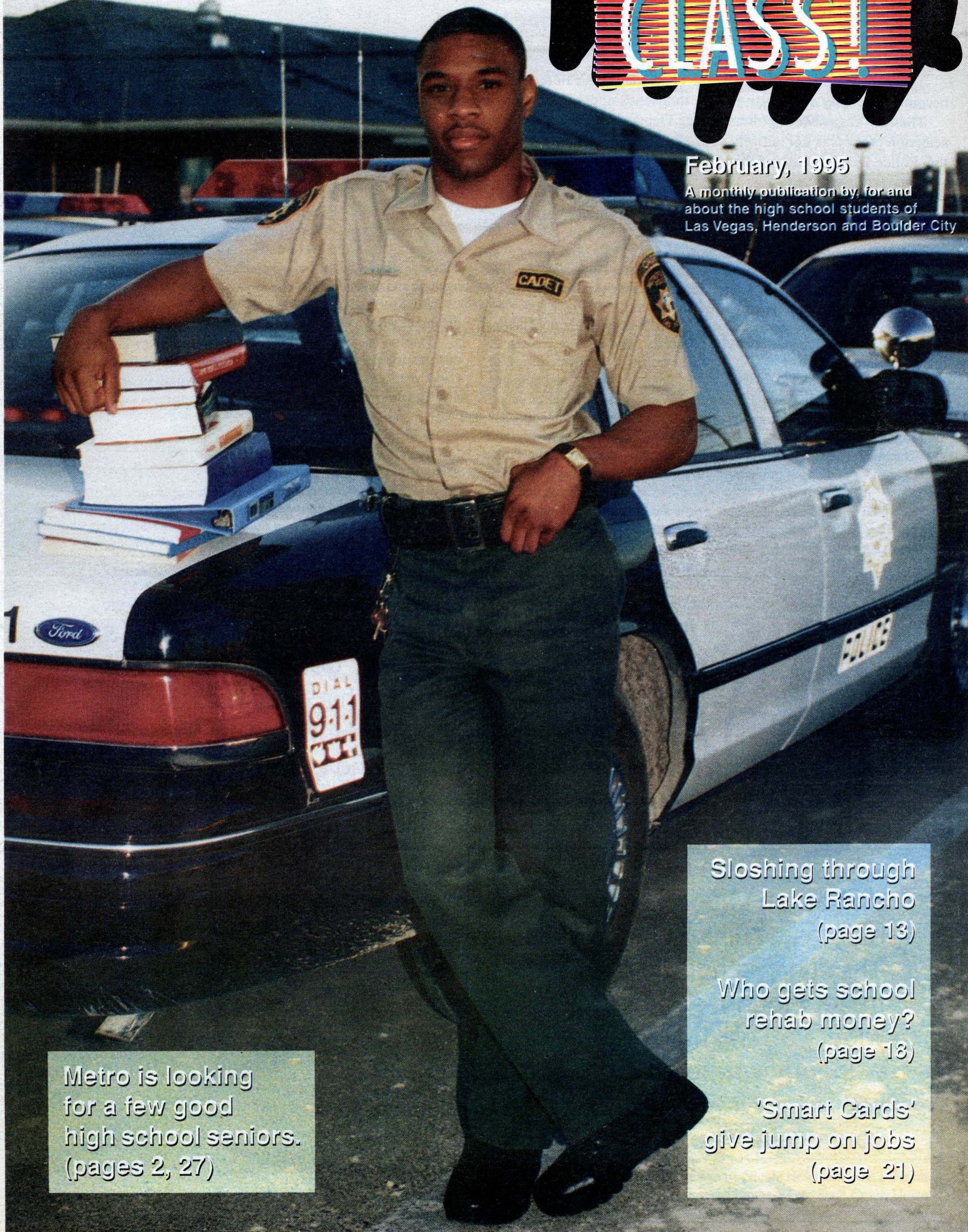


CLASS!

February, 1995

A monthly publication by, for and about the high school students of Las Vegas, Henderson and Boulder City



Metro is looking for a few good high school seniors. (pages 2, 27)

Sloshing through Lake Rancho (page 13)

Who gets school rehab money? (page 18)

'Smart Cards' give jump on jobs (page 21)

Police groom potential officers -- The Cadets

*Recruiting in high schools
scheduled for spring break*

By Rob Erb

To wear the police officer's badge is no easy task. In recent years, the career of police officer has become extremely competitive, with thousands applying for just a few open positions.

The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department seeks the "cream of the crop," but even then the selection process is not entirely sure. So 15 years ago, Metro developed a program that benefits both the Police Department and the young applicants: It's the Police Cadet Program.

The Cadet Program selects eight high school graduates, based on oral and written examinations and physical agility. They will be paid for three years of education and on-site experience, including six to eight weeks in the Cadet Academy and classroom studies.

Cadet salaries range from \$1,832 to \$2,411 per month.

"We see the difference," says Sgt. Albert Salinas, Supervisor of the Recruiting/Background Investigations Unit for Metro.

"The cadets have been exposed to the department and know procedure and policy.

"The goal is to become a police officer. They stay with the program for three years and, once they com-

plete the program, they're given first opportunity to attend the Police Academy," he explains.

As cadets they accompany an officer in the field, learning first-hand the range of responsibilities of being a cop.

They assist with impounding property, take larceny reports, direct traffic at accident scenes, attend daily briefings, and help process visitors at the detention center. And they may testify in court.

"The interaction is already there by the time they go to the Police Academy," Salinas says. "Coming off the streets, a person wouldn't know what to look for when taking a burglary report."

Applicants for Cadet must pass

oral, written and physical tests before getting on the eligibility list. If their scores are in the top eight, background investigations are conducted -- followed by polygraph, medical and psychological exams.

Usually 100-200 students take the initial written tests.

"One of the big attractions is that this is a paid program and the Cadet years are used toward retirement," Salinas says.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Metro will recruit at the high schools during Spring Break in April. If you are interested, call Metro's personnel department at 229-3497 or visit the office at 601 E. Fremont St.

Law Enforcement Explorer Program

The grooming process for cadets often begins with the Explorer Program, which is essentially an extension of the Boy Scouts. But, unlike the cadets, Explorers are not paid and they start at age 16. Approximately 35 students participate in the program each year and their training is helpful toward a police career, says Salinas.

"What we're trying to do is make it a career progression from Explorer to Cadet to Police Officer," he explains. "So when they test for Cadet, they know what they are looking at."

One other thing. "It's not just for males, but for females also," according to Salinas. "And the Police department encourages all minorities to apply."

Call Explorers Bill Schoen or Brian Hibbets at 455-2097 or leave a message at 226-8997.

COVER:

Cadet Maurice Collins is on his way to a career in police work. Read his story on page 27, inside the back cover.



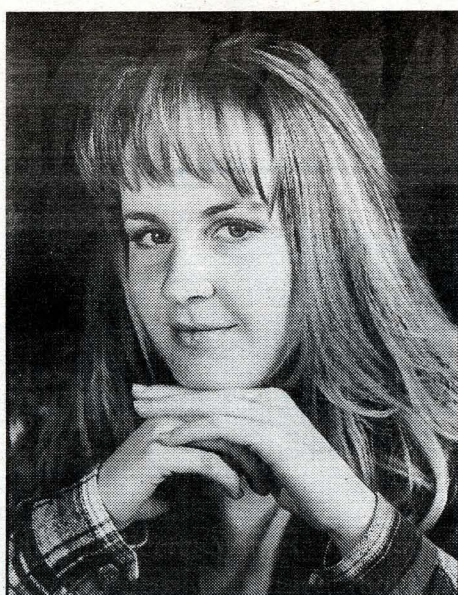
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364-5551



Carrie Lynn Johnson
Senior, Bonanza High School
Winner, February Photo Contest

Let's ballyhoo the good news!

*By Ray Willis, Director of Public Information
Clark County School District*

Why does the Clark County School District seem to generate more than its fair share of negative press in the local media these days?

Is the district doing such a poor job of educating students to meet the increasing demands of a complex society? The answer may surprise you.

For all the "bad press" we get, statistics indicate our school system is doing quite well -- according to data comparing us to school districts throughout the nation.

For instance, recent test scores of CCSD 11th-graders show students performing near or above the national average. Last October, these students took two tests that provide a comparison of local student achievement and ability with that of a national sample of students: the

Comprehensive Tests of Basic Skills (reading, math, English) and the Test of Cognitive Skills (thinking and reasoning).

Locally, 11th-graders scored highest in math -- at the 59th percentile. Students scored at the 52nd percentile in reading and the 49th percentile in language. CCSD students scored at the 51st percentile on the ability test. The national average is the 50th percentile.

Not bad results at all. Our test scores look even better when you consider how fast our community is growing and all the problems that usually accompany rapid growth.

Another point of pride is the designation of 33 CCSD high school seniors this year as National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists.

These outstanding students scored high on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). They represent the cream of the crop among the nation's high school seniors.

(By the way, this is no fluke: every year, 30 or more of our students are honored as Merit Scholars.)

This year, more than 6,000 students will graduate from public high schools in Clark County. Many will go on to college. Some will even attend prestigious Ivy League schools such as Harvard, Yale and Princeton -- a fact unreported or under-reported by the media.

Publications such as CLASS! help fill a void by providing a balanced profile of our students and the schools they attend. We appreciate newspapers, such as this one, which exhibit a great deal of "class" in presenting student-based news and information. Now, if the others would take heed...

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Johnson's study in lighting and geometry glows with rich browns and amber

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Love and pain and puzzlement

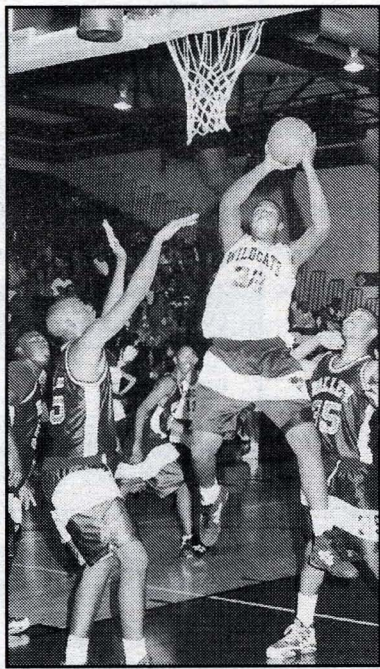
Life with Michael

By Kate Martin

Team does the wave - in Hawaii

By Nadine Harmon

The men's varsity basketball team, winning three out of four games, placed third in the St. Louis



Takari Blash shoots for two against the Valley Vikings.

Invitational in Hawaii. The team defeated two Hawaiian teams but lost to Dixie, Kentucky. However, in the second game, Joey Song was injured. "It really took the rhythm out of our team," says Coach Hiram Akina.

"Everything revolved around the basketball schedule," says Principal Frank Brusa, who accompanied the team. "But...the players could go to the beach and visit Diamondhead and Pearl Harbor.

Since Akina is from Hawaii, the team had a great opportunity to see Honolulu from more than a tourist's point of view. Both Brusa and Akina think that the trip brought the team closer together. The coach adds, "The whole team played really well. Kenyatta Clyde, Takari Blash, Kevin Kauffman, Jason Williams and Lucas LeCour were outstanding in this tournament."

When my brother Michael was born, he did not cry. I have always admired him for that because I felt that it meant he had no fear of this world. However, others would argue that the absence of his cry revealed his inability to respond to others.

Michael is mentally handicapped and severely autistic. Until now, I have lived my entire life wondering what people are thinking when they stare at my brother.

It took a very confusing conversation with a good friend to answer my question. She thought that if my brother saw my friends at home, he would scream because it was such a change from his normal routine.

This conversation and many other events in the past have caused me a great deal of turmoil. It seems that most people have many misconceptions about the handicapped. Perhaps I can rectify this situation by sharing a personal account of my life with a mentally handicapped person.

My brother is 24 years old and, since he has always lived at home with my family, I have had the opportunity to observe him. Michael has gradually regressed over the course of his life. When he was a child, he was functioning at an almost normal level for his age. He could recite numbers, colors, and words and phrases; he could conduct brief conversations and even say his own name. Now he is not nearly as proficient.

Michael rarely speaks and does not read. He lives in a world entirely his own. He is stimulated by certain senses such as touch and sound. When my brother touches a soft blanket or wet hair, he seems imbued with a sense of discovery. When my brother hears a song with a rhythmic melody, he sings it repeatedly. He has never used any form of the lyrics to communicate a direct need, yet he is communicating his emotions. These immediate connections never cease to amaze me.

My brother Michael needs to be supervised regularly. He must have someone help him get dressed, prepare his meals and make sure that he eats them, someone to administer his medicines three times a day to prevent seizures, to take him to the bathroom, brush his teeth, bathe him, comb his hair.

It requires a supportive and cooperative family to fulfill these immediate needs. My family has always done their best to ensure Michael's happiness, whether by

helping him with his physical needs or simply spending time with him.

I believe that my brother possesses the ability to think for himself. However, I do not know what prevents him from communicating verbally. At times I wish I could be a spectator to the thought process that occurs within my brother's mind. Yet, I merely have the ability to observe his actions.

However, I have reached the conclusion that Michael possesses problem-solving skills. One afternoon, Michael arrived home early from school. [Until he was 21, Michael attended the Helen J. Stewart School.] There were many piles of books and toys on his bedroom floor because my mother was organizing his room. After staring intensely at the clutter, my brother maneuvered around the obstacles until he reached the chair that he sits in when watching television. This was a challenge he was able to overcome by reasoning.

There are times that I am not as patient as I should be when working with him. When Michael refuses to eat certain foods for dinner, I have difficulty keeping my patience. Since he cannot tell me what he wants to eat, I have to continue introducing meals to him until he finds one to his liking. One night he will eat something that he refused to eat the previous week.

I love my brother and it hurts me deeply when I notice others staring or gawking at him. I understand that this probably occurs because of innate curiosity, but I think that if people gave Michael the same respect they would give anyone else, life would be a little easier for my family. It is the idea of others falsely seeing my brother as some monstrosity that pains me.

Living with a mentally handicapped person has give me a unique way to experience life. Sometimes I wonder how I would act when presented with certain situations had I not grown up with Michael. Maybe I would laugh at the jokes about "retards." Maybe I would never have stood up to my fourth grade class and informed them how wrong they were to speak ill of the handicapped.

But I see the world through the eyes of my brother, and it is now my responsibility to help others see his world, too.



Michael

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

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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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TEENAGE DELINQUENTS:**Off to the dungeon
or to do good deeds?**

By Raul Daniels

Juvenile justice agencies in Nevada are plagued by numerous problems -- a growing population, a shortage of staff, insufficient programming and a lack of funds. But the departments that take care of juvenile delinquency in this state have a far more serious problem: they do not have clearly defined goals and, too often, the various departments (police, courts, probation and corrections) do not come together to focus on the real issues.

The legal mission of all juvenile justice systems should be protection for the community and correction for the offender. To accomplish this goal, according to Lawrence G. Myers, a Juvenile Court administrator in Kansas City, MO, the main objectives of all institutions should be to divert delinquents into community-based programs for treatment; and to make more alternatives available because the more an individual is recycled through the system, the more likely it is that he or she will continue delinquent activity.

Other objectives: to develop a capacity for determining the proper treatment; to make every effort to ensure the correctional experience is as much like normal life as possible; and to engage the community as well as the offender in the rehabilitation process.

The types of punishment Nevada uses for juvenile delinquents are fines and house arrest. A tracking mechanism placed on the offender's ankle allows the authorities to trace the delinquent at any time; and, if he or she goes more than a block from home, the mechanism immediately notifies the authorities that the offender has violated house arrest.

Enough area is given to the delinquent to still take out the trash, mow the lawn, and visit friends in his or her front yard. The best way of punishing these offenders, according to Myers, is to make them do community service -- because, this way, they give something back to their community.

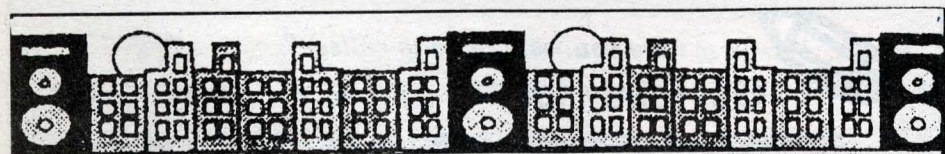
According to John Cahill, division supervisor of probation at the juvenile court (on Bonanza and Pecos), Nevada does practice many of these forms of punishment. A regular day for inmates assigned to their assigned service begins at 6:00 with breakfast, followed by cleaning up their living areas. Then they go out to do community service. The inmates return to the detention center at 2:00 for lunch, have recreational time from about 4:00-6:00, and the rest of the time is spent in a cell.

Cahill sees a dramatic increase in juvenile crime in Nevada. He says the juvenile courts are now faced with crimes such as sexual assault, armed robbery, and gang-related incidents. Poverty, Cahill says, is the number-one reason for juvenile crime. He says people living in a "poor" neighborhood are exposed to gang violence. The need for money tempts people to steal. Cahill says many teenagers have no choice but to become gang members and live a life of crime.

According to *Corrections Today*, the official publication of the American correctional system, an American child is arrested for a violent crime every five minutes.

It is obvious that we should provide better and more effective ways to reform the juvenile delinquents instead of simply punishing them, Myers says. He does not believe we should allow young offenders to sit in detention centers shuffling from their cells to the TV room in slippers and orange overalls, arguing over what show to watch or which video game to play.

It is better that offenders be made responsible for their crimes by returning these young people to the communities to clean up parks, help the elderly, or paint over graffiti. By doing so, the teenagers will feel useful and will understand how much pain they have caused the community and this will help them realize that they need to change for the better.

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STEREOTYPING**

By Rebecca Bates

Stereotyping. It's everywhere. It's in school, it's at home, it's on TV. It's even there when you go on a job interview.

What is stereotyping? A set image, a standardized or typical image or conception held by (or applied to) members of a certain group. In other words: judging a person based on past experience with someone similar.

No one wants to be judged based upon someone else's bad experience. But we're all responsible for stereotyping someone at one point or another.

Why do people stereotype? The old saying "the first impression is a lasting impression" answers that question. People also stereotype based on the way others dress or the people they associate with.

Television, for example, projects images of the perfect model or the perfect person, and your peers influence you to judge people the way they, themselves, think others should be. Parents have the most lasting impression on you; they influence you the most.

Some people believe uniforms would help stop stereotyping in the school setting. Others suggest increased education awareness, and more understanding.

Last month, 148 students in anthropology, sociology and psychology classes were polled regarding their beliefs about stereotyping. Ninety-three percent recognize that stereotyping is a major problem and 90 percent believe that students stereotype based on one's dress, the music one listens to, the way one talks, or by peer association.

While 23 percent believe that society, in general, is responsible for stereotyping, 65 percent believe that it's also the fault of parents, peers and the news media.

Twenty-five percent say that education is the answer to this problem, but 39 percent say nothing can be done about it.

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DOUBLE DOUBLE SESSIONS

[Pending approval of the School District, Basic High may go on double sessions at Green Valley High School for the second semester of the 1995-96 school year. Basic students debate this issue.]

PRO

By Delinda Morse
and Holly Schrier

A lot of students are upset about [double sessions] but we think it's about time.

Over the last few years, CCSD has upgraded schools in need of remodeling and removed asbestos from the older schools. Until this point Basic has been overlooked. Basic is the last building in the district to receive the upgrades, according to Melanie Fleck, counselor.

It is an inconvenience to move out of the building, but it will be worth it. While other high schools have state-of-the-art technology, Basic is stuck with outdated equipment...in desperate need of remodeling but the asbestos is holding us back.

Going to Green Valley will be great! It will only be for one semester. Besides, Green Valley has a nicer building with better equipment and bigger facilities, such as two gyms and a larger parking lot.

Going to a new school will also bring many opportunities to meet new people. The man or woman of your dreams might be waiting for you at Green Valley.

Double sessions will also be a change of pace...Just imagine waking up at 10 a.m. to get ready for school.

Most important, it is still Basic. The same school with the same people, just in a different building.

CON

By Casey Hedlund
and Rikki Skadoski

First, it's Basic students who will have the later session. It will be dark before most students get home...and might not be as safe as they were during the days.

Second, students involved in school activities will also be affected, especially those involved with sports. Where will our practices be held and where will we play our games? It seems there won't be any "home field advantage." Most likely, practice will be held before school, when transportation might become a problem.

Another inconvenience...there won't be any lockers available for Basic students...large backpacks will be a necessity to make it through the day.

Last, the change might affect next year's seniors the most. They will spend their last semester as a Basic High School student at their "cross-town rival's" school.

But Basic students...[who] might show a bit of an attitude towards Green Valley... need to understand that it not only affects them but also Green Valley. Basic is using their campus and their facilities.

We must show some pride...and respect to Green Valley for letting us invade their campus.

Students juggle jobs, school and activities

By Amber Schutz

These days, spare time is hard to come by, especially for students who keep up with school, go to work and take part in after-school activities

Financial problems are often the reason students work. Where do the paychecks go? A fund for college for the car they'll buy. There are many pros and cons to working and going to school. The most-often heard are:

PRO: the money, the responsibility, the respect, experiences and new friends.

CON: Not enough time for other activities, less time for friends and family, less sleep and less time for homework.

Bathroom blues at Basic

(Adapted from an article in the Basic High newspaper, Wolf Prints, by Amer Schutz, and reprinted because it addresses a problem not uncommon throughout the district.)

Flooded toilets, graffiti, filthy practices and disrespect. These incidents exist...and many students, teachers and definitely the custodial department are fed up with it.

Student comments range from "inconsiderate" to "disgusting." Teachers suggest that a very few students ruin the facilities for everyone else.

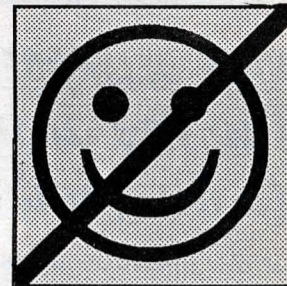
The cost of maintaining and repairing restrooms is a burden to the school district -- not to mention the custodians who clean, sanitize and repaint the rooms.

Basic's head custodian, Faye Clausen, says "We use over a gallon of paint each week for spot-painting over graffiti in the bathrooms."

The school district provides funds needed to completely paint every restroom on campus four times a year. Custodians have even changed the products they normally use to help combat the graffiti problem.

Junior Albert Rodriguez sums it up when he says that abusers are obnoxious about how they "misproperly use" the restrooms.

REASON FOR HOPE-- Basic High's women's varsity soccer hasn't won a game in three years. But this year many believe that they will see victory. Players and coaches noted better concentration, commitment, understanding of the game, and attitude. Below, freshmen Rhiannon McNeill and Carly Lucas kick off



Sorry,
emotional
maturity
not
allowed

Following are some of the student responses to a recent School Board proposal that would prohibit certain materials and discussions

about certain contemporary issues, such as family structure, choice of friends and current social problems. Opponents of the proposal observe that it amounts to censorship. The staff of Basic High's *Wolf Prints* opposes adoption of the policy.

"...in response to the proposed policy change that would be, in effect censorship...unfortunately [adoption of the policy] will hinder the educational and emotional maturity of students.

Beneficial learning aids, such as books on pregnancy and AIDS prevention, would be banned...drug prevention and multicultural studies would also be banned."

Jay Ensworth, Senior

"Why should we even take psychology if we're not allowed to discuss or watch movies on topics that are going on in our everyday lives?"

Mandy Kruger, Senior

"...people...should be allowed to watch movies that have to do with the class they are being watched in."

Crysta Nielson, Senior

"...[the proposed policy] would require teachers to adhere to a rigid curriculum of book-based work without the benefit of outside assignments. This would destroy such classes as U.S. History, which does debates and newspaper projects. Another class that would be affected is psychology, which often deals with personal or controversial topics."

Erik Lee, Senior

[These opinions are not necessarily the views of any other person or of this newspaper.]




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Student dropout rate rises due to decreasing interest

By Lana Tanaka, Clark High School

Imagine yourself as a senior in high school with a semester to go until graduation. You have two options: you could finish the semester and graduate with a high school degree, or you could drop out and attempt to find something that you could "actually use for the future." Unfortunately, approximately a fifth of the 1994 seniors in Clark County School District took this route.

A Clark County School District report shows that during the 1993-1994 school year 1,758 out of 7,936 seniors left school before graduating. This is a drastic increase in senior dropouts compared to the 1992-93 school year, when 15.6 percent of Clark County's seniors failed to receive diplomas.

It's obvious that school doesn't appeal to every student. Most students want to stay in school because "you can't get a good job or a job that you like unless you get an education."

The fact is that most students want to study what they have an interest in or study something that they will need to pursue their goals. Some also want to have a part-time job to earn money for college or for job experience. A major contributing factor to the dropout rate is a curriculum which does not meet many students' needs. A possible solution would be to set up different "tracks" for different fields of work. Each student, as a freshman, would take the required basic classes, then choose the "track" that he or she would want to pursue. Ideally, the curriculum would satisfy graduation requirements but would offer specific classes tailored to the track.

Maintaining a job at least for the last semester of the graduating year could be added as another requirement for graduation. This would help students get a start on the career of their choice, and also give them work experience and on the job training.

Vocational schools like Vo-Tech and ATTCH have long provided specialized training in fields such as cosmetics, auto mechanics, construction and others. Yet the comprehensive high school still has an obligation to offer "real life" classes.

Many students never intend to go to college. The current curriculum, heavily directed toward college, serves them poorly. It's time to offer these students real, marketable skills.

No easy solutions for Clark County dropout rate

Karen Cover, Amanda Laney & Elaine Tam

A recent Clark County School District report to state education officials reported that one-fifth of 1994 seniors dropped out of high school before earning their diplomas. That was 1,748 seniors out of 7,936 for the 1993-94 school year, which was 5.6 percent greater than 1992-93.

Clark County School District Superintendent Brian Cram says he is puzzled by these statistics...that students were doing the same things in the classrooms as the years before. He partially blamed the county's high transiency rate, ample low-skill jobs and breakdowns in the family structure for the district's dropout problem.

"To say our kids face similar challenges and come from the same stable backgrounds as kids from school districts across the country is absolutely wrong," Cram said. "Our kids need a lot more help."

At Durango High School the problem is greater than it seems. So far this year approximately 300 students have left Durango. The problem lies not only within the senior class, but all grades.

Flint Shoop, a freshman English teacher, says he has students who "show up one day and I never see them again."

Kathy Dye, a junior U.S. History teacher says, "I have a lot of kids who have been removed for absences, or have dropped and gone to places like Horizon or Sunset."

Kim Christiernsson, a senior Basic English teacher comments, "It's certainly a startling statistic, however it may be misleading. I would like to know how many of the fifth moved."

"I think the problem goes back to the home. The parents are probably unaware of what their kids are up to or they simply can't control them," comments Dye.

Durango Principal Allen Coles says there are other things going on in the student's lives that distract them from school. They get discouraged and give up. He believes there should be more career guidance, required academic plans to track students, and help for students to explore their strengths.

Cram says that one way to help students earn the 23.5 credits needed would be to offer tuition-free summer school or to offer a summer school program that is cheaper than the \$90 a credit program currently offered.

'See-no-evil' policy: disadvantage for students

By Cindy Davis, Valley High School

The school board is thinking about making some adjustments to our learning environment. I have to write this response as soon as I can because I might not be able to in the future.

Some of these changes they propose include: not being able to write or read about matters that are "highly personal" in nature. This means no more discussions on "family structure, personal habits, choice of friends, or church attendance.

At stake are basic First Amendment rights. The proposed policy means we can no longer discuss anything having to do with the "real" world, or anything pertinent to the complicated lives of teenagers today.

The Board says that "discussing moral issues with no solutions" can be "potentially ego-destructing." So what exactly are we to discuss in a social studies class? Certainly not the causes of war or whether or not there should be an exhibit of the Enola Gay at the Smithsonian. This, by the way, is a hot topic in the news right now, so logically we won't be allowed to read newspapers or listen to the news, let alone discuss any of these in a contemporary issues class at school.

The new policy would eliminate Shakespeare from English curriculums. One English AP class just watched a well-known Shakespearean play. It aroused their curiosity to the extent that they are [eager to learn] more about Shakespeare. But the new rules would say, "Nay, we must not expose our students to the world's best. The concepts might be too controversial."

This policy contradicts everything the school system has been telling us...that they are trying to prepare us for life after high school. How are we supposed to be ready for the real world when it has been kept from us?

Not being able to write and read about issues that deal with kids personally will make us feel as if we are alone. If we do not see what is going on in other lives, how are we supposed to bond with others, learn from others and share our problems and thoughts?

It is not fair to keep us shielded from reality and experience. We learn more from things...outside or in textbooks...that relate to real life. Is this new policy being done for the good of the students or for political reasons?

Writing, reading, and discussing moral issues play an important role in the classroom and in our lives. The classroom is our lab for the life that awaits us after high school. If we are denied access to this forum, we are beginning our futures with a disadvantage which we can only trace back to implementation of this hear-no evil-see-no-evil-speak-no-evil policy.

Schindler's List survivor presents Holocaust forum

Nearly 1,000 Clark County students are scheduled to attend a special Holocaust Education program Feb. 15 and 16 at the Sands Expo conference center. For information, call 799-8444.

A report of this important event will be included in the March edition of CLASS!

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)

THE HONORS PROGRAM

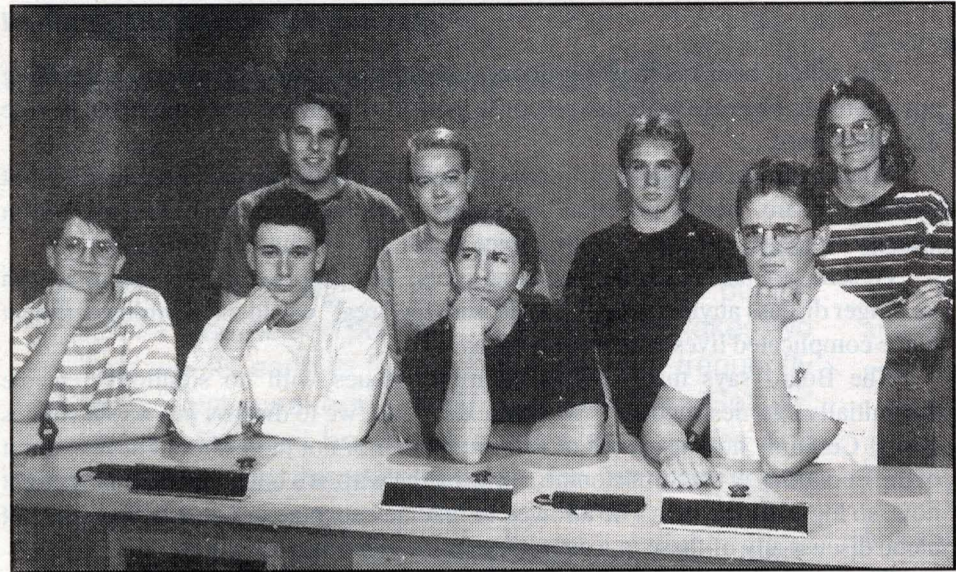
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CEREBRATE

VARSITY QUIZ PUTS BCHS ON MAP



VARSITY QUIZKIDS -- From left, front, Sophomores Andrew Schulke and Brady Dehn, Seniors Mike DiSanza and Matt Chubb. Back, Sophomores Joe Steele and William Muir, Junior David Sargeant and Anna Lindskoog.

By Mike Fecteau

While BCHS athletics struggle to compete against the greater size and numbers of Las Vegas schools, Varsity Quiz shows why Boulder City is one of the premier academic schools in the county. This year's VQ team managed an impressive record of 6-1, which earned them the division runner-up standing and advanced them to the playoffs where they came within two questions of advancing to the finals.

On my mind: Prayer and Public School

By Heidi Harr

The 104th session of Congress has been debating an issue that clearly violates our First Amendment rights: prayer in school. It is argued that our family values and morals are declining -- that we, as students, should be taught moral right and wrong in the classroom.

Yet what defines morally correct? Is that not up to each one's personal beliefs? Should we be forced to alienate a minority of students in a predominantly Christian classroom? Would we eventually find it necessary to separate students by their religious convictions?

Reasons for the separation of religion and public education are obvious. If parents want their children to learn religious morality, they may enroll them in a parochial school. Until we can incorporate all religions into our curriculum, there is no place for religion or prayer in our public school systems.

TELEVISION REVIEW Battle of the Band-aids: ER vs. Chicago Hope

(Excerpted from a long, very entertaining review by Trey Delap. With apologies for running into space problems.)

Twenty-seven case scenarios, 169 speaking parts, 40 gallons of fake blood, the brilliance of Michael Crichton and an expert production staff -- all chambers of the heart of television drama. *ER* is the most popular show in the history of television, leaving 30 million palpitating viewers anxiously waiting for the next thrilling episode -- unlike its sorry counterpart, *Chicago Hope*, which had people changing the channel as soon as 30 members of a surgical team charged through the hall, ready to separate two plastic dolls from one another. I could see the cheese dripping off the walls.

ER is so realistic that many [medical professionals] are glued to their television screens every Thursday night at 10. The fast-paced action-packed setting leaves viewers excited long after the show has ended.

Chicago Hope [is] much more melodramatic, and concentrates on the social aspects of the doctors' lives, as opposed to the jobs of physicians. I predict nothing but success for *ER*.

'Famine' strikes BCHS

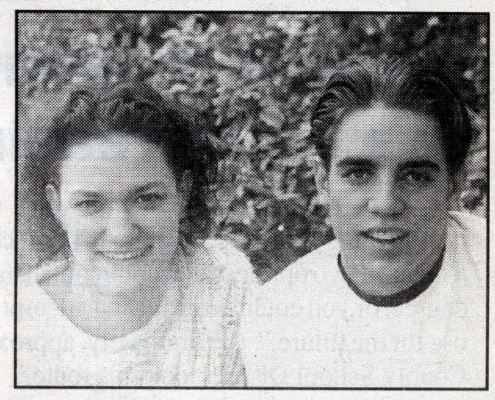
By Kara Pohe

Did you know 35,000 children die every day all over the world of hunger-related causes? Did you know you can do something about it?

BCHS students will be taking part in the *World Vision 30 Hour Famine*, under the leadership of the Bible Club. Together, they spend 30 hours without food in order to raise funds that will help feed starving children and provide other critical help. The Famine starts at 1pm Friday, February 24 and ends at 7pm Saturday, February 25.

Before the Famine, students will ask friends and family to sponsor them for the 30-hour fast. All the money will be collected at the Famine Sleepover to be held in the Student Activity Center Friday night after the BCHS-Eldorado game. The Sleepover will include different games and activities, and water and juices will be provided to keep energy up.

Everyone is free to leave at 11am, but will meet again at 6pm and head to the Rio buffet. The 30-Hour Famine funds will help provide food, medicine, clothing and lasting opportunities for people around the globe. We strongly urge you to participate. If you want more information, contact Kara Pohe at 293-5722 or call 1-800-7-FAMINE. Please take part in saving kids' lives!



EAGLES -- Boulder City High salutes Katie Aldworth and Jason Larsen as Eagles of the Month. Katie, an award-winning swimmer is active in Amnesty International, National Honor Society and other school organizations. She plans to continue competitive swimming at University of California, Berkeley. Jason, who works at the Boulder City Library, balances a 4.0 GPA academic record with extracurricular activities such as varsity soccer, baseball, Art Club and Interact.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Happy Birthday to Myya and Jennifer from Some Honey

Happy Birthday to Sommer and Annette from Christie and Amanda

don't read this unless you're at BCHS

The Type-Terror struck again in January, mostly at BCHS. Sorry, Kara (not Karen) Pohe, the Ms. (not Mr.) Ghermay and Stolberg, and BCHS, itself (not BCHA). Any volunteers to help us proofread this paper?

Who's Got the Power?

By Hermon Ghermay

You can see it just about anywhere you go. The corruption and abuse of power that surrounds us appears in different forms and levels, creating varying consequences and effects. In order to see its results on a large scale, we need only look at countries such as Yugoslavia or Liberia. These nations have been divided and torn apart by civil wars caused by the greed and corruption of their governments. The sad part is that the wars are caused by the powerful and wealthy -- yet it is the innocent civilian that suffers.

The power struggle can also be seen in our daily lives. It's particularly strong in the work place and anywhere there's an established authority figure. As the power struggle advances, it brings with it corruption, selfishness, and even criminal and illegal acts. It's almost as if it becomes an addiction and the craving for more power creates dangerous people like Hitler. A definite limit exists and we have to learn to respect it or else live with its drastic results.

THINGS TO DO AND SEE AT BCHS

- February 22-25 One Act plays, 7 pm
- February 24-25 30 Hour Famine 1 pm-7 pm
- March 1 Science Art Fair, 7 pm
- March 7 Band Concert, 6:30pm

In My Opinion -- Students speak out!

SUNSET

Is the drop-out rate as bad as we hear?

[Editor's note: A front-page newspaper story announced that one-fifth of all high school seniors who attended class in August 1993 dropped out by last spring. The paper said that this rate is more than a 15 percent increase over the 1992-93 school year. Clark County School District administrators say they are puzzled about these statistics.]

By Torvik

The Las Vegas Review-Journal printed an article recently about the senior drop-out rate for the Clark County School District.

Although all the numbers were figured based on a special formula, they may not have been exactly true. There are certain circumstances that were not taken into consideration.

The government, along with many other concerned people, want numbers -- so someone had to make up a formula to figure the drop-out rate. They also had to find a place to start, and that would be with the enrollment for the following school year.

Then, at the end of the school year, they take all the numbers they started with, the numbers they ended with, do a little arithmetic, and this becomes the magic number.

The problem with the system is it also includes those who transfer without obtaining their records, those who stay for a short time, and those who actually do drop out. The entire nation works with this formula, so at least everyone is doing the same thing.

Unfortunately, there is not a reasonable way to fix it yet.

With the complicated formula and the margin of error, there is a happy thought: the drop-out rate might actually be lower than believed -- but it is still not good. This rate seems to be increasing every year, even though there are more and more students graduating.

Las Vegas is a transient town and most cities are not. That should also be taken into consideration.

There are many questions about why a student would drop out and very few answers on how to fix this. Mostly, the reasons seem to be: school is too hard or too boring; the teachers don't really care; and the students think they have more important things to do with their lives.

There is no future without education, and there is no education without desire. Those two things are hard to teach a student, especially one that doesn't want to listen. At least there's still hope that many will -- listen, that is.

Who loves music?

By Miranda Gonzalez

Music can be interpreted in many different ways. When a person listens to a song and can feel a song, that song doesn't belong only to those who created it -- it can become part of one. If the song talks about things I believe in strongly, in a beautiful, poetic way, it becomes very personal.

Take classical music. It usually doesn't have any words, but can be felt just as strongly as music that does have words. With powerful crescendos and soft decrescendos coming from a group that can be as large as a couple hundred people, classical music can be as powerful and moving as any other type.

Rock, my personal favorite, is not only beautiful at moments, but also very energetic and motivating. There are different kinds of rock. Classic rock, which was created back in the sixties by bands such as The Doors and artists such as Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin, was not only the start of a rebellion in the music business, but also an expression of how people felt about life, disfunction, and sometimes even the socially unacceptable topic of drugs.

Alternative, another kind of rock, is suspiciously similar to classic rock. Many of the songs are poetic ballads, which have more meaning than some can handle.

Many people enjoy the simplicity and twang of country-western music. Performers such as Garth Brooks and Vince Gill have shown that it can be popular -- and very profitable.

No matter what kind of music you prefer, I think everyone can agree that it is a wonderful method of expression.

Welfare: Two Years and Out

By Nicole Daily

Welfare is a system the government set up to help people who live in poverty. Welfare was meant to be of *help* -- not to be abused by someone who wants to sit in a Lazy Boy recliner and watch the sun rise.

It is used as a crutch by those with no ambitions in life. The United States has a national debt of approximately \$5.5 trillion and, for that reason, we have to make quick decisions about our money.

The politicians have come up with an idea to put welfare on hold. They suggest setting up a special program where they don't cut people off "cold turkey," but give them a chance to get on their feet.

At the same time, they give people a deadline to get their acts together or find another method of support. They hope this will put motivation back into people and cut off the hitching a free ride.

A two-year program would help the people get their personal lives back together and allow them to have a chance to make it in the working world.

The program would start by giving them shelter and enough food to get through each month for the next two years. The program would also train welfare recipients for a certain trade. This would allow each person to be able to make a sufficient amount of money so he or she wouldn't have to rely on the state.

There would not be any kind of excuse after the two years, as this would be ample time to save money to get their life started. Whatever hardship it was that got a person stuck in the welfare program would be long gone. If there were a special case, and more time was needed, with approval more time would be given.

Job secure, living quarters secure, and food secure -- what else might one need? This new idea would save a lot of money and, I believe, get a lot of crime off the streets. If one has a drug problem, I guess he or she will be forced into rehabilitation or be left to die on the streets.

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Kairos builds new bonds, helps release true feelings

By Jerry Dunn

They laughed. They cried. For four days, 28 students shared, discovered and broke down walls. It was called Kairos.

At the retreat center in Boulder City, the students enjoyed "four days off of life," as Sean Clauretje put it. No phones, no beepers, no homework, no distractions.

While participants do not discuss what goes on at Kairos, they all claim the experience was...wonderful. [I] realized something was definitely afoot...attacked by a 28-person bear hug upon arriving at the retreat center.

"It just goes to show you how high on life we are...how glad to be around other people," Giancarlo Spolidoro explains.

One main goal, it seems, was to break down inter-personal barriers. All prejudices and preconceptions were subject to scrutiny.

"At first, I didn't want to go at all, but I was pleasantly surprised," says Kelly Murtagh. "I got to know people I didn't know at school."

"Many people were skeptical at first," agrees Pauline Villapando, explaining that, by journey's end, the group was much closer to universal friendship. "People were airing feelings...they wouldn't have before."

People whose social circles ordinarily never crossed were placed in the same ring. Lori Ippolito recalls a story of new-found friendship. "Aubrey Hensley and I were roommates. There were nights when we talked all night long. We found out we were more alike than we ever would have thought."

Chris Hamner says "People are too caught up in who hangs out with who." The message of Kairos is "we don't care who you are -- it doesn't matter."

CLICK Photojournalists ahead!

By Leigh Ann Caldwell

Are you pondering a different but exciting elective for next year? Look at photojournalism.

Starting in fall, 1995, new faculty member Mitch Crawford will teach this class, starting with basic photography skills in the first semester.

Crawford was a photography major, and brings with him his own equipment. Gorman also acquired photo lab equipment by donations and school funding.

Many students have already voiced their interest in photojournalism. For example, sophomore Derek Dawes and senior Jerry Dunn are learning techniques as they take pictures for journalism and yearbook.

Adapted from movie reviews by Vanessa Cruz

Tales from the Crypt Presents: Demon Knight

I thought Demon Knight was a total let-down. For all the gore and disgustingness that the pre-views promised, it hardly delivered. It was just an episode of Tales From the Crypt that was stretched out about an hour too long.

In the movie, Billy Zane plays a demon-master out to get a key filled with holy blood. The protector of the key is Spadler, who runs into a hotel seeking refuge and thinks he is safe because the demons need to possess seven people and there are only five in the hotel.

But two idiot cops walk in with Zane and that causes trouble. The rest of the movie was a classic battle of good and evil.

The only gory part of the movie was when green ooze started flowing from the demon's eyes. Surprise, surprise.

Legends of the Fall

It looks boring from the ads, but this movie is amazing!

Three brothers live on a farm with their father after their mother walks out on them. Sam, the youngest, wants to go to war but at first his father refuses, then later decides all three may go to war. However, Sam dies in the arms of his oldest brother, Tristan (Brad Pitt), who does not forgive himself for letting Sam die.

Tristan goes to sea and lives recklessly, unable to accept his brother's death. Meanwhile, the woman who had been in love with Sam now loves Tristan -- but Tristan tells her she should marry someone else. (She eventually marries the second brother.)

Tristan comes back, marries a 19-year-old ranch hand, has two children, and starts bootlegging (selling illegal liquor). Some mob-type men warn him to stop selling, which Tristan refuses to do, and the mob's attempt to execute him is foiled. Tristan leaves town and finally dies in a battle with a grizzly bear.

Take tissues if you see this movie.

REM, SCURVY, SLAYER: get down and funky

By James Doloway

As a new columnist, I'll let you know about good music to buy, great concerts to attend, and what's happening on the local music scene.

In the Rap section, Warren G, Snoop Doggy Dog, Ice Cube and Ciculo are the best to get down and funky with this month. Country music has Garth Brooks, Billy Ray Cyrus, and the Judds to get any country woman or man to line dance. For jazz listeners, sit down and relax with Winston Marsallis (Jazz Country) and GRP.

On the grunge scene, we have Pearl Jam with their new album, and Greenday and Offspring with their *first* albums. For the metal group, there are Slayer's *Divine Intervention*, Van Halen's new album, *Balance*, Sepultura and Megadeth.

Two recent concerts are worth noting. **Boys II Men** played to a solid crowd at the MGM, a big concert with Baby Face and Teven Cambial opening. The **Slayer** concert at Thomas and Mack Center played to a sold-out crowd -- the concert event for metal fans. Machine Head and Biohazard opened for **Slayer**.

REM tickets are now on sale for the May concert at Thomas and Mack.

In local music, **Scurvy** played at the G2 dance. The students enjoyed the band and it looks as though **Scurvy** has a good following at Gorman.

G2 is not a math problem!

Club G2 is not a new type of math problem -- it's the place to be this year. Students entering the time tunnel were transported through the multipurpose room and into Club G2.

There you could find ping pong, sumo wrestlers, a video of the latest Gael basketball game; you could socialize or just hang out. "If you want great fun, music and friends," says Cecile Quilao, "this was the place to be. It put me in the spirit to really let loose"

New to the scene was punk band **Scurvy**, courtesy of Colin Wells, Erin Czeck, Richy Jost and Paolo Raho.

(Thanks to contributing reporters Wynter Hutchinson and Cheryl Paez)

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KAPLAN

Eldorado celebrates Black History Month

Be proud, be colorblind

February is the month dedicated to the accomplishments of African-Americans. It's Black History Month, when we celebrate the Black culture.

At Eldorado, the hallways are decorated with posters of the great leaders who created the civil rights movement.

February is a time to say "I am free," and "I remember the people who made it so I could have an identity too!"

No matter what the month is, be proud and every day celebrate who you are, regardless of your color.

HNE raps on doors waits for big break

By Rob Cybul

Jason Walker is the guitarist, song writer and lyricist for the local band HNE. "We've been together as a three-piece band for three years," he says.

HNE has been rapping on industry doors and they have had many requests for their material.

"We can play anything -- punk, rock, metal, alternative, and even country. This means that record companies have a lot to choose from, and a lot of time to mold their product: us," Walker explains.

HNE has taken top honors in many local music competitions and has also opened for guitarist Yngvwee Malmstene. "We have a contract with a two-year limit to get ready with our music; that's plenty of time to get a vocalist," Walker says. "If not they will find one for us."

Photo at right: Walker jams!

History books skip Black achievement

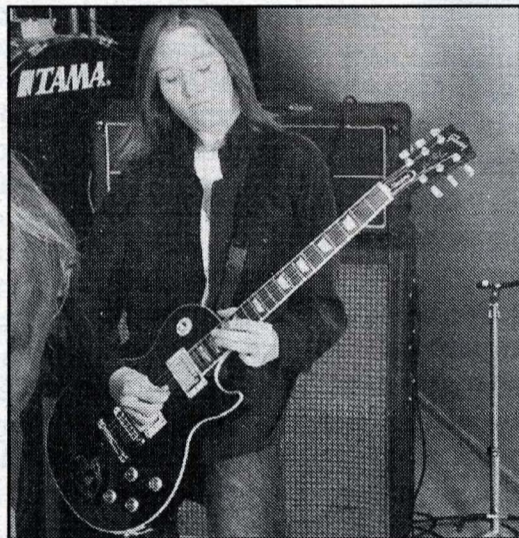
Eldorado students share their thoughts on Black History Month.

Senior Hamaas Gilchrist says "Black History Month means this is a time to reflect. Most history books fail to include the accomplishments of Blacks. When you understand *all* history, you'll know it is also *Black* history."

Marquisha Amir, junior, says "February is the month that we pay special attention to our culture. I feel that February is a start to make everyone realize what an enriched culture we have."

Shanita Sutton, freshman says, "To me, Black History Month means that in this month the black Africans are being seen for what they have done in the past."

Freshman Jerrell Hamilton's insight on Black history Month is this; "Black History Month is when we take time to learn about the struggles and accomplishments that African-Americans went through to get to where they are now."



Class swap: don't count on it mid-year

For many students, the second semester is not only a chance to better the grades that will go into their permanent transcripts, but it's also a chance to drop an unwanted class in favor of a more challenging or more fulfilling course.

Some students, though, are forced to change classes at the semester to make up a credit needed for graduation. This usually results in the student losing an elective to make room for the required class.

There are students who want to drop a class because they dislike the teacher or they hope to switch to an easier class because they are failing. Eldorado counselor Linda Crawford says, "When students sign up for classes, they sign up for the duration, and there are no 'semester classes.'"

The only way a class will be changed is if you have already taken the course and passed, or if you are in a class that is for only one semester and you need another class for graduation. All other requests will be discussed at the parent/teacher/administrator conference.

A class can be changed for many reasons, but if it's not a good one, then you better sit back and relax because you're going to be in that class for the rest of the year.



RIDE ON! -- Chuck Rich, a member of the Eldorado Rodeo Club, is shown here at last year's Pahrump Rodeo. The mean critter is Iron Ore.

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Come late -- expect lock-out

The Eldorado administration has introduced a lockout policy in order to force students to come to class on time. If you are late for class, you must go to the cafeteria, give your name and the class you are late for, and they will write you a pass that allows you to go to class.

If you get caught a second time by the lockout, you will be punished by cleaning the campus before or after school or even during lunch. Ditch that and expect to get an RPC -- and you'll *still* get stuck cleaning up the campus.

Understandably, the students do not like the new policy. Imagine, your friends are on campus during lunch and you have to clean in front of them. Embarrassing!

The lockout did make some friends. Coach Pentsil: "Students must come to class on time. It is a good policy but they should have started it at the beginning of the school year. Anyway, I hope we will see an improvement!"

IN MY OPINION

Society is full of excuses

By Aaron McKinnon

Everyone nowadays has an excuse for everything...from a broken lamp to murder. The Menendez brothers are an infamous example of those who come up with an excuse for murder: they say they were abused by their parents, so they killed them. Both were over the age of 18 and surely could have left home. It seems a little extreme for two "innocent boys" would stop to reload their shotguns and fire again in self-defense. These men murdered their parents. The Menendez brothers should be tried and sentenced as cold-blooded murderers, not "scared little children."

Another excuse that is becoming increasingly common is that of oppression and poverty as reasons for committing crimes, sometimes murder. It is time for some people to grow up. There are many living in poverty, and pretty much everyone is oppressed in some way.

Still another rationalization is "Nobody warned me" or "I didn't know."

Fear of lawsuits has forced companies to issue written warnings that anyone of average intelligence should be expected to know. Everyone knows hot liquids burn skin, yet a jury recently slapped McDonald's with a damage claim of more than \$2 million because the fast food chain served the coffee at a temperature of 180 degrees.

"I have a disorder" is another excuse that is popping up more and more these days. One book cites "that disorders are, in fact, cause for such simple childhood problems as talking back to parents and lying. The real name for this disorder is childhood. Let's not give children another excuse to add to their already long list and remember children, like everyone else, are responsible for their own actions."

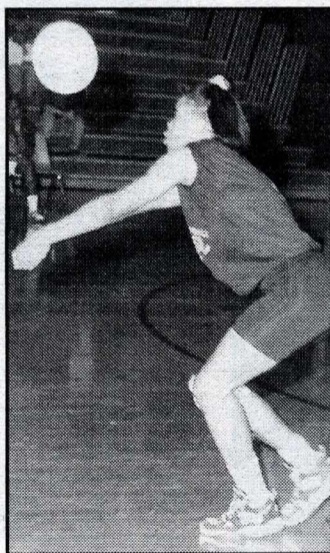
We as a society cannot accept excuses from those who have done wrong; otherwise, our laws, our principles, whatever morals we hold dear are pointless. We all, however, do have one excuse - we are human and, therefore, we make mistakes. But let us admit to these mistakes and accept responsibility for our actions.

Yale recruits Banks

Bisha Banks, Clark senior, has been offered a full-ride scholarship by Yale University for her "hard-working attitude" that becomes evident both on the volleyball court and the classroom. But the scholarship is for academics -- not athletics.

In eighth grade at Hyde Park, Banks managed the volleyball and basketball teams and says that this activity helped her become prepared physically for sports and mentally for school. She is a co-captain on the women's volleyball team and feels she must be a role model for her teammates.

Coach Shanan Farmer says, "She is an awesome leader." Banks wants to be either an obstetrician or an elementary school teacher. *(Lana Tanaka, reporter)*



GIVING SPIRIT -- Technicians from United Blood Services draw blood from Natalie Argier, Jennifer Williams and Camille Burns during the recent blood drive. Officials were pleased with Clark's total contribution of 83 units.

AFTERTHOUGHTS

By Alan DeTiberiis

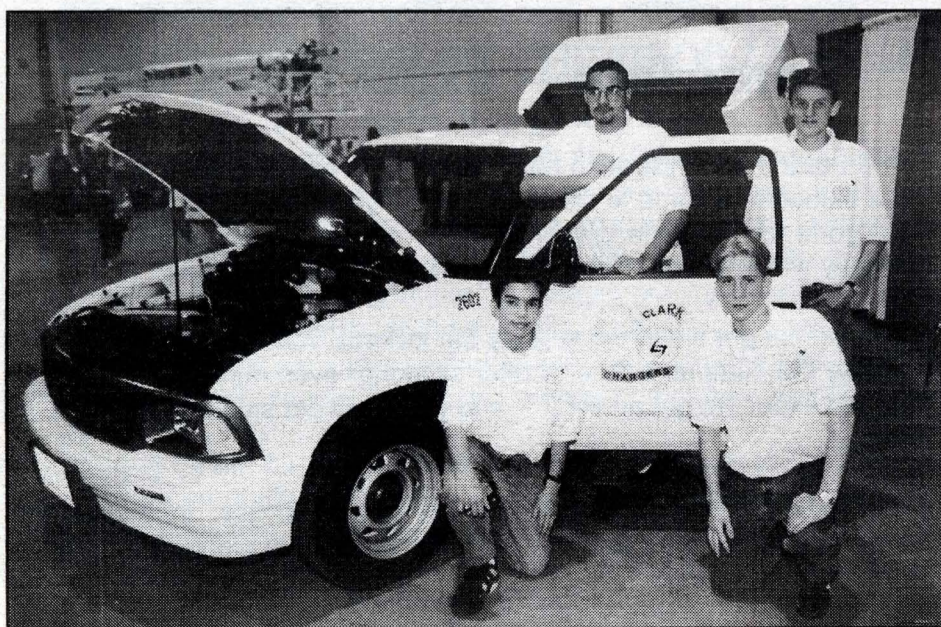
Our parents witnessed events such as J.F.K. being killed on national television. They watched young men die in a war that did not make sense to them. They lived through Woodstock (the first one) and watched the president they had elected resign under the pressure of Watergate. During our parents' time, the world was in a very vulnerable state and they took advantage of it.

Then came "Generation X." They looked into the sky and saw Challenger explode. Some found themselves sick with a deadly, unyielding virus. They took drugs, formed gangs and shot guns. Good ol' Generation X -- our older brothers and sisters were kicking an already-dented care.

Then there's us, the sacred youth, the last chance! We are at the threshold of a rising nation or a falling country. We are charged with the responsibility of fixing the mistakes of older generations.

We all want the same thing -- family, safety, peace, being able to wake up to the sun with a feeling of accomplishment. Dreams of success are ours for the taking; we only have to make the first move. We are the unwilling, led by the unknowing, trying to do the impossible for the ungrateful, every day. One day, the credit will be all ours.

Thanks for listening.



ELECTRIC GANG -- The vehicle converted by 11 Clark High students to electric power was on display at last Month's FuturesExpo at Cashman Field. Shown here are juniors Jamie Dragovich and Jeremy Sandstrom (back) and Josh Geidel and Mike Finch, kneeling. The team are in the Technology II classes, Academy for Math, Science & Applied Technology.



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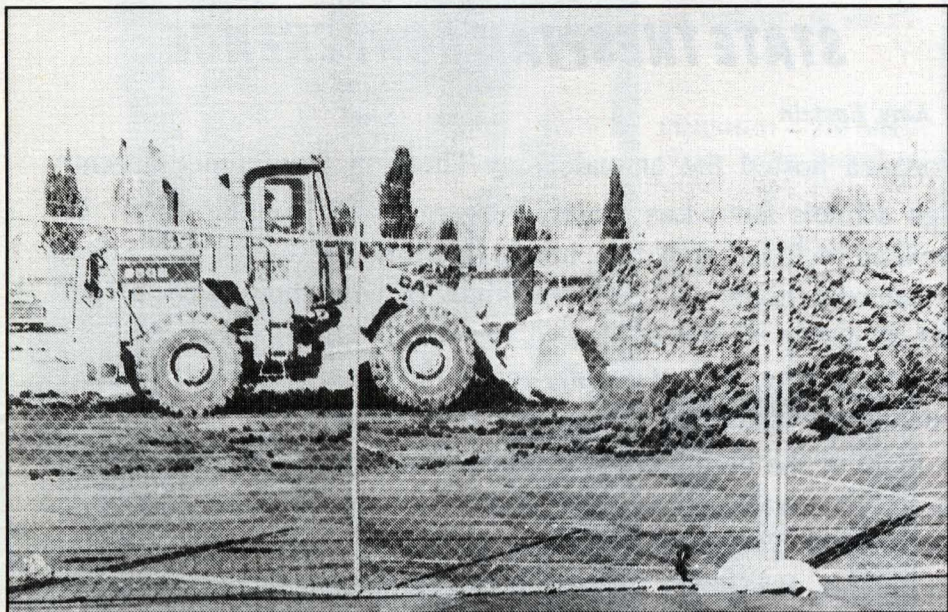
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Happy days are here -- New gym underway!

By Jeremy Bussell

Rancho High School is finally going to have its long-awaited new 3,000-seat gym, which is now under construction. The \$3.2 million project should be finished in July...an ultramodern facility with a state-of-the-art sound system and other modern conveniences.

However, the company building the gym changed the original plans without the knowledge of Rancho administration. When Mr. Gunderson found out, he was not a happy camper. The company put an awning over one-third of the concession area, in lieu of a roof, to save a few dollars. This means that anyone who wants to grab a snack during a game, has to exit the gym and go out of doors into the harsh elements.

Something on my mind

Lake Rancho no joke to sloshing students

By John Sweet

It's sad when you have to use an umbrella to walk down the hall in school. Most Rancho students have seen what's called "Lake Rancho" and its new neighbor, "Lake Rancho East," which covers the track.

When it rains, students can be seen sloshing their way to class. Even after the rain stops, water still drips from the awnings and hallways. Assistant Principal Len Czarnecki says it could have been fixed a long time ago but keeps getting put off or there is no money for the repairs. "It's been getting worse every year since the 80s," Czarnecki says.

When part A of the school bond was passed, only \$6 million was given to Rancho...only two-thirds of what Rancho would have received if part B had passed. Some of this money will go to repair the drainage system.

"Lake Rancho East" extends the whole length of the track -- 220 yards. The lake forms because a drain is in

the wrong place. Czarnecki says, "It's frustrating when the track could have been filled in with an all-weather track 12 years ago." He says this all-weather track might dry up Lake Rancho East.

"It was kind of hard to get the soccer players in without walking in the water," he adds. "What are students from the other schools supposed to think when they have to jump or walk another way around to get to the field."

Repairs are supposed to begin in 1996 on both drainage problems. Meanwhile people post signs saying 'no swimming.' Lake Rancho is said to be four to five feet deep. Teachers joke about deep-sea fishing in the west and fly-fishing in the east.

One use for Lake Rancho West is a place for the swim team to practice. The best solution to the problem is a big bottle of Drano.

ROTC students earn college scholarships

By Nick Daniels

Two Rancho High School students will now have free college educations, thanks to ROTC. Jenner Bryson and Norman Landry did it the old-fashioned way: they earned it.

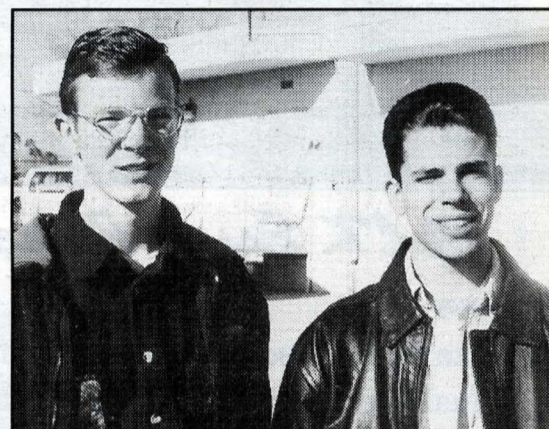
The U.S. Air Force gives scholarships to the top 15 percent of ROTC students in the nation if they qualify and apply. Qualifications are a 3.50 GPA and no grade lower than a C throughout high school, an SAT score total of 1,300 (650 in Math and 600 in verbal) and/or an ACT composite 30 with 27 for Math and 27 for English.

Bryson selected Brigham Young University (BYU). "It's a great school," says Bryson. "It has lots of great opportunities. I've visited the campus three times and I like it."

Bryson had a 3.94 GPA -- and, with D.S. points added, a 4.64 GPA. His major will be mechanical engineering and he is enrolled in ROTC at BYU.

Landry has not yet selected his college. He is deciding between The Citadel, the University of New Hampshire, and Purdue. The Citadel, which his brother is attending, is a military academy. "It's hard to decide," he says. "They all have good electrical engineering courses. I like The Citadel because they make you give everything you've got, every day."

Landry's GPA is 3.974. With D.S. points added, it is a whopping 4.6296.

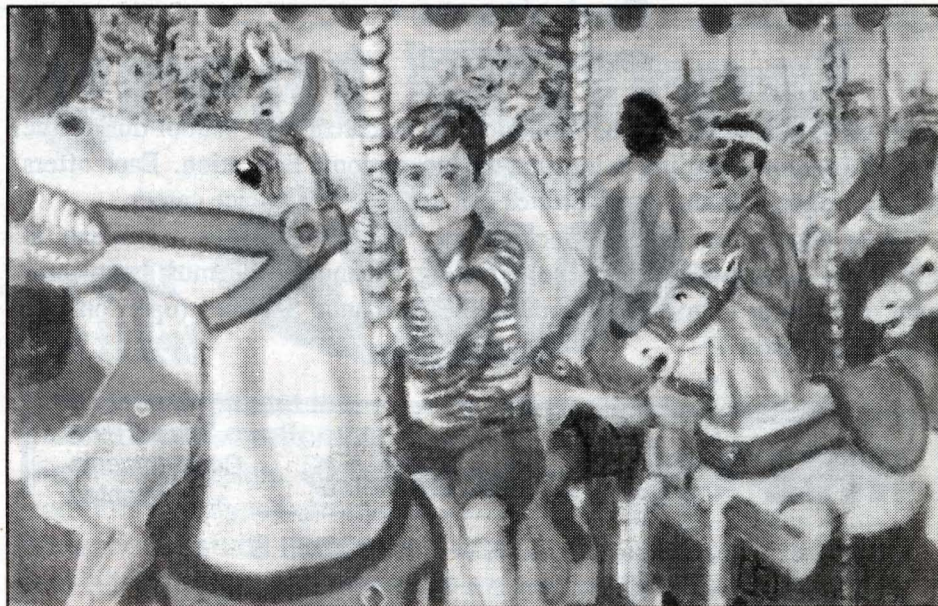


Jenner Bryson (left) and Norman Landry, rated among the top 15% Air Force ROTC students in the nation, have earned college scholarships through ROTC.

Wrestling brothers don't throw each other

By Anna Blackburn

Rancho wrestlers Tony and Jesse Medina are rising stars in the world of wrestling. Both have wrestled since they were very young, successfully. Tony, who is in his 12th year of wrestling, took State three years in a row and has a 140-6 high school record, with 78 wins in a row. Jesse, who has wrestled since he was five, took third last year at State and was voted Most Valuable Wrestler in the Bulldog Growler Tournament. Jesse says he looks up to Tony. Coach Diller confirms "There's no rivalry there...If Tony wins, Jesse is right there cheering him on; if Jesse wins, Tony's right there cheering." Both plan to go to college.



CALENDAR ART -- Kirsten Weight, a Rancho High senior, submitted this design to the annual Calendar Art Contest sponsored by the Silver State Schools Credit Union. Her winning entry is printed on the cover of the 1995 calendar.

STATE THESPIAN CONFERENCE

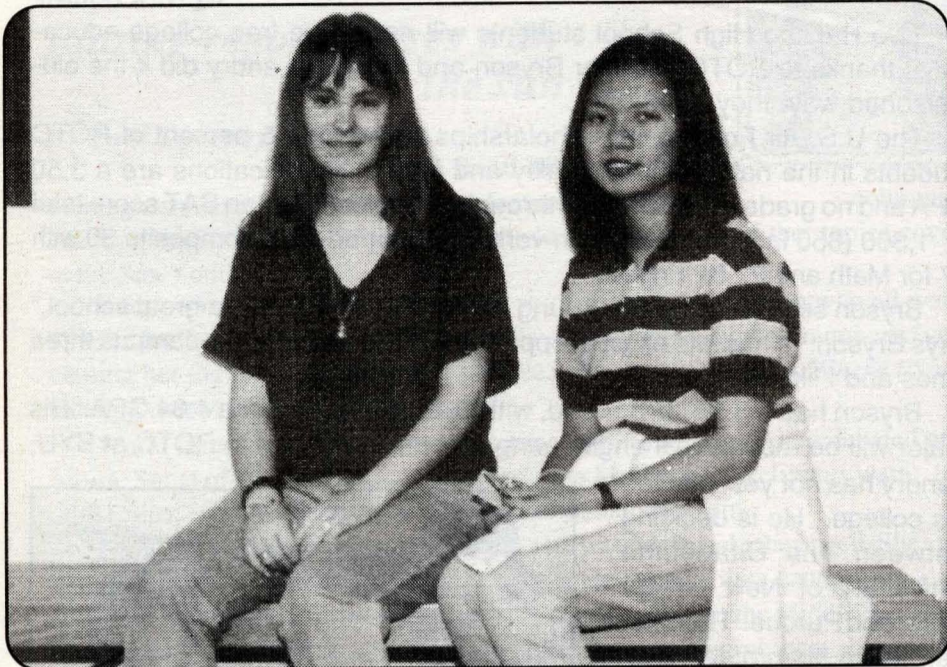
By Amy Epstein

Bonanza hosted the annual State Thespian Conference recently. High schools from Las Vegas, Pahrump, and Boulder City. The weekend included breakfast, lunch, free time for dinner, and a dance on Saturday night. All different kinds of workshops were offered, such as *dance, technical theatre, make-up, stage combat, directing, stage managing, and, of course, acting.* The teachers were professors and students from UNLV and some professionals.

Most of the high schools performed an hour-version of their fall plays. This was a competition to perform on the main stage at the International Thespian Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska, which is a huge honor. Bonanza's fall play, *Give and Take*, performed on Friday night and is currently being evaluated for Nebraska.

Scholarships were also given out to students for different competitions. Michaelle Stickich won a United States Theatre Thespian Scholarship for her advanced technical skills.

The State Thespian Conference was a great experience for many theatre and technical theatre students. Jennifer Marsala stated, "It was interesting being involved with so many other theatre students, and we also learned a lot just from them."



MLK Essay Contest Winners

Kim Howey

Bonanza High School has reason to boast; the top two winners of the annual district-wide Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. essay contest are students of Mr. Gary Sassenburg's freshman English class. *Samantha Dublin* placed first, and *Carolyn Menard* took second place honors.

The contest was open to all secondary school students in Clark County, and considering the number of entries, this was a tremendous achievement for the students, as well as the school.

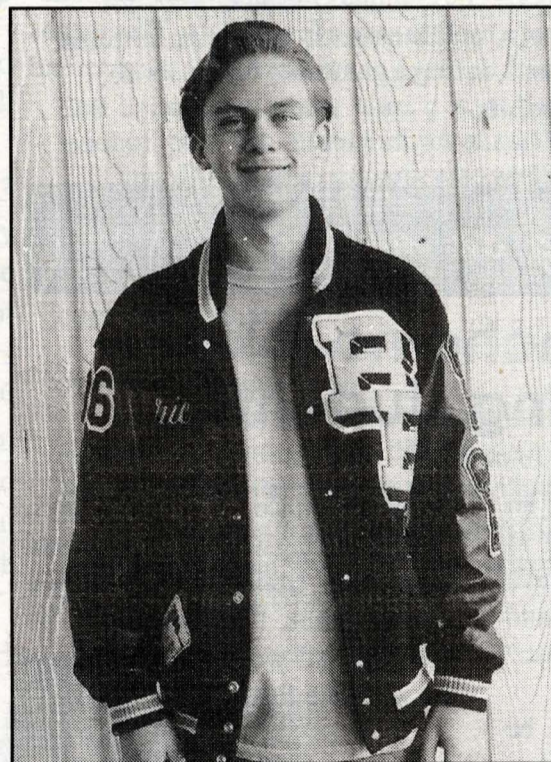
Sophomore Selected As Hugh O'Brian Representative

Melissa Alessi was selected to be the BHS Ambassador to attend the prestigious *Hugh O'Brian Youth Foundation Leadership Seminar* in June.

Real classes -- real practical

Three new courses will be introduced at Bonanza high school during the 1995-96 academic year, all in the area of Occupational Education. Each offers students unique learning opportunities that can lead to a choice career.

These classes are Printing Technology I (no prerequisites -- students in grades nine through 12 are eligible), Printing Technology II (must have completed the former course) and Building Maintenance Services (open only to juniors and seniors).



Congratulations

Bonanza High School Junior *Eric Johnson* for earning a "PERFECT" Selection Index Score of 240 on the PSAT/NMSQT Test. The Average Selection Index Score was about 146 in 1994.

Wizards build bridges - Only to break them????

On January 5 the annual *Model Bridge Building Contest* was held at BHS. This year the *Wizards Science Club* in conjunction with the Physics I and Physics II AP classes, sponsored a gala bridge-breaking afternoon. The top ten legal finalists are eligible to represent Bonanza at the Southern Nevada Regional School contest. We have been fortunate to have had first or second place winners at the last two year's contests.

The bridges must meet strict guidelines as to mass, height, span, and loading. They must be made from basswood and glue only. First place in this year's contest was *Colin Schaffnit*, with a load mass to structure mass ratio of 712, meaning that for every gram the bridge massed, it could hold 712 g. *Branson Locks* placed secon with a ratio of 326. Other winners included: *Danny Iran, Robert Mallery, Stephen Brooker, Garrett Baughn, Josh Di Napoli, Sanket Patel, Rob Meadows, and J.D. Greenan.* *Kris Dye* also built an excellent bridge, but did not qualify since the loading area was incorrectly placed. We hope they will all do well at the county competition at UNLV on Saturday, February 11, either individually or as a school team.

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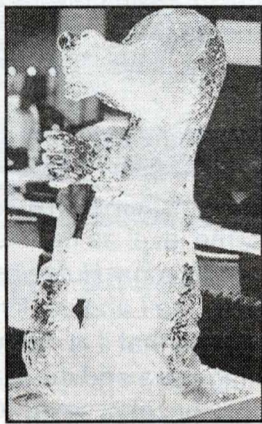
1/2 block north of Desert Inn Road on Wynn Rd.
East side of street.



BRUSH-UP -- VoTech students Jamie Fitzgerald (left) and Sean Stanley watch Jeremy Danley display his airbrushing art at the recent FuturesExpo.

SEAFOOD -- Tom Rosenberger from Clark County Community College's culinary arts program, demonstrates ice-carving. The finished product was an icy seahorse...or was it?

FINISHED -- The block of ice being hacked at above turned into a creation that may be a seahorse (below) -- or maybe Snoopy. It is one of the mysteries of a career in the culinary arts.



NO THREAT -- FuturesExpo, sponsored last month by First Interstate Bank, Nevada Power Company and the school district, offered high school students a look at potential careers. Shown below, Treasure Island diving pirates Sergio Santiago (left) and Sonny Tipton, greet Expo-ers.



FUTURES EXPO experiment -- Sandra McCrea and her dad, Robert, watch a science demonstration at the Southwest Gas booth. The man with the fire is Customer Service Supervisor Ken Swanson.



EDITORIAL OPINION

Who are the REAL role models?

By Josh Barnard, Silverado High School

Generation X...a generation of wanna-bes, hypocrites and followers. Today we think of ourselves as the generation of change, being different, speaking out. But as history has proven, we are no different than any other generation or age group.

Looking back to the 70s, we see the generation tagged "Baby Boomers." This was the generation of change. They spoke out for equal rights. They expected women's choice. They protested for peace. They questioned authority. And they had Woodstock, the defining moment of the sixties. They backed up their protests with actions that may have involved violence, but it always worked out for the best.

Today...what do we have? We have people speaking out on equal rights. We always have some sort of peace protest. And the controversy of women's choice is raging again. We also had a *media* "Woodstock." Our form of protest involves violence and anarchy that changes nothing.

We are always searching for someone to step up and lead us or be our spokesperson. First it was Kurt Cobain of the outspoken rock group Nirvana. But of course he folded under the pressure of being a leader of today's youth. Then it was rapper/actor Ice-T. But he was too concerned with writing lyrics about killing cops. Now, it might be the down home, traditional country singer from Oklahoma, Garth Brooks. But at 33 he may be a bit old to be a spokesperson for the teen-to-twenty-something crowd.

In the 60s and 70s they had the same problem with the speakers of their generation dying out from drug overdoses and assassinations. So they did the best they could by leading themselves. They had no use for another leader who claimed he or she knows the problems of America. They already knew the problems. And they always did their best to do something about it.

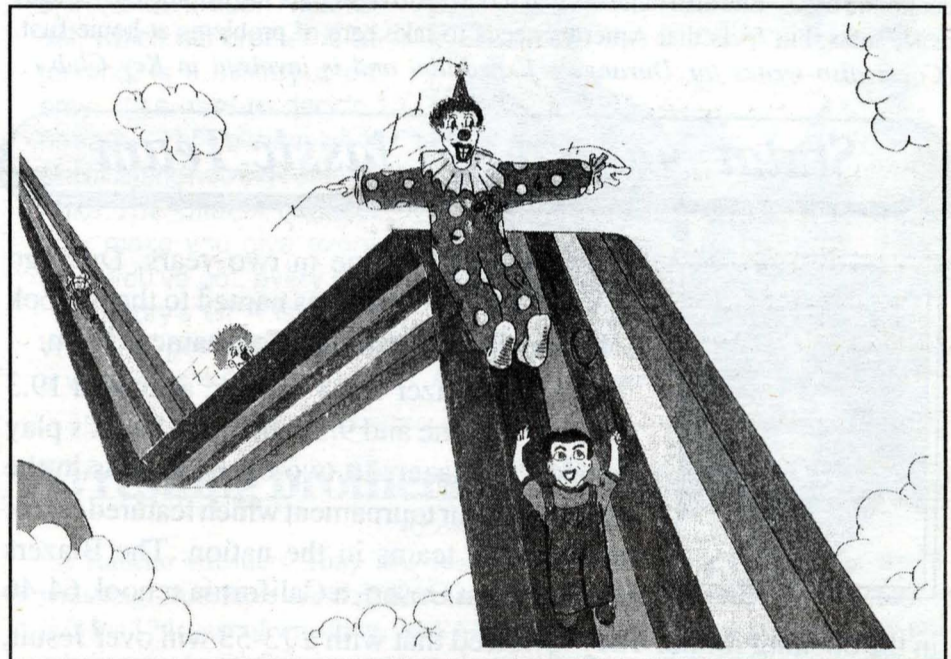
X-ers believe in reality. We watch TV and see how wonderful everything is and that's where we want to be. So we try to make ourselves as "real" as possible, thinking *90210* is reality. So when we get to that state of "reality," we can't handle it and we reject it.

Instead of trying to look for a role model or spokesperson, we should realize our parents are the people we should listen to. We need to take the advice of a person who claims *not* to be a role model: Charles Barkley's Nike commercial states that parents are the true role models. Right on.

Everything we do in our lives is in direct association with our parents. The music we listen to goes back to the classic rock sound of the 70s. The clothes we wear were first worn by our parents in their prime: blue jeans and T-shirts. The cars we drive are beginning to look like the cars of yesteryear. We are no more original than the kids of the late 70s and early 80s, the "Disco" era.

We've been trying to do exactly what our elders have done for years now. Change is a form of rebellion and growth for the youth of every generation. Change is being worn out simply because it's change for the sake of change.

The old cliché "If it ain't broke, don't fix it" offers us good advice. We need to look for what is truly broken.



CALENDAR ART -- For the past nine years, Silver State Schools Federal Credit Union has sponsored a competition for student art to use in the credit union's calendar. Shown here is the first of the four high school winners to be displayed in CLASS! This work is "Happy Times" by Ryan Parrott, a freshman at Silverado High School.

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KAPLAN

Blazing reporter rises with the sun

By Paul Sweeney

Extra! Extra! Read all about it!

Durango student *Karen Cover* was featured as a guest columnist in *The Las Vegas Sun* newspaper. Her article contained one of the topics covered in the Sun Youth Forum.

Karen was selected over three other students from her section who all wanted to write for the paper as well. In the end, Cover received the highest number of votes, earning her the privilege submit her article. She was featured in *'Where I Stand'*, a daily column in *The Sun* newspaper.

World issues was one of the seven topics being discussed and debated at the forum. Some of the world issues included: The Middle East (religious wars), trade with China, foreign aid (mainly Russia), and Sadam Hussein.

Cover was expressive in talking about Russia and the help they need. She stated that, "The best way to help Russia, is to educate them so they can develop a solid economic base." She also believes that it is a positive step for the Middle East to start peace talks, but feels that America needs to take care of problems at home first. (Cover also writes for Durango's Expedition and is involved in Key Club.)



"CitiZen" Seeking Students

Amanda Laney & Elaine Tam

The very first edition of *CitiZen* Durango has made its debut with success. The aim of the new magazine is to focus on as many students as possible at Durango.

Gia Winne, senior editor of *CitiZen*, feels that she has worked very hard to get the position of editor and that she enjoys it. Winne has created a dynamic new format for the magazine in which she plans to introduce the scholars, athletes, and other outstanding achievers of Durango to the entire student body.

Gia says, "I am excited about taking Blazer publishing to a whole new level."

Winne feels that it's important to treat her staff members with respect and to have faith in their abilities. She also feels that it is easier for her to be the editor rather than an actual teacher because she is a teenager and is on the same level as her staff.

Dyanna Hutchinson, Jessica Ruthford, Tori Terlitzky, Joe Gonzalez, and Lisa Landino (five out of the nine staff members who were interviewed) all said that it is fun working with Gia, and that she has a lot to offer to the magazine and the staff.

Gonzalez says, "*Gia can be tough, but she's enjoyable to work with.*" The staff also stated that it is better to work with a student than a teacher, she (Winne) listens and understands because she is a student herself."

Landino thinks it is "cool" to work on the *CitiZen* because she has the opportunity to meet new people, and get to see Durango in an entirely different perspective.

After completion of the first issue of *CitiZen*, Ruthford stated, "I'm pretty proud of myself for accomplishing a project of this magnitude."

Winne's staff members said that she is nice, easygoing, and not too strict. She understands how hard it is at times to stay focused and listen to a teacher, plus she offers individualized help to students.

One of her staff members, who wishes to remain anonymous, stated that Winne can be pushy at times, but everyone basically enjoys working with her.

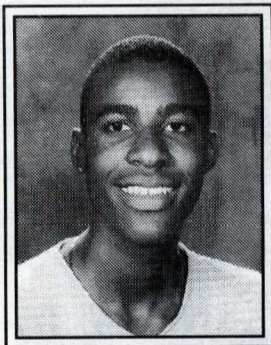
Staff members unanimously voted that working on the *CitiZen* is "pretty cool" and "lots of fun."

Gonzalez says that it "feels good working on the *CitiZen* and it is better than doing chapter work."

The name for the *CitiZen* magazine was thought up by journalism adviser *Flint Shoop*. Shoop says, "We chose the name *CitiZen* Durango because we wanted to show the students as individual citizens of the Durango community."

The *CitiZen* is the third publication that has been created by the Journalism Department over the past two years, and it replaces the now retired *Expedition* feature magazine.

Sadat Named to Classic Team



For the second time in two years, Durango junior Ra'oof Sadat was named to the Reebok Holiday Prep Classic All-Tournament Team.

Sadat, the Blazer's 6'8" center, averaged 19.3 points per game and 9.3 rebounds. Sadat's play helped the Blazers to two opening wins in the national caliber tournament which featured two of the top three teams in the nation. The Blazers defeated Palm Desert, a California school, 64-46

in the opening round. They followed that with a 73-53 win over Jesuit, another California school. However, the squad lost a close contest to Dunbar from Washington D.C., with a final score of 77-71. Dunbar went on to an overall finish of 8th place. The Blazers lost to Ballard, which finished 9th, in their last game of the tournament.

IMAGE
is everything...

...because you're only a senior once.

Lewis
Photography
222-1016

Miller & Hand Are Nominated

Karen Cover

Two Durango seniors were nominated for the Wendy's High School Heisman Awards.

Nate Miller and Melissa Hand were honored at a recent assembly to name the top male and female senior scholar-athlete-citizens of DHS.

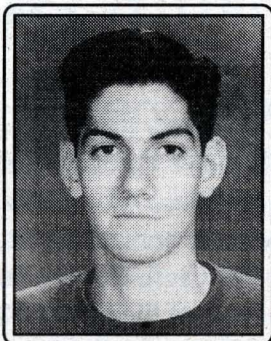
"I was excited it was a national award and surprised that they picked me because there were others that could have been chosen," said Hand.

Miller expressed his gratitude for the nomination and said, "It's a great honor and I'm proud to receive the award."

National Winners are to be selected from the thousands of nominees nationwide. The nominees were recognized for their outstanding performances on the sports field, in the classroom, and in their community.

The awards were established by Wendy's Old Fashioned Hamburgers restaurants, the Downtown Athletic Club of New York City, and the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

Miller and Hand are both known for excellence in basketball and scholarship. This helped them earn their awards and they are ready to take the nationals.



DON'T DROP --

Bob Wickliffe, head counselor at Durango, and Dean Donna Schaefer talk to a DHS student about the effects of dropping out of high school.

(Amy Meyer Photo)

INSIGHTS

Dropouts -- 'That's too stupid'

By Irene Goya

When I read that one fifth of the 1994 class dropped out in their senior year, I was shocked and disappointed. What makes a person decide to go 12 years, and then quit when there are only a few more semesters to go? I'm sorry, but that is just too stupid.

Some say that the dropout rate is so high because of the low-skill, decent paying jobs that Las Vegas has. I agree.

An *L.A. Times* article portrayed Las Vegas youth as a hopeless bunch of kids stranded in an adult dominated city. According to them, we are all mindless arcade and casino loiterers. I don't agree about that, but the dropout rate is just another fact that supports these accusations.

I believe that students are rushing into a business world without a diploma because a diploma isn't necessary to get a job here -- for now anyway. Vegas kids want to be the adults who visit Las Vegas seeking only a weekend thrill. This city is composed largely of image and fantasy which hold little reality. Tourists come here to see the shows, experience the gambling, and then they go home. Trying to keep on task when you live in vacation world is not easy. Many students wonder why they have to waste time in school when the life of a tourist is ahead.

Dropping out of school may relieve a student from homework, annoying teachers, and early wake up calls, but... but... um. Let me put it a different way. Have you ever heard the expression, "It's a pain, but it's a good pain?" Well, that's my definition of school. You might hate it with all your heart, but when it's all over, you feel a sense of pride and accomplishment.

Hang in there!

Thurlow going 'Down Under'

Paul Sweeney

Going from Elvis and neon lights to kangaroos and crocodiles will be a totally new experience for Durango student, Brandie Thurlow.

Thurlow will be visiting Australia this summer as part of YFU (*Youth For Understanding*), a student exchange program. Included in this trip is a three week safari touring many different aspects of the country.

Some of these aspects include: Ayer's Rock, the Great Barrier, the Outback, and Tasmania Island. Also included is a three week "homestay".

During this time Thurlow will live with an Australian family learning their culture. When asked about her "homestay", Thurlow said, "I am excited about learning the Australian way."

To be eligible for this six week experience, Thurlow needed to meet many requirements. Some mentioned were; a 2.0 GPA or higher, pass a physical examination, get a letter of recommendation from a teacher of one year or more, and under go an in-depth interview with a YFU representative.

Before being accepted, Thurlow was given partial choice in what type of family she wanted to live with. Her reply was simply, "A large family on a farm."

Expectations for this trip are positive. Thurlow plans to, "Experience a different culture, meet new people, and have a break from home."

July may be far away, but Thurlow is ready to go now. She backed this up by saying, "I love to travel and I can't wait to go. The only things I will miss are my friends and family who will be definitely be hearing from me on a regular basis."

"See Ya Later Mate!"

SOUND REVIEW

Danzig- "Danzig 4"

by Devon Jean

Back from the depths of (well, we'll just say that place spelled with the double hockey sticks), Danzig almost secretly releases its fourth self-titled album, *Danzig 4*. Not many people even realize that the album is out but a video for the first song released, "cantspeak," has already been seen on MTV.

For the most part, this album shows a slower yet ever demonic side of singer/songwriter Glenn Danzig and company.

With all except the first five tunes keeping a somber and dirge-like tempo, Danzig keeps the mystery of a hidden track used on their last album, "Thrall: Demonsweatlive," which can be found after 53 empty tracks at number 66.

Another mystery is the fact that not only does the album come in a cardboard sleeve, as a single would, it's not a standard case size and won't fit a sleeve storage unit.

To make up for the inconvenience, though, more of Glenn's cryptic artwork bedecks the cover in an almost ink blot fashion with six symbols underlying. The insert also includes a photo of the band in coffins while their assailant is congratulated by Pres. Bill Clinton (nice look-alike there, guys).

The Final Verdict: Definitely not the best album Danzig has produced but any album that has Glenn as the lead vocalist can't be that bad. And it's nice that they've found a happy medium between "Danzig I" and Glenn's venture "Black Aria."

He can't get enough of soccer!

By Josh Barnard

Growing up in Guatemala, Luis Martinez was exposed to soccer at an early age. He played on teams with kids two and three years older and became an outstanding player.

Martinez, assistant coach for the JV women's soccer team, is an invaluable asset to Silverado Athletics.

"Helping to vastly improve our goal tending and defense, Luis has generously offered his expertise to the team," says soccer coach Geoff Baker, "and, despite his transition to community college, he will continue to (assist) Silverado."

Martinez is highly complimentary of the defensive effort from the girls. You'd wonder why anyone would volunteer their time to a team that has yet to win a game.

Martinez responds with a statement of devotion. "The most important reason for me to coach is I love the sport to death."

School rehab money still undecided

By Rob Erb

How much rehabilitation money will go to each school is still unknown, even after the Clark County School District decided on how to allocate the bond rehab money from the general election. At the Jan. 24 school board meeting, the Trustees decided the money would *not* be spread evenly throughout the school district; rather, some schools will receive more money based on the needs in four categories.

Because voters approved only two-thirds of the bond money, only 71 percent of the needed rehab work will be done. Forty percent of the \$605 million bond money is slated for rehab work on older schools.

"It isn't a straight 71 percent across the board for all schools," says Dale Scheideman, director of the CCSD facility and planning department. He explains that the cost of rehabilitation could vary widely for different schools.

The first category -- Code Compliance and Student Safety Upgrades -- is slated for \$33.8 million.

The Educational Equipment Upgrades category will receive \$25 million; and the Building Systems (utilities) category will get \$59.6 million.

The fourth category -- School Interiors and Fixed Equipment Upgrades -- is scheduled for \$86.5 million.

Determining how much rehab money will go where will not be decided until the school district hires a construction manager, who is expected to be chosen at the Feb. 14 meeting.

Last spring, the school district created a priority list for rehab work and the cost was validated during inspections last fall. The biggest changes made to the original priority list, says Scheideman, are with the heating and air conditioning replacements. He added that the air conditioning systems at nine middle schools have been given priority because the schools may go on year-round schedules.

And did they clang, clang, clang on a trolley?

By Larry Gradel and Cindy Davis

On a recent Saturday, 13 Valley High students went to San Francisco to see "Phantom of the Opera."

Along with the opera, the group ventured out into the vast unknown of "the big city."

Valley students stayed at the Downtown Hilton, on the 29th floor with an amazing view of the city.

The group visited the Embarcadero, China Town, Little Italy, and the fabulous Fisherman's Wharf. One highlight of the trip was the ghostly Alcatraz, where the group "saw" the spirit of Al Capone.

With the exception of the continuous rain, the students enjoyed the opportunity to visit San Francisco.

The group owes a special thanks to Mrs. Taylor and Ms. Daphne Grabovoi, from Silverado, who organized the trip.

Something on My Mind: Speak-Out!

Give me liberty -- not censorship: without education, we're defenseless

By Holley Alford and Raechel Grimblot, Juniors
Rancho High School

Whatever happened to our honored First Amendment right, Freedom of Speech? Or better yet, our freedom to think and learn as young adults?

For those who are in the dark, let us inform you while there is still time to do something about this important matter: CENSORSHIP.

The Clark County School District has proposed censoring not some, but most of the discussions, books and freedoms we are used to. For example, under the proposal, topics such as personal habits, choice of friends, church attendance, divorce, separation, single-parent homes, and family structure will not be allowed for discussing, viewing or learning. The school board wants to dismiss these topics because they are "highly personal or potentially embarrassing matters."

If a student gets embarrassed about a topic, the student doesn't belong in that level to begin with. Maturity plays a major role in one's ability to address such dilemmas. And about "highly personal": let's try "highly important" or "highly necessary" facts of life that we need in order to survive in the '90s.

"Give me the liberty to know, to utter, and to argue freely according to conscience, above all liberties," John Milton wrote. Barbara Armellino English teacher, says, "I think that's what we need if we, in school, are to make young minds able to think for themselves. They are going to be faced with those decisions and they must be able to deal with them."

High school will no longer prepare us for "the real world," but it will shelter us from a society that cares more about sheltering than whether or not the curriculum is actually teaching us anything.

Under this proposal, libraries will be censored as well. Books dealing with "religious, social, political, historical beliefs and values of ethnic groups" will be allowed only if written in a general way. What kind of reading material does that leave behind -- "The Adventures of the Tape-worm"? [Scholars and researchers] agree that censoring libraries will keep students unaware of important issues around them.

The censorship proposal has many parents speaking out. Parents are constantly urged by the school district to get involved -- and, when they do, their complaints are ignored. Don't you think that if the majority of the people affected by censorship are against it, the school district would dismiss the idea?

Education is our only protection against the negatives in this world. Without education -- *real* education -- ignorance will take over. We can't treat the world today as we did in the '40s or '50s; this is a new time with new problems.

Education and enlightenment must not be limited because, without them, we are defenseless.

Seniors' excellent adventure on Ditch Day

Joe Gonzalez, Durango High School

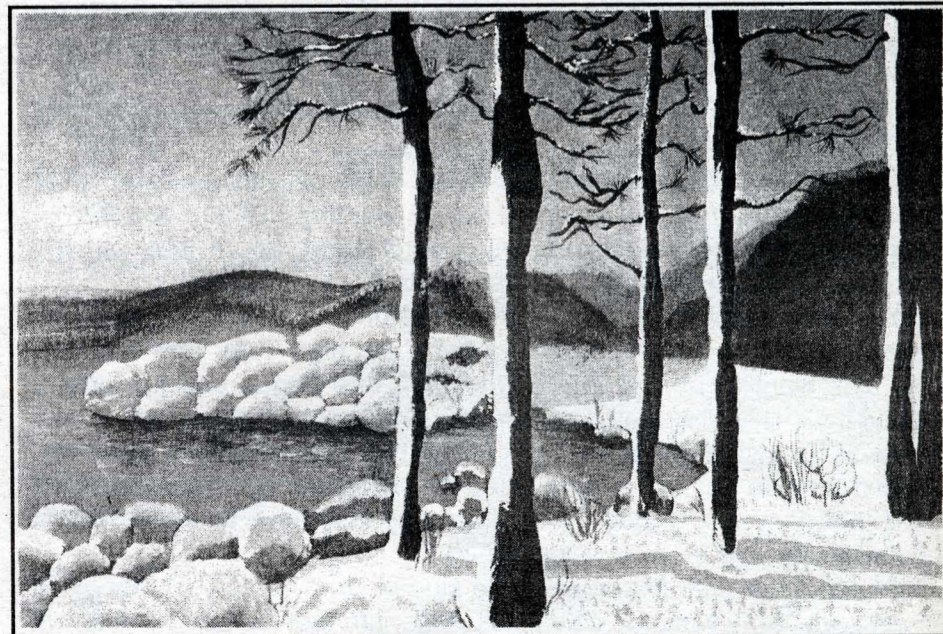
Once a year, there is a day when the halls are almost empty and classrooms are less than half full. On the first day of the second semester, "Senior Ditch Day," seniors take a day off from school. Some students think they deserve the day off, while others have little sympathy for them.

"On days like this, I give out big assignments and I will not explain it to them when they come back the next day," said Marcia Story, an English teacher. There were so many seniors absent that Robert Stauffer, a physics teacher, had only two students in his sixth period class -- one of them his student aide.

Seniors do not spend this entire day alone. The freshmen, sophomores and juniors often ditch with them. These three classes ruin the so-called tradition of this day, according to seniors.

"I object to the so called 'senior ditch day.' It is not a legitimate holiday and especially after a three-day weekend," says Story.

What did the seniors do on Ditch Day? Here are some anonymous answers. "I went up to the mountains and played in the snow with a bunch of my friends," and "I went up to the beach and played in the sand with a bunch of my friends."



CALENDAR ART -- The art of Michelle Drayer, a junior at Durango High School, is included in the 1995 calendar produced by the Silver State Schools Credit Union. Michelle's design, *Frostbite*, is perfect for the month of December, where it appears.



BREAKING THE STREAK -- This year's Varsity Lady Warrior Soccer Team has broken its losing streak, with a record so far of seven wins, four losses, and one tie. A surprise for the Warrior team -- led by Sally Beckett, Holly Cantrell and Sarah Call -- was its first-time-ever win against Bonanza. Western will continue to fight for a position in the playoffs. Although our team is young and haven't had much experience together, we have heart and the desire to win. Shown above, in the dark uniforms, are Holly Cantrell, Charlie Head, Suzy Vermillion and Tameka Simons.



Dismal display recalls needless drunk driving deaths

By Stephanie Hashey

The annual SADD (Students Against Drunk Driving) drunk driving display was shown in front of the school during the holidays. This was the third consecutive year SADD has presented the display as a reminder of the dangers of drinking and driving. The exhibit consisted of a wrecked car donated by Saturn of West Sahara, and posters depicting messages for driving submitted by various clubs and organizations.

Although alcohol-related deaths are down from a decade ago, there are still too many people dying needlessly at the hands of drunk drivers.

"One of our main reasons for having this exhibit is to make people aware that the problem of drunk driving is still alive, and that by just having a

designated driver, you could save someone's life," says Stephanie Hashey, this year's S.A.D.D. president. "We hope that everyone will help us in our fight to stop drunk driving."

This display sparked much interest from the students and others in the community. We hope that the display opened the eyes of young people as well as others to the dangers of driving drunk.

Art museum features Western High work

By Arianne Sorreta

An art show, coordinated by art teacher Shar Wolff, was featured recently at the Las Vegas Art Museum at Lorenzi Park. The exhibit included a diversity of art by students in classes from Art I to Advance Art. Ceramics, pencil, paper mache' and acrylic were displayed along with 3-D art and computer-generated images which our art department is especially excited about. "I am very proud of the caliber of work produced," says Wolff.

Natural leader says FBLA worth joining

by Michele Lucero
State Recording Secretary, FBLA

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) is an educational organization that helps prepare students for the business world. Meetings and conferences are held to enhance one's ability to be a leader. The conferences offer workshops and seminars that help guide peers in future business occupations.

I joined FBLA in 1993. I have always been a leader and this organization sounded like it was for me. The first conference I attended was the State Leadership Conference held last year in Elko. This is where I ran for the position of Vice President, but lost. I was determined to become a state officer and didn't give up. No one was running for the position of State Recording Secretary, so I decided to interview for it and got the position. The main responsibilities of this office are to take minutes at every meeting and to correspond with the other state officers and chapters in Nevada.

I have attended many other conferences and meetings, and have learned many leadership skills and met a lot of interesting people. At the National Fall Leadership Conference held in Sacramento, CA, I spent time with the other officers and new friends. Touring the state capital was one of my favorite activities. We had fun and discovered things that would benefit us in the future. FBLA is definitely one of the best organizations around!

Western salutes distinguished alumni

Two top law enforcement officers in Clark County, both elected to their positions in last November's elections, are Western High School graduates. They are Stewart L. Bell, district attorney, and Sheriff Jerry Keller.

Bell graduated with high honors in 1963. He was a member of the National Academic Honor Society and a Nevada State Mathematics Champion.

Keller was close behind him, graduating in 1964. Western High School is proud of these distinguished alumni.



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Students earn college credits, gain tech skills

By Andrew Hagopian

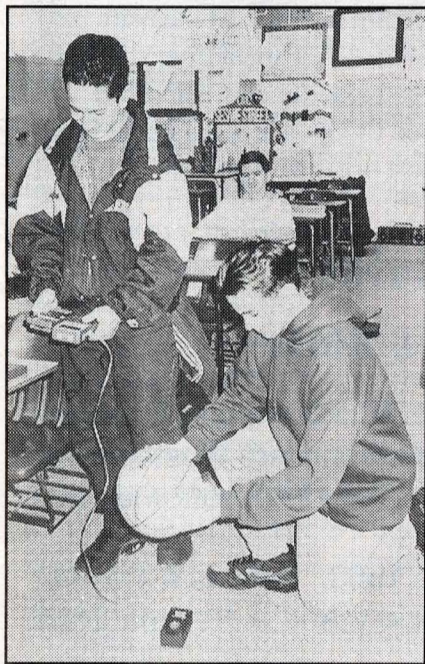
Nearly 200 Green Valley High School students are participating in the *Tech Prep Program* that provides college credit for high school courses. These students take two years of high school training and two years of college training in related courses at the Community College of Southern Nevada.

They can then earn two high school credits and four college credits for four years of courses.

High school classes available for the *Program* are Accounting I, Word Processing, Drafting I, Drafting II, and Architecture at GVHS; and Culinary Arts, Electronics, Health Occupations, Horticulture Technology, and welding courses at the Area Technical Trade Center.

Skills learned in the *Tech Prep Program* could mean greater job possibilities and higher wages. "The program is a good idea for students who do not want to go to college for four years, but want to earn the equivalent credits," says freshman Doug Spice.

Students interested in the program may contact Andrea Anderson, the Community College of Southern Nevada's Tech Prep coordinator.



APPLIED MATH -- A new teaching tool for math and science is being tried out at GVHS. Above, math students Fernando Agreda (left) and Chris Walker play with their new CBL.

Yearbook preview

By Lauren Romano

GVHS's publication staff is at work producing the 1995 edition of the *Legacy* yearbook, which will be different from previous editions.

Co-editor Paul Murphy expects more pictures than in any other yearbook and 99 percent will be taken by the students. The mini-mag section will include a local and national news spread and the expanded *Student Life* section will feature extensive coverage of trends and styles of GVHS students.

"We recently received the first shipment of proofs," says co-editor Michael Weisberg, "and they are outstanding."

Teacher uses national award for math tool

By Marcus Holliman

A *Calculator Based Laboratory (CBL)* is a new teaching tool introduced to GVHS students by algebra teachers Robin Rubinstein and Neddy Alvarez. The CBL units and probes were purchased with money Rubinstein won from the 1993 Presidential awards.

The CBL lab allows students to use various probes and instruments to interface with their graphing calculator to collect and analyze their own data. "In essence, students can use real world applications of math and not just textbook problems," Rubinstein says. Most students who used the CBLs agreed they were much better than using a textbook.

Ms. Rubinstein says that the CBL will be used for a long time to come by the mathematics and science departments.

"Teachers will continually collaborate to develop innovative and exciting activities for students to use with the CBL," she explains.

Since GVHS is the first to use and own the CBL units, it is still in its test phase, but according to Rubinstein, "The students love them; learn the lessons more quickly, work easily with the equipment, and are anxious to use it again."



Gators look toward Feb. 24 challenge

By Rebekah McBeth

The Gators basketball team has claimed first place in the Sunrise Division with a record of 9-0. Head Coach Gene Carpenter does not want his team to be overconfident.

"It still comes down to the last game of the season," he says, referring to the Feb. 24 game in which Rancho will be given another shot at Green Valley. "All this does is give us a one-game lead."

Referring to this team's unity and cooperation, Coach Carpenter says, "At times, they play really well together; they play unselfishly, and they are a lot of fun to watch. Teamwork is a definite when it comes to winning."

LEFT: In this photo from the 1994 season, GVHS senior Eric McCauley goes for the layup against Clark High senior Rodney Lyons.

(Photo by Bobby Horton)

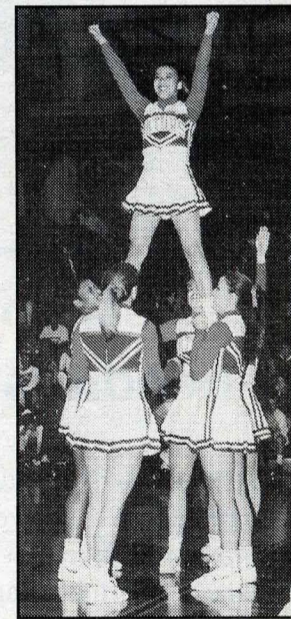
Varsity cheerleaders take regional honors

By Paul Dodge

The Green Valley High School cheerleading squad won first place at the United Spiritleaders Association regional competition Las Vegas recently. The win has qualified the GVHS team to go to Anaheim for the USA national championship, March 17-19.

In the photo at right, Gernae Strickland, Nikki Tanara and Heather Finney support Desiree Diaz. The cheerleader with her back to the camera is unidentified.

Photo by David Weisberg



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Seniors go for Smart Cards

By Andrew Hagopian

Many students participated in the Student and Merchant Achievement Recognition Team, or Smart Grad Program, designed to help seniors get jobs after high school.

The Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, Clark County School District, and Clark County Public Education Foundation founded Smart Grad.

Participants were required to complete four forms. The first was a short essay, for which the applicants were to include some of their outstanding personal qualities, grade point average and class rank, and any other significant school achievements.

The second required form was a personal data worksheet for names and other general information. Third was a skills, training, and educational experiences form. Applicants were to list all complete and passed courses from their freshman to senior years. Their skills and training, as well as any extracurricular talents were also reported in this section.

The final part of the Smart Grad application was a Teacher Rating Section. Students were to take evaluation forms to at least three of their teachers for completion. Evaluations were based on such aspects as student initiative, appearance, and judgement.

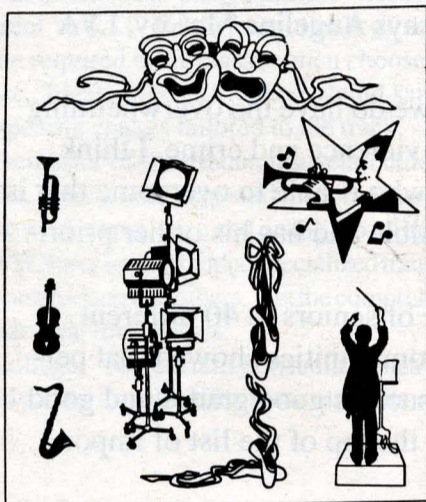
"The Smart Grad program benefits students who want to start a career after high school and those who want a part time job while attending college," the GVHS Smart Grad coordinator and counselor Ms. Klimik explained.

The final product will be a laminated card that seniors can use to show employers their skills and qualifications, a compilation of information from all four categories in the application.



Photo by Jai Jai Brown

FINE ARTS -- Everett Taylor, from GVHS's pop choir, Fusion, performs for students during lunch, kicking off the start of Fine Arts Week.



"You Gotta Have Art"

Green Valley High celebrates the arts

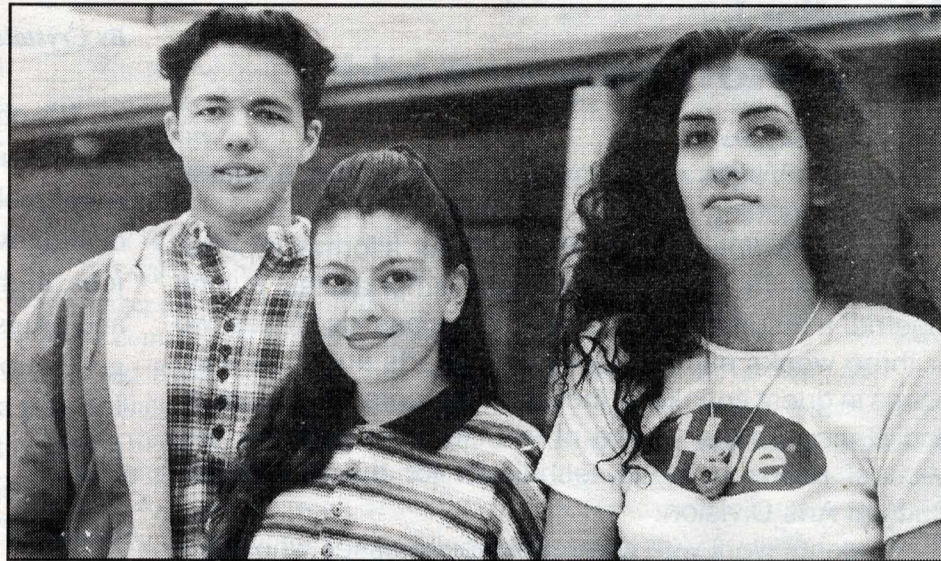
By Jennifer Goscicki

Green Valley marked its annual Fine Arts Week recently, celebrating "America the Beautiful" in all art forms and providing GVHS fine art students the opportunity to demonstrate their individual talents.

The theater, choir, orchestra, band and dance departments provided entertainment throughout the week during lunchtimes and in an assembly, which showcased talents including mime, dance and choir.

At the close of the assembly, the band, the orchestra, and the concert choir presented the spectacular grand finale of "America the Beautiful."

Students win Latin Chamber scholarships



ESSAY TO COLLEGE -- Three Green Valley students have won \$1,000 scholarships from the Latin Chamber of Commerce. Shown here, from left, are scholarship recipients Gabriel Johnson, Chrisanta Zamudia and Claudia Aguayo.

Awards to be used in Nevada

By David Gallagher

As many seniors realize, money for college does not grow on trees, but there are countless ways to get financial help to continue one's education. One good (and available) route is through scholarships.

Three GVHS students did just that, each one honored with a \$1000 scholarship to attend a school of their choice in Nevada. Seniors Claudia Aguayo, Gabriel Johnson, and Chrisanta Zamudio received their scholarships through the Latin Chamber of Commerce

At a career day activity last fall, they and other participants, were asked to write an essay about their experience and each was interviewed by Chamber members.

Aguayo and Johnson plan to use their scholarship money at the University of Nevada, Reno; and Zamudio will use her scholarship at Community College of Southern Nevada. Thousands of scholarships go unused each year, simply because students are unaware of them. If you need financial help, contact GVHS's Career Center.

A taste of the real world on the menu for Law Club

By Paul Dodge

In a time when theft and violent crime rates are on the rise, it is important that the policemen, judges, and attorneys of tomorrow get a head start into the complicated world of law and justice.

That is what Criminal Law and Justice teacher Richard Vaughan's Law Club is all about. The club has several field trips planned for the next few months to such places as police departments and court rooms, where they can learn about the justice system.

The Law Club raised funds for its first outing to the Henderson Police Department Feb. 6, where the students planned to see how the police protect and serve. They will seek answers about services such as 911: Who answers the phone, and how is help sent so quickly?

The Law Club's next stop is the judicial branch -- to US District Court Department 16, where students will see a criminal trial, and Vaughn is also hoping to arrange a tour of Metro's jail facilities.

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CAREER TRAINING INSTITUTE

Our generation wakes to a new dream

By Crystalee Van Patten

It's obvious that life is harder for us than it was for our parents. We have many more problems facing us today. We're dealing with adult problems, pregnancy, jobs, higher expectations in school, gangs and drugs. I'm not saying that our parents' generation didn't have those problems too, I'm just saying that those are *more* of a problem for us today.

"I feel we wouldn't have these problems if TV and violent movies weren't so excessive," says Angelina McCoy, LVA student.

Though we do have the overwhelming influence of violence and crime, I think that anyone who is able to overcome that is very responsible and has his or her priorities straight.

A survey of seniors in 40 different Wisconsin communities showed that personal goals such as good grades and good jobs were at the top of the list of importance.

Teenagers are more independent today and 40-50 percent of teens live in single-parent homes. Therefore, teens don't have as many people to depend on. That is not necessarily a bad thing; it just shows that teenagers today have to depend more on themselves and are a more responsible and mature generation.

Attention! Prepare to meet your world!

By Jehremy Saylor

The Las Vegas Academy is home to a unique course for seniors getting ready to graduate.

Senior Portfolio is led by Sandy Beall, a former reporter for channel 13 News. The class emphasizes putting together a resume and portfolio. The class also takes two or three weeks each to focus on the arts and frequently brings in guest speakers, including dancers from "Splash" and Nancy Deaner, head of the city's art galleries and Michael Harrison, head technician for the Las Vegas Cultural Arts Division.

Students work with community businesses who place them in internships or "job shadowing." Devon Thornton, who interned at *Starlight Express* at the Las Vegas Hilton, says "I got to see how all aspects of technical theatre come together, from the costume shop to the three stage managers it takes to run a show of that caliber."

The other cooperating businesses include Cinema Services, YESCO, Debbie Reynolds Hotel and Casino, Sandy Hackett Productions, and Beall's former stomping ground, Channel 13 News.

Beall says, "Las Vegas is jam-packed with performing arts; the city is just booming with opportunity for students to share information and learn from working professionals."

He advises incoming seniors to ask their counselors about enrolling in *Senior Portfolio* next semester.

Students to Paree? Ooh-La-la

By Kristine Leavitt

Allo Paris! The Art and French departments are sponsoring a summer trip to Paris from June 5-June 13. The trip, including two meals a day, hotel accommodations, admission to all museums, and transportation fees, is \$1,565.

The group will visit many famous museums including the Louvre, where the Mona Lisa is displayed. Guided tours to gothic cathedrals, Claude Monet's home, and personal encounters with artists of Montmartre are scheduled — along with sailing on the Seine River and a visit to Jim Morrison's grave.

The Hit List

The Top 10 worries for teens listed in a recent *Newsweek Special Issue*:

1. Having a good marriage and family life.
2. Choosing a career/Finding work
3. Doing well in school
4. Being successful in line of work
5. Having strong friendships
6. Paying for college
7. Worrying about the country going downhill
8. Making a lot of money.
9. Finding purpose and meaning in life
10. Contracting AIDS

ATTENTION -- STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHERS!

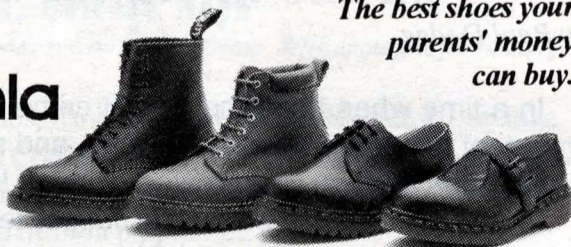
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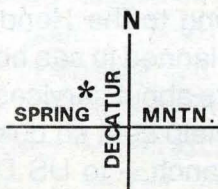
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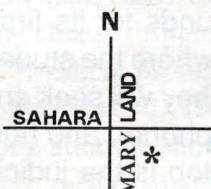


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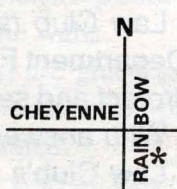
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French majors go for *joie de vivre!*

By Mike Slate

Being a French major at the Academy isn't just about learning a new language. It's about French-speaking lands and their customs as well.

"I feel that we learn more about the cultures of French-speaking countries," says Sandra Patrick, a French III major.

One of the major differences between the French Block and regular French classes is the extra Theme Group class for International Studies (I.S.) majors.

For first-year majors, the Theme Group class studies the geography of France and other French-speaking countries. They learn about the various regions in France, natural land forms, the customs and cultures. Second

year majors deal with the history of the French speaking countries, and French III majors learn the literature of France.

French teacher Madame Rousseau tries to discourage all of her students from speaking English while in her class because she feels it doesn't keep them in a French [state-of-mind].

In order to receive an International Studies diploma, French students must actively participate in the co-curricular activities of the Academy's International Studies Programs, such as the language fair or the Carnival Culturama.

During each semester a student is enrolled in the International Studies Program, ten hours outside of class time are required. Double language majors are required fifteen hours, divided between both majors.

Brittany Petit says, "Being a French major will open up many opportunities for me in the future. Even though some students in other departments don't think a language will help us, and that we're nerds, I think it's wonderful that I have this chance to prepare for my future. You can use a language in just about any career."

Rap music: controversial?

By Toni Sutton

Rap first appeared in the mid-1970s, an outgrowth of popular music. Did the people of the '70s ever think rap would be a controversial issue?

Some rap that came out in the '80s had lyrics dealing with graphic sexuality, gangsterism, and violence, in general. That's when rap started to become...the subject of widespread criticism.

Explicit rap lyrics make people (especially parents) put the music down. This happens a lot...rap music isn't the only music being stereotyped.

Rap used to have a limited audience, but it really hit the charts in the early '90s and became part of the American mainstream. Inner-city kids on an MTV special said they never want to experience anything negative they hear in rap music.

Rap music...whatever you put into it is what you get out of it. It may be controversial, but rap will be around for many years yet.

Kiddies love Carnaval!

Carnaval Culturama is now underway at the Las Vegas Academy and will continue through Feb. 23.

Each Tuesday and Wednesday is the day when local elementary school students visit the Academy to "journey" into 35 foreign lands. The featured countries speak French, Russian, Japanese, German and Spanish.

Booths are decorated like a carnival, with festivals and celebrations planned and a grand parade to wrap up the event.

Carnaval is similar to the Academy's "Winter Wonders," which was prevented last December for children in grades three through five.

(Contributing reporter: Mike Slate)

It's half-past Valentine's Day

Legends -- take your pick! Does the day celebrate two people named St. Valentine who were killed on Feb. 14 in the year 200? Or does it honor a priest named Valentine who would marry young couples even after the Roman Emperor said men should remain single (thinking they'd be better soldiers as bachelors). And is Feb. 14 when birds choose their mates?

Whatever -- we wish you a happy Valentine's day, belated but full of love...and chocolates!

(Thanks to Michele Badgwell for the theme and the research.)

Don't knock the caf!

By Amanda Shay

Do you buy lunch at school? Meet cafeteria manager Julie Kowal.

"I love the challenge it presents," she says. "Everyday is a race from start to finish...trying to make something out of nothing is rewarding when the reviews are good."

Kowal started in the cafeteria business seven years ago, barely out of high school at 17. She says this makes her more in tune as to how kids today think.

"I wouldn't serve them anything I wouldn't eat myself. If it slips by me, it's only because I don't have the 12 pairs of eyes I need!" Kowal says about the cafeteria food.

There are only two women in addition to Kowal to prepare lunch for about 650 people per day. Some days it's less, some days more...depending on how many students eat off campus, how many don't eat at all, and how many bring their own lunches from home.

Also, before you criticize the lunch service, you should know only 21 LVA students are on payroll, working either first or second lunch -- or both. Also, there are one volunteer and about eight handicapped students, which is unusual in the district. These students come from Helen J. Stewart each day for a couple of hours to help prepare LVA's school lunches.

Kowal says, "The hardest part is trying to please everyone!"

Talk to the world with Internet, e-mail

By Loes van Ruiten, Las Vegas Academy



You can communicate with somebody on the other side of the world on a daily basis without using the phone—you can use the Internet system, an international network that connects computers of all kinds to communicate and share services. Twenty-five million people use it all over the world and it is growing -- average people as well as universities, big corporations and government institutions.

Internet can be used in several different ways, such as *E-mail*. You can write letters to someone on the other side of the world and that person can read your message the same day.

Internet can be great for exchange students such as LVA's Stefan Bergmann who writes to friends at his old school in Germany with *E-mail*.

"Internet keeps me in touch with my friends back East," Lisa Giordano says. "Mail takes too long; Internet lets me hear from them right away."

Another Internet service is called *Talk*, which looks like the telephone but the difference is that you have to type what you say.

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KAPLAN

Wrestlers turn 'em around

By Diana Gallegos

The wrestling team has had some trouble in the past during their matches, but at the Boulder City Invitational, they turned everyone around. Eric Clark and Mario Quinones became heroes.

Quinones is a first-year wrestler who placed in a varsity tournament for the first time and ended in fourth place in the 160-pound division. He says he was very proud but shocked to have gotten that far and that it meant a lot of pressure and hard work. "I felt like I wanted third place," he jokes.

Clark, on the other hand, is a four-year wrestler and ended with a first place victory in the 275-pound division. He pinned every opponent.

"I felt relieved each time I turned them. After it was over, I looked around and everyone was standing up cheering for me. Then I looked at Coach Cerrone, and he just said, 'good job.'"

Forensics argues to the top

The Valley High School forensics team travelled to Cedar City for competition this past weekend (Feb. 10-11) and we are awaiting a report on that competition.

In the recent Congress session, Andres Rameriz was voted Top Chairperson. Delaine Hadarly placed fourth and Lorie Berardie took second -- in a Valley sweep. Leading the team in the Lincoln-Douglas debate was Brian Spoor who placed fifth with 190 out of 200 speaker points.



Regina Capurro

Goalkeeper one of top 30

Valley High School's super-star "keeper," Regina Capurro, has been named to the Lanzer National Select Team. This team is assembled yearly with the 30 most talented women soccer players from around the country. Capurro is seen as a division-one prospect.

This year's team will travel to Maastricht, Holland, and Paris, where they will participate in numerous tournaments.

(Contributing reporter: Norbert Gyorfi)

SOUNDTRACKS

By Larry Gradel and Cindy Davis

Forrest Gump: The Soundtrack (for real)

It's as great as the movie. With 32 "all-American classics," almost everyone is sure to like this soundtrack. It features songs such as *Age of Aquarius* by the Fifth Dimension and *Land of a Thousand Dances* by Wilson Pickett, *Break on Through to the Other Side* by The Doors and *Blowing in the Wind* by Joan Baez.

The final verdict. Cindy: five stars (It broke on through to the other side of movie soundtracks). Larry: five stars (It's a lot better than a box of choc-a-lates).

Cranberries: "No Need to Argue"

This is a great follow-up to the Cranberries' first album. It's the oh-so-never-lively Ireland tunage that we have been waiting to hear. From the first track, *Ode to My Family*, all the way through to the final *No Need to Argue*, it's pure buttah to an Ireland yodeler.

The final verdict. Cindy: five stars (It was extremely impressive -- I love to cry while I listen to my favorite tunes). Larry: four stars (I love rainy-day yodeling -- it makes me oh-so-happy).

Pearl Jam: "Vitalogy"

P.J. comes out with something different every time, so we didn't know what to expect. The scorching lyrical genius of Eddie Vedder is a non-stop thrill throughout the album. If you've heard it, you know it's like strapping electroids to yourself and putting them on high.

The final verdict. Cindy: Five stars. Nothing can go above. I love lying in bed beeling all those "bugs in my ears with their eggs in my head." Larry: Four stars -- whatever you say, Cindy.

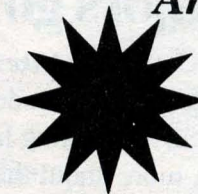
Weezer: Weezer

This album a completely non-thought-provoking lyrical album -- a kindergardener could write lyrics that are more controversial. (We better watch out for that, though; we might get into trouble with the school board for anything "controversial.") Even though it has no meaning for us, it can still be enjoyed...complete party tunage.

The final verdict. Larry: 3-1/2 stars (I don't care to hear people cry over how they look like Buddy Holly.) Cindy: Three stars -- whatever you say, Larry.

Animals, people: facing extinction?

By Larry Gradel



During the last 30 years, one-third of the world's rain forest canopy has disappeared. As the habitats disappear, so do the animals and plants that depend on them. This is how extinction begins. Unregulated industrialization in the rain forest has caused the extinction of more than 480 species of plants and animals just in the last two centuries.

While attention is focused on the Northern spotted owl, three-fourths of the world's bird species are declining in population or nearing extinction. Biologists estimate that, in the next few decades, we will extinguish 75 percent of all known plant and animal species.

Endangered Species Act (ESA)

Established 20 years ago, ESA is based on the wellbeing of all species. It determines the rate of industrial growth, determining if there is too much growth to protect the species around these areas. In its current form, ESA often fails to protect the habitats of the very species it defends. Shooting an endangered bird, for example, is considered a crime, although bulldozing its home may not be.

Global warming

When the sun's rays come down and nourish life on Earth, they should then escape the atmosphere and go back out into space.

With the industrial revolution came addiction to fossil fuels. The burning of coal, oil, and gas pumps carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and traps solar heat which should go into space.

When we destroy our forests, we destroy earth's natural mechanism for absorbing carbon dioxide (CO2). The result is a warming trend that threatens life on our planet.

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

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- "...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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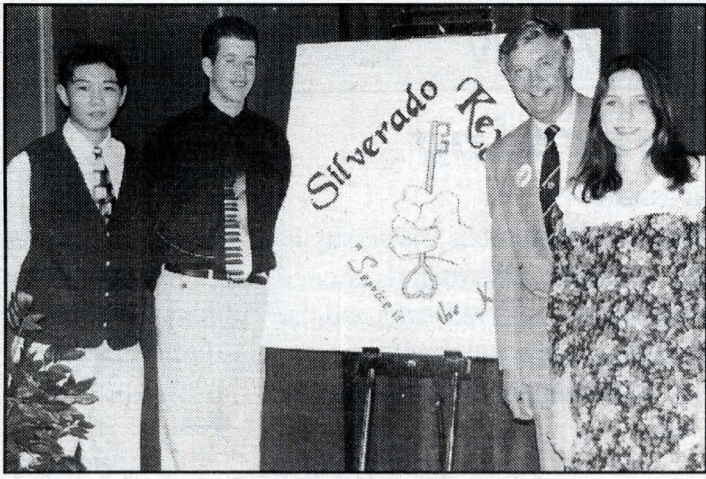
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Attending his first Charter Ceremony, Ian Perdriau, President of Kiwanis International, poses with members of the Silverado Key Club in front of the Club's completed puzzle. With him are (from left) Donny Lau, Tyler McDonald and Amy Fehr.

Photo by
S. Thornton



Kangaroos and Key Clubs

Honored guest welcomes Silverado club

by Devon Jean

Last month, 35 Silverado students experienced Charter Night and the Induction Ceremony that made their Key Club a documented and legal club affiliated with Kiwanis International. In attendance was not only Silverado faculty and officers of the Kiwanis and local Key Clubs, but also the Kiwanis International President, Ian Perdriau. For Perdriau, who is from Australia, this induction was to be the first ever where the International President was in attendance and gave a keynote address.

"The event was very exciting because of [President Perdriau's] attendance," says Silverado's Key Club

advisor Cheryl Barnson.

The ceremony opened with the SHS Madrigal singers singing the national anthem. At the end of the ceremony, each member to be inducted was given a puzzle piece and, as each student was called up, he or she placed that piece on a board that eventually revealed a seal for the new Silverado Key Club.

This group pledges "to uphold the objectives of Key Club International; to build home, school, and community; to serve my nation and God and combat all forces which tend to undermine these institutions."

Money is not the key to the good life

By Mary McMurrin and Jamie Bartels

"It's never too late to change your perspective," says Linda Baker, sister of Geoffrey Baker, English teacher. She proved her point by telling students about her life.

Ms. Baker began her career working on the school newspaper, then was offered a job writing a column for her community paper at 16.

While in college, she worked for Warner Brothers Records, starting at the bottom doing "gopher" jobs and working her way up to National Promotion Director.

Baker soon realized that "money doesn't equal happiness." She sold many of her possessions to travel the world, struggling to find her place and her soul. Through her travels in Greece, Asia, New Zealand and many other exotic places, she learned how to communicate with people untouched by civilization.

She kept a journal and is considering sending the manuscripts for publication in flight magazines.

Now that she has traveled...a dream of hers since high school...she feels she has achieved one of her greatest goals. She says she has become a stronger person through her travels and is looking forward to continuing her educational journey, traveling around the United States with a companion, her dog, Buddy.

Baker made students realize that setting a goal and accomplishing it is vital -- whether it's graduating high school, passing your hardest class or making your dream come true.

She stressed working for what you want today, rather than just saying "one of these days..." It's how you should live your life.

Williams awes fans through fast recovery

By Devon Jean

With a sigh of relief, Christine Williams lends a supportive shoulder to her son, Ben, as he recollects what he can of his ordeal of recent months. Ben is the Silverado football player who was rushed to UMC during a JV football game last October.

After emergency surgery to relieve pressure from his brain, Ben spent the next two months in a coma, followed by six weeks of strenuous rehabilitation and a lot of pain. Ben came home on January 9 and says he feels great. Suffering from temporary short-term memory loss and a slight impediment of speech, Ben's amazing recovery has baffled himself and everyone who has seen his progress.

Now that Ben is home he will be attending a day rehabilitation program to help prepare him for his return to school -- maybe in May, but more likely this fall. Ben is expected to make a 100% recovery.

Some good has also come from this unfortunate accident. "We are definitely a lot closer," says Williams' mom. Not only his family, but the entire Silverado student body has been touched by Ben's experience.

Even though this young man is only in his second year of high school, he has shown more courage than most of us will ever have to. Ben ended our interview with an observation that is relevant to all of us, "You've gotta respect life!"



FLOOR IT -- Alicia DePaulis dribbles toward the basket during the game against Western.

(Photo by Angel House)



T.O.M. -- Mrs. Lasley accepted an award as Teacher of the Month recently. Above, from left, are Amy Fehr, Sophie Ainsworth and Jennifer Ewry.

Photo by Donny Lau)

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MOVIE REVIEW

Higher Learning

By Jill Englund

Racism, sexism and homophobia strike Columbus University in John Singleton's latest film, *Higher Learning*. Starring...Laurence Fishburne, Jennifer Connelly, Kristy Swanson, Tyra Banks and the ever-impressive Ice Cube, *Higher Learning* takes a magnifying glass to America's prejudices and fears by exploring the separate lives of college students on a typical campus.

The movie focuses on a Black track star on scholarship and a white girl who, as the victim of attempted rape, comes face to face with sexism in society and her own sexuality.

Singleton depicts slices of life among the different groups of students (black, white, feminist, homosexual, neo-Nazi) and hammers home that each group is blinded by its own fears and assumptions.

The students' prejudices are tempered by Fishburne as a professor and mentor to the track star, while Ice Cube (better than I ever would have guessed) provides comic relief and angry righteousness as a six-year undergrad who quotes Frederick Douglas.

After a series of racial incidents, a peace rally explodes into tragedy when...but you must see it.

Throughout the movie, Singleton uses techniques such as ironic cuts, colors and symbols to prove his point that people live separate, voluntarily segregated lives. (At one point, he fades to black on Ice Cube, then the screen turns a blinding white to reveal a Nazi meeting.)

Higher Learning is one of the best movies out now. The stories and their truths make it funny, involving, tragic, and (gasp!) not insulting to the intelligence of a mainly teenage audience. Instead of a trite "wanna be the voice of a generation, public service announcement script," Singleton quietly and powerfully forces you to examine your own prejudices and wonder at the scope and stupidity of America's fears.

His message to "unlearn" the prejudices you've been taught rings true in the face of the ignorance and pain that kind of higher learning brings. Screw Oliver Stone -- see this movie!

Bednar believes in getting involved

(Condensed from a feature by Laura Henderson)

Andrea Bednar would be living proof that "getting involved helps to keep students interested in school." She has made herself known for her athletic ability and her high academic standards.

During her freshman year, Bednar was jumped from women's JV soccer to varsity in the middle of the season. When the tennis season began, Bednar earned a starting spot on the women's team even though she'd never played serious tennis before.

Then came the 1994 softball season. Bednar moved from JV pitcher to varsity and pitched a no-hitter against Rancho.

Bednar, with a 3.8 GPA, is a member of Honor Society, takes piano and dance lessons, and is involved in community service projects. She has her eye on college, perhaps UNR or University of Arizona, and is hoping for a scholarship while continuing to play ball.

Block scheduling gets thumbs-up from students

By Nicole Christian

An evaluation of block scheduling at Chaparral reveals that the majority of students feel that this system, adopted last fall, is going well.

Chaparral is the only school involved with block scheduling in Clark County. This has attracted the interest of other schools, in and out of state, who have visited the school, observing classrooms.

The school administration surveyed 10 percent of the student body, asking students to assign a grade, A to F, for block schedules.

Of 223 students surveyed, 125 gave it an "A," meaning they thought block scheduling was going well and presented no real problems. Another 55 gave a "B" grade, meaning "I'm coping with it and I'll be fine." Just 19 gave the program a "C" and ten answered "D." Fourteen responded with an "F," which meant "No way...go back to a six-period day."

A survey of faculty indicates that 88 percent are in favor of block scheduling.

Comments from students who gave an "A" or "B" to block scheduling: "Keep it the same, it's great" and "You get a lot more done in class..more time to explain if you don't understand something."

Other comments: "I like it a lot because I only need to worry about three classes per day," and "The schedule is fine but we should stretch more."

Those who graded block scheduling in the "C" range criticized it for giving students "one more day to forget our homework," and for being confusing and resulting in more people at lunch.

Among the bottom graders, comments include "You never asked the students what they wanted. We never had a say," "I learned twice as much last year," "it's hard to pay attention and stay awake," and "Block scheduling is [why] my grades have dropped."

"We're not going back now," says Principal Mike West. "We're just now breaking into the sunshine."

Writers produce videos to aid Secret Witness

Chaparral's creative writing classes will enter this year's Secret Witness video contest. Winning videos will be aired throughout the year on Channel 3 television.

The Secret Witness program allows citizens to participate in law enforcement by giving information to the police while remaining anonymous. Cash awards may be given.

The videos may be no longer than three minutes. The creative writing classes watched sample videos -- previous contest entries, including a winner from last year -- shown by Ray Willis, director of communications for CCSD.

Willis, one of the contest judges, pointed out that Las Vegas' Secret Witness program is ranked second in the country for law-enforcement programs of its type. He says, "Large portions of the prison population will attest to its success."

Citizens with information about a crime should call Secret Witness at 385-5555.

(Condensed from a feature by Jill Englund)

Spicer joins staff as assistant principal

Jeannine Spicer has come to Chaparral as the newest assistant principal, coming from a similar position at Clark High School. She supervises the English and science departments, part of home economics, and oversees the curriculum, master schedule and parent newsletter.

She says she is happy to be at Chaparral and adds, "My door is always open if you have a concern or just want to talk. I don't bite."

(Contributing reporter: Heather Farmer)

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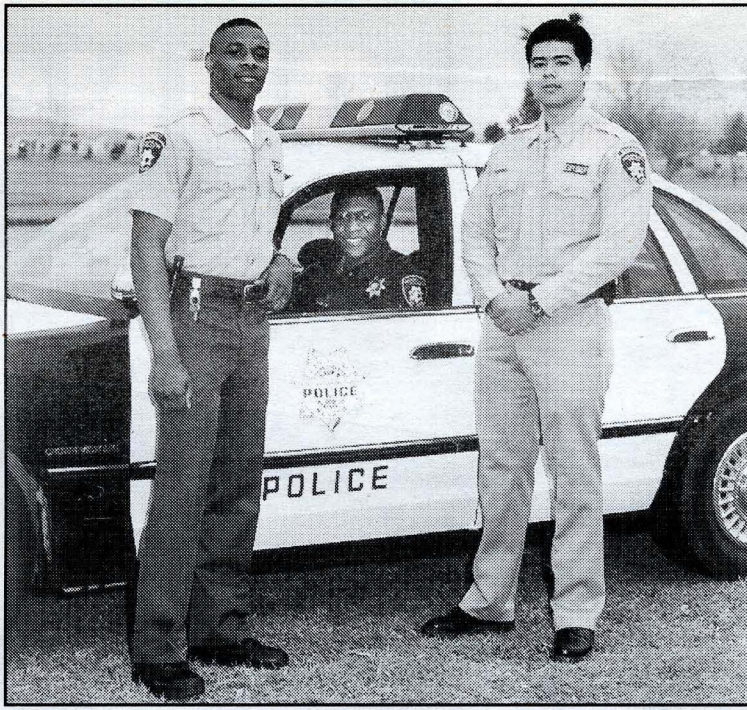
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RECORD CHECK -- Using the police computer is part of the learning process in the Cadet program. Here, Collins works in the detention center with Cadet Aaron Stanton, a 1993 graduate of Cimarron-Memorial High School.



SERVICE -- Metro provides high school students with opportunities to get a head-start on a police department career: Shown here are Cadet Maurice Collins (left), police officer/recruiter Byron Stringer (in car), and Explorer Arturo Martinez, a 1994 grad of Las Vegas High School.

COVER PHOTO: MAURICE COLLINS

Western High 1994 grad commits to police career

Maurice Collins graduated with honors (and a 3.6 GPA) last year from Western High School and, within weeks, he joined Metro as a Police Cadet. "I didn't take a vacation after graduation," he says, "I had to focus on my future." That future, if Maurice has his way, will include experience in the Bike Patrol, some work with the dogs in the K-9 Corps, and ultimately joining Metro's highest ranks.

As a rookie Cadet, Maurice is working in the Detention Center -- in the reception area, where he checks the I.D.s of visitors and answers their questions, and in the property room, where he issues prison uniforms. He also rides along with Metro officers and helps take crime reports.

Maurice works 12-hour shifts on a complicated pattern of days-on and days-off -- "But it all works out to 80 hours every two weeks," he explains.

In addition to learning about police matters, Maurice says, "I'm learning how to deal with the public, control my stress levels, and develop leadership qualities."

Maurice got interested in this field because his cousin, Steven Collins, started as a cadet and has been an officer for nearly 10 years. Steve is now a member of the HELP team, working with homeless people.

His family is proud of Maurice -- including all nine brothers and sisters -- but "Mom was a little worried because of people shooting," he says.

Maurice plays keyboard for his church choir, but his main hobby is drawing. "In school, I thought I might become a police sketch artist [the person who draws suspects based on descriptions given by witnesses] or work in computer graphics or design video games," he recalls.

For now, however, Maurice pours all his concentration and time into the Cadet Program -- the same sort of focus that earned him honors at Western High School.

Confessions of a former cadet

Byron Stringer, ten-year veteran of the Metropolitan Police Department joined the Cadet Program right after graduation from Rancho High School in 1985.

"Recruiters visited our school when it got close to graduation," Stringer says. "Most kids disregard them, but I listened because I had no idea about my future. I wanted to go to college but couldn't afford it, even though I applied to a lot of places for a scholarship or financial aid," he explains.

Stringer also knew he wanted to help people, so he applied and competed against 300 people testing for just 15 positions in the academy. "You have to believe in yourself, look at your fears head on," he says.

'Rambo' should not apply

The recruiter knows the type of person Metro is looking for. "People who really want to do the job, who listen. We don't need Rambos -- people with 'attitudes' who expect to save the world from all corruption," Stringer explains. "Most of our work deals with people who come to us with their problems."

He says that the number of minorities joining the cadet program is increasing, but the number is not yet in proportion with the population.

"It used to be that young minorities would not apply because, in their communities, the police were seen as the source of harassment,"

he explains, "and it wasn't prestigious to be part of the group that was the problem."

"But these kids are learning that they can make a greater difference working from the inside."

Does Stringer have any advice for students planning to apply for the cadet academy?

"Don't show up in trendy stuff, like saggy pants -- it'll probably work against you. Wear your Sunday best, what your mother would pick out for you. And wear your grampa's tie."

AIDS seminar gives important information

T.J. McMahon

The Durango HERO Club recently sponsored an AIDS assembly titled **AIDS (Acquired Information Directed at Students) and Us** which was designed to provide more information on AIDS and how it affects students.

Speakers from AFAN (Aid for AIDS, Nevada), as well as persons with HIV, gathered in the Durango theater to give students, parents, faculty and staff information about this threatening disease.

According to HERO Club member Allan North, the assembly was created to give more information following the first AIDS assembly at Durango which was sponsored by the Key Club. So many students attended the assembly that there was a concern about information getting across to students.

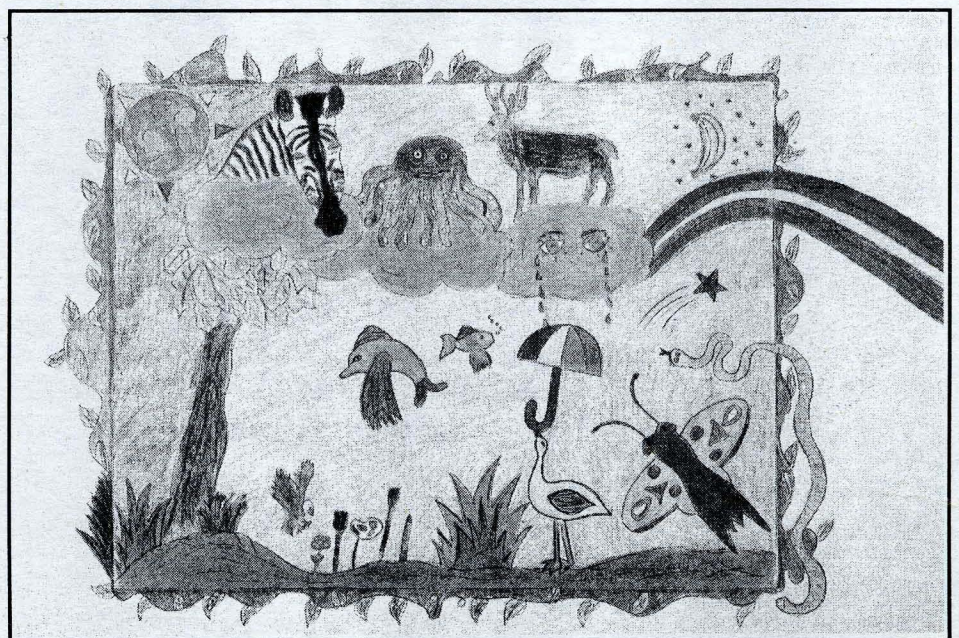
The HERO Club is planning a drive for Shade Tree, a shelter for battered and abused women, sometime in the spring," says North.

Foreign Film Festival

By Mike Slate

The Las Vegas Academy's International Studies Council recently presented a Foreign Film Festival.

The four movies that were shown were *Tampopo*, a Japanese film about food; *Don Quixote*, a Spanish classic about the ultimate windmill fighter; *Cyrano*, a French film about a man who sticks his nose in where it doesn't belong (and wins the maiden); and *Amadeus*, the biography of the composer, Mozart.



CALENDAR ART -- *Shy Vision*, a design by Nicole Heitmann, was a winner in the 1995 Calendar Art Contest sponsored by the Silver State Credit Union competition. Nicole is a sophomore at Durango High School.

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