yearning for a companion. Hearing of Louie's situation, Lestat pinpoints his man. The flick tells a story of exciting, rip-roaring adventures of vampires and definitely keeps you on the edge of your seat!



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## Stereotypes

By Mary McMurrin  
and Robyn Portnoff

Everywhere you turn, everywhere you look, it's not people you see, it's cultural differences in conflict. Prejudice...a term people of all ages are familiar with. It starts with little stereotypical remarks you make and hear -- at home, school, or from your friends.

Many prejudices start early but progress into something much more explosive: violence. The roots of prejudice start at home -- the way people are raised and how parents accept different individuals. As an example, parents may make racial remarks and kids will pick up these words and think they're all right to say in public.

Criticism often doesn't stop with one person; it spreads. As the problem gets bigger, people will be afraid to admit who they really are.

People need to be more accepting of their surroundings. There is no such place where all people get along, and no comment will affect another. But just remember, "Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what race you will run into."

## Dad, may I borrow the car?

By Angela Castenada

Take a glance at the past -- 1965. Through the years, school dances have remained a favorite occasion. High school students still look forward to the excitement of dressing up and showing off.

However, things have changed along with the years: transportation, attire and after-dance festivities are much different now than they were 30 years ago.

Back in 1965, the boys were lucky to get the family car to pick up their dates. Only the few who had their parents' ultimate trust were able to pull this off.

Now students go all out. Limos or rented luxury cars are the way to arrive in style. Interestingly, fashion for the guys has not changed all that much. A traditional tuxedo has been in style since the beginning and is still worn today.

Girls, however, are concerned with getting just the right dress. Fluffy and pink was the dream dress for a bopping young girl in the '60s. Long and tight is now the style straight from the Paris runways -- a look many of today's girls try to imitate.

Back 30 years, a bowling alley or all-night fast food place where the waitresses wore roller skates were the after-dance spots. Last year people talked of going to Disneyland and Magic Mountain or out to a fancy restaurant.

If we could all go back we would find a much simpler time. A pure and fun time was the life-style then. Things were less complicated even for homecomings and proms. Now a fast and even *more* fun life-style is the way to go.

Back then, a dance was merely an occasion to have fun but now a dance becomes a night to remember.

## Why should top high school students attend UNLV and join the Honors Program?

- ◆ For the challenge
- ◆ To get the highest quality college education
- ◆ Academic opportunities for a rewarding future

## And what did these UNLV students get from the Honors Program?

"...the knowledge I need to realize my dreams"  
(Heather Subran)

"...new friendships...great times" (Cindy Purvance)

"...diverse curriculum...supportive professors"  
(Alan Tack)

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CEREBRATE

*The needle was THIS BIG!!*

## Students donate 'drop of life' for others

By David Gallagher

"This was the best turnout ever!" United Blood Service representative Mike Richards was enthusiastic after competing the third annual GVHS Blood Drive, sponsored by the Key Club. A total of 123 pints was collected.

In order to give blood, students had to be 17 year or older and 110 pounds or more. Parents also had to sign a consent form. Each donor went through an interview before the blood was drawn. These questions were meant to determine if the donor might [be a high risk for] contaminated blood.

Donors then went to the waiting line where they were greeted by the sight of other volunteers, lying helplessly in bed.

"The hardest part was watching everyone else get stuck with a needle and not knowing exactly what they felt as they lay there motionless," says senior Amy Webster, "but I found out it wasn't all that bad."

After the quick poke with the needle and the five minutes of donation, students rushed outside where cookies and punch awaited them. This was to raise the donors' blood sugar level -- and it was also a well-deserved treat.

There were no casualties, although some donors thought that the needles could be fatal. "The needle was THIS BIG," says senior Scott Canarelli as he spread his arms wide, "but I didn't mind it."

There were only a few dizzy heads and sore arms, but a lot of warm hearts afterwards.

## Honored coach keeps his priorities in order

By Paul Dodge

For a career of dedication in coaching America's favorite pastime, Roger Fairless, head coach of the Gators baseball team, was nominated as Coach of the year. This recognition comes at a time when the pre-season team is forming under increasing competition.

### His eye on the new season

Fairless doesn't feel the award has changed his philosophy on coaching this year's team. With Green Valley's success in previous years, the plan is just to work hard before the season starts (Feb. 28), keep the team in top shape during the regular season, and end up in the playoffs.

But that may be tougher this year than ever before. Rival schools, such as Bishop Gorman, Cimarron-Memorial, and Western will be losing very few veterans. Many teams that were mediocre last year could suddenly take the league by surprise.

"Everybody in town will be pretty tough this year," Fairless says. "There are a lot of strong teams out there just waiting for their chance."

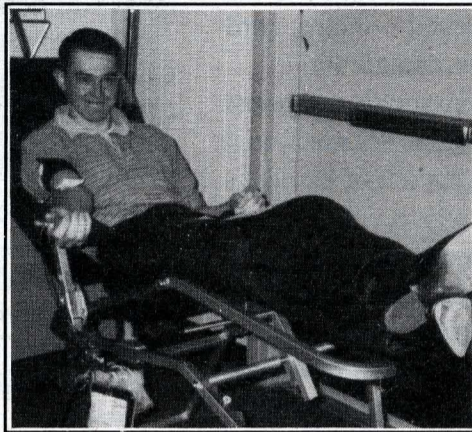
### Wanted: players with pzazz

But Fairless and the Gators are keeping up. He is looking for younger players who show potential and can stay with the team throughout their whole high school career.

"We're hoping to find some new-kids that can fill in and take the place of some of the guys that graduated or moved, and also some who can maybe push some of the returning players out of their positions."

Although the start of baseball season is a way off, competition has already begun. Players who train hardest in the weeks to come will have an edge when actual play starts.

Ryan Miller's blood seeps away, soon to help someone in need.



## VQ sharpens mind, helps prepare for SAT

By Patrick Preston [Edited for space]

Varsity Quiz is in its fourth season at Green Valley. Similar to Jeopardy and College Bowl, VQ aids team spirit, quick recall and knowledge (interesting tidbits of information without the burden of homework). These elements are crucial to the real world and the SATs.

What it takes to play is desire to be part of a team, time, patience and practice...and a vast array of knowledge.

## Theater Update

By Jason Goldberg

Back to the Future with a twist. That's what GVHS theatre director Dan Madsen will be portraying in the winter production of Ray Bradbury's *Dandelion Wine*, February 1-3 and 9-10.

Madson explains the play: "This is the story of a man trying to figure out how he lost direction in his life. In his effort to discover where he went wrong, he finds himself transported back in time to view himself as a child at the age of twelve."

The next play in the GVHS schedule will be the spring musical, *The Apple Tree*.

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## Techno-grants come to GV High to study math, telecommunications, water

By Danielle Garone

Three major grants received by Green Valley High School will help the school make advances in the world of technology.

The Telecommunications and Information Infrastructure Assistance Program (TIAP) is administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. Valued at \$85,800, this grant includes \$40,000 to the school, cash, and volunteer teacher hours. The money will be used to link the school to a fiber-optics network. GVHS faculty members Ellen Ebert, Jhone Ebert, Carl Jarvinen, Cynthia Montoya and David Thiel worked as a team in the writing process.

### City folk/country folk

Green Valley's outstanding integrated math and science program was an attribute in attaining yet another grant: Improvement of Mathematics and Science Education through Rural and Urban Telecommunications Partnerships.

This Department of Energy project pairs three urban and three rural schools. Green Valley's partner is Indiran Springs High School. Four teachers from Green Valley will work with four from Indian Springs to use telecommunication as a method to further develop student projects using shared data and information. Physics teacher Pam Salazar is coordinator and project chair.

### Water, water...where?

Salazar also received a \$2,200 grant from the Southern Nevada Water Authority. The grant, Project Edco-Aqua Systems, involves the study of Las Vegas' hydrology. Again, data will be shared through telecommunication.

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## Cave Crawlers have motives

By Jennifer Gosicki

"I joined the club because I enjoy nature and love interacting with the environment." Dustin Copiccolo, president of the Cave Crawlers, explains why he joined Cave Crawlers.

Members do exactly what the club's name implies: "We explore caves, promote the environmental aspect of caving, and keep the caves clean and preserved," explains advisor Robert Anderson. Members also hike, camp and do desert clean-ups.

Club vice-president Josh Daniels says, "I'm in the club because in college I want to study forestry and speleology (the scientific study and exploration of caves)."

"I'm in it to have fun and conquer my fear of heights," says Aja Fegert, secretary, and club treasurer Mary Amato says "I joined because I like hiking, wanted to go caving, try rappelling and have fun."

The Cave Crawlers' motto is "Take pictures, leave footprints, and bring back memories," according to Copiccolo.

Is there life after GVHS?

## Check out the College and Career Center

By Paul Dodge

Everyone knows that teens go to school to get an education and to prepare for a career, but many students have trouble deciding which career to pursue -- or even what field interests them. This choice could be the most important in a person's life.

That is where the College and Career Center (CCC) fits into the picture. It is run by 45 parent volunteers, all of whom are willing to spend time helping students decide their paths in life.

Co-chair Arlene Platte explains, "We have a [computer] program called QUEST, which we can run to help teens decide on the right college or career. It's not a test and there are no right or wrong answers."

The CCC is open from 7 am to 2:15 in the counseling office and appointments are recommended. A volunteer will help students narrow down their choices. In addition to the computer programs, there is a wide selection of books about colleges.

But the CCC isn't just for the college bound; it is for anyone who feels there are just too many choices out there.

"Not every student is geared for a four-year college," says Platte. "Some can go straight to a vocational school. The important thing is that they become productive and that they do something they enjoy."

Also on file is a program with information about hundreds of scholarships. For example, if a student wants to find a scholarship for African-Americans who are aspiring journalists, he or she would simply enter "African-American" and "Journalism." A list of possibilities would appear. Platte stresses that this is an important part of CCC because raw talent shouldn't be neglected for financial reasons.

"There are millions of dollars in scholarships that go unused in this country every year simply because students don't know they are available," she adds.

Even if students know what they want to do, they should still visit CCC because the volunteers can give a full description of each job to help one decide if it's really such a good idea.

If someone doesn't have the time for an appointment, that person can just stop by the library, sit down at a computer, start the Career Information System, and run QUEST. It's quick, it's simple, and it works.



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## VFW speech winner has thoughts of Olympic gold

Amanda Laney



Jennifer Kabat

Senior Trailblazer Jennifer Kabat was nervous when she was called to Principal Allen Cole's office but was soon relieved -- and elated -- when she learned she had won the district-wide Veterans of Foreign Wars *Voice of America Essay Contest*.

Interested juniors and seniors wrote an essay on the topic "My Vision of America" and recorded themselves reading it. The essays were judged on content, presentation and originality.

Kabat will now compete at the state level and if her essay wins there she can go on to nationals for the chance to win a \$20,000 scholarship. Last month, she was the guest of honor at the VFW banquet where she read her essay to the members.

"By writing this essay, I learned what I hope to see in America," Kabat says. "My two main points are that we should get away from government control and that we should not be considered multicultural, but all Americans."

Kabat is a student pilot who expects to get her pilot's license when school is out, and she maintains a 4.0 GPA. In training to be an Olympic ice skater, in her 11 years of skating, she has earned 76 trophies. Kabat practices 10 to 12 hours each week before her first class. Kabat also plans to either enter the Air Force Academy or attend Pomona college after graduation.

## Taghva Serving Up Tennis Wins

By Mai Vuong

Although Alex Taghva may never be as tall as Andre Agassi, he may one day be able to defeat him.

A sophomore, Taghva recently won the United States Tennis Association Boy's 14-and-under National Indoor Championships. He was seeded 10th and defeated third-seeded Erik Zmara of Little Neck, NY with a score of 6-4, 6-4.

Taghva has been playing tennis since he was eight years old. His interest was sparked while he was watching a US Open match between Jimmy Connors and John McEnroe. Taghva says, "After watching the match, I told my parents that I wanted to play tennis. So they enrolled me in a clinic the following week."

Taghva does not have a favorite professional. "I like Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi, but I don't idolize anyone. I play my own game and try to be myself," he says. He hopes to play professionally in the future.

When asked why he does not play for the Durango tennis team, Taghva responds, "Tennis is an independent sport that I enjoy playing according to my schedule. I have my own training program that fits my lifestyle."

Taghva's training is a six day commitment. He wakes at 5:15 am to practice for an hour before school (he maintains a 4.0 GPA), then practices three-and-a-half hours after school, and goes to the gym for another hour.

The sacrifice and commitment bring great rewards, according to Taghva: "I just won a national championship -- the payback is there."

## The Bus Stops Here

### Early graduation needs early planning

By Amanda Krueger

Graduating early would be a dream come true for many seniors. Jeneen Ushijima and Curtis Nicholls will live that dream when they leave Durango this month. Technically, the term "graduating early" is inaccurate. According to Counselor Anita Taylor, Ushijima and Nicholls will be allowed to skip their final semester as "mid-semester senior graduates."

They have worked hard to attain their goals. Both students met the Clark County School District graduation requirements a semester early. Ushijima, for example, has completed all the credits needed to graduate, and plans to attend South Dakota State University.

Durango instructor Robert Stauffer helped Ushijima with her college plans when he put her in contact with the SDSU physics chairperson. Ushijima plans to pursue a doctorate degree in physics. At Durango, she has also shown her business abilities and is currently the business manager for the student newspaper.

Ushijima believes that although the stress of these expectations has created some difficulties, the knowledge and organizational skills she gained through the experience will pay off in the future. "I believe I'm prepared for college because of this experience," Ushijima says. "I've gained skills for independent living."

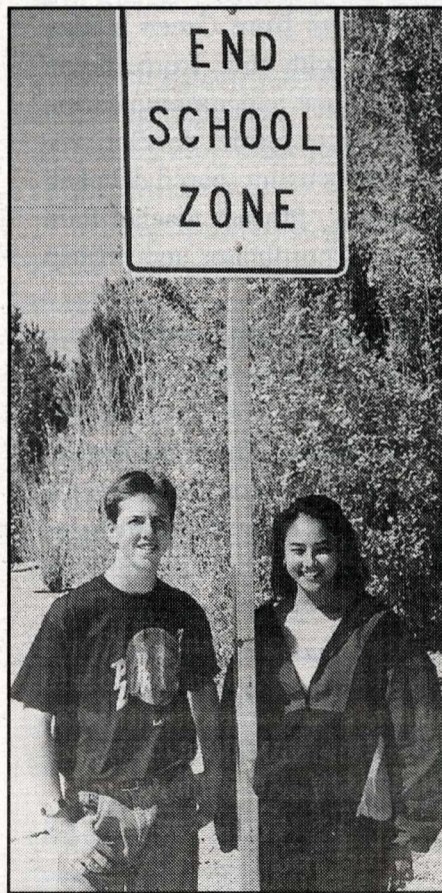
Ushijima's schedule is a busy one. In addition to working steadily on her courses, she has a full-time job, she was the President of Future Business Leaders of America in 1993-94, she is a member of the Physics Club, and she is completing an independent study course in Physics II.

Curtis Nicholls works at the snack bar during lunches at DHS, and he is an active member of the Paper, Rock, Scissors Club. He is graduating early so he can work until the end of summer to pay for college: he'll start at Brigham Young University this fall.

Asked about the value of graduating early, Nicholls says, "It was well worth the time spent." Nicholls said that since he will walk with his classmates in the spring graduation, leaving is easier. Nicholls added that he looks forward to "no homework" for six months.

A very few students graduate in three years and others graduate in three-and-a-half years. In order to accomplish this, students must start planning in ninth grade and must be willing to attend summer classes. Although the options for early graduation exist, counselors believe high school is a valuable experience.

Bob Wickliffe, head counselor at Durango, says, "Most counselors do not recommend graduating early because students miss out on too many things."



EARLY BIRDS -- Curtis Nicholls and Jeneen Ushijima leave the "School Zone" by graduating in mid-semester

High school students...

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## Science students sample college classes, labs

Karen Cover

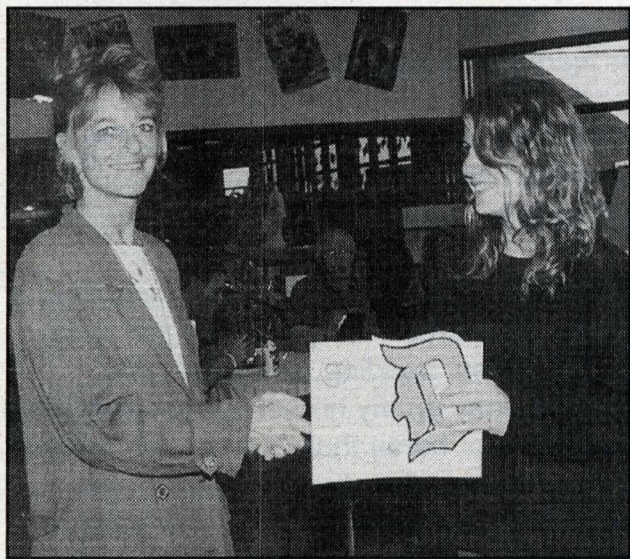
Science and technology were encountered first-hand by 125 high school students attending Science and Technology Day at UNLV. Representing Durango were Thomas Butler, Karen Cover, Terese Dase, Lisa Heim, Nikki Wieseke, and physics teacher Don Bohm.

Tech Day gave students an opportunity to experience a typical college day with hands-on experiments in biology, engineering, chemistry and physics.

UNLV administrators gave information on UNLV -- how to register, get financial aid, and what the university has to offer. Students were then divided into two sections. Cover and Dase went to Biology to construct DNA helixes, separate DNA fragments by electrophoresis, and discuss how genes are cloned.

"It was a wonderful experience. I never realized how much is in a DNA helix, something like 3 million strands," Dase says.

Butler, Heim, and Wieseke went to the physics department to measure the velocity of light using lasers and high-tech equipment. Butler thought that is was "cool to play with the lasers."



HONORS FOR A's -- Durango students with straight A's were honored recently. Above, Durango counselor Chris Ahrens awards an Academic Letter to student Molly Close. The recognition is one of the first of its kind in Clark County. (Amy Meyer Photo)

## Academic Letters Awarded to 135 Blazers

T.J. McMahon

Outstanding scholars gained special recognition recently. Students with straight A's were treated to pizza and were recognized for their efforts in academics at last month's Straight A Luncheon.

Along with the free food and pop, the 135 students received a Certificate of Honor presented by Principal Allen Coles and Counselor Christine Ahrens. Students were also given a bumper sticker and a Durango Academic Letter for their letterman jackets. In addition, the students accepted pamphlets containing their names, goals, ambitions, interests, hobbies, extracurricular activities, awards, and honors.

Some students who attended the luncheon gave their opinions on the event. Melissa Lyles says, "I think it's nice they gave us pizza. It's good to be rewarded for getting straight A's."

## Durango students aware of AIDS

By Mai Vuong

AIDS is a real threat that has international recognition. In observation of International AIDS Awareness Day last month, the Durango Key Club sponsored an AIDS Seminar.

The AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome) epidemic has infected an estimated four million men, women, and children worldwide. Another 17 million people have developed the HIV virus. In Nevada, there are approximately 1,650 HIV-positive people and 1,725 others are AIDS-infected.

Yvonne Cadwallier, Key Club advisor, explained the significance of an AIDS seminar: "We [Key Club] want to get information out to students because [they are] the greatest at-risk group."

The seminar was open to all students but there was a limit of 600. Students took up the theater seats quickly. Those who came later sat on the floor. Michelle Quincy, Key Club President, commented on the turnout. "I am excited that everyone was eager to educate themselves... We must learn to help ourselves through education because we are the key to the future."

*Sign In Time*, Durango's sign language group, welcomed the audience by signing Elton John's *The Last Song*, which was written for and dedicated to AIDS victims.

Guest speaker Candace Nichols, an HIV/AIDS Prevention Health Educator, explained how AIDS can be transmitted and how to use preventions. Chris Reynolds, a Health Education Assistant who is infected with AIDS, gave the students personal insights on the ordeal of living with AIDS.

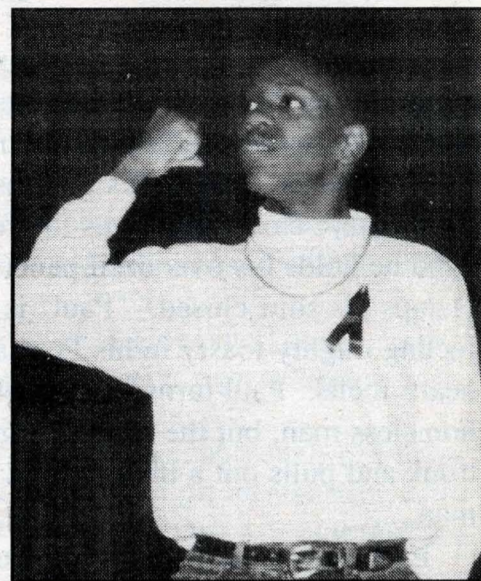
According to Nichols, women and teens are among the fastest rising group contracting the disease. "Women and teens believe they are immune to AIDS," she explains. "The truth is that anyone can become infected with AIDS. If you have sexual intercourse with two people, those two people have sex with two other people, and so on. You would be, in reality, having sex with 512 different people. As of 1994, there were about 17 million HIV positive persons and by the year 2000, it is projected that 40 to 100 million will become infected."

AIDS can be transmitted through three body fluids: blood, semen, and vaginal secretion. The disease can enter a body in several ways: unprotected sexual intercourse or sexual activities that involved the three body fluids named above, sharing needles, contaminated blood transfusions, and through the transfer from mother to fetus.

Nichols warned that *any* interactions between blood could also transfer the disease. "If you share a razor with someone who just cut him or herself, leaving blood on the blade, and then you use the razor and cut yourself, you would be at risk of getting AIDS, because the blood could transfer from the blade into your blood."

This similar process could occur if you share a toothbrush with someone who has a cut in their mouth and you have a cut in your mouth. Fighting is also risky behavior because during the fight you could be contacting the other person's blood.

It is recommended that anyone who has had sexual intercourse or has shared needles should get tested. Tests are administered [in confidence] at the Clark County Health District for just \$10. If you can't pay, they will not turn you away.



AIDS SEMINAR -- Durango Key Club sponsored a program for AIDS Awareness Day. Above, Justin Givens -- wearing the red ribbon that is the international symbol of AIDS awareness -- signs "The Last Song."

## Why should top high school students attend UNLV and join the Honors Program?

- ◆ For the challenge
- ◆ To get the highest quality college education
- ◆ Academic opportunities for a rewarding future

### And what did these UNLV students get from the Honors Program?

"...the knowledge I need to realize my dreams"  
(Heather Subran)

"...new friendships...great times" (Cindy Purvance)

"...diverse curriculum...supportive professors"  
(Alan Tack)

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CEREBRATE

*A plea for the homeless*

## **We take for granted what others need for survival**

*By Mike Cericola and Daniel Kinney*

A warm house, hot meals, ample clothing, and money may not seem like much to the average American, but to a person who has none of those things, life means trying to survive.

A homeless man walks the Las Vegas streets, as the 30-degree temperature slowly removes the feeling from his face. With one hand he holds his oversized pants to his waist, the other hand clamps his shirt closed. "Paul" is driving along the same street, feeling mighty toasty in his Pontiac but, when he sees this man, his heart melts. Paul turns around, stops his car and calls out to the homeless man, but the man is frightened. Paul then opens his trunk and pulls out a blanket, and wraps it around the homeless man.....

Especially now that winter is upon us, it's even harder for the homeless to live. Most people have no idea what it is like out in the homeless world. Is that why some Americans think it's not their problem? Through canned food drives and homeless shelters, we can aid these people, but sometimes it is not enough. The shelters get overcrowded, and donated food can only stretch so far. There is no accurate number of homeless people but one fact is certain the numbers are increasing dramatically.

Why are people homeless? There are a variety of reasons from mental illness and economic factors to the problem of affordable housing. Some homeless people live under bridges, inside culverts and boxes, in subway entrances and train and bus terminals. There are the homeless who sleep in telephone booths to escape the harsh weather, and many who purposely go to jail for food and shelter? So what can we do?

---

### *Students can make a difference for the homeless people of Las Vegas...*

---

Many organizations, ranging from big businesses to high school clubs (our very own Human Relations), are sponsoring canned food, money, blanket, and clothing drives for the needy. Homeless shelters operate throughout the country -- for example, Salvation Army, Saint Vincents, Shade Tree (for battered women and children) and Reserve Mission. There are also soup kitchens which provide a decent meal for those who have none.

So why don't more people take the time to help the homeless? It's not that hard to give a little time, a little money, and things that aren't needed anymore. All that comes from generosity is good.

## **Rodeo queens demonstrate skill with their horses, style and smarts**

*By Carrie DeSouza and Suebrett Tonic*

Erin Storey, a Cheyenne High School student, was awarded the crown of the first annual High School Rodeo Queen of Las Vegas.

Other finalists competing for the crown were Virginia Fosset and Leah Gipaya. The events were held recently in the El Dorado High School Theater and the Sunrise Arena.

Candidates competed in many areas. Each gave a two-minute response to the question, "If President Clinton visited the rodeo, how would you show him around?" Storey said she would explain that "competing in rodeos isn't harmful to the animals like animal rights activists say."

---

### *Blouse patterns and reining patterns*

---

Each finalist modeled a prairie outfit (western dress), two pairs of jeans, and two western shirts with boots and cowboy hats. Storey's jeans and hats were donated to her for the competition, and the western blouses were made especially for her by her mother.

Each also answered two impromptu questions followed by a personal interview. During the interview, they were questioned about horses, their personal lives, and high school rodeo rules and regulations.

At the Sunrise Arena the girls each rode two reining patterns to show how well each handles her horse. They also competed in events such as barrel racing, poles, bending, and goat tying. Storey says, "The pattern was easy on my horse, but became more difficult when I was put on another horse that I never rode before."

As Rodeo Queen, Storey won a silver breast collar for her saddle and a silver head stall for her horse, plus a silver tiara, a silver and gold bracelet, a western jacket and silver earrings for herself. For each category she won, she received a dozen roses, and a white and black sash.

Storey has been in rodeo for two years and has practiced karate since she was five. This is a special challenge for her because she has had five open heart surgeries -- one at the tender age of one month, one at two years, and another at three. At 13, she had two more.

She's been featured in such magazines as *Women's World*, *Black Belt*, *Tae Kwon Do*, and *Myrtle* each (a local magazine in South Carolina). She's worked with the American Heart Association from age six to twelve on their Telethon. Erin was interviewed by Gary Collins on the television show *Hour Magazine*, and has been recognized in various local newspapers.



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## Different Strokes

A collaboration of ideas, skills and people made for a tremendous learning experience at Cheyenne High School.

Cheyenne's National Art Honor Society and the John F. Miller School teamed up for an "art experience" that became a learning experience for all involved. Miller school is a special school for young people who are mentally and physically challenged.

The experience was a personalized one in which Miller students were outlined sitting in their wheelchairs; then the classroom was set up for them to enjoy painting silhouettes of themselves.

The students from Miller were teamed up with Cheyenne NAHS members and worked cooperatively to splash, spatter and fingerpaint. The Miller art coordinator brought many innovative painting tools that were fun to use -- and aprons were a must!

Tempera paint was the medium and an individual painting station was set up by NAHS for each participant.

There was some initial anxiety because the Cheyenne participants did not know what to expect of the young people pulling up to the classroom in wheelchairs. But an explanation of each person's abilities and limitations, and a little insight into their personalities put us at ease.

The students from Miller all got involved at different levels and gave us a chance to interact. It was a challenge both for the Miller students and for the Cheyenne students.

Some NAHS students who initially were uncomfortable began to relax and enjoy the activity. Everybody was a winner in the end.

## Independence, friends -- foreign visitors have goals

By Alisa Ochoa

Foreign exchange students accept a challenge when they live temporarily in Las Vegas: they must adapt to an entirely different.

Cheyenne's four foreign exchange students were asked about their perspectives on this school, Las Vegas, their interests, as well as differences Americans seem to have in their attitudes.

For the most part, these students like Cheyenne High School. They agree on the pros and cons. On the pro side, the teachers are exceptional and the academics are easier. As for the cons, Cheyenne students aren't necessarily friendly to new faces and appear to exhibit ethnocentric behavior. Generally, the foreign exchange students believe that the school is decent.

Thailand's Sarunya Bangsararuntip, known to some simply as Tang, says "I like it here -- it's different, but good."

The students voice contrasting opinions about Las Vegas. Native Venezuelan Militse Padilla views it as "A wonderful city! I like it... it's very pretty." Scotland's Susan McNeilage says life is easier here in America. Her statement holds some truth.

What do the foreign exchange students hope to accomplish here? Norma Resstrepso of Columbia says, "I would like to learn English better, and make American friends."

Susan simply wants to be an independent woman. Tang just wants to have a good time. Militse would like to perfect her English and get to know the culture, and Norma also wishes to make American friends and improve her English.

So that leaves only one question: Whom does this foreign exchange benefit -- Americans or the foreign visitors? Both, if one wants it to. Different cultures can learn from each other. It can be a positive experience.

Sure, the climate here gets extremely hot at times, but attitudes of some locals is extremely cold. This is the result of insecurity. Instead of extending a friendly hand to newcomers, they often give visitors the brush-off.

So, next time you see one of the foreign exchange students, don't be afraid to say "Hi," and even smile. They don't bite.

## Wrestlers defend title

By Derrick Kelly

As the season continues, and with many returning wrestlers, the Cheyenne wrestling team is trying to defend its Sunset Division championship and win a state championship.

"With the five returning seniors, this is the strongest team I've ever coached at Cheyenne," says Coach McGuire, "and if the team stays healthy, eligible, and hard-working we could be a contender for Zone and possibly State."

This team also has another female wrestler -- senior Kimberly Burgett, who took to the mat this season. Kim says, "I'm very excited to wrestle for Cheyenne and I can't wait to get on the mat again." She was recently injured during practice but will compete this season.

The J.V. team is also looking forward to a winning season. With more returning wrestlers than Varsity can hold, some will undoubtedly be on the J.V. team, helping their chances of winning their division.

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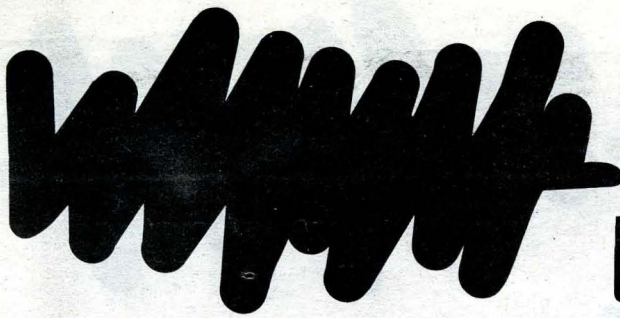
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## Durango artists to be hung -- On the wall, of course

By Amanda Krueger



Nicole Heitman



Michelle Drayer

Watch out Van Gogh, Durango's artists are coming!

Two months of 1995 belong to Durango students Nicole Heitmann and Michelle Drayer: April and December, respectively.

For the past nine years, Silver State Schools Federal Credit Union has sponsored a "Happy Times Art Contest" and these months in 1995 were illustrated by artists Heitmann, a senior, and Drayer, a junior.

Heitmann submitted a fantasy drawing done with colored pencils; Drayer created a winter scene with an acrylic landscape. She got her idea from Mt. Charleston.

"I knew the competition was going to be fierce," says art instructor Linda Guiffreda-Baker. "The judges looked for the creative and unusual approach on different types of subjects and they also looked for collages and pastels."

Thirty drawings and paintings were submitted by Durango students. Of the 1,500 total entries from throughout the district, 13 by students from elementary and secondary schools were selected, one winner from each grade level, and each received a plaque and a calendar.

Their designs will be included in the February edition of *CLASS!*

## Clark student addresses School Board, is seen as 'showstopper'

By Sari Aizley, *CLASS!* Editor

"Your intentions are admirable ...but you are infringing on our rights as American students," said Clark High senior Alan DeTiberiis, presenting his views on a proposed policy that, according to opponents, would be censorship.

Speaking to school board members last Tuesday evening, DeTiberiis observed that books on pregnancy and AIDS prevention would be banned if the new policy were adopted.

Also banned would be discussions about contemporary issues such as divorce, single-parent homes, choice of friends, and valid programs that deal, for example, with drug abuse prevention and multicultural studies.

"I'm sure you're well aware that Nevada has the highest teen pregnancy rate," DeTiberiis pointed out, "and now the Clark County School District is making a motion to ban books that would teach students the dos and don'ts of teenage sexuality."

"I cannot help but notice the out-of-sight, out-of-mind attitude" that comes from the administration, he added.

DeTiberiis was joined by many local educators, librarians and at least one constitutional attorney in asking the board to deny the policy change that came from the conservative group called Nevada Concerned Citizens.

DeTiberiis volunteered to speak to the school board after hearing about the proposed policy change the day before the meeting. One school district administrator called the student's presentation a "showstopper."

Judi Hale, Clark High School journalism teacher and advisor for the *Clark Charger* where DeTiberiis is a reporter, says "Alan is impressive...he is multi-talented. He has been successful in drama and music, he's a member of the Executive Council, and he's always ready to stand up and say what he thinks."



**THAT'S THE DRILL** -- Western's Air Force Junior ROTC unit recently won three first-place trophies at a drill meet involving Clark County schools: marching drill team, color guard, and best overall. Corps Commander of Western's unit is Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Ben LaCombe (front, right). Western's color guard was under the command of Cadet Major Jessica Willett (front, left).

### ENDLESSLY

Trapped inside a body scared and alone  
Her pain turns inward  
Ripping apart the strength she once had  
The torment of that night repeats itself  
Endlessly...

Dreaming of a night so unforgettable  
She is almost speechless when he  
picks her up  
With a warm welcome of a kiss and  
"I love you"  
Shivers of joy rush through her body  
Endlessly...

They drive off to a secluded place  
The romantic setting takes over his  
emotions  
From the single word "No"  
His temper explodes and he beats her  
Endlessly...

Abandoned far from any form of comfort  
She feels it's her fault  
No one to turn to, nothing to lean on  
Hatred toward herself tears her apart  
Endlessly...

As he drives away  
Feeling no shame  
He thinks of his next victim  
And he repeats his actions  
Endlessly...

Why have these situations become so  
frequent?  
Can anyone be trusted?  
How many people are like this?  
These questions haunt me  
Endlessly...

By Karen Pohe  
Boulder City High School

### Area students invited to fashion show

By Michele Badgwell

The 1995 Prom Fashion show will be held Feb. 6 in the Las Vegas Academy Auditorium. Students from all Clark County high schools are invited.

The production is directed and produced by Ildiko Lutar and Donna Quichocho, who is the choreographer for the dance routines as well.

Lutar and Quichocho are seeking sponsors to provide prom dresses for the women models.

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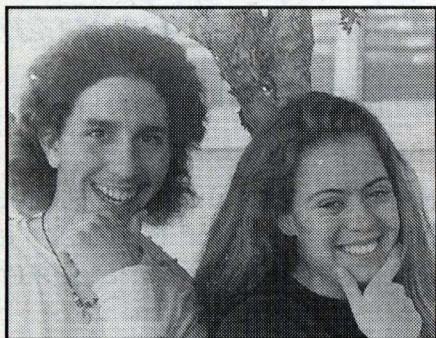
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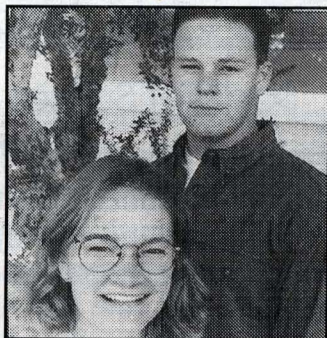
## BCHS salutes recent Eagles of the Month



Eagles DiSanza & Stolberg

**Mike DiSanza** is a musician (selected as Outstanding Band Member and section leader for the past three years), a member of Science Club, Pre-Professional Society, Spanish Club, Thespians, Honor Band and National Honor Society while keeping up a weighted 4.4 GPA. He plans to major in biochemistry in college.

**Susie Stolberg** is captain of the varsity soccer team and a member of Science Club, Interact, Art Club, STATUS, French Club and the STARS program. Singing, dancing, art and photography are some of her talents. He is this year's Homecoming Queen and maintains a 3.9 GPA.



Eagles Lindskoog & Dolan

**Anna Lindskoog** has been a member of volleyball, basketball and varsity golf teams, and has been active in theatre. Anna is co-president of Interact, a member of Spanish Club, Honor Society and Bible Club, and an honor student since her freshman year with an unweighted 4.0 GPA. She is a valedictorian candidate.

**Ryan Dolan** is a sports fanatic: two-year letterman in football and three-year letterman in baseball (leading in homeruns last year). He also has been enrolled in Distinguished Scholar courses since freshman year; is in Interact, Computer Club, and Honor Society; and has a 4.0 GPA.

## Hardship duty in J-class

By Pania McMullan

The journalism class was struggling at the beginning of the year -- no computers or any other equipment for production of the paper. We found help from a student, using the computer at his home -- and then the hard drive was lost. The future of journalism class and *The Talon* was unclear.

Then a ray of hope: the Best Idea Contest sponsored annually by First Interstate Bank and open to all Clark County schools. Nine students representing BCHS presented the idea: a graphic arts department for the school, combining journalism, art and photography in one facility, available for the school paper, club flyers and other school services.

As one of eight schools competing, we explained the idea in an essay. We were one of the three finalists. Then we prepared a skit to demonstrate our idea and presented it to the judges. BCHS came in second and received \$2,500; Clark won the \$7,000 and Chaparral received \$1,000 as third-place winner.

### Places I Have Been

By Blossom Jones

I lie in the grass and look at the sky,  
Watching the clouds go by.  
I lose myself in the wind,  
And think of all the places I've been.  
I have been in the city, the woods  
and the bayou,  
But my favorite place is here  
next to you,  
In the front yard with my best friend.  
It is better than any place I have been.  
Here on the lawn looking at the sky,  
Watching the clouds go by.

## IN MY OPINION Scenic route to graduation?

An editorial by Jeny Bania

Recently the CCSD voted to lower the graduation requirement from 23.5 credits to 22.5 by making World History a humanities course.

This will affect the class of 1999 and all upcoming freshmen: World History will be taken, not in their freshman year, but in their sophomore year. Replacing World History in the freshman year will be Driver's Education, Careers, and Health classes.

One may wonder why such an act would be successful. The reason given for the change was to raise the graduation rate because too many students were failing World History in their freshman year.

I asked Principal Garis if he supported the change; he replied that he did not. He agreed that, instead of challenging our students, we are...simply handing them a diploma.

The question is: why are they failing World History? Too hard? The teacher? Too lazy? Don't care?

Some of the blame may be placed on junior high teachers that did not prepare these students for a rigorous study program. In eighth grade, one should be learning how to take notes during a fast-paced lecture, and to manage time better.

But I tend toward laying part or all the blame on the students themselves. Society must stop blaming teachers for doing their jobs. They are teaching but some students are not listening.

I will be the first to admit that there are no easy solutions to education problems. But, instead of facing students with the reality that you cannot get far without a diploma, we are rewarding them with a "scenic route" through learning.

## Policing BCHS -- mixed feelings

By Heidi Harr

The Boulder City Council recently decided to employ a police officer assigned to the Boulder City schools. Until then, the officer at the high school was furnished by the school district. The police department did not have enough interaction with high school students, so a new officer walked the halls as of January 4.

Many students are not comfortable with our new guest. I believe it's important for him to be here. Much misunderstanding in communicating with law enforcement may be erased through this officer. He may perceive that we are not all troublemakers -- and we may realize that his job is not to terrorize young people.

This is our opportunity to show the community that we are not a bunch of outlandish children. We are old enough and adult enough to handle ourselves with style. The ball is in our court -- let's make it count.

## How important is our culture?

By Hermon Ghermay

[Following are ideas from his excellent editorial; space does not allow us to print it in full]

Those "when I was your age" speeches are more than just stories -- they tell of your past and your culture, which make you the person you are today. Your culture is your identity; it shapes your views and morals. A variety of cultures make a more interesting world. Be proud of your heritage and listen to those stories of great-grampa Joe who fought the French-Indian War. After all, you cannot know where you are going if you don't know where you came from.

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## Teen parenting: Rewarding or demanding?

By Melissa Carrabis

What do over 1.1 million teenagers in the United States have in common? They will become parents.

It's true, young girls do have sex and they are becoming mothers. Facts from *Single Parents* give the real picture. According to the author, out of every 10 teenage girls, three will have babies by the time they are 20 years old.

Over half of them will get married. Of the 600,000 girls that get pregnant, half will have abortions. Of the remaining 300,000, 15 percent will put their babies up for adoption and the other 85 percent will become teen mothers.

Kim from Clark High School says, "I enjoy being a mother. It's fun but it's hard work. I was 16 years old when I had my son, but I would love him no matter how old I am." Kim and her boyfriend, Dre, have been together for two years and plan to get married as soon as they graduate from high school.

Kellie, 17, is a single parent, as is her mother. She says her mother was shocked the day Kellie told her that she was pregnant.

"My mom loves me, but she thought the best thing for me to do was place my baby for adoption," Kellie says. Kellie decided she was going to keep the baby but her mother told her that if she did she couldn't stay with her.

So Kellie had the baby and moved in with her big sister, Tya. Kellie works at Wendy's and gets WIC [the Women's, Infants and Children's nutrition program]. She does not want her daughter to have to live this kind of life. Kellie says, "I am strong; this will all soon pass."

Eighteen-year-old Stacey says she planned her pregnancy. She wanted to have her child before she and her fiance Greg got married in July. She goes to school and says she loves being a mother to five-month-old Alexander.

Stacey plans to attend Washington State University next fall while her fiance and son stay in Las Vegas. She will definitely miss them.

Nicole, 16, says she didn't plan her pregnancy, but she took responsibility and had her son. She now takes care of him as a single teen parent. Nicole is fortunate because she has parents to help her out. They treat her son as any grandmother and grandfather would.

"It's a lot of responsibility being a single teen parent," Nicole says, "but together my son and I will take it one day at a time."

Being a teen parent isn't all fun and games. It takes a lot of love, time and hard work. There are programs you can participate in, but they barely provide enough for survival.



TEEN VIEW -- Jessica Bullitt and son share a quiet moment in day care.

## We've only just begun Saga of Sunset library needs happy ending

By Avril Garner

Sunset West/Horizon High School needs more materials for the library. Because the money a school receives for its library is determined by the school population, Sunset was not given a large sum to work with.

However, there is something very odd. Sunset is a Clark County high school, right? Then why do the other high schools have fully-equipped libraries stocked with computers, typewriters, news indexes, magazines, and books that cover every subject you can think of?

My point? Why did Sunset West not have a library at all last year? This year, despite the hard work of Sunset's librarian, Elizabeth Foyt, the library is still lacking major materials.

There were donations from Nevada Power, several high schools and others in the community, but Sunset will gladly accept more donations. Ms. Foyt's main goal is to get more materials on careers, colleges and vocations.

About \$10,000 is needed to establish a better library. "I would feel more comfortable with the service I am running," Foyt said after giving the above estimate.

The library especially needs a computer that the students could use. At this time, there isn't a typing instrument available for students to use in the library.



LIMITED LIBRARY -- Marcus Goudge and Skylor Howard seek information in Sunset's library.

## Interview with the...lacking Movie-makers insult book fans' intelligence.

By Erich Harrison

The movie *Interview with the Vampire*, based upon Anne Rice's novel of the same name is a classic...a classic example of the fact that a movie is never, ever as good as the book.

What could have possessed Ane Rice to allow this mockery of one of the most expertly written and imaginative novels of the 20th century? It is easy to understand that a movie cannot possibly include every scene and line of dialogue from the book, but some of the events left out of the movie are vitally important in order to understand Louis, Lestat and their relationship.

Louis Pointe du Lac (Brad Pitt) is a wealthy young Frenchman made a vampire by the spiteful and unpredictable Lestat (Tom Cruise), who gave his life story to an interviewer (Christian Slater) in present-day San Francisco.

The film leaves out vital parts of Louis's life that are needed to truly appreciate his emotional turmoil. It never mentions his chaste younger brother's heavenly visions or Louis's refusal to entertain the notion that his brother could be saintly.

Also absent from the movie is Lestat's blind father, whose presence helps to accent Lestat's cruel nature. As the old man lies on his death bed...he begs Lestat for forgiveness of a harm Lestat has since forgotten. But as Lestat sits nearby, he pays attention only to the slow, methodical filing of his nails.

The film also changes the book's ending.

On the other side of the coin, Tom Cruise did an excellent job of portraying Lestat -- or as well as anyone could with the sickening lack of character development in the motion picture.

[Regrettably, this excellent review had to be edited because of space restrictions.]

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## SPORTS SHORTS

**Talent + Enthusiasm = \$1,000 scholarships**

Cimarron-Memorial seniors are invited to apply for one of five \$1,000 scholarships to be awarded this spring.

Funds for these grants came from the third annual fundraiser sponsored by the CMHS staff: a lively performance of the popular musical *Bye, Bye Birdie*.

Two of the three shows were sold out, thanks to great response from the students and community. The event generated more than \$5,000 in ticket sales -- for a total of \$15,000 raised for scholarships in the past three years.

Application details will be announced this semester and the awards will be made according to financial need, academic record, and contributions to school and community. Two scholarships will be reserved for a male and a female senior involved in the school's theater program.

**Students visit elderly residents**

Students from the Mentally Challenged Program at Cimarron-Memorial make monthly visits to senior citizens at the Life Care Center in Las Vegas.

The students prepare snacks and gifts for the elderly residents, chat and even dance with them.

**Wrestling.**

The varsity season had a strong start with a pair of wins and is ranked Number Two in Southern Nevada. Coach Tim Jeffries notes that performances have been outstanding and he expects "no less than 100 percent effort in every practice and competition."

The JV team, coached by Dave Pearce, also started their season undefeated with two wins.

**Women's Basketball.**

The team has several goals: shoot 70 percent at the foul line, strengthen the defense, and become Sunset Division champs. Five players returned from last year's squad.

**Men's Bowling.**

The Varsity team won the Sunset Division with a 44-8 record, placed second in the Zone tournament last month, then solidified their place atop the Conference before heading into the post-season.

Coach Calvin Valvo noted, "We had a lot of young bowlers who got along well with each other and took their bowling seriously."

The junior varsity is more than ready for varsity competition next year, after winning the Sunst Division with a 56-0 record.

**Women's Bowling.**

The Varsity team had a successful season, finishing with a 26-28 record, and they plan to improve on this season's fourth-place standing in the Sunset Division. The women's junior varsity team finished with an impressive 40-14 record.

**Women's Soccer.**

Hoping to establish themselves as a force in the Sunset Division, the Lady Spartans opened their season with three shut-out victories. Coach Pat Webb says, "We have the talent to go far." The J-V players hope to repeat their undefeated 12-0-4 record of last year.

**Men's Basketball.**

After winning the State Championship last year, the varsity Spartans are looking for a repeat win -- even though the team has no returning starters and only three players with varsity experience. "The pressure...is good pressure," says Coach Hank Girardi, "since the players know they have to work hard to live up to the expectations of defending state champions."

The Junior Varsity crew, led by Coach Dan Anderson, has set a goal of 16 wins and good preparation for players going into the varsity team next year. Their first three games resulted in strong wins.

[Thanks to the following reporters: Todd Martinez, Kevin Walthers, Brian Contine, and Ray Butterfield.]

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## FIRST PERSON

### Foreign exchange student tastes life Eldorado-style

By Ulf Steffen

In October 1993, I had the idea to go to the U.S. as an exchange student. For one year I spoke with my best friend, Sebastian, about whether or not he would like to go. During our autumn holidays, we talked to our parents and, in November, we decided to go.

After getting much information about the U.S., in May I received the address for my host family. I was very happy about Las Vegas; I had dreamed of going to a big city where the weather is nice and sunny.

I was excited about going to America, but I felt a little bit sad because I was leaving all of my friends and my family.

When I arrived, I was very glad because the U.S. is a dream for many Germans. But during the first couple of weeks, I found out that Germany is a dream for many Americans.

Most of the youth asked about the German Autobahn because they are fascinated by the fact that we can drive as fast as we want. Furthermore, I found out the team spirit is very important in the U.S.

The first day at school was very strenuous because I did not find all of my classrooms on my own. But life is better now. I am on the school soccer team and I met some nice guys who are very funny.

### Music Review

## A Little Angry Fun

By Jennifer Bond

You can call them crazy or even weird, but don't say they're less than what they really are. This is a group that will one day be widely known. The group is *Perturbed*, a local punk rock band.

The group consists of four members -- three of them Eldorado students. Guitarist is Matt Lange (junior); bass is played by Kryss Hernandez (senior); and percussionist is Mike Pinad (sophomore). The vocalist is Chris Bland, a sophomore at UNLV.

*Perturbed* recently finished a tape that will be out this month: "A Little Angry Fun," consisting of 16 songs.

Why *Perturbed*? In the words of Hernandez, "It's a name that kinda contradicts ourselves as people. We are happy, so we use word-play."

### Where's the fire?

## EHS students plagued by false fire alarms

By Jennifer Bond

It's a normal afternoon. You walk into class and put your books down -- but don't get too comfortable. Before you know it, that fire alarm is going off again.

To some people, it's a gift from above, but to others, it's a bother. Opinions vary.

"It's childish...people want to be treated like adults, so why can't they act like adults?" says senior Kelly Hess. "It's fun...we get out of class," counters junior Matt Hutching.

These childish pranks get old and, whether or not you realize it, they are taking away from our education.

It may seem like fun to get out of class -- then, again, how can you expect to pass if you don't go to class?



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## New country, new school, new friends -- GREAT!

By Leigh Ann Caldwell

Coming to a new school is difficult, but coming to a new school AND a new country! Nina Mangles, Abigail Brown and Vany Sudjana have made the adjustment.

Nina is a foreign exchange student from Germany who didn't come by way of a foreign exchange organization. Her parents know the family she is staying with -- Kelly Murtagh's family. Nina and Kelly are both Gorman seniors and have become close friends.

Abigail, a junior, moved from Canada to Las Vegas. In her spare time, she is a face model and she plays volleyball and softball. She tells about her favorite times while living in Canada -- going with friends to Elora Gorge, where she rode the rapids and jumped off 50-foot cliffs.

Vany misses her home in Indonesia. She is shy because she feels her English is not very good and says that communication is her biggest barrier. Outside of school in Indonesia, she loved to shop, spend time with her friends and ride motorcycles. She does not participate in Gorman clubs or sports because her homework is so time-consuming.

Vany and Nina are now best friends.

While Germany was still divided by the Berlin Wall, Nina's family lived in West Germany. Nina recalls that when the Wall was torn down, the event was "an exciting experience for all people."

Nina enjoys school in the U.S., where "there is much more school spirit." She says that in Germany, "students go to school for homework and tests only."

Like Vany, she misses her home. Vany moved here to live with an uncle because her parents want her to graduate from high school in this country. School in her home country, she says, is harder because students go to school six days a week and take 11 classes a day -- but the rules at Gorman are much stricter. After Gorman, she expects to attend UNLV and hopes to return to Indonesia after finishing college.

Abbey sees many similarities between life in Canada and Las Vegas -- both are health and beauty conscious -- but in terms of fashion, "Canada is about two years ahead." For those of you like to set trends, cowboy boots, tight jeans and tight t's are the wave of the future.

## Advanced Placement students get eye-opener at UNLV

By Jeff Hoskins

On a quest for knowledge, Advanced Placement biology and chemistry classes set off to UNLV to sample what college life is really like.

Since AP classes are actually college-level courses taught in high school, the students had a chance to compare their classes with those taught on the UNLV campus.

"It was interesting to see how difficult college classes are at the freshman level," says Andrew Smith.

While at the university, students visited freshman biology and chemistry lectures, where they also had an opportunity to take a college quiz. They also visited the Natural History Museum.

One of the main objectives of this visit was to use lab equipment not available at Gorman (financial reasons), so the students were able to fulfill a required lab for class.

## SPORT SHORTS

**WOMEN'S SOCCER.** The Lady Gaels, coached by Victor Arbalaez, have their sights set on another state championship. Former star Christi Ayala has graduated but some talented freshmen should keep the Gaels in contention. After an early-season rough start, the team is playing as "a well-oiled machine."

**WRESTLING.** With a new head coach, "the monsters of the mat" expect to send some members to state this year. Coach Garcia says they have the spirit and he's excited about this year's possibilities.

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL.** After losing "Rocko" Rokovitz (the team leader and second-team all-conference point guard) to graduation, Gorman is still heads-up about trying for the state championship. The team welcomes newcomer Jen Swanson, freshman, in the point guard spot.

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## Absence doesn't make the heart grow fonder -- it makes for big problems at school

*Basic's attendance clerk, Laura Church, gives this information on the absence policy: A student may have only 10 absences a semester before getting withdrawn. On the eighth absence the student is called into the Dean's office and put on a contract and/or is RPC'd. After the eleventh absence the student is placed in an after-school program Monday through Thursday and credits are affected. If a student is absent and brings a note from a doctor or a parent, the absence is excused. Following are two student editorial opinions.*

### Athlete learns the hard way about steroids

By Carrie Deak

Some people wonder what will happen if they use steroids. As with most types of drugs, there are pros and cons.

For instance, according to *Drugs, Steroids, and Sports* by Janet Hohun, steroids will improve your stamina and help you do better at your sport, but will also make you aggressive. You may tend to have little patience with other people and some women may grow facial hair.

We asked how Varsity Volleyball Coach Barbara Gillaspay and JV Baseball Coach Tim Stephens felt about the use of steroids. "I think that if they are used for proper reasons then they are OK, but if not, then no way," says Stephens. Gillaspay says, "I don't like them. They're dangerous and they give an unfair advantage." If a player was using steroids? "I'd refer them to a drug counselor," she added.

Some students have the same opinion about steroids. Sophomore Bradley Bozzo says, "I think it's bad for your health. Asked how he would feel if his best friend were into steroids, Bozzo replies, "It's none of my business, but I would tell his parents."

Most students are too afraid to say whether or not they have ever done steroids, but one senior tells her story of the pressures of doing well with schoolwork, sports, and responsibilities at home:

"During my sophomore year I was really into sports. I played softball, volleyball, and ran track. My parents said they were proud of me, but I knew that they wanted more out of me. So I tried [steroids]. At first I couldn't see any difference, but I kept taking the drug anyway. After a while I could see the difference. My muscles were getting bigger, and I seemed to be more and more aggressive with my sports and school work.

"After I had been using the drug for about five months, I had an accident. During a meet I tripped and fell. I was so mad at myself for losing the meet that I didn't realize how much pain I was in since my metabolism had been high. When I tried to get up, I could hardly move my right knee. The steroids had effected me so much that I tore most of my right knee cartilage on that one fall

After that I knew that I had to get help. I spent a summer and part of my junior year in high school in a Drug Rehabilitation Center. And now, in my senior year, I can't play the sports that I liked so much. All because I wanted to do better at sports, so I used steroids."

As the school year progresses, and students begin to get stressed out with school and sports, and they may feel the pressure of trying to achieve more with school and sports. Take a breather, relax, and think about what is really important.

### Caution: Future crash!

By Brenda Feldhouse

Missing school can get you very much behind in your classes. For example, if your class is doing a hard lesson that you don't understand you will be lost and stressed.

Some may even give up on the assignment and just get an F.

If you miss too many days you won't get your full education. Say you're an A/B student and you get tired of going to school. You decide to skip a couple of days. You come back not knowing your teachers were giving pop quizzes that you can't make up, and they were a big part of your grade.

There goes your grade down to a B or C or worse.

Many teachers give verbal notes. If you're not there you lose out on the information you need.

Junior Angie Norrbom says, "Why should teachers waste their time teaching students who are just going to give up and quit school anyway?"

You got this far. Why quit when you're almost at the end of all these wonderful school years?

### No sweat, lighten up!

By Gina Vaughan

The school district seems to enact an absence policy without necessarily thinking about the students' point of view.

Having only 11 absences before getting kicked out of school is wrong. What if a student does not have medical insurance, and when they are ill their parents cannot take them to see a doctor? Then they cannot get the right antibiotics needed to get them well. A doctor's note or a letter from a parent is necessary for an absence to be excused. What if a parent won't sign a letter excusing their son or daughter?

Just because a student misses school doesn't mean they will get behind in their classes. Not all teachers give pop quizzes, and if they do, a teacher will usually let you make up the quiz. If a teacher gives oral notes you can ask another classmate to let you borrow his/her notes if you are absent. You don't necessarily "lose out" on the information that you need.

Junior Jennifer St Clair says, "I'm absent a lot and I'm still an honor student." Senior Jamie Hale says, "I don't get behind...I do make-up homework."

If students want to skip school and fail classes that's their decision, not someone else's.

Many students believe this policy is wrong and aren't afraid to say it. Junior Amber Moses says, "I don't like the absence policy. I think you should have ten absences per quarter, not semester."

Senior Amie Anderson thought that the policy was totally out of line. Junior Christina Braun and senior Lori Marquez thought there shouldn't even be a policy. If students keep getting kicked out for absences, soon there wouldn't be any students left at school at all.

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## IN MY OPINION

## Special students being lost in the mainstream of school

by Casey Hedlund

In forcing the Clark County School District to mainstream students with special needs, the federal government seems not to be thinking of students' individual needs. In most cases, the decision should be made by each school and the parents.

The government asks school districts to place all students in the least restrictive environment possible. The school district has then had to place students with special needs in standard classrooms -- in other words, to *mainstream* everyone.

Because of this, special education classes have been replaced by student aides who help the child with his or her work. This also requires schools to screen students, to identify any disabilities, and to give those children the help they might need.

Students should not be placed "by the numbers." Many parents have been fighting to keep their children with special needs in the special programs.

Barbara Robinson, a retired attorney who writes a weekly column for the Las Vegas Review-Journal, has a son who was diagnosed with dyslexia when he was in the third grade. He is one of the 20% of the population who have the reading disorder.

Robinson's son went through four years of special education classes. In the ninth grade he was then ready to be placed into the mainstream. He graduated with a reading level just above the 11th grade. Today, the average reading level of a Clark County high school student is just above the sixth grade. If Robinson had not received the special classes, he might have ended up in the average or even below.

Although parents of children with learning disabilities have fought to keep their children in special programs, some parents of students with physical disabilities are pleased.

## Tanaka swaps principal's office with Japanese colleague

By Aaron McKinnon

Clark High Principal Wayne Tanaka recently returned from two weeks in Japan, where he was selected by the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnerships to act as principal of a high school in Ishikawa.

Tanaka was one of 10 Las Vegas educators selected for the program. While he was away, Japanese director Kura filled in for him.

Three other cities participated. The Clark principal says, "Flint was selected for its autos, Lincoln for its wheat, Little Rock for its rice, and Las Vegas for its international tourism."

There are parallels between the Ishikawa, Japan, and Clark County school systems -- both are fast-growing and innovative and have about the same number of students -- but, Tanaka says, the differences are extensive:

All students wear uniforms in Japan. "It's good because parents who have less dress their kids the same as parents who have more," he says, "which creates a sense of equity."

Tanaka feels that parental expecta-

tion is higher there and that school pride is higher. He notes that, at the end of the school day, students put on overalls and clean the classrooms and hallways.

The principal reports that, "except for art and science classes, when the bell rings, the students don't move -- the teachers do."

About style he says, "On Saturday and Sunday, it's [fashion], the same as the U.S. -- Nikes, Converse and colored hair. I saw kids with silver streaks in their hair. They have yellow, purple and orange hair and, before school, they wash it all out."

Tanaka says, "We educators never saw anything so outlandish that it stuck out from the rest. There's this sense of conformity.

It's nice to be home."

## Entering Best Idea was GREAT idea

By Casey Bartolo

Six Clark High students won the \$7,000 Grand Prize offered by First Interstate Bank in its Best Idea competition, aimed at improving education.

The six Leadership students are Maisha Christen, Gerald Davis, Joshua Dobbins, Rebecca Fitzgerald, Lisa Williams and Casey Bartolo.

Their proposal was for a voice-activated computer that anyone at Clark can have access to. This equipment can help physically challenged, learning disabled, and English as Second Language students overcome academic difficulties.

The computer will be installed at Clark during this semester.

The group worked hands-on with the computer at a local business, then wrote a two-page grant essay during their nightly group meetings.

After reviewing 10 such essays, the Bank selected three finalists to make personal presentations.

The six Clark students decided not to make their seven-minute presentation "a long, boring speech," so they created a skit that involved the entire group plus two quadriplegic students from Clark.

The skit was based on the "Wizard of Oz," but was called the "Wizard of all Computers." It included a cardboard computer that made believe it could talk and help with all sorts of disabilities.

## AMSAT classes convert vehicle to run on electricity

By Casey Hedlund

Eleven students in the Technology II classes (Academy for Mathematics, Science and Applied Technology) have converted a gasoline-powered vehicle to one that runs on electricity -- in just four months.

In preparation, the team watched numerous informational videos, listened to automechanic technicians and read auto conversion manuals.

The team dealt with time-consuming design problems, different ideas that couldn't be decided upon and some communication problems between classes.

The faculty advisor for this project was Frank Pesce, technology teacher.

The conversion kit and 1995 GMC Sonoma truck were provided by Nevada Power Company, who delivered everything to Clark's old automotive shop, where it was kept until completion.

The final product will become Nevada Power's show truck for electric-fueled vehicles.

Although AMSAT did not get to keep the car, "The students gained experience as a team, responsibility and organizational skills and respect from businesses for their professionalism," says student Michael Simmons, project manager. "We also set the standards for next year's class."

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- "...diverse curriculum...supportive professors" (Alan Tack)

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